

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN 54
2008



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Membership forms are available from the Hon Secretary. Annual subscription £6.00 or £10.00 for a couple. Meetings are held monthly from September to May at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church in Church Street. Visitors are always welcome at a charge of £2.

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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

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

Index to Bulletins 48-52 - £5

Cover – Drawing of the Reading Room in the Working Men's Club.

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EDITORIAL

My thanks go to all those who have sent contributions for this issue. Mary Southerton has studied past bulletins and general history books to put together an interesting over-view of life in Charlton Kings during the 19th century and, most importantly, to put local experience into context with the national picture. Gillian Potter has once again shown us her artistic ability in her study of a very unusual dress. I was particularly pleased to receive an article by a new contributor - Joyce Simpson, who has combined her dowsing skills with archival evidence to show us how the land around the Court House has been developed, and David Morgan has added to Joyce's picture by describing the changes to the Moorend Road area over the last 450 odd years. I do urge members to keep sending articles for future issues.

The cover of this bulletin is a view of the Reading Room at the Working Men's Club in the late 19th Century. It has been chosen to highlight Mary Southerton's article, as it shows so vividly the changing ideas about the status of the 'working man'. It was sent to the Society by Owen Stinchcombe as a 'tailpiece' to his article about the Club in *Bulletin 19*.

Both 2007 and 2008 seem to be years for anniversaries: the Gloucestershire Millennium, the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Sacred Hearts Church, the sixtieth anniversary of the Senior Citizens Welfare Committee, and not least the thirtieth year of our Society. We will be holding a celebratory luncheon in March and later in the year will be planting trees in Charlton Kings Cemetery as part of the Gloucestershire Millennium thousand tree project. Both these events will be featured in next year's bulletin. The Library and Stanton Room are also thirty years old, having been officially opened on Mon 9th May 1977. At the time, one local resident described the exterior of the building as resembling "rows of flying hen-coops", but all agreed that the interior of the building worked well and provided a much needed facility for Charlton Kings. The Stanton Room was named after Victor Stanton, the mayor of Cheltenham in 1976-7, and was the 'home' of our Society until 2005 when our numbers necessitated a move to larger premises.

Regular readers will notice that this bulletin is the first for several years without an article by our Vice-Chairman, David O'Connor. The reason is that he has been working on a new book, entitled *Troubled Waters – the Great Cheltenham Water Controversy*. Look out for notices of its publication later this year. It is sure to be a good read and particularly appropriate after the summer of 2007.

Finally I owe an apology to Joyce Cummings and the Cheltenham Local History Society for an omission in *Bulletin 53*. The article on Marcus Jacob Sisson should have been preceded by a note to the effect that the contact made between Sisson's descendant and our Society came about due to research already carried out by Joyce Cummings on behalf of the Cheltenham Society. I should stress, however, that the contents of the article were entirely those resulting from the work of the author.

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OBITUARY - DORIS DENT

I am grateful to Suzanne Fletcher for drawing to my attention an obituary in the *Gloucestershire Echo* to Doris Dent, who died in January aged 93. She and her husband Reggie had spent many years in Charlton Kings, firstly in Battledown and later in Timbercombe Mews. They had met at the Royal College of Art in London and moved to Cheltenham when Reggie joined the staff of the Cheltenham Art School. He became its Principal in 1950 and Doris also taught there, taking classes in anatomical drawing in the 1950s and '60s. Doris was always very modest about her own artistic talents, but she earned a considerable reputation for her illustrative work in pen and ink, crayon, pastel and watercolours.

Reggie and Doris Dent were both members of our Society, and Reggie was involved in setting up the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust nature reserve on the former railway cutting between Cirencester Road and Little Herberts Road. Apart from his role at the Art College, Reggie will also be remembered for his work in saving the Pittville Pump Room from demolition after the Second World War.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MILLENNIUM

By Jane Sale

On Thursday 26th October 2006 a Judicial Inquiry was held at Shire Hall in Gloucester to ascertain when the Shire of Gloucestershire came into being. Avril Kear and Cecile Hunt of the Forest of Dean Local History Society wrote an account of the occasion for The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Newsletter No 60, the gist of which is as follows:

‘The Inquiry was conducted by His Honour Judge Jamie Tabor QC, Resident Judge of the Gloucester Crown Court. He was assisted by Henry Elwes, the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire and Ceri Evans DL JP, Chairman of the Gloucestershire Magistrates Bench. A Grand Jury was assembled headed by the Bishop of Gloucester and their task was to consider whether it was probable that the Shire was created by Eadric Streona, Ealdorman of Mercia around 1007.

Two witnesses were called to present their cases. Firstly David Smith, formerly the county archivist, who referred to an article written by C S Taylor in the BGAS Journal of 1898 which gave credence to the fact that Eadric Streona was responsible for the amalgamation of the independent shire of Winchcombe with the borough of Gloucester to form a new shire, Gloucestershire. The second witness was Simon Keynes, Professor of Anglo-Saxon History at Cambridge University, who discussed the formation of the Shires in England. He confirmed that the article written by C S Taylor alluded to a Cartulary written by Hemming, a Worcester monk at the time of St Wulstan, 1062-1065. Hemming was writing about Eadric Streona, stating that **“In the time [1007-1017] when Eadric, whose cognomen was Streona, that is ‘acquisitor’, first under King Athelred, and afterwards for a while under Cnut, was set over the whole realm of the English and held dominion over it like an under-king, insomuch that he joined hamlets to villages and districts to districts at his will, for the county of Winchcombe which then was independent, he joined to the County of Gloucester”**.

The jury’s decision was that it was therefore probable that the County of Gloucestershire was first formed in or around the year 1007 meaning that the millennium celebrations could be put into action for 2007. However, while agreeing that this was probably the **start** of the county of Gloucestershire it was not the complete county until the Forest of Dean was included soon after 1086.’

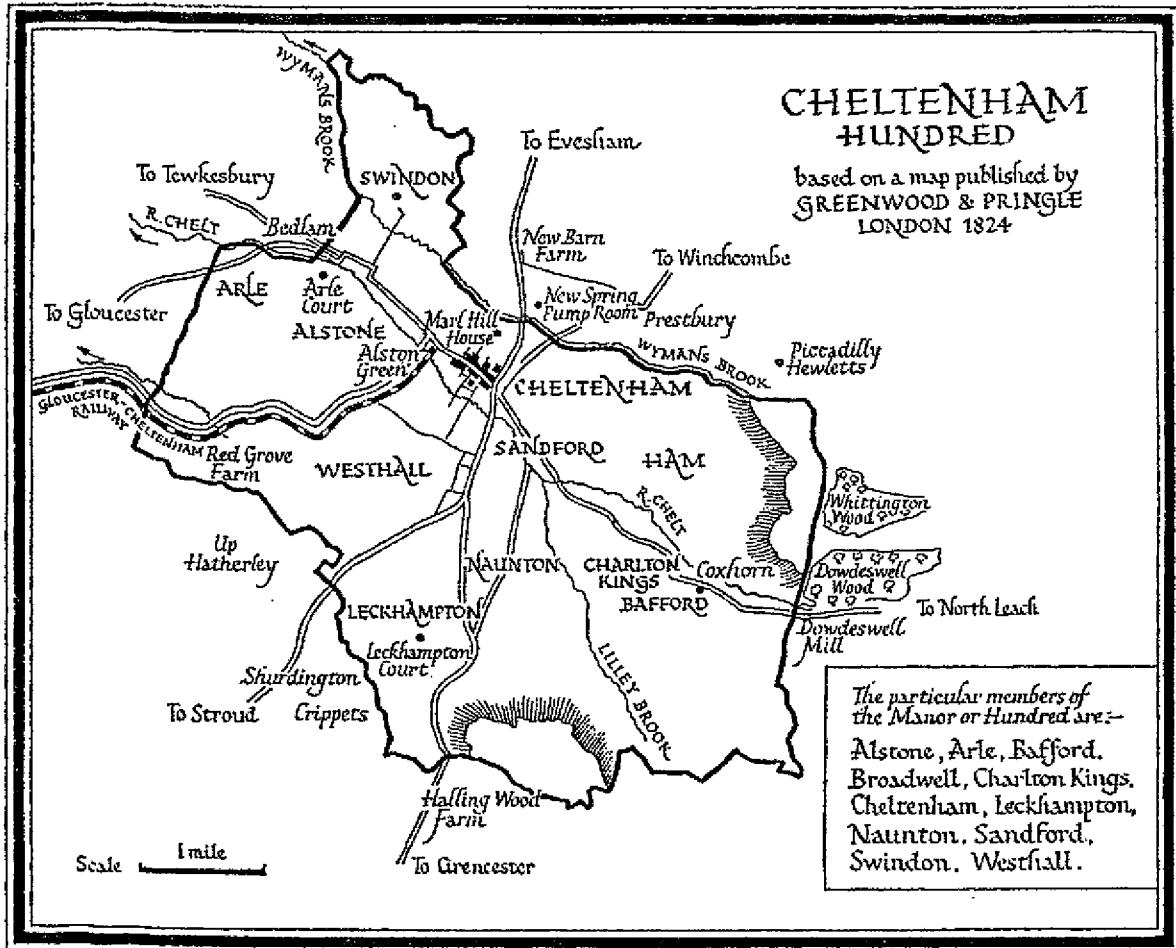
As a result of this inquiry various events have been held to celebrate the Millennium, including an afternoon arranged by Cheltenham Local History Society in December. That afternoon included a lecture by Tim Porter on “The Origins of Gloucestershire as We Know It”. He first explained that the word ‘shire’ was of Saxon origin and referred to an administrative district consisting of a group of ‘hundreds’, ruled jointly by an ealdorman and a sherrif. The Normans brought with them the term ‘county’, from the French ‘counté’ but they kept the boundaries of the shires as they stood and their names.

The lecturer went on to explain that the five shires of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Winchcombshire were believed to have been set up by Eadric Streona in 1007, in order to make administration and particularly the collection of taxes more manageable. The five towns which gave their names to the shires had already become established as economic and religious centres which serviced the areas around them. It came as a surprise to most members of the audience when we were told that Cheltenham, and its surrounding district was in Winchcombshire at that time, and that it was not until 1017 that Streona decided that Winchcombshire was not a sufficiently viable economic unit as it stood and should be amalgamated with Gloucestershire. We, therefore, should really be holding our millenium celebrations in 2017 rather than now!

This lecture prompted me to ask how much is known about life at that time in the Cheltenham area and more specifically in Charlton Kings.

Gwen Hart, in *A History of Cheltenham*, states that the name Cheltenham is of Saxon origin – Chelt meaning a height or cliff and ham a settlement, and that the earliest documentary reference to Cheltenham occurred in an account of the Council of Cloveshoe held in 803. At that Council a dispute was settled between the Bishops of Worcester and Hereford each of whom claimed the revenues of a monastery at Cheltenham. In fact the Bishop of Worcester had been collecting the revenues for the past thirty years, taking us back to 773. There is no known further reference to the town until the Domesday Survey of 1086, when we are told that ‘King Edward held Cheltenham’, but how far back this royal ownership goes is unknown. Hart goes on to explain that during the intervening centuries there were three outstanding national developments that affected the Cheltenham area. Firstly, there was a gradual merging of the smaller kingdoms under the power of the house of Wessex and in this way there developed a united England under one monarchy. Secondly, during these years the boundaries of our shires and their subdivisions, the hundreds, were being established; and thirdly, the system of landowning was taking shape, leading in time to the formation of ‘manors’, whereby the inhabitants of a ‘manor’ were subject to the authority of the ‘lord of the manor’. Some royal manors, such as Cheltenham, also gave their names to the hundred.

Mary Paget, in *A History of Charlton Kings*, explains that its name is also Saxon – ‘Ceorls’ tun’ [the peasants’ farmstead] established as part of the royal manor and Hundred of Cheltenham – hence the ‘Kings’. The boundaries of the Cheltenham Hundred were in existence by the mid-eighth century and on the north-east, east and south they continue as our parish boundaries today. Starting from Sandford Mill the bounds ran northwards along the line of the present Hales Road, up Harp Hill and Aggs Hill, eastwards along the escarpment above Ham Hill, then south into the valley of the Chelt and up the stream by Lineover Wood, before turning westward along the escarpment to Charlton Common on Leckhampton Hill and finally northwards down the course of the Pill back to Sandford Mill. Only the western boundary dividing us from Cheltenham has altered over the years.



Paget describes Saxon Cheltenham as the focal point of a flourishing royal estate, with a home farm at Leckhampton devoted in the main to growing 'leeks', or vegetables generally, its pig farm at Swindon and its 'ceorls' or labourers' settlement at Charlton to supply labour for the demesne [home farm]. The original homesteads for the labourers are thought to have been in the present Charlton Park area. Development from this nucleus came with the setting up of similar homesteads at Bafford [Bassa's Ford], Cudnall [Cudda's Hill], Ryeworth [the rye inclosure and farm] and Battledown [Baedella's tun], named from the personal names of the men who built up the new holdings. Our 'ends' such as Crabend, Eastend and Upend indicate the gradual spreading out of the area of habitation.

Field names can also tell us something about the origin of an area. The Saxon word 'breach', meaning land newly broken, occurs frequently in Charlton Kings: Benbreach, Bowbreach, Gaybreach, Hawbreach, Highbreach, and Whitebreach are just a few examples. The name of our present 'Beeches' area is a misinterpretation of this word 'breaches'. 'Baer', as in Barlands for the land near our eastern boundary and to the north

of the present A40, is another word for cleared land. Fields so named show that a gradual extension of the area under cultivation was taking place during the Saxon period. If more ground was being broken up and used for growing crops, we can presume that the number of inhabitants was increasing at the same time.

Lineover Wood, on our eastern boundary, is another ancient name: Archie Miles, who has worked for many years with the Woodland Trust, explains that the name derives from the Saxon 'lindofer', meaning a bank of lime trees, and that the name appears on a charter dated dating back to 823. Writing in *Hidden Trees of Britain*, Miles pays special attention to Lineover Wood describing it as 'a wood so special, so rich, so ancientthat you wonder how it has managed to survive so amazingly intact'. He believes that its inaccessible location meant that it was used mainly for coppicing and he has found coppice stools there measuring 20 feet in diameter, making them easily over 1000 years old. Such coppiced wood would have been used in the construction of our earliest wattle and daub buildings. In 1995 Mary Paget and I measured some of the wych-elm stools in Timbercombe and the largest of them had a diameter of 15 feet, showing that this wood too had been used for coppicing for a very long time. [see Bulletin 35 for Mary Paget's article on the history of Timbercombe Wood.]

There are several very old roads running through Charlton Kings. Paget believes the oldest to be the one running up Aggs Hill, which formed part of an ancient track, it was referred to as 'The King's Highway' in the 13th century. Another old track passed south of Cheltenham, crossed Sandford field and Charlton Lower field to become our Sandy Lane, the road to Cirencester and on to London. A way from Cheltenham to Dowdeswell and Withington continued eastwards from the High Street, passing along Cudnall Street, down the slope to Spring Bottom coming out by the present Hearne, up East End and Balcarras Lane to eventually join the line of the present road by the Dowdeswell reservoir. And lastly the deep Hollow Lane, still to be seen beside the cobbled track up Timbercombe, came out of Cheltenham, passed through the present Charlton Park up the line of the drive to St Edwards School, along the upper part of Brookway Lane, then up the present Horsefair Street and Little Herberts to Timbercombe and Ravensgate Common, finally to join the road from Seven Springs to Andoversford. This last road, together with Blind Lane [the present Croft road] which linked Hollow Lane and Upend, served as boundaries when Walter of Ashley was given a part of Cheltenham manor in the 12th century.

So at the time when Gloucestershire and Winchcombshire came into existence in 1007 we can say that Charlton Kings was established as the eastern part of Cheltenham, with its own name. Unlike Leckhampton and Swindon village, it was not mentioned in the Domesday Survey, and, as far as we know, there was no church until the 12th century. But it did have important roads passing through to the north, east and south, its fertile soil was encouraging an expansion of food production and its woodland was providing material for house-building, fencing, furniture and utensils, all of which were resulting in a growing population. We do not know the names of any of that growing population but one thing we can be certain of - whoever the inhabitants were, their lives would have been, as Thomas Hobbes put it, 'nasty, brutish and short'.

CHARLTON KINGS IN THE 19th CENTURY

By Mary Southerton

Nationally the 19th Century proved one of difficulties and developments. 1819 saw an event, that became known as the Peterloo Massacre, which took place in Manchester when a group of parliamentary reformers gathered. They wanted parliamentary reform and the repeal of the Corn Laws. The government sent in the troops, eleven people were killed and five hundred injured in the confrontation that followed. At the beginning of the century, 33% of the national income came from agriculture and by 1850 the farming population had reached its peak. Social status, power and influence were established by, the ownership of land and property. People felt their place in society was established by birth, one was expected to know ones place. One of the conditions for becoming a Member of Parliament was the ownership of landed estates. The hunting of game was also the preserve of the landowners. The right to vote also depended on the ownership of property. In 1832 there were only 28 possible electors in Charlton Kings out of a total population of 2478.

The landowners became the JP's and sat on all the local boards and committees. At the beginning of the century the village was governed by the Vestry, their meetings were held in the church vestry, the notice of meetings being posted on the church door. The Vestry consisted of the vicar, churchwardens and leading parishioners, Rev J F S Gabb being the Chairman of Charlton Kings Vestry. They were responsible for the parish lands, the poor, the highways, and the election of the parish constable. Serving for a year, the constable was elected from the farmers and craftsmen of the parish, providing the link between the landlords, their tenants and workers. He collected local taxes, kept the accounts and was responsible for petty law and order; the job was unpaid. The Easter Vestry meeting of 1854 met to examine the parish lands' accounts. However as the retiring trustee, Sir William Russell was absent the matter could not be dealt with. During the meeting Conway Lovesey and S H Gael Higgs, both landowners, were elected the new churchwardens. Their responsibilities were care of the fabric of the parish church, the relief of the itinerant poor and the paying of the bell ringers.

Landowners usually inherited their lands, adding to them in prosperous times selling land in times of need. Some estates were passed down through families. However, the development of industry and business meant that so called "new" money was being accumulated. These men wanted to become not only good businessmen but also landed gentry. They set about moving into the country, buying property and land. In 1825 Frind Crego-Colmore, a Birmingham businessman, rented Charlton House. By the 1840's he had built Moorend Park, described at the time as a costly Swiss villa. By the time Frind Crego-Colmore died the family felt sufficiently settled to have two stained glass windows put into the church in his memory. That they were an accepted part of local society is shown by a report in the *Looker On* describing a party held at Moorend as the "party of the season". Not only businessmen came to live in Charlton Kings, retiring army and naval officers and men who had prospered in the colonies took up residence in the village. By 1836 the new road to London was complete, encouraging building on land alongside. In 1850 an auction advert in the *Looker On* described land as valuable building and farm land. It stated that "Mr Robert South Bennett was selling a number of plots in Charlton Kings", some described as "off the London Turnpike". In 1826-27 the Cirencester Road was re-routed, again giving good road access for new housing. By 1851 the population of the village had grown to 3,174 people. On the site of an old house, Richard Pruen built East Court, when the house was later enlarged a new drive was opened up from the new London Road. The 1851 census shows 15 people at East Court

- Mrs Elizabeth Potter, a 47 year old widow, her family and servants. Edward, the youngest child only 7 years old, had been born in Charlton Kings, Mrs Potter was born in Lancashire while the other children were born in a village just north of Derby. Also built on the new road was the London Inn, which added nine more people on to the census. Acomb House built about 1845 on London Road, was owned by Louisa Clifford. John Robert Miller was living there with his family and their servants. Only their youngest child was born in Charlton Kings, the rest of the family having been born in Kent. An advert in the "Looker On" in 1854 said that the Battledown Estate, had been purchased for conversion to building land, for the erection of a number of villas, for first class residences. Someone felt that "first class" people wanted to come to live in Charlton Kings. On the Cirencester Road houses like Brunswick House were built. The Countess of Portsmouth lived there before 1829 and in 1850 John Wormald and family were living there, again they had moved into the area. Access to the new educational facilities being provided by The Cheltenham Gentleman's College (founded in 1841) and soon after by The Cheltenham Ladies College would have attracted families to the area.

Charlton Kings had always been an agricultural area with good farming land. The Griffiths Guide of 1826 described the parish as "having rich pasture, arable, some woodland and watered by three brooks which unite here and drive several corn mills". Most of the farms were well established and dated back to early times. In 1701 John Prinn bought a house, its grounds and farm, known as The Forden, now as Charlton Park. The estate bought more farms within the parish so that by 1803 when William Hunt Prinn inherited the estate there were eight farms, all worked by tenants. Some families were obviously good tenants. In 1839 the estate steward reported "Thomas Ballinger was a hard worker and well looked to in the parish". The Ballingers worked Northfield Farm for more than sixty years. Thomas Finch farmed the 200 acres at Bafford Farm for thirty years, he had obviously proved a good tenant. In the 1850's all the farms on the estate were tenanted. The 1858 rate book shows Southfield Farm, the biggest farm at the time, some 354 acres, made up of the farm and land at The Coombs, Rose Coomb and land near Vineyards, it was owned by Sir William Russell and worked by George Oram. Detmore a small farm of around 30 acres, was being farmed by John Dobell but was owned by three people. Dobell rented 19 acres from Rachel Skelton, 7 acres from the Lovesys and 4 acres from Sir William Russell, while Ham Villa Farm, now Ham Court, was owned and farmed by John Burrows. William Burrows had farmed at Ham Villa in 1815, by 1825 John Burrows had bought the land. This may have been to give the Burrows complete control over their land, as at this time landowners still had considerable control over their tenanted farms. By 1848 John was able to buy the house as well, making them independent farmers.

Throughout the 19th century farming over the whole country had suffered a number of problems. At the start of the century the country was at war with Napoleon. This period, 1803 -15 disrupted both the export and import trades, causing fluctuations in availability and price of goods. The farm labourers were badly affected by these price changes. By 1824 it was said that farm workers were "worse off than they had been before the war". In the 1830's the condition of labourers throughout the country remained poor. The Corn Laws protected the price of local wheat, making the price of bread very high. As bread formed an important part of many labourers' diets, they wanted cheap bread. If wheat could be imported without duty the price of bread could fall. While Charlton Kings was not a wheat growing area, the high price of bread would have affected the working class. These poor conditions led groups of labourers to petition their landowners or local justices, asking for higher wages and the removal of the new machines that were coming onto farms. Landowners and farmers became afraid of the situation and showed the labourers little sympathy. In the Dorset village of Tollpiddle the agricultural labourers sought advice about their low wages. As a result, they formed their own trade union. This alarmed the authorities and six men were arrested and subsequently tried. Their employers spoke on their behalf and there was a great deal

of public support for the men, but they were all sentenced to seven years transportation. The sentence was quickly carried out. Charlton Kings inhabitants would have heard of this event and both the gentry and the labourers must have discussed it at length, although I have yet to find any evidence of local disturbances.

The farms in this parish were predominantly dairy farms, the land being well suited to providing good pasture. With Cheltenham close by they were able to supply milk, cream and butter daily. Refrigeration not being available at this time local daily deliveries were essential.

Milk Float painted 'G. Hewinson, Little Herberts Farm'

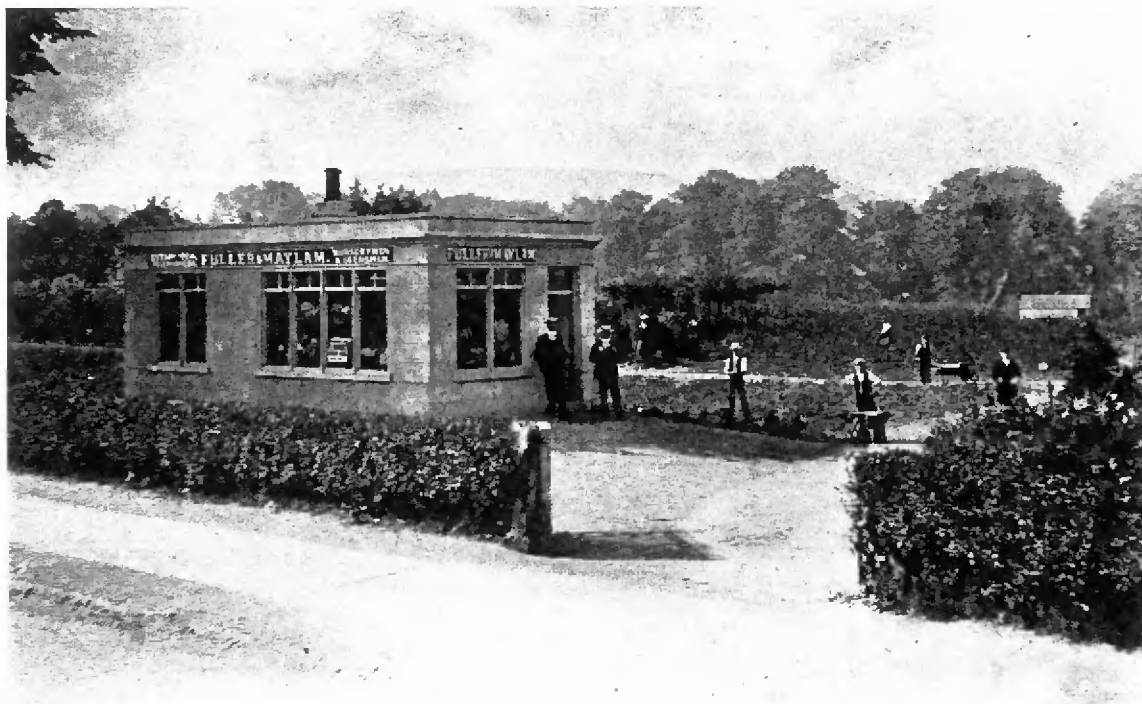


The arable lands grew wheat, oats, turnips and beans, all used to feed the animals. People who kept horses needed hay, straw and oats to provide for their animals. Some people kept their own horses whilst others hired them from local establishments. Farmers could sell any spare hay, straw, and oats, while people who invested their money in smaller plots of land could rent them out as pasture. Work on the farm was undertaken by the farmer and his family helped by farm servants who lived in the farmhouse. The servants' jobs would include fetching hay and tending the animals. Workers who were required everyday, dairymaids, carters and shepherds etc would be hired by the year. General labourers known as "day labourers" were paid only for days worked. Farming is dependant on the weather; bad weather meant no work and no pay for the day labourers. January 1850 was a month of hard frosts and February was very wet. March saw a return of the frost and snow. The comment was "there could be no hunting". In July when the crops should be growing and beginning to ripen, they had a month of rain, leading to flooding in places. By December extreme cold had returned. This had not been a good year for farmers and a very bad one for the day labourers. People became aware of the state of the poor. A meeting was held at Cheltenham Town Hall to "consider the plight of the poor"; this matter was obviously causing some concern.

It has not proved easy to discover how many people left the village for the towns in an effort to find reliable work. The 1862 rate book shows a Fred Ballinger of Birmingham owning freehold houses and lands in Charlton Kings. Was he one of the local Ballingers who had left and made good? Some men described themselves just as labourers, possibly they were prepared to turn their hand to any job. We must remember that there was little or no machinery at this time. Labourers were needed, on building sites, at sawmills, in the coal yards and working on the roads. This work was also dependent on the weather. Labourers, like the farm workers, were only paid for the days they worked.

Charlton Kings is situated in an area with stone, sand and clay readily available as building materials. There were stone quarries on Charlton Common which were available for rent in 1866. Brick making was carried on in the parish over the years, at first they were made on site but later several brick works were established, Webb's being the best known. The building trade gave employment to many men. Most of the craft trades required in house building appear in the 1851 census, many of these men having moved into the parish. The birthplace of parents and their children shows how people moved about.. Not all the building was for the gentry. In 1808 Buckles Row had been build providing eleven cottages. The Park Street and Rosehill Street areas were built by 1851, providing homes for artisans.

Nurseries and market gardens provided work for a good number of men. This job offered prospects. A good gardener could work in the garden of a big house with the opportunity of becoming a head gardener. In 1851 John Evans ran a market garden employing 13 men and John Bates, living at Beaufort Lodge, described himself as a gardener and seedsman. The larger houses had teams of gardeners, growing fruit, vegetables and flowers for the house. These houses often had greenhouses and some had hot houses. Running a large garden required a great deal of knowledge and experience. At this time there was a great interest in plants, collectors went on expeditions to find new plants, and in gardens new varieties were being propagated.



The Nurseries, London Road, CHELTENHAM. With FULLER & MAYLAM'S Compliment:

There were shops in the village to provide for most every day needs. These shops were usually run by one person, helped, I expect, by members of their family. The small general shopkeepers were a great help to the poorer people in the village by selling in small amounts and sometimes giving credit.

A young boy's first job would often be as an errand boy. William Weaver was only 10 years old in 1851 when he was an errand boy. Joseph Karn a butcher, employed Henry Paytrees 18, and Charles Emms 17, as errand boys full time, presumably to make the daily deliveries. Shoemaking was a craft undertaken by a number of men in the parish. William Turner of Oakland Place Cudnall was a shoemaker by trade, his wife was a boot binder. Living with them was an apprentice shoemaker James Hogg aged 16 years.

There was very little education available for the children at the beginning of the century. The Reverend J F S Gabb came to the parish in 1834 and became the first vicar to live in the village. From 1831 there was a weekday school for boys and a Sunday School for boys and girls. The Reverend Gabb was a prime mover in the development of schools in the parish. Education was not yet compulsory or free, attendance at school meant that children were not free to earn and the school pennies had to be paid. The ability to read, write and calculate was becoming an essential for some of the industrial jobs. Rev Gabb felt there was the need for a better school, so together with five wealthier parishioners, he bought land in Mill Lane and built a school. This school was for the "education of poor children". Another infant school had been built in Rosehill Street, again built by Rev Gabb's band of subscribers.

Hard times for the workers of the parish and a desire to give their children a good start in life, meant mothers needed to earn money. What did women do before they got married? Many girls would have gone into service, they would have learnt to undertake all the tasks required to manage a household, this would have included laundry work. Some may have learnt sewing and even simple dressmaking. Dressmaking required girls becoming apprenticed to a skilled dressmaker. This was a very useful skill for married women as it could be undertaken at home.

Elizabeth Mansel came to live with her uncle and aunt at Rome Cottage. As she was only 16 years old she may have been working as an apprentice to a dressmaker in the village or Cheltenham. We have washer women mentioned in the census, did they visit people's homes to do their washing? There are many more described as laundresses. We know that some women had a laundry built onto their houses and employed women to help them. Elizabeth Karn, Church Cottage employed women in her laundry, while the Hamletts in Lyefield Road ran "a select laundry for the care of ladies' fine linen". Doing the laundry was a very laborious task. Water had to be fetched from the well or pump and heated in coppers, or in pots on the fire. Drying was on the common drying grounds. Ironing was with sad irons, heated in front of a fire, or box irons, which had hot coals put in them. Special tasks were "clear starchers" and ironers. There must have been a lot of fetching and carrying done, William Woodward, aged 16, was a wash- house servant. Errand boys would collect and deliver the washing. Was it all this laundry experience that encouraged the Diamond Laundry to open their establishment in Newcourt Road in 1879.

Not only the poor had their problems, Sir William Russell petitioned for bankruptcy in 1870, unwise investments were the cause of his money problems. This must have been the cause of much worry in the village, as he was the major landlord. Farming was suffering from imports, meat from Australia, corn from America and Canada. Danish butter and cheese imports were affecting our dairy farmers. Numerous years of unfavourable weather, with hard rain, floods, cold summers and hard winters made life difficult for every one especially the poor.

The population of the parish continued to grow and 1871 it was 3,680. Property development had slowed down and could no longer account for the population growth. The Local Board were justifiably proud of the parish's reputation as a "healthful and health giving" district. There was a steady increase of births over deaths. The Local Board was responsible for the water supply. Wells were checked and those contaminated closed. The sewers were an ongoing problem between Cheltenham and the Parish. Charlton Kings let its drains run into the River Chelt, which flowed on into Cheltenham. The paying of rates were, as always, part of the problem. At least the problem kept the streams and drains in people's minds. The Crimean war (1854-6) showed up the need for professional nursing. Cheltenham General hospital had opened in 1849 and the Delancy Isolation Hospital in 1877, both were available to the people of Charlton Kings. In 1875 more help came from the parish, in the form of district visitors. The parish was divided into districts, each district had its own visitor. They would visit the sick and needy and arrange what help they could. In 1883 the district visitors employed a parish nurse to attend cases of non-infectious illness and maternity cases for mothers who did not belong to a maternity society. Both the district visitors and the parish nurse worked under the auspices of the church and vicar.

Until the 19th Century St Mary's Church was the only church in the village and there were only a few registered dissenters. A Methodist "preaching place" was recorded in 1822, possibly the house of Oliver Watts. A group of Cheltenham businessmen bought a piece of land in Church Piece and built a hall for Methodist meetings. Enthusiasm did not last and by 1836 the hall was sold to the parish for use as a school. Cudnall was the site for the next Methodist chapel, again it was sponsored by Cheltenham businessmen erected in 1838 but it was not to last. John Burgh Rochfort came to Charlton Kings in 1865, he felt he had a calling to preach. He built up a congregation and was able to take over the Cudnall Chapel. Rochfort moved his congregation to the Ryeworth Chapel in 1871 the same year as Holy Apostles Church opened. Now the villagers had not just one church to attend but a choice of three. Reverend Gabb had been at St Mary's for forty one years, during which time very few changes had taken place. In 1875 a new vicar was appointed to St Mary's. Reverend Dundas did not like what he found at St Mary's. A faculty, was obtained by 1877 for a complete restoration. At the same time, the Rochfort congregation decided to build themselves a new chapel. Land was bought in Church Street, and the money for the building was raised. In 1875 the chapel was opened. Reverend Dundas left St Mary's in 1883. The restoration was not complete, but the fund previously raised, had been spent. Two more vicars came and quickly left. In 1892 a High Churchman, the Reverend Thomas Hudson was appointed to the living. His ideas were not to everyone's liking. The church was no longer the cohesive force it had once been in the village.

Drunkenness was proving a problem through out the country. The temperance movement was seen as the answer. At the Magistrates Court in Cheltenham in 1860 it was said that "drunkenness and fighting was a common occurrence in Charlton Kings". The Band of Hope, a temperance society held meetings at St Mary's church. In August 1861 a temperance society meeting was held at Oaklands when Mr Smethers spoke. Nonconformists were against drinking and John Rochfort felt there was a need for somewhere warm and comfortable for working men to meet. Rochfort and a group of local men bought a property for use as "The British Workman". Interestingly the property had recently been a public house. There was also a "coffee tavern" in Ryeworth. These taverns also offered a comfortable place for men to gather, read, chat and have light refreshments. The temperance movement was still working hard in the village in 1884. The Gospel Temperance Army held a meeting in the chapel's lecture hall. Reverend J A Owen presided, Mr Playee, Mr Rochfort and others addressed the meeting. The Temperance Melodeon Band played during the intervals.

While the village had its share of drunkenness many people were sober and hard working. There were several friendly societies in the village. These provided a way for the workingman to put some money aside for those difficult times, sickness, death or times of unemployment. The local public house was the usual place to pay your dues. These societies always had an annual festival. These would start with a church service, a march to a local inn where a dinner would be enjoyed. The Charlton Kings Friendly Society walked in procession to church, then back to the London Inn where Mr McIvin gave them an excellent dinner. A W Gabb was president at the dinner and reported that the club was flourishing. There was also a Charlton Kings Benefit Club and a Provident Coal Club.

The village folk were very good at arranging their own entertainment. Fortnightly concerts were held for many years, they sound rather like old time music halls, with a president and a number of offerings, instrumental, songs, poems and much more. The villagers enjoyed and supported these concerts. During the winter months "Penny Readings" were a popular entertainment at the time. Charles Dickens toured the country and visited America to give readings, he came to the Assembly Rooms in Cheltenham in 1869. The Charlton Kings readings were so profitable that by 1882 they were able to purchase a stage. The treasurer, Mr Craddock bought eight planks and three trestles.

St Mary's Church decided to call a meeting of the working men with a view to forming a Church of England Workingmen's Club. After some opposition from The British Workman the club was established in Ruby House, Cudnall. As this was only meant to be a temporary meeting place fund raising was begun. Progress was slow, although many differing activities were arranged. A well known local fund raiser, Captain St Clair Ford came forward and offered to help. St Clair Ford had been born in Charlton Kings but on his return from India had settled in Cheltenham. Land was purchased in Church Street and the foundation stone of the club house was laid in May 1888. By December 1888 the club was opened. The building, which had been designed by St Clair Ford, had rooms for reading and discussion; a comfortable bar serving light refreshments and upstairs a large assembly room. Horace Edwards, a Cheltenham bookseller resident in Charlton Kings became the Secretary. The everyday working of the club was to be organised and undertaken by the club members. The upstairs hall was registered with the council for the use of up to four hundred people. Concerts were organised during the winter and sports in the summer. Educational lectures and recreational activities took place in rooms here.

The period between 1873 -1896 was known as the "Great Depression". Industrialists and businessmen were suffering loss of profits due to the proliferation of imported foreign goods. The depression in farming was also due to imports, made worse by natural calamities: bad weather, blight on the crops, foot and mouth disease, pleuro-pneumonia and liver rot in the animals. Figures for the incidence of Foot and Mouth in Charlton Kings for 1872 show that 19 farms were affected, involving 136 cattle, 127 sheep and 23 pigs. Of these 30 cattle, 37 sheep and 1 pig recovered. In spite of these figures, the depression would have been less intense in Charlton Kings, as dairy farmers were less liable to competition from abroad. The minutes of the Local Board showed a government circular in 1893 asking for unemployment figures. The Board's Clerk was instructed to write and say that, "in Charlton Kings there had been no exceptional want of employment during the last winter". We have no way of knowing what "no exceptional want of employment" meant. There was inclement weather during the winter of 1895. Many unemployed were found work, clearing snow from the streets. They also did stone breaking and digging in Charlton Hill Quarries. Mr Peacey said Clee Hill stone was very hard, some men had given up stone breaking. Tytherton stone had been ordered. The same winter Miss Mott and Miss Dobell set up a soup kitchen, one hundred and forty people were supplied with soup and bread for a fortnight.

The Cheltenham Horse Bus at Six-Ways



Changes were taking place in Cheltenham, Cavendish House had opened in 1826. The introduction of ready-made clothes and factory-made shoes was changing the way people shopped. Working class housewives were helped by factory produced food, jams, pickles, custard powder and more. These shops needed more assistants, both male and female. Letherens, the iron foundry, and the Cheltenham Brewery were both prospering, giving employment to a number of men. The Cheltenham Omnibus Company, formed in 1890 ran a horse bus service from Charlton Kings to the High Street, making it easier to get to work in Cheltenham. Some people must have decided to move to cities like Bristol and Gloucester where there was more industrial development and opportunity to find work.

Emigration was another possibility. Thomas Hamlett had left Charlton Kings in 1850 to settle in America. The Board of Guardians, set up in 1834, to be responsible for the Union, formed an Emigration Committee in 1850 to provide financial help and possibly encourage poor people to take up this option.. In 1850 they received 200 applications to go to Quebec, they assisted 20 adults and 21 children. On April 4th the emigrants were given a farewell tea in the Town Hall, Cheltenham before sailing on the Corsair from Gloucester Docks to Quebec. Each person was given a bible and many people gathered to see the emigrants off . The Revd Browne held a special service on board the Corsair . It was later reported that the Corsair had reached Quebec safely on May 20th.

Charlton Kings at the end of the 19th Century was a very different place from that at the beginning of the century. The population had increased from 730 in 1801 to 4187 in 1891. The village had grown, attitudes and opportunities had changed. A guidebook of the times described Charlton Kings as “a suburb of Cheltenham”. Education was now both compulsory and free. In 1894 the Board school had a new building for the boys opened, opposite the girls and infant school in Mill Lane. C C Higgs had established his school beside Holy Apostle’s Church. In 1800 the parish church was the centre of village life providing the parishioners with their religious needs, local government, entertainment and care for the poor. At the end of the century the parish church was no longer the only church in the village. The Local Board had detached itself from the church and was about to become the Urban District Council with its new offices at Sixways. Most men now had the vote, and the Reform Act of 1888 had added male agricultural and domestic workers to those able to vote. The Trade Union Congress was founded in 1868, and the Independent Labour Party had formed, among their members William Morris, writer and a man of ideas and Keir Hardy, a coal miner. The exchange of ideas between classes was becoming easier. In the village the Working Men’s Club, coffee taverns and the British Workman provided newspapers, books and a comfortable place for men to read and discuss these new ideas.

In 1800 the ownership of land and property bestowed the right to rule. By 1900 the respect of your peers was gained through your own efforts. His peers’ respect gave a man the right to put himself forward for election to the local government. It was decided that in future the Easter Vestry meeting would be held in the evening, so that more working men could attend. This suggestion had come from the vicar in 1892. Horace Edwards is quoted as fervently believing that “in this age of advancement and competition, it is the duty of every man to use every means at his command to improve his social position, increase his knowledge and cultivate his mind”

What a change from “ knowing your place”.

THE BRIDGMAN FAMILY IN CHARLTON KINGS

By Geoff Bridgman

My own connection with Charlton Kings is that when first born I lived at No 2 Police Houses in East End Road, but the family go back to around the early part of the 19th century when some of them moved from Morton Hampstead on the edge of Dartmoor to Charlton Kings, along with the Fields and the Frost families. What brought them here remains a mystery. This year will mark the 90th anniversary of the end of World War I, so it seems appropriate that this article will concentrate on my Grandfather Frederick Frank Bridgman who served throughout that war.

He was born at 18 Rosehill Street on 13th August 1893, the son of Frank Jonathon Bridgman and Jane neé Townsend. They later moved to 4 Morton Villas in Cudnall Street. Frederick was the third of seven children: William Herbert born 1887, Henry Wallace 1890, Nellie Grace 1896, Sidney Alfred 1899, Winifred Ada 1907 and Elsie Kathleen 1909. He had a hard but enjoyable childhood, going to Holy Apostles school, and being involved with the Holy Apostles football team for several years. He was also involved with the church choir and won several certificates of merit for his standard of work.

HOLY APOSTLES FOOTBALL TEAM 1911-12

Frank is 2nd from the right in the middle row.



BACK ROW.—Mr. W. E. Palmer, Rev. H. A. Corke (*President*), Mr. W. H. Symonds, Mr. W. J. Lawrence, H. G. Davey, F. Fry, A. J. Haanis, E. A. Hicks, Mr. A. J. Suckley, Mr. W. E. Davey, Mr. F. Satchell.
MIDDLE ROW.—E. Burrows, F. H. Taylor (*Vice-Captain*), A. Roberts, H. S. Jones (*Captain*), L. Hart (*Hon. Secretary*), F. Bridgman, W. J. Chadler.
FRONT ROW.—F. French, H. Knight, F. Scrivens, J. Marshall.

When Frederick left school he went to work as a shoe repairer and worked at W Sharpe & Sons at the Colonnade House in Cheltenham. His future father-in-law, James William Wells, was head overseer there and helped him secure the employment. James Wells had two daughters, Elsie May and Alice Alexandra. My grandfather married Elsie and her sister married Reginald Bastin, a friend of Fred's whose father owned the printers in Cheltenham and whose family also had Charlton Kings connections.

At the outbreak of war young Fred Bridgman and Reg Bastin joined up in the 1/5th Gloucesters, a pre-war regular battalion. Fred served in C company in this battalion throughout the war, but Reg was medically discharged with bad bunions. The training was tough and 1915 was to be an important year for my grandfather. The 1/5th were attached to 144th brigade and were based at Armentieres before being transferred to Ploegsteert ('Plugstreet') wood section. They were involved in many battles and skirmishes. In September Fred returned from Brigade Grenadier School with 58 others from the Battalion who had successfully qualified as Grenadiers. These men led raids on enemy trenches bombing them with grenades, which meant he was one of the first to go out of the trenches to attack the Germans – a brave man. In November he had permission to go home and get married. He left France on the 15th, married by special licence at Holy Apostles on the 19th, and was back in France by the 21st.

**Members of C Company 1/5th Glosters who had qualified as Grenadiers.
Frank is 4th from the left in the back row.**



July 1916 – the Battle of the Somme. 144th Brigade were held in reserve until 14th July when they attacked Ovillers. Attacks and rest periods carried on right through the year. Going through a house in Perrone, Fred and his mate found two duelling pistols shaped like bottles. My grandfather kept one in his rucksack until the end of the war, and I still have it.

In January 1917 they moved to Cappy and were later involved in the battle at Paschendale. The 48th Division moved to the Italian front in November and were in the Italian Alps by February 1918. Although Fred survived the war without getting wounded he had frostbite in his throat because they were ill equipped for the severe conditions in the Alps. His throat troubled him to the day he died in 1970, not helped by the fact that he smoked sixty Woodbines a day!

By September 1918 they were back in France, transferred to the 75th Brigade 25th Division, and were involved with heavy fighting at different places, ending the war in Landrecies sector. Most of the 1/5th were sent home and disbanded in July 1919, but my grandfather, as he had his job at Sharpes to return to, was able to leave in March.

Fred and his wife lived in a basement flat in St George's Place while he was working at Sharpes. He then moved to Longborough, near Moreton in Marsh, where he worked in a shoe repairer's shop called Perce Lloyd for several years. He also worked as a part time porter at Moreton station till moving back to Cheltenham. Fred and Elsie had four sons, one born in Longborough, the rest in Cheltenham. Only one survives today, my Uncle Bernard.

Frederick and Elsie – my Grandparents



Fred rarely spoke about his experiences to his children, but when he was older he read books about the war and liked to talk to his grandchildren about what he had read. He would say 'I was there'. Frederick Frank Bridgman, I salute you.

SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE COMMITTEE

By Don Sherwell

The Charlton Kings Senior Citizen Welfare Committee celebrated the 60th year of its existence last December. Since 1947, its activities and functions have altered and developed as needs and circumstances have changed, but it continues to play a valuable role in the life of the village. The committee's main function today is to run a minibus, taking its passengers to supermarkets, and a variety of clubs, social activities and on outings. All its work is with and for elderly people (usually over the age of 70), with the intention of helping them to stay in their own homes and to enjoy an improved quality of life.

The story began with a meeting in December 1947 between Miss Merry, County Secretary of the Old People's Welfare Movement (founded 1940), and a group of local ladies, clergy and Mr Gilbert Ward, to discuss setting up a branch in Charlton Kings, primarily to organise a club for the over-sixties in the village. This was enthusiastically agreed, and local clergy and organisations such as the Salvation Army, Mothers' Union, Women's Own, Co-operative Women's Guild, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Girls' Friendly Society and also the District Nursing and Health Visitor, were invited to join. Later the Committee was expanded to include representatives of the WVS, Womens' Catholic Guild, Townswomen's Guild, the Labour Party, (it was decided in 1963 not to have political representation) and the superintendents of East Court and Grevill House homes for the elderly.

To raise interest in the formation of a club for the elderly, invitations to a party in February 1948 were issued. Around 320 people attended, where they were entertained by a conjuror, the Salvation Army troupe of dancers, the Stonehouse Old People's Choir, and community singing. This being in the period of rationing, Committee members were asked to give up their sweet rations as well as provide other foodstuffs for the occasion. The founding of the Happy Circle Club in Charlton Kings followed the next month. In 1949 it had 190 members. (There was a breakaway in 1950 when a Six Ways Club was set up which lasted until 1992) Long before Charlton Kings had a library of its own, Happy Circle had a collection of books to lend. In 1952 40 members, subsidised by the Committee, went on holiday to Paignton, the first of many such holidays across the country. Happy Circle was running a successful Thrift Club in the early sixties, and was enabled to sell certain foodstuffs at greatly reduced prices.

For many years, the Committee's activities were many and various. It became a forum for discussing matters relating to the welfare of the elderly, and a focus for providing direct help to them. A priority of the Committee throughout its history has been concern for the housebound and lonely. In 1952, for example, cards were issued for the elderly to put in their windows if they needed help urgently. In the same year, and at various times in later years, with the help of clergy and health visitors, a list of all the elderly in the village known to be living alone was drawn up, to seek to ensure that people in most need

were visited, by committee members or “professionals”, (including the Gas Board so its staff could make free 6-monthly checks of appliances). At one time, there were seven area teams of visitors, and local schools were sometimes active in helping as part of their social programmes.

A surprisingly-major aspect of the Committee’s work for nearly 30 years relates to the provision of chiropody to the elderly. The local Medical Officer of Health originally arranged for a chiropodist to visit Charlton Kings for one half-day per week. Grants were made to help furnish a room, and pay for the travelling costs of staff. By 1981, the local clinic had 420 patients, the largest in the county, with 9 receptionists and 4 drivers, all volunteers. In that year, the service became part of the NHS, with a paid organiser, and provision was moved to Delancey Hospital.

From 1957, the Charlton Kings Committee paid the Cheltenham Committee to provide Meals on Wheels to local residents (subsequently grants for this purpose were available from local authorities). Numbers at first were very small, and so Cheltenham Committee quickly decided not to continue coming to the village. It had not reckoned with the fact that all but one of its drivers came from Charlton Kings, who rebelled against the decision, so, “having had a pistol put to their heads” the Committee even more quickly changed its mind.

The desirability of opening a luncheon club was first mooted in 1974, when it was made clear that the Meals on Wheels service could not expand to meet the growing need for them. Three years later, a lunch club was opened on Baptist Church premises on Thursdays, which continues to this day. At first, meals came in from kitchens in Cheltenham, but complaints about their quality led to them being provided on site from 1984. At various times the Committee has provided money as well as personnel to help this work. Also in 1977, a half-day centre was opened at the Baptist Church for the house-bound; this continued for 23 years when, unfortunately, it had to close because of a lack of volunteers. Still on the subject of food, in 1987 the Committee was responsible for distributing some 1.75 tonnes of EEC cheese and butter to Old Peoples’ Homes and clubs as well as to individual pensioners in the village.

The Committee also used to run a Christmas voucher scheme for hard-up pensioners and distribute heating allowances. These were largely overtaken by government initiatives. For a period around 1980 the Committee bought a fairly substantial amount of equipment (such as wheelchairs, armchairs and zimmers) to be lent to the elderly or given for use in local clubs. At different times the Committee discussed, and successfully followed up, such matters as road safety, the provision of buses and reduced fares for pensioners. In sheltered housing schemes in the village, the lack of wardens, cleaning, telephones and washing machines, even the effects of decomposing rats and drunken residents, came to the Committee for its consideration. A new initiative in the past months is the offer of a free service relating to home security and personal safety.

The purchase of a minibus was first suggested in 1981 and, with the help of a grant from the Cooper’s Trust, a secondhand vehicle came into use in 1982. In 1984 this was

carrying passengers to the Tuesday and Thursday lunch clubs, the Happy Circle and Sixways clubs, and to the swimming baths. Later transport was also provided to a Library club and to the Harper Clinic, which ran from 1992 until 2006. Fortnightly shopping trips to supermarkets began in 1995, the year the Committee gained charitable status. The current minibus was bought in 2004.

In the early years money was raised largely through jumble sales, whist drives, donations and biennial house-to-house collections. Later generous grants were made by several organisations such as Cooper's charity and the Charlton Kings Relief in Need Committee. The Borough Council used to subsidise the fares paid by minibus users and now makes a grant to cover the abolition of fares for journeys within Cheltenham. Other grants come from the County and a charitable trust. Fares are charged for some visits outside Cheltenham and donations play a valuable part in the Committee's fundraising.

There are no paid employees, but approximately 30 volunteers help to run the service. More would be welcome – the Co-ordinator, Mr David Brawn (tel 523144), would always be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to know more about what they do. Hopefully the Committee will be enabled to continue and develop its work for many years to come.

Chairmen of the Committee:

1947-49: Cr Mrs MH Cannell	1949-50: Cr Huckfield,	1950-54: Gilbert Ward
1954-55: Cr Huckfield	1955-58: Lt Col Eagar	1958-62: Cr Huckfield
1962-65: Rev D Deakin	1965-77: Cyril F Taylor	1977-81: GLJ Weaver
1981-88: Cr Vic Stanton	1988-2000: John Ray	2000-07: Douglas Masling
2007-: Martyn Fry		

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DEATH OF A MOTORING PIONEER

I am grateful to Mike Grindley of Cheltenham Local History Society for passing on this piece from the *Cheltenham Chronicle* dated 24 January 1931.

'Inventions of a Charlton Engineer': By the death of Mr Julian M Le Plain on Thursday at this home 1 Milbrook Place, Charlton Kings, a motoring pioneer has passed away. During his motoring career Mr Le Plain invented many accessories, but none have become famous, for Mr Le Plain's business qualities were far short of his engineering ability. In 1906, after becoming chauffeur to Mr Alfred Drake of Dowdeswell Court, he invented a mechanical self-starter, by which the engine was started with a spring, and in 1912 he invented an electric direction indicator. Another of his inventions was the La Plain automatic air valve. Mr Le Plain was born in Brittany sixty four years ago.

Does anybody know more about this man and his inventions?

VIEW OF CHELTENHAM – THOMAS ROBINS

The *Gloucestershire Echo* for May 25th 2007 published a photograph of a painting by Thomas Robins under the headline “Historic view to go under the hammer”. It was entitled ‘A View of Cheltenham from the West’ and was due to be sold at Christie’s in London on 5th June. Harriet Drummond, head of British art at Christie’s said “this is a particularly exciting piece as we think it is one of the oldest views of Cheltenham in a private collection.... It’s a very beautiful piece and it’s particularly interesting to see how the town has grown around the spa over time....the cattle in the foreground and rolling hills in the background present a beautiful view of an area of the town which was built around the spring, which is now occupied by the Cheltenham Ladies College”.

The photograph in the *Echo* looked exactly like the painting in the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum and my first thought was that the painting in the Museum was only there on loan and that the owner now wanted to sell it. This was something that couldn’t be allowed to happen. The view, painted in 1748, is of paramount importance to our understanding of mid-18th century Cheltenham, just ten years after Skillicorne’s development of the spa. To my great relief the Museum staff assured me that their painting was certainly not due to be sold.

A careful comparison between the photograph of the Christie’s painting and the one in the Cheltenham Art Gallery showed that they were nearly identical. Both had been painted from the same spot, with trees on either side framing the view of St Mary’s church, the Great House, and the spa building with its avenue of young trees. The only slight differences were in the position of the cows in the foreground and the inclusion of a coach and horses leaving the spa in the Christie’s version..

The presence of two nearly identical paintings casts a new light on Robins’ work. He was presumably not painting a one-off for a specific commission, but producing several copies to sell, probably as souvenirs to visitors. In which case one wonders how many others may still exist and did he employ anybody else to help him – perhaps his son Thomas Robins the Younger.

Christie’s gave a provenance for the painting as having belonged to Sir Thomas Phillips in 1859 and having been sold by them in 1964 for the sum of 30 guineas. Their estimate in 2007 was £25,000 to £35,000 and the price realised at the sale was £31,200 – not bad for a souvenir.

[For more information about this Charlton Kings artist see *Bulletins* 2, 8, 24, 44 and 46]

LADY RUSSELL'S BEETLE DRESS

By Gillian Potter

An evening dress, dated between 1827 and 1831, is in the care of the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum and is a worthy subject for further study. It belonged to Lady Russell, once a resident of Charlton Kings, and was given to the Museum in 1943 by Lady Russell's grand-daughter, Mrs Matthew Arnold of West Meon, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire. The gown is of further significance as a rare early example of Indian beetle-wing embroidery used to enhance an item of European fashion.

Lady Russell was the second wife of Sir William Russell, who having qualified as a doctor in Edinburgh, emigrated to India where, in time, he acquired a large successful practice in Calcutta and became an expert in the treatment of cholera. In 1814, after the death of his first wife, Dr Russell married Jane Eliza Sherwood, then aged 17, the daughter of General James Doddington Sherwood. On their return to London in 1831 Dr Russell was appointed by the British Government to the Central Board of Health to combat an epidemic of cholera which had spread to Britain from the East. In recognition of his work he was made a Baronet and Fellow of the Royal Society in 1832. [See *Bulletin 50* p30 for portraits of Sir William and Lady Russell]

In 1839 Lady Jane Russell inherited Charlton Park, through the Doddington side of the family. [See *Bulletin 8* p36 for details of the succession] The family took up residence in Charlton Kings, but Sir William was a sick man and died later that year. Jane Eliza adopted the name Prinn and henceforth was known as Lady Prinn, continuing to use this title after her marriage to William Heathorn.

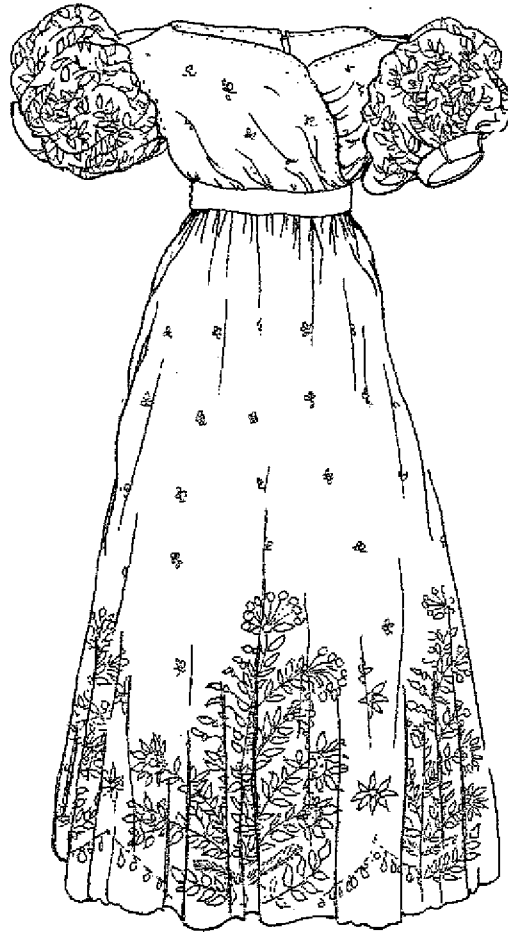
The dress, which is in good condition for its age despite a few stains, is an excellent example of the influence of the meeting, and combination of two cultures to produce an aesthetically pleasing result. A full skirt is gathered into a high waistband and the bodice is asymmetrically draped and loosely pleated, with a low neckline outlined with gold strips (gota). It has very full short puffed sleeves. The outstanding feature of the gown is the rich patterning of its sleeves, bodice and skirt with over three thousand beetlewings. Each wing is individually applied to the fabric and glistens in shades of brilliant blue and green, bright cerulean changing suddenly to deep indigo or emerald green or inky black with the slightest movement of the fabric. The colours would have rippled from light to dark in the undulating folds of the skirt and puff sleeves.

The design of the embroidery can be traced back to the Indian 'Buta' motif or Moghul tradition. On the bodice small widely spaced floral motifs are scattered, while the puffed sleeves are densely decorated with a flowing leaf pattern. The skirt has flowering sprays rising from the hem, making an elaborate design. A running chevron line of tiny leaves finishes the hem. The origins of these designs came from the Moghul Court of the 17th century, developing from a single flowering plant complete with roots, then an upright

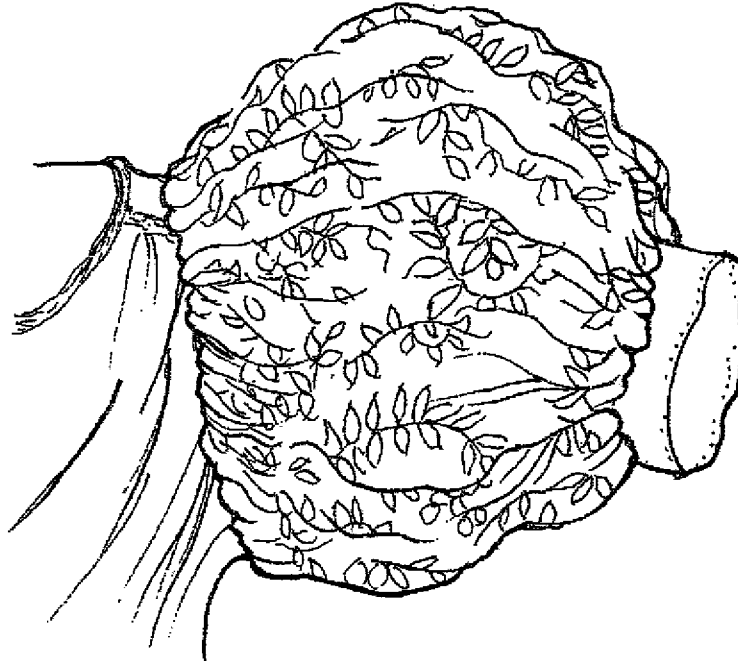
spray of flowers which gradually became stylised into the familiar cone-shaped motif known as 'Buta' or 'Boteh', a motif we are familiar with in Kashmir shawls. These shawls first appeared in England in the 18th century, marketed by the East India Company. Soon European manufacturers imitated the designs to meet the demands of fashionable ladies. The production of shawls in Paisley commenced about 1805.

Beetle wing decoration is one of the most elaborate forms of embroidery which was used on Moghul court dress. All expensive outer wear used small pieces of beetle 'elytra' (the hard outer pair of wings) incorporated into precious metalwork. Many pieces were owned by royalty. The National Museum in New Delhi houses some splendid examples of Moghul style 'Patkas' (sashes) and turban cloths of mid and late 17th century. Bharat Kala Bahaman's sash has an elegant tree of life motif and border of leaves. Perhaps there is some connection with the use of beetle wings to the imitation of emeralds or green enamel, whereby the garment could appear more splendid than it actually was. These historic examples are closely related to both the technique and design of Eliza Jane's dress.

Drawing of Lady Russell's dress

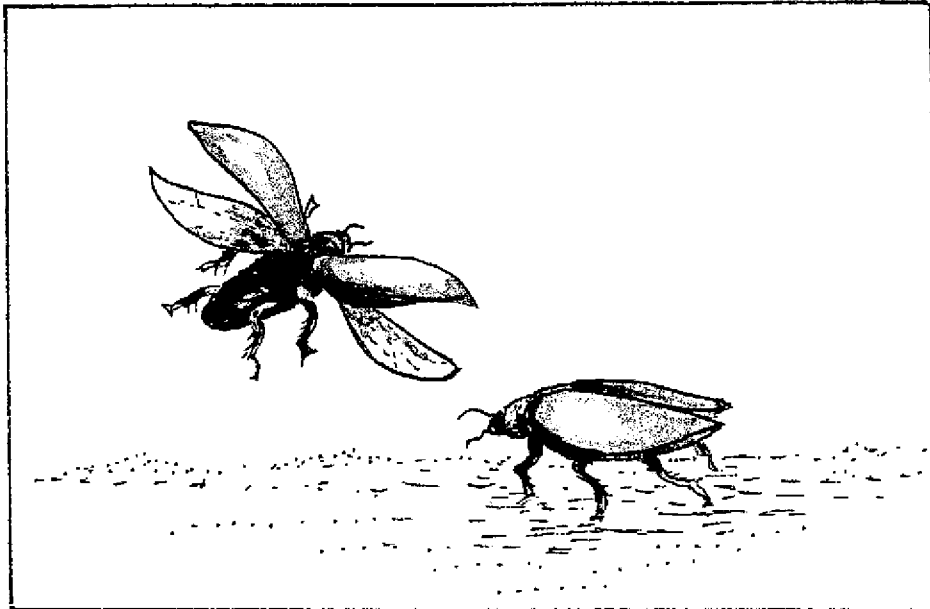


Details of the pattern on a puffed sleeve and the skirt



Beetle wings have been used in many places around the world, Asia, Australia, Mexico, and in ancient Egypt the familiar bright blue scarab. In mid-victorian England there grew a desire to acquire curiosities or exotic items from foreign lands, mainly from Asia and South America using iridescent feathers, humming birds and beetle wings. At the Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace in 1851 a Miss Mary Kettlewell exhibited a dress patterned with 'elytra'. The dress that Ellen Terry wore as Lady Macbeth, at the Lyceum in 1888, was decorated in this way to create the necessary brilliance and is immortalised in J S Sergent's portrait of her. Even as late as 1928 Liberty of London sold a dress with beetle wing embellishments.

The department of Entomology at the British Museum has tested examples of the wing cases of the dress in Cheltenham Museum and identified them as 'sternocera aquisignata Saunders' (family Buprestidae) or 'Jewel Beetles'. Beetles have two sets of wings, the hard pair or 'elytra' which meet in straight lines down the beetle's body and are raised during flight.



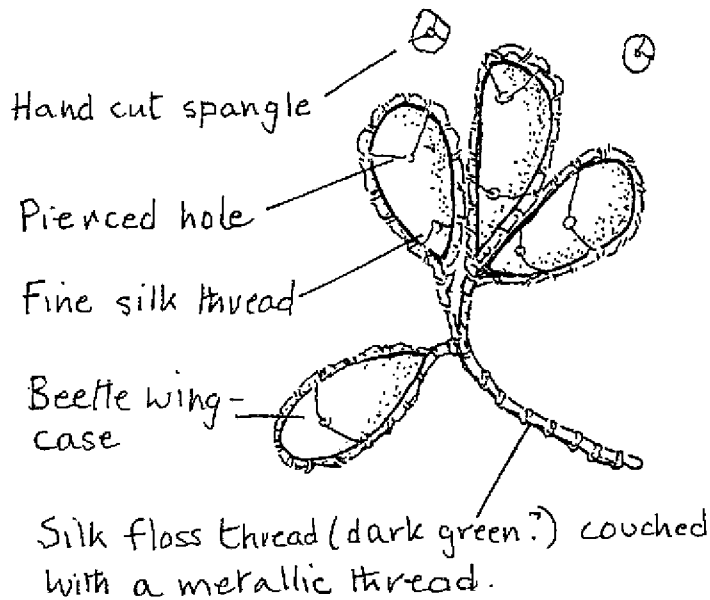
They are lightweight and very strong, composed of 'chitin'. The brilliant metallic colours are due to the physical structure of chitin, which has minute spacings that allow light waves to reinforce each other. The colour does not remain static but fluctuates with shifting rays of light. Hilda Simon, in *The Splendour of Iridescence*, describes the effect : "no other form of pure pigment can march such intensity of brilliance ... the seemingly magical coloration [sic] of metallic beetles have made them extremely fascinating."

**These two photographs show: on the left - the pattern of the skirt
And on the right - a close up of part of the pattern.**





Each wing case is about 2cm long and is pierced with holes at either end; each wing case is separately applied to the muslin by a green silk thread. The 'elytra' are outlined with silk floss couched down with a metallic thread. On the dress some wing cases have been damaged or lost over the years, but their position is clear from the remaining couched outline, as can be seen in the drawing of the puffed sleeve. Tiny metallic spangles are stitched to the muslin in the centre of some floral motifs; these are smaller than the sequins we know today and are obviously hand-cut with uneven edges.



Eliza Jane, being the daughter of an East Indian Army officer, would have been familiar with Indian culture and possibly seen Mogul work while in India. It would be intriguing if we could discover how the dress came about. The fabric is Indian muslin, a very fine woven cotton made by Bengali and Indian weavers, an obvious choice of fabric, being fashionable and suitable for wearing in hot climates. The dress, unlined and stitched throughout by hand, is in a style typical of English fashion of the 1820s or '30s, while the decoration is taken from ancient Moghul design tradition that originated from Persia. Did Eliza Jane commission the design from a traditional Indian source or was it an idea presented to her by Indian craftsmen using pre-embroidered fabric?

The cultural traditions that Europeans absorbed from their colonies have become of increasing interest since the end of the British Empire and are a subject of study. This dress is certainly a noteworthy item in the Museum's collection. It has survived for nearly two hundred years and deserves our admiration and careful conservation for future generations to admire.

My thanks go to Helen Brown, Collections Manager at the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, for her help and interest in this project.

GOLDEN JUBILEE - SACRED HEARTS CHURCH

By Ann Hookey

On 30 June 2007 Sacred Hearts Church marked the 50th Anniversary of its dedication with a Concelebratory Mass offered by the Right Reverend Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton, assisted by Father Alan Finley, the present Parish Priest, together with former Parish Priests and guest Priests. The Bishop welcomed Councillor John Rawson, Mayor of Cheltenham, and all the congregation, particularly mentioning Mrs Bella Barrett, widow of Harold Trigg who had sculpted the statues of Christ and Our Lady, as well as the Stations of the Cross.



Among the many parishioners attending were Sisters from La Sainte Union, the Order that had owned Charlton Park Convent and had originally donated the land for the Church and Hall. There were also members of the Carmelite Order, who had previously run Whitefriars School – now having amalgamated with the Convent and become co-educational, known as St Edwards School. Nazareth House was represented by Sisters from the Home for the Elderly in London road.

At the end of Mass, the Bishop announced that Father Alan had been appointed as a Canon of the Clifton Diocese. Afterwards a Golden Jubilee Supper was held in the Parish Hall, enjoyed by over 120 people. The Hall had been beautifully decorated on a gold theme, and the festivities ended with the Bishop presenting Father Alan with a Papal Blessing for himself and all members of the Parish. Father Alan thanked all who had supported the Parish in many different ways over half a century. He hoped that all would continue to “seek the face of Christ” in the Sacred Hearts Parish, living amongst Christian and non-Christian neighbours, those of other faiths and none, and that God would bless the whole community.

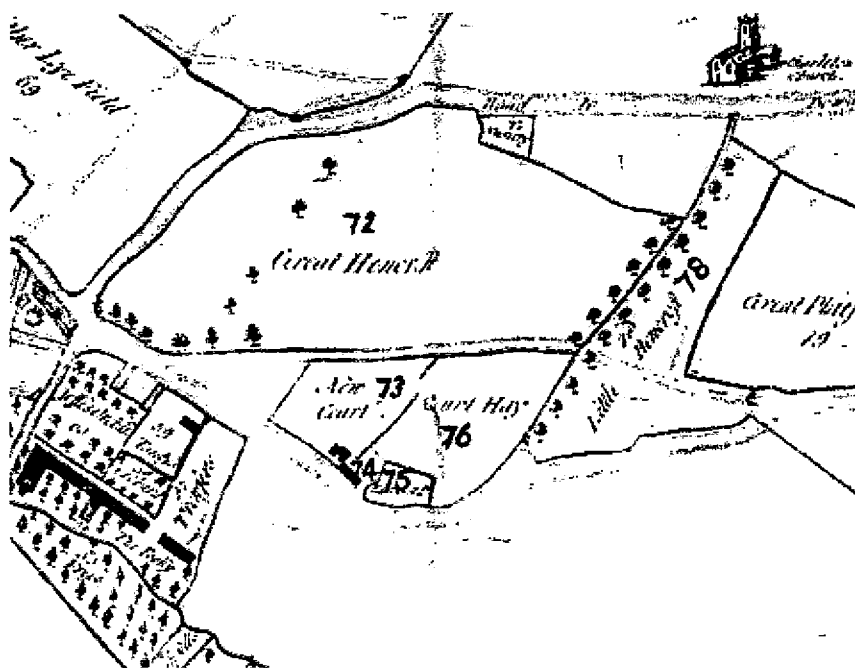
BUILDING ON GARDEN GROUND IS NOTHING NEW

By Joyce Simpson

The residents of Charlton Kings are understandably anxious about the development of garden land for housing, but this is not a 21st century phenomenon. This article shows how the grounds of New Court were gradually split up and built on during the 19th and 20th centuries.

New Court, now called The Court House, is one of the older and more interesting houses in Charlton Kings. As it stands today, the house facing on to Newcourt Road has a moderate sized garden behind it, but in the past it was a much larger property with an orchard, a two acre close and numerous outbuildings. Mary Paget, writing about the history of the house in *Bulletin 9*, quoted from a will made by its owner, Margaret Rich, in 1691. The will gives us a good idea of what went with the house at that time – Anne Stone, was to have ‘the little garden going out of the passage and the great garden that is up the steps and the cherry orchard with the pigeon house and half the barn that is under the pigeon house’, while Margaret Rogers was to have ‘the great and little kitchen gardens, the great orchard and the Court Hay’. There was also mention of a brewhouse and ‘the place where the coach stands’. Mary Paget went on to explain that after John Prinn’s purchase of the house in 1695-7, it had remained as part of the Charlton Park Estate until the bankruptcy of Sir William Russell in the 1870s, when it came into the hands of Sir William’s mortgagees. A recent deposit of archives from Charlton Park includes two estate maps, with their accompanying schedules, dated 1746 and 1843.

Part of the 1746 Map

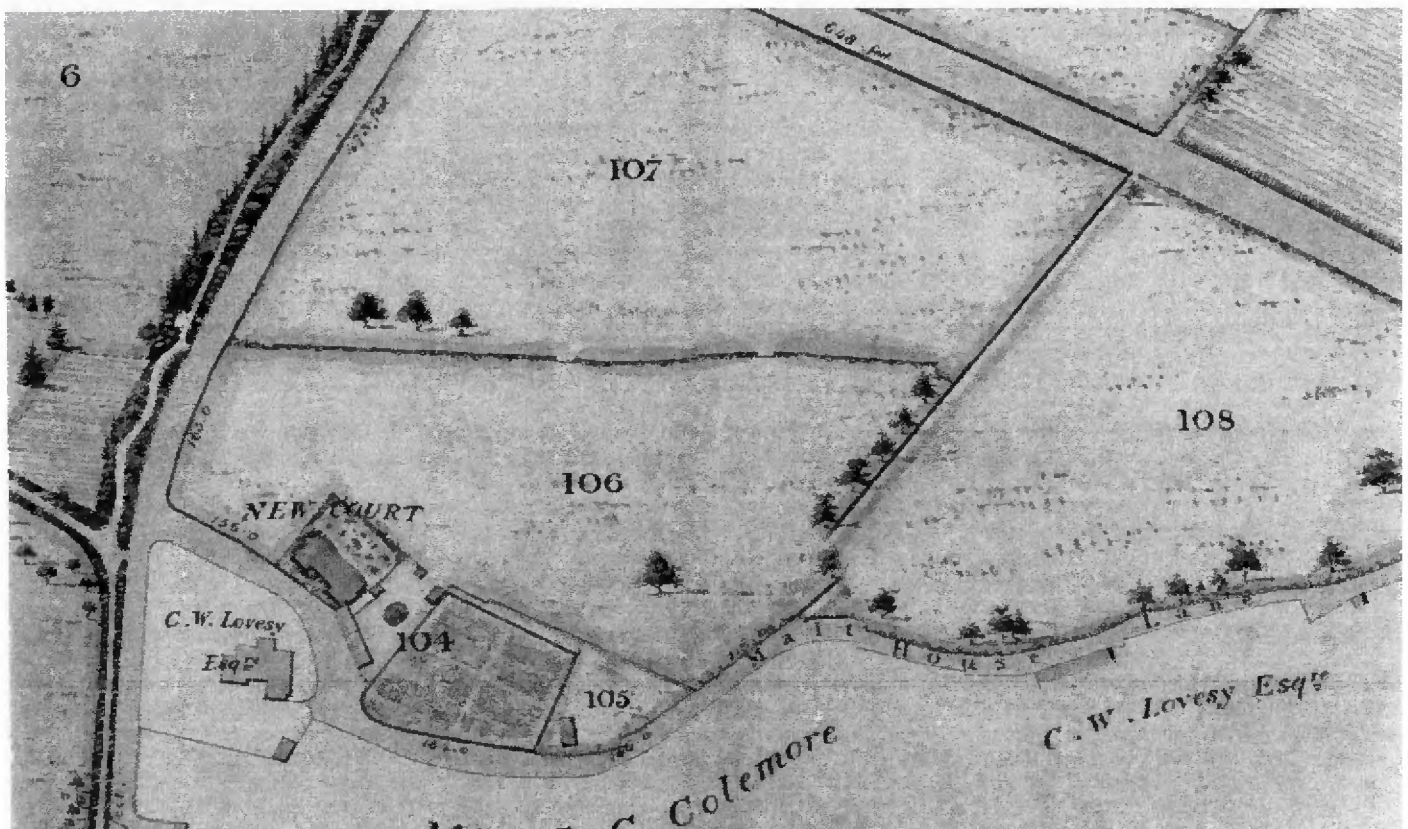


- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 72 | Great Hencroft |
| 73 | Newcourt House and Garden |
| 74 | Courtyard |
| 75 | Elborough's Garden |
| 76 | Court Hay |
| 78 | Little Hencroft |

The 1746 map shows the brick walls surrounding 'Elborough's Garden' and much of them survives today. The straight road shown to the east of New Court was called Hencroft Lane, believed to have been built in the 16th or 17th centuries to provide an alternative to the muddy and winding Moorend Street (now Newcourt Road). This straight road was abandoned when the present Cirencester Road was cut through Hencroft field in 1826-7. From later references we can deduce that the line of trees between Great Hencroft and Little Hencroft is the path between Newcourt Road and the present Cirencester Road, now known as Chestnut Walk. It is possible that the trees shown on the map were the original chestnuts. Mary Paget, writing in *Bulletin 27*, believes that the one surviving tree at the Cirencester Road end of the path could be over 200 years old

The map of 1843 shows the changes that had taken place in the intervening years. Moorend Street, the old name for Newcourt Road, has become Malthouse Lane, named from the Robins family's malthouse on the site of the Laundry. [now 7-17 Newcourt Road] Hencroft Lane has gone, though the line it took can partly be seen by a neglected group of trees at the far end of Newcourt Park. There was also a footpath from the back of the modern Courtlands east across the fields to what is now the Cirencester Road. The two fields (72) and (78) had become North and South Hencroft and Court Hay (76) was no longer a separate field but had been joined to the previous New Court land (73) to form a 3 acre orchard laid down to grass (106). A corner of Court Hay had become a timber yard and shed (105). The little building shown was, in my opinion, of timber with one window and a door. Barely visible on the map was a stone building against the road with one window and a door, perhaps a workshop? (104) was described as 'New Court house, garden etc.' but there is no indication when Elborough (Elsbrow) ceased to cultivate it, though a Prinn rent book shows it described as 'Elbows' in 1759. The building on the left of the garden and actually forming part of the wall still has a window in it, described in a later deed as 'looking into the garden for eavesdropping'!

Part of the 1843 Map



The 1882 Rate Book for Charlton Kings, edited by Mary Paget in 2004, shows the house and neighbouring land still owned by Sir William's mortgagees, but occupied by James Villar. The Villar family were architects and developers. Jane Sale, in *Bulletin 51*, described how James was involved in the development of housing on Cirencester Road in the 1890s.

A number of deeds and those kindly lent by neighbours bring the history of the house and garden up to date and show how successive owners have sold off land for building. The earliest of them, dated 21 July 1897, shows that Charlotte Mary King conveyed 'the whole property' of New Court to John Gaspard Villar, another member of the Villar family. It was he who began the break-up of the New Court estate when in 1907 he sold to Harold Tarrt Carrington a piece of land on the north side of the property upon which Park Grange was built (now Charlton Kings Care Home). Certain restrictions were laid down at the time of the conveyance: the purchaser should not use the site for any other purpose than to build a dwelling house and that house should not be of less value than £400; the vendor should not build any dwelling house on a frontage on to Moored Road on the west side adjoining the said site.

J G Villar owned New Court house for 27 years, although according to the 1914 Rate Book, he was not occupying it at that time. When he conveyed the property to Miss Mary and Miss Zoe Cross in March 1924 it was described as 'all that messuage and hereditaments known as New Court site together with the paddock adjoining, an area of 6a 3r 26p, bounded on the north by Moored Road and partly by Park Grange, on the east in part by Park Grange and partly by the back gardens of the houses in Cirencester Road, on the south by a footpath leading from New Court Road to Cirencester Road (Chestnut Walk), on the west by said New Court Road.' This description, with the acreage given as nearly 7 acres shows that the part of North Hencroft to the west of Cirencester Road must have been included in the property.

The Misses Cross lived together at New Court until the death of Mary on 27 May 1947, when Zoe inherited her sister's share of the property. Zoe sold the property later that year to Mr and Mrs Bond for the sum of £7,500. At the time of the conveyance Zoe's address was given as 'The Homestead', Charlton Kings, which had been built in the grounds of Park Grange. Here we can see an early example of garden development and later of down-sizing.

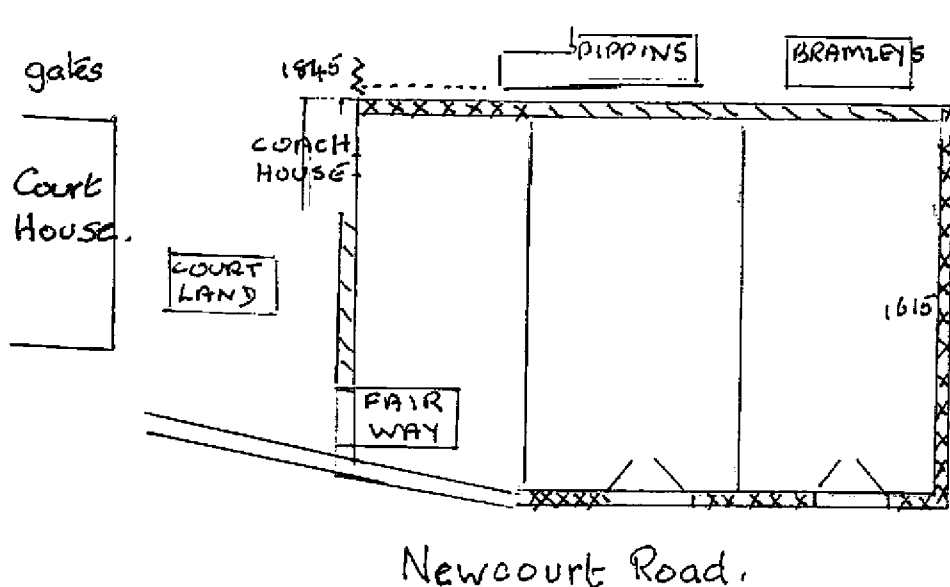
The early 1950s saw an easing of building restrictions – licences for new houses of less than 1000 square feet were granted to the general public. This resulted in a considerable national increase in the sale of building plots, and Mr and Mrs Bond, the owners of New Court, decided to take advantage of the trend. Their first sale was the site of the former timber yard (105 on the 1843 map), on which 'High Ridge' and 'Tall Trees' were to be built. Amongst the stipulations laid down the purchasers were to erect a 6ft high stock-proof fence along their north side from the end of the brick wall to the eastern boundary as the field was used for fattening cattle for market. The next sale took place in December 1954 when Mr and Mrs Bond sold land having a frontage to Newcourt Road at the junction with Chestnut Way. The family firm of Turners built the dwelling 'Elms Break'

on this site though not for some time after the conveyance. The name is interesting as Mrs Eve Stuart remembers the rookery in the elm trees in this field (*Bulletin 31*). Neither of these sales would have affected the occupiers of New Court, as they were on the southern edge of the property and out of sight of the house.

In 1956 the Bonds sold 'the dwelling house and premises known as New Court' to Arthur and Helen Rogers for £5250. Mr Bond had always said that he would never sell the field, so great was the sadness when the sale was announced in 1959. Whatever the reasons he was a caring man who had ensured in conveyances that the old walls of the garden were to be maintained and before the elm trees in the field was blown up he advised the neighbours of the time. The Bonds sold the field, an area of 5.18 acres, to Marshalls (Charlton Kings) for building and in 1960 the 18 houses which make up Newcourt Park were developed by Wheeler and Mansell of Evesham. The name 'Wheeler and Mansell' still appears on the man-hole covers.

Mr and Mrs Rogers, the new owners of New Court, continued to sell off parts of the estate. Firstly they sold a plot (Bramleys) within the walls of the old garden shown in the map of 1843. The old brick wall had to be maintained. Next came the site for Pippins. Both these houses were built at a considerable distance from the road, necessitating a lowering of part of the eastern wall of the kitchen garden, as their plots extended beyond its line. Courtlands was built with its southern boundary being the northern wall of the kitchen garden and lastly Fairway between Courtlands and Pippins with the old garden wall remaining its original height. This left a small piece of land to the side of Pippins which was bought by its owners. Stables along the wall no longer existed but the drainage channels remained. On the northern side is a portion of a brick wall and a blocked-up doorway. In the deeds of Pippins reference is made to a brick building with a doorway facing south. It is not recorded when this doorway was blocked up and another constructed at the eastern end of the building nor when the entire building was pulled down.

Plan showing the area within the old garden walls



Plan of site today.

XXXX full height walls.

//// lowered walls

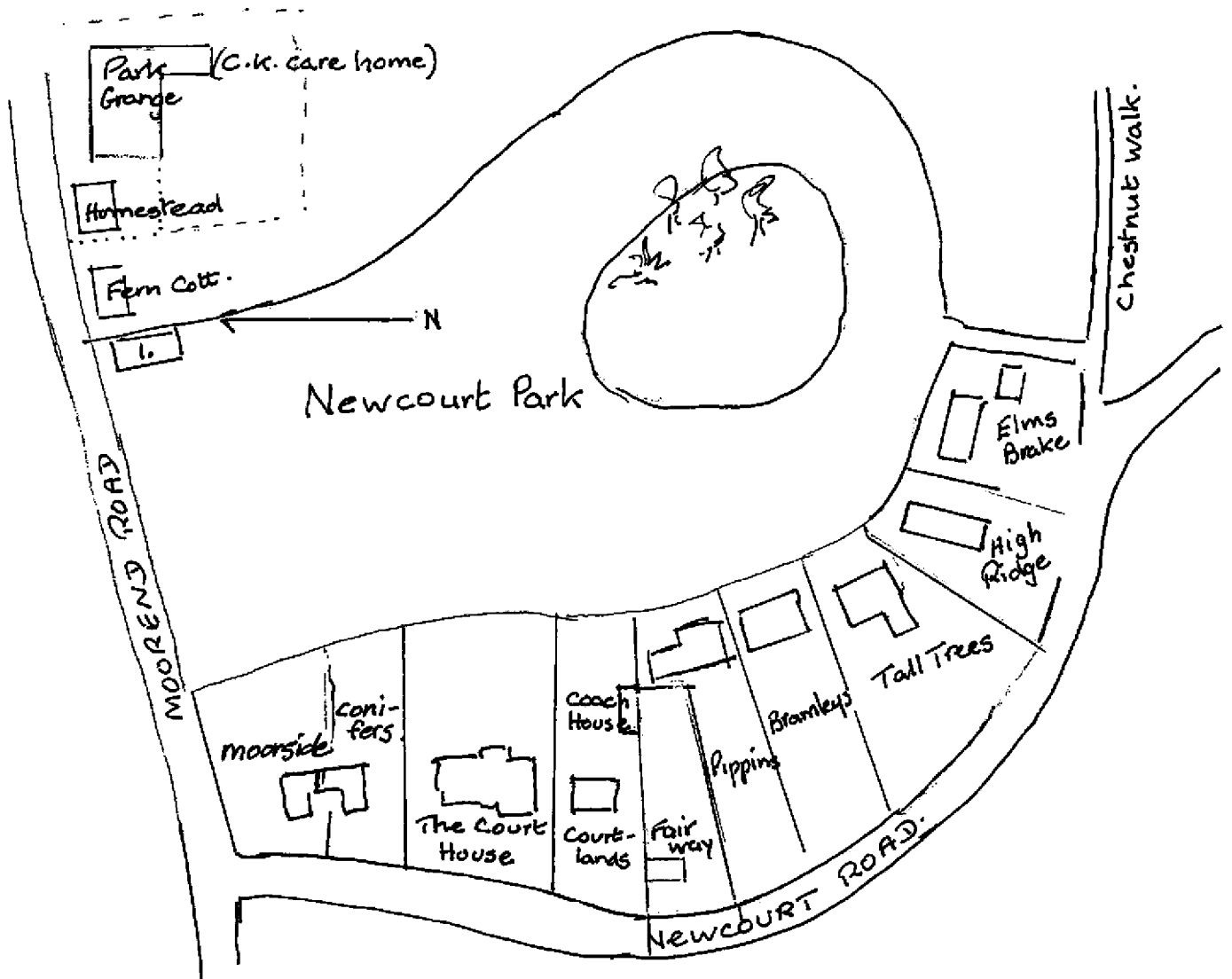
==== foundations only

---- drainage channel

} 1845 wall

Fairways is the only dwelling in this section of Newcourt Road ahead of the former building line. The Borough Council had intended to straighten out the bends of the road but in 1964 decided that there was insufficient money for this to take place so Fairways could be built in its present location.

Following a further change of ownership of New Court, the two plots between the house and Moorend Road were sold and a bungalow built on each.. In little over a hundred years the gardens and field had been sold piecemeal for housing. Only wrought iron gates at the east side of the house remain as an indication of the original extent of the property.



Sketch showing modern names and places.

A TUDOR WILL

By Jane Sale

I am grateful to Jill Barlow of Cheltenham Local History Society for giving me a copy of this will which she found in the National Archives at Kew. It is dated 1588 and was made by Walter Milton "of Westall within the parish of Cheltenham". Walter may have lived and died in Westall but his will shows he had many connections with Charlton Kings, both through members of his family and because he leased land here. Walter was one of a large family, but being a bachelor he left his possessions to various brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces, thus providing valuable information about his family. From the will we can gather that he had three brothers, William, Thomas and Robert, and four sisters, Margaret, Joanne, Marie and Agnes.

We know from various sources that Walter's brother, William, held land in Charlton Kings. John Stubb made a list of all tenants of Cheltenham and Ashley manors who were allowed to enclose land proportionate to their holdings in 1557 and 1564. William was listed as tenant to Thomas Wye esq of a total of 37 acres, part of which was in Barley Meade and part in Milkwell ¹. In the Cheltenham manor court proceedings of 1588 he was listed as a "Tithingman of Bafford" ², and in 1597 a complaint was made that a ditch had not been cleared "from William Milton's gate up to Gowldwells Grene" ³. This was probably the gateway to his land in Milkwell. Our Parish Registers show that William was buried at St Mary's on 20 July 1598. His will is included in *Tudor Wills* by Tony Sale, where he is described as "husbandman", but there is very little detail in it. He left all his goods and chattels to his wife for her life and after to his three daughters, Margery, Elizabeth and Jane, who had all been baptised in Charlton Kings between 1569 and 1574.

Walter's sister Agnes married Thomas Cleeveley a member of a well-known Charlton family. Four of their sons are mentioned in Walter's will: Frances, Thomas, John and Walter, all of whom are referred to in Mary Paget's article on the Cleeveley family in *Bulletin 11* p32, but the will also mentions a daughter Mary. As the marriage between Thomas and Agnes Milton took place in 1581, the five children must have been very close in age to have been included in Walter's will made in 1588.

His sister Margaret married a Lattner and had two sons Richard and William and a daughter Helenor, but nothing more is known about this family as yet, although there were Latners included in the first of St Mary's parish registers.

All these family members were left sheep in the will – either seven or eight apiece, totalling one hundred and thirty two - a large flock for this neighbourhood, where there is little sheep grazing land available. Most of the land in Westall would have been common land used for arable crops. Bearing in mind that the will was made in January, it is possible that Walter bought in sheep specifically for wintering on these common fields and then sold them before the crops were sown in spring. We know from the will that

money for Welsh sheep was included in debts owed and owing and there is evidence that Walter traded livestock at Newent in the Forest of Dean.

Finally a mystery field-name – among the debts owing to Walter Milton was the following: “William Rogers of Chedworth for the rent of a leasowe called Footes hill lying in the fields of Charlton Kings 20s which sum of money was due at the feast of St Michael the Archangel last past”. The location of “Footes hill” has not yet been discovered, but as Walter lived in Westall it may be assumed that his leasowe was to the west side of Charlton, perhaps in the Southfield area. If any reader has come across this field-name I should be pleased to have any further information.

References:

1. *Bulletin* 30 pp 16-24
2. GA D855 M6
3. GA D855 M7

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A PENULTIMATE TOCSIN?

By Michael Greet

When, in November 2001, I produced the second edition of Isaac Bell’s “Poems on Various Subjects” (c.1833), which contained some details of his life (as well as his poems), I was then unable to provide information about his life after 1851, when he lived at 12, Hermitage Place, Cheltenham. This was because I could then find no reference to him in either Harper’s Directory 1857, or the 1861 census, and concluded that he had left Cheltenham with his family.

While I still do not know where he lived for the next twenty years, the advent of computerised census records has recently shown that, in 1871, Isaac, gardener, aged 71, lived with his wife, Martha, a laundress aged 62, and their son John, gardener, at 3 Rosehill Street, Charlton Kings. He had moved from there by 1882.

He died on 8 March 1889, aged 89, at 20, Mitre Street, Cheltenham. His daughter, Ann Reeves, from Tetbury, was present at his death.

This is the first report about Bell in the *Bulletin* since “Isaac Bell in Hampstead” in *Bulletin* 51 (2005) p33, and an article “The Origins of Rosehill Street 1832-1857” by Dr S Blake is in *Bulletin* 17 (1987) pp 32-37.

EDWARD JOHN BURROW – MAN OF MANY PARTS

By P J Pearce

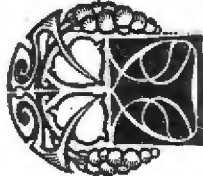
In response to our editor's request in *Bulletin 53* for information on the 'Burrow' logo on photographs of the Diamond Laundry, I offer this brief description of the man and the publishing company he founded. I should like to thank all those who have helped me, especially Terry Sims, Michael Rigby, Sue Rowbotham and the staff of Cheltenham Reference Library.

Edward John Burrow was born on 8 June 1869 in Wellington (Somerset), the younger child of a watchmaker. After leaving Wellington School he was apprenticed to a chemist, and in 1889 he came to Cheltenham as a chemist's assistant. On Christmas Day 1891 he was married, at the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel in North Street, to Alice Elizabeth Fildes, whose father had run the family florist and fruiterer's shop near Pittville Gates. On the marriage certificate Burrow gave his occupation as 'Artist'. He had long been interested in etching as a hobby and in 1892 he decided to abandon pharmacy in favour of a career in etching. Between 1892 and 1900 he etched over five hundred copper plates, from his own drawings, of the great public schools, cathedrals and ruined abbeys of England. He also taught etching and book illustration at Cheltenham Ladies' College between 1893 and 1900 and mounted displays of his and his pupils' work.

In 1900 Burrow changed careers again, deciding to enter publishing, initially working from a small ground floor room at St John's Lodge, Hewlett Road. The first publication was a handsome guide to Cheltenham, under the auspices of the Corporation, on the occasion of the visit to Cheltenham of the British Medical Association in July 1901. This was the precursor of similar books for other towns and cities. In the early years of the twentieth century the craze for collecting postcards was at its height, and Burrow published several series of country-wide view postcards, both in sepia and colour. His business took off and by 1909 he was listed at Midland Chambers, 2 The Colonnade, as illustrated in the advertisement in the 1910 (sixth) edition of *Cheltenham – The Garden Town*, shown opposite.

During the years leading up to the First World War a private company 'Ed. J. Burrow & Co. Ltd.' was formed, run on the basis of profit sharing with employees. At this time he moved to live in Charlton Kings – in a newly built house called 'Wayside' on the corner of London Road and Sandford Mill Road. [then still within the boundaries of Charlton Kings] The outbreak of war proved a severe drag on the business since most of the staff had volunteered for the forces. However, in 1916 a breakthrough occurred when Burrow joined Lord Montagu to produce *Car Illustrated*. This established valuable London contacts, ultimately resulting in the opening of a book shop and travel bureau at 43 Kingsway and the publication of such books as the *Dunlop Guide*, *A Motoring Guide to the Continent*, and the *City of London Official Guide*.

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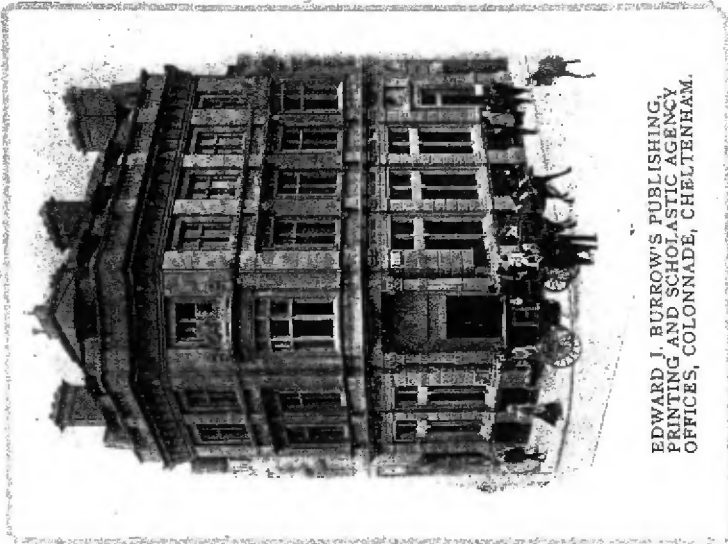
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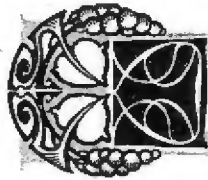
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EDWARD J. BURROW, PUBLISHER, CHELTENHAM.

Once the war was over, further expansion was needed in Cheltenham to provide employment for staff returning to civilian life. Imperial House in Lypiatt Road was acquired and Burrow became Managing Director of Norman, Sawyer and Co on the death of his old friend John Sawyer. The *Looker On* office in Montpellier was secured and re-named 'Burrow's Press', and the Drill Hall in Swindon Road was equipped as 'Cheltenham Press', thus ensuring a constant supply of printed material for the publishing house.

Not only was Edward Burrow a leading businessman in Cheltenham, he was also involved in many of the town's religious, social and cultural activities. A Nonconformist, he was associated in his early years in the town with Cambray and Salem Baptist churches and was the main mover in the formation of the Salem Institute and the Baker Street Institute. From 1904 to 1909 he was Honorary Secretary of the Free Church Council. His interest in drama and music resulted in him becoming a governor of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon and President of the Cheltenham Choral Society. In 1928 he and his wife presented an organ to the Town Hall and in 1926 they had paid for the installation of wireless equipment in Cheltenham General Hospital. Edward was a keen motorist and foreign traveller, but his chief recreation was archaeological research. In 1919 he published *The Ancient Entrenchments and Camps of Gloucestershire*, described and drawn by himself. [One of the illustrations entitled 'Entrance to Battledown Camp' is included in David O'Connor's book *Battledown People 1859 – 1939*] Practically, he also participated in the excavation of prehistoric remains on Leckhampton Hill.

In the early summer of 1935 Mr Burrow became ill and died on September 19th, aged 66. He was survived by his widow and daughters, Beatrice Sidaway who lived in Sandford Mill Road and Dorothy Pickup of London. The Burrow publishing firm continued long after this and was still listed at Imperial House in 1973. The London premises, which in 1935 were at Wellington House, 125 the Strand, were subsequently listed (1963-84) at Publicity House, Streatham Hill.

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Editor's Note: I was also contacted, through a mutual friend, by Mr Bill Lewis of Canterbury, Kent. He told me that his father, Major Lewis, had been Company Secretary for E J Burrow & Co Ltd. for about eleven years before becoming Managing Director in 1935 until his return to the army in 1941. Bill, himself, had worked for the firm for two years, as a junior in the Editorial Department at the main publishing building, Imperial House (opposite the Gordon Lamp) in Lypiatt Road, until 1940 when he joined the RAF. He had been particularly keen on sport and played cricket and competed in athletic events with Burrow's Sports Club whose ground was off Moorend Park Road.

Bill wrote: 'As a child I knew Edward Burrow, a brilliant and fascinating 'old man' (to me), a writer and artist of some stature in his own right, also an amateur archaeologist, who founded the publishing firm; it was a privilege to have known him.'

THE MANOR OF ASHLEY alias CHARLTON KINGS

By Jane Sale

During the last year two collections in the Gloucestershire Archives have been brought to my notice, both concerning the manor of Ashley alias Charlton Kings. The first was a recently catalogued deposit from the collection of the well-known Victorian antiquarian Sir Thomas Phillipps, [see Mary Paget's article about him in *Bulletin 12*] among which was a document described as a 'Charlton Kings Court Record for 1425 and 1426'. The second collection was an uncatalogued box of documents dealing with the Grevyll family and their holding of the lordship of the manor of Ashley, ranging in date from 1431 to 1695. The most interesting of which was a report concerning a dispute over the right to a tenement and land in Charlton Kings dated 7 August 1541 .

Before commenting on these two documents in detail it may be helpful to refer back to information already provided by Mary Paget: Ashley manor is a sub-manor of Cheltenham manor and originated when Walter of Ashley was granted land in recognition of his support for Matilda in her struggle with Stephen. His £10-worth of land was not in a single block but scattered throughout the parish. The grant was confirmed by Henry II in 1159/60 and carried with it the right to hold a manor court. There are, however, no 'court books' held by Gloucestershire Archives before a run starting in 1742, so any earlier Ashley records are of particular importance to us.

1. Charlton Kings Court Record – penny a pig, halfpenny a piglet.¹

This document covers the record kept for three courts held on 21st May 1425, 17th November 1425 and 11th November 1426.

21st May 1425 – The record starts with 'Essoins', an equivalent to 'apologies for absence', which show that Walter Alysaundre and Robert Daunger did not attend but were represented by Walter Hale and John Fellawe respectively. There is then a report of events of relevance to the manor which have occurred since the last court: Roger Forthei, who held a messuage and half virgate of land called Forthei's, has recently died and a heriot [or best beast] is due to the lord, an ox valued at 9s which is currently in the custody of John Coppe; [he held land at the northern end of the present Copt Elm Road] Thomas Forthei wishes to marry Margaret the widow of Roger Forthei and pays a fine of 26s 8d for a licence to marry her and to hold the said property; Thomas Gorulf pays a fine of 20s for admission to a messuage and half virgate of land called Gorulfe's Place; Thomas Adams pays a fine of 4d for a 'view' to be made on the land and wood called Allers, near Rodways Brook, to see whether Walter Alysaundre and William Haughthorne had entered them and carried away wood etc.. Thomas Forthei and Alice Ball had both brewed [ale presumably] and had to pay a fine of 3d each, in effect a licence to brew and finally Thomas Alysaundre had sold a horse to an outsider on the lord's property for which he had to pay a toll of 2d. The assessors, Phillip Gostlyn and

William Grindell, reckoned that the fines and heriots amounted to 56s 8d while the expenses of the court had been 16d.

17th November 1425 – There is one essoin, Thomas Forthei is represented by John Grindell. We learn that two tenants have died recently - William Haughthorn, who held a messuage and six acres of arable land, a heriot is due to the lord - a white horse valued at 46s 8d, which John Coppe had agreed to purchase. William's land remains in the hands of his widow Johanna. Walter Erlyth had also died, holding two messuages one with half a virgate of land the other with six acres arable land called Erlyches, a heriot of 2 ewes valued at 2s 5d is due to the lord and the land remains in the hands of Walter's widow Agnes. Then the lord concedes property – to Thomas Alysandre three messuages called Martyns, Wystcommes and Betillyns with their appurtenances for a fine of 100s; and to Bartholomew Chalonner one cottage with curtilage and 2 selions of land adjacent to the cottage in Wolthorp lying between land called Wydecombes and land previously of Juliana Pelly, also a garden next to Wydecombe Place and a small lane called 'le churchway' opposite a tenement called Snellesplace, and another garden lying between the cottage of Thomas Davye and a close called 'le Barneheye' – no fine had to be paid by Bartholomew. [We are not told the reason]

The Beadle, a minor parish official then presents the various tenants who owed 'pannage' for pigs which had been grazing on acorns and beech mast in the lord's woods, at a rate of 1d for each pig and ½d for each piglet. The following were listed: Philip Goslyn, Thomas Whithorne, Walter Hale, John Thressher, John Davy, William Whatman, Thomas Alysandre, Robert Daunger, John Lovyer, John Erlyth, John Felough, Agnes Balle, Johanna Haughthorn, John Solle, Thomas Adams, [...] Gorolf, Thomas Forthei, Johanna Balle, John Coppe. Most had only one or two pigs, the most being five piglets. Once again a member of the Alysandre family has sold a horse on the lord's property and has to pay a toll of 2d. Finally there was an election of officers for the following year - the 'homage', or twelve jurors of the court, present Henry Hathamar and John Goslyn for bailiff and the lord chooses John Goslyn. Thomas Gorlf and John Felough are presented for tithing man but the choice would be made by the lord of the manor of Cheltenham [Ashley was a sub-manor of Cheltenham], and John Balle will be beadle. The assessors, John Wager and John Bole, reckoned that the pannage and tolls came to 2s 11d, the fines and heriots totalled £7. 6s. 8d and there were no expenses.

11th November 1426 – Essoins are Walter Hale, Philip Goslyn and Thomas Adams who are represented by William Grindell, Thomas Whitthorn and Thomas Forthei respectively. There are no deaths to report, but William More pays a fine of 40s for permission to marry Johanna the widow of William Haughthorne and to hold the messuage with six acres of arable land called Haughthornys. William Grindell has bought a horse on the lord's property from an outsider and pays a toll of 2d to the lord. The following tenants are listed as owing 'pannage': Phillip Goslyn, Thomas Whitthorn, John Thressher, John Davy, Walter Hale, William Whatman, Thomas Alysandre, Robert Daunger, John Lovyer, Walter Erlyth, William More, Thomas Cole, Thomas Chapman, Thomas Adams, John Cole, William Grindell, John Coppe. As at the last court the number of animals was small, eight piglets being the most any tenant is charged for. An

election of officers follows – Walter Forfar and John Lovyer are presented for bailiff and the lord chooses John Lovyer; Thomas Alysaundre and John Grindell for beadle and the lord chooses John Grindell. John Goslyn and John Forfar for tithing man and the lord of Cheltenham will choose. The assessors for this court are Walter Forthei and William Grindell, but no figures were entered in this case.

On each occasion it was noted that the Prior of Llanthony next to Gloucester ‘owes suit of court and has made default and is distrained’, but no charge is recorded. [For more information about Llanthony holdings in Charlton Kings see Michael Greet’s article in *Bulletin 45 p2-3*]

These three court records give us an invaluable list of inhabitants of Charlton Kings at a date over a century before any parish registers existed. Ideally it should be read alongside ‘A Rental of Cheltenham Manor about 1450’ (*Bulletin 15*) and ‘Charlton Tenants in 1557 and 1564’ (*Bulletin 30*). It is notable how many names are familiar to us even if the spelling varies – Haughthorne rather than Hawthorne for example. The place-names, however, are disappointingly unfamiliar except for ‘Le Barnehaye’, which Mary Paget described as ‘the site of the Baptist Church and the Vine’ in *Bulletin 15*. Another possible identification is ‘Allers near Rodways Brook’, which may well be ‘The Alleys’ in Ham which is adjacent to a brook running south from the fields called Lower and Upper Rodways. It is known that the Alexander and Hawthorn families held land in Ham, so the claim that they had carried away wood is possible.

The court procedure follows the pattern for such courts held by the manor of Cheltenham, and in this case we can see how the various officials were elected on a yearly basis. There is a limited kind of democracy in that the homage presents the candidates, but the final choice is in the hands of the lord. Strangely there is no mention of the name of the lord of the manor at this time, but Mary Paget, writing about the construction of the church tower in 1390, states ‘the new lord of Ashley, William Grevill the wealthy wool merchant, gave a substantial sum towards the work’, so we can presume that the lordship was held by him or by a descendant.² The system of autumn pannage was particularly interesting - it was obviously carefully controlled and shows what a valuable extra source of food the woods provided. Mention of horse-dealing and the toll charged makes me wonder if this is an early indication of the origin of ‘Horsefair Street’.

References:

1. GA D4431/2/30/1
2. *A History of Charlton Kings*, edited by Mary Paget, p104

2. Report of a dispute – Reynolds versus Hikks.³

This report concerns a dispute between William Reynolds and John Hikks over their right to a tenement and land in Charlton Kings. William Reynolds had brought a complaint to the King's commissioners in the Marches of Wales, stating that his father, Watkyn Reynolds, had died whilst holding a tenement and lands in Charlton Kings and after his father's death the holding descended to him as son and heir. Nevertheless John Hikks wrongfully kept possession of the holding and utterly refused to permit him to enjoy the same.

In order to settle the matter John Briggs of Cobberley knight, Robert Goodridge gent and Giles Roberts were instructed by the King's commissioners to call before them the disputing parties and witnesses in Charlton Kings. This they did on 7th August 1541 and the report is a record of that meeting. The record is in English but wordy and with archaic spellings, so for the sake of clarity it is presented here in modern speech, but the full transcription is available if anybody would like to see the original wording.

John Hikks said that it was true that he had held and occupied the premises in dispute and had taken the profits from it for the last fourteen years or more, but explained that he came into possession of the holding through a grant by Sir Edward Grevell knight, now deceased. He continued by saying that there had been two manors in Charlton Kings, one called Ashley court and the other called Forden court, both which manors were now in the hands of Robert Grevell; and that both said manors had been in the possession of diverse other persons within the time of his memory - firstly in the hands of one Cokyssey, after of John Grevell of Drayton esquire, then of Sir Edward Tame knight deceased, later in the hands of one Westby by reason of an exchange made for the manor of Rendcombe, and after in the hands of one Sir Edward Grevell knight, then in the hands of one Welles, after of one John Palmer and lately in the hands of the said Robert Grevell. John Hikks continued his evidence by stating that it was true that the property had been in the possession of said Water [sic] Reynolds but he did not know by what title he held it and he did not remember Reynolds ever having attended any manor courts as a tenant.

Witnesses were then called and each gave his age and was sworn and questioned. The first was Richard Goodridge, aged 64. He stated that Robert Grevell, now the owner of the manor, had previously been its steward under John Palmer and other owners for about fifty years. He remembered being at a court held about four years previously when a John Reynolds [brother of Watkyn] had claimed the disputed property, but that Robert Grevell had told John that he had no right to it, but that it was a Thomas Reynolds who had the right [Thomas was the elder son of Watkyn and brother of William, the complainant]. Goodridge went on to explain that the property had been bought from Gaunt of Cirencester. He also stated that about St Luke's day in the previous year, at the time of John Pele's marriage, Hikks had offered to give the complainant one penny a year during his life and that after that it should return to the Reynolds family, but Reynolds had not agreed to that.

Robert Grevell, lord of the manor was then questioned. He refused to swear but signed the report as to his agreement with what Richard Goodridge had declared.

John Reynolds, aged 68, an uncle of the complainant, swore that his father, Thomas Reynolds had bought the house and land from Gaunt of Cirencester. It had then passed to Water Reynolds, the father of the claimant. He also agreed with what Richard Goodridge had said.

Other witnesses: Thomas Lynnett, aged 70, Water Costelyn aged 62, John Daffa, 60, Thomas Dodiswell, 30, Thomas Kemett, 82, Robert Riddesdale alias Taylor, 56, William Riddesdale, 66, Richard Whitehorne, 60, Thomas Whithorne, 46, John Marten, 30, and William Gale, 30, all agreed that the property should be the right of the complainant. It had been bought from Gaunt and some of them had seen the deeds of purchase or heard them read, in fact Thomas Lynnett claimed that he could 'wryte, rede and understand them', though there was some confusion over whether the property was freehold or copyhold. Thomas Kemett remembered that about thirty four years ago Water Reynolds had paid Robert Grevell twenty shillings but he did not know why, but he had also been present when Sir Edward Grevell took a deed from John Reynolds the complainant's uncle. Thomas Whithorne also remembered this happening. John Daffa and Thomas Dodiswell remembered that about last Christmas, Robert Grevell had told them that the complainant had the best right.

The last witness, William Dodiswell, aged 52, added a further twist to the evidence. He said that after the death of Water Reynolds, Elizabeth his wife for about thirty four years, had promised Robert Grevell that she would marry, 'by his will one Robert Ballinger'. However, contrary to Grevell's wishes, she had married Thomas Lane, whereupon Grevell had been so annoyed with them that he would not allow them to occupy the premises. There was also mention of a godson of Grevell's, one Robert Reynolds, elder son of Watkyn. This Robert died without issue, so the property went to one Thomas Reynolds, who also died without issue, being the reason that the disputed property had passed to the complainant.

Sir John Briggs, Robert Goodridge and Gyles Roberts then sealed and signed the report, but gave no conclusion to the case. The decision was presumably taken by the King's commissioners in the Marches of Wales, but judging by the evidence of the witnesses, I think we can assume that the verdict went in favour of the complainant. It is interesting to note from our earliest parish register that William Reynolds married one Alice on 6th February 1543/4 – perhaps another indication that the dispute went in his favour, and he now had a property to offer his bride?

But where was the property and how much land was involved? Mary Paget wrote of 'Churchend Meese' being a Reynolds holding which passed through marriage to the Cleevely family, but that was a Cheltenham manor holding so not the property involved in this dispute.⁴ A valuable source of information concerning 16th century holdings is a list made by John Stubbs of all tenants, of both Cheltenham and Ashley manors, who

were allowed to enclose land proportionate to their holdings in 1557 and 1564. Mary Paget published the part of it concerning Charlton tenants in *Bulletin 30*. Among the Ashley tenants for 1557 is listed William Reynolds holding 11 acres and allowed to enclose 1 acre in Caner Crofte. Unfortunately I do not know where that is, or was. The name does not appear on any maps, title awards or schedules that I have come across.

Another question is where in Charlton Kings the enquiry was likely to have taken place. It is known that later, in 1599, there was a 'scyte of the mannour howse of Ashley' demised to the Beale family by William Grevill. The said house was to be used to hold the manor courts and an adjacent close to be the manor pound.⁵ Mary Paget has written of Pound Piece in East End being the site of the Ashley pound with the Court House beside it.⁶ If this house existed in 1541 it would have been the logical place to hold the enquiry.

John Hixks, in his sworn statement, claimed that there were two manors in Charlton Kings, one called Ashley court and the other Forden court and that both were in the hands of Robert Grevell. This comment probably arose because the Grevell family owned the Forden (later Charlton Park) as well as the lordship of the manor of Ashley and possibly the court house described above. The names of the other owners of the manor can be explained from various deeds in this same collection. They are mostly those of sons-in-law or other relatives and seem to be involved in mortgage arrangements.

It is interesting to note the ages of the witnesses. They have obviously been chosen because they were senior members of the parish with memories going back many years, but we are often told that men did not live long in 'the old days'. Here we have proof that some at least did. Having survived the dangers of childhood it seemed that they could live to a good age and have their wits about them too. The Parish Register shows that some of them died within a few years: Walter Goslinge/ Costelyn was buried 7 April 1543, Thomas Kemmet on 4 October 1543, Thomas Lynnett on 19 November 1548 and Robert Rudgetale /Riddesdale on 17 October 1549, so they do not appear in the 1557 list of Ashley manor tenants. Some of them do, however, feature in *Charlton Kings Tudor Wills*, either as testators or witnesses, which gives some idea of their status.⁷

Other questions concerning this document remain unanswered. There seems more to William Dodiswell's deposition than meets the eye. Why should Robert Grevell have been so concerned about who Elizabeth Reynolds married, and why did she promise Grevell that she would marry a man of his choice rather than hers, and then go back on her promise?

References:

3. GA D1224 Box 7/18
4. *A History of Charlton Kings* edited by Mary Paget, p50
5. GA D1224 Box 7/23
6. *A History of Charlton Kings* edited by Mary Paget, p12
7. *Charlton Kings Tudor Wills* edited by Tony Sale

MOOREND ROAD - ITS HISTORY (1760 – 2008)

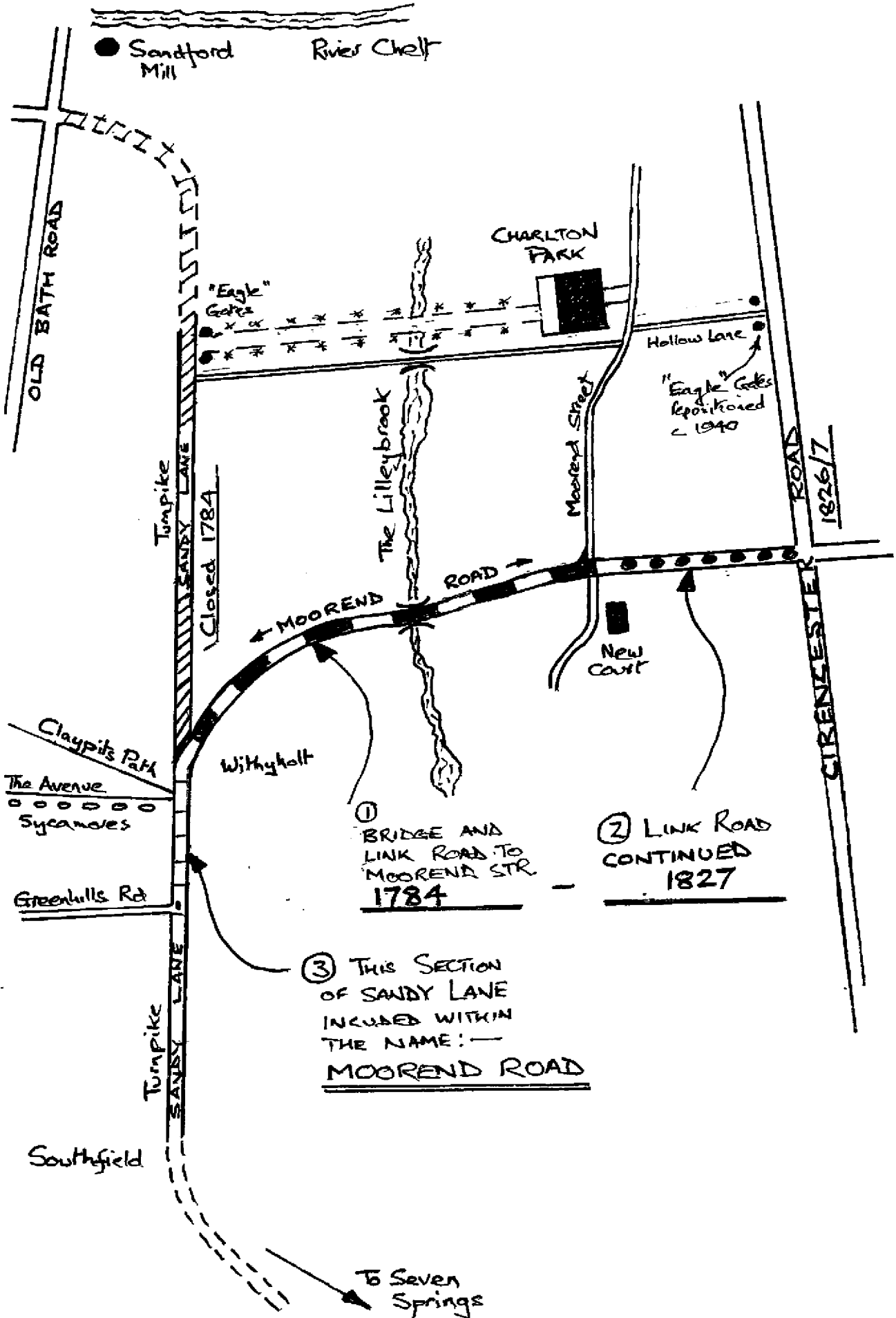
By David Morgan

If I look out from my house, in Withyholt Park, I can see a short length of the Moorend Road and there is normally a car slowing for the new mini roundabout at the junction of Sandy Lane with Greenhills Road. If I could press a switch and be 'transported' back in time by 250 years, I might see at exactly the same place, a stagecoach heading towards Cirencester, but on the Sandy Lane turnpike road. So, why was this the main road to Cirencester and how has the Moorend Road somehow replaced Sandy Lane? I hope to answer these questions by outlining the developments that have taken place including Cirencester Road, The Avenue, Moorend Park, Withyholt Farm and the more recent housing projects that have appeared alongside the Moorend Road over the last fifty years.

Moorend is an area which lies between Charlton Park and Bafford, not to be confused with another Moorend between Leckhampton Road and Shurdington Road, where there is another Moorend Road. Charlton's Moorend Road took over forty years to develop fully. In the mid 1770s, Sandy Lane was the turnpike road on the final approach to Cheltenham from Cirencester. It started near Seven Springs, ran down the side of Charlton Hill, joining the end of Sandy Lane, as we know it today, at Southfields. From there it continued straight on through Charlton Park before swinging left into the town centre at Sandford Mill. When Dodington Hunt inherited Charlton Park, he persuaded the authorities to build a 'diversion'. So in 1784 a section of road was constructed from the Withyholt to form a junction with Moorend Street (known today as Newcourt Road). At that time Moorend Street continued into Charlton Park, passing close to the east side of the house, before joining the main London Road into Cheltenham (then running along Cudnall Street).

In 1826/7, it was decided to build the present Cirencester Road and it was then sensible to add a further length to the 'diverted' turnpike road to join this new road. Once this had been done and the new Cirencester Road reached Seven Springs the old road became redundant, (though its route can still be followed on foot). The name Moorend Road came into use at this time. It would have been narrow and constructed with compacted gravel. Drainage would have been a problem, and still is, especially as the Lillybrook bridge is in a dip. Charlton Park was then enclosed with a high dry-stone wall running from the bridge over the Lilleybrook to the new Cirencester Road, then down to the bridge over the river Chelt near Cudnall Street.

Moorend Park was built in the period 1835-40 on land lying between the Lillybrook and Newcourt Road, an area of approximately 22 acres. The land was purchased by a Birmingham business man, Frind Cregoe Colmore, who commissioned the building of an elaborate Swiss-styled villa. The detailed and costly building took five years and Colmore died before the work was completed. The main entrance, on Moorend Road about 80 yards from the Lillybrook bridge, was flanked by curving walls, each one joined



to a small lodge either side of the long driveway. The lodge nearest the bridge was 'real', the other a dummy. Against the dummy lodge a large stable block was erected, the back of which faced directly on to Moorend Road with a cottage beside it. Other buildings were erected around the stable yard, together with greenhouses 'supporting' kitchen gardens. On the west side of the driveway were more greenhouses and kitchen gardens, an arrangement which would have resulted in a rather untidy approach to the house. In contrast, at the back of the house there were sweeping lawns stretching down to the Lilleybrook and a large pond.

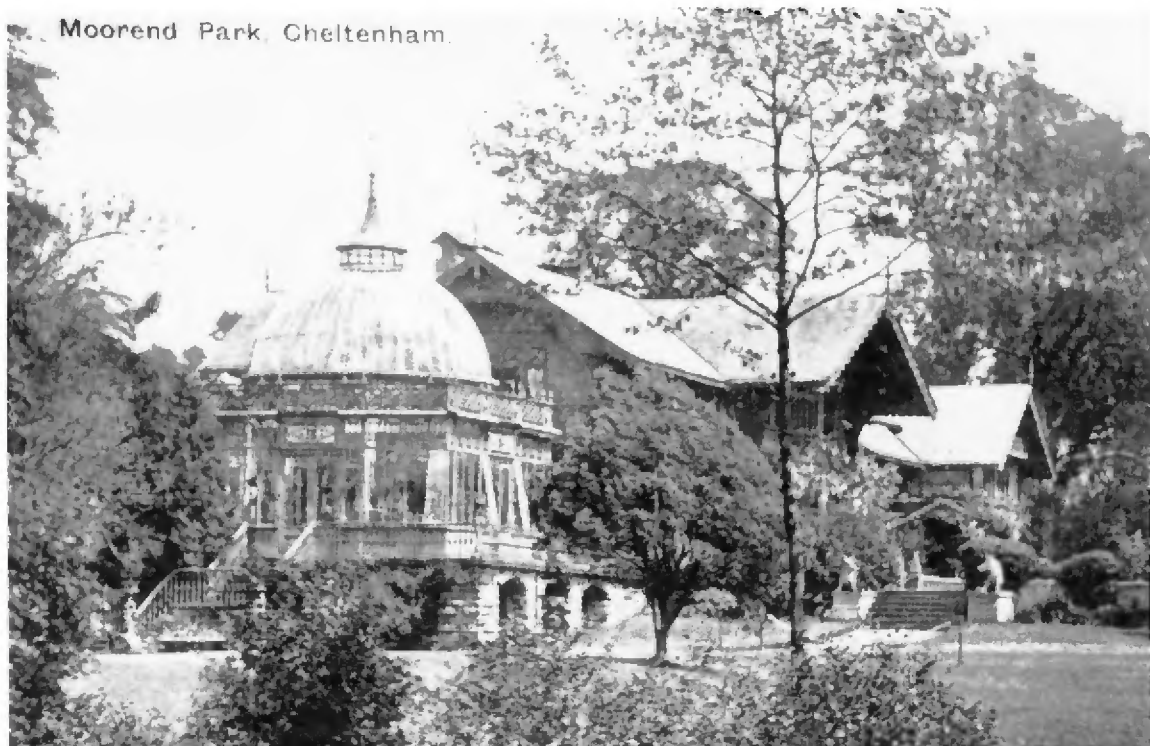
The Real Lodge



The Dummy Lodge



Moorend Park in early 1900s



The house was used as a military hospital during the First World War, and in 1920 it became an hotel. The 1950s saw two large sections of its land being sold to developers - firstly an area behind the house on which Charlton Close was subsequently built and later the land between the house and the Lilleybrook on which the Withyolt Court flats were built in the 1960s. Moorend Park continued as an hotel until 1979, when the house and all other buildings were demolished to make way for the estates now known as Pinetrees and Shrublands.

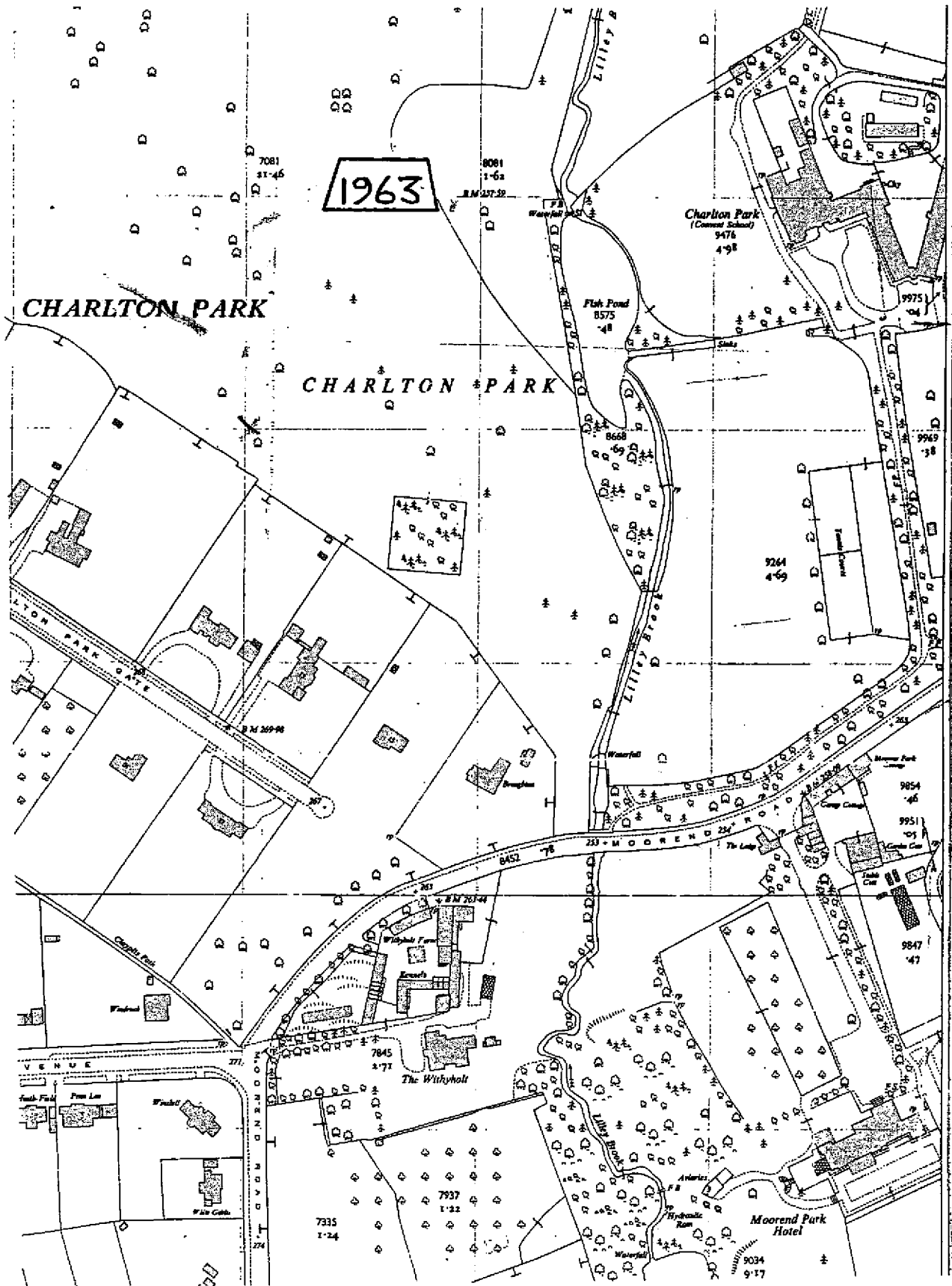
On the other side of the Lilleybrook was Withyolt Farm, shown on 18th century maps as 'Green's' and part of the Charlton Park estate. By 1843 the tenant, William Pates, was responsible for some 200 acres extending along the west side of Greenhills Road to Pilley and part way up Sandy Lane. A smallish farmhouse was extended by the Jordan family in the late 19th century and became known as 'The Withyolt'. Other farm buildings were built within the curve of Moorend Road behind a low Cotswold stone wall and a line of well spaced trees. Eventually the farming work contracted. The Withyolt and the out-buildings were demolished in 1963 leaving only a small farmhouse (Withyolt Cottage) which still stands close to Lilleybrook bridge. Withyolt Park, containing twenty two neo-Georgian houses was built on the site between 1964-70. [see *Bulletin 46* for more about Withyolt Park]

Drawing of The Withyolt by Bunty Blackman

from a photograph taken in 1963



1963 Map showing The Withyholt, Withyholt Farm,
Moorend Park Hotel and its Lodges



Moorend Road photographed by Dr Steven Blake in 1977



Moorend Road photographed in 2008



Many changes have occurred during the last fifty years. In 1958, if you took a walk along the 770 yards of Moorend Road, starting at the Cirencester Road junction, the first thing to be noticed on the right hand side would be the newly built Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Hearts, plus the Presbytery and carpark. On the left is a large Victorian house. [see the article on deveolpment of Newcourt land by Joyce Simpson] You then pass two properties on the right behind the high dry-stone wall, and on the left the shabby remains of the Moorend stable block and 'entrance lodges' to Moorend Park. Having crossed the Lilleybrook, there is Broughton, a large red brick house, on the right and Withyholt Cottage on the left, together with some some old farm buildings and 'The Withyholt' lying back from the road opposite to the Avenue, Claypits Path and another house facing on to Moorend Road. There is one other large house on the righthand corner of the junction of Sandy Lane with Greenhills Road.

Fifty years on and you repeat the walk. Traffic lights are at the Cirencester Road junction. The church has gained a Hall and the two properties behind the high wall have been replaced with a new development (2006/7) called St Michael's Court. Moorend Road appears much wider with a sweeping entrance to Newcourt Park (built 1960s) on the left. Opposite the Newcourt Road junction is the entrance to Moorend Glade (1987/8) and the drive to a block of retirement flats (Guardian Court – 1980s) On the left the stable block and the whole of Moorend Park have gone, replaced by Pinetrees and Shrublands – an estate built 1980-85, plus two six-storey flats – Withyholt Court (1960-67). There is now a pedestrian crossing near the shared entrance to these developments and a cycle path on the right leading through Charlton Park into Cheltenham. After Lilleybrook bridge the house called Broughton has been renamed 'Brook House' and opposite stands a bungalow next to Withyholt Cottage. The whole of Withyholt Farm has been replaced by the Withyholt Park estate which stretches to the junction with Sandy Lane, which now has a mini roundabout. In the Avenue more houses have been built and at the end a 'pan handle' has been created with a further dozen or so bungalows and houses. A new house has been built near the entrance to Claypits Path and another new house built in 2000 between the ones that existed fifty years ago.

On your first walk you would probably have been passed by half a dozen cars, now at least fifty cars would go by and maybe a bus. There are speed humps to slow this ever-increasing traffic. Since development work started in 1960, up to the end of 2007, nearly 150 houses and bungalows have been added to the land alongside Moorend Road, plus around 85 flats, together with single or double garages. The land directly alongside the 770 yards of Moorend Road is now completely filled and the road very busy. All these developments have resulted in an increase of some 500 people and at least 300 cars, with $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of additional roadway being built with direct access on to the road.

In spite of that it remains a very pleasant residential area and hopefully will continue to do so for generations to come.

THE PUBLIC SPRING IN USE AGAIN

Few Charlton Kings residents will forget the summer of 2007, when some were unfortunate enough to have their homes flooded, and we all learnt what it was like to be without fresh water from the tap. Many people remembered the public spring in Spring Bottom and were glad to go back to the 'old days' and take their buckets to be filled there.

Among the Society's archives is correspondence, dating from 1987, between Mary Paget and the Cheltenham Borough Council. This was at the time when a pair of old parish cottages in Spring Bottom was subject to a demolition order. Planning permission had been granted for new houses to be built on their site and it was feared that the path to the spring would be closed. Mary Paget, in order to emphasise the spring's history and importance, referred to a Minutes Book of the Charlton Kings Board of Health, dated September 1877, reporting a meeting at which it was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously "that the Surveyor be directed to remove the fences recently erected on the side of the old London Road in Spring Bottom which restrict the approach to the public spring in the Parish Property and to make a 12ft cart road to the Spring and a proper bridge over the Hearne Brook."

The Parish Cottages
photographed in 1988,
just before their demolition
with the spring in the
foreground



Mary then continued: "Many of our members have known and used the spring for years ... we should greatly regret the loss of this valuable amenity. The spring never runs dry in the hottest summer – in 1976 it was for many an important source of water for watering gardens. It never freezes in the coldest weather – in past winters when pipes near the surface froze and people were short of water, they were always able to fetch it from the spring. It is generally recognised as by far the best water for making wine and many collect it regularly for this purpose."

In fact the Council had no intention of closing access to the spring, but have greatly improved the path to it, as shown in the photographs below. Still I doubt Mary realised at the time how prescient she was being and that twenty years later Charltonians would once again be wending their way to the spring for valuable supplies. I do not know whether anybody made wine with the water, but many certainly made use of it for more mundane purposes.

