CHARLTON KINGS
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN 53
2007

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Membership of the Society

Membership forms are available from the Hon Secretary. Annual subscription £4.50 or £6.50 for a couple. Meetings are held monthly from September to May at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church in Church Street.

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Publications: Copies of the following publications can be obtained from the Editor. Prices apply to Society members. Postage and packing is extra. Some copies of past bulletins are available at a price to be agreed with the Editor.

Charlton Kings Probate Records – 1600-1800 (2003) - £12.00
Charlton Kings Tudor Wills – Supp to Probate Records (2004) - £2.50
Charlton Kings Parish Rate Books for 1858 (2003) and 1882 (2004) - £4.00 each
Charlton Kings Registers of Electors for 1832/3, 1842/3 and 1862 (2004) - £1.00
The Hole in the Ground – Battledown Brickworks (2002) - £6.00
Lives Revisited (2005) - £6.00
John Burgh Rochfort Preacher Extraordinary - £2
Indexes to Parish Register Transcription for the following years:
1538-1634 - £2, 1634-1700 - £3, 1813-1834 - £5 each
Index to Bulletins 48-52 - £5

BULLETIN 53 **SPRING 2007**

Cover – Painting of Diamond Sanitary Laundry by Victor Holman

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Cont overleaf

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EDITORIAL

The cover of this issue shows the back view of the Diamond Sanitary Laundry, the subject of the article starting on page 21. The artist was Victor Holman (1895 – 1980) and I have included two other of his paintings of the Laundry on pages 23 and 24. Mary Paget obtained a portfolio of his work after his death and the Laundry seems to have been a favourite subject for him. There is also a painting of a bungalow behind the Laundry, possibly No 8 Charlton Close. Does anyone know if he lived in that area at any time? I would welcome any further information about Victor.

Some readers will remember that a group of Society members visited the Record Office in 2004 to view the very large Charlton Park map of 1843. At the time we asked about the possibility of it being digitally scanned so that print-outs could be made, but we were told that it was too big for the Record Office equipment to handle. Recently, however, the Record Office had the temporary use of some larger equipment for a project on the county's Tithe Maps, and our Committee decided to take advantage of this facility and pay to have the Charlton Park digitally scanned and put onto a CD. That CD is now held by me, and although we will not be letting it out for members to use themselves, we hope to provide print-outs for use in bulletins or exhibitions, or to individual members if required.

My thanks go to all those who have sent contributions for this issue: Mary Southerton and Don Sherwell have both given us snapshots of Charlton Kings in earlier times and together they provide an interesting 'compare and contrast' exercise; Derek Copson has responded to the Chairman's plea for any deeds/histories of an individual house; Pat Love has provided a detailed history of the Volunteers and Militia - an excellent example of a general article as background to our local events; but I was particularly pleased to have an article from a new member, Gillian Potter, whose delightful drawings add so much interest to her piece on Tudor Clothing. In her article Gillian refers to T*udor Wills* by Tony Sale, a few copies of which are still available at £2.50. I do urge other members to follow Gillian's example and regular contributors to keep up their good work.

Sadly, I have to report the death of two Society members: Joan Stickley and Donald Bennet. Edgar and Joan Stickley were very long-standing members, even travelling from Kidderminster after their move there, in order to attend meetings whenever they could. Readers may remember the charming photograph of them taken on their engagement in 1947, which featured in *Bulletin 45*, page 27. Don and Gwen Bennet joined the Society more recently but were very regular attendants at meetings and took part in outings and the Christmas parties. Joan and Don will both be missed and we send our condolences to Edgar and Gwen and hope to see them at future meetings.

Please note that during 2006 the Gloucestershire Record Office changed its name to Gloucestershire Archives and, in this issue and future ones, any references to documents kept by them will be referred to by the letters GA preceding the document number.

REVIEW - A SOCIETY PUBLICATION

John Burgh Rochfort Preacher Extraordinary is the latest publication to come from the prolific pen of our Vice Chairman, David O'Connor. This monograph is an account of the life of a very unusual man, who resided in Charlton Kings from 1864 to 1888, and who left a lasting legacy to the village.

Mary Paget, in *A History of Charlton Kings,* described Rochfort as the man 'who started the Christian group which became the Baptist church in Charlton Kings', and there is a further note about him in *Bulletin 51*. Now David, with his usual diligent research, gives us a detailed account of Rochfort's background, his military service, his time in Charlton Kings and his life after he left the village.

Rochfort is best remembered as the founder and pastor of the Baptist Church in which our Society holds its meetings, so it is particularly appropriate that the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the Charlton Kings Baptist Church Development Fund. It will be launched in April and be on sale to members of our Society at £2.

EXCAVATIONS IN SANDY LANE

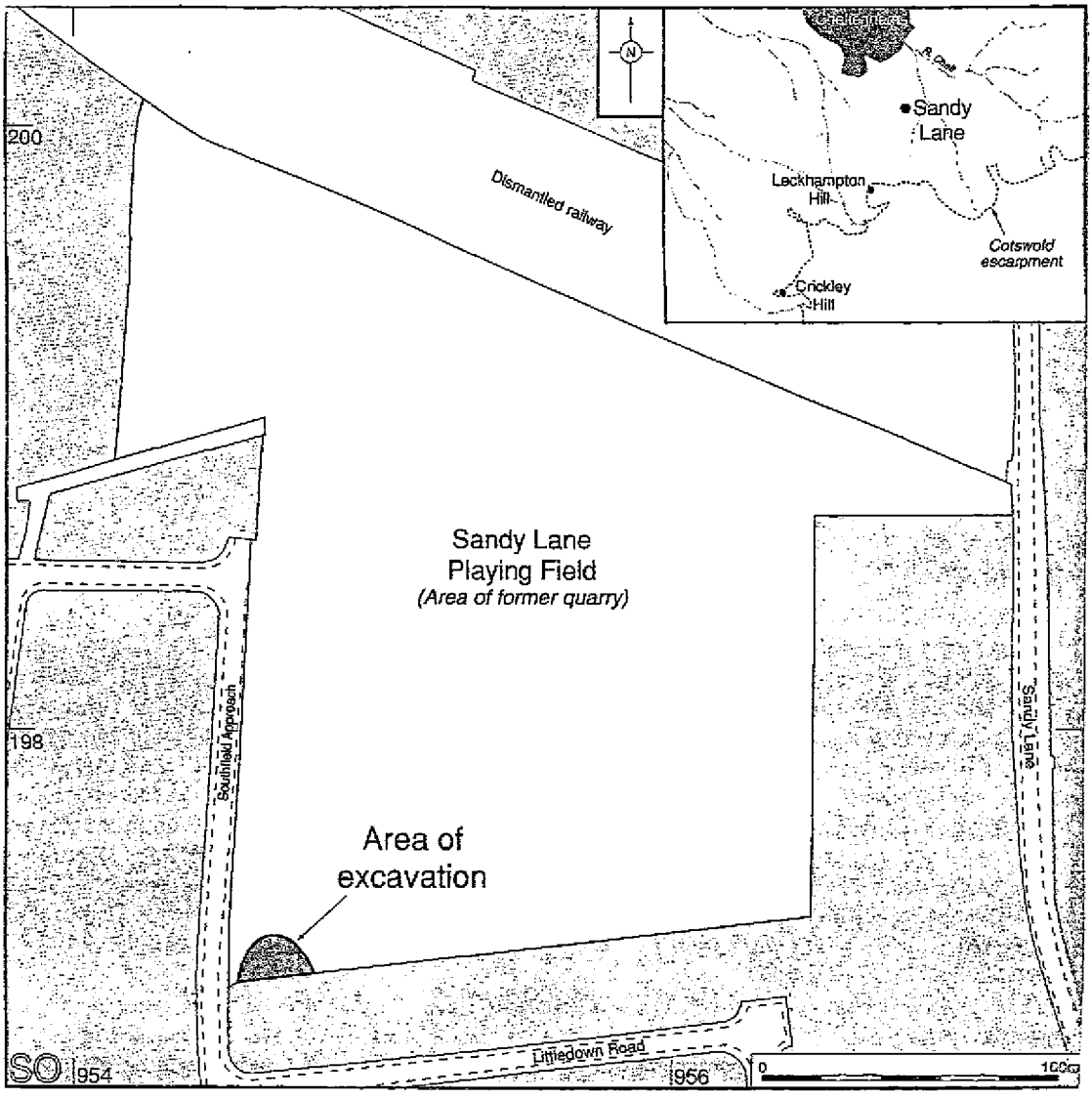
SUMMARY by JANE SALE

In 2006 the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, in collaboration with Cotswold Archaeology, published *Twenty-five Years of Archaeology in Gloucestershire: A Review of New Discoveries and New Thinking in Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire and Bristol 1979-2004*, edited by Neil Holbrook and John Jurica.

References to Charlton Kings include excavations carried out in Sandy Lane in 1971 and reported by Leah and Young in 2001, together with work at Vineyards Farm discovered in 1980 and reported by Bernard Rawes in 1991. Our Society was fortunate in that Rawes prepared an article with maps and photographs of his work at Vineyards which was included in our *Bulletin 25*. The work at Sandy Lane has not so far been published in any of our Bulletins but, with the permission of Dr John Juřica, the Editor of Volume 119 of the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society,* this can now be put right. What follows is my summary of the article written by Mark Leah and Christopher Young with additional contributions from Richard Bradley, Sue Bridgeford, Emma Harrison, Mark Maltby and Jane Timby.

In 1951 a small-scale excavation was undertaken at Sandy Lane by the staff and students at Oakley Training college. A quantity of Iron-Age pottery, a few sherds of Neolithic and Romano-British material, some struck flint and a quantity of animal bone were recovered from a layer of grey sand containing charcoal and overlying the natural sand. Over the next twenty years sand quarrying to the north and east and housing development on the south and west destroyed much of the surrounding area. Only about 200 square metres immediately to the south of the excavations was left untouched. In 1971 this area was excavated under the direction of Christopher Young. The northern limit of the site was the edge of the former sand quarry, subsequently used as a rubbish tip. Shortly after the conclusion of the 1971 work the rubbish tip was levelled, grassed over and turned into a playing field.

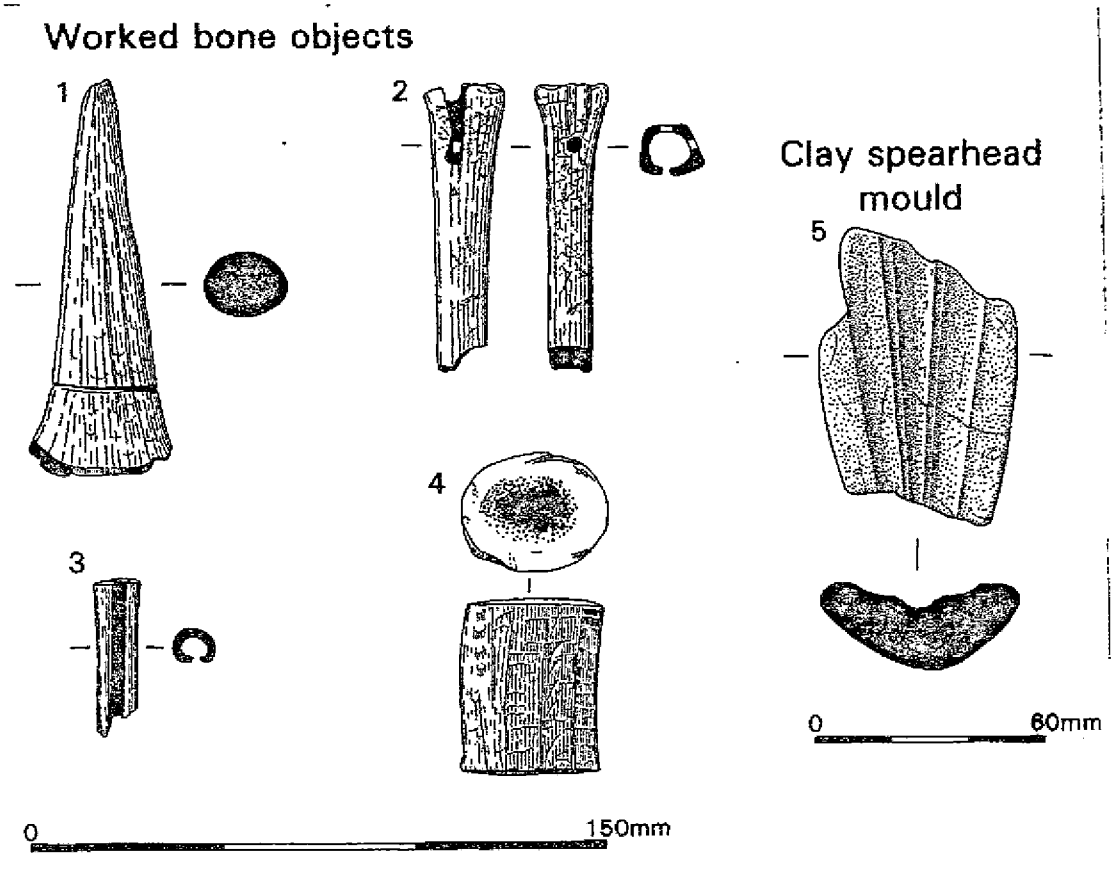
The site of the 1971 excavation lies about 100 metres above sea level, at the base of the Cotswold escarpment and about 1km from the summit of Leckhampton Hill, the slopes of which rise steeply to a height of nearly 300m a little to the south of the site. A stream rises about 600m to the south of Sandy Lane and drains northwards into the river Chelt; its present course runs 300m to the east of the site, but the 1971 work shows that in the Bronze Age a stream channel passed through the excavated site. It was hoped that the excavations would provide an insight into the nature of lowland settlement to be compared with the hillforts of Leckhampton Hill and Crickley Hill. In the event the significant deposits at Sandy Lane proved to be associated with a burnt mound of Bronze-Age date.



At the time of the excavations in 1971, the burnt mound as a distinct class of pre-historic, Bronze-Age monument had been recognised, but the important work of Barfield and Hodder (1989) in the Birmingham area was yet to be published.Their work demonstrated how common these sites are in lowland England and in what particular environments they might be found. The question of the function of burnt mounds – remnants of cooking places or of saunas and steam baths, or identified with an activity such as fleece processing remained a matter for future debate. Interpretation of the Sandy Lane site was not helped by the fact that deposits of burnt stone continued beyond the southern excavation limits, which may explain the absence of the boiling pit or trough, usually taken to be one of the crucial components of a burnt mound. Those who favour the cooking hypothesis argue that large joints of meat could be cooked by adding hot stones to the water-filled trough, equally the trough could be a source of steam to provide a sauna. There is a possibility that a pit or trough still survives underneath the modern housing to the south of the site. Another possibility is that the trough lay to the north of the mound and was quarried away without record or eroded away be the stream after abandonment of the mound.

Small pottery sherds were recovered including material of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. The prehistoric material accounted for 68% of the pottery and covered a very diverse range of fabric including examples tempered with fossil shell, limestone, Malvernian rock, grog/clay pellets, grog and shell, sandstone and quartz sand as well as fine sandy untempered wares. Such diversity might hint at a wide chronological range. There is very little published material available from the area with which to compare the Sandy Lane assemblage. The use of certain tempering materials, particularly limestone and fossil shell, was long-lived from the Neolithic period onwards. Two or three sherds of Beaker were also present. One shows the edge of a line of twisted cord decoration on the break. Perhaps slightly later in date is a group of 16 sherds of Malvernian rock-tempered oxidised ware including two rim fragments. Similiar material has been found in association with middle-late Bronze-Age. Among the sherds of Roman pottery recognisable fabrics include Severn Valley ware, Malvernian ware, Dorset black-burnished ware, Oxfordshire colour-coated ware, Savernake and samian.

Animal bones from the site were mainly from the prehistoric period. They were found in various types of deposit but burnt layers and silts produced the largest number of fragments. Cattle bones made up 51% of those identified, sheep and goats 22%, pigs 15%, red deer 10% and horse and dog 1% each. The relatively high percentage of red deer fragments contrasts with most later prehistoric assemblages which rarely contribute more than 1%. The majority found were antler fragments, some of which showed signs of shaving and polishing, while in others there was evidence of incisions or chop marks.



A spear mould was found in a layer of gravel which sealed the topmost fill of the stream channel and was sealed by redeposited burnt mound material. The condition of the inner face is such that it would appear to have been protected by burial very soon after use. The clay fabric is fine and sandy, the mould well fired and mid to dark grey in colour. Although the fragment is very small it comes from close to the tip of the mould for a spear-head. Comparisons with other finds of this type indicate that a date of about 1000BC would be a reasonable assumption, but there is a remote possibility of a much earlier, middle Bronz-Age date and a distinct possibility that a date nearer 850 BC might apply.

Examination of the various classes of data recovered from the site adds few clues as to its function, although it does confirm the Bronze-Age date of the deposits. The fact that none of the samples taken for radiocarbon dating has proved suitable for this technique means that no absolute dates are available. A few postholes were present but these did not form any patterns suggestive of structures such as fences or slight buildings.Two shallow features detected in the western part of the site may be the remains of hearths used to heat the stone prior to use.

A more useful approach to examining the function of the site might be to consider its location at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment and adjacent to a watercourse. This would have placed the mound at the boundary of two different zones: the Severn Vale and Cotswold Hills. It seems likely that whilst parts of the Severn Vale were beginning to be opened up when this site was in use, much of the low-lying area was still tree covered. The Cotswold uplands were likely to have been open ground used for grazing and hunting by communities based in the lower lying areas to the west and east. Perhaps the Sandy Lane site was intended to exploit one or more of the resources offered by one or both of these contrasting zones.

A final comment comes from Timothy Darvill, the author of the chapter on Early Prehistory in *Twenty-five Years of Archaeology in Gloucestershire*. 'Various interpretations have been put forward for burnt mounds such as those at The Buckles [Frocester] and Sandy Lane, including cooking sites, sweat houses, saunas, or retreats in which hallucogens were used (Barfield and Hodder 1987). As such they perhaps serve to emphasise the point that settlement, economy, ceremony and ritual were intimately woven together in the way people lived in the early prehistory. By the early centuries of the 1st millennium BC the landscape of Gloucestershire was already fairly full of farms and hamlets and the stage set for the emergence of several previously under-represented kinds of archaeological site and an upheavel in social relations.'

Readers who would like to read the original article can find it on pages 59-82 of Volume 119 of the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* . The article states that the site archive, which includes the artefactual material, the original site records and documentation generated during the post-excavation process, is held at Cheltenham Museum (Accession Number 1998.89)

GLENVIEW (now) WIDECOMBE, HARP HILL

By Derek Copson

Glenview/Widecombe is a late Victorian/early Edwardian semi-detached house standing about half-way up the road now known as Harp Hill. It is of red brick construction with a tiled roof plus a cellar. It has a very solid appearance typical of houses of the period, exceptionally it has an octagonal tower built onto the north-west corner.

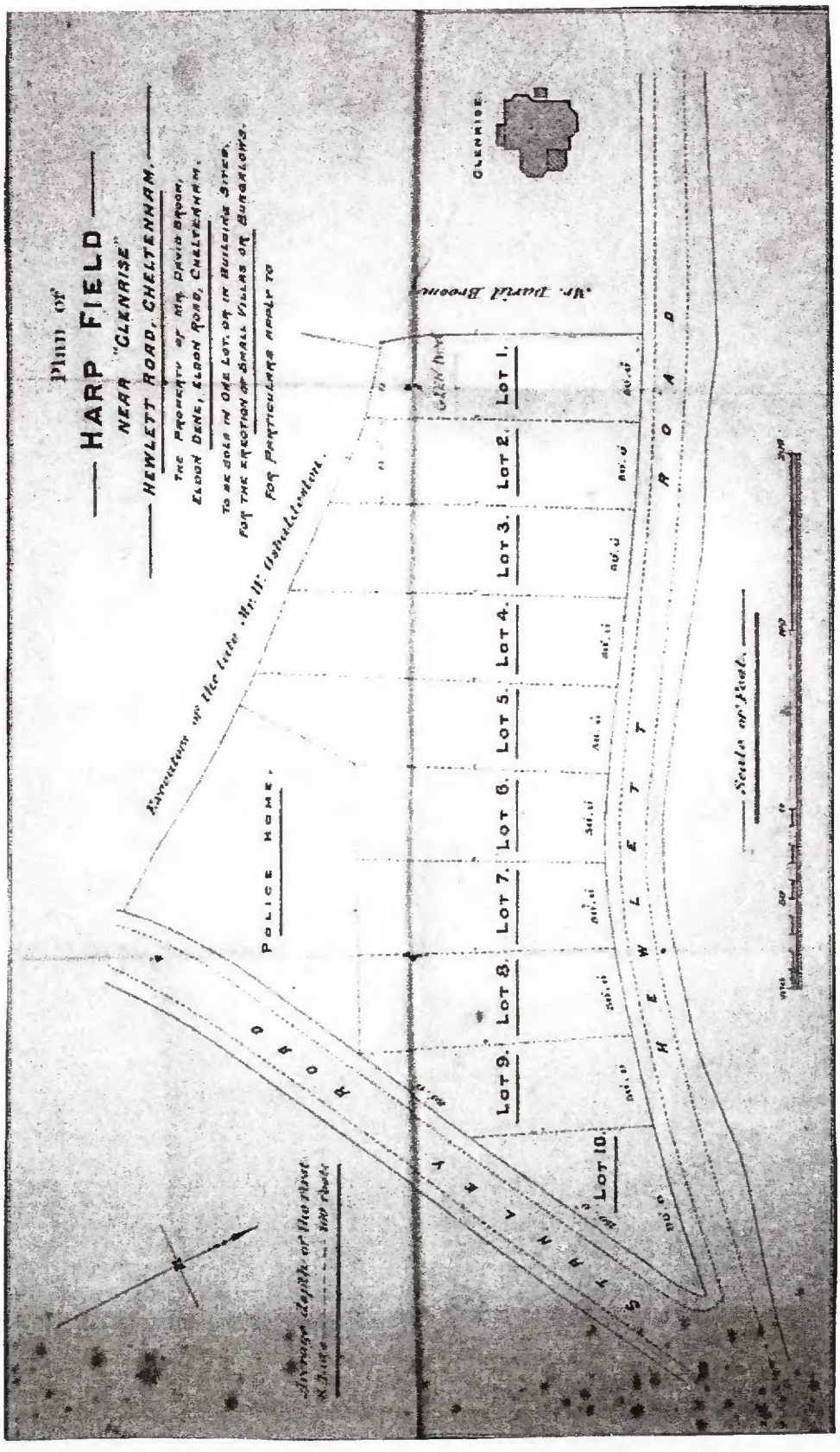
Harp Hill was originally a part of the Hewletts turnpike (Hewletts Road) which started in Cheltenham and headed in the direction of the farm known as The Hewletts on the southern slopes of Cleeve Hill. Alfred Landseer, writing in 1829, refers to Hewletts Road as 'formerly known as the only road to Stow-on-the Wold and thence to London'.[1] A much modernised turnpike cottage can be seen at the junction of Harp Hill and Greenway Lane.

The name 'Harp Hill' is derived from Harp Field, which ran from slightly east of Oakley Road uphill to Stanley road, and was in the shape of a classical harp. This field was not sold to the Battledown Estate when it was created in 1858 but was retained by Sir William Russell [2], however he mortgaged it in 1867 when his debts mounted up and he petitioned to liquidate his affairs in 1870.[3] David Broom[4] bought the field and built Glenrise (later Leiden, now Homewood) for himself at the lower end of it. In 1894 the remainder of the field was divided up into ten lots for housing development. Only one lot was sold outside the family and it not until a hundred years later that all the plots were built on. Until about 1950 the road downhill from the junction with Oakley Road was known as Hewlett Road (the 's' on Hewletts seems to have been dropped during the nineteenth century). There is a division between old Harp Hill and the newer or lower section and this can still be seen in that the latter houses are numbered while those in the upper section all have names only.

David Broom and his brothers were property developers in the Cheltenham area during the mid-to-late part of the nineteenth century, and there are several houses in the town which still bear their hallmark of a name starting with 'Glen-', a few also have a corner tower which is a feature of Glenview. David Broom's married daughter, Mrs Mary Ada Moore, owned the house from its completion in about 1901 until her death in 1919. She inherited an interest in the adjoining Glendower on Oakley road when her father died in 1912 and the two plots of land became partially combined, thus giving Glenview some land within the Battledown Estate.

The deeds state that 'clay may be dug and burned sufficient for building the house, but no more'. The facing bricks seem to have come from the nearby Battledown Brickworks, as several of their stamped bricks were uncovered during renovations, but it is possible that the internal bricks were burnt on the premises. When the garage was being rebuilt a few years ago an oval patch of burnt soil with brick debris about four metres in length and

1894 Plan


Plan of
HARP FIELD
NEAR "GLENRISE"
HEWLETT ROAD, CHELTENHAM.
The Property of Mrs. David Bloom,
Elgon Dene, Elgon Road, Cheltenham.
To be sold in One Lot, or in Building Sites,
For the erection of Small Villas or Bungalows.
For Particulars apply to
Mr. David Broom
Glenrise
Police Home
Lot 1.
Lot 2.
Lot 3.
Lot 4.
Lot 5.
Lot 6.
Lot 7.
Lot 8.
Lot 9.
Lot 10.
Hewlett Road
Elgon Road

three metres wide was uncovered. On-site brick burning was rare in the town after about 1830 due to the nuisance caused.

When renovating one of the attic windows a fragile piece of paper was found tucked inside the frame upon which was written 'A.W. Allsopp S.P., St Annes Terrace August 16 1900'. The 1901 census indentifies Arthur Allsopp, aged 23, as a plasterer in Cheltenham and there were three other Allsopps following the same trade.

The house was originally lit by gas and various pipes are still in place under the floors and embedded in the walls. It is not known when electricity was installed but when the house was rewired in the 1970s some of the original cotton and rubber covered cables were still found to be live, much to the consternation of the electricians. Water was supplied from the nearby Hewlett's Reservoir of the Cheltenham Corporation Waterworks.

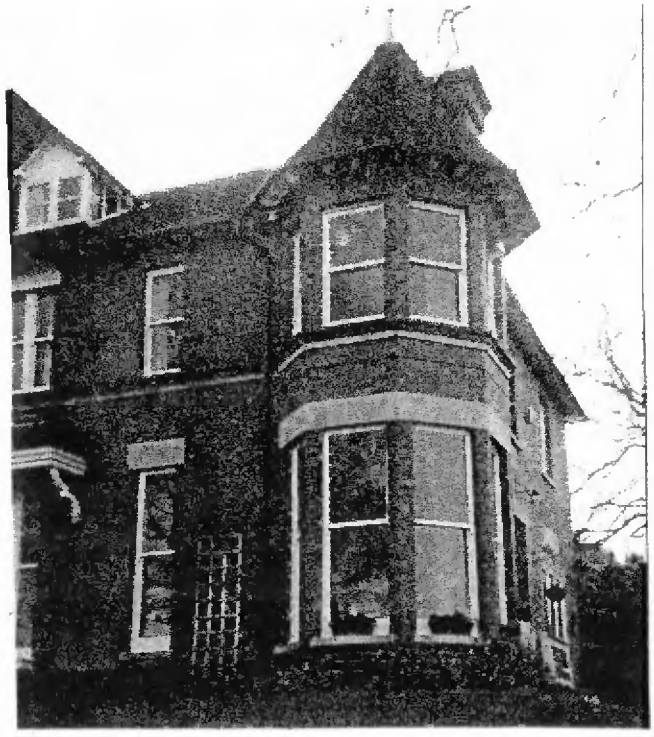
The following list of owners/occupiers is taken from Cheltenham directories in the Public Library, as a result the dates quoted may not be 100% accurate:

1903-05	Mrs Ashley Haws (Mrs Moore was owner)
1906-10	Mrs Mary Ada Moore
1911-15	Mrs Moore and Miss Meads
1916-17	Mrs Moor
1919-25	Mrs Hannah Reading Mills
1926-42	Mrs W Lancelot Mills
1943-44	Miss Dorothy A H Mills
1945	Miss DAH Mills, Thomas H Smith & Mrs Gertrude Smith
1946-50	Miss DAH Mills
The house name was changed to Widecombe at about this date	
1951-54	Alfred John Williams (the first male owner)
1955-63	Alfred P R Pihlens
1968-78	H Morten
1978 to date	Derek and Margaret Copson

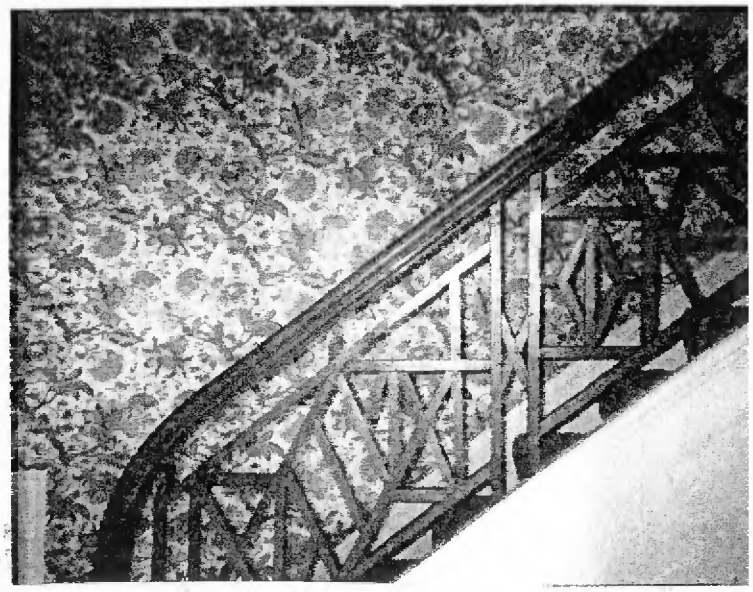
Dorothy Mills wrote and illustrated at least one book, *A Short Account of the Town of Tewkesbury*. It was published in 1923 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the dedication of the Abbey. Alfred Williams was well known in the town as the owner of Williams Cycles, formerly of Evesham Road and now in Albion Street.

The most striking feature of the house is that it was obviously built in the days when servants were an integral part of middle class homes such as this: the atmosphere is very much an 'us and them' division. The main entrance hall is quite spacious with stained glass in the main door panels and in the surround, while the kitchen, cellar and other domestic offices are reached through a rather basic door to a hallway with a ceiling much lower than that of the hallway. The stairway to the first floor bedrooms is of a singular design: the handrail is very substantial and typical of the period but the infill seems to be an attempt at Arts and Crafts design. By contrast the stairs to the servants' rooms on the

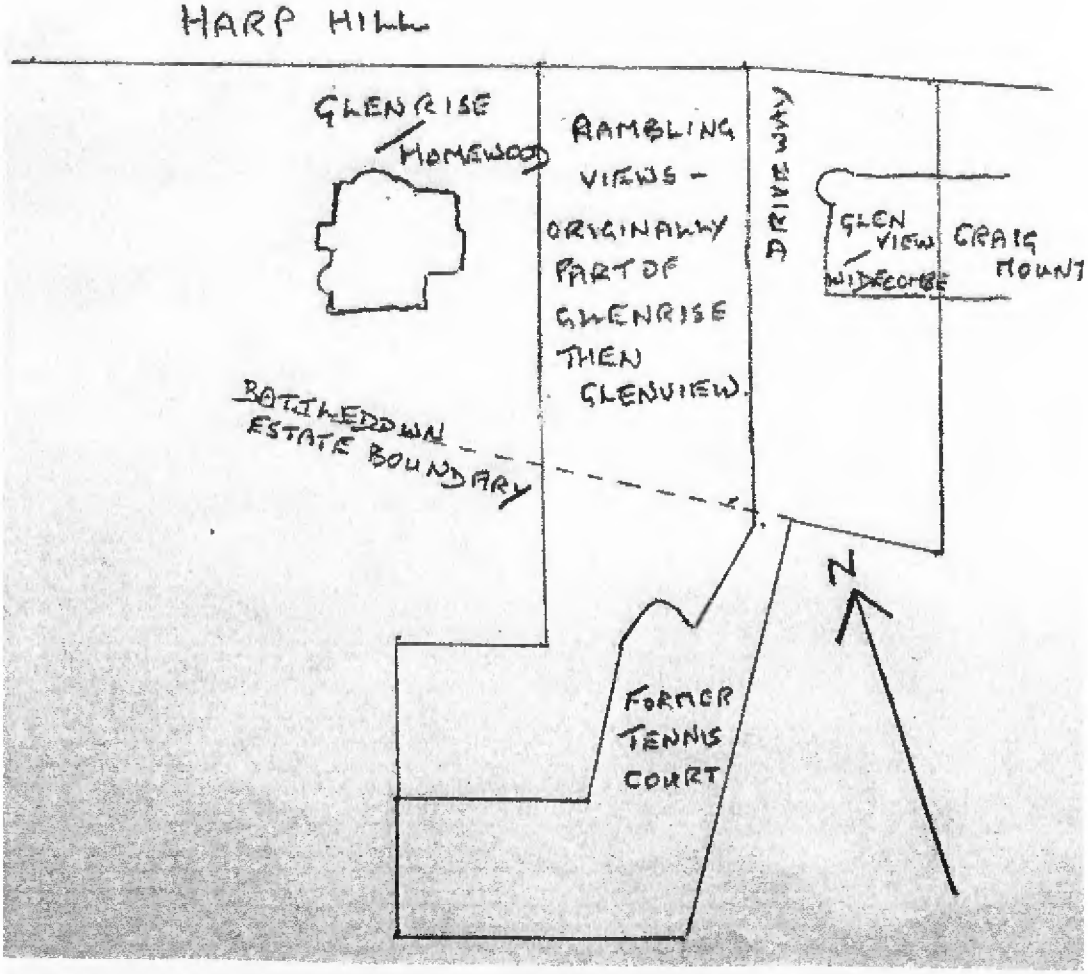
View of Widecombe from the North West



Main Stairway



Plan of the Extended Garden



second-floor is very plain with treads only about two-thirds of the width of the main staircase. According to a friend, who knew the house in the 1920s, three servants were employed, a married couple who were cook/housekeeper and gardener/chauffeur, and a young maid.

There were originally three main reception rooms, but the front two were knocked into one long one in the 1960s, when many alterations seem to have taken place. The worst of these was the removal of the original cast iron fireplaces on the ground floor, although one remains in a first-floor bedroom. All the door furniture was changed but luckily the sash windows remain intact with one exception.

The house now stands in about ¾ acre and the gardens can be divided into four distinct parts. The front and immediate rear gardens are fairly standard, these were original to the house when it was built. The next-door land, originally part of Glenrise, was added in about 1912, and is now occupied by a house known as Rambling Views. Also in 1912 a tennis court and small orchard were added from the garden of Glendower, when Mary Ada Moore inherited an interest in it. Three small kiln bases were found at the edge of the tennis court but unfortunately no wasters, so their purpose could not be ascribed. Various small bottles, whole and broken, for lemonade crystals, perfume, poisons, medicines etc were found in the bank at the end of the garden which had obviously been used as a rubbish dump early in the last century.

When clearing out the attic space several items came to light which might give some further hints about the history of the house:
a. Two luggage labels upon which is written 'Glenview Harp Hill Mrs Pullinger'. There is no clue as to who Mrs Pullinger was and her name does not crop up in any other context, so possibly she was a visitor or a servant.
b. A used cheque book drawn on the London Joint Stock Bank Limited. The first stub is dated 30th May 1910 and the last 25th July 1910. Eleven of the twelve stubs are written on and sums from £4.10.0 to £26.7.6 entered, the total for roughly two months coming to the not inconsiderable smount of £244.15.0. The average working man's wage over this period would be in the region of £20 to £30. When time allows an attempt will be made to identify the names of the persons and companies entered on the stubs.
c. An early billiard cue rest.

Notes:
1. Landseer, Alfred. *A Panoramic Sketch of Cheltenham and its Environs*. 1829
2. For further information on Sir William Russell see *Bulletin 8*.
3. For details of the Harp Hill estates of Sir William Russell and David Broom, see O'Connor, David A. *Battledown, the Story of a Victorian Estate*. 1992
4. O'Connor, David A. *Battledown People*. n.d.

I would like to thank Mrs Margery Bennet, Mrs Mary Paget, Michael Greet, David O'Connor and the staff of the Cheltenham Reference Library for supplying information and their help. Any further information on the history of the house would be most gratefully received.

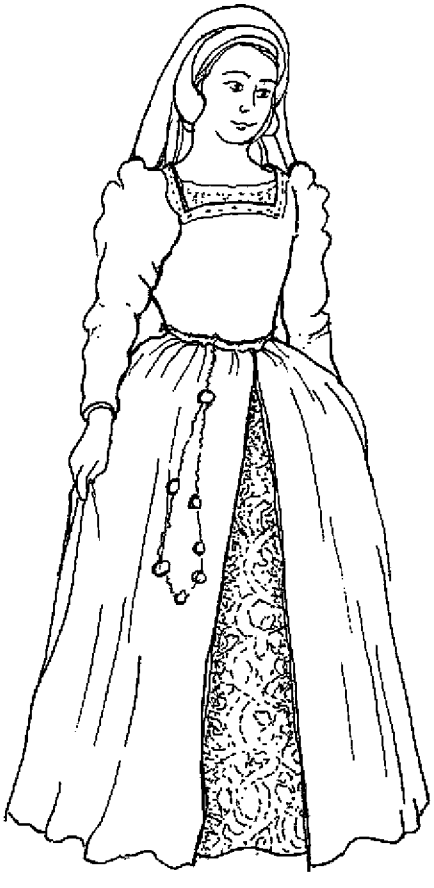
TUDOR CLOTHING

By Gillian Potter

In 2004 our Society published *Charlton Kings Tudor Wills,* abstracted by Tony Sale from the original documents kept at Gloucestershire Archives. The wills date from 1541, when Gloucester became a diocese independent of Worcester, and continue until the end of the 16th century. Many items of apparel were bequeathed by both men and women, some of which seem strange to the 21st century reader: a man leaves a petticoat to his son and a widow leaves a dowlas kerchew and a workaday frock of Bristow fryse. What did these garments look like and what materials were used to make them? This article is an attempt to provide an overall look at Tudor fashions, to describe and illustrate some of these garments, and discuss how they were made and what materials were used. Some of the illustrations are copies of works by Holbein.

Typical clothing for the first half of the 16th century

The man wears a shirt, coat, doublet and gown, while the woman has a gown, kirtle, girdle, chemise and kerchief.

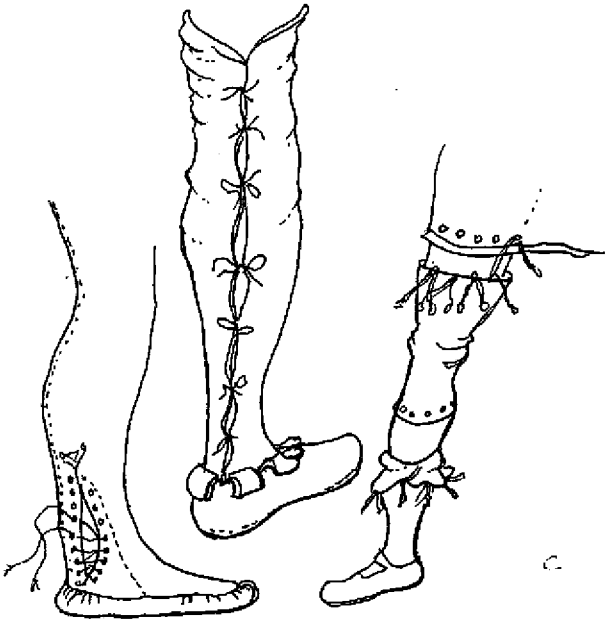


Garments, especially outer ones, were valuable possessions and an important status symbol especially to Tudor men and a new look was admired. The styles of the previous century had been characterised by vertical flowing lines seen in the spires and tall pointed arches of the Middle Ages. Styles at the beginning of the 16th century gradually changed to a heavier rectangular look, as seen in Tudor buildings and the wide flattened arch. The characteristic look of early Tudor men was a bulky square silhouette: gowns with wide hanging sleeves, padded shoulders often emphasised by wide puffed sleeves. Padding around the top part of the torso, a square cap and square-toed shoes completed this dominating male look. Women's clothes were of secondary importance to those of men. They preferred square necklines, wide sleeves and full skirts.

Factors that contribute to the value of apparel were the cost of the fabric, the yardage required and the complex construction with many decorative finishes, the latter being the province of those who could afford them. Scarcity added to the value of such garments. Fabrics were relatively expensive because they were the product of a lengthy process of manufacture (spinning and weaving) and some were imported from afar. The 16th century love of rich fabrics included:

Silk, imported from China, called **Chamlet**, probably a kind of mohair with wool, silk and cotton, having a watered appearance. Thomas Whithorne lefrt 'a pair of chamlate sleeves'.
Fustian, a fabric of cotton and flax, or flax mixed with wool, and having a silky finish, used as a substitute for velvet. John Hodges left 'a doublet cloth of fustian'.
Scarlet, a rich woollen fabric, red in colour which later gave the hue its name,
Flannel, a fine woollen fabric with an open texture. It was made in Wales of a slightly twisted yarn.
Frieze (fryse), another woollen fabric with knap on one side used for working dresses. **Bristowfrise** was a cloth dyed in Bristol. Margery Taylor alias Ruggdale left 'my workingday frock of Bristow fryse'.
Worsted, a fine quality woollen cloth.
Linen was often imported from France, Holland and as far away as Egypt. Flax, from which it was made, was grown with difficulty in England and later in Ireland and used for shirts.
Dowlas, a coarse linen fabric used for cheaper clothing. Dowlas kerchows and pinafores were left by two Charlton Kings widows.
Furs, such as badger and rabbit (coney) were popular for lining outer clothes and displaying at sleeve edges and centre openings. They also added warmth, a much needed attribute in Tudor England.
Leather in the form of **buckskin** was occasionally used for hose. John Whithorn left 'one pair of buckskin hose'.
Knitting. Knitted hose and sleeves were made of coarse cotton and highly regarded. The craft came from France and Italy and was not produced in England until the 1550s. Margery Taylor alias Ruggdale left 'a waist petticoat with knit sleeves' in her will dated 1557.

The construction of outer garments could be elaborate, with contrasting linings of silk or fur, padding held by vertical rows of stitching, and the vogue for slashing (fabric cut in parallel lines to expose puffs of the rich fabric of the layer beneath.). Seams of outer garments could have elaborate open seams with edges held together with ties Ties were also attached to undergarments such as an under pair of sleeves or to hold up hose. Ties could be finished with metal points known as 'aiglets. Layered garments, showing several edges of garments beneath were also fashionable.



The majority of wills leaving wearing apparel were those of women, but it should be noted that many of the items they bequeathed were, or could be, male garments. These were probably items of value or sentiment to hand on to the next generation. Examples of male garments include:

Coat/Cotte/Petticoat: Basically these terms refer to the same garment. The coat was the main outer garment of the previous century and was worn to about knee length in the first part of the 16th century. The sleeves were generally full length and the body and sleeves were padded for warmth. Sometimes the sleeves were detachable.The petticoat mentioned in many Charlton wills is likely to be a shortened version (petticoat = little coat). It would have been considered a fashionable garment at that time. Much later it was finished at the waist hence the term waistcoat which we know today. A tawney coate denotes a woollen cloth of yellowish brown colour. Best coats and petticoats were probably made of rich fabric such as fustian

Doublet. This was an important garment that was worn over the coat and shirt. It was close-fitting, internally quilted and with or without skirts. It had a deep square 'decolletage' and was joined down the front by laces or ties. Sleeves could be close-fitting but were often puffed out at the shoulder and short enough to reveal the long sleeves of the coat underneath. The skirt of the doublet could have tubular pleats (bases). The will of Thomas Barnes is the only one to mention a doublet.

Shirt. A basic utilitarian garment made of linen, it became more elaborate during the 16th century appearing at the neck and wrists to show off the smocked or embroidered edges. Interestingly no shirts appear among the Charlton wills.

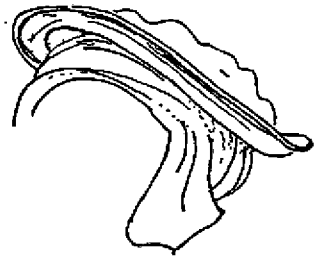
Gown. This was a very full and square-shaped garment with broad shoulders and long sleeves worn over the coat and doublet. Early examples had long sleeves with deep slits at the front horizontally to allow the arm through, while the remainder hung freely. Fashionable gowns had elbow-length puff sleeves which were often slashed. The neckline of the gown had wide lapels broadening over the shoulders and across the back forming a deep square-cut collar. Gowns were often lined with fur and left open to show this. Some were gathered at the waist by a girdle or narrow knitted sash. Lengths varied, they were generally knee-length, but conservative men would have worn them long.

Hose could be in pairs or in the form of 'tights'. They were made of cloth, silk and even velvet, and cut on the bias which was essential for fit. They were attached by points (laces) passing through eyelet holes in the hose and the undergarment, coat or doublet. The ends of the ties were strengthened with metal tips. Less wealthy men would have worn coarse knitted hose, often in two parts and tied together mid-calf. The buckskin, mentioned in John Whithorne's will, was an elastic material and no doubt luxurious.

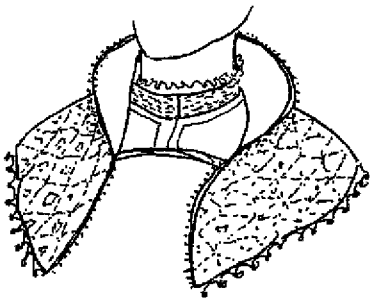
Cloak/Cape. These were worn by either sex for travelling. The violet cape left by Joan Alerige was more likely to have been a female garment.

Details of Women's Clothing

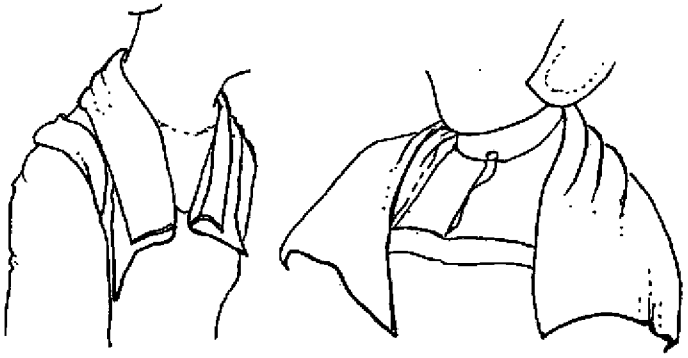
Flat Hat over Under Cap



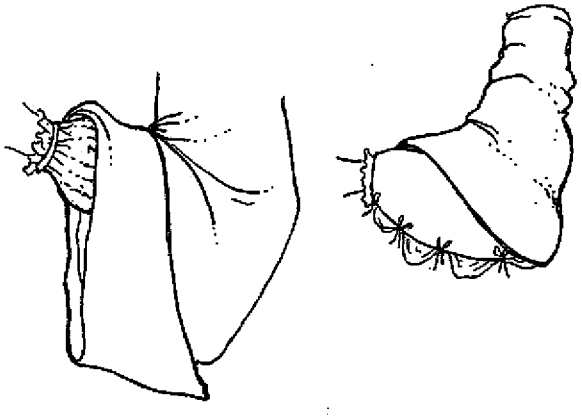
Hoke over Gown and Chemise



Neckerchieves



Wide-cuffed Sleeve and Sleeve over Under-sleeve



Headgear. Various hats were worn. Country folk wore a plain hat with a broad brim, sometimes adorned with a large ostrich feather. Hats were always worn with an undercap. Caps had soft crowns made of black cloth, velvet or silk, with the brim turned up vertically, sometimes the back brim was turned down. Elderly men often wore caps continually during the day.

Shoes were square with rounded corners and sometimes slashed, with a strap or buckle and flat heels. Buskins were a type of boot reaching to the knee and used for travelling.

Throughout the period covered by these wills, women typically wore a gown, or frock, and kirtle and their heads were covered. Footwear is not usually visible in illustrations but is presumed to be similar to those of men.

Gown/Frock. This is always an outer garment worn over a **kirtle** (see below), with a smooth fitted bodice joined to a full-length skirt. The bodice had a square-cut neckline with the chemise or kirtle often appearing at the edges. Sometimes the neckline finished in a long V at the front which was laced together with a series of ribbons or ties. The skirt was sometimes split to display a kirtle of rich material which often matched the sleeve or sleeve lining. The neckline could be filled with a **partlet**, a small piece of fabric of silk, velvet or even brocade, set in the neckline. The sleeves were either fitted at the top and expanded to a wide opening at the wrist, with the bottom edge turned back to show a coloured lining or fur; or full and fitted to the wrist where the edge of the kirtle showed, and some large voluminous sleeves had an open seam that was tied at intervals. Sleeves could be separate and tied to the bodice and therefore we find them being bequeathed separately.

Kirtle. This was worn under the gown and was usually a simple frock shape that was either a full kirtle with bodice and skirt or half kirtle with skirt only. The fitted bodice was fastened at the side by hooks or pins and the square neckline was edged with lace and/or filled with a partlet.

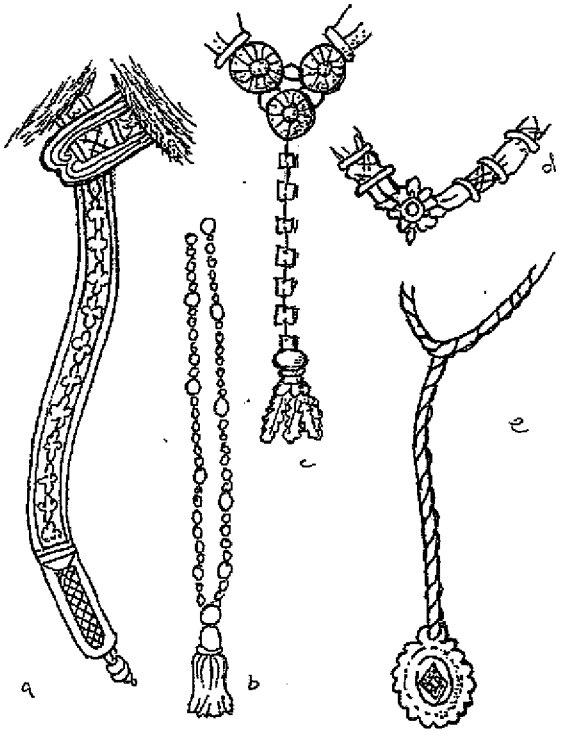
Girdles, or belts, were always worn and were of three main types: a narrow sash, a decorative belt, or a narrow jewelled chain. The sash was knotted in the front, occasinally passing through rings and having long tasselled ends.

Neckerchief. This was a large white square of linen or cotton folded lengthwise and used as a shawl over the shoulders.

Kerchief/Kerchew/Kerchow. This was a square of fabric worn round the head usually used by working women. It could also take the form of a simple veil fastened over the head.

Cape/Hoke. Wraps are seldom seen in images of the early 16th century. The hoke was a short cape with hood dating from the previous century. Elinor Stubbe's will dated 1557 left a hoke to her daughter, a reminder that a will made towards the end of a person's life was likely to contain old-fashioned garments rather than current styles.

Head Gear and Girdles



Head Gear. Women's heads were generally covered with their centrally-parted hair just showing. The cap was closely fitting and worn under a hat, or a bonnet with a halo brim. Margery Taylor alias Ruggdale left both a hat and a cap. The typical **English Hood** (also called **Gable** or **Kennel Hood**) does not appear in any of the Charlton wills.

Aprons could be either with or without a bib. They were usually worn domestically and made of linen or dowlas. Rarely an apron could be made of fine fabric and worn decoratively.

Smock. This garment was most likely to be made of linen. It was full from a wide yoke and sometimes finished with embroidery in black or coloured silks. It was worn under a frock as a garment worn by country people and, not surprisingly, it was mentioned in five separate Charlton women's wills.

Pinafore. This is difficult to identify and is possibly a form of apron or smock. It is mentioned in two of the women's wills, but not from those who had left aprons and/or smocks.

There are eighty three wills included in *Charlton Kings Tudor Wills*, dating from 1541 to 1598. Of these there are twenty which have bequests of specific garments, fourteen of which are by women. When we consider that only a small proportion of the population would have been wealthy enough to have made a will, it becomes obvious that we are looking at a very small percentage of the men and women living in Charlton Kings in the 16th century. Nevertheless these wills give us perhaps our only clue to the clothes they would have been wearing and passing on to relations and friends.

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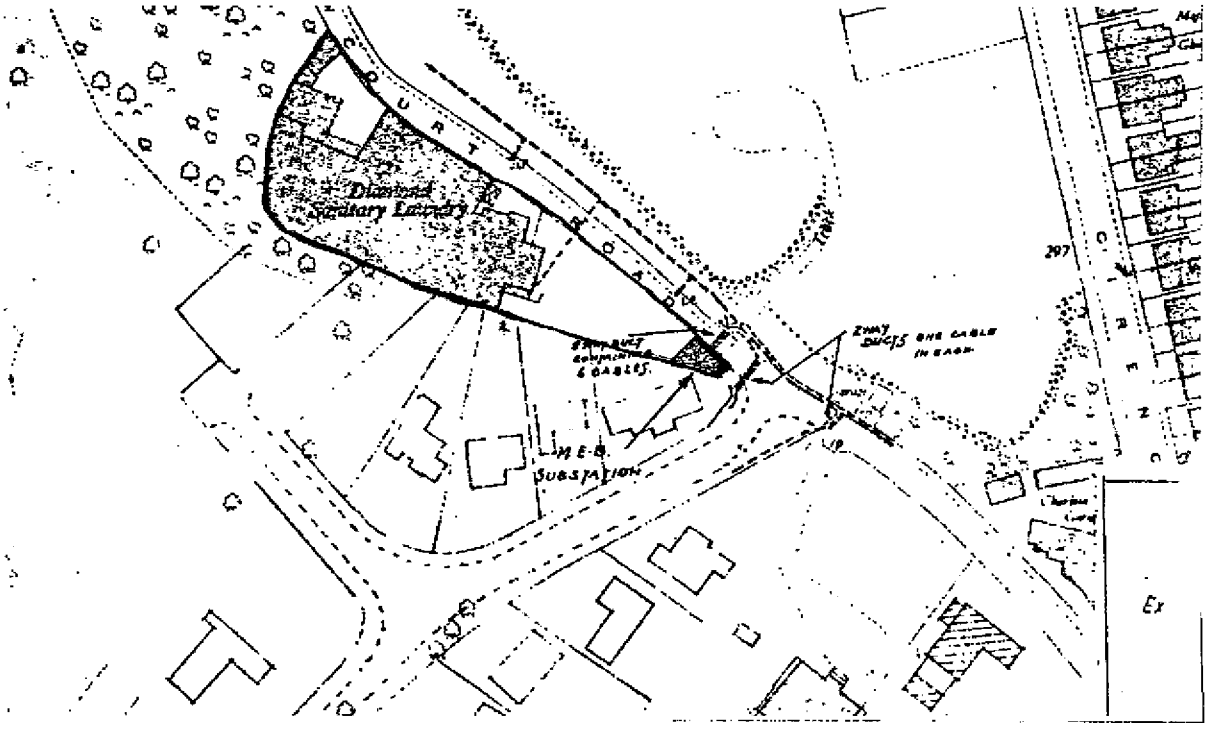
THE DIAMOND SANITARY LAUNDRY

By Jane Sale

The five new detached houses in New Court Road are now so well-established that it is hard to remember the site when it was occupied by the office of the Paragon Laundry and before that by the premises of its predecessor the Diamond Sanitary Laundry.

Map dated Sept 1967



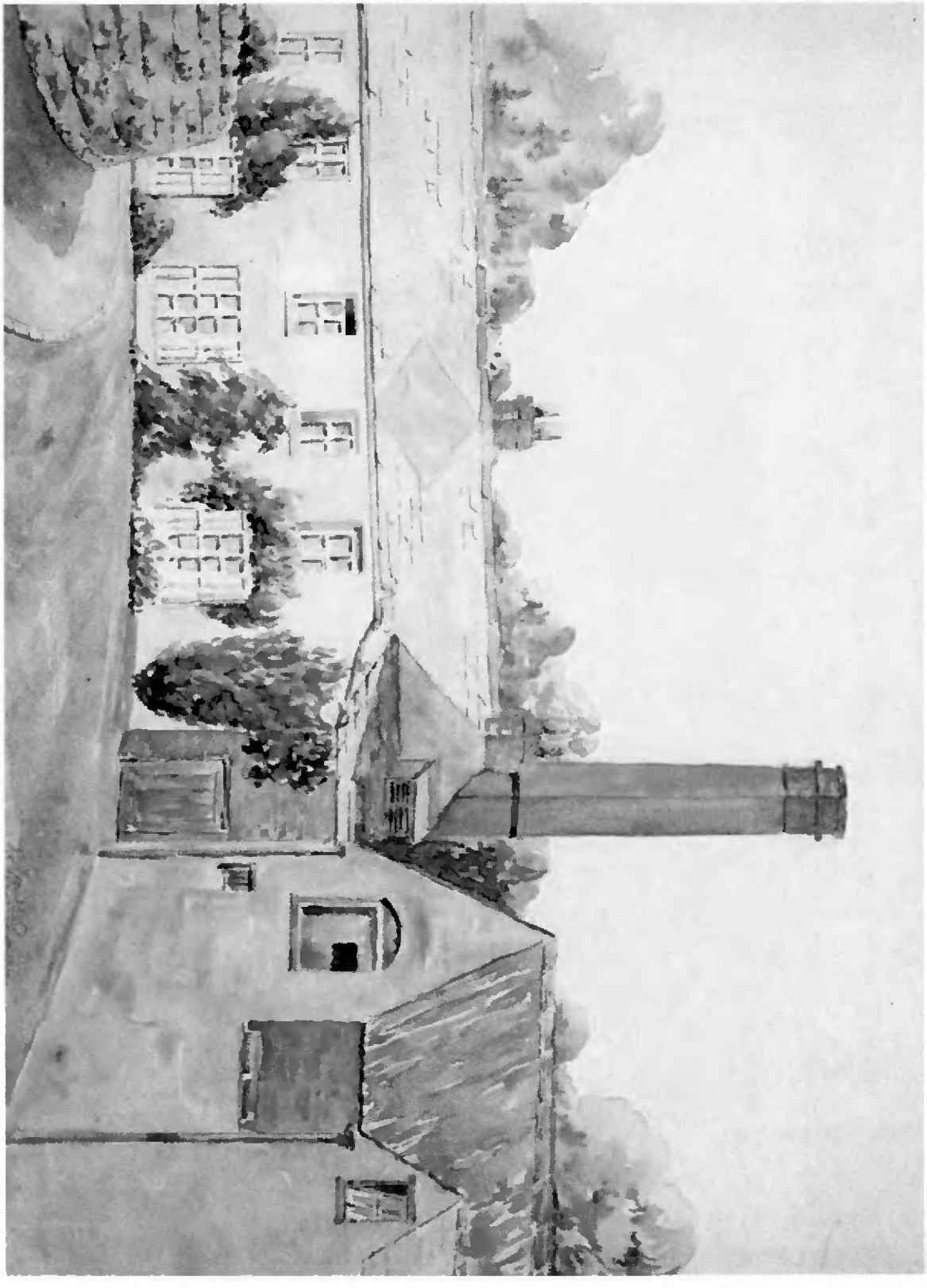
The water colours by Victor Holman shown on pp23 and 24 give us a good idea of what the Laundry looked like from the outside when it was a flourishing concern. Painting A (p23) is looking from New Court Road towards the house with a green gate into the yard and outbuildings on the right, note the diamond shape in the roof tiles. According to Mary Paget's article in *Bulletin 24*, this house was probably built in the early 1800s by the Lovesy family, so presumably the roof tiles were altered after 1879 when the Diamond Sanitary Laundry was established, or was the Laundry named after the pattern? Painting B (p24) is a view from the field behind the Laundry and shows the long single-storey buiding with sky-lights to provide light and ventilation. The tall chimney must have been a major landmark before it and the works were demolished.

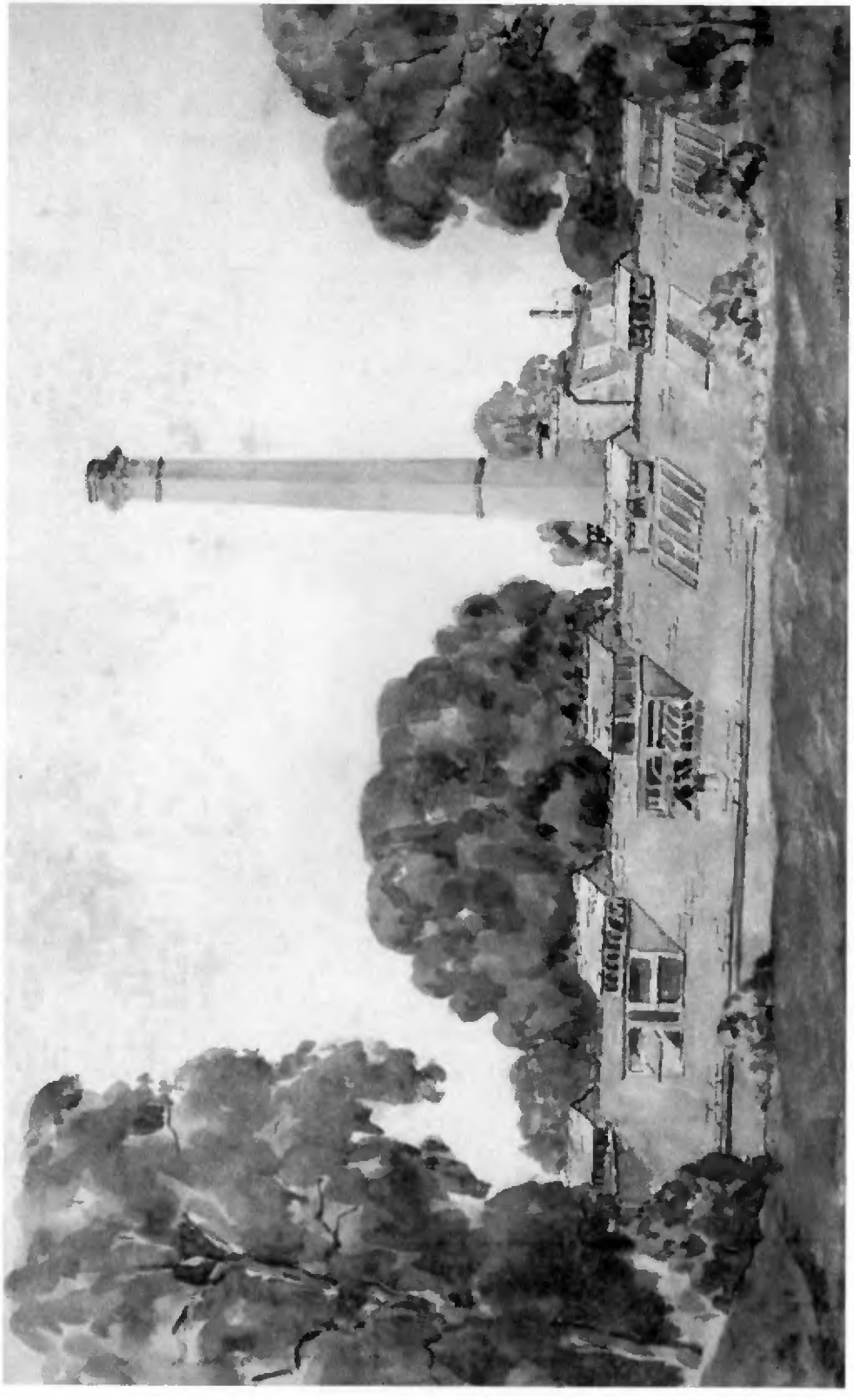
In 1997, when Mary Southerton was preparing an exhibition for our Society on the subject of 'Work', she wrote to the office of the Paragon Laundry to ask if they had any old photographs of workers in the laundry. By chance Paragon had just sold the site and the remaining buildings, they had a few deeds to the property that they were happy to pass on, but sadly no photographs.

However Mary did find an advertisement for the Diamond Sanitary Laundry, which we think dates from the early 1900s. The horse and cart are on the road outside the house shown in Victor's painting (opposite) with the green gate between the buildings hidden behind the cart. Victor has even included a light on the corner of the house but of a more modern design.

The Original & Premier Laundry of the County

Telephone No. 146. Telegrams: "Pay, Charlton Kings."





It is particularly interesting to see the inside of the long low building with skylights shown in Victor's painting (opposite). We can see a fair amount of machinery running from belts, presumably powered from a steam engine, with the power transmitted through overhead shafts and pulley wheels. Both photographs in the advertisement have the name 'Burrow' on them, but I have not been able to find any record of this photographer. If any reader has information about him/her I should be very pleased to hear from them.

Mary Paget, in *A History of Charlton Kings* and *Bulletin 24*, has explained how the site of the Laundry had previously been a malthouse held of Ashley Manor by the Robins family. In 1805 it was sold to John Whithorne of Moorend House, from whom it passed to his daughter Elizabeth Lovesy and then to her son Conway Whithorn Lovesy. In 1833 the Loveseys had sold 14 acres of the land that had formerly gone with the house. Under Conway's will, the malthouse and other property in Charlton Kings were left to his daughter Georgiana who married John Eykyn. Now, with the deeds from the Paragon Laundry, we can bring the story a little more up to date.

John and Georgiana Eykyn had only one child, a son John Henry, who married Annie Metcalf Roberts. Georgiana died on 18 February 1880, leaving her Charlton Kings property to her son and he in due course left it to his wife. Thus on 27th October 1905 Annie Metcalf Eykyns, widow of Mill Hill, Barnes, Surrey was admitted at an Ashley Manor Court as tenant to 'All that messuage or dwellinghouse with the malthouse, garden and premises thereto adjoining situate in a place called Moor End, which premises are now altered and enlarged and known as the Diamond Sanitary Laundry and with land and buildings stated to contain 0.621 acre.'

The next change of ownership came in 1928 when Annie Eykyn sold the business of the laundry, with its goodwill and book debts owing, to Cecil John Lewis of Swindon for the sum of £1200. The Diamond Sanitary Laundry was by this time a limited company. Annie Eykyn, as the vendor, was described as having 'for some time past carried on the business of a laundry proprietor', but in fact it had been run by members of the Pay family. The earliest reference was in a Cheltenham directory for 1883/4 which listed Mr E R Pay as the manager, and the 1891 census showed the family at the Laundry house: Edward Pay as the manager and his wife Emily the manageress, with their daughters Emily and Eva working as clerk and assistant. By 1905 the *Cheltenham Annuaire* shows the Misses Pay living in the Laundry house and Mr and Mrs E R Pay living at 'Pumphreys', the house on the corner of Cirencester Road and Pumphreys Road. Mary Paget, writing in *Bulletin 49*, explained that the original Pumphreys house had been demolished about 1890 and that Mrs Ekyn, the owner of the Laundry, had created Pumphreys Road about 1910, and that many of the laundry workers lived there. Now we can see that she must have built a new house called 'Pumphreys' in the early 1900s as a manager's house. A Cheltenham Directory for 1915 shows only Mrs E R Pay living at Pumphreys and only one Miss Pay at the Laundry.

Various alterations were made to the premises during the 1950s and '60s which necessitated planning permission. In 1959 a new boiler house was erected on the site of an old carpenter's shop and a new vehicular entrance constructed. In 1962 there were plans for improvements including a covered yard, sorting department, store and tank room; and in 1963 the formation of a shop window with fascia over it reading 'Diamond Laundry' to serve the Receiving Centre. The Planning Applications show that the word 'Sanitary' had been dropped from the company's title between 1961 and '63. In 1967 a small corner of the site was sold to the Electricity Board for a Transformer Station. It is believed that the tall chimney was demolished sometime in the 1970s.

The change of name to that of 'Paragon Laundry (Charlton Kings) Ltd.' came in 1979. More information about the Laundry comes from a local press cutting dated October 17, 1996: 'Paragon Laundry, which was fined earlier this year for smoke pollution, is to close and move to a new site in Cheltenham. The laundry in Newcourt Road, Charlton Kings, which employs 45 people, will shut in January. Joint managing director David Stevens said most of the people at the site would be moved to the £1.5 million building the firm is planning near to its existing plant in Hatherley Road. Mr Stevens refused to rule out job losses. "Between five and ten jobs could be lost", he said'. The number employed surprised me as I had thought there had only been the office remaining on the site.

The photograph below is believed to be of a group of women who worked at the Laundry in the late 1940s or early '50s. Some of them have been identified: Back row, 2nd from left – Doll Jones and 4th from left – Mrs Marshall. Middle row, 2nd from left - May White and 4th from left – Mrs Ted Evans. Front row, 4th from left - Mrs Axford with Mrs Watkins behind her and Eileen Evans on the end. Can anyone identify any others or confirm which year the photograph was taken?

MARCUS JACOB SISSON - ANOTHER LIFE REVISITED

By David O'Connor

The grave of Marcus Jacob Sissons in St Mary's Churchyard is not amongst those in the biographical survey published by the Society in 2005 under the title "Lives Revisited". This was not because it was not noticed; indeed, the headstone has some features which made it interesting, not least that his position as "Deputy Assistant Commissary General" is recorded. It was rather that too little could be found about him to justify a place among the many others researched. However, in July 2006 contact was made with the Society by his great-great-grand-daughter, Dana Huthnance, who lives in New Zealand and we agreed to take a more concentrated look at his connection with Cheltenham and to try and ascertain why he was buried here in Charlton Kings. The picture is still imperfect but between us, we do know more about him now.

Marcus was born in Ireland in 1787 into a respectable Gentry family, though not one which managed an entry in Burke's Landed Irish Gentry. Despite this, there are other Irish families which carry the name Sisson as a second or third name, though this connection is difficult to establish. Dana Huthnance believes that the family may have been of French origin, possibly with the name Soissons, and possibly also Huguenots or aristocrats who fled the country and settled in Ireland. It will be noted that his surname was Sisson and not Sissons, as recorded on the headstone, something to be borne in mind. His parents are not known, though it does appear that he was related to Jonathan Sisson, a renowned maker of mathematical instruments who worked at the Greenwich Observatory and in 1729 was appointed instrument maker to the Prince of Wales, for whom he made a model of the solar system. The family in New Zealand has some cutlery, made in Ireland and bearing a coat of arms and Jonathan Sisson's name. In 1816 Marcus married in Quebec Isabella McGregor, aged 18, and one of three children of another Commissariat officer, Captain George McGregor and his wife Mary. In some surviving letters Isabella mentions that he was away at war and also that there had been a ball for some sixty people at Bayonne de Bigorre in France. The dates are not exact but this suggests that Marcus may have participated in the Peninsula War. By October 1813 Wellington's Army had driven the French out of Spain across the Pyrenees and subsequently occupied Bayonne, which was a major French military base. Marcus would by then have been 26 years old and either a subaltern in the Army or, more probably, as his headstone indicates, in the Commissariat.

The Commissariat was the logistic support organisation of the British Army. It was responsible for providing transport, food and water, lodging and other administrative needs to the fighting forces. In the Peninsula it maintained contacts with local Spanish merchants, peasants and other providers and saw to contracts and payments for supplies. Wellington insisted that his Army paid for all it received, unlike the French, who lived off the land and stole what they wanted. This ensured that the British were more popular with the locals, even when they arrived in France. The Commissariat had its own officer structure and uniforms and, in view of the headstone, it is necessary to understand the rank system, namely:

Commissary General in Chief	= Lt General
Commissary General	= Major General
Deputy Commissary General	= Colonel/ Lt Colonel
Assistant Commissary General	= Major
Deputy Assistant Commissary General	= Captain
Acting Deputy Assistant Commissary General	= Probationary Rank, Lt

All first appointments to the Commissariat were made from subalterns in the Army, with not less than two years service, and under 25 years of age. They underwent an examination and then served on probation for six months. They would then resign their commission in the Army and be given one as a probationary Deputy Assistant. The difficulty with the Commissariat was that, although it had a basic peacetime establishment, serving in camps and military stations at home and abroad, it took on a large number of officers in wartime but discharged them on half pay when the war was over. This was exactly what happened after the final defeat of Napoleon in 1815 and there is good evidence that Marcus was among those so affected. When he died, he was on half pay, which at that time was approximately £200 per year. This was not a bad income but it was certainly not wealth. He was not on retired pay, which was granted after 30 years service and was about a third higher.

The first indication of a link with Cheltenham appeared in 1836. By then Marcus and Isabella had a son, Charles Phillip, born in about 1820. A testimonial to the excellent qualities of Segrave House School for Young Gentlemen in The Park, Cheltenham, gave the names of a number of Gentry who had entrusted the school and its Headmaster, Reverend Balfour, with their sons' education. Among these was Captain Sisson. This school was not a Preparatory School but would educate boys for entry to Military Academies and the professions. In March 1839 the Looker-On reported on those attending the Grand Fancy Dress Ball at the Assembly Rooms: listed were Captain Sisson and Mr Sisson, presumably young Charles, both described as "wearing full dress". This would have been full evening dress, since uniform was always described as such. The first available Directory, for 1842, shows M.J. Sisson at 13, Cambray, where he lived until 1844. He noted in 1843 that he was having hydrotherapy and that it was adding twenty years to his constitution, which prediction turned out to be reasonably accurate. In 1845 he moved to 2, Bayshill Terrace: this was a Gentry Lodging House, of which there were many in Cheltenham during this period, as the Gentry tended to visit the town rather than live in it. In 1847 he complained in a letter that he had not received a sou from Ireland, because of the potato famine, and was in lodgings. This confirms that his family owned land in that country, which normally would have produced some income.

In December 1849 the Cheltenham Free Press reported the trial of one Frances Robinson, charged with illegally pawning two shirts, the property of Captain Marcus Jacob Sissons (the final 's' reappearing). Captain Sissons deposed that he knew the prisoner and about a year and a half ago had given her a piece of cloth to make into shirts. She did so, brought them to his home and he paid her what she asked. On trying them on, they were a misfit and were taken back by her to make alterations. She later brought him five and kept back two. With many promises, going on for more than a year, the two shirts never found their way home. He ascertained that the shirts were pawned at Mr. Davis's, pawnbroker. They were not marked but he was positive from their appearance that they were his shirts and they exactly corresponded with those he had at home. Upon examination, the shirts were found to be linen, and Captain Sisson's shirts were of long cloth. The prisoner said the other two shirts had been stolen from her. Mr Pilkington said that there was no doubt she had

disposed of the shirts in some way or other but the evidence being insufficient, she was discharged. Captain Sissons asked the bench if the woman would be allowed to go round the streets with impunity; there was no doubt that he would get insulted. Mr Pilkington warned her as to her future conduct and intimated to the Captain that, if he was insulted by any persons, he should summons them to the office and they would be punished for so doing.

In 1851 Mr and Mrs Sisson were living at 5, Bayshill Terrace, also a Lodging House. That was the first and last reference to Mrs Sisson in the Directories; it is not known when Isabella died, or indeed whether this was another Mrs Sisson. The Directories did not normally mention married women residing with their husbands. M.J. Sisson Esq., remained there until 1857, but in 1858 5, Bayshill Terrace was vacant and in 1859 and 1860 it was occupied by someone else. Neither Marcus nor Charles appeared in the 1861 Census and they must both have been abroad. However, on 9 February 1862 Marcus died at Alba Cottage, Charlton Kings at the age of 76; his connection with Charlton Kings could, therefore, only have been a matter of a few months.

The exact location of Alba Cottage is not established. In 1840 it was described as being "nearly opposite Jireh Spa", which suggests that it was in the immediate vicinity of Sixways. Although called a cottage, it had a garden and comprised a drawing room, dining room, breakfast room, bedrooms, kitchen, brewhouse, scullery and butler's pantry. Its rateable value was £20, which was the amount that a small Gentry house would start at and which would qualify for a vote. Workers' cottages would be rated at £2 or £4. After Marcus' death, its subsequent occupants were a retired colonel and a single clergyman, so that it was deemed of appropriate size and status for a gentleman living on his own. By 1882 Alba Cottage had disappeared and there was no property in the area that corresponded to it. It is possible that the creation of the new London Road required its demolition.

Marcus' death certificate compounds the error on his headstone. It names him as Marcus John (not Jacob) Sisson, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, half pay. The death was reported by Henry Williams, "present at the death, Alba Cottage". Henry Williams was a general labourer, aged at that time 21 years, and married to Emma, a laundress, and living at 3, Emily Place in Charlton Kings. The cause of death was given as "Paralysis and Decay of Nature". No family members were in evidence at his death. His son, Charles Phillip Sisson appears to have been in America at the time. In March 1862 he sailed from New York to Melbourne, where it is believed that he was the French Ambassador there, and thence to New Zealand. One can surmise that Marcus Jacob Sisson was ill and possibly paralysed when he came to Charlton Kings; that he was alone, needed help and employed Henry Williams, a labourer, to assist him; and that Henry, who was with him when he died, guessed what his second name was. The headstone accords with this: in this case his surname was misspelt and the stone bears the superfluous words "Who died at Charlton Kings". No other stone in Charlton Kings bears such an unnecessary inscription - of course they died there, they lived there and were buried there. The implication is that he was stranger, who happened to die in Charlton Kings, but was not of that Parish. The people who were around him simply did not know him well enough to get all the details right. Ten days after his death, a brief notice appeared in The Examiner, which actually got all his names right but there was no subsequent obituary. Thus Marcus Jacob Sisson's connection with Charlton Kings was sadly short and temporary, though his burial at St. Mary's has made it permanent.

[David received a letter from a very grateful Dana Huthnance in which she wrote "Wonderful to have his final resting place and hope one day we may visit. Thank you for this very special cameo of his final years" - Ed.]

EVENTS IN CHARLTON KINGS IN 1907

By Don Sherwell

This article comprises my gleanings from the *Cheltenham Chronicle & Graphic* and the *Cheltenham Free Press & Cotswold News.*

The Council:

The Urban District Council, [chairman: Richard Vassar Smith] spent many hours discussing the acquisition of a site for the cemetery, as St Mary's Churchyard was rapidly reaching its limit and, as one councillor said "where we would be spared the objectionable scenes at the churchyard and elsewhere where the population lives nearby and children congregate." Sites at Battledown and Castlefields were rejected, as being too far from the centre of the village and requiring chapels to be built. Eventually it was agreed to buy The Croft for £2000, 9 or 10 acres, most of which would be made available for allotments [the areas depending on which paper you read]. In the 19th century, the area was a public drying ground for laundries. Just as now, there were concerns about water levels: in 1907 it was feared that the new graves would pollute the wells of cottages in Buckles Row, so it was agreed to pay for mains water to be laid on just in case that happened.

In June the council discussed a special education rate being levied by the County Council to support the Pates grammar schools in the town [which had overspent their budgets] and also evening classes, including within the village. Some objection was raised that this would be of little benefit to Charlton Kings because the poor could not afford to pay the [albeit reduced] fees for grammar school places. At the time, of the 168 boys and 149 girls at the Pates schools [the girls' school only very recently founded], 11 boys and 5 girls came from Charlton Kings.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr Todd, in his annual report to the council, stated that the population of the village was around 400. Deaths in the previous year numbered 64, only 3 of these being from today's major cause of death, namely cancer. There had been 103 births, and the fact that only 7% had died in their first year was a cause of satisfaction, being much better than in the recent past. Dr Todd took the opportunity to praise the De Lancey Hospital – "an estimable boon to the public, worthy of generous support", and the [then controversial] practice of sterilising milk.

In August the Council thanked those who had contributed so that UDC employees might have a day out to Southampton: their generosity was "evidence that the ratepayers appreciated the services of the men, who well deserved a holiday".

The Church:

The new vicar of St Mary's was Edgar Neale. He was warmly welcomed but all did not go smoothly, and accusations of idolatry were made at the Easter vestry meeting in 1907: "The veteran Protestant Mr Bush, whose views are always held in respect because he is a genuine Churchman and not a Hot Gospeller from the shop around the corner, was in good form on Monday, but it cannot be said he received much hope or consolation from the new vicar. Indeed the last state of the Low Church in Charlton Kings is likely to be worse than the first as the Rev Edgar Neale boldly professed himself to be a High Churchman of the first order". The issues in dispute included the carrying of a processional crucifix, [as opposed to a cross], the raising of the elements in the communion service for veneration, and the proposed installation of an altar in the south transept if, as was suggested, it became a chapel. Mr Bush, who lived in the delighfully named Puddingbag Lane [now Hambrook Street], declared that all these were clearly idolatrous and "quite Romish .... We don't want the Pope to take our beautiful church".

There was vigorous correspondence in the local paper in the weeks that followed the meeting. Opponents of change were perhaps not entirely convinced by the argument put forward in one letter that the vicar was a well-educated gentleman, and on that ground alone would not bow down and worship a crucifix. The vicar himself in a possibly unguarded moment declared that "if an angel from heaven were to come to be vicar of Charlton Kings he would not please everyone" – a view perhaps shared by other holders of his post.

Further trouble arose later in the year when a decision had to be made whether to accept the offer of a statue of an angel to the church from Sir Frederick Dixon Hartland MP, a generous donor to St Mary's, and to place it in the chancel. Mr Bush proclaimed that such images were abominated by the Almighty, but after what could only be described as a vigorous discussion, churchwarden General Smith moved acceptance: "Personally I don't care a brass button about the thing", but he felt it wrong to refuse such a generous offer, and this was then agreed with only two dissentients.

In 1907, incidentally, sermons were regularly reported at some considerable length in the local newspapers and several of Edgar Neale's sermons thus reached a wide audience.

Crime:

George Aylward, a milkman in the village, was accused of cheating his employer John Neighbour Cobbett of just over £4 by fiddling the books. Mr Aylward accused Mr Cobbett of not paying him and other milkmen for work done: "I think he has probably forced us to rob ... I think I am entitled to a month's money". He actually received six weeks with hard labour.

John Spencer was fined £2 for being drunk in charge of a motor bicycle, driving at 45mph while "yelling, shouting and throwing his legs and arms about".

Nine youths were taken to court for "discharging missiles on the highway" [ie pelting one another with horse chestnuts] – it is good that they only received a reprimand and caution.

Local solicitor, Charles Adolphus Witchell, would no doubt have been sent to trial if his suicide attempt had been unsuccessful. The event, described in full gory detail, was

apparently caused by an unusual strain of pneumonia, resulting in a fit of sudden depression. He had been a keen member of Charlton Kings Choral Society. Two weeks earlier he had given a talk entitled "Glimpses of morality in animals" to the Cheltenham Ethical Society [whose next talk, quite appropiately, was on the subject of "After death, what?"]

The Court Baron:

On 20th November, the annual meeting of the Annual Court Baron for Ashley Manor [ie Charlton Kings] was held in the London Inn. The lord of the manor at the time was Sir William Russell, Bt. His High Bailiff was to summon "sufficient good and proper men to serve upon the homage", [ie act as jury over certain manorial issues]. The Chronicle enjoyed describing the event in what it felt to be suitably medieval language:

Sir William's steward, who would preside over the court, arrived late, "for tardy tramcars may not, like the lord's palfreys and prancing steeds, be spurred to do even the lord's steward's will ... The reading of the summons was prefaced by the ringing of an instrument of tintinabulation", followed by the waitress taking orders for drinks. The Steward then narrated "the birth in hoary days of yore of the manorial system of which the parent was feudalism" and a history of Charlton Kings. Matters discussed included the unauthorised grazing of cattle on Ravensgate common by one farmer – sanctioned after "many pages of deep speech". The Urban District Council was reproved for removing stone from the quarry on Charlton Kings Common, and was only to do so in future with the assent of those with land rights on the Common. "A fair maid did then consult privily with each and every member of the court and, leaving the room, did return with sundry cordials, strong liquors and pop-fizzes" in which toasts were drunk to the King and the lord of the manor.

Property Auctions:

Glenfall estate, put up for sale in November, was described as a "manor with charming and inexpensive grounds ...situate on high ground admidst delightful sylvan views", plus farmland.

Houses in the village centre, Fernley in Copt Elm Road [estimated rental £25] and Gowan Lee in Cirencester road [estimated rental £45] were also for auction during the year: "Both are situated on the electric Tram Route and have gas and Cheltenham Corporation water laid on, but being in the parish of Charlton Kings the rates are low."

Miscellany:

In March, Mrs Brookes was appointed temporary collector of poor rates by Cheltenham Board of Guardians, a rare achievement for a woman, but she had done the work during her late husband's illness. There was press conjecture whether she would get the permanent post. This did not happen and, what really annoyed the locals, the job was given to someone living outside the parish.

Charlton Kings Horticultural Society met monthly and the talks given were reported in great detail. One one occasion, one of its officers proudly declared: "Nowhere in the county are there finer average gardens – flowers, fruit and vegetables, than are to be found in Charlton Kings, and this is to a large extent attributed to the Society". He may not have been very modest in his view, but reality was that the village was an example to all others in the area. The Free Press advertised the annual Flower Show in August 1906 with the words: "Charlton Kings … leads the way in matters horticultural" and the review in the chronicle described it as a triumph – "a second Shrewsbury".

In the same month those attending the annual village fete, organised by the Working Men's Club, enjoyed "the usual amusements associated with rural rejoicings" including roundabouts, cokenut [sic] shies, horse racing and athletics [the one-mile run was won in a creditable 4mins 25secs]

And finally, Charlton Engineer Volunteers [apparently a fore-runner of the TA] had their prize distribution in December "in the form of a smoking concert" [no explanatory details given] with prizes mainly for shooting skills, but also the tidiest tents and getting most recruits [perhaps an example for voluntary societies today?]

THE CHARLTON KINGS CHORAL SOCIETY

By Ann Hookey

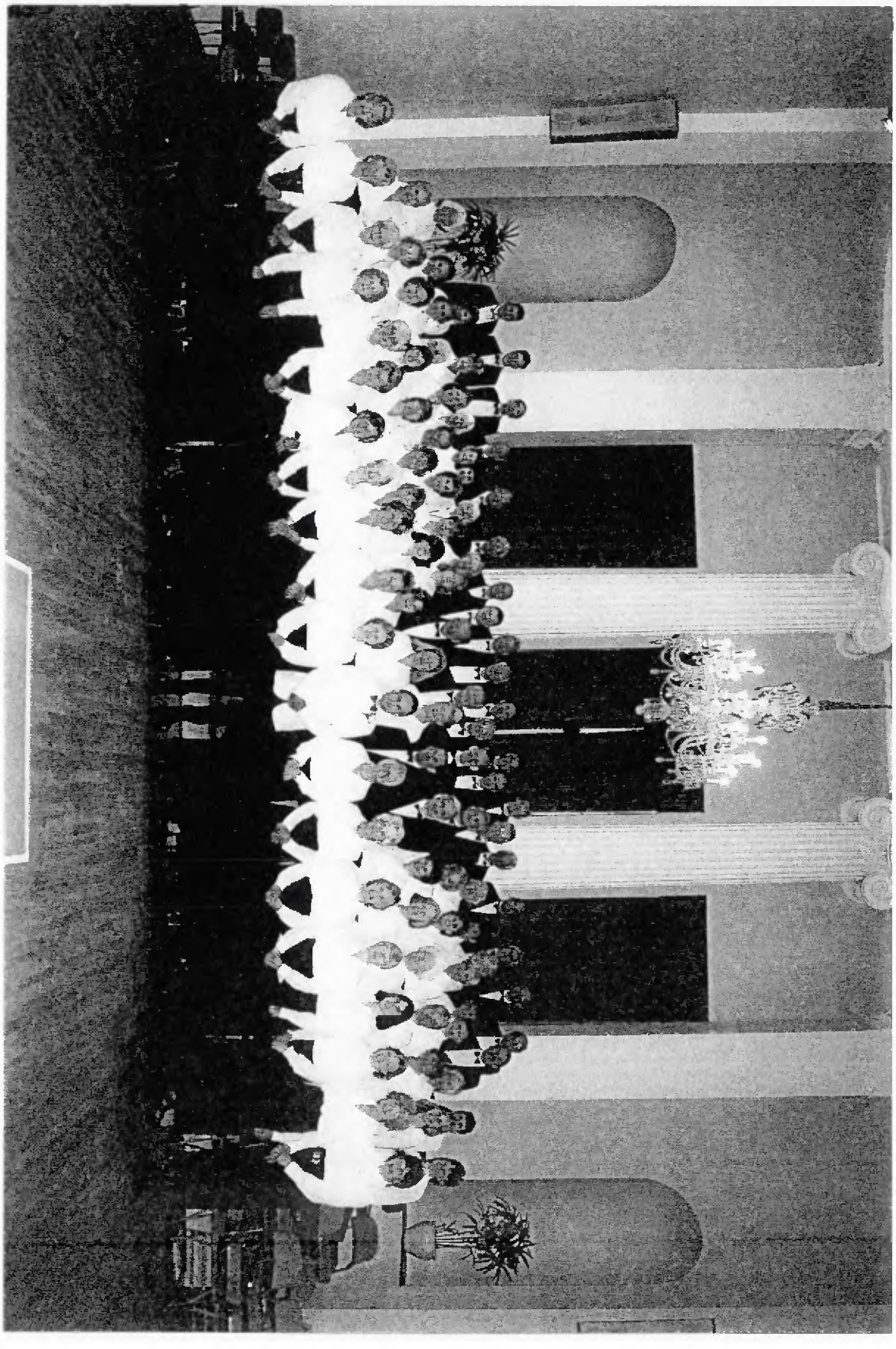
This year is the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Charlton Kings Choral Society. The present society was founded in 1957 by the Reverend Robert Deakin, then vicar of St Mary's Church, in response to requests by villagers, and particularly by a small determined group of his lady parishioners. It will be remembered that St Mary's Church choir at that time, and for some years thereafter, was male dominated – no girl choristers.

There had previously been a local Choral Society, later adding "and Orchestral Society" to its title, in the late 1800s. The first indication of this society was an announcement in the Parish Magazine in November 1895 that Mr Brasher, FGCM Organist, would be starting an "Elementary Class for Singing and Music" on Wednesday 20th November[1]. The next month's Magazine states that "the choral society will meet on Monday 2nd December at 7.45 pm in St. Clair-Ford Hall (the present Working Men's club). By January 1897 the society is reported as "fast becoming an important fact in our Parish and believes not only in good music but in a good cup of tea"[2] - nothing changes. Concerts appeared regularly until the early 1920s and then nothing further is recorded.

In 1957, after an announcement by the Reverend Deakin of the formation of a new Choral Society, around fifty people attended a first rehearsal. During the 1960s numbers fluctuated between fifty and seventy, but there was a constant demand for men, especialy tenors. However, at the present time, the Choir has a dozen tenors and twenty basses.

The first Conductor was Reginal Legg, Organist and Choirmaster at St Mary's and a friend of the Reverend Deakin. Among later Conductors was Tony Hewitt-Jones, Norman Rae, Eric Suddrick, Kenneth Claxton and John Wright who has conducted the Choir for the last twenty years. Peter Meason has been the official Accompanist for over thirty years[3] . Rehearsals have taken place in a variety of venues: e.g. Charlton Kings Infants School (on infant chairs!); the Charlton Kings Junior School; and now at St Edwards Infant School (but fortunately adult chairs).

Since the early days, the Choir has performed two major Concerts a year, usually in April or May and in November, plus an annual Carol Concert in St Mary's Church. The long series of Programmes shows a large and varied number of Choral works being given in the Town Hall, the Pump Room and various Churches and Halls in the Cheltenham area. Recent performances have been Bach: St John's Passion; Verdi: Requiem; Carl Orff: Carmina Burana; Holst: The Hymn of Jesus; and the rarely performed "Morning Heroes" by Sir Arthur Bliss, under the auspices of the Bliss Trust.



The Society has made three foreign tours: to Brittany in 1995; Germany in 1999; and Scandinavia in 2002. It has performed several times with the Orchester Gottinger Musikfreunde both in Cheltenham and in Gottingen, including being part of major twin-own celebrations. Last summer the Choir was invited to sing Evensong at Salisbury Cathedral.

Inevitably the Society has had to cope with all kinds of "difficulties" in its time. These include concerts in very cold churches when both orchestral players and singers needed multi-layer clothing, including fur boots under black dresses; an 'unturned off' church clock in Winchcombe persistently striking the hour and half-hour during the performance; lighting failures in mid-performance; the non-appearance of soloists (weather or traffic); an organist notifying the conductor on the eve of a concert that he could not play and being unable to find a substitute at short notice so the concert had to be abandoned; soloists and players, singers and audience notified on the day; and latterly a double booking by the Pump Room necessitating a rapid removal to All Saints church. Nevertheless with cheerful optimism, equilibrium is maintained and the Choir sings on!

The Society, whilst welcoming members from surrounding areas of Charlton Kings, has always maintained its original aims – to remain a village choir, to ensure a friendly family atmosphere, for members to enjoy their singing, and to retain close ties with St Mary's Church and the village.

To celebrate fifty years of music-making, a book is being prepared by John Ricketts to include a short history of the Society, photographs, poems and various anecdotes from past and present members. This will be available later in 2007.

References:

1. *Bulletin 19* p11
2. *Britain in Old Photographs Charlton Kings* p86, edited by Susanne Fletcher
3. Information from John Wright

The photograph on page 36 shows the Choral Society at a Concert in the Pump Room in 2004. [Our chairman can just be seen near the back and fifth from the left – Ed]

MARIAN COLMORE - 'THE BELLE OF CHELTENHAM'

By Eric Miller

The portrait of Marian Colmore shown above was included in an exhibition of miniatures held at Cheltenham Art Gallery last year. The text that accompanied it described her as 'The Belle of Cheltenham' and also referred to her married surname of Burlton Bennett. Since she has a memorial in Leckhampton churchyard, the author of this article was spurred to find out more. It turns out that both she and William Burlton Bennett, whom she married in 1833, were wayward and high-spirited people, and their colourful lives are worthy of a novel

Marian (Marianne or Mary Anne), born in 181(5), was the eldest daughter of Frind Cregoe of Moor End, Charlton Kings.[1] William Anthony Burlton(-)Bennett was born in India, at Calcutta, in 1807, the eldest son of W R B Burlton Bennett of the Bengal Civil Service. His grandfather, Anthony Burlton, had assumed the additional surname Bennett on the death of his aunt Miss Sarah Bennett of Maperton, Somerset, in much the same way that Frind Cregoe was to adopt the surname Colmore on inheriting the estate of Caroline Colmore in 1837 – a practice not uncommon among people of property.

Regrettably we can only speculate about Marian's early life and the balls and soirées at which she must have shone. The *Bath and Cheltenham Gazette, Cheltenham Chronicle,* and *Cheltenham Journal* – the only local newspapers that circulated in the 1820s and early 1830s – did not cover the activities of Cheltenham's fashionable society but confined themselves to advertisements, official announcements and factual reports. (The earliest extant copies in Cheltenham Public Library of the *Looker-On, Free Press* and *Examiner*, which might well have included such details, are just too late for this purpose.)

William Burlton Bennett had been an undergraduate at St John's College, Cambridge, from October 1827 to Easter 1830. He does not appear to have stayed on a further term to sit his examinations. The college records state that while an undergraduate he went to Boulogne and is said to have fought a duel there. That episode may have taken place during the Lent term of 1829, most of which he missed.

Venn's *Alumni Cantabrigenses* describes him as a 'well-known hunting man', who hunted with the Quorn, and he was also a keen game shot. However, he was best known as a cricketer, at one time regarded as a very promising batsman, and even before his marriage he was already playing for the MCC, remaining a member until 1850. He also played a match for Kent in 1844, though he did not seem to have lived up to his earlier promise, as he scored one run in two innings, batting at number eleven. His image is featured among many others in a famous cricket portrait by W H Mason of a match between Sussex and Kent.

The St John's College records go on to relate that he made a runaway match with Marian Cregoe and that they were married at Gretna Green on 15 April 1833. Though that is not quite the case, it is not far from the truth.

The Gretna Green marriage registers for that year make no mention of their names. However, in the *Bath and Cheltenham Gazette*, there appeared an announcement that a month previously, on 16 March, the couple had indeed married in Scotland, but at Coldstream rather than Gretna. This town is near Berwick-on-Tweed, on the other side of the country, but being just over the Scottish border it was an equally well recognised venue of runaway marriages. The announcement did not state that the ceremony had taken place in a church, and it was almost certainly held in the 'marriage house' on the northern side of the bridge over the river Tweed, which nowadays is a tourist attraction.

It therefore remains the case that they did elope. Yet it is also true that they were married on 15 April, but in a second ceremony held at St Mary's, Charlton Kings. A certificate shows that they were married by licence by the vicar, the Reverend Charles Henry Watling, with five witnesses from the Cregoe family and just one from the groom's family, John R B Bennett, possibly a brother. Announcements were placed in local newspapers.[2] Presumably the family decided to make the relationship 'respectable' and quickly arranged a wedding at the bride's local church. Today, a repeat wedding of this kind would not be permitted.

It was perhaps inevitable that a marriage between two such flamboyant and wayward characters would come under strain. There were evidently differences between the two over money matters, not least because under the marriage settlement Marian was entitled to considerable property in her own right. However, it was her friendship with a Mr T---- that brought matters to a head.

William and Marian lived together in temporary residences first in London, and afterwards in different parts of the Continent. In 1844 William arranged to go on a shooting excursion in Scotland at the house of Lord Galway, a relative of his, and his wife was to stay with one of her relatives and await his return. In August she suddenly left for the Continent, taking her younger child, aged about seven. William traced her, living under the assumed names of Barnard and later Freemantle, in Lyons, Marseilles, Genoa and finally, in December 1845, at Valencia. He tried unsuccessfully to persuade her to return home. He also found Mr T----, who was living at another address under the assumed name of Shirley, and assaulted him, for which he was punished by the local authorities. Despite this, William Bennett was allowed to return with his son to England. The liaison evidently continued, which led in the following year to an action for damages and a legal separation. One consequence of the ruling was that William Bennett was able to obtain sufficient funds from his wife to pay his debts. In May 1852 the House of Lords sat for a second reading of the Bill for their divorce. At the end of the session the Lord Chancellor moved an adjournment *sine die*, and on the available evidence it appears that the divorce was not made absolute.[3]

Marian died in August 1867, aged 52, and is commemorated on a plaque inside the church and also on the grave of the older of her two sons, William Frind Charles Burlton Bennett, late captain in the 6th Warwickshire Regiment, who died in 1876 aged 42.[4] The burial register shows that he was living in Cologne at the time of his death. It seems likely that Marian too was living abroad, as her name does not appear in the 1861 Census return or in any of the directories of Cheltenham in the 1860s; her remains were not interred at Leckhampton. Her husband died in 1886 at Clarges Street, London, aged 78.

References:

1. See O'Connor, D, *Lives Revisited* p32. At the time of the marriage, however, the family residence was Charlton House.

2. The *Cheltenham Chronicle* 18 April and *Cheltenham Journal* 22 April 1833.

3. These details are summarised from reports in the *Cheltenham Looker-On*, 20 May 1852, and the *Globe and Traveller*, 26 May 1852.

4. Captain W C J Burlton Bennett, who was a tenant of Leckhampton Court in 1870-71, was possibly the younger son.

JOHN PRINN - THE MAN

By Jane Sale

Readers of the Society's bulletins are familiar with the name of John Prinn as a major landowner in Charlton Kings in the 18th century. They may also have seen him described by Gwen Hart in her *History of Cheltenham* as "probably the dominant character in this little community of farmers, malsters and shopkeepers", but what do we know of him as a person? Among the the large collection of Prinn documents held in Gloucester Archives is a leather-bound exercise book labelled 'Catalogue'[1]. Written on the front end paper in a small neat hand is "Libris Johannis Prinn [John Prinn's books] 1 May 1690", and that was all, the rest of the book had been filled in by his grandson William in 1758. For the first time I felt a flash of fellow feeling with this seventeenth century man – he, like the rest of us, had had a good intention but never carried it through. The contents of the Prinn library are discussed elsewhere, but this article is an attempt to get nearer to John Prinn as a person by looking at his background, his interests and writings, and in particular his revealing will. The name 'Prinn' is found with different spellings – 'Prin', 'Pryn', 'Prynn' and 'Prynne' but are presumed to refer to the same family.

John was baptised at St Mary's church in Cheltenham on 2 March 1660/1, the son of William Pryn. A memorial stone in St Mary's church in Cheltenham records that William Prynne, Gent, died November 12 1680, aged 61. It also shows that Elizabeth, his daughter died November 18 1657 and Ann (his widow and relict) died on 20 August 1697, aged 69. It seems that William was linked to the Pates family by an earlier marriage. St Mary's parish registers record the burial of Penelope wife of William Prin on 29 February 1652 while the Cheltenham Manor court records show 'Penelope Prinn dead her brother John Pates claims'.[2] William's social position in Cheltenham was among the better off burgesses – he appeared as an overseer and witness to the will of John Ellis of Cheltenham in 1660 and as witness to the will of Thomas Rich of Cheltenham esquire in 1678.[3] He acquired a house in Cheltenham in 1666, and arable and pasture land in 1673.[4] The Cheltenham Hearth Tax for 1671/2 shows William as having to pay tax on 3 hearths, which indicates a house of considerable size. His neighbours on one side had 2 and 3 while those on the other had 4 and 2, so it seems he lived in a fairly well off area of Cheltenham.[5]

Nothing is known about John Prinn's schooling or early life in Cheltenham, but we begin to learn about him as a person in the Inner Temple Calendar of Records, held at the Guildhall Library in London.. It seems he had quite a chequered career there. In 1685 he was 'suspended commons for refusing to come to the upper mess of the bar', and in 1687 he was 'to answer as to failure of exercise' and had to 'make a petition against his amercement for not appearing at an imparlance' [plead against a fine for non-appearance at an adjournmed case – OED]. He was called to the Bar on 12th May 1689, but encountered more trouble in 1691 when he was 'ordered to attend the table' and had to 'pay arrears before being restored to commons'. Worse followed in 1693 when in May there were 'orders that Prinn be expelled for contempt' but in July it was recorded that

'Prinn having paid his duties and 40s according to custom be restored to commons'. Finally on 14 May 1696 'that Prinn attend the table to answer the complaint of Matthew Johnson the 4th Butler', on 16 May 'Prinn acknowledged his fault in striking Johnson and was excused the censure'. It seems he was a rebellious and fiery character, but perhaps his lawyer's training enabled him to talk himself out of trouble.

In the meantime John had married Elizabeth Rogers at St Benets church, Paul's Wharf, London on 9 July 1685 by licence. Elizabeth was described as spinster of Dowdeswell aged 27, with both parents deceased. The 'Visitations of Gloucester for 1682-3' show her as the daughter of Richard Rogers and Mary née Browne of Hasfield. It seems that the couple lived in or near Reading for a while as their son John was baptised at St Mary's, Reading on 1 September 1686. It is known that John had a daughter Ann, born about 1688, but no record of her baptism has yet been found.

John's vital connection with the Dutton family of Sherborne started soon after he had been called to the Bar. In a deed dated 22 June 1690 Ralph Dutton is selling to 'John Prinn of the Inner Temple' for £200 'all my horses, mares etc now at grass'. There follows a detailed list of the animals, including some cattle, and exactly where on the Sherborne estate each animal was at the time.[6] Ralph Dutton was a notorious gambler and it may be that this 'purchase' by John Prinn was in fact a temporary loan, but it does indicate a close relationship between the two men. A very stormy relationship it turned out to be: one day they would be working closely together while the next Dutton would be declaring that Prinn had no right to perform some task and that tenants must ignore his requests. This difficult situation is indicated by an indenture dated 2 January 1695/6 promising payment of £1150 'owned to be due since the quarrel', the first of many disagreements between them. The Sherborne archives at Gloucester include various examples of their fiery relationship.[7]

In 1692 Prinn was appointed as Steward of the Cheltenham manor, the lordship of which was held by Ralph Dutton, and thus began his long relationship with Cheltenham and Charlton Kings. At the start of his stewardship, John opened a new court book with "An account of some memorable antiquities which relate to the Title of the Hundred and Manner and Burrough of Cheltenham in the county of Gloucester. Together with a summary of the particular customes and usages within the said Burrough, and of the Copyholds or Base tenure lands, how they were before the Settlement thereof by Act of Parliament. Collected by Jno Prinn." [8] This is the earliest example of the work that earned him the title of 'antiquarian'. As John Goding comments in his *History of Cheltenham* 'Mr Prinn devoted his life to collecting and copying all the registers of the former abbeys of Winchcombe, Gloucester and Tewkesbury and also records connected with the town and manor of Cheltenham', and John Rhodes, in *A Calendar of The Registers of the Priory of Llanthony by Gloucester*, notes that 'John Prinn of Charlton Kings obtained a copy of part of Prior Wyche's register'. Included in William Prinn's catalogue of books in the Library was John Prinn's *History of Gloucestershire being Additions, Improvements and Corrections of Sir Robert Atkins.* Unfortunately this manuscript seems to have disappeared over the years.

John's first property in Charlton Kings was New Court, now Court House [see *Bulletin 9* for an extensive study of the architecture and history of this house]. He first acquired the mortgage of £150 on it in 1695 and then, on 13 January 1696/7 signed a purchase agreement with Nicholas Rogers of Westbury and Margaret his daughter, perhaps relatives of his wife, or late wife, Elizabeth. The purchase included a parcel of land called Courthay adjacent to the orchard belonging to the house and also several ridges of arable land in the common fields of Charlton Kings. On two occasions in 1695, and again at intervals during the next three years the Manor court proceedings were held at New Court described as 'the mansion house of John Prinn esquire in the tithing of Bafford'[9] John was appointed one of the churchwardens at St Mary's in 1697 and continued in this role until 1705/6.

Mary Paget has already written an extensive account of Prinn's purchase of The Forden [later called Charton Park] and of his alterations and improvements to the building in her *Improving the Property,* as well as in various articles in Society bulletins, so there is no need to include that aspect of his life here. But the 'expenses book' he started in 1709, which provided Paget with most of her information, also tells us about other aspects of his life. In May 1710 he entered up his expenses on a journey to London which involved stops at Dorchester, Maidenhead, Hounsloe and finally Westminster. While in London he paid a barber 6d on three occasions, presumably for a shave, and bought a substance called Venice treacle described as 'a compound of sixty-four drugs, prepared, pulverised, and reduced by means of honey to an electuary' [The Imperial Dictionary] along with snuff and paid £1.10.0 for 2lbs tea. Payments for 'Waterway' and 'Waterage' are a reminder that boats along the Thames would have been a major means of travel then. 'Coach hire and Journey home from London' cost him £1.1.6d. On another visit to London in 1712 he paid 'Mrs Grove for drapery sent to wife and daughter'.[10]

It seems that John was married three times, although evidence is lacking for the death of his first wife Elizabeth and for his next marriage to Katherine, but St Mary's Parish Registers record the burial on 28 November 1717 of 'Katherine wife of John Prinn esquire'. His third marriage, to Sara Buckle of Stoke Newington in Middlesex, took place sometime in the autumn of 1720. A will, dated 21 September 1723, was made by Sara Prinn, 'now wife of John Prinn of Charlton Kings in the County of Gloucestershire, Esquire by vertue of the power and authority to me reserved for that purpose before my marriage with my now husband in and by Indentures Tripartite bearing the date of the fifth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and twenty'.[11] Their marriage did not last long, St Mary's Parish Registers record the burial of 'Sarah wife of John Prinn esq' on 28 January 1728/9, and Bigland notes a flat stone in the chancel of the church as her memorial.[12]

John Prinn made his own will on 12 November 1716, and because of its unusual format it is worth quoting large sections of it:

"The last Will and Testament of John Prinn of Charlton Kings in the County of Gloucestershire father of John Prinn a Son most Dutiful and Ann Prinn a Daughter most undutiful of children ..... I give and devise and bequeath to my well deserving son John

Prinn ....All my Mannor of Ashley in Charlton Kings with its appurtenances wheresoever lying and being and all my Goods Chattells and Personal Estate of all kinds to Have and to Hold unto my said son ....subject to the due payment of my just debts to the punctual performance of such Agreements as I made with my well beloved Wife his Wives Mother on my Marriage with her and with the payment of One hundred pounds Sterling apeice to all my Grandchildren children of my said son ... and to my Wives Sons and her two Daughters five Guineas apeice and to my well beloved friend Mr Samuel Cooper of Charlton Kings Twenty Guineas .... And I ask Mr Coopers forgiveness for imposing upon him in relation to my most unworthy Daughter And my worthless Daughter having chosen to rely upon the Charity of well disposed persons (tis her own expression) rather than to accept of Eleven hundred pounds of mine and Marry the best deserving Man in Europe who had applied to her for that end and purpose I leave her upon such well disposed persons and give her not more than a Corne of Pepper to be paid her by my Executor when she demands it ..... My said daughter Anne being at this time Eight and Twenty Years of Age." [13]

This will was made before his wife Katherine died and the instruction to his son to pay his well beloved wife 'his wives Mother' gives us the clue as to who Katherine was. John, the son, had married Catherine Lloyd, sister of Richard Lloyd of the Inner Temple, whose will, made in 1720, is among the Prinn papers and refers to 'his nephew the son of John Prinn clerk and his wife my sister'.[14] This explains an entry in John's expense account which had puzzled me: 'February 1709/10 - supper with Mr Dutton and son Richard Lloyd'. John must have married Katherine by that date and Richard would have been his step-son.

But the main item of interest in the will is John's treatment of his daughter Ann and his obvious fury over her refusal to carry out his wishes and marry the man of his choice. I wonder who it was – Mr Samuel Cooper perhaps? Samuel Cooper lived at Charlton House, the present Spirax Sarco offices, and held considerable land adjacent to Charlton Park. A marriage between the two families would have been mutually beneficial, from the landowners' point of view, but obviously not what Ann wanted. John sent her away from Charlton Kings as shown by an entry in John's expenses book, dated 28 January 1716/17: "Received of John Prinn Anne his daughter at ye deduction of Ten pounds per annum out of my rent and after that a proportion for so long as she shall stay with me. Signed Thomas Higgins and witnessed by Gyles Cox' and a later entry for 1 March 1717: 'Ann Prinn went away from Longford'.[15] [Longford lies within the parish of Twigworth to the north of Gloucester] It would be interesting to know what happened to Ann, she must have been a very strong character to stand up to her father at that period.

John continued to carry on legal work, if only in an advisory capacity. The Guise family documents at Gloucester Archives contain three letters written by Prinn between the years 1731 and 1733. The Guise family owned Rendcomb, Highnam, and Elmore among other properties and the letters indicate that he had been associated with the family for some time. The letters are written in his usual small but very neat and legible writing and give no indication of diminishing powers even though within a year or so of his death. One of the letters to Sir John 'Gyse' shows an aspect of Prinn's character that I had not

previously been aware of, a sense of humour, and I quote: "I am troubled that you are indisposed, when the situation of your affair calls for heads and hands of everyone under your influence and alliance. The Battle draws on and should be conducted by (with) ye best Generalship, considering the number and Potency of the Enemy combined." [16]

John was buried at St Mary's on the 28 February 1734. Bigland records a flat stone in the 'North Wing' [north transept?] of the church: 'Here lieth the Body of John Prinn, Esq. who departed this Life the 26th of Feb. Anno Dom. 1734, aged 73.'[17] His will was proved in March of that year, without any change from the one quoted above, so he had not repented his treatment of Ann. His death was announced in *The Gentleman's Magazine or Monthly Intelligence* for 1735, where he is described as 'John Prynne Esq., Counsellor at Law'. He had achieved much in his life and shown himself to be an ambitious and clever man, but a very self-willed character and not one to cross lightly.

A posthumous tribute was paid to John Prinn in the will of Sir John Dutton, Sir Ralph's successor to the lordship of Cheltenham Manor. "I give unto Revd Mr John Prinn of Charlton Kings £200 sterling as a small tho grateful acknowledgement of the constant and disinterested friendship of his late father John Prinn Esq. to whose steadiness, faithfulness and unbiased Zeal I owe, under God, the Preservation and well being of my family". [18]

References:

[1] GA D7661 Box 10/4
[2] GA D855 M31
[3] *Gloucestershire Record Series Vol. 12*
[4] GA D855 M31
[5] GA D385
[6] GA D7661 Box 10/9
[7] GA D678
[8] GA D855 M12
[9] Ibid
[10] GA D7661 Box 3/1
[11] PROB 11/637.104
[12] *Gloucestershire Record Series Vol 2*
[13] PROB 11/670.59
[14] GA D7661 Box 8/8
[15] GA D7661 Box 3/1
[16] GA D326 L12
[17] *Gloucestershire Record Series Vol 2*
[18] GA D678/1/F5/92

THE PRINN LIBRARY

By Jane Sale

As mentioned on page 41, the many documents relating to the Prinn family and Charlton Park that are to be found in Gloucestershire Archives, include a leather-bound book, on the first page of which is inscribed "A Catalogue of the Books of W.P. taken anno 1758". This would have been William Prinn, who succeeded to the Charlton Park estate in 1743 on the death of his father, the Reverend John Prinn. William, the grandson of John Prinn, the elder, [see pp47-51] trained as a lawyer and succeeded his grandfather as Steward to the Cheltenham Manor Court in 1735. With this background it is not surprising to find a large number of legal and religious works among the contents of the library. However, there are others too covering more general subjects. This article is an attempt, with the aid of *The Oxford Companion to English Literature* and *The Dictionary of National Biographies,* to date some of the publications, to learn a little more about their authors, and to ponder on what the collection can tell us about the family.

There is no record of members of the family attending particular schools so it is possible that they were taught at home by private tutors. Certainly the catalogue contains several examples of the classical works which formed a major role in education in the 17th century, such as those by Aristotle, Cicero, Horace, Virgil and Terence. There were also Bibles in English, French and Greek, Grammars in French, Saxon and Greek, but strangely not in Latin, and several Dictionaries including *The Ladies Dictionary*, which was presumably an expurgated edition. There were also Euclid's *Elements* and Leyborn's *Arithmetick* to cover the mathematical side of education.

Among the many law books were such works as Anderson's *Reports* – Sir Edmund Anderson was Lord Chief Justice in 1582, Bridgeman's *Conveyances* – Sir Orlando Bridgeman was Lord Chief Justice in the 1660s, and several works by Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), including all eleven volumes of his *Reports* and his *Institutes* in which he recast, explained, and defended the common law rules. These 17th century books were presumably part of John Prinn the elder's library or even that of his father before him. A more up-to-date work, i.e. from the 18th century, was a 6th edition of Burn's *Justice* written by Richard Burn, a Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer, and published in 1755.

As stewards of the Cheltenham Manor, John and his grandson William would often have needed to refer to such books as *The Compleat Copyholder* and *Powell on Court Leet.* As landowners, who were constantly buying, letting or exchanging land, they were interested in surveying and the accurate measurment of land as shown by the inclusion of such books as Everard's *Art of Gauging,* Hoppus's *Practical Measuring,* Rathborn's *Surveyor* and Martindale's *Art of Surveying.* Farming and gardening books included Googe's *Husbandry,* translated into English by Barnaby Googe from Heresbachius's *Four Bookes of Husbandrie* in 1577, Bracken's *Farriery, Discovery of Bees,* Longford's *Practical Planter,* Switzer's *Practical Gardner* and Miller's *Gardners Calendar.*

William Prinn's father, John the younger, was a clergyman with the care of souls at Shipton Sollers and Shipton Oliffe. The library contains an abundance of Collections of Sermons, enough to keep him supplied for many a Sunday without too many repeats. There were also more general works on religion such as *The Country Parson; The Clergyman's Companion;* Burnet's *History of the Reformation; Colloquia and Paraphrase* by the Dutch humanist Desiderius Erasmus (c1467-1536) and *The Worthy Communicant*, by Jeremy Taylor a chaplain to Archbishop Laud (1573-1645).

There were books on English and European History: *Cromwell's Life, History of London,* Browne Willis's *History of English Cathedrals,* John Mottley's *History of Peter the Great, Ancient and Present State of Germany, History of Norway* by Erik Pontoppidan the bishop of Bergen, and Voltaire's *History of Charles 12 of Sweden* are a few examples. Of particular interest to us are the books on Local History: *Sir Robert Atkin's History of Gloucesterhire, Cirencester Abbey Registers, the Customs of Painswick Manor* and John Prinn's own work *History of Gloucestershire, being Additions, Improvements and Corrections of Sir Robert Atkins.*

Poetic authors are represented, men like Alexander Pope, John Milton and John Dryden, but no copies of Shakespeare's works. Henry Fielding's novels *Joseph Andrews* and T*om Jones* provided a little light relief – he was writing in the 1740s and novels were a new style of literature, hence their name. Magazines such as *The Spectator* and *The Tatler* were included, together with *Adventurer,* a bi-weekly publication from the 1750s by John Hawksworth. In fact William seems to have been interested in travel and exploration, among the more recent publications are Anson's V*oiage,* published in 1748, Hanway's *Travells,* published in 1753, and *Singleton's Travels,* which was probably Defoe's *Adventures of Captain Singleton* published in 1720.

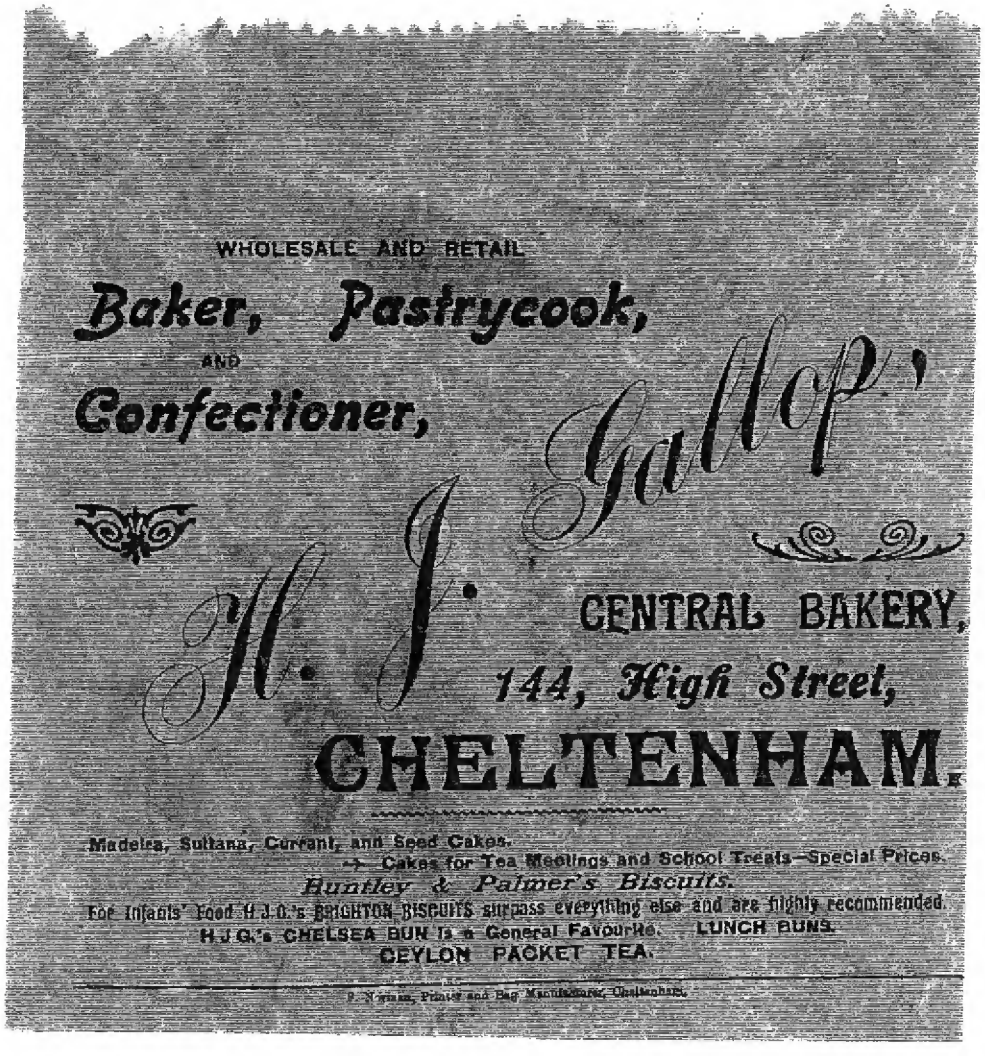
The overall impression is of a rather limited collection of reference books acquired in the late 17th century, with only a very few additions to update it. It is surprising that there are no books on Art or Architecture, which one would expect in a gentleman's library, nor on country pursuits such as hunting and fishing.

But the book titles that particularly intrigued me, in view of what we have learnt about John Prinn's treatment of his daughter Ann, (see pp 44) were firstly *Education of a Daughter* by the philosopher John Locke, a 'sister volume' to his *Thoughts Concerning Education* which was published in 1693 and gave advice on the upbringing of 'sons of gentlemen'. What Locke insisted on was the desirability of inculcating good habits and that could only be achieved by insisting on the authority of the parents as 'Absolute Governors'. And secondly *The Whole Duty of Man* and *The Whole Duty of Woman,* the former of which is described as follows: "a devotional work published in 1658, in which man's duties in respect of God and his fellow men are analysed and discussed in detail..... It had enormous popularity, lasting for over a century. Some of the injunctions in it belong to a sterner age than the present, e.g. "But of all the acts of disobedience that of marrying against the consent of the parent is one of the highest." We can only presume that *The Whole Duty of Woman* would have had injunctions that were equally stern if not more so. Poor Ann!

THE BATTLEDOWN BAKER's BAG

By David O'Connor

In January 2002, Mrs Karen Roche the owner of Battledown View, Oakley Road, Battledown, discovered under the floorboards of the house two articles: an empty cigarette packet and a paper bag bearing the name of a Cheltenham High Street Baker and Confectioner. Both were in excellent condition and presumably the relics of a workman's lunch-break. The floorboards were those of the ground floor, though there was a basement below, and they appeared to be original. Battledown View was the first of a number of houses built in the Battledown/Harp Hill area by the builder and later merchant David Broom; he completed it in 1868 and lived in it for two years before moving in to a second house, Glenrise, now Homewood. So we knew how old the house was; the question was, how old were the paper bag and the cigarette packet?



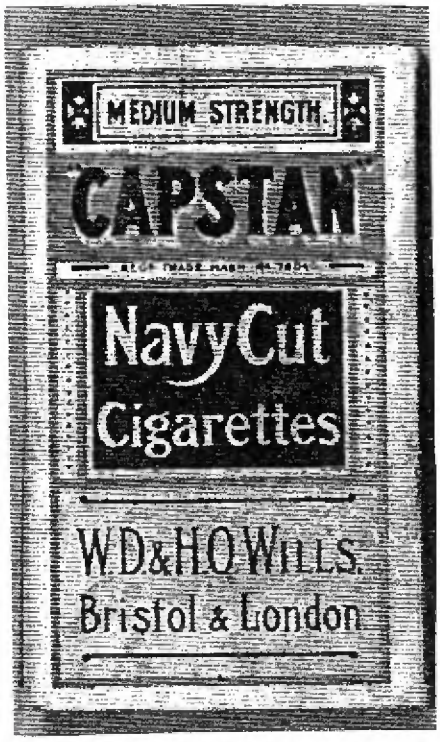
The bag bore the name of H J Gallop, 144 High Street and provides a wealth of detail on the firm's confectionery products, most of which remain favourites. Brighton Biscuits for Infants' Food appear in a 1930 edition of Mrs Beaton as a blunt oval-shaped, hard-textured oatcake biscuit.

Henry J Gallop was born in Dorchester, Dorset, in 1841. He married a local girl, Susan, from Cattistock, in around 1866 and they moved to Cheltenham shortly afterwards. They were certainly there by 1868, the year Battledown View was completed, since their first child Annie was born in Cheltenham and was 13 when the census was taken in 1881. They moved into 1 Dagmar Villas opposite Dagmar Terrace at the south end of Tivoli, where Henry began trading as '**Henry Gallop, Confectioner**'. By 1873 business was sufficiently good for the purchase of additional premises at 144 High Street, the building immediately to the right of the narrow entrance to Rose and Crown Passage. Sadly, while 143, the building to the left appears to retain original elements, 144 has been completely redeveloped. The whole family moved in, to live over the shop, and Henry adopted the formal styling of '**H J Gallop, Baker and Confectioner**'.

In 1881 Henry and his growing family were well established. The census describes him as a Master Baker Confectioner employing three men and three boys. He now had four children: three daughters and a son Henry J G . They employed two living-in staff: a 15-year old domestic servant, Louise Nottingham from Cheltenham, and a shop assistant, Helen M Burrows, aged 18, from Charlton Kings. By 1883 Henry had three shops: one in at 2 Tivoli Street, the main shop at 144 High Street (known as the Central Bakery) and a third premises described as '**H Gallop, Baker and Grocer**' at 283 High Street. Henry's success was in the face of considerable competition. In 1878 there sixty one bakers and confectioners listed in the *Cheltenham Directory* and of these 26 were located in the High Street. By 1905 the total had shrunk to 33, but there were still 14 in the High Street.

The shops in Tivoli and at 283 High Street did not survive the First World War, possibly because Henry junior, who had joined his father in the family business, enlisted in 1914. Appropriately enough, in view of his name, he joined the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and saw active service with them in Egypt and Palestine and returned to the business after the War. In 1922 the *Directory* records a J G Gallop residing at 1 Elm Villa, St Margaret's Terrace. We do not know whether this was one of the two H J Gallops: the senior of the two would then have been 81 if still living. It is possible that the junior Gallop had become known by his second name to distinguish him from his father. The business was still trading in the High Street but the similarity in the names conceals whether Henry junior was now the owner, though this seems highly probable.

However, between 1923 and 1924 a change definitely occurred: the *Directory* shows the shop at 144 High Street as '**Gallop**'. Henry junior had left the Cheltenham shop and moved to Cambridge House, Eckington near Pershore, where he established a business of his own. He died there on 23 November 1930 at the age of 51. The name of the High Street shop was subsequently changed to '**Percy C Gallop**'. This was probably Henry junior's son, the grandson of the founder. The shop continued trading as such for at least a further twenty years: it was still at 144 High Street in 1936, but had been replaced by C Kingston, Butcher, by 1942. On the basis of the shop designations, therefore, we can conclude that the bag bearing the name of H J Gallop pre-dates Percy C Gallop's take-over in about 1925; moreover, the presence on the bag of the description 'Central Bakery' suggests it originates from the period before the First World War when more than one Gallop shop was in existence. It was therefore at least seventy eight and probably eighty nine years old when found in 2002. However, the other end of the bracket would be 1873, giving the possibility of another fifty or sixty years. What more could the accompanying cigarette packet tell us?



The cigarette packet, W D & H O Wills 'Capstan' Navy cut, Medium Strength, was plainly old, with a distinctively shaped flip-top to the inner lid, and printing on every surface of the outer packet and inner tray. However, it bore two Registered Trade Marks: one on the outer packet, '**78040**', which appeared to relate to the trade name 'Capstan', and one on the side of the inner tray, '**5908**', relating to the Wills Star symbol which accompanied it. Registration marks for trade articles were introduced in this country in 1843. The first system used a rather complicated diamond design incorporating year

letters and both Roman and Arabic numeral: this lasted until 1883, when it was replaced by straightforward numbering system. Registered Trade Mark 1 was issued in January 1884 and the numbers increased dramatically, reaching six figures inside five years. That for the Wills Star symbol, '**5908**', was one of the first and issued around May 1884, and that for the name 'Capstan', '**78040**', towards the end of 1887. The cigarette packet therefore had to originate later than 1887. Expert advice from Bonham's, the auctioneers and valuers, placed its date as between 1890 and 1910.

There was one further clue available. In small print on the bottom of the baker's bag was the name of the printer: '**F Norman, Printer and Bag Manufacturer, Cheltenham**'. Reference to the various *Cheltenham Directories* produced an interesting problem: the directories were in the main published by printers, and the originators did not like advertising other printers in their trade sections, for obvious reasons. Some show only one printer – themselves, when in fact there were many others. During the period in question there were two printing firms with the name 'Norman': 'Norman and Sawyer' in St George's Street and 'H G Norman' in Bennington Street. In 1908, however, F Norman moved into vacant premises at 120 High Street, handily adjacent to H G Gallop's Baker's Shop, and started his Stationer's business there. It was almost certainly he who made and printed the bag under the floorboards.

We are therefore led to conclude that the anonymous workman left the remains of his lunch under the floorboards of Battledown View at some time between 1908 and 1924; the expert advice from Bonham's indicates that it was in all probability between 1908 and 1910, and the 'Central Bakery' marking supports this. The house at that time was occupied by Lieutenant Colonel Edwin Jervis, late of the 8th of Foot (King's, Liverpool), as a tenant of David Broom. One possible reason for the lifting of the boards may have been the replacement of gas lamps by electric lighting: the ground floor boards would have to have been lifted to install ceiling lights in the basement. The construction of an electric station was agreed between the Battledown Trustees and the Council in 1901 and cables began to be laid along the verges thereafter, as the Estate expanded. Be that as it may, the culprit cannot have imagined what interest his waste disposal was to create some ninety odd years later.

[The editor does not suggest that readers should all rush to take up their floorboards in the hope of discovering something interesting, but nevertheless this article is an intriguing detective story which shows how to make use of any finds that might crop up when carrying out your next piece of DIY.]

THE MILITIA AND THE VOLUNTEER FORCE

By C P Love

The interesting article in *Bulletin 52* on the Napoleonic Wars and their impact on Charlton Kings nevertheless confused two of the auxiliary forces available to the Crown for the protection of the Realm: the Militia and the Volunteers. This is a common mis-understanding, not helped by the sometimes unavoidable use of 'volunteers' without the capital V, and it is hoped the following explanation will clarify the matter.

Before Oliver Cromwell formed his New Model Army there was no standing army in England and in Saxon times the keeping of order and defence of the country was met in times of emergency by the 'Fyrd'. This was based on a General Levy which required all land-owning freemen between the ages of 15 and 60 to serve as infantry under the principal men of the county and, ultimately, under the King. Arms were provided according to wealth, attendance for training and inspection of arms was strictly enforced and absence was severely punished. For civil purposes the 'Fyrd' could only be required to serve in the county and not serve abroad. However, by the time Alfred became King in 871 the force was in some need of reform and he greatly improved its organisation, forming what was recognisably a Militia.

William the conqueror by-passed the 'Fyrd' and created a feudal force, with service due by a tenant to his immediate lord and liable to foreign service for up to forty days, but the sheriffs retained the power to raise a 'posse comitatus' [force of the county -Ed] if needed, for service only in their respective counties. The feudal force itself declined after 1181, when Henry II's Assize of Arms revived the Militia system and this was, in effect, the first of many Militia Acts, but the need to find expeditionary forces led to General Levies being used overseas, despite several statutes declaring this illegal. Edward VI in 1549 transferred the power of mustering the Militia from a county's sheriff to its lord lieutenant, who retained this power, except during the Commonwealth, till 1871.

To revert slightly: at the end of the 13th century the General Levy was summoned when needed by raising a fixed quota only and only from selected counties, a precedent originally set by alfred to avoid all able-bodied men being withdrawn from their civil employment at the same time. There had previously been some courtesy, or voluntary, service and the quota system gradually encouraged the formation of independent military bodies (of which more below), but threats of invasion from Spain in 1572 led to the JPs of each county being ordered to muster all men over 16 in bands, or companies, with 100 footmen, 40 arquebusiers [arquebus/harquebus = portable firearm used in 16th century - Ed] and 20 archers in each. Some of the bands were to be trained at public expense, the rest to be ready when required, and in 1586-7 Elizabeth ordered the musters of each county to be fully accoutred and ready to march at short notice. By the time of the Armada in 1588 the whole force numbered nearly 133,000 and, including the Trained Bands of London, over 135,000. However, the discipline and efficiency of the shire

levies did not match their enthusiasm to resist invasion and, despite instructions from on high, they remained undisciplined, with the band or company the largest organised unit. [An intriguing footnote in one Militia history mentions that a Militia muster dated 1605 shows William Shakespeare as a trained soldier of the town of Rowington, Warwickshire.]

By contrast, Trained or Train Bands, which James I wished to replace the Militia and which were raised in London and other large towns, were much more efficient (for all that John Gilpin was a "Train-band captain"!). Nevertheless, the Militia was still sufficiently valued, particularly as the counties had their own magazines, for its control to become a central point in the dispute between King and Parliament. However, when the Civil War broke out in 1642 the county Militia proved completely unserviceable, some men were mutinous and many drifted away when marched out of their locality. So, the first forces were raised by local levies of volunteers, while the London Trained Bands formed a powerful support for Parliament. At the Restoration an attempt was made to reclaim royal authority over the forces of the crown, but the standing army which was established was seen by many to infringe liberty, while the Militia was Parliamentary, national and constitutional. Nevertheless, various Militia Acts asserted the King's rights over the force, which was partially called out in 1690, 1715 and 1745, although these calls on it did not stop its gradual decline.

When war with France broke out in 1756 it began disastrously and in 1757 Militia reform was carried by Parliament, though not without some opposition on the grounds of liberty being insufficiently safeguarded. Under these reforms the principle of the General Levy was abandoned and a county became responsible through its hundreds and parishes for raising a set quota of men aged between 18 and 50 by ballot. Service was to be for three years with the ballot repeated every three years. The force was to be formed into regiments of from seven to twelve companies each, they were to train annually for twenty eight days and to serve, in the event of imminent or actual invasion or rebellion, in any part of the kingdom under Regular pay; otherwise service was to be within the county. Expenses of clothing, arms and accoutrements, and pay during training, were now met by the government, rather than the county, and when embodied (i.e. serving full-time) officers and men could be under command of a general officer and were to be subject to the Mutiny Act and the Articles of War, but the Militia could never be called on to serve outside the kingdom. (The kingdom, of course, then included Ireland and following the outbreak of rebellion there some Militia regiments seerved in Ireland during 1798-99, having volunteered to do so.)

There was considerable opposition to the 1757 Act on account of the ballot and serious riots occurred in some places, particularly in the east of the country, mostly because the ballot was thought to mean the introduction of conscription. They were sparked off when the parish constable made his list of those liable for service; men of the village would rise to seize the list and, if it had already gone to the constable of the hundred or even the deputy lieutenant, seizing the lists often involved outrages against persons and property. A number of counties, notably in the midlands i.e. away from coastal areas, also failed to raise a regiment for some time and were fined accordingly, but some had difficulty in

finding sufficient officers, as appointment to the various ranks was subject to fairly high property qualifications. However, all counties eventually fell into line. Training was carried out locally, but in 1778, with France allied with the 'rebellious American Colonies', the government determined to embody the Militia and, as part of this operation, a large camp was held on Warley Common in Essex. This was attended by ten Militia and four Regular regiments, over 8000 men in all, including the North Gloucester and Worcestershire Militias. Still embodied, these two Regiments were part of the Army of some 15,000, mostly Militia, encamped at Coxheath in Kent in 1779. [Readers familiar with Amanda Foreman's book *Georgiana Duchess of Devonshire* may recall the passage where the Duke leads his regiment on the march to Coxheath accompanied by the Duchess dressed 'en militaire' – Ed] The militia remained embodied till the American War of Independence ended in 1783. Training was suspended for the next three years and then continued till the Militia was embodied again late in 1792, even before the war began in 1793. Thereafter, apart from the brief Peace of Amiens during 1802-3 when it was stood down, the Militia remained embodied till 1814, only to be embodied again a year later when Napoleon escaped from Elba, till 1817.

The Regular Army had been rapidly built up from 35,000 at the beginning of the war to 130,000 (including Fencibles) by early 1795. Fencibles were Regular regiments raised to serve for home defence solely for the duration of the war. However, heavy colonial commitments also caused a serious drop in numbers and in 1796 cost-cutting measures were introduced, the most important being the raising in England and Wales of a Supplementary Militia of nearly 64,000 men. It was to be raised by ballot (and again this caused riots, for the same reason); training was to be for twenty days a year with no more than a sixth of the force to be training at any one time; it could be embodied in time of emergency but was not to be ordered outside Great Britain. Some types of people were exempt but it cost Richard Rogers of Charlton Kings four guineas to pay for a substitute when he drew the short straw for the Supplementary Militia (see *Bulletin 52*, p14). During the Napoleonic Wars the cost of paying a substitute rose to £10 and even as high as £40 in some areas, especially round ports. The Supplementary Militia was embodied in 1798, thus destroying the one advantage it had over the Regular Army, its cheapness.

Maintaining the strength of the Regulars remained a constant problem until Napoleon was defeated: Militia colonels were always complaining that their best men were being persuaded to transfer by a bounty of ten guineas, which later became sixteen guineas for unlimited service or twelve for limited service. These sums were reduced at the beginning of 1814 to twelve and eight guineas respectively. Even by the beginning of 1798 many of the supplementary Militia had enlisted as Regulars, which was then illegal, but was later regularised. Late in 1813 the government wanted to send 30,000 of the Militia to serve in Europe; this was never carried into effect, but detachments from many Militia regiments made up three Provisional Battalions, forming a Brigade which in 1814 was sent to join Wellington in the south of France, though it arrived just too late to take part in any fighting. However, when Napoleon escaped, recruiting for the Militia was ordered in April and part of the force was embodied in June, with a bounty of four guineas for each recruit and another guinea to buy necessaries on embodiment. Large drafts of Militia were sent to join Wellington's regiments and even the Guards had many in their ranks,

who fought at Waterloo still in their Militia jackets. Meanwhile, some Militia regiments again went to Ireland for a year.

To complete the Militia's history briefly: after it was stood down in 1817 it again lapsed into a parlous state until it was reorganised in 1852. In 1871 command of the county Militia passed from lord lieutenant to the Crown. In 1874 the 2nd Lancashire, the Northampton and Rutland, the 1st Stafford and the Worcestershire were the first Militia Regiments to form second battalions and with the introduction of the Cardwell Reforms in 1881 the Militia bacame part of the newly-formed county regiments, being numbered after the two Regular battalions in each. Many Regular soldiers undertook a short engagement of seven years with the Colours and five on the Reserve, or vice versa, and as Reservists were now assigned to their regiment's Militia battalion(s). They attended the twenty eight days' annual training and, if not time-expired, were called up to serve in South Africa during the Second Boer War. Some whole battalions also went out, acting as line-of-communication troops or border guards, later in the war.

The war itself had drawn attention to two basic problems: how to modernise the Regular forces and what to do about the Auxiliary forces, which had proved indispensable during the war. The Navy was quick off the mark: the formation of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and Royal Marine Reserve in 1903 boosted recruiting. As to the Army, many ideas were put forward but opposed, politicians and senior officers argued, and tradition and finance had to be carefully considered. However, the Liberal landslide in November 1905 led to the appointment of Mr R B (later Lord) Haldane as War Minister a year later. He built well on the ideas of others: an Army Council and General Staff was instituted; the Militia became a Special Reserve and the Volunteer Force was reformed as the Territorial Force. Between the wars the Special Reserve dwindled away but the word Militia was again in use in 1939, when men of the relevant age group were given the choice of six months' service in the new Militia (wearing the new Battle Dress) or joining the Territorial Army. With the oubreak of war the Militia was discontinued, but was not formally abolished till 1952, ending well over one thousand years of history.

Turning to the origins of the Volunteers, it has been noted that the introduction of the quota system for raising the Militia gradually led to the forming of independent military bodies, the first of which to be definitely recognised was the Honourable Artillery Company, which received a charter from Henry VIII in 1537 as the 'Fraternitie or Guylde of Saint George'. It was composed of the archers of the City of London, had powers to practise the use of 'Longe Bowes, Crossbowes and Handgonnes', was self-governing and self-supporting, enjoyed considerable privileges and soon became the centre of instruction for the London auxiliaries and of officers of Trained Bands and Militia throughout the kingdom. It was specifically excluded when other Volunteer Corps were disbanded in 1814 and survives today as part of the Territorial Army.

Complete separation of Volunteer corps from the Militia came with the Volunteer Act of 1782, the first of several over the years. It allowed any corps or company to be raised by authorised persons for the defence of their town and coasts, or for the general defence of the kingdom. If they marched out of their towns or counties on active service during

times of actual invasion or rebellion they were to receive the same pay and, in general, the same benefits as the Regular forces and be subject to military discipline. However, as the many corps then raised were for the duration of 'the present war' only, they were short-lived, being disbanded in 1783. Following the outbreak of the Revolution, war with France was declared on 1st February 1793 and the threat of invasion by France again called Volunteer corps into being. At first the provisions allowing Volunteer companies to be added to Militia regiments were re-enacted, then the Volunteer Act of 1794 created an organised Volunteer force, with similar provisions to those of 1782, but with some additions: a £10 penalty for failure to deliver up arms on discharge; active service extended from actual invasion to the appearance of it, and from rebellion to riots; and power to billet the force. Again the corps were only for the duration of the war, but members were exempt from the Militia ballot, on proof of enrolment and a certificate from their commanding officer that they had attended their corps' exercise for the preceding six weeks.

French preparations to invade continued and in 1798 a National Defence Act was passed requiring the lord lieutenant to procure returns of all men in the county aged 15 to 50, classified according to their eligibility for military duties, and of all stores and transport. Associations were to be formed out of men willing to be armed and exercised for defence, but these differed from existing corps in that they had multifarious duties and included men with particular trades and skills. They were drawn from all classes, comprised both horse and foot and were small local emergency forces designed to harass and obstruct an invader.

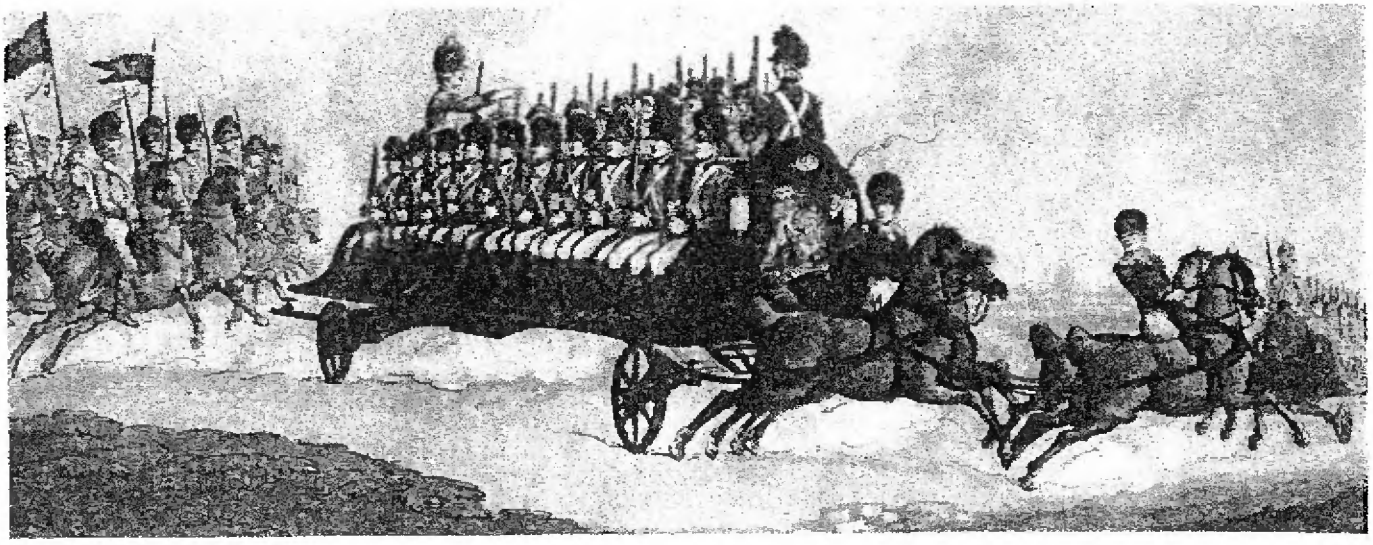
A Volunteer of the 1802-14 period

However, 1798 also brought a surge in the number of offers of service from Volunteers and that on p11 in *Bulletin 52* almost certainly dates from that year, being typical of many proposed corps of Loyal Volunteer Infantry, which was duly formed once their officers had been approved by the lord lieutenant. Members of such companies were, in general 'respectable householders', i.e. men with a stake in the county. They were soon grouped into battalions, and were strictly disciplined when on parade or at musketry practice (there being a fine of 2s 6d, for example, for a man 'firing off his ramrod' – having forgotten to extract it after loading!) and their efficiency was checked by an Inspecting Officer from the military district. Nevertheless they had to be disbanded in 1802 at the Peace of Amiens, and re-offer their services the following year when war broke out again. Even more corps were then formed and their soldiering was taken very seriously, as there was still a real fear of invasion.

1805 probably saw the peak of the Volunteer force during the Napoleonic Wars and there was a well-developed system for concentrating it if necessary: horses, wagons and carts, with drivers, had already been offered or impressed and earmarked for particular battalions and their sub-units. Routes to an assembly area had been laid down, with forty miles a day expected to be covered, which would have taken about fourteen hours, in considerable discomfort, as a sketch discovered by chance shows a wagon was to carry eighteen men, including the driver, sitting back-to-back on planks laid across it.

Volunteer Forces during the French Revolution

The Yeomanry guard a Military Fly loaded with Infantrymen



From the assembly areas Volunteers from Worcestershire and others were to converge on London. The wagons and horses were not to be diverted from their normal use except for a muster and one such involved the Worcestershire men on 28th August 1805, a weekday and in harvest time, so there must have been some cause for alarm. Five battalions and six independent companies paraded a total of 9,274 of all ranks, 723 were absent and the county establishment was 408 under strength. These units were in the Severn District and there must be material available concerning Gloucestershire Volunteers (for anyone looking for a project!)

In the middle of 1805, Napoleon was forced to draw off his 'Army of England', encamped at Boulogne awaiting a favourable chance to invade, to meet the Austrians on the Rhine. With the immediate danger gone, the Volunteers' spirit and numbers declined

somewhat and the government was also concerned about the cost of the force, as well as its effect on numbers available for the Militia and Regular army. It also wanted to raise the social status of the Volunteers and reduce their numbers by gradually throwing the whole expense of volunteering on the men themselves, as well as introducing a ballot to create a national, unregimented force with an initial training of one year. An 1806 Act to this effect was never enforced, because the government changed, but in 1808 Lord Castlereagh brought in the Local Militia Acts to establish a permanent defensive force, raised by ballot of those aged 18 to 30, who were to serve for four years under Regular or Militia officers. The ballot was suspended where the full quota was met by voluntary enlistment (each volunteer receiving a bounty of two guineas); anyone balloted could not pay for a substitute, but exemption could be purchased; service was limited to the county or an adjacent one, except in time of insurrection or invasion, when it could be extended to Great Britain; and even when a man had completed his service in the Local Militia he was only exempt from the Militia ballot for two years. Naturally, the introduction of this new force caused much resentment but most of the Volunteer corps went over to it. Soon after that, however, with the ending of the war, the force faded out - though the Acts governing it were still in force when the Territorial Force was formed in 1908.

Volunteer corps of infantry were again raised in large numbers in 1859-60 in response to sabre-rattling across the channel. These were soon formed into battalions and were incorporated into their county regiments as Volunteer battalions, and most supplied a Volunteer Service Company attached to a Regular battalion of their regiment on active service in South Africa. In 1908 the former Volunteer battalions became numbered battalions of their regiments, with the suffix '(Territorial Force)'. The Territorial Force was for home defence only, but in 1913 provision was made for individual members, or whole units, to volunteer for overseas service in time of war and for its excellent subsequent service during the Great War the Territorial Force was retitled Territorial Army. Its battalions again served with distinction during WW2, but afterwards many were placed in 'suspended animation' or disbanded. In 1967 came a reorganisation into the Territorial and Army Voluntary Reserve. Today it is again the Territorial Army; its strength is much reduced, but it has provided something like 10% of the Army in the Balkans and Iraq.

Alongside the Fyrd, Militia, Volunteers and Local Militia there had always been a mounted force, but the Yeomanry regiments of more modern times mostly date from 1794 and since 1908 they have formed part of the Territorial Force or Army.

If this account seems a little out of place in a local history publication, it should be remembered that for the whole of the time of which it treats there have been men in Charlton Kings whose lives have been affected by military service of some kind, before those who are commemorated on the War Memorial or the Memorials in St Mary's or the Parish Hall – even long before the time of the Civil War soldier who lies in the churchyard.

HAPPENINGS IN CHARLTON KINGS IN 1891

By Mary Southerton

This article is based on extracts from the Cheltenham Free Press for 1891 made by the late Eric Armitage. My aim has been to build up a picture of some of the highlights of village life in that year, which was a census year so we know that the population of the village on that night was 4187.

The winter of 1890/91 had been severe with heavy frosts and snow. The end of January saw a sudden thaw which led to flooding. This bad weather meant that men were often out of work and soup kitchens were set up in Cheltenham for the needy. At the Charlton Kings Board meeting in July the Medical Officer said there had been a lot of flu in the village, with 28 deaths during the last quarter. This was more than usual as Charlton Kings had the reputation for being a healthy place. There was in fact a national flu epidemic that year, the Prince of Wales and Mr Gladstone being among those afflicted. It must have been a generally bad year weather-wise for in October the Medical Officer told the Board meeting that in spite of the wet, cold and depressing season the health in the village had been good.

At this time the village was run by the Local Board, a committee of local worthies who met in the Vestry Hall[1]. There was also the School Board, the Church Vestry, and the Board of Guardians all of which had committees which held annual elections. They also had some access to the Board for money from the rates and the Rate Collector was elected from names put forward by these committees. During the year the School Board received a circular from the County Council suggesting that cookery and laundry work should be introduced into schools. The Board thought cookery was a good idea but felt that the village knew too much about laundry already.

Among the topics of conversation at the Working Men's Institute, the pubs, and over the tea cups would probably have been the threatened boundary changes. Cheltenham wanted to expand their boundary in order to achieve borough status. The proposed boundary changes roused people to write to the paper wanting to know what this would mean for the ratepayers of the village. Home Rule for Charlton Kings was even suggested. A well-attended meeting was held in the Vestry Hall to debate Cheltenham's idea and it was later reported that only four people had voted for joining with Cheltenham. People living in Battledown, however, were said to be in favour of the change.

The idea was not only discussed by the village in general but led to much discussion at the Local Board meetings. The Board were strongly against the annexation by Cheltenham and opposed Cheltenham's application at the Local Government Board enquiry . This enquiry, held in February, lasted a week and was fully reported in the Free Press, taking up four pages. Leckhampton and Prestbury were also involved in Cheltenham's desire for expansion and it was agreed that the three parishes should co-ordinate their efforts. Cheltenham's lawyers spent much time showing that the town already provided a number of services for the villages: sewers, water, roads and health services etc. Among the questions put to Mr R. V .Vassar-Smith (of Charlton Park) was "Do you regard your park and house as a natural outgrowth of Cheltenham". "Certainly not" came the reply.

The Board and village felt that Rev W J Mayne, Sir Brooke Kay and Mr Vassar-Smith had given a fair representation of the village's feelings at the enquiry. The Board's main concern was the drop in rateable income that they would receive, while the village worried that their rates would be

settled in Cheltenham's favour. The boundary on the north of the London Road moved from Hales Road to Haywards Road by Holy Apostles corner. On the south it followed a line from the London Road to the River Chelt, then across the corner of Charlton Park and out onto the Old Bath Road to join its former line.

The boundary debate was closely followed by the discussion as to the need for more allotments in the village, this time at Ryeworth. At the enquiry later in the year the allotments were described as "a burning question in the village". The problem had arisen because the men in Ryeworth wanted allotments nearer their homes and there were complaints that farmers were selling Cooper's Charity lands. They felt this would deprive them of allotments. This was obviously an on-going disagreement between landed gentry, the farmers and some of the working men of the village. The Rural Labourers League[2] became involved and the Board as usual could not decide if this was their problem or that of the Cooper's Charity. In March Mr Stanton from the Rural Labourer's League said land was available in Ryeworth, but the matter was adjourned. However the Board decided to take the matter to the House of Commons. Their decision was that the Board need not buy land for allotments as there were already allotments in the Beeches. April saw another letter from Mr Stanton. "What action had the Board taken? The Beeches was too far away for the Ryeworth men." The Board felt it would be cheaper if the men could rent land privately. As always the Board was anxious to spend as little as possible. The Ryeworth men complained that they would not have security of tenure if they rented land and they only wished to pay a reasonable rent. A committee was set up to look into the matter as the Board had an obligation to provide land under the Allotments Act of 1887. In August John Villar offered a 4 acre piece of land at Ryeworth, that had belonged to the late S H Gael, for £100. The Clerk wrote to Mr G Taylor of Ryeworth, the leading applicant for land, to enquire if this land would be suitable for allotments. Mr Taylor agreed that the land would be suitable and the Committee agreed to buy it as they had not been able to find any other land to rent. The 1891 census showed Mr George Taylor, gardener, living at St Albans, Ryeworth Road. These allotments have proved well worth the men's efforts as they remain very fertile allotments to this day.

Other matters which concerned both the Board and villagers alike were water supplies and the state of the sewers. The Board was often happy that Cheltenham or the County were responsible for such things. In January there was a shortage of drinking water in the village and the Board Surveyor reported that Cheltenham was prepared to put a stand pipe near Castleton Villa (now Hilden Lodge on the corner of London Road and Hearne Road) at 1s 3d per 1000 gallons. A water cart could take water into the village and would stand outside Attwood's shop for an hour. Poor people would get their water on the rates. In February the water cart was no longer needed. This appears to have been a short term problem, perhaps due to the very cold weather? The village pump stood near the Forge in the space now used for parking. Water was also a bone of contention between the Board and the Church Vestry. The churchyard pump had obviously been creating a problem and the Board wanted to do away with it. The Churchwardens and Vicar approached the Board to keep the pump as it was used for watering the flowers on graves and for the church heating system. They asked that when the pump had been repaired a lock should be put on it, the sexton should hold the key and a notice be put on the pump to show it was "unfit for drinking"

Entertainment appears to have been mainly of the home grown kind usually held at the St Claire Ford Hall, upstairs at the Working Men's Institute. When Horace Edwards applied to the Police Court for a Theatrical Licence the Hall was said to accommodate 400 people. Weekly concerts were held there throughout the winter season. Remember there was no TV or radio at this time and evenings at home meant money spent on heating and light. Songs, both by soloists and groups,

readings and instrumental items generally made up the programmes. In January a packed hall enjoyed a feast of song by local singers, and a ventriloquist Mr J Seeny added to the entertainment with his sketch entitled "Mr and Mrs Brown". At one of the weekly concerts near the end of the season the audience enjoyed piano solos and Mr Bush's Arab Boys singing part songs, and the ventriloquist was again on the programme. I wonder who Mr Bush's Arab Boys were? In April the Cheltenham Rifle Volunteer Corp band gave a concert, with Sergeant H Burgess in the Chair. The programme included band numbers, songs and recitations by band members and an exhibition of single stick by Corporals Day and Adcock.. These concerts were obviously appreciated by the village as they were well attended. One typical report tells us Mr Boyce gave a violin solo (loudly applauded); Annie Peacey sang "That's Were The Money Goes" with encore; While "O my Tooth" by Mr Carter was vociferously applauded and encored. This concert had been chaired by Capt Willis of Glenfall who thanked everyone and briefly alluded to the Boundary question saying "that he trusted that the next season would see Charlton Kings still an undivided parish"

The St Clair Ford Hall was used by other organisations: we have a report of the Art Class holding their prize-giving there when a display of student's work was on view. The classes, taken by Mr C Capps, were held at the Institute with a choice of freehand drawing, geometrical drawing and model making. A chess club also met there, which after a year was able to run a competitive tourney with 18 competitors and at which Mrs Rome presented the prizes.

In August a meeting was held in the Hall to see if it would be possible to form a village company of the Volunteer Engineers. The hall was well filled with young men. Captain Cardew told them that the Engineers were the brains of the army. Lieutenant Clutterbuck cast his eye over the men and informed them that Charlton Kings Company could become one of the smartest in the county. At the close of the meeting eighty eight men had put their names forward and a company was formed as H Company Gloucestershire Volunteers. They held their first annual dinner at the London Inn with Lieut S Clutterbuck their Commander and about eighty guests attending.

During the summer months fetes, sports and flower shows were organised, again by various village committees. The Conservative Fete at Ashley Manor, held on a Wednesday afternoon and evening in August, must have been one of the highlights of the village year. There were amusements: swings and roundabouts, sports and pony races. Speeches were given from the platform, although one can imagine that many of the people who attended were not too interested in this part of the proceedings. The prizes were given by Mrs Archibald Young, who at that time lived at Ashley Manor with her husband and three young children. The Rural Sports and Flower Show was held on the August Bank Holiday in Charlton Park and organised by The Workingmen's Institute. This was obviously a real village occasion with the Horticultural Show and Flower Show in two marquees, and needlework competitions, dog races, pony matches, athletic races, walking and skipping races were organised. A chess tourney in costume was held and Maypole dancing performed. What a pity we do not have more details of these events. There were also sideshows and the band of the Cheltenham Rifles. Really something for everyone and would have occupied the Bank holiday very well.

Holy Apostles Church applied for a faculty to move the organ chamber to the east end of the church and the font to the west end. Funds had to be raised and a bazaar was held at Langton Lodge in aid of the organ fund and raised £100, a very good amount for those days. The work, undertaken by local craftsmen, went ahead quickly and was completed in October. A special service was held, attended by a large congregation, with an organ recital given by Mr Cole.

St Mary's Church Harvest Festival was held on a Thursday in October with three services. The eight o'clock evening service attracted a large congregation, Mr Woodward played the cornet, and Mr Brasher was at the organ, the offertory went to the Royal Agricultural Institution. The Thanksgiving services were repeated on the Sunday, with a flower service in the afternoon. The children assembled outside the church at 3.15pm, each with their bunch of flowers. The Sunday school teachers took them to their seats and the flowers were placed on the sanctuary step. The press commented "Charltonians love and know so well how to grow flowers in their cottage gardens". The flowers were sent to the hospital on the Monday morning.

The London Inn seems to have been another centre for entertainment in the village as dinners were often held there. The Ancient Order of Foresters, called "Charlton's Pride", held their anniversary dinner on a Wednesday in August, attended by fifty people hosted by Mr Dyer, landlord, and presided over by Mr Powell. It was reported that the accounts were sound and they could pay 22s in the pound. These societies were benefit clubs, a number of which existed in the village and were self-help societies for times of illness or unemployment. A typical case was the innkeeper of the New Inn (now The Owl in Cirencester Road), who also worked as a haulier at Charlton Hill Quarries, who was unable to meet his household expenses due to accidents and illness. Another sad case, which highlighted the poverty in some parts of the village, was when the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children brought a case of neglect against a couple living in Ham Square. They had six children and lived in three rooms. The husband earned 16s a week, he gave his wife 9s, and to make ends meet the wife worked doing washing, she usually worked from 7am to 8.30pm for 1s9d or 1s11d per day. Neighbours reported that the children were always dirty and often hungry, and Miss North, a teacher, told the court that the other children at school avoided them because they were dirty. The case against the mother was dismissed but the father was fined £2 or one month hard labour. No "social services" to help out but the Board in their wisdom decided to send the Inspector of Nuisances to do a home visit.

The property market was, as always, a good topic for discussion, with full descriptions of the big houses for sale and to let. Deaths of landowners, such as S H Gael who owned seventeen cottages, could lead to worry as these cottages were occupied by tenants. A piece of arable land opposite Holy Apostles Church, fronting on to London Road, was described as "one of the choicest building plots in Cheltenham". This must have caused some anxiety and much discussion in the village.

Throughout the year there were tramps coming before the courts. In January an old soldier was given seven days in prison for begging for a pipe of tobacco and a penny, unfortunately he asked a policeman. There must have been many other happenings in the village in 1891 which did not make the Cheltenham Free Press. Life may have been hard for some but certainly not dull.

Footnotes:

1. The Local Government Act of 1894 came into force and our Local Board became an Urban District Council.

2. The Rural Labourers League: The allotment movement originated as a response to food shortages experienced in the early years of the Napoleonic Wars. In 1880 Jesse Collings MP formed the Allotments Extension Association, which later became the Rural Labourers League.

A CHARLTON KINGS HOAX

My thanks to Mike Grindley of Cheltenham Local History Society who sent this cutting from the *Cheltenham Chronicle* dated 3 November 1842:

"On Wednesday last, one of those most ridiculous and puerile of all amusements – a Hoax, was played off, on the tradesmen of Cheltenham. It originated from some boys, who had nothing else to engage their attention than wasting paper and time in writing notes containing fictious orders for goods to be sent to the Springfield House, Charlton Kings, on the London Road. A number of carriages were ordered at the principal hotels and sent to various gentlemens' houses, as though they were required for weddings. One tradesman had so much ordered of him he was compelled to hire a vehicle to convey them there. Loads of china, linen drapery, grocery and in fact almost every other description of goods were sent up, the road being literally thronged with trucks, carts and porters. A stretcher for the dead and a hearse were also ordered; the latter duly appeared, waving its sable plumes before the gate."

In the same edition was a report of a court case headed: "Assault arising out of the late Hoax at Charlton Kings"

"Mr Frederick William Crump, surgeon of Charlton, was charged with assaulting his pupil, Mr Edward Byrnham Adams, under the following circumstances: - It appeared from the evidence of the complainant that a considerable number of circular letters or hoax papers had been sent to different parties purporting to be signed by Mr Crump, whose sister had told him the hoax originated with Adams. They had some words about it one morning at breakfast time, when Mr Crump accused witness of having forged the letters in his name and said he would detain them for further inspection; at the time stating that he was firmly convinced that complainant was the author. Mr Crump examined the various notes and said they appeared to be in the complainant's hand-writing. Witness assured him he was not the guilty party and showed him how very different the hand-writing was to his. The result was, that on finding his suspicions to be groundless, the defendant lost his temper and refused to return the notes, gathering them up in a hasty manner. In consequence of this the witness put his hand upon the letters, and upon his declining to let them go, Mr Crump struck him a violent blow aimed at the face, but which he averted. He did not resent this in the manner most young men would – owing to the disparity of age and size (complainant appearing by far the youngest and most powerful man), but he expostulated with him in a mild manner. He took the false accusation very much to heart and showed the letters to two or three gentlemen, amongst the rest to W Pitt Esq (a Magistrate on the Bench, who stated that the hand-writing was not similar to complainant's). Under the circumstances he had been advised to summon Mr Crump for the offence complained of. Mr Winterbotham appeared for the attendant and said he felt convinced that the circulars were written by Mr Adams. He endeavoured to exculpate Mr Crump in the eyes of the public for the course he had adopted, and justify him for his mode of procedure. Mr Crump was fined £5 and costs."

Directories show that Frederick William Crump was living at Springfield House at this time.

NOTES and COMMENTS

1. Mary Paget has been studying the Minute Books of the Charlton Kings Urban District Council which can tell us much about the health of Charlton Kings children during and after the war. Her report is as follows: Generally, the picture pre-1945 is one of yearly epidemics of measles, scarlet fever and whooping cough – more severe sometimes than others, but always lurking. From 1945, immunization has gradually reduced the yearly epidemics, and some diseases such as diptheria have gone for ever as a result of immunization. The need for the Delancey Hospital for isolation of casualties has gone totally because of smaller families, fewer infectious diseases and a higher standard of living. Here are some actual figures taken from DA 3 100/24:

February 1945 - Scarlet Fever 3, Measles 20, 2 of which were removed to hospital.
April 1945 - Measles 30, Erysphlis 1
July 1945 – Measles 3, Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 2.

2. Mary Southerton has sent a note about a bigamist who came to Charlton Kings: A Marriage took place at St Mary's church on 30 December 1833 between Hester Garn and Denis Upton, witnessed by Thomas and Maria Garn the parents of the 19 year-old Hester. Denis Upton (or Hoptown) had been born in Kilmarnock and had apparently been married in Ireland before coming to England. On 3 December 1827 Denis had married Mary Sullivan at St John's, Westminster. They had a child, who later became chargeable to Charlton Kings Parish, when Mary took out a summons against him in 1838 for leaving her and marrying another. Denis was charged on the oath of Hester Upton otherwise Garn and sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary.

3. The Society has received some information about Robert Goodden, who was the toll keeper at the London Gate, London Road, Charlton Kings. He was born in 1796 at Martock, Somerset and was toll keeper at Hendford, Yeovil before moving to Gloucestershire. He married Jane Payne on 24 March 1818, in Bridport, Dorset and they had seven children, six of whom were later involved in being Toll Keepers. One of their sons was in Hereford prison at the time of the 1871 census and in Nottingham prison at the time of the 1891 census. On both occasions he had been found guilty of forging railway tickets. Robert died on 13 November 1861 at London Gate, aged 65. His descendant would appreciate any other information about Robert and his family, in particular where he was buried. Please send any relevant information to the editor who will pass it on.

4. Pat Love commented on Ann Hookey's article on Evacuees in *Bulletin 52*: I don't know how many former evacuees ever came back to visit those who had taken them in, but I know of one. Mrs Drake, who lived in Little Herberts Road before going into a home, where she died a few years ago, was visited regularly by "my evacuee" until her death.

5. Pat also referred to the "Royal Household" button illustrated on p13 of *Bulletin 51*: It is in fact an Army General Service pattern greatcoat button.