

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN 49

2003



CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Membership of the 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 at 8pm, and also twice a year in October and April at 10.30am, all in the Stanton Room at Charlton Kings Library.

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Publications

Copies of the following publications can be obtained from the Chairman. Please send £1 to cover postage and packing for each item if you require them to be sent.

Five More Walks Around Charlton Kings (1998) - 50p

Charlton Kings in Old Photographs (1999) - £5

The Dixon-Hartland Family (2000) - £5

The Hole in the Ground - Battledown Brickworks (2002) - £8.50 (Members £7.50)

Indexes to Bulletins: 1-7 at £2; 8-17, 18-27, 28-37 and 38-47 - £5 each

Indexed Parish Register Transcriptions for the following years:

1538-1634 - £2, 1634-1700 - £3, 1700-1760, 1760-1812, & 1813-1834 - £5 each

Some copies of past bulletins are available at a price to be agreed with the Chairman.

Cover - Photograph of Little Herberts Nature Reserve, previously part of the Kingham Railway Line

Contents		Pages
The Kingham Railway Line	C J N Fletcher	1 - 7
Croft Road - Formerly Blind Lane	Mary Paget	8
	Jane Sale	9 - 11
	Percy Bridgeman	11
	Dolly Reeves	11
Millennium Events and Commissions	Vivien Barr	12
	Doreen Bill	13 - 14
	Sheila Johnson	14
	Brenda Simpson	14
	Jane Kane	15
Digging up a Stream	David O'Connor	16 - 20
The District Nurses of Charlton Kings	C M Howse	21 - 25
More About Southfield	Terry Enoch	25 - 26
	Michael Greet	27
Butchers Tiles Uncovered	Jane Sale	28 & 33 - 34
Coloured Photographs		29 - 32
100 Years Back	Ann Hookey	35 - 38
Overcrowding and TB in Charlton	Mary Paget	39 - 40
A Charlton Kings Hero	David O'Connor	41 - 44
Coins of the Realm		44
The Boer Four	Brian Lickman	45 - 49
Last Years of Arthur Mitchell	Jane Sale	50 - 52
Holy Apostles Processional Cross		52

cont overleaf

Contents cont.		Pages
The Making of Hales Road	Carolyn Greet	53 - 55
Grange Walk and Liability for Repair	Mary Paget	56 - 57
Sequel to the Story of the Earengays	David O'Connor	57
Reviews - Publications by Members		58
B.G.A.S. Record Series		59 - 60
GRO Accessions		61 - 62

EDITORIAL

As the new editor of the Charlton Kings Local History Society's Research Bulletins, my first task is to pay tribute to the work of the previous editor, Mary Paget. The Society was formed in February 1978 with Mary as its Director of Research, and in the spring of 1979 she edited the first Research Bulletin. Since then she has worked ceaselessly to publish a bulletin twice a year, as well as editing *A History of Charlton Kings* in 1988, and transcribing and indexing five volumes of St Mary's Parish Registers. In addition Mary has found time to encourage and help members like myself to research and publish our findings.

To mark Mary's achievements the Society has made her a Life President. At our November meeting David Smith, until recently our County Archivist, presented Mary with a framed certificate. There is a photograph of this happy occasion on page 32 showing Mary with David Smith and our chairman, Mary Southerton. In his address David stressed the importance of Mary's work in the field of Local History and laid particular emphasis on the way her Research Bulletins had set a standard which new societies have used as their benchmark.

It is therefore with considerable trepidation that I pick up the reins handed to me by Mary, and I ask for your support as readers and particularly as contributors. The Bulletin can only be what you make it, so please do write an article, send in that photograph, make some comments on previous articles or raise a question - the more the better.

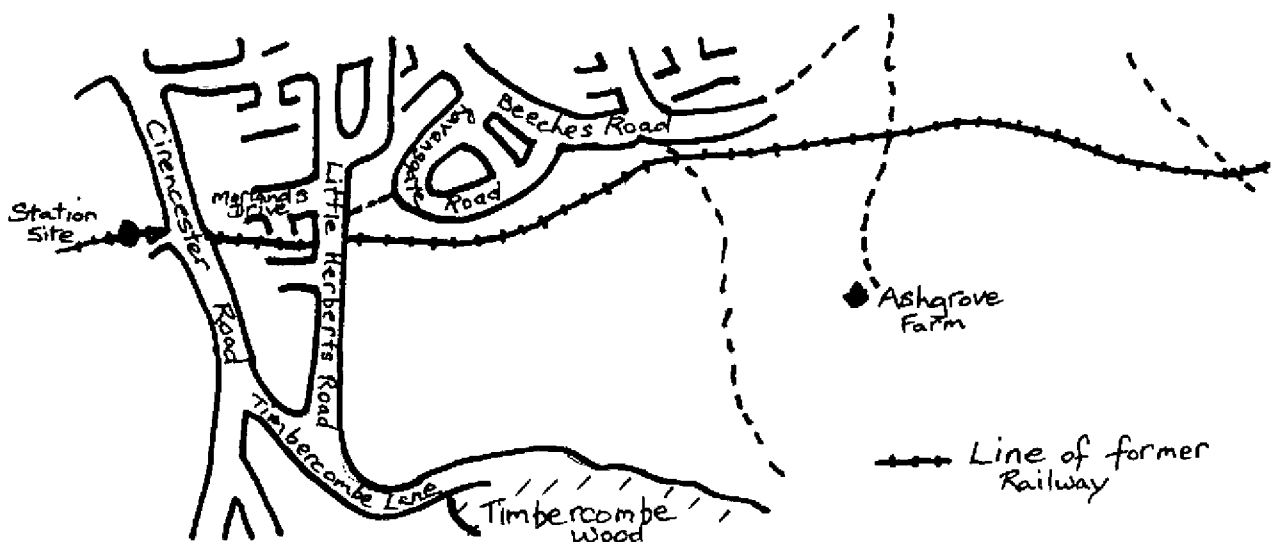
You will notice some changes in the format of the Bulletins, but I hope to maintain the usual varied selection of articles, and include as many maps and illustrations as possible. The main change is that, from this issue, there will only be one Research Bulletin a year to be published every spring. In order to compensate for this there will be an increase in the number of pages in each issue and a centre spread of colour photographs.

THE KINGHAM RAILWAY LINE

by C J N Fletcher

Mr Farmer, who was involved for several years in the discussions about the future of the old railway line through Charlton Kings, and latterly worked hard to establish a section of it as a nature reserve, has generously given the Society his file of papers on the subject. The material, mainly letters, minutes and press cuttings, begins in November 1964 and ends in May 1992.

This article is a summary of a much more detailed paper by the author, which together with the original archives, has been deposited with our Society and is available for any member to study. The story it tells is a simple one. Local authorities, increasingly desperate to find new places to dump refuse, wanted to buy the line, fill the cuttings and perhaps make some money by selling the land later. Local residents, naturally opposed to the prospect of having rubbish tipped practically on their doorstep, resisted the plans. It was only after many years that the determined resistance of a relatively few residents, notably Mr Derek Stafford, Mr Maurice Havard and Mr Farmer himself, won the day; and even now, although the original threat is long past, the short stretch between Little Herberts and Cirencester Roads which, as a nature reserve, had become a valuable community resource seems to have been virtually abandoned by the body which is supposed to be looking after it. It is a story with lessons for all who care about the environment of their towns and villages, and we are most grateful to Mr Farmer for preserving this archive.



The Cheltenham-Kingham line was closed in 1962, and in due course word got around that the Charlton Kings Urban District Council was considering buying some or all of the Charlton Kings section in order to use the cuttings as a refuse tip. The first letter in Mr Farmer's file is dated 13th November 1964. It is written to a UDC Councillor expressing strong objections to the prospect and asking for clarification of the Council's intentions; these twin themes would recur many times over the succeeding years. Later that month a meeting was organised by residents of Beeches Road, at which the Revd John McMinn, as chairman of the meeting, summarised the situation. The UDC had a problem: its current rubbish tip on

the Beeches playing fields was expected to fill up in about three months and an interim arrangement for using the Cheltenham tip at Webb's brickyard would also have a limited life; hence the interest in the old railway line. The meeting made it clear that any more tipping in the residential area would not be welcome - the present Beeches tip, it was alleged, was not properly controlled and rats had been seen in the vicinity. A committee was appointed to carry the opposition forward.

This new committee did not waste time. At its first meeting two days later it drew up a petition, expressing opposition on health grounds to all refuse tipping in residential areas, and particularly to the UDC's proposed purchase of the railway line for that purpose. By its next meeting, three weeks later, 1110 signatures had been obtained, and further initiatives by the committee were bearing fruit: British Railways confirmed that the line was to be sold but that adjoining owners would be given first refusal, local authorities in Bristol confirmed that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government did not advocate tipping near houses, and members of the CPRE and the Ramblers' Association expressed support to the residents.

During January and February 1965 there were further meetings, at which general dissatisfaction with the lack of precise information was expressed. The *Echo* of 22nd April reported that the Cheltenham Borough Council had approved the proposal to use the cuttings between Leckhampton Road and a point east of Sandy Lane and between Leckhampton and Shurdington Roads, for tipping "innocuous" material. Charlton Kings was not mentioned in this report, but no doubt the UDC took note of Cheltenham's decision.

There were no more items in Mr Farmer's file for 1965. The next relevant cutting from the *Echo*, dated 23 March 1966, reported that Charlton Kings UDC had decided to buy the railway line between California Farm and Cirencester Road bridges, some 15 acres altogether. As a result the residents committee met and agreed to ask the Council what its intentions were for the future use of the land. This was the last meeting chaired by the Revd John McMinn, who stepped down "in view of his known strong political associations". Mr Gordon Smith was elected chairman in his place.

A long gap in the records is broken on 5 May 1967 by a copy of a public notice in the *Echo*, in which the UDC applied for planning permission to fill in the railway cuttings (i) east of Ashgrove Farm bridge with household refuse, and (ii) west of Ashgrove Farm bridge as far as the Cirencester Road bridge with inert materials. Permission was granted subject to certain conditions: that "in one area" there should be inert material only and no household refuse; tipping of household refuse should be strictly in accordance with Ministry of Health recommendations; the final height of the filled sections had to conform with the contours of the surrounding land and be finished with at least 12 inches of soil and seeded with grass; flies and other pests to be controlled at all times.

The next batch of records introduces a formidable new player on the side of the residents, Mr Derek Stafford of 82, Little Herberts Road. Having read in the *Echo* of 18 December 1968 of the UDC's negotiations to buy "over a mile" of the railway line from Cirencester Road towards Andoversford, Mr Stafford wrote the first of many surviving letters. He had recently bought his house and knew nothing of the proposed tipping arrangements until reading it in the local press. He wanted answers to many questions: point of access, limitations on the type of materials to be tipped, how long it would continue etc; but received only noncommittal replies - yet to be decided, most appropriate to the need etc. He raised an additional query concerning the possibility of flooding if the cutting should be filled in. This query was to be repeated many times, was never properly answered, and is likely to have been one of the determining factors when tipping in the Little Herberts cutting was finally ruled out.

The records fall silent again at this point, and by the time they resume in May 1970 it is evident that the purchase of the line had been completed, tipping had started in the Ashgrove bridge stretch, and this was causing a nuisance - a plague of flies invading houses in the Beeches area. Mr Stafford was still corresponding with the UDC over the danger of flooding, his fears increased by trouble in Little Herberts due to a blocked culvert and water being allowed to drain into the cutting.

The file contains nothing at all for the years 1972-75, 1977 or 1978, and the silence is broken by a brief flurry of correspondence in the spring of 1976, when Capaldi and Sons submitted an application to fill the Little Herberts Road section. Residents of Little Herberts Road and Morlands Drive objected and in due course were informed that the Planning Committee had resolved to refuse the tipping application because the Cheltenham Borough Council (replacing the Charlton Kings UDC which had expired in the interim) had not yet come to a decision about the future of the line.

It seems to have taken nearly three years for the Borough Council's reservations about tipping applications to be allayed. On 8th January 1979 the *Echo* printed a report of a meeting of the District Development Committee. The Borough Council had approved an outline planning application to tip inert materials in the cutting. 'Inert' meant waste that was chemically inactive; thus excavation and demolition materials and industrial non-toxic waste would be permitted, while paper, vegetation, liquids and chemicals would not.

A year later, on 17th January 1980, Councillor W J Robinson wrote on behalf of the Charlton Kings Residents Association expressing their concerns over the control of 'offensive material' being deposited, problems associated with dust and inconvenience, and the possibility of flooding during heavy rainfall. He hoped that the Planning Committee would change its mind. The threat to the Little Herberts section was now very real and local objectors were coming out in force. The immediate threat was in fact lifted in February when it was reported that the District Development Committee had decided not to pursue the tipping proposal and rescinded their previous decisions. Perhaps the most significant item at this stage in the proceedings is a letter addressed to Councillors McDonnell and Robinson from a group of residents in Little Herberts Road, Chatcombe Close and Morlands Drive putting forward positive ideas for the future use of the line, among them the proposal that "A Conservation group be sought to maintain this area for the benefit and study of wildlife". This seems to be the first time that anyone suggested, to the Borough Council at least, that the line might be converted into a nature reserve. At this distance the proposal looks to have been a stroke of genius, but it would be another three years before the Council's planners took up the idea.

In the meantime rubbish was being unofficially thrown into the cutting beneath Little Herberts bridge. The Residents' Association told the Council that a group of volunteers (co-ordinated by Mr Stafford) would be willing to clear the rubbish if the Council gave permission and provided them with a skip. They also asked for a "No Tipping" notice to be put up on the site. Both permission and skip were forthcoming and the work was done over the weekend of 26th and 27th April. The notice took rather longer - it did not arrive until the autumn of the following year. Meanwhile the nature conservation suggestion had evidently been circulated more widely. Mr Stafford received a letter from the Town Clerk covering a minute of the District Development Committee. After referring to a recommendation that the section of line between Pilley Bridge and Sandy Lane should be filled for safety reasons (there had been a fatal accident five years earlier), the Committee said that it had received a letter from the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation proposing that the Cirencester Road to Little Herberts section should be used for "Nature Conservation and Ecological Study purposes". The Committee, unfortunately, did not feel that it could take action "at the present time". It seems that there was still interest in using the cutting for tipping and, perhaps, building.

The Residents' Association Newsletter no 41, published in October, is the only item for 1981. It reported that notices had been put up directing would-be tippers to the Horsefair Street rubbish depot. The prospect of official tipping on the line seems at this stage to have receded, but had revived with a vengeance by the following July. A request by Mr Havard to buy a strip of land on the cutting had been judged "premature". "The Committee was unwilling to consider any disposal of land because of various planning and engineering difficulties". This reply was dated 2nd July, but on 8th July the Committee had agreed that a scheme by a local developer to purchase the whole cutting with a view to tipping should be submitted. Mr Havard complained bitterly, reminding the Committee of the mass protest of residents in February 1980, when tipping had been proposed, and of an *Echo* report of 1st December 1981 that residents near the line would be given the opportunity to buy a 400 yard stretch of the cutting between Cirencester and Little Herberts Roads for a nature reserve. He submitted an application to purchase the cutting himself for use as a nature reserve. The file does not contain a reply to Mr Havard.

Mr Stafford also wrote, on 12th July, drawing attention to subsidence of the roadway on Little Herberts bridge, pointing out that there had been a marked increase in fly-tipping since the approval of tipping had been made known, and requesting that the rubbish be cleared. The reply to this letter revealed the name of the developer who was interested in purchasing the cutting. This gave Mr Stafford the ammunition he needed. His letter, dated 26th July, is magnificent in its contempt for the developer and his influence over the local authority. The text of this letter is included in the full article as Annex B. Unfortunately the reply has not been preserved, but Mr Stafford's letter must have made a substantial contribution to the pressure which, at long last, put a stop to plans to fill the cutting. The Residents' Association Newsletter for October 1982, in making this announcement, referred to "the vigilance of Councillor Robinson and the determined response of local residents". Although Mr Stafford's name is not mentioned in this context, there is little doubt that he played a major part.

With the removal of the threat to the Little Herberts cutting, the remaining papers in Mr Farmer's file are concerned with more positive matters. Converting it into a nature reserve under the auspices of the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation engaged the energies of many local people. The Cheltenham Borough Local Plan Proposals Map, published in September 1983, which identifies the railway cutting between Cirencester and Little Herberts roads as a nature reserve, is the first official acknowledgement of the proposal; even so it took two years before the formal agreement between the Borough Council and the Trust was made in August 1985. This leased the cutting to the Trust for five years for an annual fee of £5. On 6th June the following year the *Cheltenham Journal* reported the official opening on the previous Saturday, describing it as the first reserve to be primarily maintained by local people:

Years of battling have finally paid dividends for a group of Charlton Kings residents who have banded together to help establish the village's first nature reserve ... The official opening ... was an especially poignant moment for this small band of local residents who have been closely involved with the long struggle to save the land which has become a haven for wildlife. Over the years there have been several attempts to have the council-owned land filled in or developed, but each time local residents have rallied round to save the land.

Despite this triumph, a great deal of tidying up and practical conservation work was going to be needed. Occasional papers on file indicate Mr Farmer and his team were receiving useful expert back-up from the Trust, but it is not until the Trust's Annual Report for 1988-89 that we get a good picture of the current state of the reserve, its flora and fauna, and the human problems which had been encountered. The report, written by Mary Hopkins and included in

the full article as Annex C, mentions certain difficulties: continued dumping of rubbish, and (conversely) the tendency to remove anything portable; children throwing stones both into and out of the cutting; difficulties with local gardeners. "Despite all these difficulties," the report concludes, "we have made a lot of friends", with visits by schools, scouts, a Cheltenham church and the University of the Third Age. Already, only three years after being established, the reserve had proved its worth and become a generally valued part of the local scene.

And yet, only another three years after that, Mr Farmer's collection of papers ends on an uncertain note, with the future of the reserve in doubt. At first all seemed to be well. The Trust's lease was renewed in September 1990 for another five years. The reserve received a Certificate of Merit in the *Gloucestershire Echo/BBC Radio Gloucestershire* Environment Awards for 1990. Open Days were held, the Cheltenham Tree Group visited, maintenance by Mr Farmer and his colleagues continued. Amongst all this is a letter dated 3rd July 1991 from the Trust to Cheltenham Borough Council querying the position over possible designation of the reserve as a Local Nature Reserve (an official designation by English Nature, which, one assumes, would provide greater protection and possibly some further funding to the site). The reply, from the Borough Architect and Planning Officer, indicated that the subject of designation as a Local Nature Reserve was, with some others, in the Review of the Local Plan. He would contact English Nature to set the procedure in motion. However, within three weeks the Trust received another letter from the Council's Technical and Landscape Officer, explaining that the designation of this site was being hampered by the lack of progress with the Granleys and Knole sites. It was felt that all nature sites within the Borough should be put forward as a network. So the stultifying hand of local bureaucracy was putting at risk all the achievements of the past six years.

By late November 1991 the Trust, which had appointed a new Conservation Officer, appeared to have given up on the Borough Council, and on the reserve itself. Minutes of a meeting report that "No management work had been carried out at Charlton Kings during 1991 and no further management was envisaged. There was confusion over the status of the site as it is soon to be part of a larger Local Nature Reserve". A retreat, indeed, from the support which the Trust had been giving the reserve only a few months earlier. The report ignores the work of Mr Farmer and his local volunteers, who had certainly not abandoned the site. Mr Farmer wrote to both the Trust and the Borough Council and received letters full of would-be calming phrases. Mr Farmer was still not reassured and the *Echo* report for 5th May 1992, headlined "Fears for nature reserve's future", refers to Mr Farmer as "the former leader" of the Management Group, and makes it clear that he was in despair over the lack of activity by both the Trust and the Borough Council. Without a new management plan, the land could be ruined either by development, vandalism or neglect. "It needs tender loving care".

Official ears, it seems, were deaf to Mr Farmer's plea. The reserve has received no serious management, certainly no tender, loving care, in the ten years since that report. As a result, year by year it looks ever more neglected, ever more overgrown, a perpetual reproach to the Cheltenham Borough Council, which failed to gain formal designation of the land by the national conservation organisation, and to Gloucestershire Trust, which (it emerged subsequently) relieved Mr Farmer from his duties on the reserve without proper explanation and without appointing a successor, yet whose nameplate still stands at the entrance to the reserve.



The photograph opposite shows Fred Farmer on the left and Mary Hopkins, in the front centre, leading a group of visitors through the Nature Reserve. It featured in the *Echo* report dated 5th May 1992, mentioned on page 5.

In the report by Mary Hopkins appear the following words:

With our reserve, we are taking a small piece of land and attempting to create an area rich in wildlife, albeit common species, so that a large number of people who perhaps know little about natural history can familiarise themselves with the plants, birds and animals they are likely to encounter in the vicinity of their own homes.

It was not an unworthy aim.

Postscript

In the hope of rounding off this account, I wrote to the Trust in April 2001. The reply assured me that the Trust took its responsibility seriously, and a working party would be sent very soon to do some maintenance there. If this in fact happened, the results of its efforts are, to say the least, meagre. The coarser plants have rampaged and now (summer 2002) the impression one gets from Little Herberts bridge is of an impenetrable jungle. Lost is all that carefully planned scrub clearance, the painstaking nurture of the "flower-rich grassy sward" described in Mary Hopkin's report. My letter to the Cheltenham Borough Council received a prompt reply - the Trust still had an annual licence for managing the reserve, a letter would be sent to the Trust to find out what management work they were proposing, copies of correspondence would be sent to me. Over a year later none has arrived.

[Havens To Get Boost They Need.

This was the headline to an article in the *Echo* for 8th January 2003. Julius Marstrand, Chairman of the Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common, had praised Borough Council plans to give 10 wildlife havens the recognition they deserve. He added "proposals to turn the sites in Cheltenham into fully fledged nature reserves will do wonders for flora and fauna... These plans will allow it to tap into funding to look after these areas better."

Councillors approved a 300-page document setting out their vision for the future management of the sites last November. At the top of the list were Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common; followed by Daisy Bank Fields, Leckhampton; Pilley Bridge Nature Reserve, Leckhampton; Little Herbert's Nature Reserve, Charlton Kings; Lawrence Close Nature Reserve [off Glenfall Way], Charlton Kings; and four others.

A spokesperson for the Council said "It is too early to say how much funding would be available at this stage. These areas contribute to the quality of life and the environment for local people and can play an important part in community development."

[The story runs on, but we are not holding our breath]

CROFT ROAD - FORMERLY BLIND LANE

1. AGE AND DEVELOPMENT

by Mary Paget

This is one of the oldest roads in Charlton Kings, linking Little Herberts/Horsefair Street with Upend Street (the section of Cirencester Road up to Lilleybrook), Bafford, and Moorend Street (now New Court Road).

Blind Lane was used as the division between Cheltenham Manor land and Ashley Manor land when the latter was set out about 1154. Land on the east of Horsefair Street from Church Street to Grange Walk was allotted to Walter of Ashley and out of it he gave one acre for the church and churchyard. Land beyond Grange Walk stayed in Cheltenham Manor. Land on the west of Horsefair Street up to Blind Lane was to stay as Cheltenham's, whereas that south of Blind Lane became Ashley's. In Blind Lane itself, Cheltenham Manor land on the north side was built up and those houses counted as part of Bafford Hide. But the Ashley Manor land on the south was open arable till after 1890-1900.

The removal of medieval houses on the Cheltenham side went on till the 19th century, when only the house called Pumphreys (divided into tenements) remained. That was pulled down in the 1890s. Mrs Midwinter, who lived as a girl at Brunswick Villa (previously the Prinn Arms) remembered this happening and a gravel pit replacing the old house and some of its land. The site belonged to Mrs Eykin (a daughter of Conway Whithorne Lovesy) and it was she who, in about 1910, built the semi-detached houses at the north-west end of the road. When I was a small child, they were often spoken of as the 'Laundry Cottages', because many of the occupants worked at the Diamond Sanitary Laundry in New Court Road; and as a result of working in a steamy atmosphere were all noticeably yellow in complexion. On the other side of that land, Mrs Eykin created Pumphreys Road, building the houses on the south side about 1910, and those on the lower side in the '20s. The unadopted road was (after some discussion) taken over by the Urban District Council upon Mrs Eykin agreeing to pay a third of the cost of making it up. It gave the council a useful back way into their Horsefair Street yard.

When land (previously Fuller and Maylams) was developed, Messrs E H Bradley and Sons agreed to give up 240 square yards to widen the road, the Council paying them £28¹. A further widening of Croft road took place when Gilbert Ward Court was built².

Some Croft Avenue and Croft Parade houses were built by the Council (following their first house building on Little Herberts Road). But the road was unadopted till 1927 when house owners offered to contribute £50 (in three instalments) towards repairs, provided the road was then taken over by the Council. Eventually the owners agreed to contribute a third of the cost provided it did not exceed £400³.

References:

- | | | |
|---|-------------|------------|
| 1 | UDC Minutes | DA3 100/1 |
| 2 | | DA3 100/16 |
| 3 | | DA3 100/15 |

2. HOUSING DEVELOPMENT ON THE SOUTH SIDE

by Jane Sale

An article in *Bulletin 48* (pp 27-29) concerned the development of housing in Okus Road, off the Cirencester Road. A map which accompanied the conveyance of land in 1923 showed that the houses on the south side of Croft Road and those in Croft Avenue had already been built by then. The deeds of 'Hazledene', 24 Croft Road, enable us to trace the development of this area.

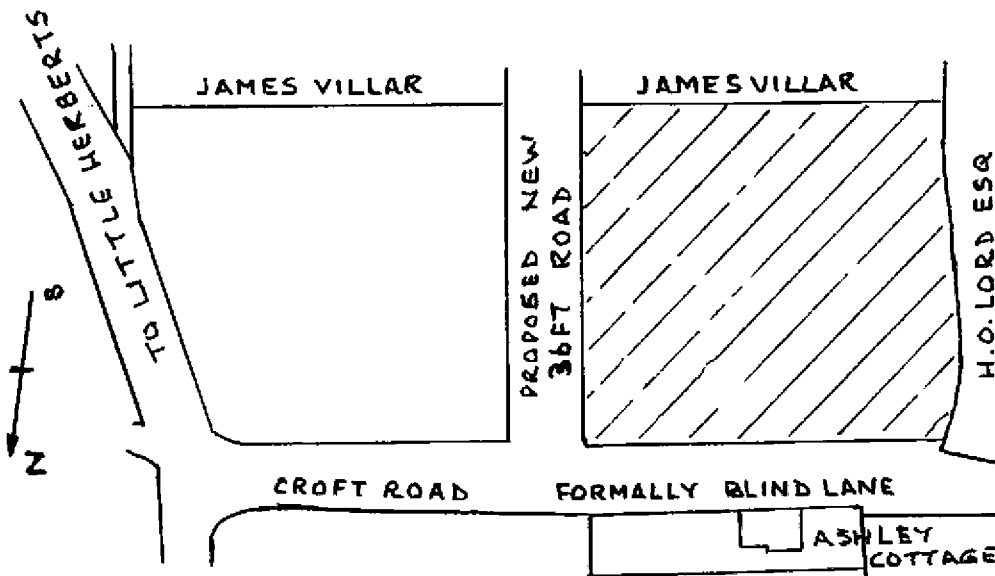


The earliest documents refer to the conveyance of a piece of land called 'The Croft otherwise known as Sandfields', measuring 9 acres 1 rood and 10 perches, being arable land in the occupation of Frederick Bate as tenant. This is the land running from Croft Road southwards to the Footpath shown on the 1923 map and bordering Little Herberts Road, but not including the land marked 'The Wold'. The conveyance, dated 11 April 1900, was from Sarah Lietch, widow of London, to James Villar, land agent of Cheltenham, and the sum paid was £775.

An attached Schedule shows how Mrs Lietch came into possession of the land; she was the widow of Thomas Carr Lietch who had been one of the many mortgagees to Sir William Russell of Charlton Park. We know from other sources that during the 1860s Sir William had been convinced that he could make money by developing various parts of Charlton Kings for housing. Consequently he bought up any land that came on the market, borrowing heavily in order to finance these purchases. Unfortunately for him, he was ahead of his time, the demand for housing came later, after the inauguration of the tram service from Cheltenham. Russell was made bankrupt in 1874. All his property passed to the various mortgagees, including this piece to Mr Lietch, and in 1879 Mrs Lietch inherited it from her husband. The Schedule also relates that an earlier mortgage on this piece of land had been taken out in 1868 between Russell and John Coucher Dent.

To find out when Sir William Russell bought the Croft we need to turn to the Charlton Park archives deposited at the Gloucestershire Record Office, which include a "Schedule of Property of Sir William Russell in Equitable Mortgage to John Coucher Dent Esq. [of Sudeley Castle] comprised in Security of this date for £4000 being the 'Little Herberts' Estate purchased from Taylor's devisees on 24th July 1863 (D7661 Box 10/10). This showed that Russell had paid £1250 for 'The Croft otherwise Sandfield' being 9a 1r 10p of freehold land. At the same time he had also bought the farmhouse called 'Little Harbords' otherwise 'Little Herberts', with its outbuildings, garden and orchard for £450, and about 36 acres of land for £2300, all freehold. An article by Mary Paget, including a map, in *Bulletin 26* explains how Sarah Taylor inherited this property, so there is no need to go into much detail here. Suffice it to say that the property had passed down through the female line from the Pates family in the sixteenth century, to the Rook/Rucks in the seventeenth and early eighteenth, then the Cowles, Lemons and finally Taylors in the nineteenth centuries and had not been sold for about three hundred years.

To return to the piece of land called 'The Croft otherwise Sandfield', the deeds for 'Hazledene' relate that on 14th October 1905, James Villar, now described as 'architect and surveyor' sold a part of the land to Charlotte Smith, wife of Thomas William Smith of Exmouth, Cheltenham, builder for £250.10.0. The area of land is shown below as the shaded part of the whole 9a 1r 10p. The frontage along Croft Road measured 187 feet with a depth of 160 feet.



The sale was accompanied by a covenant stating that dwelling houses only should be built upon the said land thereby conveyed, the size, value and plans of which should be first approved by James Villar, and that the line of frontage of such buildings should be set back eight feet from the boundary of the said piece of land next to Croft Road and from the boundary of the said piece of land next to the proposed new road (later to become Croft Avenue). And also that C Smith would erect and thereafter properly maintain a four foot paled fence along the back of the said land and a neat trellis fence along the front next to Croft Road and the proposed new 36 foot road.

The next entry in the deeds is the conveyance of 'Mayville' and 'Hazeldene' on 7th April 1908 for £310. The conveyance is from Frank Palmer, a retired furniture dealer, of London to George Frederick James Cook, a French polisher, of Mayville, Croft Road and the sum paid was £310. An attached Schedule shows that Frank Palmer had acquired the property from James Nathaniel Bellamy by a conveyance dated 15 May 1907, but there is no mention of when Bellamy bought it. The houses are described as 'recently erected' formerly known as No.5 and No.6 Croft Road and the property had a frontage measuring 37 feet 4 inches and a depth of 112 feet. The conveyance was subject to a right of way for the owner of the adjacent premises, No.4, over the four foot path on the south west side. This path was presumably the one dividing the pair of houses from the next two.

The property remained in the hands of the Cook family until the death in March 1959 of Edith Mary Cook, deceased widow late of Hazeldene, when it passed to Ethel Mary Wiggins of Bradley Road, Charlton Kings, as beneficiary of the will of Edith Cook - perhaps they were mother and daughter?

The examination of these deeds has illustrated how the story of a property can be traced back to well before the house was built. In this case they formed the bridge linking up with evidence from Cheltenham manor court records going back to the sixteenth century. We are very grateful to Elizabeth Macnamara for responding to our Chairman's request for any information regarding members' houses.

3. CHANGES IN CROFT ROAD

by Percy Bridgeman

Croft Road, where I was born before the first world war, has changed. The houses on the left going up from the cemetery still remain, and those on the right half way along going down to Cirencester Road were there. The first part on the right was gardens and my father's allotment. That was behind two cottages. A very old lady lived in one, but was seldom seen. On the left at the top backing on to Cirencester Road was a large nursery owned by Fuller and Maylams which grew young fruit trees which went almost up to the New Inn. That was the tram terminus. Croft Road was a nice road with very nice neighbours. That was the days when we were able to leave our doors open to one and all.

4. BEATRICE POTTER'S 'TAILOR OF GLOUCESTER'

by Dolly Reeves

Mr and Mrs John Pritchard came to live in Ashley Cottages in Croft Road (now the site of Gilbert Ward Court). Mr Pritchard died there on 24 February 1934 aged 57 and is buried in Charlton Kings cemetery. The writing on the kerb around his grave is as follows:

John Samuel Pritchard age 57 The Tailor of Gloucester

I was friendly with his daughter Chrissy and I was in the house when he died of T.B. Mr Pritchard had a son Leslie and Chrissy from his first marriage. He and his second wife Ida had a son Douglas, who was a pilot during the Second World War. After the war he was a helicopter pilot flying from Penzance to the Scilly Isles.

Mrs Ida Pritchard died in 1965.

MILLENNIUM EVENTS AND COMMISSIONS

Three years have now passed since we moved into the 21st century. The arguments as to whether the 1st January 2000 was the start of a new millenium or not, along with the fears felt by some that our computer-run world would collapse when 1999 turned into 2000, have faded into history. For some people the event was just an excuse for a superabundance of fireworks and alcohol, but the date meant far more than this to our church congregations. Representatives of the different Charlton Kings churches have kindly agreed to record the special commissions and events which were organised over the year to celebrate the New Millenium.

1. ST MARY'S CHURCH

by Vivian Barr

The Millennium was celebrated at St Mary's Church by a variety of events, one of which was the commissioning of a statue of the Madonna and Child. It was felt that in a church dedicated to Mary such a statue would be an appropriate and lasting memorial to mark the Millennium. The cold cast bronze resin statue was the work of Mother Concordia, of Minster Abbey, near Canterbury in Kent. It was placed on the wall of the Baptistry, with an inscribed plaque below it, made by a local stonemason, Robin Paul. The design for the date plaque was by the architects Messrs Bartosch and Stokes, who supervised the whole installation. The statue was blessed by the Bishop of Tewkesbury on 15th March 2000. A photograph of the Madonna and Child statue can be seen in colour on page 29.

St Mary's began the Millennium with a Service of Thanksgiving for all the Charlton Kings churches followed by a Bring and Share lunch at Sacred Hearts church hall, and also with the bell ringers ringing a full peal for three hours.

In February the Charlton Kings Community Players presented "Whose Birth Did You Say?", a drama written by them comprising scenes beginning with the human concept of God leading the way to Jesus, who through his incarnation made God accessible to people and on to an interpretation of how Christianity had affected the life of this country through two millennia.

There were three lectures for Lent arranged by the churches in Charlton Kings, and in May there was a performance of readings from English Literature on the theme Christ Reflected in Poetry and Prose. There were also three musical events, the first being a choral and instrumental evening, followed by a piano recital given by the Vicar, the Revd Graham Bryant, and ending with a performance of The Messiah from Scratch at Holy Apostles church. The only rehearsal for this was on the day of the performance, and the audience joined in singing some of the choruses in the evening.

As an outward-giving project St Mary's had arranged to support St Anne's Hospital at Liuli in Tanzania, which was coping with a large number of AIDS patients with few resources. Contributions were also made to Listening Post, a local charity.

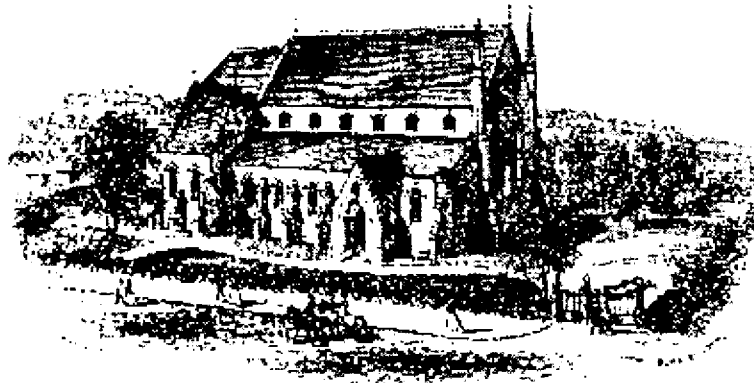
St Mary's celebratory events drew to a close with a Mid-Summer Lunch held at Wager's Court, and on looking back it was agreed that all these events had been an excellent way to celebrate the Millennium.

2. HOLY APOSTLES' CHURCH

by Doreen Bill

In June 1999 it was agreed we would produce a book jointly with our church School, to be sold and the proceeds would be divided between two Children's Charities. The charities chosen were A.B.C.D. (Action around Bethlehem for Children with Disability) and Global Care - Children at Risk (Christian Action for Children Worldwide). The book would be called "The Church at the Crossroads", it was to be a celebration of the life of the church and the school. It would also include the hopes, prayers and wishes of the children. The book was duly produced and raised £1500 which was shared between the two charities.

The frontispiece for the book is a postcard view of the church as it was in the 1870s, reproduced here by kind permission of the PCC of Holy Apostles.



A church member made a special 'Millennium Banner' with the lettering '2000' in the shape of a fish. This was hung at the front of the church for the year.

Members of Holy Apostles' congregation distributed the customary Christmas Card from the Parish together with a Millennium prayer card to every house in the parish. Among special purchases by the Church were Millennium candles for every member of the congregation and for all the children at Holy Apostles' School, gospels of St Luke to give away, and an extra notice-board announcing that the 'Millennium is Christ's 2000 Birthday'. Plans were put in place for an extension to the Garden of Remembrance and work was begun, and completed in 2001.

The year commenced with a New Year's Eve party which took the form of a 'Bring and Share' Supper, which was followed by a Millennium Service in church. Then some of those who attended walked into town with their Millennium candles to join in the Celebrations outside the Municipal Offices, the Millennium Moment being organised by Churches Together in Cheltenham. On 2nd January there was a special Service - 'Celebration 2000', with the Theme: New Beginnings.

On Sunday 30th January Holy Apostles School came to our Church for their 'Millennium Celebration'. Amongst other items this included Class 5's own ideas for a dance based on the theme of "Light"; they had also learnt to say "I am the Light" and "Follow me" in sign language. It was at this service that the new school banner was used - it was later dedicated at the school by the Bishop of Tewkesbury. On 6th February there an 'Invitation Service', to which people were asked to bring friends and family.

The church supported the 'Grow a Tenner' scheme for the Diocesan Pentecost 2000 event at the racecourse. To raise money for the scheme a Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy was held at Hetton Lawn.

Another big event for Holy Apostles' Church was the "Open Weekend and Flower Festival" from May 19th - 22nd. There were floral displays, with texts on Jesus's life in silver and purple - the millennium colours; displays and stands by the various groups at Holy Apostles; a talk about some of the stone carvings in the church depicting characters of the Reformation; activities; music; school visits; a children's quiz; a walk round the grounds; and prayer at regular intervals. Light refreshments were served throughout each day. The Sunday Service on the 21st was a Festal Evensong.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services took place on Sunday 24th September, which was the final Sunday for our then Vicar, the Revd Ray Copping and his wife Molly, before retirement. Their farewell party was on the following Saturday, 30th September in Holy Apostles' Church Hall. So ended a year of special events to mark the Millennium.

GLENFALL FELLOWSHIP

by Sheila Johnson

The Millennium was a double celebration for members of the Glenfall Fellowship. Not only recording 2000 years since the birth of Jesus but also the 10th Anniversary of the Fellowship's birth.

Glenfall Fellowship, originally a Church plant from St Barnabas, was established in the Charlton Kings area of Cheltenham in 1990. The Anniversary was marked by the production of 300 commemorative mugs bearing the Fellowship's name and the words, 'Celebrating our 10th Anniversary 1900 - 2000 and The Jesus of History 2000 A.D.'

The Fellowship also had a party in January 2000 and a special guest service in February to investigate the unique claim of Jesus Christ.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

by Brenda Simpson

Charlton Kings Baptist Church was without a minister at the start of the Millennium, so members did not do anything officially at that time.

They welcomed their new minister in late summer of 2000. At his suggestion the Church distributed special millennium copies of St John's Gospel around the whole village, this marked '2000 years of Christianity and also 125 years of Christian witness in this area by the Baptists'. In all 1000 copies were given out.

SACRED HEARTS CHURCH

by Jane Kane

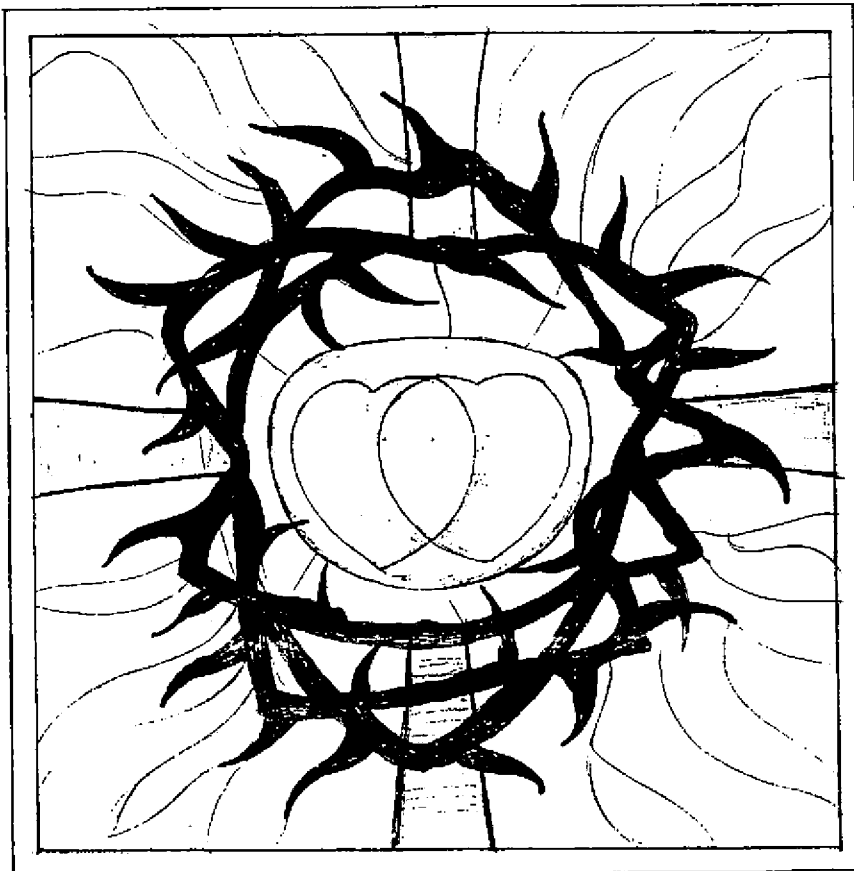
To commemorate the year 2000 it was agreed well in advance to replace the doors on Sacred Hearts Church. These new 'Millennium Doors' were to be a fitting addition to the church and like the doors on ancient churches, last throughout the new century. Money was raised at the annual fete held in June each year; that year's fete was very successful with over £3000 being set aside for commissioning the design and the construction of the doors.

Richard Richardson, a local craftsman who works from a workshop in the grounds of Prinknash Abbey, was asked to look at the project. Richard had made individual pieces for churches - lecterns, pulpits, tables, and also doors. He had pictures of a door he had made with a Celtic Cross which inspired the internal design of our new doors. Richard suggested the contrasting wood colours with the outside door being made of Sweet Horse Chestnut and the internal Celtic Cross and cross beams of lighter Cedar of Lebanon.

The doors needed some external decoration. The stained glass panels offered a visual detail, which would let the light and sun into the church and let the light from the church out at night. The design was an inspiration of Brother Gilbert of Prinknash Abbey, who incorporated the two hearts of Jesus and Mary within a Crown of Thorns - traditional symbols of the Catholic Church. Hand made glass which has vivid colours enhanced the design and the windows were made by Edward Russell, a local craftsman, working in the Stroud area.

The doors were erected and blessed by the beginning of Advent in December 2000. They can be seen easily from the road and announce to the passer-by that the building they adorn is truly a church.

Below is the design for the stained glass, kindly supplied by Edward Russell. A coloured photograph of the doors, taken from inside the church, is shown on p 29.



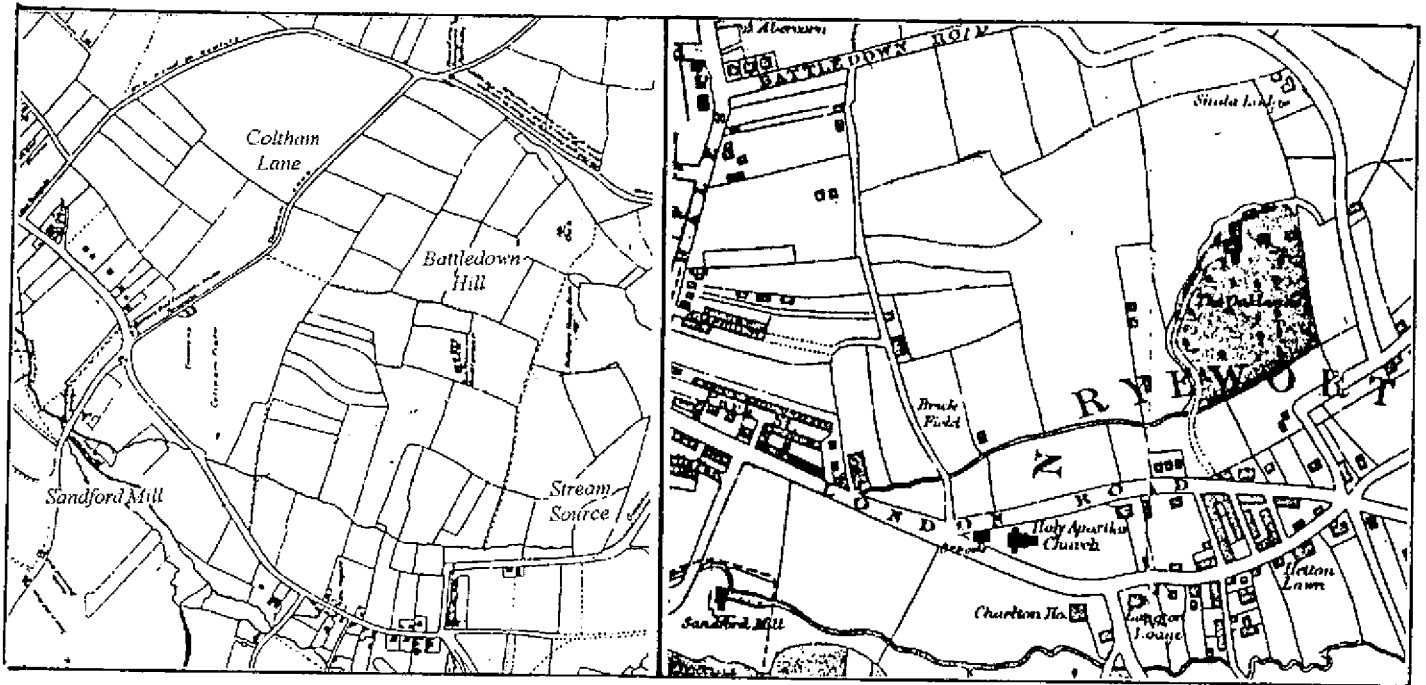
DIGGING UP A STREAM - IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

by David O'Connor

In early 2001 the stream flowing parallel to Greenway Lane, under Ashley Road and through the playing fields of St Edwards School caused a major land collapse at the southern end of the rugby pitch in the School playing field. This stream, which, as far as can be ascertained, has no name, [Mary Paget thinks it is the Slad] appears an insignificant waterway today, and little more than a ditch. The maps show it, where they deign to show it at all, starting at the western edge of the School cricket field; and this area adjacent to Greenway Lane is the natural water collecting point for run-off from Battledown Hill, which has a considerable number of springs. While storm water also feeds the stream, the steady flow, even in periods without rain, confirms a spring origin. Its progress due west parallel to, and about 25 yards in from, Greenway Lane is clearly delineated by a row of willow trees. Here it flows from the old Castle Farm pear tree orchard: four of the trees still survive. About 35 yards from Ashley Road it is augmented by storm water from the ditch alongside Greenway Lane and a drain from the all-weather hockey pitch to the north. It then goes underground for 35 yards, passes under Ashley Road and continues into the playing fields. It was at this point that the collapse occurred.

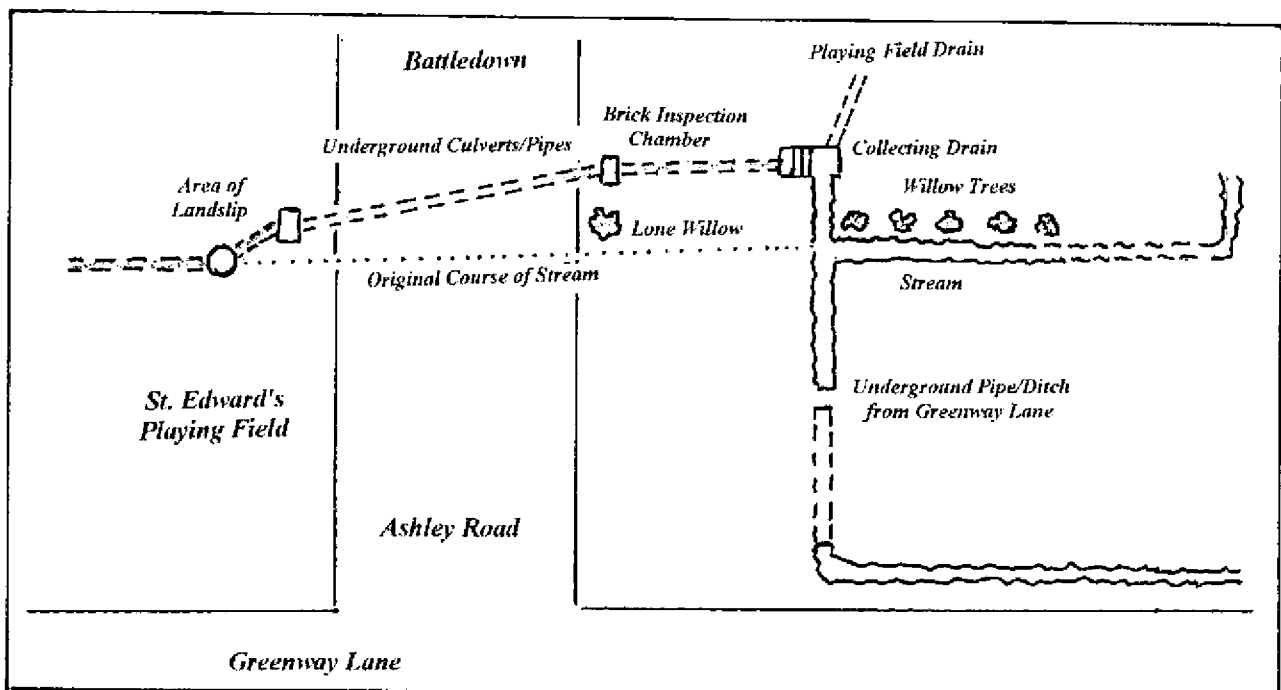
Older maps depict this stream as a much more significant feature. Edward Mitchell's *Town Map of Cheltenham* of 1810 marks it prominently: it flows parallel to the London Road until crossing under it in the area where the Beaufort Arms now stands and then joining the Chelt at Sandford Mill. It still follows this course but by 1885 it had been piped underground on the south of the London road, though it remained visible on the northern side. By 1926 building to the north of the London road had forced it underground, though it can still be seen in its fairly deep bed in one or two places west of St Edward's School grounds, notably crossing under Charlton Court Road. The recently installed speed ramps were set back from the point where the culvert goes under the road to avoid stress on the structure. Storm water from the Ewens Farm Estate and other adjacent houses is piped into it in this area. Its probable entry point to the Chelt is still visible: it joins the river at a picturesque point just after the mill-house and thus played no part in milling the grain.

The Estate map of The Oaklands drawn up by Nathaniel Hartland in 1846 shows that the stream had been made a feature of the Estate's landscape. Trees marked its course and, as it passed under the main drive to the Mansion, a brick sluice formed an ornamental pond on the other side before the stream continued westwards. At this date Ashley Road, the approach from Greenway Lane to the Battledown Estate, had not been built. Even then, however, some 70 yards of the stream had been put underground in a brick culvert, probably to permit easier access to, and better use of, the fields concerned. The construction of Ashley Road began in 1860 and was completed by 1863. It went through the Hartland land and hence needed to cross the existing underground portion of the stream. For this a culvert, some 20 feet below the ground level, was built. It is probably at this point that it was decided not to follow the original natural line of the stream. This may have been for engineering reasons: the stream lay in a marked dip in the ground, while the road needed to be level. A new line would also allow work to proceed dry. The stream was diverted north for some ten yards and then cut diagonally back across the line of Ashley Road to join the existing brick underground section, making the junction into a dog-leg. A lone willow tree that stands adjacent to Ashley Road and a few yards to the south of the crossing point probably marks the end of the original line of willow trees along the stream. On the west side of Ashley Road the stream ran in a brick culvert for some 25 yards before it surfaced again. It is not known how much, if



Above Left, Mitchell's Town Map of 1810 shows the stream as a significant feature, running in an open bed through undeveloped land, under the then Cirencester Road and into the Chelt at Sandford Mill. **Right**, by 1885, Bacon's map shows that it has gone underground at the Beaufort Arms, to emerge at the Sandford Mill Race. The front of the Inn is at an angle to the London Road because it aligns itself with the course of the stream. By 1926 building north of the London Road had pushed most of the Charlton Kings' section of the stream underground.

Diagram Showing Diversion of the Stream
[Not to scale]



Old maps show that the stream flowed directly from east to west, and the lone willow on the edge of Ashley Road appears to be the last of the existing line. It was probably diverted through a right angle when Ashley Road was built in 1860: this would have permitted a new culvert to be built dry. The inspection chambers appear to be more recent and were probably built when the playing fields were levelled in 1957.

any, of the original underground section was rebuilt in 1860 but it appears probable that the builders were content merely to effect the necessary junction from the road crossing.

Mrs Betty Adams, whose father Jack Staddon was the Ashley Manor Estate Head Gardener from 1920 to 1957, and who lived as a child in the Lodge, remembers walking eastwards along the stream in the 1930s. There was a bridge for cattle to cross from The Oaklands (later Home) Farm into the pasture to the north; shortly after this the stream disappeared underground and a gate led into the railing-enclosed garden area which ran parallel with, and adjacent to, Ashley Road. Mrs Adams recalls that, at the point where the underground section met Ashley Road, there was a substantial bank, the level of the land being much lower than that of the road. Below the bank there was in her childhood a large, deep, open pit, which lay at the bottom of the enclosed garden area of the Manor and was used by gardeners to dispose of rubbish. This pit was fed by an open pipe from the culvert under the road and acted as a sort of reservoir in the event of heavy rain. Water ran at the bottom of it and Mrs Adams was warned as a child not to go near it. Following the death of Lady Agnes Dixon-Hartland in 1956 and the sale of the Ashley Manor Estate to the Carmelite Order for a school, considerable tipping and levelling of the area took place and the field is now on a level with Ashley Road. This raising of the level explains why the culvert is now so far under the surface. Vertical brick inspection chambers were built either side of Ashley Road and the open pit filled and replaced by an underground connection to the existing 1840s brick culvert, not under the road but about five yards into the playing fields. The stream had continued to flow and had hollowed out an underground chamber: subsequent heavy rains had caused the land above, part of the main rugby pitch, to subside into the hollow. The presence in this area of the former open pit was possibly not unconnected with the collapse. Contractors were called in by St Edward's School to determine the nature and extent of the problem and then put it right.

At the time that the first spoil heaps began to appear alongside Ashley Road, research was in hand on the Battledown Brickworks. The wire-cut bricks produced at Battledown from the 1880s onwards carried no markings, though one early hand-made brick with Battledown markings on it had been found on the boundary of the Estate in the steps at the end of Stanley Road. This, however, was a rare bird. Noticeable in the ever-growing piles of clay and earth were a number of muddy bricks, many of them broken and covered in mortar, presumably from the excavated culvert. It was surmised that the construction of Ashley Road between 1860 and 1863 would have required bricks. These were normally bought from the nearest brickyard, since, though bricks were cheap, their transportation was expensive. In the hope of discovering some more Battledown bricks, permission was therefore sought and received from the Bursar of St Edward's to carry out investigations of the site.

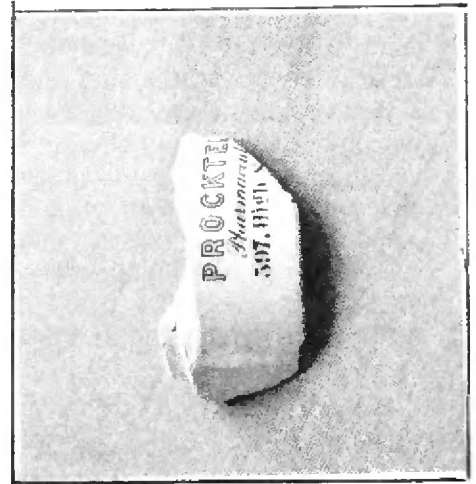
It was while searching the spoil from the area of subsidence damage and the excavation required to replace the 1840s culvert that three varieties of Battledown bricks were found, viz:

a. Broken bricks carrying the inscription "**BATTLEDOWN BRICK Co Yd**" on the front in a two and a half-inch shallow frog (recess). The reverse had a similar frog but bore no inscription. The bricks carried circular marks, probably the screw heads set in a wooden clamp used to make the inscriptions. The initial letters "**B**" of "**BATTLEDOWN**" and "**BRICK**" were larger than the other capitals. There were no whole bricks. These bricks were clearly hand-made in wooden moulds.

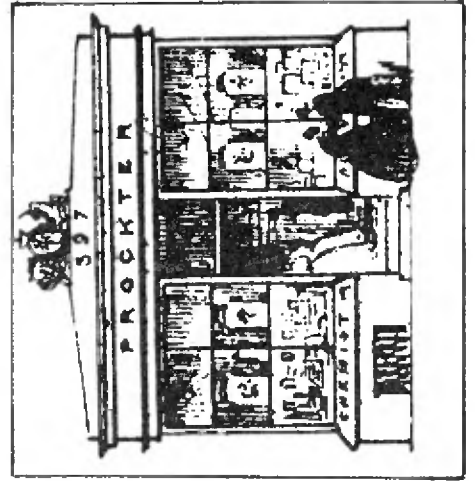
b. Much better quality bricks bearing on the front "**BATTLEDOWN BRICK Co Ld**" in a two-inch shallow frog, which had shorter, steeper sides than the first type. The reverse had an identical frog but carried the inscription "**CHELTENHAM**". The letters were a uniform size and the "**Co**" differed from the first type. There were no circular marks but the bricks showed



Contrasting Battledown bricks recovered from the culvert near Ashley Road. Left, hand-made broken bricks marked 'Battledown Brick Co Yd' (Yard), from around the 1840s; note the uneven size, rough edges and evidence of hand-stamping and hand-cutting. These bricks were probably used when a section of the stream was first put underground. Right, a later brick marked 'Battledown Brick Co Ld'. The changed description probably results from the conversion of the Yard into a Limited Company in 1863 on its purchase by the Reverend Armitage. This is plainly a much higher quality brick and shows signs of wire-cutting and the introduction of mechanical industrial processes. This brick was probably used when Ashley Road was built in the early 1860s.



A fragment of a Victorian ointment jar from Prockter's Chemist's and Druggist's Shop at 397, High Street, Cheltenham, was found at the bottom of the excavation. Prockter's shop is shown in George Rowe's Guide of 1845 and described as "elegant and....furnished and ornamented with great taste."



the striations caused by wire-cutting, which were absent from the older bricks. The brick shown was completely covered in mortar but long immersion in water made its removal possible without damage. It had been perfectly preserved by its covering.

c. Red common bricks, very typical of the Battledown brickfield but with no identifying inscriptions which would allow of a positive identification. There were many more of these than of the marked varieties.

The marked bricks were relatively few in number and all came from the spoil heap nearest the junction with the Ashley Road culvert. None of these were found where the original 1840s underground section was later excavated and removed. The presence together of the first (Yard) bricks and the second, much better quality, (Limited) type offers two possibilities:-

a. Old and new stocks were being used in a period immediately after a change in management. In 1863 the Reverend Arthur Armitage purchased the Battledown brickfields from Somerset Tibbs, a Trustee of the Battledown Estate, who left the area to retire to Brixton in 1864. Armitage set about modernising the yard under the title "The Battledown Brick and Terra Cotta Company Ltd." By 1863 also, Ashley Road had been completed. The presence of two types of brick accords with these dates.

b. The second (Limited) type bricks are associated with the 1860/63 construction but the first (Yard) type bricks came from the original underground culvert. The latter would hence be from the 1840s. The difference in quality and appearance of the two types tends to support the view that the Yard Bricks came from an earlier period. The two types of brick represent the end of the truly hand-made era and the start of a mechanised industry.

A further interesting discovery in the bottom of the pit was a fragment of a Victorian ointment jar. This bore the inscription "PROCKTE... Pharmaceut...397, High S...". Richard Edgecombe Prockter was a chemist and druggist, a picture of whose shop at 397 High Street, Cheltenham, appears in George Rowe's 1845 *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide*. He lived at 8, Montpelier Terrace and continued to trade until at least 1870. By coincidence, in 1860 he bought land totalling four acres on the newly created Battledown Estate, though this is unlikely to have had anything to do with the presence of his ointment jar in the stream under Ashley Road. Apart from the bricks, this was the only artefact found, but it was pleasing to have one.

The old brick section of the culvert extended farther than expected by the contractors, who had not apparently consulted the old maps, and work began to tear it out with heavy plant. Water was still flowing from the source of the leak and it could clearly be seen that the old 1840 culvert was not circular but semi-circular in shape, and that there was a small dog-leg bend in the line of the culvert from the road. Also visible was what appeared to be an old well uncovered in the side of the trench. This was made of small bricks, reminiscent of an earlier period; it lay on one side of the original line of the culvert and was hence not an inspection chamber. The extended digging was over 20 feet deep, and given the wet clay venturing into it was not advisable. The brick culvert was replaced by heavy plastic piping, covered in concrete and finally joined to the existing entry and exit points. The vertical inspection chamber at the entry point was removed and replaced by one flush with the ground. Two additional vertical inspection chambers were added along the line of the new pipe and in-filling began. By early November 2001 the area was levelled and ready for re-turfing. The stream had disappeared again.

THE DISTRICT NURSES OF CHARLTON KINGS

by C. M. Howse

[Carrie Howse is researching 'The Development of Rural District Nursing in Gloucestershire, 1880-1925' for a PhD at the University of Gloucestershire. She is anxious to hear from anybody who remembers Nurse Newdick, or her assistants Nurse Vallender and Nurse Grove. If you can help, please contact the editor.]

Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses

In 1887, as part of the celebrations for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the women of England were invited to make donations to a Jubilee Fund and the Queen was then asked to decide how the money should be spent. From various plans submitted to her, Queen Victoria chose a scheme produced by Florence Nightingale and William Rathbone to provide district nurses for the sick poor throughout the country.

William Rathbone was a wealthy merchant who had already set up a highly organised and successful scheme of district nursing in his home town of Liverpool in the 1860s, with the advice and support of Miss Nightingale. When he became an MP, and consequently spent half of each year in London, he and Florence worked together to set up a similar scheme in the capital. Their Metropolitan Nursing Association (MNA), founded in 1875, became the urban model for Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses (QVJI) in 1889.

As plans for QVJI progressed, a free-thinking, intellectual newcomer to country life, Elizabeth Malleon (1828-1916), was campaigning to provide village nurse/midwives nationally. Elizabeth's first and main interest had been women's rights and education, and it was not until 1882, when her husband retired from his business in London and moved to Gloucestershire to breed horses, that she became interested in district nursing.

The Malleons bought Dixon Manor House and Elizabeth quickly became aware of the poor living conditions in the nearby village of Gotherington. In particular, she recognised the urgent need of skilled nursing in such remote rural areas, especially for women in childbirth. In 1884, Elizabeth founded a small, local charity called the Village Nursing Association, and having raised the princely sum of £33.12.s.0d, she employed a nurse for Gotherington in September 1885. However, after only nine months, the funds were exhausted and the charity closed.

Elizabeth's experience was certainly not unique: in the Christchurch area of Cheltenham, the Reverend Fenn had established a system of district nursing in 1867 which had closed in 1872 due to lack of funds, and in Charlton Kings a Parish Nurse had been engaged in 1883 but again, insufficient monies caused the scheme to be abandoned at Easter 1885.

Elizabeth Malleon realised how much more could be accomplished by co-operation, not just locally, but on a national scale. According to the biography written by her daughter Hope, she envisaged an association controlled by "a central body which could set and maintain the standard of nursing, and which could ask for funds to help poor districts and to train suitable women".¹ In June 1888, Elizabeth wrote to Florence Nightingale and asked that "you may allow your honoured name to be placed at the head of the Association I hope to form".² Miss Nightingale declined, as she did not consider Elizabeth's plans to be detailed enough and doubted her credentials for setting up and running a nursing association. Despite this setback, Elizabeth persevered and by 1889, through a combination of persuasion, argument and sheer

determination, she had formed a small committee, which included Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach, who lived near Cirencester.

Lady Lucy and her husband, Sir Michael, later the Earl of St Aldwyn, had for some years been actively involved in the administration of their local Cottage Hospital at Fairford. Sir Michael had been a Tory cabinet minister since the days of Disraeli's leadership and had held several important posts, including Chancellor of the Exchequer. In May 1890, Lady Lucy used her contacts and influence to call a meeting at 11 Downing Street to consider "the employment of Trained Midwives and Nurses in country districts".³ She invited "country people whose approval would carry weight in many circles"⁴ and the guest of honour was Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, who was one of Queen Victoria's favourite cousins and also the mother of Princess May of Teck, the future Queen Mary. On that day, Elizabeth's vision was embodied in a national charity, the Rural Nursing Association (RNA).

Overall, the RNA was controlled by a Central Committee, with Elizabeth Malleon as Secretary. Each county had a President and County Committee; the county was then divided into districts, each with its own Manager and Local Committee. Within two years of its foundation, RNA nurses were working in seventy seven districts in twenty five counties, including five in Gloucestershire, and its ever-growing and impressive list of committee members and supporters included two Duchesses, nine Countesses, four Viscountesses and seventeen Ladies.

Several of these titled ladies also had links with the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute. In particular, whilst the Countess St Aldwyn worked closely with Elizabeth Malleon, the Earl St Aldwyn was a friend of Florence Nightingale. The Duchess of Westminster was Vice-President of the RNA, whilst the Duke of Westminster had been Chairman of the Metropolitan Nursing Association and Chairman of the Jubilee Fund, and was now a leading member of the Queen's Council of QVJI. During the course of 1891/2, there were negotiations to bring the two charities together. QVJI had always intended to extend into rural areas, but had concentrated on establishing itself in urban areas first. The leading figures of the Royal Nursing Association were able to present their charity as an already functioning national rural scheme and in September 1892 a Constitution was published which formally established the RNA as QVJI's Rural District Branch (RDB).

By 1896, fifty RDB nurse/midwives had been trained and were working in thirty counties. The following year, in the interests of efficiency and centralisation, complete amalgamation was recommended between the urban and rural branches, under the one title of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

District Nursing Associations

In the 1890s, QVJI had no standard rate of pay in rural areas because of the diversity of local circumstances and arrangements. Each District Nursing Association (DNA) was responsible for raising its own funds, including the nurse's salary at a suggested rate of £25-30 a year. They were also to provide uniform, laundry costs and accommodation for the nurse, preferably in a cottage of her own, or board and lodging in two furnished rooms, with attendance, fuel and light. By 1909, the suggested wage of £30 a year had become a required minimum, independent of local conditions, rising to £32 and £35 in the second and third years of service, with an additional £2 a year for practising midwifery. The funds to cover these costs were raised by subscriptions, donations, midwifery fees, church collections and special efforts such as fetes and jumble sales. Many District Nursing Associations in Gloucestershire, especially those serving poor, often widespread communities, had difficulty raising adequate funds, and annual accounts frequently showed a deficit.

Charlton Kings' DNA, with Mrs Bagnall of Bafford House as Hon Secretary, was no exception: in 1911, it was £25 in debt and most of its Committee members resigned, complaining that "the subscriptions were inadequate for the support of the Nurse". In that year, the Charlton Kings nurse was paid a salary of £36, with Board and Lodging costing £43 11s 0d, Laundry £5 4s 0d and a Uniform Allowance of £5, a total expenditure of £89 15s 0d. Fortunately, the deficit was paid off, "largely by the result of a Whist Drive organised by Mrs Fry, and a cheque for £11 from an anonymous donor".⁵

The district nurse's duties consisted of general nursing of non-infectious cases, care of the elderly and invalids, and midwifery including attendance on the mother and child for 10-14 days after the birth. The nurse was strictly forbidden to interfere with the religious opinions of her patients and "must accept no presents, nor any wine, beer, or spirits".⁶ Nursing was to be free for the poorest patients, but a standard national midwifery fee of 5s was charged. In 1892-3, the weekly wage of agricultural labourers in the Midlands counties, including Gloucestershire, was only 12s 6d, compared with the national average of 13s 4d. The introduction of a standard midwifery fee must have placed a strain on family finances before the granting of the first Maternity Benefit in 1911, but against this must be weighed the advantages of attendance by a trained midwife. In 1909, the nurse's workload was increased by the introduction of Public Health Work, including assisting with the medical inspection of schoolchildren, and at Infant Welfare Centres. By 1917, there were sixteen such centres in Gloucestershire, but the Charlton Kings Infant Welfare Centre was not set up until 1923. From that time, fortnightly sessions were held at which mothers could have their infants weighed and could seek advice from the district nurse and Medical Officer on health and feeding.

Charlton Kings' District Nurses

Charlton Kings first Queen's Nurse was Alpha Fenton, who worked in the village from 1893 to 1909. Alpha was born in 1861, the daughter of an auctioneer, and was educated at Mrs Wainwright's school in Bradford. Until the age of 29, Alpha was occupied as housekeeper to her brothers in New Oxford Street, London, then in 1890 she spent six months training as a general nurse at St Barts Hospital, followed by a further six months at Bristol General Hospital.

In October 1891, Alpha moved to Cheltenham where she completed her three month's district nurse's training and gained the London Obstetrical Society's midwifery certificate in January 1892. Her first post as a Queen's Nurse was in Bradford, and in January 1893 she moved to Charlton Kings, which was then part of the Rural District Branch of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute. Her inspection reports, written by QVJI Inspectors who toured the country to ensure that standards were maintained, record her general work as being "fairly satisfactory". With the passing of the Midwives Act in 1902, Nurse Fenton updated her qualifications by taking the Certificate of the newly formed Central Midwives Board in 1904 and it was noted that her maternity cases were "well and thoroughly done". However, by 1909, she was considered to be "somewhat old-fashioned" and in particular it was recorded that "Nurse is an anti-vaccinationist". Alpha resigned from QVJI in September of that year, to take up private nursing after almost seventeen years in the village. Her final report from QVJI's Head Office reads, "A hard-working nurse, methods old-fashioned, conduct satisfactory on the whole", but she was clearly much appreciated by her patients, as her citation from Charlton Kings DNA reads, "Work good. thorough, industrious. conduct very good".⁷

Nurse Fenton's replacement was Queen's Nurse Ann Newdick, who came to the village in September 1909 and remained until she retired twenty four years later in August 1933. Ann was born in 1868, the daughter of a farmer and corn merchant. After being educated at

Shrubland House, Soham, Cambs, Ann worked as a Children's Nurse until the age of 36. From 1904-7, she trained as a general nurse at Mill Road Infirmary, Liverpool, then in 1908 she trained as a district nurse and midwife with the Metropolitan Nursing Association in London. During her district training, Ann was noted to be "a quiet, steady worker, capable and conscientious nurse, liked by her patients". In the examination for the Roll of Queen's Nurses, she scored 42 out of a possible 60 marks and her answers were recorded as having "many parts good considering apparent educational difficulty". In September 1908, Nurse Newdick took up her post as Queen's Nurse in Cheltenham, where her work was "thoroughly and well done", though it was noted that she was "very slow", then in September 1909, she transferred to Charlton Kings.

At that time, the Charlton Kings district covered 3390 acres with a population of 3806. In her first year in office, Nurse Newdick paid a total of 2655 visits to 66 surgical cases, 37 medical cases and 49 maternity cases, and spent 11 nights on duty.⁹ Her inspection report for 1910 reads, "Much improved in every way. Working up the district well", and subsequent reports describe her as "kindly and attentive", "a good, steady and capable nurse, with a pleasant, sympathetic manner". However, whilst she was recognised as being "most conscientious" and having "a high standard", Nurse Newdick was also regularly criticised for being "slow" and, like her predecessor, after almost twenty years in her post, she was regarded by the Inspectors as "old-fashioned" and reluctant to "grasp new ideas". Nevertheless, she was "very popular", "well appreciated" and "much respected" by her patients, amongst whom she exercised a "good influence".¹⁰

By 1920, by which time Mrs Fry of Wintonville, Cirencester Road, had taken over as Hon Secretary of Charlton Kings DNA, the population of the district had grown to 4495 and in that year Nurse Newdick paid 4783 visits to 48 surgical cases, 26 medical cases and 70 maternity cases, with 36 nights on duty. Clearly, such a workload was too much for one nurse and the following year Nurse Vallender was appointed to assist Nurse Newdick.¹¹

Nurse Vallender was not a Queen's Nurse; she was a Village Nurse/Midwife (VNM), a second grade of district nurse introduced specifically to work in rural areas. VNMs were local women whose training was paid for by the Gloucestershire County Nursing Association, in return for which they contracted to work in the county for a minimum of three years. Nurse Vallender was aged 33 when she was sent to Plaistow for her year's training in July 1913 and her first post as a VNM was at Siddington from 1914-18. It is not clear from surviving records where she worked from 1918-21, but in 1921 she moved to Charlton Kings to work under Nurse Newdick's direction. When Nurse Vallender left in 1925, her place was taken by another VNM, Nurse Grove.¹² By that year, the ever-increasing workload of Charlton Kings' district nurses had risen to a total of 5577 visits to 74 surgical cases, 79 medical cases and 68 midwifery cases, with 32 nights on duty.¹³

Ann Newdick remained in her post until August 1933 when she retired at the age of 65. She was awarded an annuity of £20 a year from QCJ's Long Service Fund and she died in 1955 at the age of 87, having devoted almost her entire career as a district nurse to the people of Charlton Kings.¹⁴

References:

CMAC Contemporary Medical Archives Centre, Wellcome Institute, London
GRO Gloucestershire Record Office

- 1 Hope Malleson, *Elizabeth Malleson: A Memoir* (Printed for Private Circulation 1926) p153
- 2 British Library Add 45808, F119-127 & F163-165v Letters from Elizabeth Malleson to Florence Nightingale 1888
- 3 *The Nursing Record*, 22 May 1890, pp246-7
- 4 Malleson, *Memoir*, p154
- 5 GRO D2465 4/33
- 6 GRO D4057/1
- 7 CMAC SA/QNI/J.3/2
- 8 CMAC SA/QNI/J.3/15
- 9 GRO D4057/1
- 10 CMAC SA/QNI/J.3/15
- 11 GRO D4057/1
- 12 GRO D2410
- 13 GRO D4057/1
- 14 CMAC SA/QNI/J.3/15

MORE ABOUT SOUTHFIELD FARM

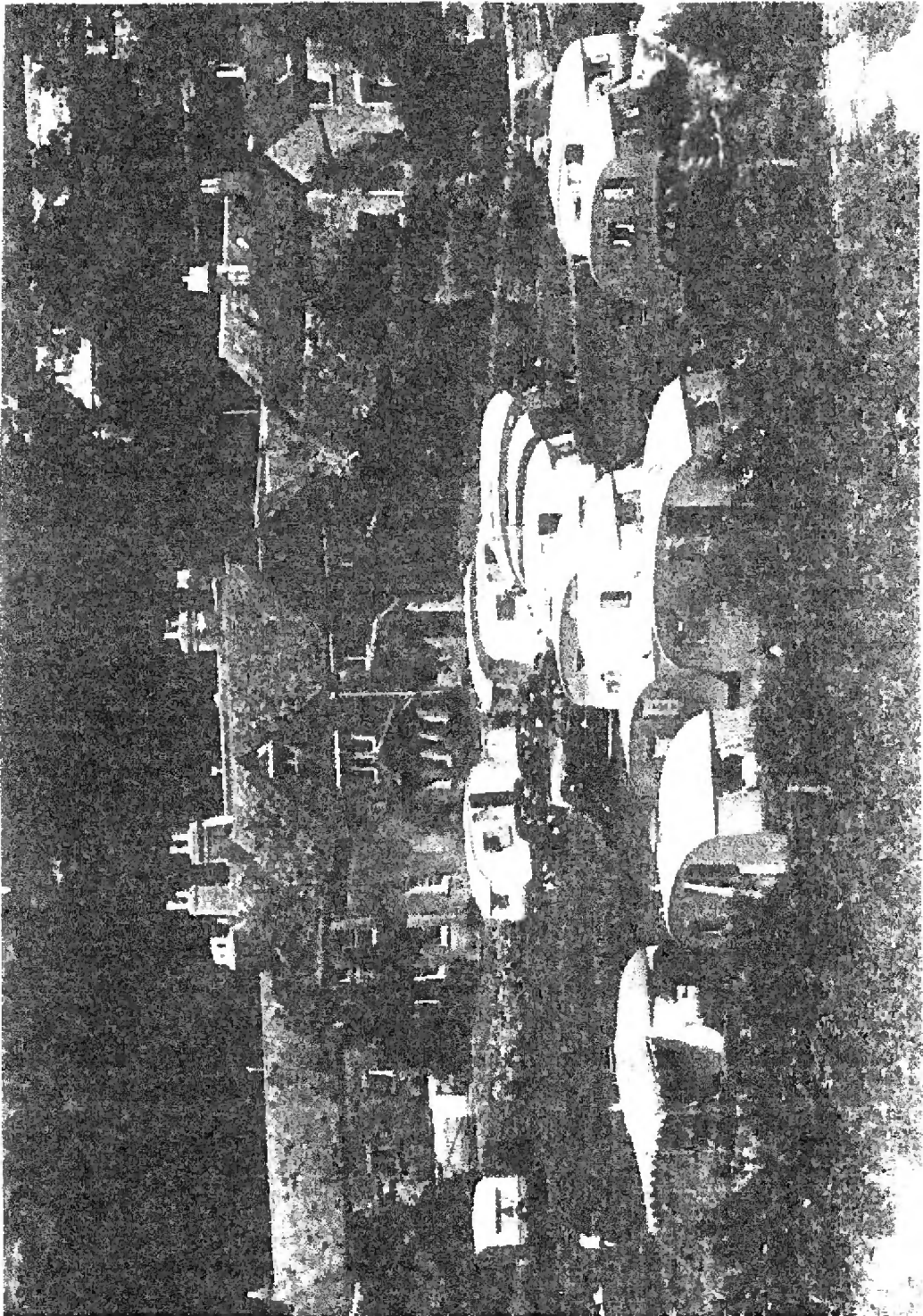
Following the article in *Bulletin 48*, two readers have sent in contributions to add to the story.

1. **Terry Enoch** sent the photograph on p 26 showing a Caravan Rally in the field adjacent to the farmhouse. He thinks this took place in the early 1950s. The caravans in the photograph were of the type which preceded the revolutionary fibre-glass models which the firm introduced during the late 1950s and '60s. Terry himself was involved in helping his father to run water to a standpipe for the caravanners. The Rally was organised by Arthur E Gardner, who ran the Cheltenham Caravan Co. Ltd. at the Maida Vale Works in Naunton Lane and Leckhampton Road. Mr and Mrs Gardner owned Southfield Farm at this time.

The farm had been auctioned in September 1947, when it was described as a 'Valuable Freehold Dairy Farm of approximately 102 acres with Comfortable Residence, Secondary Residence, Cottages and ample First Rate Accredited Buildings. It was bought by Captain Stephen Peel, but after a tragic fire, in which Captain Peel's wife had died, he put it on the market again. Arthur Gardner bought it in 1951 and Arthur's son, Cecil H Gardner, lived at Southfield Gate. This was presumably the 'secondary residence' described in the 1947 sale particulars.

Mr Cecil Gardner was forced to close down the Caravan Company in 1975, after an increase in VAT on 'luxury goods' had added about £400 to the selling price of caravans.

Referring to another article in *Bulletin 48* on p36, Terry told me that G W Enoch, who lived in Copt Elm Road, was his uncle. He had not been the builder responsible for Brookway Drive; that had been built by Marshalls. Thank you Terry for your help.



2. **Michael Greet** takes us back to the early 1800s with a poem, accompanied by the following explanation:

The reference to Mr Nicholson of Southfield Farm in the *Bulletin* 48 p 12, reminded me that he had been mentioned in Isaac Bell's *Poems on Various Subjects* (Poem 39 in my edition of the text, 2001) The poem was sent with three volumes of *Tales of a Grandfather*, which had been lent to Bell by Mr N*****n, of S.F. Mr William Nicholson may have been a relative of Colonel Nicholson of East Court, Bell's employer.

(1)

Sir, your volumes I've read,
Which to me were as new,
And here with my thanks
I return them to you.

They amused me much,
On perusing them through,
As many places mention'd
Full well once I knew.

In particular one
Called Ancrum Moor,
Likewise Lilliard's Edge,
I have oft travers'd o'er.

And have sat on the tomb-stone
Of that valiant maid,
Who fought for her lover
So daring, 'tis said,

She belong'd to the village
In which I was bred
Call'd Maxton, near Tweedside,
Not far from the Jed.

An old aunt of mine,
Who is now dead and gone,
The following lines
Oft has read on the stone:

(2)

"Here lies maiden Lilliard,
Below this cold stane,
She was little in stature,
But mighty in fame.

"She gave to the Saxons
Full many foul thumps,
And after both legs were off,
Fought on her stumps.

"Her enemies cruel,
Unaw'd by her charms,
Pierc'd her body, till her bowels
Gush'd out in her arms.

"Yet still persevering
Her honour to save,
She carried them thus,
To the brink of the grave."

When a youth I have often,
As walking around,
Near the spot been delighted
With bullets I found.

For the battle was fought
Not far from the place
Where the brave maiden lies
To the Scotch no disgrace.

Tales of a Grandfather was published 1827-30. Ancrum Moor (27.2.1545) was a Scottish defeat of an English invasion force. Bell was brought up at Maxton. Verse 8 contains lines which echo *Chevy Chase*:

"For Witherington needs I must wayle
As one in doleful dumpes,
for when his legs were smitten off
He fought upon his stumpes."

Border Ballads. Ed W Beattie. Harmondsworth 1952.

THE BUTCHER'S TILES UNCOVERED

by Jane Sale

During the summer of 2002, the nearly-new clothes shop, 'Magpie', in Lyefield Road West closed down. When the shop fittings were cleared out the original tiled walls were uncovered - a surprise for most of us who had not known the shop when it was the butchery department of the Co-op store on the corner of Lyefield Road and Copt Elm. At the time of writing, the shop has been demolished ready for redevelopment. The exposed side wall of the Co-op building shows an upstairs window and the line of the roof of the extension, which appears to have been 1½ storeys high in the front sloping down to 1 storey at the back. A door connecting the original building and the extension can also be seen, and the tiles on this one wall still remain. The pattern on the wall consists of a skirting and dado rail of highly glazed moulded tiles in green, blue and yellow, above which are plain white tiles with framed 'pictures' of farm animals, with more of the moulded tiles near the ceiling.

An attempt was made to remove some of the tiles, but this proved impossible without breaking them up. However, the Society has a record of them as photographs were taken by Christopher Fletcher, by kind permission of John Lewis the developer. See pp 30 & 31.

Questions have been asked about the age of the tiles, where they might have been made, and by which firm. This article is an attempt to answer some of the questions.

The first task was to date the building. The Lyefield area did not start to be developed until the 1890s, and the Cheltenham Directories show that up until 1900 the only buildings were the 2 Lyefield Villas - the present Pinehurst Nursing Home. Then by 1905 the houses west of Brookway Road were listed with Bisbrook being the last before the junction with Copt Elm Road. Slightly later building included Blinkbourne and Cleeve House, the present Pharmacy, which were listed in the 1911 Directory. In the meantime the Gloucester Co-operative Industrial Society had acquired the site on the corner of Lyefield and Copt Elm and the date 1901 can still be seen on the stone above the present door to Smith & Mann's store. The Co-op, which first appeared in the Directory for 1902, was always listed under Copt Elm Road, until 1915 when it also appeared under Lyefield Road. Was this the time that the shop was expanded and the separate butchery department added? It seems likely though I have no proof.

The photographs on p 33 show, at the top, the Magpie shop in 2000, the part on the right being the butcher's shop with the tiles, and below, the Co-op before the extension was built.¹ There is a gap between the main shop building and Cleeve House, so we can date the photograph to roughly 1910 - 1915. Note the wires for the electric trams and the stopping place just behind the delivery van. The trams came to Charlton Kings in 1903 and made a great difference to the development of this part of the village and of Cirencester Road.

As to the tiles themselves, they would have formed part of what was described as the 'Tile Boom of 1870 to 1910'². The national housing boom of the 1880s and '90s led to an increase in the demand for wall and floor tiles. There was a growing realisation of the importance of cleanliness and hygiene, which led to a general tightening up of building standards. The glazed tile came into its own - being hard wearing and easily cleaned they were ideal for public places and private homes. Shops such as butchers and fishmongers were often tiled throughout in white, but frequently with large decorative panels with scenes depicting farm animals or the fishing industry.

cont. p 33

MILLENNIUM COMMISSIONS

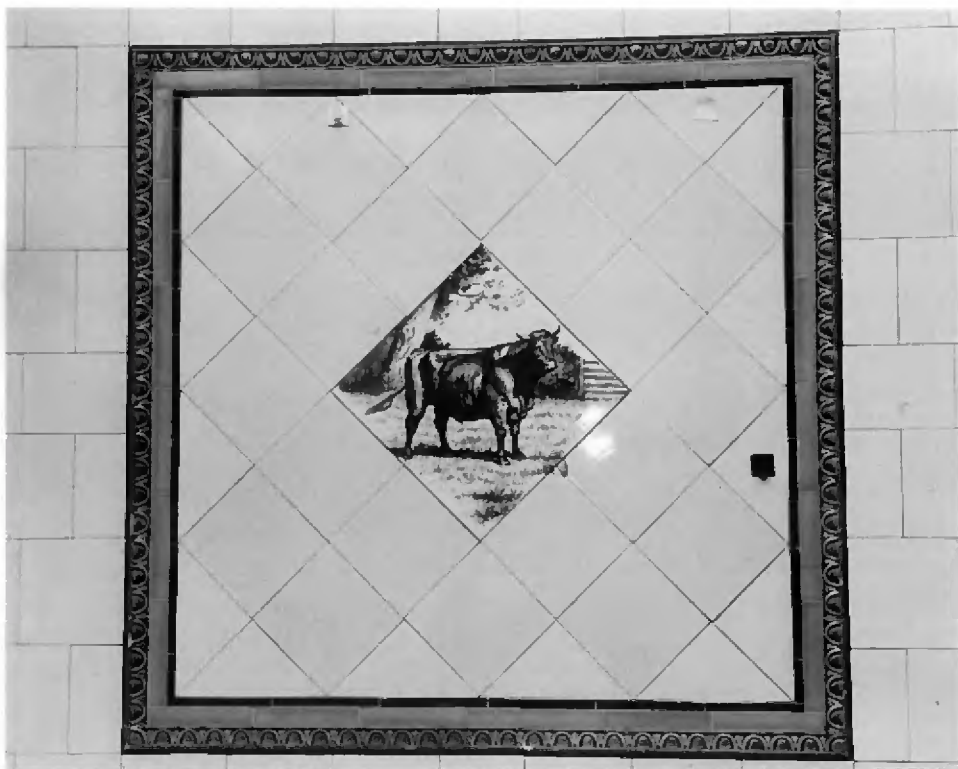
ST MARY'S MADONNA and CHILD



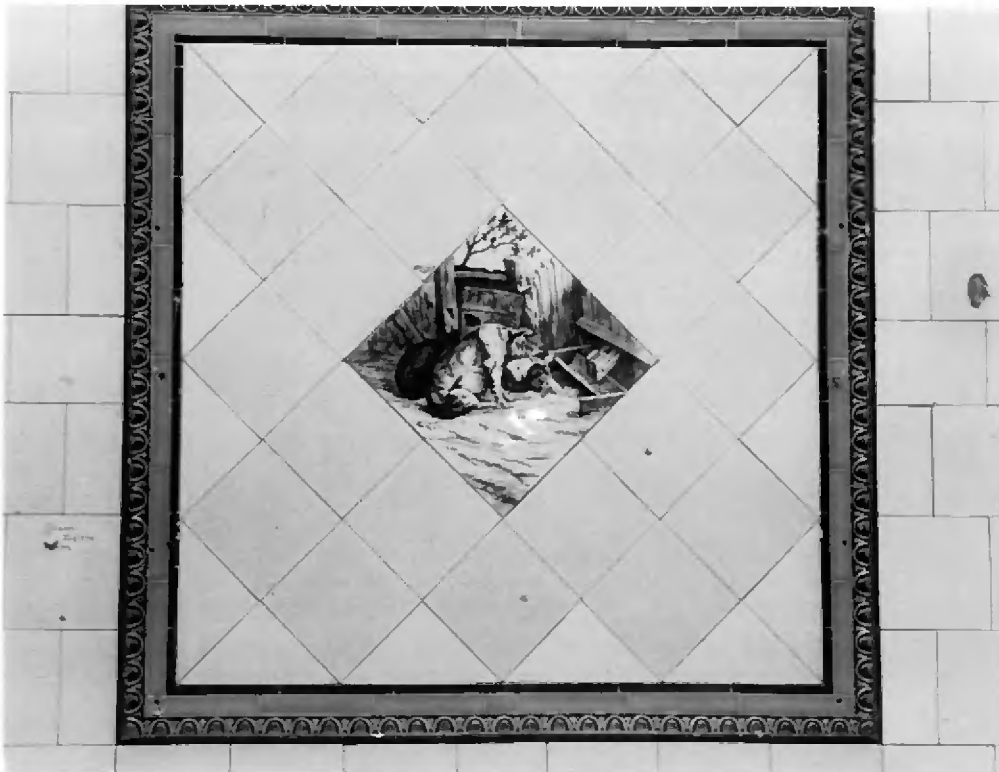
SACRED HEARTS' DOORS



THE BUTCHERS TILES
PHOTOGRAPHED BY C J N FLETCHER



THE BUTCHERS TILES
PHOTOGRAPHED BY C J N FLETCHER



**MARY PAGET - OUR LIFE PRESIDENT
PHOTOGRAPHED 26 NOVEMBER 2002**



**THE CHARLTON KINGS FIRE BELL
NOW ON LOAN TO MILESTONES MUSEUM, BASINGSTOKE**





A key figure in the field of early Victorian tile making was Herbert Minton (1793-1858), who introduced a whole range of new production and decoration methods for tiles. Most of his early work was associated with encaustic tiles for church flooring, but he was constantly experimenting with new ways of pressing and decorating tiles. By 1850 all the major inventions had taken place for the introduction of mass-produced tiles and by this time they could be easily transported by the burgeoning canal and rail networks. Minton's firm dominated the tile market and raised their profile by participating in the 1851 Great Exhibition in London.

After Minton's death, the firm split into Minton, Hollins & Company which specialised in encaustic floor tiles and Minton's China Works which concentrated on wall tiles. Other firms such as Maw, Craven Dunnill, Doulton, Wedgewood and Pilkington also took a share in the growing market. But it was Minton's China Works, at Stoke-on-Trent, which was using a design most like the Charlton Kings tiles. A book entitled *Collecting Victorian Tiles*³ includes an illustration of the firm's 'Arrangement for Butchers' Shops' dating from c1880. This is of a large lozenge-shaped tile decorated in blue with a bull in a field, set within smaller white tiles, the whole within an ornate frame. This formed one of a set called 'Animals of the Farm' which were designed by William Wise and is very similar to our tiles except that the frame illustrated is much more richly decorated.

During the early years of the 20th century Minton's China Works produced tiles in the Art Nouveau style, as used in the interior of Harrods Meat Hall, completed in 1902, or designs made up of several tiles making a large picture⁴. But it is quite likely that they continued to make their 'Animals of the Farm' design for the mass market. If this is the case then they seem the most likely source of our tiles.

An alternative suggestion is that a simplified version of the design was made by the firm of Maw and Company, which moved from Worcester to a new factory at Jackfield near Ironbridge in 1883 and became one of the major tile producers in Britain, making both encaustic floor tiles and decorated wall tiles. The Severn would have provided an easy means of transport between Jackfield and here.

If any readers can shed more light on this subject I should be very interested to hear from them.

References:

- 1 This photograph is reproduced by kind permission of David Hanks.
- 2 *Victorian Tiles* by Hans van Lemmen.
- 3 *Collecting Victorian Tiles* by Terence A Lockett. The illustration is by courtesy of Royal Doulton Tableware Ltd.
- 4 *Twentieth Century Tiles* by Hans van Lemmen and Chris Blanchett.

100 YEARS BACK - EXTRACTS FROM THE LOCAL PRESS

by Ann Hookey

1. "ENCOURAGING THE NATATORY ART!" from the Cheltenham Examiner.

Charlton Kings Urban District Council - Wednesday January 14th 1903.

A monthly meeting of this Council was held at the new Hall last evening. In the absence of the Chairman (Mr R.V.Vassar-Smith), Mr C E Gael (vice-chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs W Price, G E Bond, H Edwards, C W Townshend, G Thorne, J W Bate, G Mitchell, and W H Fry. Mr F P Dighton, the new clerk, was welcomed on entering upon his duties at this, the first meeting of the Council since his appointment.

The Baths Scheme Adopted - The Baths special committee reported that they had had before them Mr Villar's plans of the proposed new baths and an estimate of the cost, and had approved of the same. The site - near Charlton Mill in Spring Bottom - could be purchased and the Bath constructed (with dressing sheds, attendants' room, fencing etc) at a total outlay of £375; and the Committee calculated that (inclusive of £21 for interest on £375 and repayment of the principal) the annual cost to the parish would be £44, while they estimated that the receipts would be £39.4s.0d or a deficiency on the working of about £5 per annum.

Mr Gael in moving the adoption of this report, said the Committee had gone carefully into the scheme and were satisfied that if carried out it would result in benefit to the parish. The principle of Baths having been adopted, the questions to be decided on were the site and the water supply. These necessarily went together, because if the Council determined not to utilise the Corporation water they would be restricted in their choice of a site. The Committee believed that the stream which ran through the village might be utilised, after providing for the filtration of the water, and they therefore recommended the Council to purchase the site upon the stream at Spring Bottom, close to Charlton Mill. Here a swimming bath could be constructed 80 feet long by 25 feet wide - nearly as big as the Alstone Bath - 3ft 6in deep at one end and 5ft 6in deep at the other. The site was not an exposed one, yet was very accessible to the villagers, and the Committee felt confident that the baths would throw very little if any burden upon the rates. There was no doubt as to the desirability of providing opportunities for learning the art of swimming in the village. It might be that the parishioners could use the Cheltenham baths, but two or three miles was a long way to walk for a bath on a hot summer's day. On the score of sanitation some such provision as that now proposed was very desirable.

Mr Edwards seconded the motion, and emphasised the importance of baths from the point of view of the health of the parish. Even if they involved a small cost to the ratepayer the expenditure would be more than justified; but he saw no reason why the average of 48 customers a day, as estimated by the Committee, should not be exceeded and if it were the baths would be remunerative instead of a burden. He heartily approved of the site and the plans.

Mr Fry also cordially supported the scheme, and quoted the opinion of Commander Wells that the best men from a physical standpoint in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade were those who exercised themselves in the **natatory art**. In fact, no recreation was so health-giving, so useful, or so helpful in developing all the muscles of the body as swimming, and in these days, when the country was being flooded by an alien population, it was most important that some attention should be paid to the physical training of the young men and children of the land.

He also pointed to the possibility of swimming being made a compulsory subject at the elementary schools in the near future, and said it would be a great pity if the present favourable opportunity of obtaining baths was let slip and the parish should be compelled later on to provide them at a very much larger outlay.

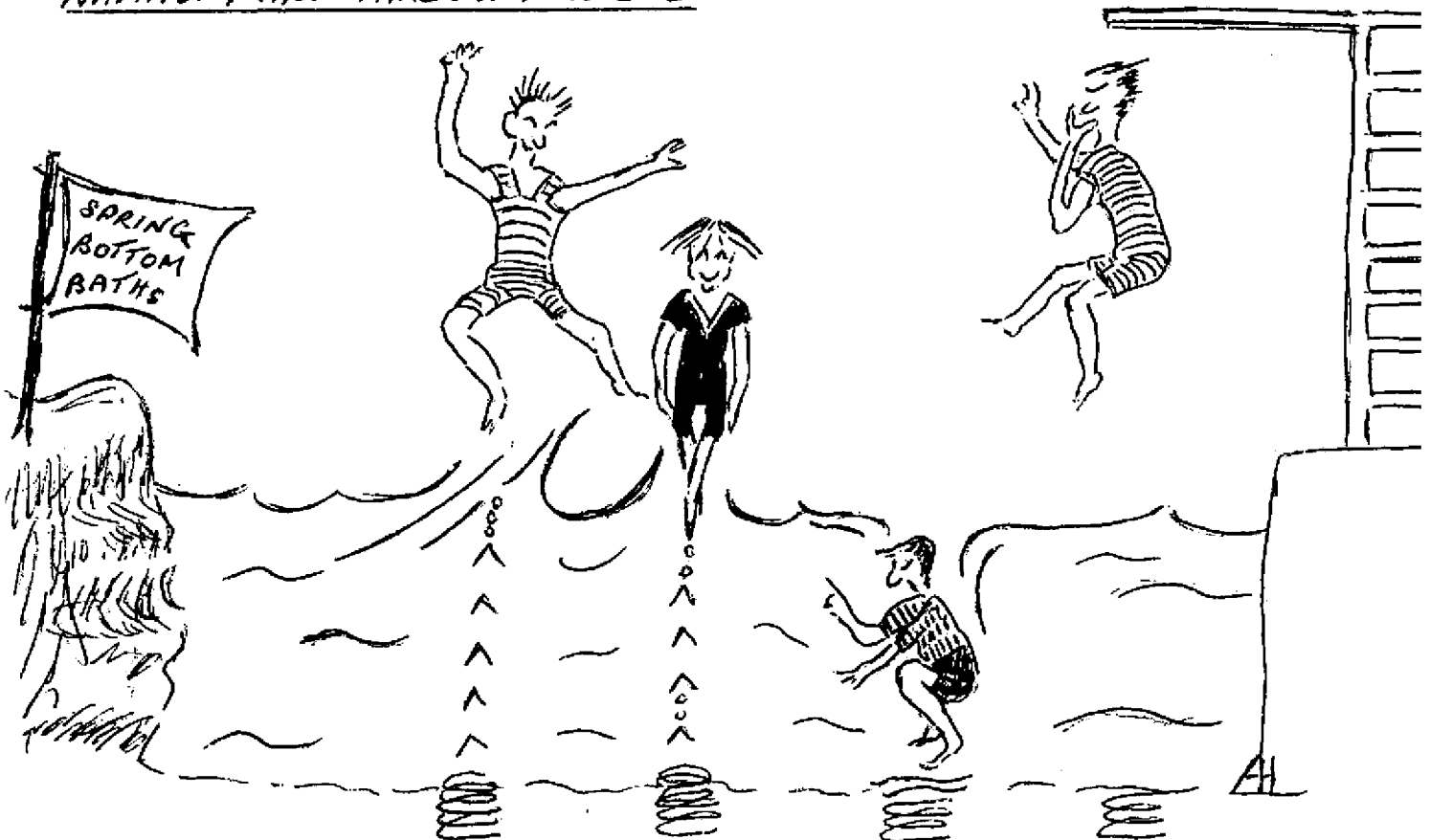
Mr Price asked if it were wise, in the present state of the finances of the Council, to go to the proposed expenditure. It was not as if those who wanted a dip could not get one. Charlton Kings was a suburb of Cheltenham, where there were a couple of public baths, from which the villagers were not excluded. He also doubted very much whether baths could be made to pay in Charlton Kings - they certainly did not do so in Cheltenham. If the Council wished to put any more debt on the parish, he hoped it would be by raising a loan for the repair of the footpaths - work which was far more likely to attract visitors to the village than baths. He proposed, as an amendment, that the matter stand adjourned.

Mr Bond seconded the amendment, expressing the fear that baths in Charlton Kings would result in a heavy loss, and that in view of the nearness of the Cheltenham baths, a village provision was unnecessary.

On a vote, the amendment was defeated by 5 to 4, and the scheme was then adopted nem.con. Those who voted for the amendment were Messrs Price, Bond, Mitchell and Bate, and those against Messrs Gale, Edwards, Townshend, Fry and Thorne.

But in October of that year a headline read: **Swimming Bath Scheme Dropped.**

"NATATORY ART" TAKES A NOSE-DIVE



A monthly meeting of the Charlton Kings Urban District Council was held on Tuesday evening. Mr R V Vassar-Smith (chairman) presided, and there were also present Mr C W Townshend (vice-chairman), Messrs W Price, Horace Edwards, H Thorne, F J Peacey, W H Fry, G E Bond, R M Mills, A D Mitchell, W S T Harris, and J Burrows.

In accordance with the notice given, Mr Burrows proposed the rescindment of the resolution passed on February 10th relating to the provision of an open-air swimming bath, "and that the entire question be abandoned". While giving credit for the best of motives to the members who brought forward and supported the scheme at the beginning of the year, he pointed out that the Council had since undergone some change in its constitution, and suggested that the new representatives on the Council ought to have an opportunity of saying whether the ratepayers' money should be spent in this direction. He objected to the scheme on various grounds. The resolution was seconded by Mr Harris and carried.

It seems common sense ruled over 'encouraging the natatory art'.

2. THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT from the Cheltenham Chronicle.

Charlton Kings Urban District Council - April 17th 1903. The Medical Officer of Health (Dr H Bansall Todd) read his report as follows:

The population of Charlton Kings is estimated to be 3,840. The birth rate is 21.09 per 1000 population; 81 births having taken place during the year.

The death rate is 13.8 per 1000 population, and is equal to the average deathrate of the past eight years. The infant mortality is 16.05 per cent of the registered births. The total number of deaths that took place is 53. Of this number two were due to whooping cough, four to enteritis, five to phthisis [?], five to cancer, nine to bronchitis, two to pneumonia, seven to heart disease, one to Addison's disease, and 18 to other general causes. Thirteen deaths took place under one year and 23 at upwards of 55 years.

A few cases of whooping cough occurred in the early part of the year and mumps was present in the Summer, but the year has been remarkable rather by reason of the absence than presence of infectious diseases - a single case of scarlatina having alone been notified to me through the year. This case was at once removed to the Delancey Hospital, and the spread of infection was therefore prevented. I drew attention last year to the advantages which this district enjoys from the presence of this very admirable Institution, and I may here express the hope that it receives from this District a proper recognition of the service it has rendered and continues to render to this community.

A great deal of work has been done in the District during the past year and many inspections have been made. The removal of old faulty iron traps continues. Many new galvanized iron ash receptacles have been supplied and the collection of ashes has been greatly facilitated by their use. Flushing boxes are now in more general use, the Corporation water having in a large number of cases been found to be indispensable in the proper flushing of the house drains, etc.

Nuisances from the improper keeping of poultry have been brought to my notice, and have been dealt with in the best manner possible. For my own part, I should like to see greater restrictions placed upon the keeping of poultry in the backs of small premises, but without bye-laws it is only possible to deal with nuisances as they arise, and nuisances in wet seasons may arise in a very short space of time, when numbers of poultry are kept in small runs.

The milk supply from Charlton Kings is an important one. The cows are well cared for and the milk is of excellent quality and much in demand. Some of the more enterprising of the milk vendors had their cows tested for tuberculosis a few years ago with excellent results. I am not aware that the method of finding whether cattle are infected with tuberculosis is much practised throughout the country generally. It is doubtless useful up to a certain point, but must not be relied upon as securing complete immunity from all sources of infection. All animal foods should be cooked and milk should form no exception to the rule. Many dangers are encountered in the consumption of uncooked foods, though we may and do live in spite of them.

In conclusion, I can only say that though the past year was generally cold and damp and cheerless throughout the Summery months, with a deficiency of direct sunlight, yet there was at no time any prevalence of sickness but a remarkable absence of those diseases which are notifiable ... The reputation this district has enjoyed for many years has been fully maintained during the past year.

The latest statistics for Charlton Kings:

Year	Pop.	0-17	18+	75+	Live Births	Deaths
1998/9	8084	1308	6776	816	74	90
2000	8274	1461	6814	900		

What is interesting from the above is that the birth rate has decreased, as expected, from 21.09 per thousand to 9.1 per thousand, whilst the death rate has remained almost the same, dropping slightly from 13.8 to 11.1 per thousand, despite the expansion of medical knowledge.

OVERCROWDING AND TB IN CHARLTON KINGS

by Mary Paget

The case of the Slee family living in a council house at 19 Croft Gardens was reported to the Urban District Council by Dr Barrett Cardew, Medical Officer of Health, on 10 July 1928¹. The father suffers from TB. Dr Cardew's report emphasises the problem of overcrowding:

Front Bedroom - double bed on which sleep mother, daughter aged 24 and small boy aged 6. Another double bed on which sleep 3 boys aged 12, 10, and 8.

Large Back Bedroom - double bed on which sleep 2 boys aged 22 and 20.

Small Back Bedroom - single bed for 1 boy aged 17.

Open Air Shelter - father sleeps here.

2nd Open Air shelter - a boy aged 15 will sleep here when a bed is obtained. This boy for several years has slept with his father in the shelter but is at present sleeping with his two elder brothers.

Dr Cardew commented "Undoubtedly there is overcrowding in the front bedroom and the situation will become more serious as time goes on and the four boys grow older. I cannot offer any suggestion how to solve the problem". However he added "It does not appear necessary for any report to be made to the County Tuberculosis Committee". The UDC thought otherwise and did report the case.

Dr Cardew's report continued "In conclusion, I wish to report that the ceiling and walls of the kitchen are very dirty. This is undoubtedly due to smoke from the kitchen chimney and the gas. There is not an efficient mantle above the gas bracket. I would suggest that when these houses are redecorated (as will undoubtedly be necessary in the near future) the walls be papered with a good washable paper and that efficient mantles be fixed above gas brackets".

The Slee Family - I asked Mrs Vera Lawrence, nee Protherough, born 18 March 1911, who lived in the Croft Road area for most of her life, and Mrs Dolly Reeves, nee Barrow, if they remembered this family. They did and said that before moving to a council house, the Slees had lived at No 3 Croft Road (one of the "Laundry Cottages"). There were two older daughters, Gladys (who married Harvey and lived in Copt Elm Road) and Doris (who never married). Both worked at the Laundry. The eldest son was Tom, a milkman, who married a Leckhampton girl. Other sons (not sure of order) included Walter, Douglas, (wife still alive) and George. Mrs Lawrence lived near the Slees and knew them but the families were not friends. Mrs Reeves told me that two sons died in WWI and were listed by Devereux and Sacker in *Leaving All That Was Dear* (1997):

Slee Thomas - Able Seaman HMS Fury, died at sea 28 November 1914 aged 34 (ie born 1880) Home address - 3 Croft Road.

Slee John William Lance - Private in Gloucestershire Regiment, died of illness in England 24 October 1918 aged 18. Home address - 3 Croft Road.

Thomas was born at Kings Norton [Leics] 10 June 1880, son of William and Priscilla Slee; and enlisted at Davenport prior to the war; he died of unspecified causes and left a widow, Fannie A Slee of Davenport. He was buried on the Isle of Hoy, Orkney Islands.

So the Sles came from Leicestershire originally but moved to Charlton Kings soon after the birth of John William Lance. All the other children were born here.

St Mary's Baptism Register² showed the following:

21 Sep 1902 - Gladys Evelyn; 7 Feb 1904 - Doris Priscilla; 15 Jul 1906 - Frederick Thomas; 6 Sept 1908 - Thomas Alphonse at 5 Emily Place³; 6 Nov 1910 - Walter Eric at 3 Croft Road; 6 Sep 1914 - Gilbert Leslie at 3 Croft Road; 4 Mar 1917 - Douglas Frank at 3 Croft Road; 17 Nov 1918 - William Bertie at 3 Croft Road; 4 Jan 1920 - Leonard Reginald at 3 Croft Road. In the case of Gladys Evelyn and Doris Priscilla the mother's name was given as Matilda, in all the others it was Priscilla - she was probably Matilda Priscilla.

5 Emily Place would have been tiny for a growing family - 3 Croft Road much larger, but still small for so many children.

The 1914 Rate Book⁴ shows the tenant of 3 Croft Road as William Slee, and the owner Annie Metcalf Eykyn (daughter of Conway Whithorn Lovesy). Rateable value was £7.10.0, Full value £3.18.0 and Rate Payable £1.9.5.

Mrs Mary Wilcox, of 118 Horsefair Street, says that when first married, she succeeded the Sleses (Doris and a brother) as tenant of the first Little Herberts Council House, where where she lived for three years. Mary has lent us a copy of *The Echo* which includes a photograph of Douglas Slee among a group of Charlton Kings Infants in 1923. He is the one in the middle between T Ward and E Brown.



The Little Herberts Council House

This was the first council house built by the UDC after WWI, and I remember my father looking at it critically while it was being erected. He was a trained engineer and was shocked at its defective construction and lay-out - the bathroom was only an annex off the kitchen. Eric Cleevely (son of Albert Cleevely, builder) told me that a very few years after these first council houses were built their firm had to be called in to do major alterations to the downstairs floors etc. However it had two double bedrooms and one single and was probably more roomy than 3 Croft Road.

References:

- 1 DA 3 100/16 pp 182-4
- 2 P76 IN 1/12
- 3 Edgar Neale introduced the practice of including the address in the baptismal register.
- 4 DA 3 510/6

A CHARLTON KINGS HERO

by DAVID O'CONNOR

[*Bulletin 47* included an article by Mary Southerton in which she expressed the Society's gratitude to Mrs Isabel Smith who had left instructions that her 'Uncle Stuart's Scrapbook' should be sent to us. Now David O'Connor has used the same source, together with his own research, to write this article.]

Frederick Stuart Smith, known throughout his life as F. Stuart or Stuart Smith, was the third son of Alexander and Annie Emma Smith. He was born in Harborne, Stafford, in 1888. Alexander was a civil engineer by profession and in 1861 established his own business: Alexander Smith, Consulting Engineers and Valuers, at 3 Newall Street, Birmingham. He was later followed into the profession by two of his sons, G. Douglas Smith and Stuart. The core of the business was mining, and all three were key members of the Institute of Mining Engineers. The family's early years were spent in Worcestershire but in 1911, when Alexander was 64, he purchased Battledown House for his retirement. Stuart was then 23 years old.

Although the young Stuart was a keen fisherman, his over-riding enthusiasm was reserved for motor cars and motor cycles. He was a keen student of the internal combustion engine and of anything that made cars go faster. The family photo album is well supplied with pictures of Stuart posing in yet another motor car. However, another Battledown attraction was the Hardwick family, residing at Ben Venue (now Greenacre) on Stanley Road. Charles Hardwicke was a wealthy landowner who with his wife Liliias had three daughters, Betty, Liliias and Mary. Stuart and Mary had become engaged by 1913 and were married in April 1914; the wedding celebrations have already been described in *Bulletin 47*.

When the Great War began in August 1914, Stuart put his mechanical knowledge and his father's car to good use, joining the Royal Motor Volunteer Corps as an honorary officer. He provided transport for the staff of the Royal Engineers working on the South London and South Coast defences. However, by April 1915 he had obtained a commission as a second lieutenant in the fledgling Royal Flying Corps, not as aircrew but as an equipment officer. He was posted with 6 Squadron RFC to Poperinghe, in Belgium. However, while serving in Belgium he fell ill, possibly with tuberculosis. On 14 October 1916, while he was awaiting at an unnamed aerodrome in France for a hospital train to take him home to England, a bomb accidentally exploded in the mouth of a dug-out which was being used as a bomb-store. The store contained a large number of bombs packed in wooden cases and a quantity of rockets. Two men working in the store were killed by the explosion and another man, who was severely wounded, was thrown back into the store. Dense volumes of smoke issued from the dug-out and there was plainly a great risk of a further explosion. On hearing a call for help, Second Lieutenant Smith, accompanied by a Sergeant Rhoades, immediately entered the dug-out and succeeded in rescuing the wounded man, who would otherwise have suffocated. Following his brave act, Stuart Smith was admitted to No 7 Stationary Hospital, Boulogne, before returning home to recuperate.

In August 1917, following a spell on the Unemployed List, Stuart was promoted to Lieutenant and posted to the RFC School of Military Aeronautics at Reading as an Equipment Officer 3rd, later 2nd Class. In the same year the Royal Air Force was created by amalgamating the RFC and the Royal Naval Air Service and in 1918 control passed to a newly created Air Ministry. However, officers kept their Army ranks and uniforms for some time afterwards. Stuart moved to the Royal Air Force Technical Officers' School of

Instruction at Henley-on-Thames as the Mechanical Transport Officer. In January 1918, while he was at Henley, notification came from the War Office that his gallant act, which had occurred 13 months previously, had been recognised by the award of the Albert Medal. Then on 11 April Stuart received a letter from the War Office informing him of the text of a telegram that had been sent to him that day. Belt and braces! It informed him 'You are required to attend at Buckingham Palace on Saturday next 13th instant at 10 a.m. Reply immediately by wire.'

His wife Mary described the event in a letter to her sister Betty:

"We got to the Palace too early and walked up and down outside ... when S. went in I waited outside near the railings with all the rest of the relatives. The King arrived just before 11 o'clock. I didn't see him but saw the Royal Standard hoisted. The Investiture began at 11 o'clock and soon after that the naval people began to come out as they got their medals first. They mostly had swords and tried not to look too self-conscious. Then the Generals and Colonels and other DSO merchants appeared and then the MC's down to the 2nd Lieutenants [sic] and then S. arrived by himself. When he got outside he was immediately pounced upon by a photographer who took us both for the D. Sketch and Mirror so make sure you get them on Monday but if they are anything like the rough copy which arrived by post this morning I should take a strong dose of ginger wine first! S. looks as glum as anything and I look like a negress! I got a look at the medal, it is really lovely, bronze and red enamel, oval in shape with a crown on the top ... the writing all round the border is 'For Gallantry in Saving Life on Land'. On the back is 'Presented by His Majesty to 2nd Lieutenant Frederick Stuart Smith' ... I didn't get much excitement while waiting. We saw the changing of the guard but they don't provide a band these days. I do think they might allow relatives inside S. said they were all ushered into a very long room with folding doors which were left open but the different medals were in different divisions. The King was in the last room. Everyone was lined up and as his name was called he stepped forward and bowed and the King gave him the medal and shook hands and he retired. The King asked Stuart about the explosion and how the injured man was and hoped he was none the worse himself and congratulated him on his bravery. Stuart says he looks a pathetic figure, so worn and old."

The Albert Medal no longer exists and probably means little to people today. It is perhaps necessary to put Stuart Smith's deed into its proper context. The Albert Medal was introduced by Royal Warrant in 1866 and named after the Prince Consort. It was originally restricted to deeds of bravery performed at sea, but in 1877 it was extended to cover great self-sacrifice on shore, such as when fires occurred in coal mines. It was open to civilians as well as servicemen. Until 1917 the medal was graded into First and Second Class, the First being gold and the Second bronze. Thereafter there was normally only one class. Just as the Victoria Cross is recognised as the highest award for valour in the face of the enemy, so in 1917 the Albert Medal was the highest award for self-sacrifice in saving or attempting to save life by land or sea. The medal itself was similar to the VC, being made of plain bronze, and indeed was known as the 'Peacetime' or 'Civilian's VC'. These were misnomers, since Stuart Smith was not a civilian when he won it, nor was it peacetime, but the expression did show the esteem in which the award was held. The standard of heroism required was of the highest possible order, namely that the recipient would have been most unlikely himself to have survived the action which won the award. It follows that many were posthumous.



Top left, F. Stuart Smith in the uniform of a Second Lieutenant of the Royal Flying Corps, 1916. Top right, Mary Paget Hardwick, of Ben Venue, Battledown, whom Stuart married in 1914. She is standing in the garden of Battledown House, Stuart's father's house. Below left, Lieutenant and Mrs. Stuart Smith outside the railings of Buckingham Palace following Stuart's investiture with the Albert Medal by King George V in 1918. There is no sign of the Albert Medal in this Press photograph. Below right, Lieutenant Smith, AM, Royal Air Force, in 1918. Stuart is on the right and the ribbon of the Albert Medal can be seen on his left breast.



The award carried with it the right to put the initials AM after the recipient's name. However, the precedence of the AM was effectively down graded by the institution by King George V of the Empire Gallantry Medal in 1922. There was uproar when holders of the EGM were invited to join holders of the VC at a banquet, and AM holders, technically higher in precedence were not. When King George VI instituted the George Cross and George Medal in 1940, holders of the EGM were required to exchange their medals for a GC. No mention was made of the Albert Medal.

At some stage after this Mr Atlee's Government downgraded the Albert Medal to the level of the George Medal without any announcement or amendment of the Royal Warrant that established its precedence. It was only after severe public criticism that AM holders were belatedly given the same £100 annuity as those of the VC and GC. No explanation has ever been given for this injustice to the AM. It is suspected that Royal politics were involved, plus a dash of anti-German sentiment, a reluctance to put bravery in the face of natural disasters on a par with that in the face of the enemy, a desire to avoid any connection with another award bearing the name of King Albert of the Belgians and some straightforward penny-pinching.

In October 1918 an RAF medical board found Stuart to be permanently unfit for service and in April 1919 he was granted a disability pension of £87.10.0. In August 1919 there was a further honour: his name was included in a long list of Air Force Mentions, being personnel of the RAF whose valuable services rendered in connection with the war had been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State.

Stuart and his wife returned to live in Cheltenham, initially at Stadacona, Moorend Park Road, and then at Glevum in Battledown Approach. Stuart pursued his motoring and motorcycle hill-climbing, fly fishing and writing to the newspapers, and Mary was active in Charlton Kings and Leckhampton bazaars, pageants and similiar charity events.

Mary Paget Stuart Smith died in 1944 and Frederick Stuart Smith, disability pension notwithstanding, lived to the age of 82. They are both commemorated in the family grave in Charlton Kings Cemetery. There is one final point to make about this Charlton Kings hero. He was entitled to use the initials AM after his name but he never did, not on his letterheads nor on his headstone. They appear only twice: once on an official RAF document and lastly in his newspaper obituary notice, which, of course, he did not write.

COINS OF THE REALM

The inventory of Daniel Ellis, malster, appraised in 1684 (*Charlton Kings Probate Records* p52) included the following coins among his assets:

One broad Jacobus peece of gold valued at £1.12.9; one thicke Spanish peice of gold Ferdinand and Elizabeth at £1.13.0; One Edward Spurr royall of gold at £1; one Carolus peice of gold at £1; one Jacobus peice of gold at 11s; and one Jacobus peice of gold at 4s.

Would anyone like to research and/or write up a piece about the money supply in the 17th century? What were the coins shown above and were foreign coins legal tender? Was there a shortage of coins in England, and if so how did this affect Charlton traders?

THE BOER FOUR

by Brian Lickman

In her article entitled 'Charlton Kings and the Boer War' in *Bulletin 46*¹, Mary Southerton speculates on those remembered on the memorial in the south aisle of St Mary's church. She poses the question "Do we know anything about these gallant young men?" A challenge I could not resist for my first foray into local history - discovering how the unrest in the British Empire affected Charlton Kings.

We all know about the British Army of the Victorian era, and the Boer War - or do we? How did the Gloucestershire Regiment become involved? What was the meaning of 1, 2, or 3 Glos? What was it like in South Africa during the War? Where were the young men of Charlton Kings? What of their families? These were some of my thoughts when I read the article.

Modus Operandi

Rightly or wrongly, I took the bare bones of the original memorial tablet and started afresh. I searched the Public Record Office, the Family Record Centre, the Society of Genealogists, the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, besides using the Internet to add further detail.

My military interest springs from my own family research. My paternal grandfather, for example, served in the Royal Berkshire Regiment, formed from the amalgamation of the 49th (Princess Charlotte of Wales's) and the 66th (Berkshire) Regiments of Foot; his father had served in the 66th. Further regimental amalgamations, the latest on 27th April 1994, saw the birth of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. I became hooked on family history research after I took up residence in Charlton Kings in 1976, and fortuitously finding that a distant cousin lived in Leckhampton.

Dramatis personae

I concerned myself only with those recorded on the Charlton Kings memorial tablet.

Private W J **Bond**, 2nd Glos.: Age 25
Killed in Action - Dewetsdorp; 23 Nov 1900

Private George **Clapham**, 2nd Glos.: Age 24
Died - Blomfontein; 30 Dec 1900

Private C H **Hooper**, 1st Glos.: Age 26
Died - Ladysmith; 6 Apr 1900

Private W G **Turner**, 3rd Glos.: Age 22
Died - Blomfontein; 17 Aug 1900

BOND - William [John] Bond, born 12 Oct 1875, eldest son of Henry Bond, farm labourer, and his wife Agnes (nee Moore), laundress, of Crab End, Church Street (1881 census), later 3 Mill Lane (1891 census) and 5 Lyefield Road Cottages (1901 census). Served in the 2nd Bn in the Second Boer War and killed in action at Dewetsdorp on 23 November 1900. Awarded posthumously the Queen's South Africa Medal with three clasps Paardeburg, Driefontein and Relief of Kimberley.

CLAPHAM - Arthur George Clapham, born 13 Jan 1877 at 15 Commercial Street, Cheltenham, eldest son of Charles Clapham, hay dealer, and his wife Alice (nee Gaskins), resided with his grandparents, Robert and Annie Clapham, at 1 Tytherly, Hambrook Street (1881 census), later with his widowed mother at 54 East End (1891 census). Served in the 2nd Bn in the Second Boer War, wounded at Dewetsdorp on 23 November 1900, taken prisoner-of-war by the Boers, released 5 December 1900, transferred to the 3rd Bn but died of disease (enteric fever) at Blomfontein 30 December 1900. Awarded posthumously the Queen's South Africa medal with two clasps Cape Colony and Orange Free State.

HOOPER - Harry Christopher Hooper, born 13 Nov 1873, only son of Charles Hooper, farm labourer, and his wife Mary Sophia (nee Drake), resided with his parents on London Road (1881 census) but was a farm servant at 2 Ryeworth Road (1891 census). His parents lived at 19 Church Street (1891 census) and later at Pruens Row, Church Street (1901 census). Served with the 1st Bn in the Second Boer War and survived the privations of the siege of Ladysmith. Died of disease, at sea, on 5 April 1900. Awarded posthumously the Queen's South Africa medal with clasp Defence of Ladysmith.

TURNER - William George Turner, (birth not found), second son of Frederick Turner, plasterer, and his wife Rosa resided at Crab End, Church Street (1881 census) and 2 Lyefield Road Cottages (1891 and 1901 censuses). Served with the 2nd Bn in the Second Boer War. Died of disease (dysentery) at Blomfontein on 17 August 1900. Posthumously awarded the Queen's South Africa medal with two clasps Cape Colony and Orange Free State.

[The remaining part of this article is a summary of the Appendices deposited with the Society by Brian Lickman. These provide some invaluable background material, but would be too long to include in toto. There are five Appendices dealing with the Victorian Army, the Boer War, the Campaign medals and other Army records, also Charlton Kings census returns for the four men and their families, and Birth Certificate copies for Bond, Clapham and Hooper.]

Aspects of the Victorian Army

In 1873 Edward Cardwell, Secretary of State for War in Gladstone's first government, reformed the Regimental system. Since 1660 the basic fighting unit of the Army had been the Regiment. However the size of any regiment varied enormously over the centuries. In 1748 the regiments were given both an identifying number, replacing patronage names, and an order of seniority. In 1857, the first 25 regiments were doubled in size by organising them into two Battalions - derived from the Latin word 'batteure' meaning to strike².

Cardwell regularised the Infantry into a two-battalion system. One Battalion (Bn) would serve at home - providing the training of recruits and the supply of replacements; the other Bn would be overseas, with the soldiers interchangeable between the two. Those regiments presently with only one Bn were paired. Each regiment, where possible, was given a home county and a permanent depot with a clearly defined recruiting area. That depot also administered the Militia, which became their 3rd Bn, and the volunteers, who became their 4th Bn.³

The Gloucestershire Regiment

The amalgamation of the 28th (North Gloucestershire) and the 61st (South Gloucestershire) Regiments of Foot formed the 1st and 2nd Battalions of this new regiment. The regimental depot was established at Horfield in Bristol. In 1881, the Militia existed as the North Gloucester Militia based on Cirencester, and the South Gloucester based first on Gloucester then Bristol. The Volunteer Force were the 1st (City of Bristol) Volunteer Bn and the 2nd Volunteer Bn of the Glosters⁵.

The Boer Wars

One talks loosely (and wrongly) about the Boer War, meaning either the Great Boer War (1899 - 1902), or more correctly - the Second Anglo-Boer War. The Afrikaanders prefer to call it the Second War of Independence. I leave it to others⁶ to record events giving rise to the outbreak of war. Suffice to say, they reflected native unrest over British rule. A precursor of the breakup of the British Empire over succeeding years.

The First War broke in the autumn of 1880 and peace was negotiated at the Pretoria Convention on 3rd August 1881 after a humiliating British defeat. Majuba was the last battle of that short war. On 11th October 1899 - just at tea time, noted The Times - the Second War officially began. 'Vox populi' adopted appropriate slogans: for the Boers "Independence"; for the British "Avenge Majuba".

1st Battalion

In the summer of 1899 this Bn was stationed in North India. It sailed for South Africa, arriving at Durban on Friday 13th October - unlucky for Private Hooper! The events are recorded in the Regimental diary.⁷ They saw action at Rietfontein and at Lombard's Kop outside Ladysmith, before the debacle of Ladysmith itself, where the regiment lost 33 (38) men killed, 4 (6) officers and 75 (110) men wounded - depending on who you read, and 350 of them taken prisoner - nearly 1000 soldiers of that force were made prisoner. Not in a century had so many British soldiers laid down their arms and surrendered to a foe. Apart from the badly wounded, who were returned by the Boers to the British lines, the prisoners were sent 200 miles up country to camps outside Pretoria. These defeats heralded the siege of Ladysmith (2 Nov 1899 - 28 Feb 1900) General Buller relieved the town on 1st March.

There were survivors and the remainder of the Gloucestershire Regiment suffered in Ladysmith during the siege. Private Martin Green of E company wrote to his mother⁸:

I have had some terrible hard times; could not wash for five or six days at a time, out all night in the heavy rains, and very little food. We live fairly well till December. We have lived on half rations since, half pound of biscuits and mealy meal, and the meat is horseflesh.

Private Hooper died at Ladysmith on 5th April 1900, although other official records state that he died "at sea". Survivors were sent to Durban to recuperate. The bulk of the prisoners were released in August, rejoined the Bn back up to full strength. The 1st Bn left Durban in August on three troopships with a large number of Boer prisoners. Arrived in Colombo and provided a detachment to guard prisoners.

2nd Battalion

The second Bn was mobilised at Aldershot in the last weeks of 1899. They set sail on 1st January 1900 as part of the 6th Infantry Division, landing at Cape Town on 21st January. The whole division did splendid work in the advance to Bloemfontein.

Field conditions for them were no better than those experienced by their 1st Battalion. Private Fred Bartlett of Cheltenham wrote home⁹:

since we left the Modder River we have been marching almost night and day and fighting. Our first battle was on Friday 16th February when we were fighting 13 hours on a drink of water and a biscuit only ... On Saturday 17th February and Sunday morning we encountered the enemy again. We have been fighting and under fire for 48 hours, nearly choked with thirst ...

At Driefontein on 10th March the Gloucesters had about 5 killed and 20 wounded. They saw action on 14th March at Blomfontein and later, more dramatically, at Dewetsdorp in November 1900.

Private A Little wrote to a friend in Stroud¹⁰:

... I dont think it can last much longer. I hope not, for the rain drenches us too often to please me, and, as you know, we have got no fire to dry our clothes by. We have got to wait till the sun comes out to dry them, and very often to stand in our wet clothes all night.

It was the official dispatch from Lord Roberts from Johannesburg, dated 28th November 1900, which alerted the world of yet another defeat - "400 surrendered. Our losses are 15 kills and 42 wounded, including Captain Digby of the 4th Bn Gloucester Regiment.

It is left to *The Gloucestershire Echo* edition of Saturday 1st December to proclaim the sad news locally and in more detail:

The singular ill-fortune which continues to dog the Gloucestershire Regiment is illustrated afresh by the casualty list we publish today. Out of a total of fourteen killed and forty-four wounded, the Gloucesters lost ten killed and eleven wounded.

In the named list we note Private J Bond. It later amplifies: "One of the killed is Private John Bond, who, we believe, was a Reservist belong to Mill Lane, Charlton Kings."

Campaign Medals¹¹

The Queen's South Africa Medal was awarded for service between 11 October 1899 and 31 May 1902. Twenty six bars, or clasps, were issued. five were "State" - Cape Colony, Natal, Rhodesia, Orange Free State and Transvaal, given for service in those states subject to many small actions. Medals were also awarded to troops who guarded prisoners at St Helena.

The King's South Africa Medal (1901- 1902) - 2 bars issued "South Africa 1901" and "South Africa 1902". Queen Victoria having died during the South African War, King Edward VII authorised this medal for all serving in South Africa on or after 1 Jan 1902, and who would complete 18 month's service before 1 June 1902. There is sometimes confusion with this clasp award being wrongly attributed to the Queen's medal by recipients.

The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1st Bn (28) or 2nd Bn (61), qualified for:

- 1 Cape Colony - (11 Oct 1899 - 31 May 1902) [1st Bn]
- 2 Natal - (11 Oct 1899 - 17 May 1902) [1st Bn]
- 3 Defence of Ladysmith - (3 Nov 1899 - 28 Feb 1900)
[remaining 4 companies of 1st Bn only]
- 4 Relief of Kimberley - (15 Feb 1900) [1st Bn]
- 5 Paardeberg - (17- 26 Feb 1900) [1st Bn]
6. Orange Free State - (28 Feb 1900 - 31 May 1902) [1st Bn]
- 7 Driefontein - (10 March 1900) [?]
- 8 Transvaal - (24 May 1900 -31 May 1902) [1st Bn]
- 9 South Africa 1901 - ineligible for King's Medal, but served at the front during 1901
- 10 South Africa 1902 - ineligible for King's Medal, but served 1 Jan - 31 May 1902

Afterthought

It seemed strange to me that of the four young men researched only one had been killed in action; the rest died of disease. *The South African Military History Society Journal* (Vol 6 No 7 - on the Internet) contains an article on 'The Medical Aspects of the Anglo-Boer War'. It proclaims the appalling statistics that: "official figures reveal that of the British Force of 556,653 men who served in the Anglo-Boer War, 57,684 contracted typhoid, 8225 of whom died, whilst 7582 were killed in action". The disease was found to be one which occurred in static camps. Typhoid was also known as enteric fever, leading the next best killer, dysentery.

References:

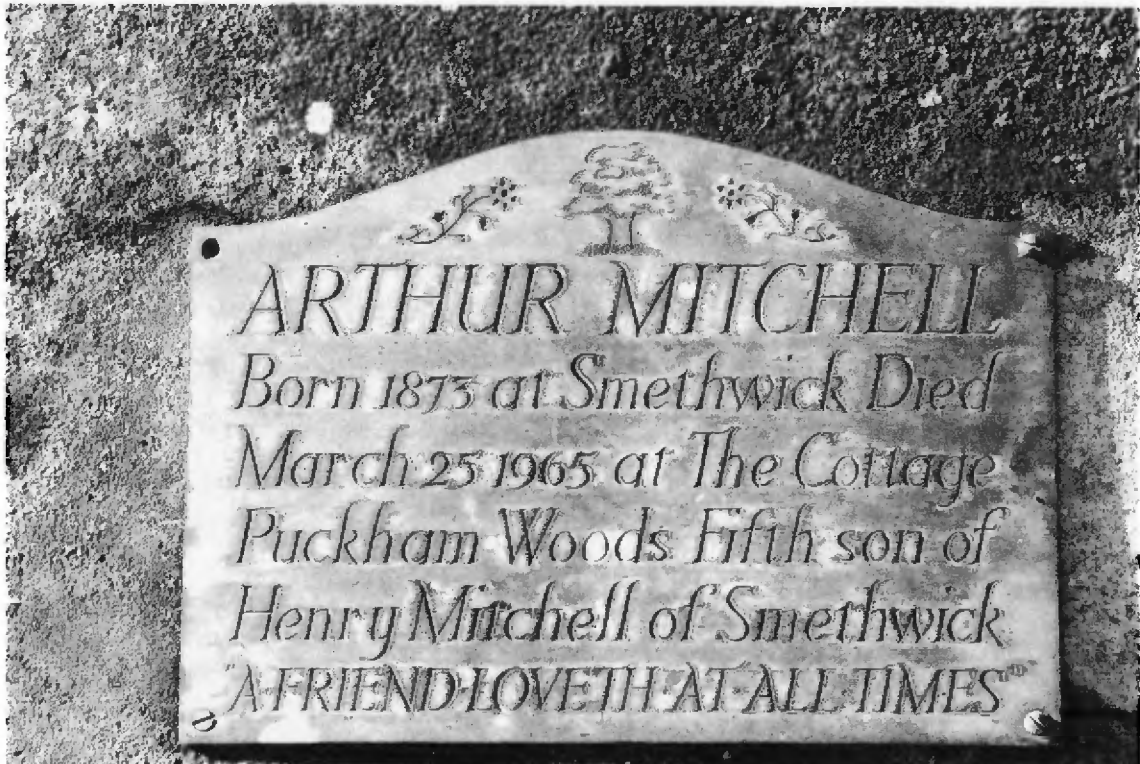
- 1 *CKLHS Bulletin 46*, (Autumn 2001) pp 20-22
- 2 *Family Tree Magazine Vol 17 No 9*, p9
- 3 The term 'Militia' later (1906) becomes Special Reserve - as reinforcements for the Regular Army in time of war. The 'Volunteers' and 'Yeomanry' became (1908) the new Territorial Force.
- 4 *Amalgamation notes on the formation of The Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment on 27th April 1994*. The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum.
- 5 *The Gloucestershire Regiment 1881 - 1994* Regiment, the military heritage collection Issue 28 April 1998 p6
- 7 Papers held by the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum
- 8 War Letters, *Gloucestershire Echo*, 7th April 1900
- 9 Ibid
- 10 Ibid
- 11 Major Lawrence L Gordon *British Battles and Medals*

ARTHUR MITCHELL'S LAST YEARS

by Jane Sale

Bulletin 37 included an article entitled 'Patronage of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Charlton Kings.' This emphasised the significant role played by Arthur Mitchell of The Glenfall. Having bought the house in 1922 Mitchell set about enlarging it with Sidney Barnsley as his architect and the designer of furniture made by Peter Waals. After Barnsley's death in 1926, much of his work was taken over by his son-in-law, Norman Jewson. Examples of the work of both men can still be seen in the library at Glenfall - the panelling and bookcases by Barnsley and the plasterwork carried out by Jewson. The layout of the garden was also designed by Jewson.

Now a design by Jewson for Arthur Mitchell's tombstone has come to light. The tombstone lies in the cemetery at Charlton Kings, beside an identical one for Arthur's wife, Ida Mabel, who predeceased him. The very simple heavy stone slabs have no decoration, apart from the bronze name-plates, and are in the same style as those for Ernest Gimson, and the Barnsley brothers in Sapperton churchyard. Incidentally, this design by Jewson must have been one of his last - he died ten years later at the age of 91. The bronze plate on Mitchell's tomb is not exactly the same as shown in the design; it has a semi-circular head enclosing a tree with a twig or flower either side. The significance of these will become apparent later.



Proposed Tombstone - Charlton Kings

Scale - 6 Full Size.

ARTHUR MITCHELL
Born 1873 at Smethwick, Died
March 25 1965 at Puckham Cott-
age Puckham Wood, Fifth son of
Henry Mitchell of Smethwick
A FRIEND · LOVETH · AT · ALL · TIMES

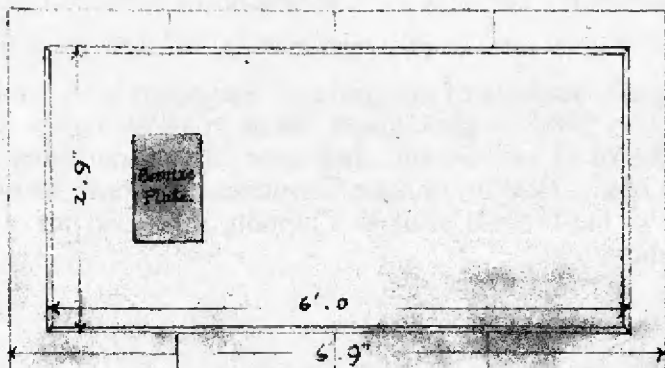
Full Size Incised Bronze Plate.



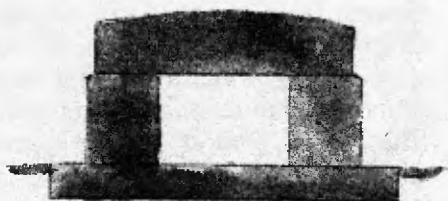
Side Elevation.



End Elevation.



Plan.



Section.

*Norman Jewson
Sapperton.*

It is interesting to note from the wording on the plate that Mitchell died at Puckham Cottage, Puckham Woods, not at The Glenfall. A report of his death in the *Echo* for 26th March 1965 confirmed that he had moved out of The Glenfall during 1964 into Puckham Cottage in Whittington. This had been a game-keeper's cottage which Mitchell had had re-built in Cotswold stone. A partial plan by Jewson exists for this rebuilding, but then the work was taken over by Kenneth Mackenzie, an architect from Bibury. Mitchell had enlarged the property considerably and included in its design was a 'print room'. The reason for this was explained in the *Echo* report - he was well-known, not just in Cheltenham but throughout the country, for his large collection of etchings on which he was a leading authority. He had been greatly helped in its compilation by his close friend Sir William Russell Flint. Mrs Trafford-Smith, writing in *Bulletin 12* about her memories of the Mitchell family, also mentioned Arthur's very fine collection of old sporting books and early copies of the Gentleman's Magazine.

The *Echo* noted Mr Mitchell's generosity to the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum. He was described by the curator, Mr H G Fletcher, as a 'great friend of the museum' having presented several works by Frederick Griggs, and also paid for all the items in an exhibition of Cotswold crafts to be photographed.

The reason behind Mitchell's move to Puckham Cottage was his absorbing interest, during the latter years of his life, in re-forestation. He is reported as spending 'all day in the woods, in almost all weathers, planting trees'. Hence the tree on the bronze plate on his tombstone, a fitting addition. But there can be little doubt that Arthur Mitchell intended the trees themselves to be his true memorial.

I am grateful to Peter and Caroline Davenport of Prestbury for giving me access to these designs. Peter had worked with Kenneth Mackenzie, the architect who worked on Mitchell's Puckham Cottage, and inherited many of his archives.

HOLY APOSTLES' PROCESSIONAL CROSS

In the article on 'Patronage of the Arts and Craft Movement in Charlton Kings' it was pointed out that, at that time, nothing had been found to have come from the Chipping Campden group.

Now, among Gloucester Diocesan records, a church faculty dated 23 February 1950 shows that Holy Apostles church commissioned a silver processional cross on an ebony staff from 'Mr Hart of Campden' (GDR F1/1/1950/344). At this time the vicar was the Reverend C Pears, and the churchwardens were Captain R J Holliday R.N. of Greenhills Road and Alfred G Absalon Esq of Ryeworth Road.

George Hart had been one of the original members of the Guild of Handicraft who came to Chipping Campden with C R Ashbee in 1902. A photograph, taken in 1959, shows three generations of Harts working on a piece of silver - George, then aged 80, his son Henry and grandson David. (*Guild of Handicraft 1888 - 1988* by Annette Carruthers and Frank Johnson) The family firm is still in operation in the old silk mill in Chipping Campden using the maker's mark 'GoffH' for Guild of Handicraft.

THE MAKING OF HALES ROAD

by Carolyn Greet

Many of the hundreds of motorists who daily use Hales Road will have noticed the small lane on the eastern side called Coltham Fields. Coltham Field (originally Coldham) was in Charlton Kings, the narrow north-south lane - Coltham Lane - along its western edge forming part of the Cheltenham/Charlton Kings boundary. This lane was also known as Hangman's or Gallows Lane, from the Gallows Oak at the junction of the present London Road and Old Bath Road¹.

Despite the importance of this lane as a parish boundary, its condition was allowed to deteriorate until by the 1840s it had become a nine-foot wide muddy ditch. In 1846 Cheltenham Town Commissioners made it clear where in their view the fault lay: 'The muck and filth in it arise from the Parish of Charlton Kings, as the road in question, being lower than the adjoining land, is made use of as a common drain'. It was clear that something must be done. Cheltenham had expanded enormously during the previous forty years; the permanent population had increased from about 3000 to over 30,000 and it was essential to provide clean safe streets and the ease of transport that people had come to expect. Enter the town's Surveyor of Highways, Charles Henry Hale.

Charles Hale was already a well-known figure in Cheltenham. He had started as a music-seller and hirer-out of pianos in the early years of the century, and by the 1840s was the respected proprietor of the Royal Harmonic Institution² and arranger of many public concerts in the town. His loyalty to Cheltenham and desire to improve its 'image', especially at a time when the full tide of its fashionable popularity was ebbing, was equalled by his social conscience; he was involved in collecting for many charitable schemes and helped administer funds for, among others, the Provident and Clothing Institution and the Cheltenham Loan Fund. By the mid-1840s his son Edward was of age to become a partner in the music business, enabling Charles, then in his late fifties, to devote more time and energy to town affairs.

Responsibility for such matters as drainage, public lighting, road repairs and cleanliness of the streets lay with the Town Commissioners, who were inevitably frequently criticised for shortcomings; in particular there were constant complaints from both residents and visitors about the state of the roads. In 1836 the town had elected a Board of Highways to deal with repairs, but unfortunately a few years later a dispute arose as to whether this Board had any legal authority, as it related only to the town of Cheltenham and not to the whole parish as was legally required. As a result the Board was disbanded, leaving the Commissioners understandably reluctant to take back responsibility for all roads in the still rapidly expanding town. In this unsatisfactory state of affairs with no-one willing to act, the condition of the roads deteriorated and complaints mounted.

A solution was urgently needed and in 1846 the Clerk to the Magistrates persuaded them that the best course was to appoint a Surveyor of Highways to at least start the work, while the Commissioners took further advice on their legal responsibilities. Whether Charles Hale volunteered or whether he was asked to take the post is not clear, but on July 3rd 1846 he was appointed and, as Goding states, 'it does not appear that the legality of the appointment was ever called in question'.

Hale set to work immediately and within three weeks the *Cheltenham Examiner* was reporting that 'the newly appointed surveyor of our highways has entered on the duties of his

office with much spirit³. A meeting attended by Hale was held at the Highway Office on the first Monday of each month to settle accounts, all rate-payers being invited to attend, and both rate-books and accounts were made available for inspection by rate-payers.

By the first week in August Hale had already made a considerable difference, having repaired the Colonnade, Promenade, Clarence Street and parts of the High Street. A particularly welcome improvement was the work done to what is now Church Street, leading from the Promenade through to the church, as for years no-one had accepted responsibility for this and 'its filthy state [had] long been a disgrace to the town'⁴. Hale next turned to a major undertaking, the development of Coltham Lane.

The crucial problem had always been that the eastern side of the lane was in Charlton parish and the western in Cheltenham, with the inevitable result that neither parish was willing to bear responsibility for repairs. Hale now took advantage of an Act of Parliament passed some ten years previously whereby inconsistencies and confusion in laws relating to highways could be clarified. Having consulted the surveyor of Charlton Kings, Thomas Ballinger, he appeared before the magistrates at a special session in December 1846. Here he produced a plan of Coltham Lane and proposed that as the lane was 1144 yards long from the junction with the High Street to Hewletts Road, it should be divided laterally at the half-way point, Cheltenham to be responsible for repairing the southern half and Charlton Kings for the northern, the half-way point to be marked by posts or stones. The magistrates approved this common-sense solution and the resolution was signed on 15th December. Reporting this decision, the *Examiner* made the first suggestion that 'it would not be amiss to compliment the Highway Surveyor by christening the new road by his own name, Hale's Road'⁵.

The contract for the work was given to Thomas Haines, with whom Hale made an arrangement that some of the basic levelling and excavation work should be done by unemployed men who otherwise would be dependent upon the Poor Relief Committee. Between fifty and sixty such men were employed by Haines, a surveyor assessing the work done by them and the value of this being deducted from Haines' contract. This ensured that he did not benefit from cheap labour; indeed, as Hale pointed out in a letter justifying the arrangement, some of Haines' time would be spent supervising work for which he would not be paid so he probably lost out on the deal. However, after a few weeks the men were withdrawn from Coltham Lane and put to other work in the town.

Work on the new road gathered momentum during the summer of 1847 and by August it was complete, the official opening being set for Monday August 16th. Unfortunately the town awoke that day to torrential rain and the despondent group of forty gentlemen who met at Hale's house for breakfast decided they must cancel the proceedings and reschedule them for the following week ('weather permitting' as they hastily added). Mr Chapman, the landlord of the Rose and Crown, who had arranged the refreshments for the day, was left considerably out of pocket, so Charles Hale helped him out by purchasing a large round of beef forty pounds in weight, which he presented to the inmates of the workhouse. This generous gesture met a less than grateful response; the meat was returned with a note from the clerk stating that the paupers already had meat three times a week and did not require more. Hale's reaction is not recorded, but he immediately distributed the meat to 'a number of the deserving but less fortunate poor... to whom there is too much reason to fear that *meat three times a week* is an unheard-of luxury'⁶.

On Wednesday 25th the new road was at last opened. At 10.30 a group of Cheltenham officials, among them the town's Master of Ceremonies, the High Bailiff, High Constable, Churchwardens and Overseers, together with some of the prominent tradesmen, met at Promenade House and formed a procession, preceded by the workmen who had been employed on the road and a band of music, and followed by children from various schools.

The procession walked to the town end of the new road, where they were met by the parochial officers of Charlton Kings and all walked along to the centre point where the ceremony was to take place. Families in carriages had been asked to order their servants to draw up in a line on the east side of the road, opposite the centre post⁷.

A printed account of the history of the road and the work done on it was read aloud and copies distributed among the spectators; unfortunately no copy of this has survived. Cheltenham's Master of Ceremonies, Captain Kirwan, then formerly christened 'Hale's Road', poured out a libation of wine and made a speech congratulating the Surveyor and stressing the advantages this new road would bring. In reply Hale thanked him and pointed out that 'he had proved to those who had obstructed the work, that though he had begun, and for a long time worked *in the mud* he had not stuck there', a remark which brought cheers from the audience⁸.

The ceremony over it was time for jollifications. Marquees had been erected in an adjoining field, refreshments again provided by Mr Chapman and a band engaged. Nearly two thousand people picnicked and danced and 'a variety of Old English Sports' took place: sack-races, a greasy pole, a bran-tub and 'following the bell blindfold'. The weather held up until six o'clock just as the games were ending, when there was a sudden downpour which, as the *Examiner* expressed it, 'drove the votaries of pleasure to put a sudden termination to a day of enjoyment which will long be remembered as a novelty in the town'.

Hale was officially thanked some eight months later, when a handsome half-gallon silver tankard, richly engraved and surmounted by the figure of a workman ('navigator') with his pickaxe was 'Presented to Mr Charles Henry Hale, as a testimonial of his efficiency and gratuitous services as surveyor of highways of Hale's Road'⁹. His improvements are still much appreciated, by all who have occasion to use his road, though few are aware to whom they owe them.

Footnotes and References:

- 1 The tree is marked on the 1806 map and a typically romanticised illustration of it appears in Goding's *History of Cheltenham* 1863
- 2 Promenade House, later the Echo offices, now Yates Wine Bar. It was also Hale's private residence
- 3 July 29 1846
- 4 *Examiner* August 5 1846
- 5 *Examiner* December 16 1846
- 6 *Examiner* August 25 1847
- 7 No trace of such a post survives nor does it appear on any map; it must have been close to the junction with the present King's Road
- 8 *Examiner* September 1 1847
- 9 *Examiner* April 5 1848

GRANGE WALK AND LIABILITY FOR ITS REPAIR

by Mary Paget

This evidence was presented to the Court on 9 January 2003, on an appeal by residents against the Council's demand for repairs to the road. The magistrates found in our favour and ordered the Council to undertake repairs.

"This road (like Church Street) started as a cart track to the common fields; it was a continuation of Trigmerry Lane (later called Mill Lane, now School Road). The continuation of this road from Church Street up to Brevels Haye (built c1560) and Elm Cottage (built c1710) has always been a public road.

(1) West of Brevels Haye and then north into Church Street was declared to be a "public Road" in an Ashley Manor Court book entry of 29 September 1832, a surrender by Buckle to Robert Arnott's trustee the Revd John Wailing, of a back way to Arnott's nursery (GRO D 109/2). This was prior to the Highways Act of 1835.

(2) The Urban District Council (established 1894) repaired this road about once every 25 years. I remember in 1920, when I was 8 years old, coming home at lunch time from a friend's in Langton Grove Road (where I shared a governess) and seeing the steam roller, which the UDC hired for road work, standing outside Brevel Cottages. The Council was tarmacing the lane and covering the former footpath (marked by blue granite edging stones) on the west of the lane outside Thornton's Row cottages. Had the Council been repairing the footpath only and not the cartway, a steam roller would not have been needed - a garden roller would have sufficed. I was familiar with that steam roller, having seen it at work on the Langdon Road (which in 1920 the UDC still maintained).

(3) From a date before 1914, the UDC always maintained a street lamp in the lane - it was a gas standard then in the same position as the present electrical standard which replaced it. I remember the gas standard as unlighted during the later years of WW I - then immediately after the Armistice, street lighting was restored gradually, the UDC arranging to light every other lamp in all roads - part of a Government scheme to save fuel; and the Brevel Cottages lamp was not relit for several years. A lamp attached to a cottage in the footpath part of Grange Walk was lit to help control boys fooling about in Grange Walk and Bobby's Alley. When all lamps in the parish were relit, the lamp by Brevel Cottages and Elm Cottage was relit. It was a settled policy of the UDC not to put or maintain a public lamp in any private road. A request for a lamp in Balcarras Lane was refused on this ground in 1928.

(4) I corroborate Mrs Hazel Parkes' assertion that the UDC always employed a man with a handcart and broom to pick up rubbish and sweep Grange Walk right down to Church Street.

(5) Mrs Parkes recollects a repair of the whole road from Church Street up to about 1947-8, but I was not living in Charlton at that time.

(6) I believe Mr Maslin (former UDC surveyor) who stated that no repair was carried out to this road in his time (1960-72) to be correct, because as the road had been put in order soon after the end of WW II, no repair would be due till the 1970s, when the UDC was abolished. I am certain no repair has been carried out since Cheltenham Borough took over.

(7) The large pothole over a sewer was covered by the Borough with a metal plate shortly after Severn and Trent Water put in the new pipes. The Borough felt it necessary to protect the sewer pipe from heavy traffic (e.g. by their own refuse lorry coming up the lane every Thursday). This action shows that the Borough has taken responsibility for road maintenance in the recent past. There was no question then of residents being asked to contribute to the expense.

(8) No solicitor has ever found a liability for residents here to maintain the road. On the contrary, in an enquiry about access to the back of Conway Cottage (to the land formerly of Miss Hampet's laundry drying ground), the Borough admitted that Grange Walk in this section was a publicly maintained road."

SEQUEL TO THE STORY OF THE EARENGEYS

by David O'Connor

In *Bulletin 48* I wrote about the two Earenges and their daughter Oenone, who later used the name Elaine. On 10 October 2002 I was glancing through the obituary columns of *The Times* when my eye caught the name Oenone: it was an announcement of the death of Elaine Oenone Stewart MD, of Camberley. It could only have been her, and I wrote to the undertakers requesting that I be put in touch with an appropriate member of the family. Thus began an interesting correspondence with her son, Robin Stewart, QC, which has elucidated and corrected some detail in the original article.

The name Earengy is Norwegian in origin and was pronounced "Errenjey", with a soft "G". A forebear moved to Ireland in the 1700s. Though there are none left in England, Robin has found an Erangey in Ireland and an Earngy in Australia, and it is thought there are some with this spelling in America.

William's father, a cordwainer, had the reputation of being extremely knowledgeable about hides and being one of the best leather cutters in the business. His position in Thomas Dunn Steel's Boot Manufactory was not, however, purely because of this: his wife Emma was the 8th of 10 children of John Dunn Steel, who founded the High Street business. Young William Earengy borrowed the money which enabled him to become a solicitor from Emma's unmarried sister, Jane Steel

Florence Earengy, nee How, received her education at North London Collegiate School for Girls and went to University in Aberystwyth, though her degree was from London University. She was never a solicitor and was called directly to the Bar.

Oenone was born in 1904 and not 1901, and the picture of her is at the age of 15, not 19 as stated. (Mary Paget had already spotted that her hair had not been "put up", which meant she had to be under 17!) She qualified as a doctor (MRCS, LRCP) and was admitted to the General Medical Register in January 1926, the month before her 22nd birthday. In 1927 she got further degrees (MB, BS) and in October 1929 became a Doctor Of Medicine (MD). The subject was then described as "Midwifery and the Diseases of Women", nowadays "Obstetrics and Gynaecology". She met her husband Guy Stewart at a dance in Cheltenham when she was 14 and he 17. They married in 1930 and had three children, a boy and two girls. In 1943 he was killed in a plane crash, being then Director of Plans at the War Office and a brigadier aged 42. Elaine Oenone Stewart died on 8 October 2002, at the age of 98.

REVIEWS - WORKS PUBLISHED BY MEMBERS

Members of the Society have been particularly busy during the last twelve months, with four publications to review.

1. *Improving the Property* by Mary Paget was published in April 2002 and first distributed at our special meeting to mark Local History Week in May. Mary very generously presented copies to regular purchasers of the Society's Bulletins free of charge.

This work tells the story of the Prinn Family and how they developed Forden House, which later became Charlton Park and is now St Edward's School. The two John Prinns, father and son who were the early owners of the Forden, made detailed records of the building operations as they were carried out, and Mary has carefully transcribed this material and combined it with her knowledge of building styles in Shrewsbury, to produce a fascinating account. As Linda Hall has pointed out, detailed building accounts are rare, so this was a very worthwhile project.

2. *The Hole in the Ground - the Story of the Battledown Brickworks* by David O'Connor was published in September 2002. Mary Paget has written the following review:-

"Battledown Brickworks was the only major industrial enterprise in Charlton Kings, and David O'Connor has done an impressive study of it and the Webb family. All other Cheltenham area brick or pottery works were on a comparatively small scale - Pilley, Charlton Lane, Gadshill Road, Ryeworth - but Battledown, as the old photographs show, was indeed a 'Hole in the Ground', though its claim to go back to the time of King Alfred will make members of this Society smile. It is a pity that the scheme to fill in the hole with waste and then make two football pitches on it was so badly executed."

3. *Leckhampton Court - Manor House to Hospice* by Eric Miller was another member's publication. Mary Paget has reviewed it together with Terry Moore-Scott's article in *Gloucestershire History* 2002, entitled 'The Manorial Estates of Leckhampton':-

"Two works on Leckhampton to appear at once is a great piece of good fortune for local historians. The two do not overlap so much as complement each other and both deserve to be widely read. 'The Manorial Estates' is more concerned with Leckhampton as a geographical unit, while 'Manor House to Hospice' deals with Leckhampton Court, lords of the manor, and the uses to which the house has been put during two world wars and subsequently."

Terry's paper traces the history of some of the oldest families in Leckhampton and also contains two detailed maps with field names.

4. *Charlton Kings Probate Records 1600 - 1800*, edited by Joan Paget and Tony Sale is the latest publication for the Society. Mary Southerton has written the following review:-

This work will prove most useful to the historian researching family and social history. It has very good indexes for people, places and objects, also an extremely useful glossary. Joan Paget's meticulous work transcribing these wills and inventories and Tony's checking, compiling and indexing are outstanding. Anyone dipping into this work will soon find themselves fascinated, to be left "my old black cow Colly" or find in an inventory "a parsell of trumpery" or "sheep of all sorts" sets one's imagination racing. We congratulate Joan and Tony on providing us with this excellent resource.

THE B.G.A.S. GLOUCESTERSHIRE RECORD SERIES

VOLUME 14

The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society was established in 1876. Its objects are to promote the study of the history and antiquities of Bristol and the historic county of Gloucestershire, to encourage their conservation, and to publish relevant records, excavation reports, and other papers. The Society publishes a volume of Transactions annually and maintains a library in Cheltenham.

The Society's Gloucestershire Record Series was started by David Smith, the Honorary Secretary of the Society, while he was the County Archivist, and the first volume was published in 1988. His aim was to make available to non-professional historians material which they would not normally have access to nor perhaps be able to interpret. Volume 12 dealt with Cheltenham Probate Records for the years 1660 to 1740. Many of the families mentioned had links with Charlton Kings and a copy was given to our Society's library by its editor, Tony Sale, one of our members. Volume 14 also contains material relevant to Charlton Kings.

VOLUME 14 - A Calendar of the Registers of Apprentices of the City of Gloucester 1595 - 1700. Edited by Jill Barlow M.A.

This work provides much invaluable genealogical information, and in addition the editor has provided a very informative introduction to the book. In it she covers the history of apprenticeship training, the standardised rules which controlled it, and the powers given to parish officers to apprentice poor children. At a more local level she analyses the trades in Gloucester to which boys were apprenticed, and shows how this could be a route to gaining freedom of the city; the place of origin of the apprentices and their fathers' occupations are also shown and discussed.

There are twenty five entries for boys coming from Charlton Kings, including some of our most well known families - Cleevly, Grevill, Higgs, Pate, and Whithorne. Summarised entries are given below [the sum of money was payable to the apprentice by his employer at the end of his term]

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1598 | Cartwright , Edmund son of Edmund, husbandman, of Charlton Kings
Micklewright, Walter & Joan, 7 years, shearman, 3s 4d |
| 1600 | Whitehorne , John son of John, deceased, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Pitt, Thomas, 7 years, baker, 2s 6d |
| 1607 | Blecke , Arthur son of Richard, yeoman, formerly of Charlton Kings
Beale, Geoffrey & Joan, 7 years, mercer, 2s 6d |
| 1616 | Abbottes , Edward son of Ralph, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Hazard, Arthur & Alice, 7 years, tailor, 5s |
| 1623 | Grivell , Giles son of Giles, gentleman, of Charlton Kings
Beard, Richard jr & Isabel, 8 years, mercer, 3s 4d |

- 1635 **Grevill**, Edward son of Giles, gentleman, deceased, of Charlton Kings
Grevill, Giles. 8 years, mercer, [blank]
- 1635 **Cleevly**, Robert son of William, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Cooke, Richard & Eleanor, 8 years, chandler, 2s 6d
- 1639 **Higgs**, William son of Walter, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Webb, John, 7 years, mercer, 2s 6d
- 1651 **Randle**, John son of James, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Smith, William & Katharine, 7 years, cordwainer, 2s 6d
- 1653 **Marston**, George son of John, clerk, of Charlton Kings
Hill, Edward & [blank], 8 years, haberdasher, 2s 6d
- 1657 **Randle**, Daniel son of James, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Hemming, Thomas & Margery, 7 years, joiner, 2s 6d
- 1660 **Randle**, Josiah son of James, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Perkes, John & Alice, 7 years, baker, 10s
- 1660 **Randle**, William son of James, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Bicknell, William & Dorothy, 7 years, tailor, 2s 6d
- 1666 **Pate**, Lynnett son of Lynnett, gentleman, of Charlton Kings
Jordan, William & Alice, 7 years, apothecary, 5s
- 1669 **Grevile**, Henry son of Francis, gentleman, deceased, of Charlton Kings
Lysons, Daniel sr & Sarah, 8 years, woollen draper, 5s
- 1669 **Probert**, Thomas son of Roger, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Phillips, James & Anne, 7 years, tailor, 2s 6d
- 1675 **Waite**, William son of William, carpenter, of Charlton Kings
Cheeseman, Robert & Sarah, 9 years, cooper, 5s
- 1677 **Davis**, Richard son of Richard, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Beard, John & Eleanor, 7 years, silkweaver, 2s 6d
- 1678 **Davis**, Thomas son of Richard, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Beard, Eleanor widow, 7 years, silkweaver, 2s 6d
- 1684 **Wright**, John son of Edward, labourer, of Charlton Kings
Randle, William & Hester, 8 years, tailor
- 1693 **Jeffs**, Edward son of Thomas, yeoman, of Charlton Kings
Nash, Anne widow, 7 years, feltmaker
- 1695 **Cooke**, James son of John, yeoman, deceased, of Charlton Kings
Randle, James & Jane, 7 years, joiner
- 1698 **Jeffs**, Edward son of Thomas, yeoman, of Charlton Kings,
Phelps, Matthew & Joyce, 7 years, feltmaker
- 1699 **Pates**, Leonard son of Leonard, deceased, of Charlton Kings
Fletcher, Thomas & Sarah, 7 years, baker

A few entries for girls are included in the registers, but none from Charlton Kings.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE RECORD OFFICE ACCESSIONS

The following are just a selection of the accessions, for the years 2001-2002, which may be of interest to members of our Society researching the history of Charlton Kings or families connected with the area. A full list can be obtained from the Record Office.

COURTS - Quarter Sessions

Letter from the Privy Council to the JPs of Gloucestershire, 1662/3; land and other tax assessments, 1768, 1772-1800; register of papists' estates in Gloucestershire, 1755; accounts for justices' dinners, 1788; orders, rules and precedents for general Quarter Sessions at Gloucester, 1714-88 (D9125)

POLICE

Chief Constable's day book, 1840-1868; information and circulars concerning wanted persons from around the country, 1884-1885; (D9125)

PRISONS

Gloucester Prison - lists of prisoners, accounts for bread, accounts of turnover, all 1788-89 (D9125)

SHRIEVALTY

List of High Sheriffs, 1833-1949 (D771)

MILITARY

North Gloucestershire Militia: legal papers relating to maintenance of dependants of militiamen etc. 1804-14 (D9125)

BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD (RESIDUARY) LTD

Records relating to various railway companies including Cheltenham and Tring Railway, Cheltenham and Northleach Railway, 19th century (D8251)

ANTIQUARIAN COLLECTIONS

Powell, Joseph of Charlton Kings, artist: sketch book of Charlton Kings and environs, 1824 (D9071)

The Wakefield Collection: deeds concerning Charlton Kings, 1747-1905, and Cheltenham 1683-1901, (D8910)

BREWING

West Country Brewery Holdings Ltd (now Whitbread PLC): minutes and other records of this company and its predecessor including Cheltenham Original Brewery Co Ltd, c1888 - c1970, (D8947)

DAIRIES

Robert Hillman, dairyman of Cheltenham: employment records and personal memorabilia, c1910-1956, (D8981)

SOLICITORS

Davis Gregory of Cheltenham: pre-registration title deeds of Charlton Kings and Cheltenham, 1860-2001, (D5902)

Pinkerton Leeke of Cheltenham: deeds and related papers concerning properties in and around Cheltenham, 1866-1965, (D9072)

Willans of Cheltenham: pre-registration title deeds and related papers concerning properties in Cheltenham, Charlton Kings etc, 19th -20th centuries (D5907)

THEATRE COMPANIES

Everyman Theatre of Cheltenham: additional programmes and posters, 1841-2001 (D6978)

ESTATE AND PERSONAL PAPERS

Charlton Kings: deeds etc relating to Hilden Lodge formerly Castleton villa 1716-c1955, (D8991)

Dent Family of Cheltenham: records concerning Walter and Gladys Dent of Okus Road, 1934-1962, (D8914) [These records provided the material for Ann Hookey's article in *Bulletin 48*]

Rowe, George of Cheltenham: drawings of Oaklands Estate, Charlton Kings, 1846, (D8901)

In addition to the above is a selection for the year 2000 provided by Julie Courtenay, Senior Cataloguer at GRO, for the Cheltenham Local History Society Journal 17, and published here by her kind permission.

Finch family of Charlton Kings: family papers including journal of T Holliday, scripture reader 1860-1864, 19th century. (D8453)

Cheltenham & County Cycling Club: handbooks, programmes, photographs etc. 1925-1973 (D3742 acc.8461)

The late Bernard Rawes of Cheltenham, archaeologist: survey notes and papers, 1950s-1990s (D5018 acc.8509)

Church of England Men's Society - Cheltenham Deanery (in federation with Gloucester Diocesan Union): minutes etc 1907-1985 (D8523)

Bendall of Leckhampton: papers relating to the Leckhampton Hill Riots early 20th century (D8532)

H H Martyn of Cheltenham, sculptors, woodcarvers and architectural decorators: additional records including photographs of work undertaken, collected by J H M Whitaker, 20th century (D5922 acc 8617)

Guild of Gloucestershire Craftsmen: files including papers relating to Cheltenham, 1920s-1990s (D8709)