

CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN 56
2010



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Membership of the Society

Membership forms are available from the Hon Secretary. Annual subscription £9.50 or £13.50 for a couple, which includes the cost of the annual research bulletin. 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. .

Charlton Kings Probate Records – 1600-1800 (2003) - £12.00

Charlton Kings Tudor Wills – Supp to Probate Records (2004) - £2.50

Charlton Kings Parish Rate Books for 1858 (2003) and 1882 (2004) - £4.00 each

Charlton Kings Registers of Electors for 1832/3, 1842/3 and 1862 (2004) - £1.00

The Hole in the Ground – Battledown Brickworks (2002) - £6.00

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Indexed Parish Register Transcripts: 1538-1634 - £2; 1634-1700 - £3;

1813-1834 - £5.

Indexes to Bulletins: 38-47 - £5; 48-52 - £5.

Troubled Waters – The Great Cheltenham Water Controversy (2008) - £6

BULLETIN 56**SPRING 2010****Cover** – Photograph of Eagle at Entrance to St Edward's School

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EDITORIAL

It is with a profound sense of the ending of an era that I have to report the death of our Life President, Mary Paget, who died very peacefully at home on the 8th February. Mary had had a bad fall last May which necessitated a lengthy stay in hospital, after which she remained very frail but lovingly cared for at home by Marian and Brian Bee and members of their family. An obituary to her follows on pages 4 and 5.

Another sad death was that of Dorothy Clothier on 25th March 2009. Dorothy was a long-standing member who, as well as attending meetings very regularly, helped out with the distribution of Bulletins around the village.

The cover of this issue is a photograph of one of the Eagles which guard the entrance to St Edward's School in Cirencester Road. The photograph was taken by Tony Sale in January when the snow really was 'deep and crisp and even' and the sky amazingly blue. The subject was chosen to highlight the article on The Eagle Gates by David Morgan.

**Mary at work recording the timbers of Park Cottage
in the summer of 1995**



**Mary becomes our Life President 26th November 2002
with David Smith, retired county archivist, on her right
and Mary Southerton, then Society chairman on her left.**



My grateful thanks to all those who have sent contributions for this issue, both regulars and in particular those who are new contributors. It has been another year of anniversaries and Martin Ablett has written about Whitefriars School which celebrated its golden anniversary in July 2009, while Andrew Baynes has given the history of the local branch of the Air Training Corps, based on Grange Field, which celebrated its 70th anniversary with a special parade at St Mary's church. Douglas Bond has provided us with information about his branch of the family and their lives in Charlton Kings. Douglas described his family as "a very ordinary and uninspiring bunch", but they are an example of so many families who came to Charlton Kings in the 18th and 19th centuries to find work, especially building work during the boom period of Cheltenham's growth. Edmund Bond, described as a sculptor, may well have been employed at the workshop of George Lewis, (set up in 1824) whose name appears on several of the gravestones in St Mary's churchyard. An ordinary family perhaps but certainly not an uninteresting one. Michelle Grainger has written about the restoration work carried out on Kings House since she and her husband Peter moved in to the house in 1989. This is definitely one of the most important houses in Charlton Kings and we should all be grateful that it has such caring owners. Lastly I was particularly pleased to receive an article on Bafford Farm from Simon Woodley who is a student at the University of Gloucestershire. Simon has used material from our Society's previous publications and put it all together in such a way that the history of this house is much more readily available now.

During the last year members of the Society have been raising money for the War Memorial Fund, selling old bulletins, doing research for family historians, conducting walks around the village and giving talks to local groups. We were delighted to be able to hand over £250 towards the cost of the restoration of the Memorial which is now looking very splendid.



Finally I am pleased to report that Michael Greet has been made a Life Member in recognition of all his work for the Society since its inception in 1978.

OBITUARY - MARY PAGET (1912 – 2010)

By Jane Sale

Mary Cornelia Hill was born at Glynrosa in Charlton Kings on 9th June 1912, the daughter of Philip Rowland and Alice May Hill. After attending the Cheltenham Ladies' College from 1923 to 1931, Mary read History at the Royal Holloway College, where she met her life-long friend Joan Paget. After her B.A. studies Mary won a Christie Research Scholarship to study Medieval History at London University and gained an M.A with distinction for her research on medieval kings' messengers, which work was later published by Alan Sutton Publishing Ltd under the title *The Kings' Messengers 1199-1377*.

After her studies Mary taught History, including a year at the Ladies' College from 1943-4, but it was working with archives which was her real love and soon she was able to take up the post of Assistant Archivist to Roland Austin who was responsible for setting up the Gloucestershire Record Office. This experience in the very early days of county record offices stood her in good stead when the job of County Archivist for Shropshire became available in 1946. Mary was duly appointed and remained in the post at Shrewsbury until her retirement in 1974. During this period Mary met and married Joan Paget's widowed father, William, who died in 1968 at the age of 98.

On retirement Mary and Joan set up home together in a newly-built house on part of the site of her parents' former home Glynrosa in Charlton Kings. It was from here that Mary used her extensive knowledge and experience of working with archives to research the history of Charlton Kings and to be the driving force behind the Charlton Kings Local History Society which was set up in 1978 and was one of the first in the County. Mary wrote articles and books, gave lectures, put on displays, and edited forty seven editions of the Society's Bulletin. It was not until 2002, at the age of 90, that she decided, reluctantly, that it was time to hand over this job. One of her main interests was the architectural history of the old houses in Charlton Kings and she took every opportunity to examine and photograph any houses that were being restored. Mary's detailed knowledge of the houses and families of Charlton Kings was encyclopaedic and her memory phenomenal. When asked a question about a particular place or event she would often reply 'look it up you'll find it in Bulletin 12 (or whichever)'.

As a mark of appreciation for her inspiring work, Mary was made the first Life President of the Society in November 2002. She will be remembered with much respect and affection by many in Charlton Kings and Cheltenham, and in particular by members of the Society she founded.

THE EAGLE GATES

By David Morgan

For the past 70 years the 'Eagle Gates' have stood at the Cirencester Road entrance to the mansion in Charlton Park, now part of St Edward's School. But 270 years ago, in the mid 1700s, the present Cirencester Road did not exist and the Eagle Gates were 500 yards further west, standing alongside the 'old' Cirencester Road, known locally as Sandy Lane. The gates formed an impressive entrance to a long avenue of trees leading to Forden House, an earlier name for Charlton Park, and the home of the Prinn family from the early 1700s – Fig 1 (A). John Prinn, writing in his 'Memorandum Book' in 1723 referred to planting the fir trees 'in ye walk before ye house', so it seems the gates were more of a focal point from the house rather than a driveway to it. An eagle formed the crest of the Prinn family's coat of arms, so was an appropriate choice to surmount the gate pillars.

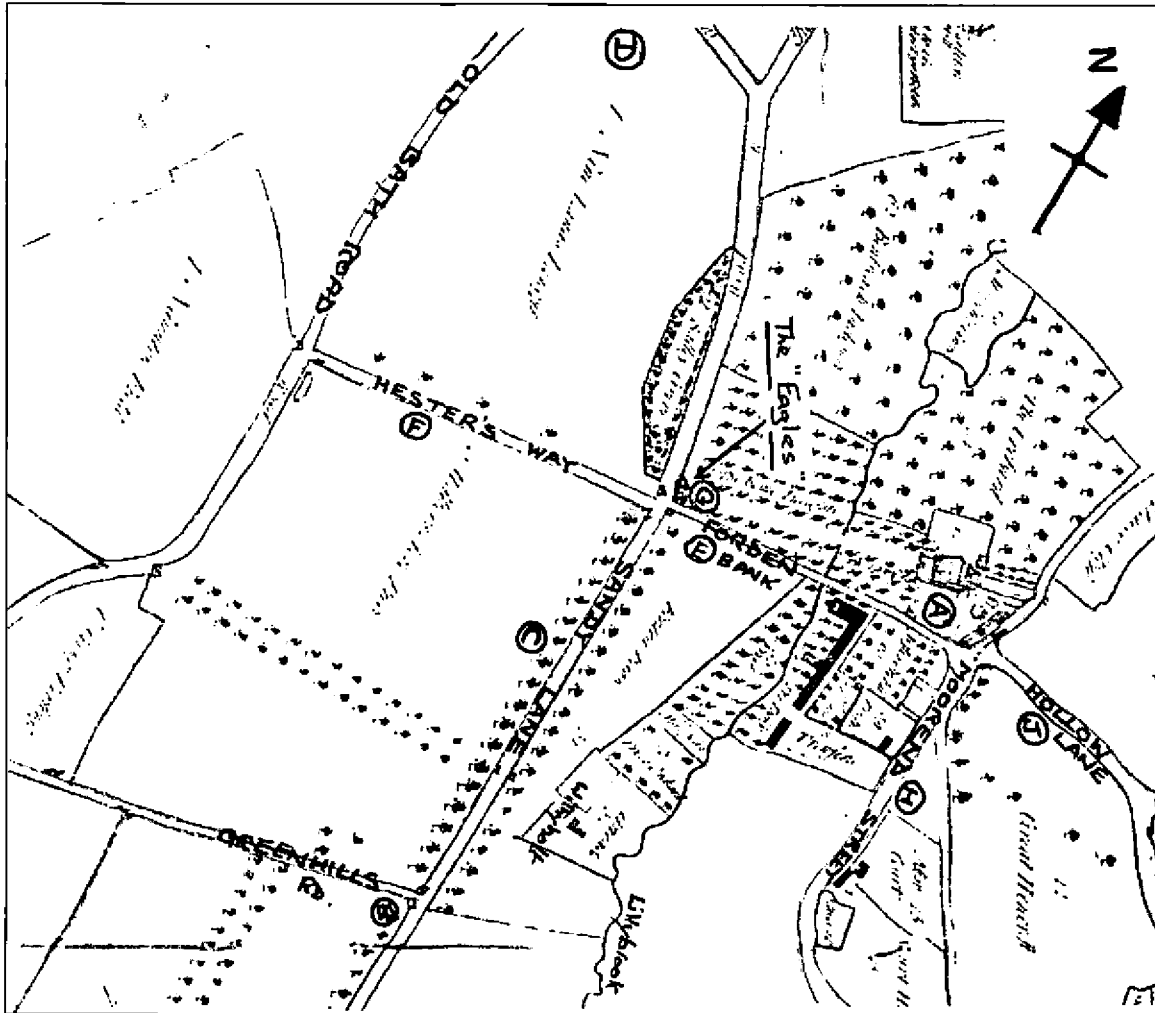
This research aims to locate the original position of the 'Eagle Gates' and the lines of the old roads within the development known today as Charlton Park.



Today Sandy Lane (running from the south) ends at the mini-roundabout junction with Greenhills Road and Moorend Road - Fig 1 (B), but up until 1787 it continued in a straight northerly line through Charlton Park - Fig 1 (C), eventually meeting Pilford Lane, now the Old Bath Road, at crossroads with both Thirlestaine and Sandford Roads - Fig 1 (D). There were other roads running through the estate – Forden Bank and Hester's Way – Fig 1 (E) and (F), forming a crossroads with Sandy Road and the Eagle Gates stood alongside this crossroads – Fig 1 (G). There was a further road to the east called Moorend Street, now Newcourt Road - Fig 1 (H) which continued to the east side of Forden House to meet Cudnall Street, the old London Road. Hollow Lane – Fig 1 (J) still remains and is now the drive to St Edward's School.

Figure 1. Charlton Park 1746

A section of the 1746 map, from a survey commissioned by William Prinn, the owner of Charlton Park and other local land.



Sandy Lane (which can still be walked today) originated just north of the Seven Springs crossroads. The journey from Cheltenham to Cirencester by stagecoach would have been a 'struggle', climbing the hill from Southfields to Seven Springs .

The Enclosure of Charlton Park

In 1784 William Prinn died and the estate was inherited by his son-in-law, Doddington Hunt. He changed the name of the house to 'Charlton Park' and began to submit proposals to the local authorities to alter the line of the roads and enclose the estate so that he could stock it with deer. The map drawn up at the time of his application marks the gates as 'The Eagles' – the only time we have written evidence of their early existence. After more than 2 years the following changes were finally agreed in the 1787 Quarter Sessions:

- 1) Sandy Lane would be diverted around Green's Withyholt Farm on a new road to be called Moorend Road, which would cross the Lilleybrook on a new bridge and meet up with Moorend Street. [see article in Bulletin 54 for more about the history of Moorend Road]
- (2) Hester's Way and Forden Bank would be closed.
- (3) Part of Hollow Lane would remain as a driveway to Charlton Park.
- (4) Pilford Lane would be upgraded and turnpiked, now known as Old Bath Road. The toll gate was positioned close to the entrance to the present Charlton Park Gate.
- (5) A footpath to be built from the 'Withyholt bend' to meet the Old Bath Road close to the toll gate. This became known as Claypits Path and more recently the 'Chicken Run'.

Following these changes the boundary of Charlton Park was fenced with iron railings from the new bridge over the Lilleybrook to and along Claypits Path and down the entire length of the Old Bath Road.

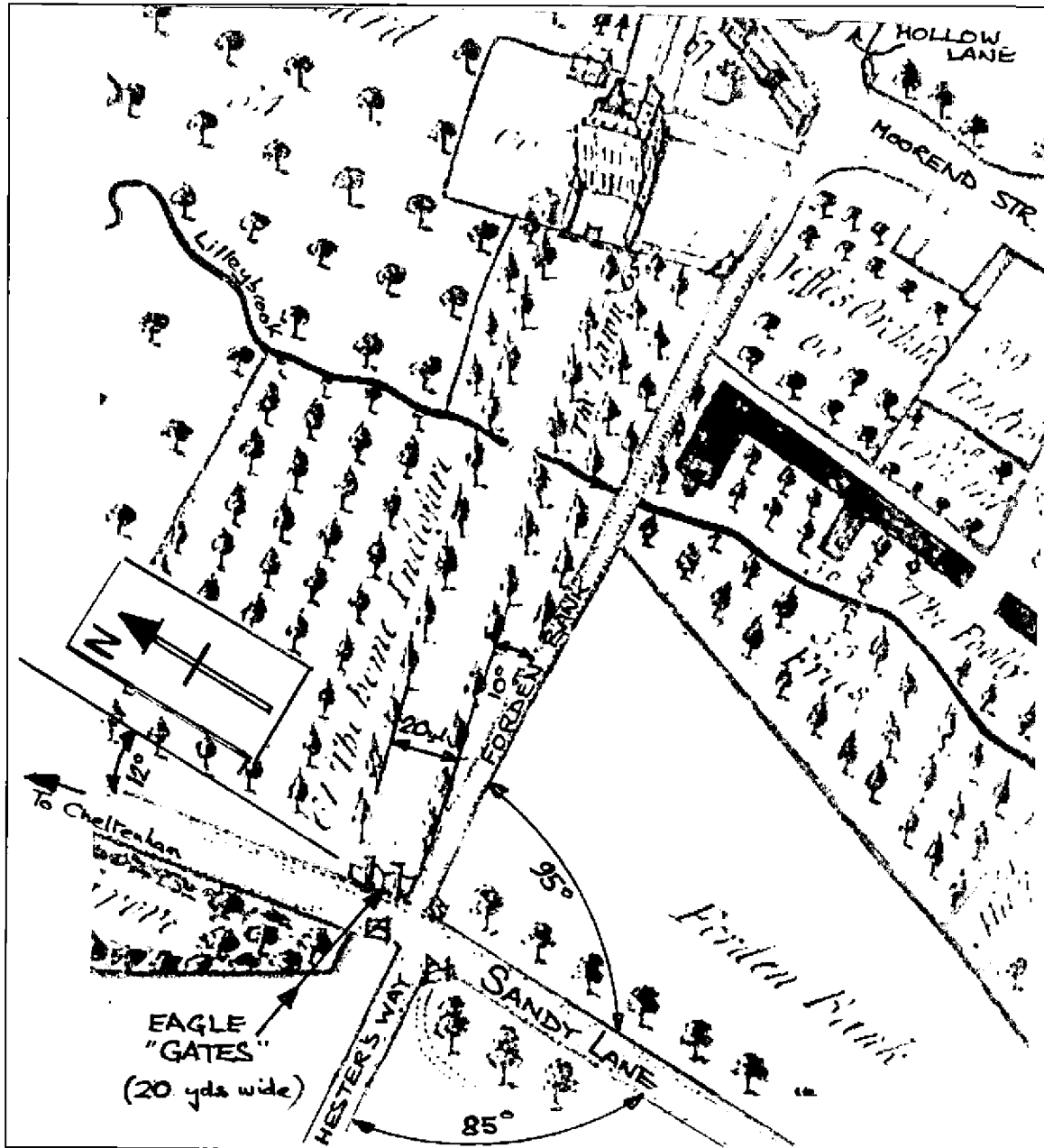
The Original Position of the Eagle Gates

The first task was to establish the road layout. From the 1746 map (Fig 1), it can be seen that Sandy Lane goes dead straight in a northerly direction and the distance from the junction with Greenhills Road to the southerly corner of the crossroads (Hester's Way) can be calculated. The length of Hester's Way can also be measured. From an enlarged plan of the crossroads (Fig 2), the angles and widths of the roads etc can be determined by careful measurement.

The next task was to establish the size of the gates. Again from the enlarged plan the width of the avenue of trees from the gates to the mansion is measured at 20 yards. The detail of the 'gate arrangement' is impossible to decipher from the map (Fig 2) but it is clear that it just traverses that 20 yard measurement.

Figure 2

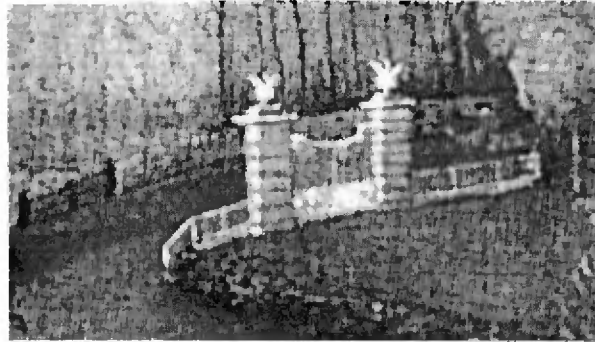
An enlarged section of the 1746 map to show more clearly the Eagle Gates, the mansion and the various angles of the roads meeting at the crossroads alongside the gates.



The Lillybrook stream still follows the original course. To the right (south) of the house, Jaffe's orchard and Tanty's orchard now form the northern part of Moorend Glade.

The splendid painting of Charlton Park (c1740) by Thomas Robins does provide some detail of the Eagle Gates. (Fig 3) The gates are made from railings set into a wooden frame, painted white, with a solid base about a yard high. Each gate would be at least 2 yards wide, and together with the pillars would be just under 7 yards wide overall.

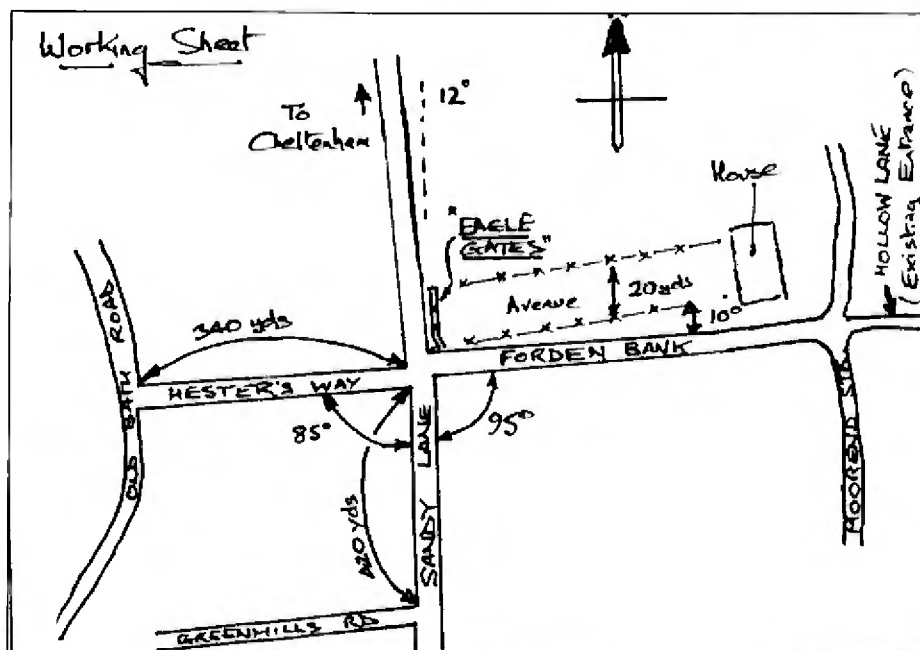
Figure 3



On either side of the pillars are three lengths of railings (about a yard high) held within a white wooden frame. Together these frames appear to be equal in length to the pillars and gates (6-7 yards). Therefore the overall width of the side frames, pillars and gates is approximately 20 yards, which is the width of the avenue of trees. It will be noted that at the south end of the 'gate arrangement' the panels form a 'curve' at the junction of Forden Bank with Sandy Lane.

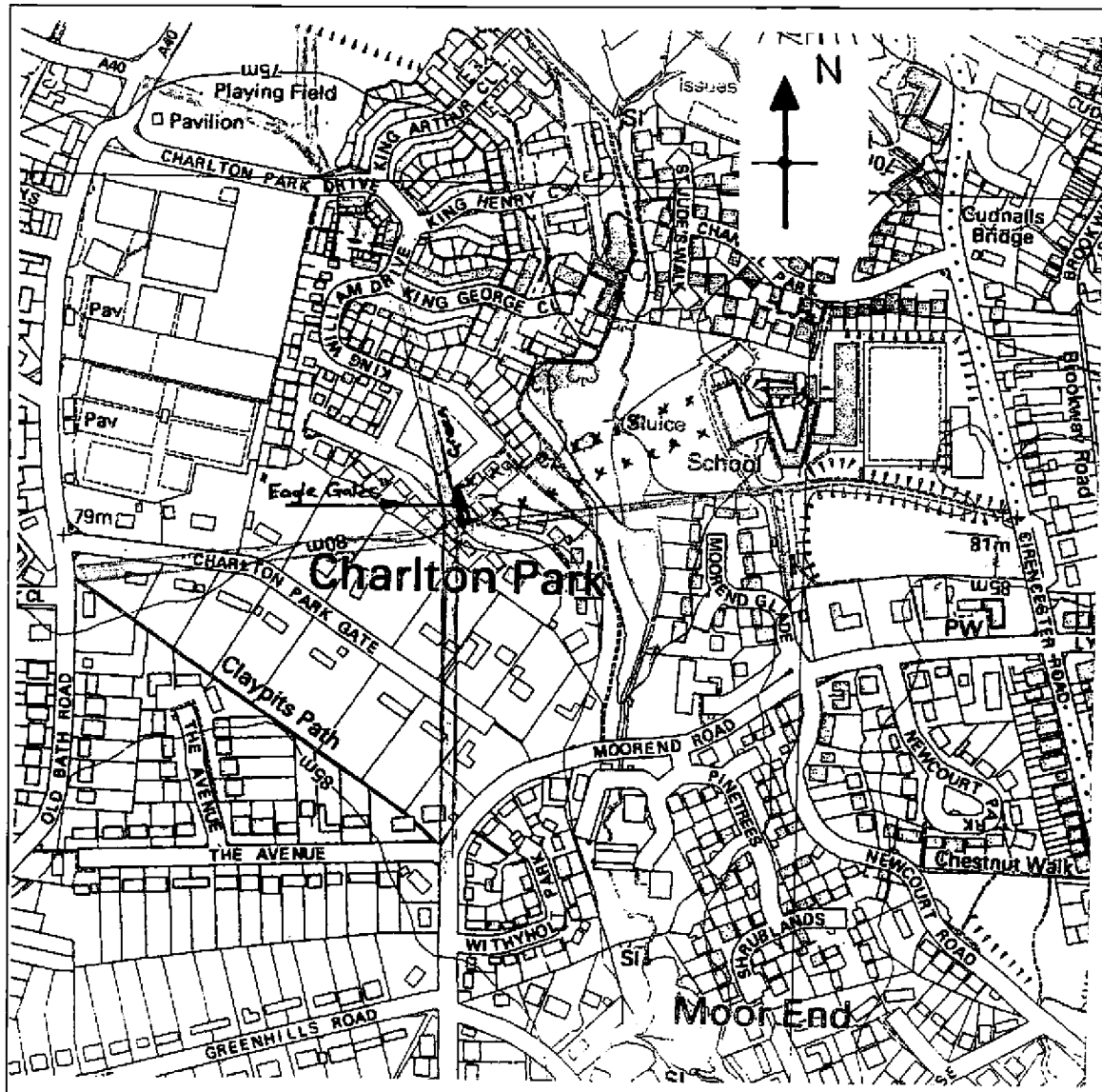
All these measurements, angles and observations are summarised on the 'Working Sheet' as shown below.

Figure 4



Details from the working sheet could then be overlaid on a current Ordnance Survey Map (Fig 5) to locate the exact site of the Eagle Gates in the 18th century. The line of the old Sandy Road cut across Charlton Park Gate and the last section of King William Drive in Charlton Park, neatly bisecting the 'Green' on its way to Cheltenham. After Charlton Park Drive it split in two sections, one to join Thirlestone Road and the other Sandford Road.

Figure 5

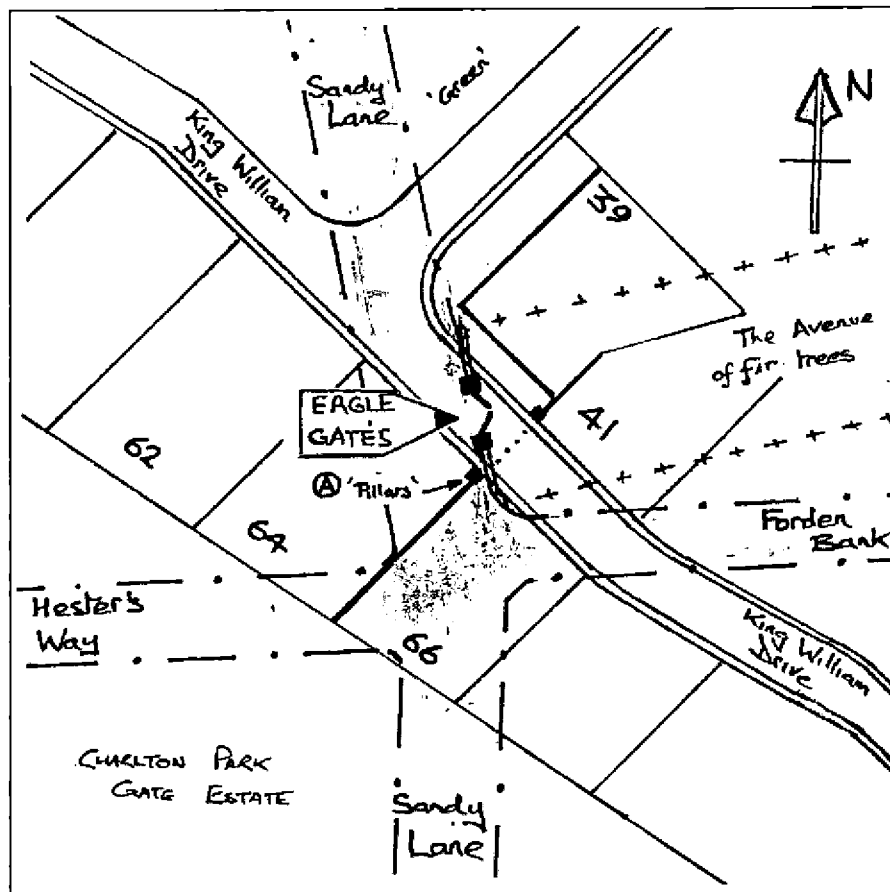


From this enlarged reproduction of the old road system, (Fig 6) it can be seen that the original position of the Eagle Gates straddles King William Drive, opposite No 64 and the side of No 39.

The crossroads of old Sandy Lane with Hester's Way and Forden Bank lies beneath No 66. Do ghostly carriages and horses still pass through here? The dividing walls between Nos 64 and 66 and opposite between Nos 39 and 41 have been built to the pavement edge where small pillars capped with concrete balls have been installed – Fig 6 (A).

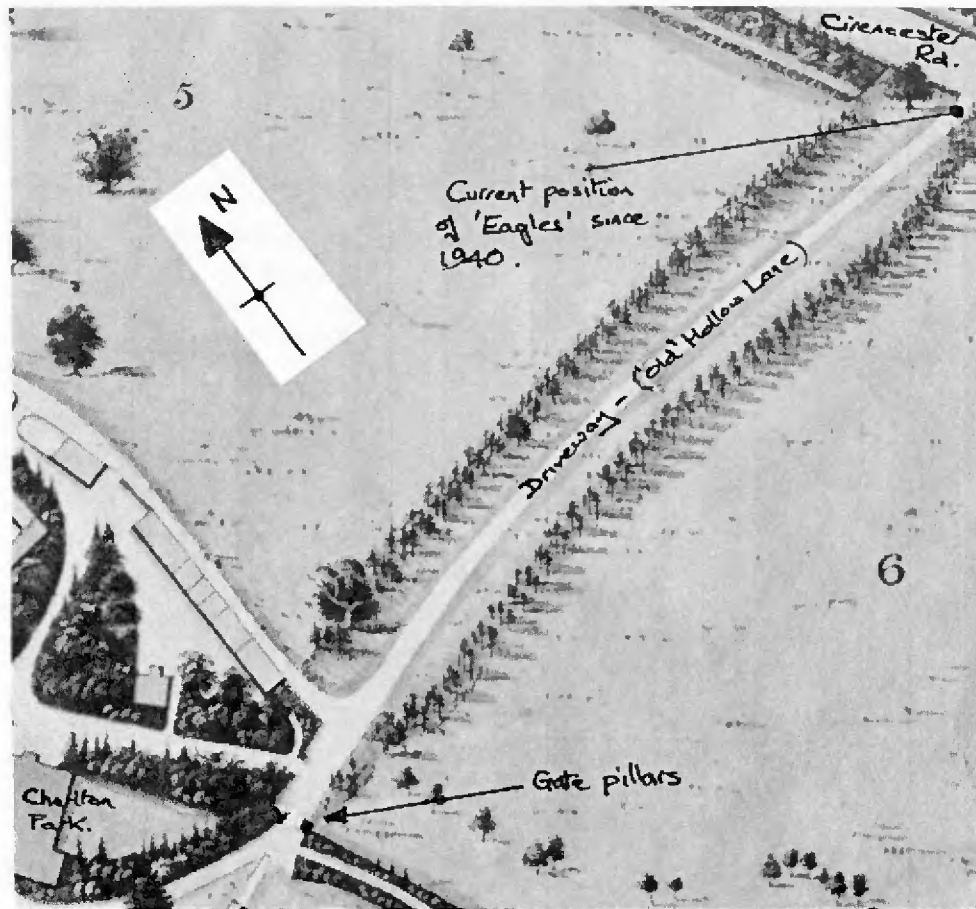
One wonders whether the architects of the development knew of the original position of the Gates and were replicating their memory, or were the ghosts guiding their hands?

Figure 6



After Charlton Park was enclosed around 1790, the roads fell into disuse and the Eagle Gates were repositioned. The estate map of 1843 (Fig 7) shows the bases of the gate pillars at the end of the present driveway just at the southern end of the mansion. Here they would have formed a barrier between the public road, Hollow Lane from the Cirencester Road (built 1826) and the private area of the west front of the house.

Figure 7 – Enlarged Detail from 1843 Estate Map



In 1940, when Charlton Park became a school, the Gates were rediscovered and installed at the Cirencester Road entrance. This 'final' move, introduced two additional pillars, capped with stone urns, to support the gates and high stone walling each side extending to pillars to display the Eagles.

Will there be a future move for the Eagles?

WHITEFRIARS SCHOOL - A BRIEF HISTORY

By Martin Ablett

The Order of Carmelites

In the year 1209 some hermits who lived on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land asked Albert, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, to give them a rule – a way of life – by which they could come closer to God and thus be of help to their fellow men. Forced to leave Mount Carmel by the Saracens, the Carmelites, as they were called, migrated to Europe and settled in England, first at Aylesford in Kent in 1242 and then in many places including London and Coventry. Their aim was to bring men to God and God to men; they strove to achieve this through prayer and penance specifically by means of teaching and preaching through their example.

For over three hundred years they helped to spread their gospel throughout this country. They even received a soubriquet – Whitefriars – for over their brown habits they wore a white cloak. The full name of the order was the Order of the Brethren of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel.

In the sixteenth century came the Reformation and the destruction of all religious houses. The Whitefriars were dispersed and their houses were given away, many being allowed to fall into ruin. It was not until 1926 that the Order returned to this country from Ireland to establish parishes at Faversham and Sittingbourne in Kent. Ten years later the Whitefriars came to Wales and took charge of the Parish of Aberystwyth where they also ran a college. In 1949 they were delighted to be able to purchase their old home by the river Medway at Aylesford which has since become a great place of retreat and pilgrimage. In the meantime they had been asked to start a small school – St Mary's College, at Tregyb House in Llandeilo, West Wales.

Whitefriars School 1958 - 1987

In 1958, at the request and with the support of many local families, the school was transferred from West Wales to Cheltenham, where Whitefriars School for boys was established at A^sley Manor set in forty acres of grounds on the London Road in Charlton Kings. Since that day in September 1958 many students have passed through the school and have achieved success in numerous facets of life especially sport and the arts. Whitefriars was responsible for the education of boys from seven to eighteen years of age until 1987 when it merged with Charlton Park School for girls, founded in 1939 by the Roman Catholic Order La Sainte Union des Sacre Coeurs, to form St Edward's School. The Whitefriars site provides a home for St Edward's Junior School for the education of boys and girls up to the age of eleven years.

When Whitefriars opened the classrooms for the initial sixty eight pupils together with the priests' living accommodation were all housed in the original Ashley Manor.



As the school expanded it was naturally necessary to conduct an extensive building programme which was instigated in the early 1960s. A new school hall, teaching block, terrapin classrooms, science laboratories, music practice rooms, specialist rooms and changing rooms were all provided to cater for the increased number of students and their educational needs.



Activities increased with the development of the school – sport, particularly rugby, annual plays, musicals and money-raising events in support of charities such as the May Fayre. On the academic front many sixth form students gained entry to Oxbridge and other universities.

Further building developments included a Sixth Form Centre with Information Technology and Resources suites, which later became a dedicated infant department. The terrapin classrooms were also replaced with a spacious unit now housing the baby and kindergarten department. In 1982 the much anticipated Sports Hall was completed and opened adjacent to the original site of the outdoor swimming pool now the location for the infant playground. The two storey building comprised the main hall, which as well as catering for many sports, provided the perfect base for social events organised by the Whitefriars Old Boys Association which was formed in the same year. At the end of 1983 the Silver Jubilee of Whitefriars was celebrated. A rugby match and Jubilee Ball rounded off the 25th school year.

The school has always enjoyed an excellent relationship with the local community. The various school halls and grounds are regularly hired to diverse local and national organisations. More recently the school has introduced a nature trail and conservation area. Near the front door of Ashley Manor is the Garden of Remembrance with individual name plates on a memorial stone plinth to commemorate the lives of former pupils, priests and staff of Whitefriars and St Edwards.

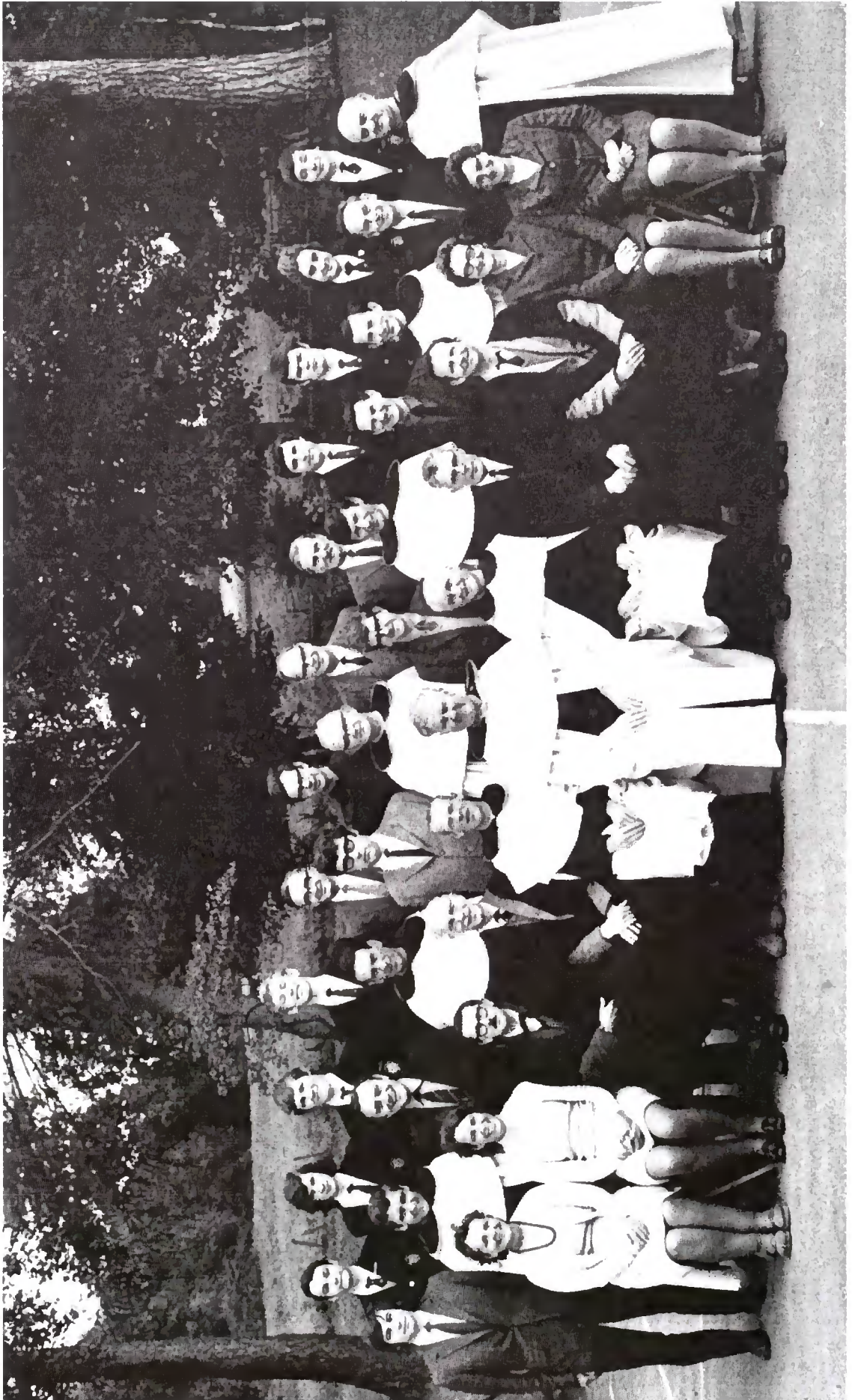
The Golden Anniversary of the foundation of Whitefriars was celebrated at the end of the 50th academic year in July 2009. A reunion party at the school provided a wonderful evening of renewed friendships, reminiscences and anecdotes prompted by a large array of memorabilia on display. Over three hundred former pupils, staff and parents attended the event, travelling from all parts of the United Kingdom and from abroad. The reunion was organised by Father Pat O’Keefe, former Deputy Headmaster and Governor; Tighearnan Mooney, current Headmaster of St Edward’s Junior School; Martin Ablett, former Head of Physical Education and Governor; and Mrs Viv Price, school secretary.

The photograph on the next page shows staff and pupils in 1972, named from left to right as follows:

Back Row: J. Moss, P. Herbert, A. Whiteside, N. M^cDermott, Ralph Collinson, Bro. Peter Jessop, John Powell, Gerry Porter, D. Wollen, D. Clarke, C. Chainey and N. Howells.

Middle Row: Martin Ablett, Fr. Tony Pelan, Mike Holt, Fr. Pat O’Keefe, Terry Cook, Fr. Bede Caine, Austin Flint, Fr. Sean O’Connor, Chris Hoggett, Fr. John Abrami, Pat Gibson, Fr. Lar Walsh.

Front row: Mary Wright, Christine Robertshaw, John Bannon, William Neve, Fr. Fabian Cunliffe, Fr. Edward Maguire (Headmaster), Fr. Tom O’Neil, Harry Bache, George Cross, Katherine Midwinter, Marie Lampkin.



CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL HALL

By Mary Southerton

Those readers who live in Charlton Kings are familiar with the building on London Road which used to house the Urban District Council; some of them will remember going there to hear the result of elections. The following photographs, taken by Eric Armitage in 1979, show the front, west side and rear of the building. The property now appears to have been sold and will no doubt undergo considerable changes. It seems, therefore, an appropriate time to record the history of the building.





The governing of villages was for a long time in the hands of the Vestry, an ecclesiastical organisation, the calling together of the parishioners to discuss church business. In 1601 the Vestry was made responsible for the overseeing of the poor of the parish. Over the years, more civil duties became its responsibility. At this time the only people who were able to vote were property owners and landowners.

In 1861 Vestries, as the form of local government, were abolished. The Charlton Kings Vestry quickly agreed to apply for Board status, fearing that they might otherwise have been absorbed into Cheltenham. On March 1862 the first meeting of this new Board was held. The twelve elected men were: Chairman, Sir Wm Russell; J Freeman, leather seller; Wm Hawkes; Charles Cook Higgs Esq.; J Humphris; Wm Jordan, farmer; C Burgess, nurseryman; Wm Turk, malster; James Rodgers; J Villar, auctioneer; and Nathaniel Hartland Esq., banker. The Board continued to meet in the Vestry Hall. 1888 saw the setting up of County and Borough Councils, but Charlton Kings Board remained. In 1890 the Board had obtained a loan of £350 to provide a weighing office, cart sheds and stables with an enclosed yard on London Road.

In 1894 further statutes established the Urban District Councils. By this time all working men, as well as owners of land and property, were able to vote. The new Charlton Kings UDC again consisted of twelve elected men. Some members of the Council felt that the Vestry Hall was no longer suitable for their meetings. They questioned the actual ownership of the Vestry Hall. A legal report stated that the land and building had been purchased with a loan acquired under the Vestry Act of 1850. As this loan had been repaid the hall was no longer an ecclesiastical edifice but a parochial property. The question then was "would it be better to enlarge the present hall or build a new one?" As they would only have 'permissive' use of the hall but still be responsible for its maintenance, the Council decided to look elsewhere.

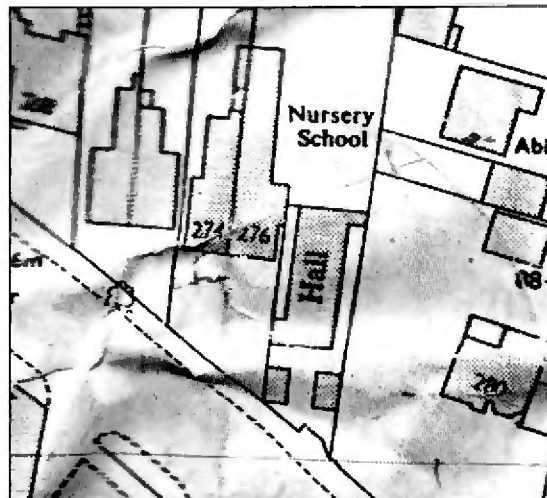
At the council meeting on 13 December 1898 Councillor Williams proposed "that this Council do take steps to provide themselves with a proper hall for the transaction therein of public business." The motion was seconded by Councillor Peacey but was defeated by one vote. However the matter was not abandoned, as in November 1899, Mr J Villar,

surveyor to the Council, intimated that some land might be available. The land was on London Road, next to Mr Hancock's premises at the angle formed by the junction with Cudnall, opposite the weighbridge. The Council resolved "that it was not advisable to purchase a site for offices only".

At the Council meeting of 13th February 1900 the surveyor reported that the Council stables on London Road were no longer sufficient for their growing requirements and the site did not have space for any extensions. He submitted draft plans for new stabling in Horsefair Street. The land was purchased from Mr W Price for £240, the stables and a house for the foreman were to be built at a cost of £1125. The replacement of the stables meant that their former site would become available for a Council hall and offices. A draft plan for these buildings was also submitted at a cost of £730. The plan, with minor alterations, was given final approval at the meeting held on 13th April 1900.

The building of the new offices in London road was not without difficulties. The Local Government Board had to be consulted and a loan would be required. An inquiry was held but there were legal problems concerning the use of the site on London Road. After much letter writing, Mr Brydges, the Clerk to the Council, and the Vice Chairman, Mr Oliver Williams, travelled to the Government Board in London and were able to resolve matters. The loans were sanctioned: £250 to purchase the land for the stables, £1122 for the erection of the new stables and £943 for the alterations of the old stables into the Council Hall.

Map showing the Council Hall and Pavilions



In February 1901 the plans and specifications were laid before the Council and agreed. Advertisements were placed in the *Gloucester Echo* and two tenders were received for building the new stables and three for the Council Hall. The cheapest tenders were accepted in both cases, being those of Henry Burrows. The stables would cost £889 and the Council Hall £975. By July 1901 the legalities were complete and the Council seal was attached to the loans document. It is interesting to note that in the Council minutes the building of the hall was always referred to as 'extending the stables'.

The new stables must have been built quickly because the Council minutes for September 1901 record the tender for fencing the stables as being 2/- per yard to be done by Mr T N Smith. The appointment of Mr Robert Smith, as custodian of the stables, had also been made. His salary was to be 20/- a week and the house to be rent and rate free.

The building of the hall must also have gone ahead for in December 1901 the Chairman, Richard V Vassar Smith, was authorised to spend £50 on furniture for the new hall. The first meeting was held there on 11 February 1902. It was described in the *Cheltenham Free Press and Cotswold News* as follows: "The hall is not extravagantly ornamental, the elevation of the building is distinctly pleasing. Constructed of red bricks, with stone dressing, the building satisfactorily accommodates both the Council and its officers. The principal room, which is approached through a wide vestibule with tiled floor, is the Council Chamber, an apartment not quite as spacious as that of the old Vestry Hall in which business of the district has hitherto been transacted, yet still sufficiently large for its intended purpose and much more comfortable than that unwieldy room. Its dimensions are 35 feet by 20 feet and it is well lit by front and side windows. The walls have been tastefully decorated with panelled dado, divided into bays and the ceiling has been similarly treated, with wooden blocks for the floor. The furnishing includes the provision of a handsome oblong table around which the members of the Council and chief officers sit in conference. The Boyle system of ventilation is introduced and the heating is regulated from a separate chamber whence hot water is circulated to radiators. The subsidiary rooms include anti-chamber and offices for the rate collector and the superintendent of the weighing machine." At the first meeting the Clerk to the council, Mr Brydges, was given an honorarium of £30 for all his extra work concerning the hall and stables. At the December meeting in 1902 Mr F Probyn Dighton was appointed the new Clerk and was to be paid £70 per annum.

The Council settled into its new premises and was to remain there until 1948. Although the Council had resolved not to let the hall for public meetings this did not last. The Reverend Hodson wrote to ask if the Choral Society could use the hall for practice one evening a week. After some discussion a reply was sent stating that the Council agreed to the Society using the hall but that they must be responsible for any damage done. However, as there appears to have been no piano and very few chairs I wonder if they did in fact ever use the hall.

During World War II the Food Office was also housed in the hall and was still there in 1947. Perhaps it was this and the fact that the Council needed space for their shorthand typist, and her rented typewriter, that made them look for something bigger. In March 1948 the Council learned that Lexham Lodge was up for sale. Enquiries were made, the District Valuer consulted and a price of £4500 was agreed. On 22nd March 1948 a deposit of £450 was paid by the Council. The Ministry of Health approved the raising of a loan for the purchase. A committee was formed to oversee the work required for the change of use. Central heating was to be installed, a strongroom built in the basement and decorating would be required to the new Council Chamber. It was also agreed that the clock from the old hall would be put in the Council Chamber and also the plaques (no indication as to what these were), and the oil painting was to be hung in the entrance hall.

An official opening was held on Friday 25th May 1948 and the first Council meeting was held on 8th June. As the Food Office also moved to a separate room in Lexham Lodge, the old hall was now vacant. It is obvious that over the past 46 years it had only really been used by the Council and its officers for in September of that year the Council had to consider letting the hall on a regular basis. The following charges were agreed: Weekday evenings 6pm to midnight £1.10s; Saturdays 6pm to midnight £2; and afternoons 15/-. They also had to equip the hall for social use, 150 stacking chairs and 30 card tables were bought. They made enquiries about a piano and learnt that Mr Littlewood of Cirencester Road had one for disposal. It was agreed that the use of the piano would incur an extra charge. There were already two organisations hoping to use the hall. The Charlton Kings Youth Organisation wanted to meet there on Wednesday and Friday evenings, paying £25 per year and making their own arrangements with the caretaker. The Charlton Kings Old People's Welfare were allowed to use the hall on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. By 1949 the Council were receiving complaints about the noise from evening lettings and by 1950 the possibility of selling the hall was discussed. It was showing a loss on its letting income, perhaps because it was not in a very pleasing condition. In 1951 the Council decided to install extra lighting, have the ceiling painted white and the walls decorated in an attempt to remedy matters.

Over the years a variety of organisations had applied to use the hall. Some received Council's approval but other did not. The Home Guard were refused as it was not considered suitable. Mr H G Graham, of 56 Ewens Farm, asked to use the hall on two days a week as an office, but again was turned down; likewise the Ryeworth Football Club who wanted to use the hall or outbuildings as a changing room for their visiting teams. Some people seem to have used the hall for a considerable time – Mrs Gilpin, whose dancing class was held on Saturdays afternoons, felt able to write and ask for a reduction as she had a 'permanent let'. The Council did not agree to this request. The Bretheren used the hall on Sundays at £2 a day. They must have found it conducive to their needs, because in 1955 they asked to rent the whole hall completely, but this was not agreed to. Messrs Harris and Middleton, radio and electrical engineers, asked to use the 'old' weighbridge office, implying that it was no longer in use. Mr Nahl, newsagent of Brookway Road, applied to use one of the outbuildings and was allowed use of a room as a temporary measure. Messrs Curry wanted the hall for two days for a display of goods, but there were objections to this. Would this have been the first introduction of television to the inhabitants of Charlton Kings? At this time the caretaker drew attention to the number of hours he was required to work. His wages were increased by 5/- in the winter up to £1 and by 2/6 in the summer up to 12/6.

Changes in the organisation of local government in 1974 led to the abolishing of Urban District Councils and Charlton Kings was to come under Cheltenham Borough Council. The hall became Cheltenham's responsibility. It continued to be used over the years by a variety of organisations but few of them found it satisfactory. The final blow came when someone set alight to the hall when it was leased to the College of Martial Arts. Cheltenham Borough Council made the decision to sell the property.

References: Council Minutes – GA DA3/100

125 (Cheltenham) Squadron Air Training Corps

By Andrew Baynes

Last October 125 (Cheltenham) Squadron Air Training Corps, which is based on Grange Field, Charlton Kings, celebrated the 70th anniversary of its formation. Cadets marched to a special church parade at St Mary's which was attended by many past members of the squadron, some from its very early days. Cheltenham Borough and Charlton Kings Parish Councils were represented, the officer commanding the Bristol and Gloucestershire Wing with senior staff officers also attended together with members of neighbouring squadrons. The reception that followed at the Sacred Hearts hall was an ideal opportunity for old friends to remember times past.

The Air Training Corps is a very important youth organisation in this country which attracts both boys and girls between 13 and 18 years. Its aim is to promote amongst the young people an interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force. It provides a training that is useful in both civil life and the services. It is not, however, a recruitment organisation, although from time to time some cadets do join the services. What it does do is to encourage a spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership and good citizenship. All this is achieved by the activities that are undertaken, for example – flying, sailing, climbing, sports, aviation studies, the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and community service. The Corps motto is "Venture Adventure".

The Air Training Corps was formed in February 1941 when it was granted its Royal Warrant by King George VI who became its first Commandant in Chief. The history of 125 Squadron, though, began two years before that. In fact we need to go much further back to get the whole picture.

In 1918 the Royal Air Force, at the end of World War I, was the strongest and largest force in the world. But, during the years that followed that strength was gradually reduced by successive governments until the late thirties with the rise of National Socialism in Germany, Britain found itself unprepared for what was to come.

The Air League of the British Empire, founded in 1909 with the object of the promotion of all aspects of aviation, realising that there would soon be a great need for increased recruitment into the Royal Air Force, started a campaign for the formation of a youth organisation that would act as a base for recruitment into the service. In October 1938 a meeting was called in London, chaired by the Lord Mayor and addressed by the Secretary of State for Air, Sir Kingsley Wood. The result of this meeting was the formation of the Air Defence Cadet Corps. It was hoped that ten squadrons could be raised in London and a further fifty in the rest of the country before the end of that year.

An Advertisement in the Cheltenham Echo

AIR DEFENCE CADET CORPS

Proposed Squadron for Cheltenham

PUBLIC MEETING

MUNICIPAL OFFICES, 5 p.m.
On **MONDAY NEXT, 17th APRIL**

Chairman: HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.
Air-Commodore H. S. SMYTH-OSBORNE, C.M.G.
will explain the scheme.

Other Speakers will include **MR. D. L. LIPSON, M.P.**

Local Organiser: **MAJOR E. F. EAGAR, The Grove House, Charlton Kings, Tel. 4931.**

Cheltenham soon took up the challenge. A public meeting was called in April 1938 with the proposal that a squadron of the Air Defence Cadet Corps be formed in the town. The local organiser was Major E. F. Eager of The Grove House in Charlton Kings. All the speakers at their meeting supported the proposition and by the end of May 125 Squadron was in place. The first commanding officer was Colonel Tudor Fitzjohn DSO, late of the Worcestershire Regiment, and he took the R.A.F. rank of Squadron Leader.



LIEUT.-COL. TUDOR FITZJOHN,
D.S.O., of The Rock House, Victoria-
walk, Cheltenham, who has been
appointed to the command of the
Cheltenham Squadron of the Air
Defence Cadet Corps.

By this time there were 130 squadrons in the Corps. Each of them had to be self supporting and controlled by a civilian committee which had to raise £200 before it could be recognised. This was achieved through subscriptions from local industry, local government and private individuals. Below is part of a list of subscribers for the Cheltenham Squadron.

AIR DEFENCE CADET CORPS

CHELTENHAM SQUADRON

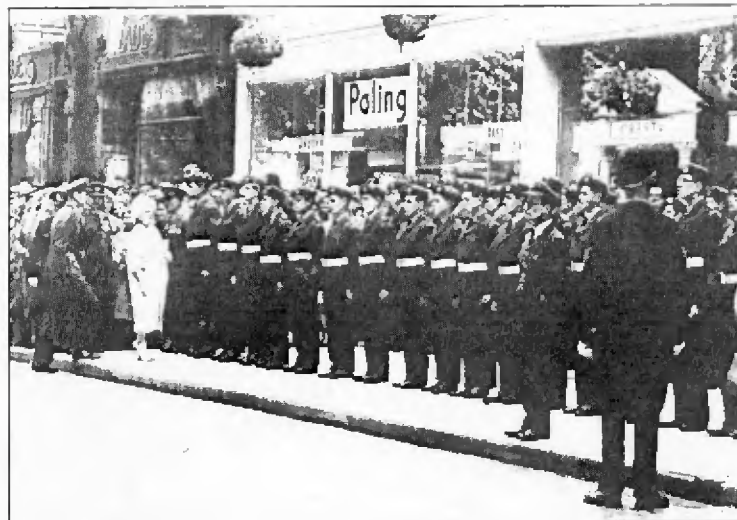
Seventy pounds has been received, forty pounds is promised. Ninety-five pounds is still required before the Squadron can be registered.

The Hon. Treasurer acknowledges with thanks donations from the undermentioned:—

	£	s.	d.
Rotol Airscrews Limited	5	5	0
Officers Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Gloucester District	5	0	0
Per. Col. A. Northen	5	0	0
Mrs. Arkell	5	0	0
A. H. Barlow, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. Hoscason	5	0	0
Congregation at Holy Apostles' Church, St. George's Day	4	8	2
Miss Rowntree	4	0	0
His Worship the Mayor	2	2	0
Captain W. Payne	2	2	0
Messrs. E. L. Ward, Ltd.	2	2	0
W. N. Weech, Esq.	2	2	0
Major H. Mason	2	2	0
R. Perkins, Esq., M.P.	2	2	0
G. Readings, Esq.	2	2	0
G. M. Morton, Esq.	2	2	0
British Legion (Women's Section), Cheltenham Branch ..	1	1	0
Air Commodore E. Masterman, C.M.G.	1	1	0
Messrs. Sharpe & Fisher, Ltd. ...	1	1	0
Messrs. Bayley & Sons	1	1	0
R. B. Seaton, Esq.	1	1	0
Reed & Patterson, Ltd.	1	1	0
British Legion (Cheltenham Branch)	1	0	0
D. L. Lipson, Esq., M.P.	1	0	0
Group Captain E. Murray, D.S.O., M.C.	1	0	0
A. E. Marshall & Sons	1	0	0
Major Escourt Harrison	1	0	0
Edwards & Marshall	10	6	
Major A. Allardyce	10	0	
Mrs. C. Grundy	10	0	
H. B. L. Wake, Esq.	10	0	
W. S. F. Harris, Esq.	10	0	
W. Sharpe & Sons	10	0	
Mrs. Stephens	10	0	
The Misses Franks	10	0	

Officers had to purchase their own uniforms and cadets had to pay 3d per week to join. Once set up each squadron received a grant from the Air Ministry. By the outbreak of the war in September 1939 the 125 Squadron strength was 100 cadets. These combined with all the others throughout the country became a trained pool of young men ready and waiting for the call of conscription which was to come. In 1942, a year after the formation of the Air Training Corps which had by then incorporated the Air Defence Cadet Corps, there were 210,000 cadets, very many of whom were to serve in the R.A.F. during the war.

With the Peace the recruitment aims of the Corps were no longer necessary and this element of its objectives was removed. 125 Squadron was still very popular with the town's youth. Over time its headquarters had been in many places, starting in Albion Street, then Oriel Road, also the British Restaurant in Montpellier and the Grammar School. In the sixties they were based at the Territorial Army Centre in Alstone Lane and it was at this time that they were honoured by a visit and inspection by the late Queen Mother.



In 1967 they were on the move again and it was now that its connection with Charlton Kings began as they moved into the old council offices hall at Sixways in London Road. This venue was not wholly suitable and negotiations began for a purpose built headquarters in Grange Field in Charlton Kings. There were problems with the site as it had been a rubbish tip many years before. Once all of these had been overcome the move took place in 1980. The current strength is between thirty and forty cadets, both boys and girls, many of whom live in the village and attend the local schools. They are all very active in the area and keen to take part in local events and community service activities.

There are many misconceptions about modern youth. This organisation in our village and what the cadets do and achieve is proof that these generalisations are very misleading and that there are many young people who are ready to take their place as good responsible citizens as did their predecessors at the time of the formation of the squadron seventy years ago.

BONDS IN CHARLTON KINGS

By Douglas Bond

The first records I can find of 'my Bond' family in Charlton Kings was Thomas Bond who came to live there around 1770 with his wife Mary (Collett). He worked as a sawyer and they had five children, the eldest of whom was also Thomas. I can find out very little about this younger Thomas except for his marriage to Sarah Pates in Charlton Kings in November 1795. Sarah was the daughter of an established local family. Thomas and Sarah had nine children all of whom were baptised in the parish church between 1795 and 1818. They were recorded as living in Castleton Villa in 1841, (both in their 70s) with Richard their son and Sarah's brother William¹.

Thomas and Sarah's eldest son James (my great great grandfather) was born and brought up in Charlton Kings. He, like his grandfather and probably his father, was a sawyer in his case a stone sawyer. In 1823 he married Ann Skinner in the parish church. The 1841 census has them living in Cudnall Place with five of the seven children they had by then, namely Amy, Orina, Alfred, Ann and Reuben. In 1851 they are said to be living at 26 Park Street, Charlton Kings, by which time Orina's name has changed to Caroline, Reuben has become Thewlene and two more sons, Wiley (later Jabez) and Phillip have been born. 1861 sees James living in Bafford Street with two of his sons, Edward, the eldest and Jabez, Ann having died. Another ten years and James is still in Bafford Street, now aged 77, with his eldest son Edward, but now he has daughter Ann, her husband Thomas Humphris and four grandsons and a grand-daughter ranging in age from 12 to 3, all of whom were born in Charlton Kings. James died in 1875 in Bafford.

James's brother William was the grandfather of William John Bond, the young Boer War soldier whose commemorative memorial is in the parish church. His father Henry was born and lived his life in Charlton Kings working as a general labourer and later as a labourer for the Urban District Council. Henry's wife Agnes worked as a laundress as did so many of the local women. Henry and Agnes are shown living at Thorntons Row² early in their marriage and by the time William John was born in 1875 they were in Crab End³. 1891 finds them having moved to 3 Mill Lane with two more children, Louisa and Richard. By 1901, soon after William's tragic death, they are to be found at Lyefield Cottages, Mill Lane⁴, with Louisa now a laundress and Richard a general labourer. They are back at Crab End after forty years of marriage and now in their early sixties in 1911.

Of more significance to Charlton Kings is Alfred Edmund Bond (1833 – 1896) and his family. Alfred was born in Charlton Kings, probably in Cudnall Place to James and Ann. He worked as a stonemason. By 1857 he had met and married Anna Kilmister. They seemed to avoid the census until 1881 by which time they have had six children and Anna is working in the grocery trade. Alfred has become a foreman builder and they are

Horsefair Street (c1890) with Providence Place on the Right



living at 1 Providence Place⁵. Another ten years sees them living in The Grocers Shop, Horsefair Street with Anna running the business⁶. After Alfred's death in 1896, Anna moved on to running a local pub called the Duke of York⁷. Alfred is buried in the churchyard.

Alfred and Anna's youngest son Edmund, born in 1862, had followed his father into the stonemason trade and was also to become a sculptor. He was to marry Elizabeth Attwood, the daughter of local grocery and provision merchant, Edwin Attwood, who ran his business in Church Street.⁸ Elizabeth, who was born in Charlton Kings, had before her marriage served an apprenticeship in Cheltenham at the fancy drapery trade, subsequently working in her father's business. Edmund and Elizabeth were married in early 1887, living initially at Longborough Place⁹ and were to raise six children. By 1901 Elizabeth was running her father's business and he had retired to live at Glenrosa, a house he had built on land to the rear of his business in Church Street¹⁰. He was living there with his wife Jane, daughter Annie and his elder sister Elizabeth Attwood. Edmund and Elizabeth were living at 52 Church Street (? the shop premises) with two of their children, Alfred aged 12 and Gertrude 11. By 1911 Edmund had retired from stonemasonry and was running the Post Office in Lyefield Road with assistance from Elizabeth and their son Alfred Edmund, working as postal clerk. Young Alfred Edmund served in the Navy and became a wireless telegraphist, an occupation he continued with the post office.

Attwood's Two Shops in Church Street



As to my part of the family, Reuben Bond my great grandfather and Alfred Edmund's (1833) younger brother was also in the building trade first as a labourer and then as a carpenter. He was to marry a local girl Mary Anne James in the parish church in 1860 and they lived in Cirencester Road and later in Little Herberts. They were to move to Elkstone soon after my grandfather Reuben Francis was born in 1869. Subsequently after meeting and marrying my grandmother Alice Galley in Cheltenham in 1896, Reuben and Alice moved to Barry in South Wales in search of work. They lived in Lewis Street, Barry and Reuben found work on the railways as a plate layer. My father, another Reuben Francis, was born in in Lewis in 1899 the second of five children. The family remained in South Wales, living around the Pontypridd area, Grandfather Reuben becoming foreman plate layer, while my father worked underground in the pits from the age of fourteen becoming a hewer. He met my mother, Clarice Lambert, at a social event in Caerphilly and they married at the parish church there in September 1922. My brother was born the next year and my sister just over a year later. The family moved to London in the late 1920s after the great Pit Lockout to find work. My father was to become a builder eventually running his own business. My birth in 1939, fifteen years after my sister, must have come as a bit of a shock to them.

[Editorial Footnotes]

1. Castleton Villa was in East End Road. The 1882 Rate Book shows it as quite a large house so perhaps it had been divided up in the 1840s.
2. Thornton's Row was a row of five cottages built on the site of the present Baptist Church car park. They were built by William Thornton in the 1830s with privies, a common pump and a wash-house behind them.
3. Crab End consisted of thirteen cottages at the east end of Church Street, between the Merry Fellow and Hearne Road..
4. Lyefield Cottages were on the west side of Mill Lane, where the Infants School is now.
5. Providence Place was a row of five cottages on the piece of land between New Street and the present road into the car park. They faced on to Horsefair Street.
6. The Grocers Shop in Horsefair Street was opposite Providence Place, on the corner of a row of houses, next to Hamlett's Yard.
7. The Duke of York on the London Road was built in 1848, now about to be demolished.
8. Edwin Attwood had two shops in Church Street (see the photos on page 29) One was a corn chandler and coal merchant's, the other a grocery with Post Office. Note the letter box outside with the words 'Charlton Church Post Office' written on the wall above it. His coal yard and stable were at the top of the lane between the two shops.

9. I can find no reference to a Longborough Place but there was a Loughborough Place in Cudnall.

10. Glenrosa was the house where Mary Paget was born and spent her childhood. Her present house was built on part of Glenrosa's garden.

[The editor is very grateful to David Hanks of 'Cotswold Images' for his work on the photographs included in this article]

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WHY WAS 12 INCHES SO IMPORTANT?

By Jane Sale

Among the deeds deposited by the solicitors Jessops is one which is particularly baffling. It is a deed of sale, dated 9th September 1926, between Cyril Bent of the Forge in Church Street (vendor) and the Charlton Kings Allotment Association (purchaser), for a piece of land on the south side of Church Street having a frontage on to Church Street of **12 inches** and width throughout of **12 inches**, bounded on the front or north side by Church Street, on the back or south side by land belonging to Miss Wintle, on the east by other property of the vendor and on the west by remaining property of vendor, which premises were conveyed to the vendor by Eli and Fanny Hallett of 7th January 1925. The vendor is to erect a substantial fence along the whole of the west side. A sum of £2.10.0 was paid for this strip of land but why, what good was it to the Allotment Association and what was the point of the fence between two parts of Cyril Bent's property? Perhaps this document is only part of the story. It would be good to discover what lay behind it.

There is a schedule included in the deed which proves Cyril Bent's ownership of the property and gives us some information about earlier owners of the Forge. In 1902 it belonged to Francis Charles Peacey, who died in 1921 and left it to Ethel May Peacey. She sold it in 1923 to Eli and Fanny Hallett, who then sold it in 1925 to Cyril Bent.

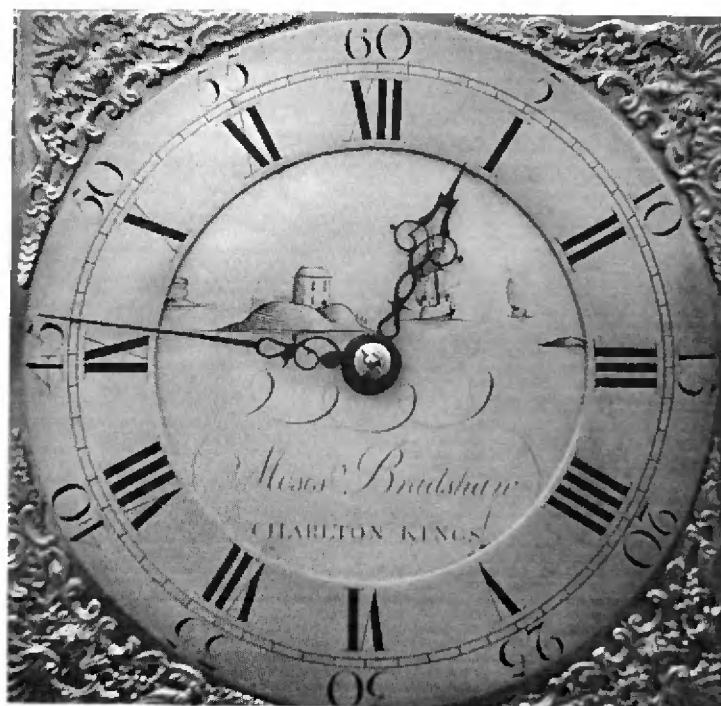
The document was signed by Cyril Bent and witnessed by William Parslow of Sunny Bank Farm, Charlton Kings. Does anybody know where Sunny Bank Farm was?

MORE ABOUT MOSES BRADSHAW

By Jane Sale

In *Research Bulletin 55* I wrote an article about Moses Bradshaw, clockmaker of Charlton Kings, in which I showed that there had been a father and son both called Moses living in Charlton Kings in the eighteenth century, but that I thought the son, dubbed Moses II, was the most likely to have been the clockmaker. Since then there have been some further developments to their story.

Soon after the publication of my article in March 2009 I received a telephone call from Ian Powles, a Charlton Kings resident, telling me that he owned a clock by this maker and inviting me to visit him so that I could see it. It turned out that Ian had been the person who had written to the *Clocks Magazine* enquiring about this maker and it was the resulting article by Brian Loomes that had set me off on my research into the Bradshaw family. It was really exciting to know that there was an original clock by Moses Bradshaw in Charlton Kings. Previously I had only seen an engraved dial in the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum, but Ian's clock had the original workings although not the original wooden case. Ian, from his experience of the interior works of longcase clocks, felt that the clock had been made earlier than I had thought, so perhaps both father and son had been clockmakers. I am grateful to Ian for sending me a photograph of his clock and allowing me to show it here.



A small book found among the Prinn archives (D7661 Box 4/13) revealed more information about the father, Moses I. It was entitled 'Examinations of People Residing in Charlton Kings not Parishioners 1789 – 1800' and consisted of Settlement Examinations undertaken by two Justices of the Peace. Such examinations were carried out on any pauper if they became chargeable to the parish for poor relief. The last one in the book concerned Moses and is dated 7th April 1800. He swore on oath that he had been born in Eastington [a hamlet within Northleach parish], had served several years in service as a covenanted servant, that about 46 years ago [1754] he had rented a farm from the late Henry Norwood in Leckhampton for £45 per year and continued there for six years, that he afterwards went to reside in Charlton Kings where he rented a cottage and premises at the rate of £5 per year and that he had since rented another place but never at any time to the amount of £10 per year and that he had done no act at any time since to gain legal settlement. It is known that the Bradshaws were a farming family and it seems that Moses I had followed in that line but seemingly not very successfully. There is no mention of clockmaking, but there would not necessarily have been as the reason for such an examination would be to discover whether the pauper had gained legal settlement in any parish. It seems that Moses I would have done so in the parish of Leckhampton, where he had rented a farm, and it was there that I tracked down his burial on 3rd February 1803, when he would have been 87 years old.

The next piece of information came from a descendant of Moses I and Moses II, who on a visit to Gloucestershire Archives, had been thrilled to be shown my article with more information about the family and examples of signatures by both men. She had a vital piece of information – a copy of the Death Certificate of a Moses Bradshaw who had died in Spring Lane, Charlton Kings on 8th March 1841 aged 89, with his occupation given as 'Clockmaker'. This had to be Moses II who had been baptised in Leckhampton in 1752. Unfortunately, from my point of view, Moses II had died just a month before the 1841 census was carried out, so it was not possible to pin down exactly where in Spring Lane he had been living. However, the informant of the death was given as 'Thomas Heath, occupier, Spring Lane, Charlton Kings', and he was shown in the 1841 census as being a miller living 'by the mill' – a close neighbour if Moses II was still living in the house which Moses I had leased from the Prinn family back in 1767.

There seems very little doubt that Moses II was the maker of the two clocks for which we have evidence. He must have been quite a minor craftsman, who perhaps bought old clocks and reused parts of them which would explain the age of the interior works of Ian's clock. He would also have been the Moses Bradshaw who signed receipts of payment for work done on St Mary's church clock in the period from 1774 to 1800. By 1800 Moses I had only been able to make his mark, rather than sign his name. There remains the question of how and where Moses II was trained – more research is needed.

A HISTORY OF BAFFORD FARM

By Simon Woodley

Bafford Farm is situated in the village of Charlton Kings. Although the village is not known for any significant history, it is characterised by the same family names which continue to exist as each generation passes. Its roots are tied firmly into an Anglo-Saxon past as suggested by the village name, but Roman influence has also been discovered within the village boundaries. Charlton Kings started with a few detached settlements including Bafford, Ryeworth and Ham, but it was the area surrounding St Mary's church which was the nucleus of village activity and provided the building blocks for the expansion of a growing community.¹ Charltonians are described in records as 'stubbornly independent' in their ways and 'unsympathetic to reforms imposed from outside'.² They are a people who separated themselves from the identity of Cheltenham and lived according to their own set of ways and procedures. By the 20th century the village had evolved with a population of over six thousand and a community characterised by shops, restaurants, schools, hotels and small industry³. Yet residents still cling to the village's heritage and much of this character is still evident in the village today. The focus of this essay will be Bafford Farm, a medieval house that has stood the test of time and retains the character of the past. Its importance to the community can be gauged by the road and footpaths leading to it.

As far as we know the farm began as a water-mill during the 13th and 14th centuries. The Charlton Kings economy was centred very much on corn growing in that period and Bafford Mill was built to help relieve other mills within the area, including Cudnall and Ham mills. But by the mid-sixteenth century there was a new emphasis placed on mixed farming and corn production began to decline in this area. As a result fewer mills were needed and Bafford was one of the first to go as grounds near the mill were some of the first to be enclosed.⁴ The early history of the mill and its transition to a farm seems to be very vague as few records exist. Katherine Goodman is possibly the earliest recorded tenant at the mill in 1450, but the area is referred to as 'Fretherates', so there is uncertainty on whether this really was a reference to Bafford Mill.⁵ Otherwise the earliest recorded tenant is John Packer in 1585 followed by his son Thomas Packer in 1597-8, both described as millers in the manor court books. But it is at this point that the mill disappears from any court books/records and it re-appears as a farm in the mid seventeenth century.⁶

The first mention of Bafford Farm in the 17th century appears to be Richard Strauford holding 14 acres in 1617 and by 1631 Thomas Horwood was living in the old mill house. On the 22nd April of that year he let out half of the house to Joan Coope and Walter White. They were to have 'the mill house and chamber over, the parlour and chamber

over and the chamber over the buttery', which gives us some idea of the size of the house at that time.⁷

By 1701 the Prinn family had moved into Charlton Kings and bought 'The Forden' (later known as Charlton Park). At that time the property was in excess of sixty acres. Soon after the purchase of the Forden John Prinn bought other Charlton properties including The Borrows, Southfield Farm and Bafford Farm. There was no official enclosure act and so land was bought or exchanged by the Prinn family and other landowners over a period of about twenty years. By 1746, when William Prinn succeeded his father as the new owner of the estate, it totalled over nine hundred acres.⁸ Bafford Farm was part of that estate and was rented out to tenants. A rent book lists Thomas Lee as paying £80 per year between 1743 –1767. He incorporated more land into Bafford Farm including Hencrofts and Court Hay fields. Due to the extra rented lands Mr Lee was paying £130 per year by 1773. John Lee, son of Thomas Lee, took over the tenancy in 1782. William Prinn died in 1784 and the whole estate came into the ownership of Dodington Hunt, Prinn's son-in-law. Hunt leaves an interesting note in the rent book 'At Lady Day 1794 raised the rent to £210 per year in consideration of £200 laid out on the house'.¹⁰ Interestingly the rent of Bafford Farm was always increasing, this might be due to each tenant taking on additional land or to the financial difficulties that the estate slowly runs into in the mid-nineteenth century.

With the beginning of a new century the Charlton Park estate came into the ownership of William Hunt Prinn and the Howman family took over the tenancy of Bafford Farm for £200 per year.¹¹ An estate survey carried out in 1810 shows the farm to be around 230 acres at this time.¹² But it is the the Howman sale on 28th March 1811 that provides an insight into what type of farm Bafford was. The sale was by auction held by W. Moore and Son at ten o'clock in the morning. It included 14 young dairy cows and calves, 20 sheep not old enough to breed, and 7 store pigs. Other items included dairy utensils such as a cheese press, a barrel churn, and milk vats, clearly illustrating the emphasis on dairy farming.¹³ Thomas Finch moved into the farm in 1812 and rented it for £250 per year up until the 1850s. During this time the Charlton Park estate had come under the ownership of Sir William Russell and later his son Sir William Russell the second in 1843. However by 1851 the whole estate had run into terrible financial difficulties and the 1882 Parish Rate Book shows that Bafford Farm was now owned by 'mortgagee of Sir William Russell'.¹⁴ Sir William was declared bankrupt and his estate would be divided up and sold off separately.

By the early 20th century Bafford Farm had been bought as part of the Lillybrook estate by the Lord family. Most of the farms on this estate had been bought because they provided excellent hunting and shooting grounds.¹⁵ Once again Bafford Farm was tenanted out and, according to the 1914 Parish Rate Book, Joel Jones was the tenant of 59 acres.¹⁶ By 1919 the Lords were looking to move away from Cheltenham. At first they tried to sell Bafford Farm as part of the Lilleybrook estate, but failure to sell meant each property had to be sold individually. The estate agents give a valuable description of Bafford Farm including 4 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, kitchen, back kitchen, cow stall, stable, barn, trap house, pig styes and land comprising 58 acres.¹⁷

By 1928 the Gloucestershire Dairy Company owned Bafford Farm and, according to Kelly's Directories, the Holborow family rented the farm from 1926 right into the 1980s, operating it as a dairy farm. The 19th century sketch and 20th century photograph below illustrate how the house changed during that period.

A sketch made before 1900 lent by Mr H R Holborow



Photograph taken at end of 20th century



The left hand/east side of the house is the earlier part, the western section was added in the 19th century. Note the addition of a porch and the change in the fenestration, two extra windows were put in by Mr Holborow's mother and himself.

The directories fail to recognise the property as a farm in the nineteen nineties, so it is at this point that we can conclude that Bafford Farm became just a place of residence. Today the house has been extended on the western side and divided into two properties and the farm land has either been built over or turned into a golf course. However, this property illustrates the changes that have occurred in the village of Charlton Kings as a whole. It has changed from servicing the early corn-based agriculture to supplying the growing population with milk, butter and cheese, and finally to being a desirable residential property amid suburban development.

Local resident Eileen Ivelaw Chapman describes the sale of Bafford Farm as one of the great changes in Charlton Kings. Slowly its fields were sold off and the modern-day Bafford estates began to cover its fields. Although much of the house appears to have been rebuilt over the centuries, local residents refer sentimentally to a house that has stood the test of time and is characteristic of how lives used to be in Charlton Kings.

References:

- ¹ Paget, Mary *A History of Charlton Kings* p.4
- ² Fletcher, Susanne *Britain in Old Photographs: Charlton Kings* p.5
- ³ *Ibid* p.6
- ⁴ Charlton Kings Local History Society, *Bulletin 21*, p5
- ⁵ C.K.L.H.S., *Bulletin 32*, p8
- ⁶ Paget Mary, *A History of Charlton Kings*, p71
- ⁷ C.K.L.H.S., *Bulletin 32*, p9
- ⁸ C.K.L.H.S., *Bulletin 48*, p5
- ⁹ *Ibid* p8
- ¹⁰ Gloucestershire Archives (D7661 Box 8)
- ¹¹ *Ibid*
- ¹² Gloucestershire Archives (D2080)
- ¹³ C.K.L.H.S. *Bulletin 41*, p36
- ¹⁴ Paget, Mary *Charlton Kings Parish Rate Book 1882*
- ¹⁵ C.K.L.H.S. *Bulletin 41* p3
- ¹⁶ Paget, Mary *Charlton Kings Parish Rate Book 1914*
- ¹⁷ Gloucestershire Archives (D4858)
- ¹⁸ C.K.L.H.S. *Bulletin 12*

ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD EXTENSION

By Jane Sale

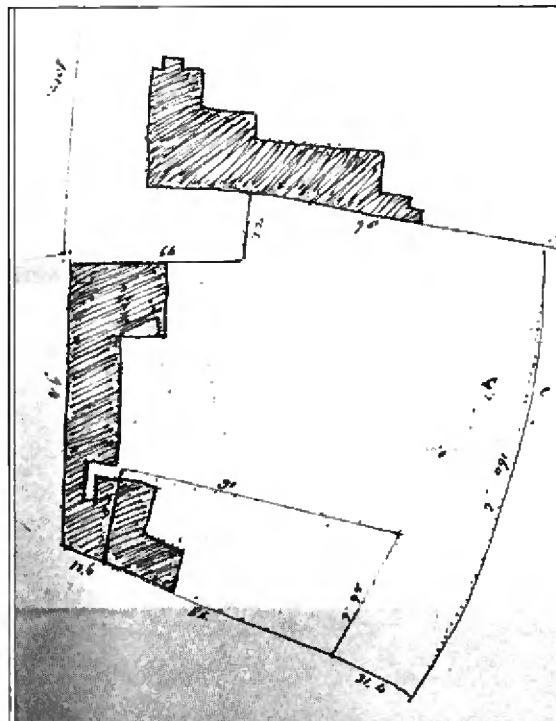
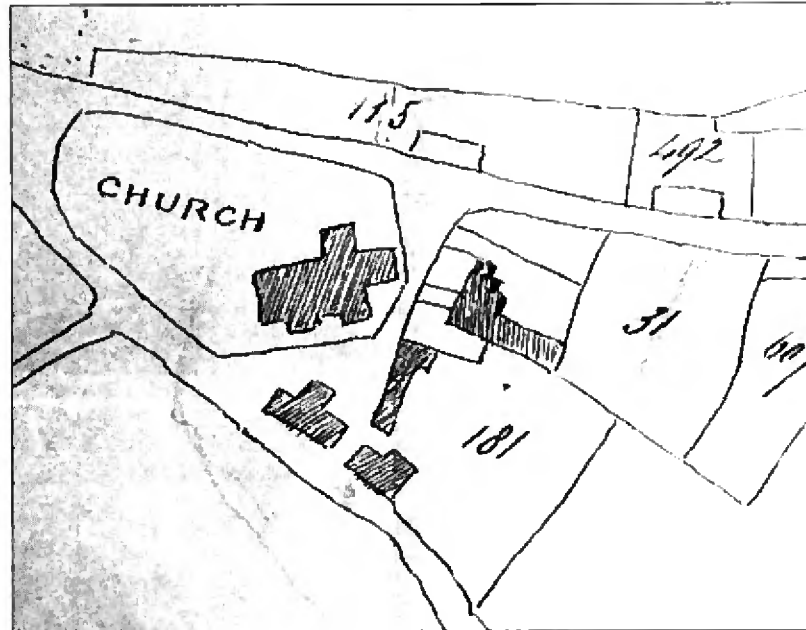
Regular readers of the Society's Bulletins will be aware that St Mary's churchyard was extended eastwards in 1854 to make room for more grave spaces, and that this necessitated the demolition of some old houses on the site. Joan Paget wrote an article in 1985 (*Bulletin 14*) which was followed by one written by Mary Paget in 1997 (*Bulletin 38*). Now an examination of some uncatalogued material, deposited by the firm of solicitors, Messrs Ticehurst Wyatt, [GA D2025] has shed further light on this development.

Some information from earlier articles is repeated here to make the situation clearer. The original churchyard had been in the hands of the Lay Impropiator, who had been in the habit of selling off grave spaces to strangers for his own profit. This had caused great ill-feeling among parishioners and added to the shortage of space in the churchyard. A plan in 1832 to demolish Church House, which was in the hands of Charity Trustees, and to use its site to enlarge the churchyard fell through because of fear that the Impropiator would again sell off the space privately.

A committee was set up in 1851 when the shortage of grave space could no longer be disregarded. It consisted of many Charlton Kings 'worthies' – Sir William Russell, Nathaniel Hartland Esq, Charles Conway Higgs Esq, Samuel Higgs Gael Esq, John Burrows, William Parry, Mr Arnott, together with the Minister and Churchwardens, to which Mr Jordan and Mr Hawkes were afterwards added. This committee effected an agreement with the Lay Impropiator to purchase all his interest in the churchyard for £300. As a result the churchyard could be vested in trustees and its management would be in the hands of the minister and churchwardens.

The committee reported that the site of Church House alone would not suffice and it decided that the best course was to obtain the sites of several houses adjacent to the church and throw that ground into the new churchyard. There were three separate properties: Mr Powell's consisted of three old cottages which faced on to Horsefair Street adjacent to Church House, which were purchased for £135; Messrs Harwards had another three cottages running alongside the footpath through to Church Street, which were exchanged for other property worth £450; and Mr Newman's Church Cottage which was the nearest to Church Street, and the largest of the properties with garden and orchard running as far as the boundary of the Forge. The total purchase price of the three properties amounted to £1032. The committee gained permission from Her Majesty's Commissioners for Building New Churches to borrow a sum of £1975 to cover total costs including purchase of the land, its enclosure, consecration etc. This sum was to be repaid by annual instalments of £100 with interest at 5%.

Map 1 below shows the church with Church House to its south and the other properties to its east and south. Map 2 shows those other properties enlarged.

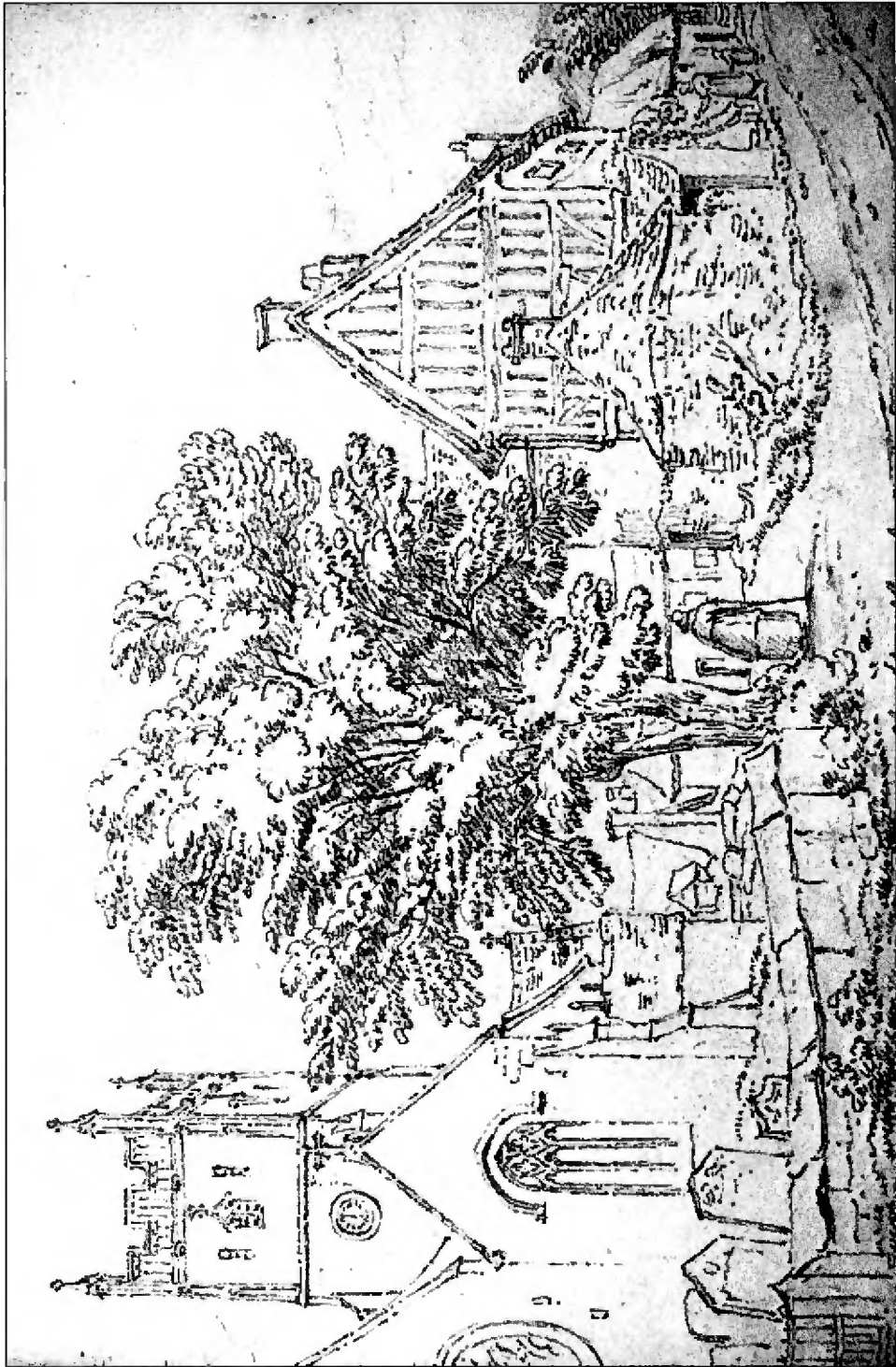


View from Church Street (from Powell's Sketchbook)



Part of Charlton Church -

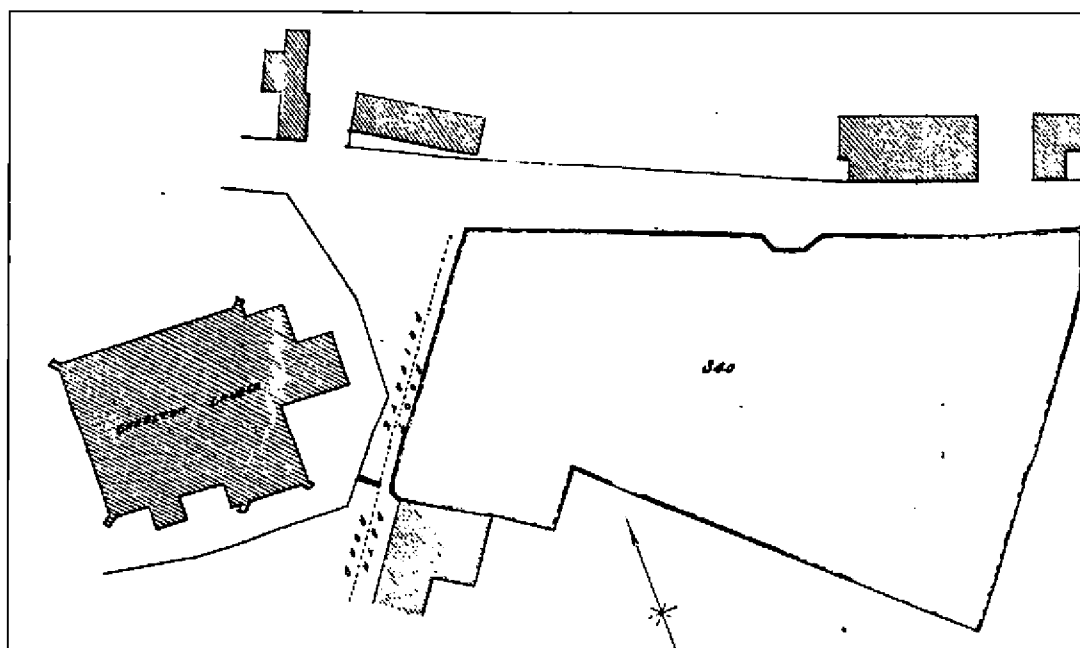
View from Horsefair Street (from Powell's sketchbook)



There was concern about the public footpath between the church and the newly acquired land. It was considered doubtful if the Bishop would consecrate ground with a public right of way across it, so a new carriage way connecting Horsefair Street and Church Street was proposed – the present New Street. But the recently-examined material from the solicitors' deposit shows that as well as the public footpath there was also a private road belonging to Church Cottage. A deposition is included which states:

James Shayler, a blacksmith aged 71, declares that he has lived in Charlton Kings for the last twenty years and upwards and for ten years of that time he has lived near the church and occupied a shop in Church Street which faced the strip of ground lying between the garden wall of Church Cottage and the churchyard wall. To his knowledge the said strip of ground has been public only as regards the footway, but private as regards the Horse and Carriage Road being closed by a bar. About twelve years ago Mr Joseph Karn, since deceased, came to occupy Church Cottage and he employed Shayler to fasten the bar by a strip of iron and that he kept the bar so fastened up for several years until the same being decayed was supplanted by the present lock up gate. By means of such Bar and Gate the road was kept closed and private at the time Mr Karn occupied the said premises until the present time.

Map 3 shows this road (marked 'Private road') and the Bar or Gate across it, while beside is marked 'Foot Path' adjacent to the Church Cottage property. This was the property owned by Mr Newman but leased to the Karn family. A resolution of the Vestry held on 3rd December 1853 proposed that the committee be authorised to treat with Miss Karn for the occupation of the premises on Ladyday next and to give her the sum of not more than £20 for her interest and to cancel her liabilities as to repairs under the lease.



The final act of the committee was to arrange for the enclosure of the whole of the churchyard in its new form. In 1854 they engaged the firm of Joseph Cornell and Sons, a building firm from Cheltenham to take down and remove the present wall before 1st December and erect a new boundary wall including entrance gates 'according to the plans of architect George William Sadler of Charlton Kings'

Interestingly two men acted as sureties for the builders – Alexander Shirer draper and Isaac James wheelwright, both of Cheltenham. Does this imply that the Cornells were a newly set-up firm who had not yet acquired a sound reputation or was it normal practice at this time to have sureties in such an agreement?

Footnote

Joseph Powell was a watercolour painter and printmaker who lived from 1780 to 1834. His work was first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1796 and '97, when he was only a young man. At the time he was living at the Lambeth house of Benjamin Thomas Pouncy, an engraver and topographer, and was probably his pupil.

He is believed to have connections with Herefordshire and Worcestershire as there are many examples of his watercolours from that area. In addition there is a sketchbook held by the Victoria and Albert Museum which is signed 'J. Powell, Salop, Bridgnorth'. Other works by Powell are held by the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Brighton Art Gallery and Manchester City Galleries. [*Dictionary of National Biography*]

Of more direct interest to us is the sketchbook held at Gloucestershire Archives. It is dated July 1824 and consists of twenty five sketches of the countryside around Cheltenham, including eight of Charlton Kings, some of which have already appeared in *A History of Charlton Kings* and in articles by Mary Paget in previous bulletins.

This sketchbook was donated to Gloucestershire Archives by Mary Paget and given the reference number D9071.

CARE OF KINGS HOUSE 1989 TO 2009

By Michelle Grainger

Twenty years ago we bought 'Kings House' from Iranian property developers whose dealings were so unconventional that they featured in a BBC 'File on 4' programme! Our surveyors's report was quite alarming, suggesting that three walls and some roofing had "defects of a significant nature". So the vendor found another surveyor (an architect with English Heritage no less) who claimed "it is difficult to find anything that is worth reporting as a defect"!

We had come from 'Coxhorne', London Road, (see *Bulletin 34 and Pevsner*) which we had cared for and re-roofed, via a newly built house which soon developed such subsidence problems that all six houses on the site had to be 'rebuilt'. So we reckoned that as 'Kings House' had stood for 400 years there could not be too much wrong with it! And the architect Samuel Holland Healing, who had bought it in the early 1900s, must have done essential repairs as he restored it from three small dwellings into a single house (see *A History of Charlton Kings* edited by Mary Paget).

We could not get a grant, but fortunately found a wonderful builder who specialised in timber-framed houses. He even had his own timber yard full of green oak. He was reassuring about the state of the house and offered a very reasonable daily rate. Whereas the Iranians' attention had focused on gold-effect taps – and sand-blasting the parlour beams to lighten them – actually a "Good Thing"! – Peter March attended to the essential structural projects. In the event he did have to work on every aspect of the house except for the North wall and the main roof:

- a) To the West he replaced the sill beam and supported the jettied corners with ogee curved brackets, repaired the transom and other beams and the small porch roof.
- b) To the East (more decorated as it had once faced the old road to London) he re-balanced the guttering and repaired the wet-rotted sill joints, supporting them with similar oak brackets to those on the West side.
- c) The Southern side is a stone 17th century extension of the timber framed building. A plastic window had been put through the tie beam (the horizontal beam supporting the stone roof). In all Peter March replaced six plastic windows with fine oak-framed ones.

Work on the west side



West sill beam



Peter March & Co. working on the South side in 1990



East side (1995) after Peter March's Work



As with 'Coxhorne', we were able to gather a keen band of 'support staff' around us – 'the Co-workers of Kings House'! On checking a loose roof tile one of them remarked "it's the chimney that really needs the attention...", so we engaged a local stone-mason who had worked on St Mary's church. Then our plumber suggested replacing the vulnerable lead water pipeline running from Church Walk across two back gardens (see Eric Cleevely's story in *Bulletin 19*). Again, no grant! And two weeks before a major birthday party the drains leaked into a foot-path below... it was tree roots. So the old house now had a new water supply and new drains!

As the 'Kings House' was set in the North West corner of its land, the vendors, having bought Nanny Wheeler's little bungalow as well, took the southern third of the garden and applied for planning permission for two family sized houses. Two Planning Inspectors both ruled that two dwellings would spoil the "setting of this Grade II* listed building", and mercifully only one five-bedroomed house was built to the South. Sadly the badgers and family of foxes left us soon after. We removed three-quarters of the dreaded *Leylandii* hedging, and with John Coates' help, replanted the boundary with native species, which has encouraged a variety of birds to nest.

The garden has been most rewarding to develop over twenty years, with the surprise of old wild flowers balancing the constraints of hedging and sloping boundaries. Spring starts early in February with snowdrops and carpets of amethyst wild crocus, and then a mass of wild cyclamen. The magnificent beech trees with tree preservation orders on them come into leaf a little late in 'Frosty Bottom'! Our most recent project has been to replace the broken concrete 'crazy paving' in front of the house with sandstone slabs which match the Cotswold stone sill walls.

Sadly the pressure of endless development around Kings House, with small bungalows becoming five-bedroomed houses and new build in back gardens, is a constant threat to the community's views of this lovely old building.

Kings House has a special warm atmosphere and has proved to be a welcoming location for meetings and parties, which has more than made up for the costs involved. We are happy to have been able to take on the stewardship of such a beautiful and historic building.

[More information about this important house can be found in *Bulletins 18* and *42*.]

THE ROYAL HOTEL IN HORSEFAIR STREET

By Ann R. Hookey

On 14th December 2009 the Royal Hotel re-opened for business. Over the last eighteen months, the new landlords, Mike and Georgina Huysinga (owners of the Exmouth Arms in Bath Road, Cheltenham) have overseen a complete refurbishment of the Hotel, which is owned by Enterprise Inns. This included new flooring, lighting and furnishings, together with a new restaurant with open kitchen created from the former skittle alley. The outside of the Hotel has also been completely renovated and repainted, and the date 1830 appears more prominently above the entrance. The old inn sign with the representation of a 'royal' coat of arms, which hung from the pole at the entrance to the car park, has also been replaced with a new sign and logo "The Royal".

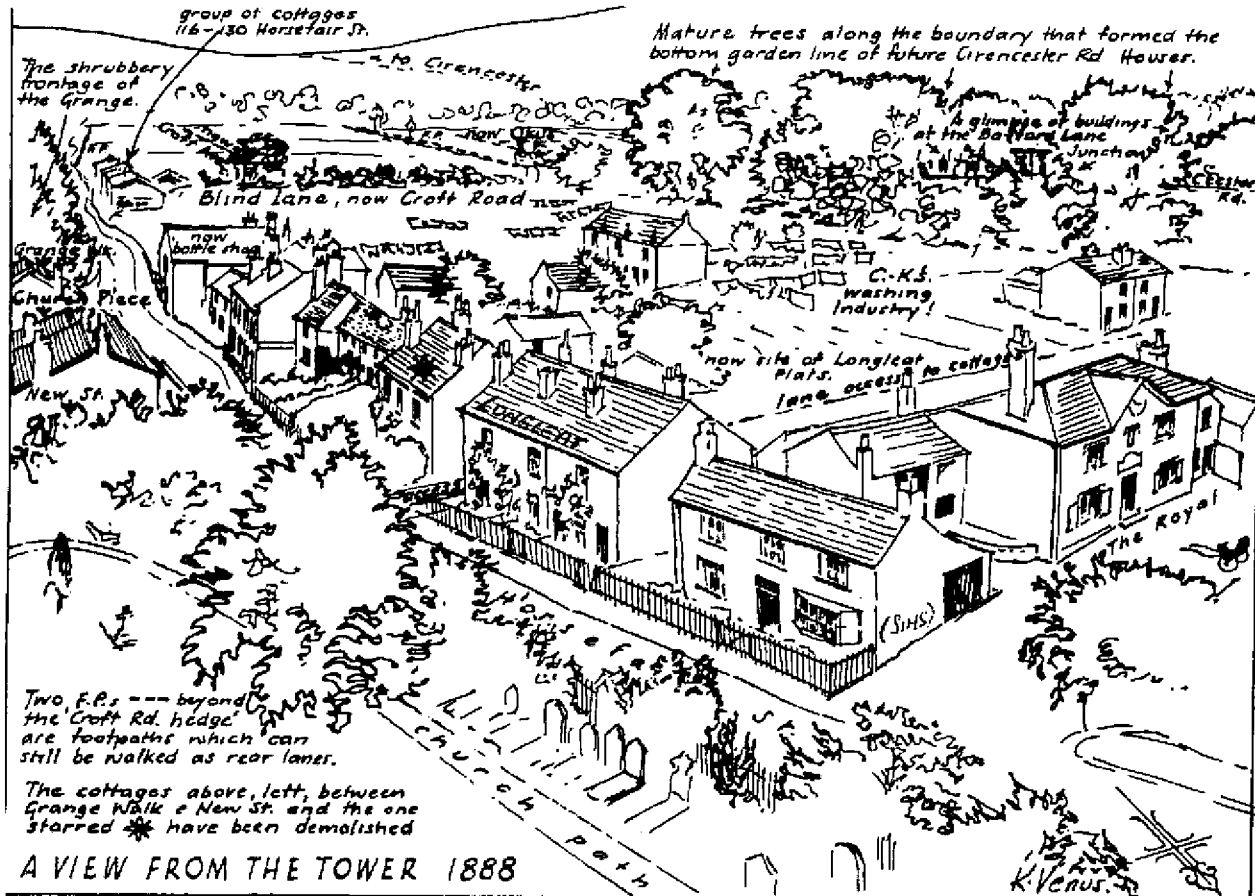
Photograph taken in 2010



The Hotel was indeed built in 1830, on Cheltenham Manor copyhold land, by William Hamlett, and opened to "much local celebration". The facade indicates a late Regency style with a handsome forecourt and gardens, and it was clearly intended to attract a 'superior' type of clientele. It very quickly passed into the ownership of James Agg Gardner and consequently remained attached to the Cheltenham Original Brewery Co., (C.O.B.) until well into the 20th century. The cottage attached to the Hotel and fronting Horsefair Street had been built at the same time. This had pretty gothic window frames and remained in the possession of William Hamlett for some years. In the 1920s it was well-known in the village as 'Sims Bakery'.

Below is a sketch drawn by Ken Venus from a photograph taken from the church tower about 1888.

Horsefair Street and The Royal Hotel



During the 1840s, William Bird became the occupier but in 1847 Edwin Chapman (1805-1888) moved from the Bell (a beer house at Mill Cottage opposite Bridge House on the London road) to the Royal as Innkeeper. Edwin's wife, Sarah Ann (1814-1891) is mentioned in a Cheltenham newspaper dated June 1849 as having acted as a witness at an Inquest held at the Royal in connection with the death of George Hessop, given as 'living at the Workhouse'. Hessop had been drinking at the Royal and on his way home had collapsed under the chestnut tree on the path leading to what is now Newcourt Road. Charles Turk, from Moorend Malthouse, had tripped over him while walking home with Walter Parry and they had called out the Assistant Overseer, Thomas Karn, to deal with the situation. The verdict was 'misadventure while intoxicated'. The chestnut tree still exists, the only one of a row of chestnut trees.

In the same year, 1849, an Auction was held at the Royal of "two cottages, garden, arable field near Little Herberts Farm, a Well in front of William Brookes' cottage, and compact

orcharding of pears and apples, a cow-shed and fencing adjoining Ballinger's cottage, in the occupation of Edwin Chapman, landlord."

The Hotel was, of course, not only the venue for Inquests and Auctions, but many social events and grand gatherings took place there. In August 1853, the marriage took place of Caroline Hannah, second daughter of Edwin and Sarah Chapman (b.1832) to Charles Philip Norman of Kent, 3rd Dragoon Guards, with the reception at the Royal. In August 1854 a Dinner, hosted by Edwin Chapman, was held for Edward Holland, late Liberal Candidate in the recent East Gloucestershire Party Election. It was attended by sixty six Freeholders, supporters of Holland. Speeches were made extolling his merits as "a tolerant landlord, an improving agriculturist, a magistrate and an opponent of corruption in high places" (!) and expressing regret at his losing the election. Several well-known figures attended including Earl Fitzharding (the Lord Lieutenant), Sir William Russell, Craven Berkeley (Cheltenham M.P.) and C.W. Lovesy. It was reported that after the speeches there followed convivial songs for several hours.

In December 1856, Edwin Chapman bought Longleat House (built c1839/49) for £120 from the Trustees of the estate of John Hamnett, together with an adjacent cottage and grounds. Longleat fronted Horsefair Street and was conveniently near to the Hotel and remained in the Chapman family's possession until 1921 when Henry Chapman died. (It can be seen in the 1888 sketch.) The licence to the Royal was transferred the following year, 1857, to William Smith (1792-1868) who had previously been a beer retailer near Church Street.

However, there now appear reports in the Press of unruly behaviour at the Hotel. In February 1861 a case was brought against William Hemming who assaulted Police Constable George Kemp and damaged his coat. Two chairs were broken amongst other items and Hemmings was convicted of disorderly conduct and fined. William Smith, who was called as a witness, said that Hemming had also verbally abused his daughter and called her "a b.....". Smith affirmed to the court that he did not allow bad language or bad behaviour in his establishment! A year later, William Smith was himself assaulted by John Chapman, hurdlemaker. The case was proven and Chapman fined.

A joyful occasion was the Dinner in January 1867 held by the Charlton Kings Society of Change Ringers to celebrate their second anniversary. They had rung 286 scores of grandsires upon the Church bells, completing it in 2 hours 15 minutes, and duly repaired to the Royal to slake their thirst and enjoy a good meal.

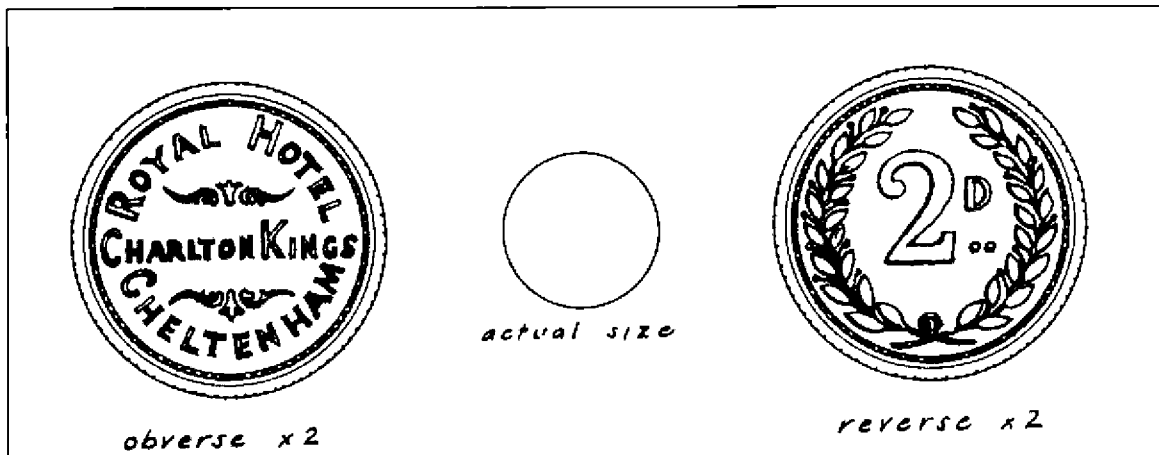
Then there was the dispute about one penny which even went to court. In February 1868 the case was brought against Messrs. James, Mitchell and Mason. A dispute had arisen between William James and Mason about a penny. Mitchell went into the Hotel yard adjoining the skittle alley to prevent James striking Mason but in the process was knocked down himself. James then took the opportunity to twist Mitchell's leg. The landlord, William Smith, as witness said that he had to take the limping Mitchell home and he had not worked since. It is around this time that the saying became popular that the ale sold at the Royal was "singing beer" and not "fighting beer"!

William Smith died on 10th August 1868, aged 76 years. John Norris became the new landlord, but only for two years because he died on 18th January 1870, aged 56 years. It appears that he must have been a relative of the Smiths since he is buried in the same grave as William and Elizabeth Smith, who had died in 1862 aged 69 years.

The Hotel remained in the ownership of the C.O.B. but had several landlords until 1891, when Thomas Gosney (1840-1920) is listed as occupier. Gosney was a Geordie, married to Susannah (1843-1916). He also had an interest in Oxford Lawn on the London Road together with Samuel Hawkes (1816-1904) who owned the Ryeworth Inn. In our Society's *Bulletin 6* George Ryland remembers that Gosney owned a pet monkey which was kept on a six foot chain attached to a belt around its middle and linked to a metal ring which enabled the monkey to slide up and down a thirty foot scaffold pole and sit on a wooden platform at the top. The monkey was apparently small, energetic and very friendly and proved quite an attraction, so much so that the Hotel was known locally as "The Monkey House". Gosney had his work cut out to stop patrons from overfeeding the animal with treats.

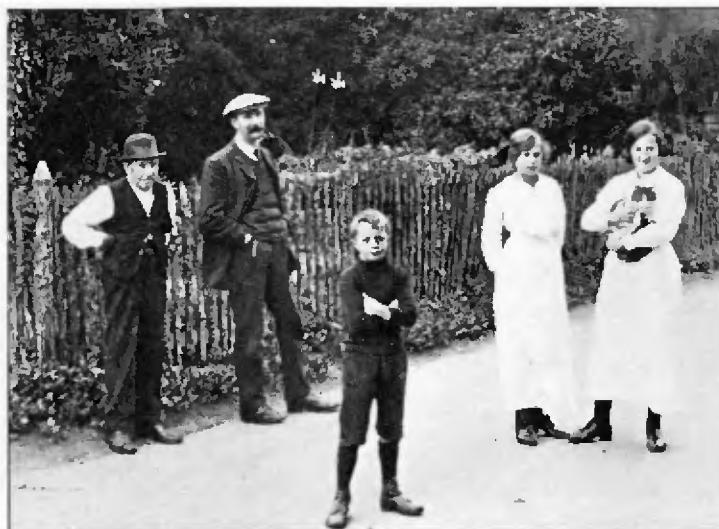
In *Bulletin 22*, Maureen Vernon has written a tribute to Charles Edward Hoddy, and mentions his father, William Joseph Hoddy, who lived at 4 Cambay Cottages in Church Street. He was a signwriter and had painted the sign for The Royal, which used to be above the entrance. It is not there now but can be seen in the 1888 sketch.

An earlier mention of The Royal appears in *Bulletin 2* where Ken Venus did a drawing of a twopenny trade token which had been given in change in 1979 to Mr J Barnfield, who had then donated it to our Society. Mary Paget thought this token could date to the mid-19th century at a time when such tokens were issued when change was scarce.



By 1901, John William Booth (1856-1948) was in occupation as landlord while the Hotel and the cottage facing on to Horsefair Street were still owned by the C.O.B. In an article in *Bulletin 6* by Connie Herbert née Chapman, whose childhood was spent at Longleat,

she remembers John Booth, his wife Margaret (1865-1955) and their two daughters, Connie and Gwen. In fact Connie Booth was her godmother. There is a photo of Connie and Gwen Booth, plus Jack Chapman (Connie Herbert's brother) standing outside the Royal before world War I. The men are 'Oshie' Bond (in the bowler hat) and Bill Thorn.



The 1914 Parish Rate Book gives the following information on the people connected with The Royal and Longleat and mentioned in this article.

Occupier	Owner	Property	Rateable Value
J W Booth	C.O.B	The Royal Hotel Stables & Premises	£39.5s.0d
E Milton	J W Booth	1 Brixton Place	£3.12s.6d
Mrs Ayres	J W Booth	12 Church Piece	£5. 5s.0d
W E Bassett	J W Booth	11 Church Piece	£5. 5s.0d
F Protherough	J W Booth	Hill View	£11.0s.0d
E Ash	J W Booth	Roseville	£11.0s.0d
Mrs Summers	J W Booth	Dunselme	£28.0s.0d
H Chapman	W C Chapman	Longleat	£13.10s.0d
	J Chapman	Gardens	£1.15s.0d
T F Simms	C.O.B.	Shop and House	£8.10s.0d
T Gosney	T Gosney	Yorkleigh & Garden	£11.15s.0d
C E Hoddy	W D Murphy	8 Chestnut Terrace	£4.15s.0d

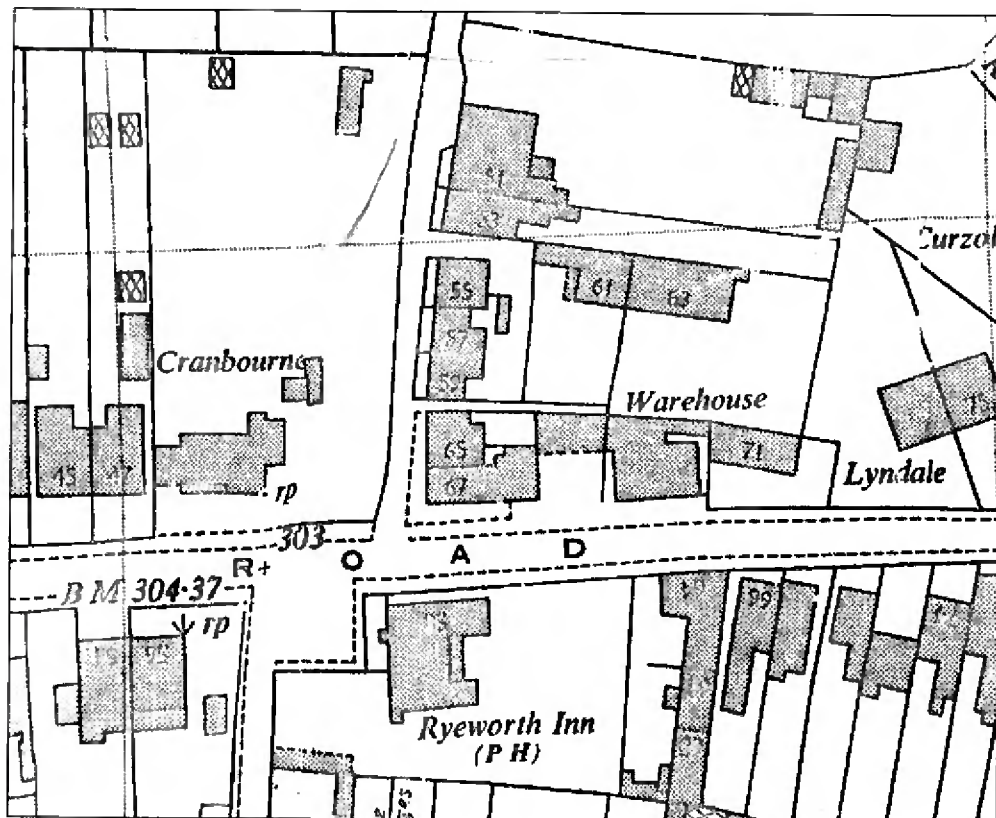
For the present the story ends here, just before the outbreak of World War I. What happens in the next hundred years?

61 RYEWORTH ROAD

By Jane Sale

I am very grateful to the owners of 61 Ryeworth Road for allowing me to examine the deeds of their house. This house, although given the address of Ryeworth Road, is in fact one of a group on the east side of the short road called the Havers, which is a turning off the Ryeworth Road opposite the Ryeworth Inn.

Previously the Havers had been a headland dividing a part of Ryeworth Common Field between those ridges that ran from north to south and those running from west to east. In 1827, when commonable rights ceased to be used on this field, the headland was laid out as an eight foot wide public footpath, connecting Greenway Lane and Ryeworth Road, and as a cart road to and from a Lime Kiln erected by William Turner. By 1888 the Ordinance Survey map shows that some of the strips on the east side of the footpath had had houses built on their western ends. The deeds to No 61 show us when and by whom this development took place.



The first document is dated **13 October 1825** and is a conveyance from Walter Lawrence Lawrence Esq of Sandywell Park to John Rouse of Charlton Kings milkman of 'All that piece of land in Ryeworth Common Field containing 34 perches late in occupation of Richard Lawrence as tenant to Walter Lawrence Lawrence being part of Ham Farm , but now of John Rouse. The piece of land is bounded on the north by land belonging to Miss Cook, on south by land of Miss Bolton, on east by land contracted to be sold to Mr Theodore Gwinnett and on west by land contracted to be sold to William Turner.'

The next document, dated **26 May 1845**, is a mortgage between John Rouse, still described as 'milkman' and Charles Turk of Charlton Kings malster for the sum of £200 at 5% interest. The security for the mortgage is the piece of land described in the previous conveyance, but now with three cottages built on it. He occupied one of the cottages while the other two were let to a Mr Collett and a Mrs Elliston. In the 1851 census they are referred to as Lime Pit Row, reflecting the presence of William Turner's Lime Kiln. So Rouse, previously only the tenant of the piece of land, having become its owner has had houses built on it.

Another fifteen years goes by before a document dated **30 July 1860** shows John Rouse and his mortgagee conveying the piece of land and three cottages to James Chidgey of Charlton Kings dealer. The previous mortgagee, Charles Turk, has died and his executors are William Turk of Charlton Kings malster and Charles Turk of Barnsley farmer. John Rouse still owes the capital sum of £200 to the Turks together with £36. 6s. 0d interest – a bit over three years worth, so he seems to be in some financial difficulty. He sells the property to Chidgey for £250, but only receives £13. 14s. 0d himself as the rest goes to the mortgagees.

The next document, dated **19 December 1867**, is a conveyance from James Chidgey to Benjamin Caudle of Wittington carpenter. This time £372 was paid for the same piece of land but now with four cottages, the fourth having been built behind the other three (this is the present No 61). They were occupied by William Fletcher, Thomas Hooper, Fred Collett and Thomas Brookes. The 1882 Rate Book shows Caudle as owner of the four cottages, the first three with a rateable value of £5 each but the fourth rated at £6.8.0. It seems that he had bought them as a 'buy to let' property.

When Benjamin Caudle died on 6 August 1890 the property was bequeathed to his nephew and niece – Michael Caudle of Lilford in Northants and Ruth Caudle of Charlton Kings. A conveyance dated **2 October 1890** shows that the land and four cottages, now described as Nos 3, 4, 5 Clifton Place and 'the fourth in the rear', were then sold to John Reuben Mills of Charlton Kings baker for £300, a drop in value of £72 over the intervening twenty three years. This reflects a general drop in house values in Charlton Kings at this period.

The 1914 rate book shows that Nos 3, 4, and 5 Clifton Place were rated at £5.5.0, and the fourth cottage at £7.5.0. Reuben Mills also owned Nos 1 and 2 Clifton Place He lived at 1 Clifton Place which was described as 'house and shop' and rated at £16. When he died there on 19 June 1935 the executors of his will were Reuben Arthur William Mills also a

baker and Florence Eliza Mills, both of the same address. Reuben bought the property for £310. The conveyance, dated **31 December 1935**, describes the properties as follows: ‘the three cottages are in a side lane known as the Haver leading out of Ryeworth Road and known as Nos. 3, 4 and 5 Clifton Place, they are bounded on the west by said side lane, on north by Homeville, on east by garden of premises later described and on south by a footpath leading to Newbury Cottage. The fourth cottage, called No 6 Clifton Place, is bounded on the west by backs of previous premises, on south by a footpath, on east by Newbury Cottage and on north by the garden of Homeville. We can tell from this description that the footpath connecting Ryeworth Road with Greenways Lane had by this time been widened at its southern end into a lane called the Haver.

The deeds have shown that John Rouse was the main developer of this piece of land. He was not born locally, but in Wiltshire according to the 1851 census. Our Parish Registers show that he married Ann Gunnell, born in Bath, at St Mary’s on 8 April 1824, so had settled in Charlton Kings by then.

[See also an article by Mary Paget in *Bulletin 43* pp 21-23, entitled ‘Deeds for 74 Ryeworth Road and 1 and 2 Somerset Place’ and an article by Jane Sale in *Bulletin 51* pp 17-19, entitled ‘A Common Field Called Ryeworth Field’ for more information on this area]

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A TRIBUTE TO A STALWART COUNCILLOR

The following is taken from the Gloucestershire Echo dated July 2nd 2009:

‘The widow of former parish councillor Doug Masling has unveiled a memorial plaque to him. The ceremony with Nora Masling took place at the Stanton Rooms alongside other family members and friends.

Mr Masling, a former Charlton Kings parish councillor, died in 2007, aged 86. He was Council chairman for several years and had sat on the Council since its inception in 1996.

Tony Potts, clerk to Charlton Kings Parish Council said “It was a very pleasant and fitting occasion and we were very pleased to be able to mark his work in this way following all his years of service and dedication to this area”

Councillor Steve Harvey said “He was an individual who had a long and distinguished career in public service.”

CHANGING NAMES STRIKES AGAIN

By David O'Connor

Readers of *Bulletin 55* will recall that, in an article on Samuel Higgs Gael and Battledown Manor, the problems for local history practitioners arising from the Victorians' habit of changing their family names was considered. By a strange coincidence, even while this aspect of the Gael and De la Bere families was being resolved, another one was on the way. In April 2009 I received a telephone call from a Mr Paul Howells, who lives near Bridgend in Wales. A local historian, he was writing an article about the area in which he lives and tracing the owners of the important houses and farms. One such was Kinard B Edwards, who in 1870, came to live at a property of some 36 acres named Sarn Fawr, three miles from Bridgend. Kinard was an interesting man who had trained as a civil engineer under Brunel before he took up farming. He believed, in his own words, that "there is no way of helping the poor so beneficial as disseminating such knowledge as will enable them to obtain an honest living. The dispensing of alms (however munificent) has a degrading effect upon the recipient, and the relief lasts only for the moment; whereas to impart the means of 'Self-Help' is to elevate the mind, and its effects are lasting."

To this end, Kinard produced a long series of sixpenny pamphlets, dedicated to the Poorer Classes, beginning with *'How the French Make Fowls Pay'* in 1871. This ran to 50,000 copies and was so successful that he continued with *'How to Keep a Cow'*, *'Rabbits: How to Keep them Profitably'*, *'The Brood Sow Pig'*, *'Keep Bees, Keep Bees'*, *'How to Keep a Horse'*, and *'An Acre of Land, and How to make the Most of It'*. He travelled widely and took to public speaking at various agricultural societies and his work on *'Rural Economy'* ran to 200 editions. He was recognised as a particular expert on poultry and was once called on to give evidence to a Parliamentary Committee. However, Mr Howell's problem as a historian was not a shortage of material about his subject: it was that from 1879 onwards Kinard B Edwards' pamphlets were written by Kinard B De La Bere and he had no idea why. He knew that Kinard had been baptised in 1837 in Prestbury in the Parish of Charlton Kings [sic] and directed his search this way.

It was not a difficult problem, given what was already known about the families concerned. Kinard was the son of The Reverend John Edwards, the Vicar of St Mary's, Prestbury, a colourful character who had come to public attention in 1873, when he was tried by a clerical court for what was then called 'ritualistic practices'. However, in 1879 The Reverend announced through the *London Gazette* that he had discontinued the name of Edwards and assumed the surname Baghot-De-La-Bere, together with the arms of De La Bere quartered with those of Baghot. Through his mother, he was a representative of both the Baghot family of Prestbury and the De La Beres of Southam. Kinard B Edwards already had the second name of Baghot from birth and his unusual forename, Kinard,

regularly occurs in generations of the historic De La Bere family. He now also assumed the surname De La Bere. Problem solved and another satisfied customer, who has consented to the production of his material in Charlton Kings.

For the record, Kinard De La Bere married Catherine M Leahy, from County Cork and they had five children: Mary M., Kinard L. born in London, Cybil born at Sarn Fawr, and John and Stephen also born in Wales. The family were living at Burbage Hall, Hinckley, Leicestershire in 1881. Kinard continued to produce his pamphlets, including '*A Treatise on Manure and Food for Plants and Fertilization of the Soil*', '*The Amateur's and Cottager's Cow*', '*A Stable Economy*' (was this a pun?) and '*Will Pigs Stay?*'. He and his wife retired to Bath, where Catherine died in 1923, aged 81, and Kinard in 1932, at the age of 94.

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A CUTTING FROM THE PRESS

The following cutting has been kindly supplied by Mike Grindley of the Cheltenham Local History Society. It appeared in the Cheltenham Examiner on 15th February 1871.

'TO SMALL CAPITALISTS AND OTHERS, F.C.Silcock has been favoured with instructions from Mr D Barradell to sell by auction at the London Inn, Charlton Kings on Monday February 27th 1871 at six o'clock in the evening the following Lots of Valuable and Desirable Freehold Building Land:

Lot 1. All that PIECE or PARCEL of LAND, with a HOUSE partly erected thereon, and having a frontage of 35 feet or thereabouts to the New Road leading from Ryeworth Lane to the London Road, and 65 feet or thereabouts fronting Ryeworth Lane.

Lot 2. All that PIECE or PARCEL of LAND adjoining Lot 1, having a frontage to the New Road of 35 feet as in Lot 1, and 65 feet deep.

The Situation is remarkably healthy, and well supplied with Spring Water.

To View apply at Hope Cottage, Cudnall and for Particulars to C. F. Gale Esq. , Solicitor, or the Auctioneer at 86, Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham'.

I presume the New Road referred to is Sandhurst Road. If so this is the earliest known reference to it and the houses being built there.

CHARLTON KINGS IN WORLD WAR I

By Jane Sale

Andrew Marr, writing in his latest book *The Making of Modern Britain*, describes the civilian population of Britain during the first World War as being “affected mainly by greyness, shortage and bereavement” and “feeling the war most obviously in the stomach”. With these words in mind, I was interested to read the Minute Book of the Charlton Kings Horticultural Society for the period from March 1915 to January 1923, to see if I could find evidence of how the inhabitants of Charlton Kings were affected by the War. We know only too well, from the names on our War Memorial, that they suffered bereavement, but were they short of food as well?

During 1915 members of the Committee decided to help the Red Cross Hospitals for Wounded Soldiers by providing regular supplies of vegetables and fruit. They set about finding which local hospital was most in need of help and were told that the Naunton Park Hospital would be most appreciative of any help they could give. It was agreed that a monthly delivery would be made on the second Monday in the month and that St Clair Ford's Hall would be the centre for contributions to be collected. It was reported in November that 50 ‘pots’ had gone to the Hospital and 10 ‘pots’ to the Belgian Refugee House¹. According to *The National Dictionary of Dialect* a ‘pot’ is a dialect term for a basket for fruit and vegetables containing a varying amount between 80 and 100 lbs. The term seems to be particular to Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.

In addition to the supply for the hospitals a ‘Great Sale was held in the Town Hall’ to raise money for Prisoners of War. The chairman summed up the year by stating that “the Society had fully justified its existence during the last year and there was a general feeling that everyone was doing his best.”

In the summer of 1916, the usual garden and allotment competition was held but now with the emphasis on food production. July saw the Society running a stall in the Promenade in aid of Prisoners of War and supplies of fruit, vegetables, eggs, butter, bread, cake and poultry were sold for a total of £18. 3s. 4d. The chairman reported that apart from continuing to supply the Hospital, members had raised plots of potatoes for women whose husbands had joined the army.

January 1917 saw the Society invited by the Urban District Council to assist the War Committee for the Production of food by acting as a medium for the supply of seed potatoes and artificial manures. The committee decided that the annual garden competition should be cancelled and ‘cottage allotments’ should take its place. ‘War plots’ were to be judged entirely from a ‘utility’ point of view. The committee also

arranged for a series of lectures to be held during the winter to help members in the important task of growing food.

August 1st 1918 was 'Prisoners' Day' and again the Society collected up vegetables etc. to sell. A 5a.m. start was made to lift potatoes, Mr Fuller lent a horse and wagon, Mr Attwood a horse, and Mr Peacey and his son helped to get the produce into town. The chairman summed up the effort as follows: "All who took part felt that at least we did what we could to relieve the monotony which must exist in the prison camps in enemy countries."

Most Society members would have been older men and boys, unable to help with the fighting. But we can read into these brief committee minutes a feeling of wanting to help, not only to provide food for themselves, but to ease the burden for wounded soldiers, grieving wives, foreign refugees, and most of all for the prisoners of war.

It does not seem as if the inhabitants of Charlton Kings experienced Marr's "feeling the war most obviously in the stomach", but through the efforts of the Society they were certainly encouraged to 'dig for victory'.

Footnote:

1. I am grateful to Geoffrey North who made enquiries on my behalf regarding the 'Belgian Refugee House'. Jerry Holmes of the Cheltenham Local History Library provided the following answer:

"I have found reference to a Rothesay House in Pittville Crescent, which is off Albert Road, as a 'home for disabled Belgian soldiers' (not refugees). It was opened on February 11th 1915 by their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Victor Napoleon and was the first home in England for permanently disabled Belgian soldiers. (*Cheltenham Looker On* dated January 30th 1915) The house was owned by a Mrs Herbert James (apparently 'resident gentry'). Could this be the property you were seeking?"

Geoffrey, who has made a study of Cheltenham in the 1st World War, feels sure that this must be the one as he has found no other reference to Belgians in Cheltenham at that time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Among the documents at Gloucestershire Archives which have so far not been examined are the following deposits. These are only a selection, there are more when required!

D2202 – Jessops, Solicitors (deposited in 1986)

Box 1	CK UDC Register of Mortgages, 1956-74
Box 26	Deeds of property at Ham 1853-70
“ “	Mortgage of Ham House 1915
Box 46	Right of Way over East end Farm 1841
Box 48	Avenalls and Sandford Mill Rd. 1838-1901
“ “	Deeds of Avenalls 1842-55
“ “	Deeds of Pilford 1893-1936
Box 50	Deeds of Cudnall Bank, Islington Cottage
“ “	2 and 3 Oak Villas, Oak Cottage, 1834-1905
Box 51	Deeds Brevell Terrace 1808-1944
Box 52	Deeds Mill Piece, Mill House, Mill Cottages 1782, 1817-1908
“ “	Declaration of Trust, Chapel 1828

D5587 – Healing and Overbury, Architects (deposited in 1992/3)

Box 3/58	Eastcourt 1927
Box 9/154	Cudnall Street 1975
Box 20/17	Charlton Park Convent 1944-48
Box 29/39	Bafford House 1925
Box 32/47	3 Charlton Park Road 1966
Box 48/31	Charlton House 1920
Box 57	Holy Apostles Vicarage 1978
Box 81/57C	Holy Apostles Restoration after Fire 1970-74
Box 104/57A	Holy Apostles Restoration 1970-74
Box 164	Glenfall House 1960-69

D7684 – W Leslie Barrow, Architect

Box 5	Southfield Farm
“ “	Copt Elm Rd – development for Bottling Trade
Box 7	Charlton Lodge
Box 20	Little Paddock, Charlton Drive
Box 23	132 Cirencester Road 1975