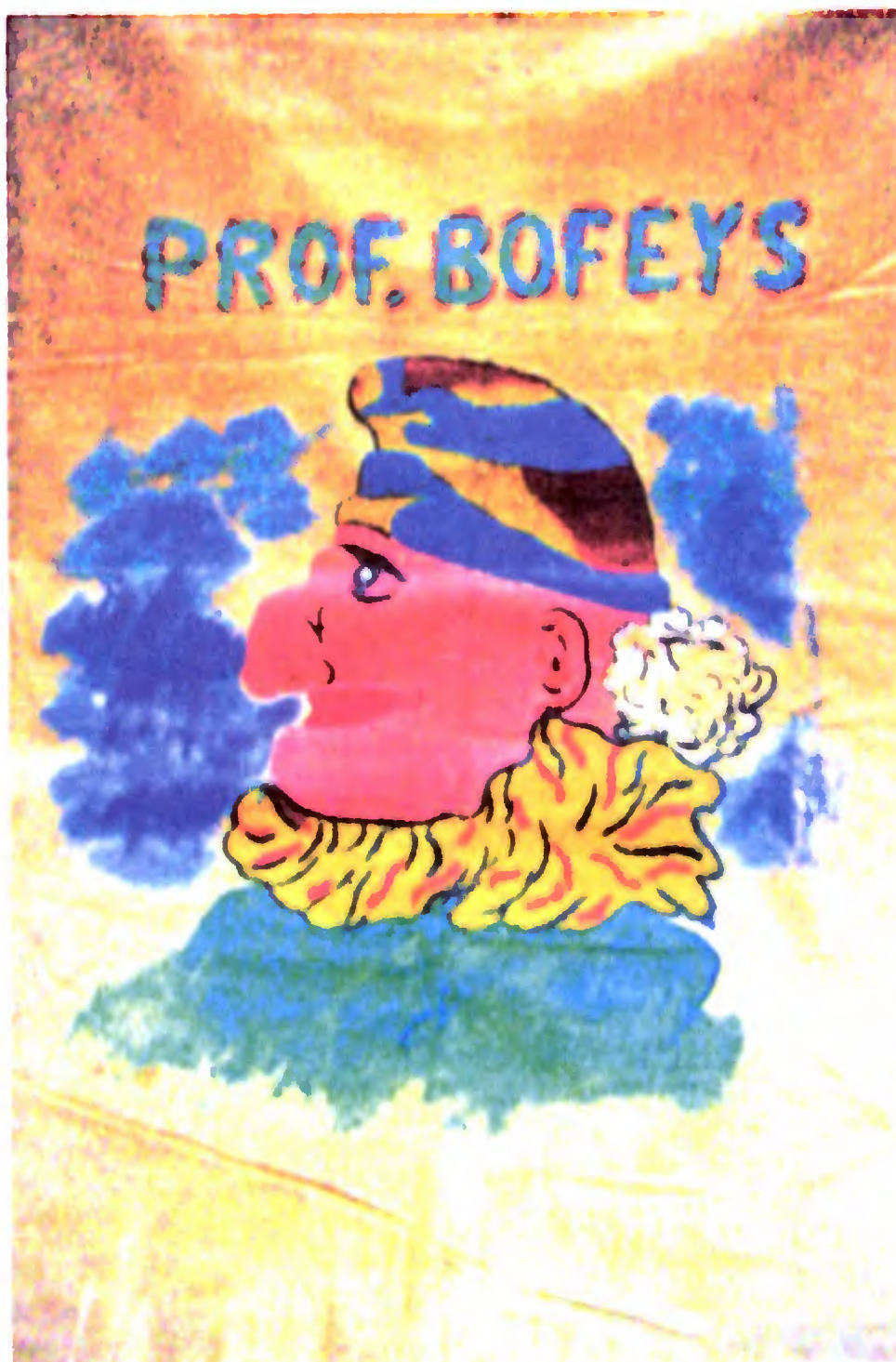


# CHARLTON KINGS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RESEARCH BULLETIN 57  
2011



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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) – (only 1 copy) - £6.00

Lives Revisited (2005) - £4.00

John Burgh Rochfort Preacher Extraordinary - £2

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) - £5

**BULLETIN 57****SPRING 2011**

Cover – Photograph of Professor Bofeys' Advertising Banner

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**Editorial**

The cover of this issue is a photograph of the advertising banner used by ‘Professor Bofeys’ for his Punch and Judy shows in the 1930s. It is part of a collection of his material held by the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum and the Society is grateful for their permission to use it as our cover to highlight the article entitled ‘Magic in Ryeworth’

2010 was definitely the year when the website flourished and brought the Society contacts from various sources, some of which have led to articles in this edition of the Bulletin. May I express the Society’s thanks for the excellent work done by our webmaster, Peter Clifford.

Society members were saddened to hear of the recent deaths of two members – Joan Lomas on December 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 and Rosemary Ash on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2011. Rosemary had been one of the very first members when the Society was formed and served on the committee in the 1980s.

Another rather sad change in Charlton Kings has been the demise of the Vine Coffee Shop. Wakefield's grocery shop was bought by the Baptist church in 1983 and converted into a community café staffed mainly by volunteers. Back in July 2010 the staff celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special menu and commented 'It is still thriving today and many customers visit the café on a daily basis.' But in January of this year it was announced that 'rising prices and a lack of funds for new equipment have led to the closure of the Charlton Kings community café.' There is hope that the facility may be re-opened under a new guise in the future, though no plans have yet been made.

Those of you who read with interest Ann Hookey's article in Bulletin 55 on the Holy Apostles Fountain and the possibility of its restoration, will be pleased to know that work is progressing on it. At present it is concealed by scaffolding, but we look forward to its unveiling later this year and hope to have a photograph in next year's Bulletin.

Another piece of restoration work has started – on the old UDC buildings at Sixways. [See Mary Southerton's article in Bulletin 56] Again we await the finished result, but gather that it is to be a private house with minimal alteration to the exterior of the building.

It is planned to plant a tree in the area near the stocks in memory of Mary Paget, but the severe weather at the end of last year, coupled with the current poor health of John Coates who was organising the planting for us, has meant a delay. Mary Paget's ashes were interred in her parents' grave in Charlton Kings Cemetery and there is a small plaque on it commemorating her life. Mary Southerton and I accompanied Marian Bee to place a few garden flowers on the grave on June 9<sup>th</sup>, which would have been Mary's 98<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Finally a very big THANK YOU to all who have contributed in any way to this Bulletin and to the others that I have edited. It has been a real privilege to carry on Mary Paget's good work but I feel now is the time for me to hand over to David O'Connor – a very safe pair of hands I am sure you will agree.

## THE LLOYD GEORGE SURVEY OF LAND VALUES 1909

By Anthea Jones

---

Some details of the structure of Charlton Kings shortly before the First World War have been collected by a group of volunteers from the Local History Society; the group has visited Gloucestershire Archives several times and transcribed the surviving records from the Survey of Land Values carried out from 1910 by the Inland Revenue (now Customs and Revenue)<sup>1</sup>. Many historic records originate in the state's insatiable requirement for tax revenue. In this particular case, the tax being prepared was never collected and the survey was largely abandoned after the First World War.

The Survey of Land Values was undertaken in order to implement one feature of Lloyd George's 'People's Budget' of 1909. Lloyd George had introduced old age pensions the previous year and was faced with providing revenue for this purpose, but also for the naval building programme which included new large battleships designed to compete with Germany's naval building programme. The Chancellor of the Exchequer wished to tax the 'unearned increment' of land, that is to tax windfall increases in its capital value due to chance factors such as development potential or the discovery of minerals. 'Land' included all agricultural land, allotments, land with barns, houses, cottages or other buildings on it. The House of Lords rejected the 'People's Budget' and caused a major constitutional crisis. In 1910 they passed the budget but their powers were shorn and they were never again in a position to reject a money bill.

As soon as the budget was passed the Inland Revenue started work. The survey involved a mass of bureaucracy and many forms, but only a few of the main classes of record have survived, some now in Gloucestershire Archives and some in the National Archives<sup>2</sup>. Because the survey was in connection with taxation, it was organised by the Inland Revenue and consequently used the usual taxation areas, 'taxation parishes'. Hence the address of a property is located in terms of the civil parish and the taxation parish. Charlton Kings volunteers were surprised to find details of Leckhampton properties amongst their files.

The tax was to be levied on owners and one of the main points of interest is the detail recorded in the survey of who owned land. First the base value of land had to be established as it was estimated to be at the date specified in the 'People's Budget', which was 30 April 1909. Surveyors were sent out to value properties armed with statements from owners of the nature of their property. It took several years to cover all properties and the survey continued until the outbreak of war, and in some cases into 1915, before generally being postponed and then abandoned. 'Form 37 – Land' was then filled in with details of the area and valuation and was sent to the owner, who had the opportunity to challenge it. It is these forms that the Charlton Kings volunteers have transcribed.

Surprising complexities of ownership have been revealed by these forms. Generalising quickly, there were many women who owned property in Charlton Kings, there were also many joint owners like husbands and wives, siblings, or parents and children. Also, inevitably, owners at 30 April 1909 had died, sold the property or leased it between that date and the date the surveyor visited. Consequently there were trustees, executors, agents handling property, and changes of status to note. More surprisingly, in Gloucestershire the Inland Revenue officers obviously decided that the tax might be revived and they would not be caught with having to compile registers of changes of owner since the survey was done. On the bottom of each form a clerk entered brief details of sales of property, names of purchasers, the amounts, and where appropriate, valuations for purposes of Estate Duty. In some cases this involved a very long list where a piece of land was developed after 1909 with housing. The Charlton Kings volunteers revealed these complexities and prepared the way for more volunteers in other parishes who are following in their footsteps.

Five properties in the survey had these long lists of new houses and they provide us with some interesting information regarding the development of parts of Charlton Kings.

No.	Description	Address	Acres	Valuation £	Owner
728	Land	Lyefield Gardens, Brookway Rd	2.75	660	Mr Frederick Bate
1025	Land	Cirencester Rd	6.00	1800	Albert Brassey Esq
1154	Land	Cirencester Rd	7.00	1660	Arthur Dugdale
1176	Mansion & lodge Lilleybrook farmhouse 5 cottages & Southfield farm cottages & Vineyards farm		696.75	27,750	Mrs H O Lord
1293	House & land	Charlton House	15.25	7,500	Thomas Rome

It is interesting that the developments recorded here were, with one exception – the future Brookway Drive – along the course of the Cirencester Road. In three cases, it seems clear that the turnpike road, when it was made in 1825-26, went through the grounds of Charlton House, Charlton Park and Lilleybrook lands, leaving strips of land on the opposite or east side of the new road separated from the main house and estate. These were naturally the first plots sold for development. But there was relatively little building along the road until the end of the nineteenth century, and then it tended to be towards the western or Cheltenham end. Holy Apostles church, for example, started in 1866, filled a triangle of land cut off from Charlton House and development followed close to it first along the London Road.



The first two plots in the list above are on Map 1. The  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land at Brookway Road, still called Church Path on the map, were developed as Brookway Drive in 1936; planning permission was granted in January of that year<sup>3</sup>. The land was valued at £660 and owned and occupied by Mr Frederick Bate. He died in 1915 and we have no further information until 1936 when the land was bought by the building firm of Messrs A.E. Marshall and Sons who were based in Lyefield Road<sup>4</sup>. They paid £675 for it so if the tax had been imposed at that time it would not have raised a very significant amount. However, later that year, twenty one houses were sold at £485 each and one at £487.50, amounting to nearly £10,500. We see here the early stages of Brookway Drive where Marshall built thirty houses. The sales of twenty two are listed but there is a tantalising remark at the bottom of the form to the effect that the entries 'are continued on the back of the cover'. Alas no cover remains. The names of the purchasers were: No1: Sansom; 2: Williams; 3: W G Akrill; 4: Dopson; 5: Boulton; 6: Crisp; 7: Compton; 8: Fry; 9: James; 10: Hailing; 11: Whitcombe; 12: Dubbar; 13: Sealey; 14: Cox; 15: [-]; 16: Such; 17: E W Long; 18: W E Lane; 19: Child; 20: Hill; 21: Dyer; and 22: Hodges. These names may be of interest to those researching house or family.

Map 1





The second plot of land, in the Cirencester road, was larger. It was owned by Albert Brassey, who also owned Charlton Park and Heythrop Park in Oxfordshire where he lived. He was the son of the railway magnate Thomas Brassey. Albert Brassey died in 1918 and this is entered on form 37. Following his death this land was sold in 1920 to a man called Towell for £1589 – an Ernest Arthur Towell was living at 45 London Road, Cheltenham in 1939. Towell appears to have started to develop his land, as the following year he sold three properties to Middleton, Toronese and Eggleton for £150, £280 and £437 respectively. This would seem to be the area marked on map 1 as ‘sold here recently’, where there are chalet bungalows of about the right date, nearly opposite the entrance to Charlton Park. In 1922 he sold two more properties, to Cummings for £155 and Tarleacre for a modest sum of £55 – presumably the site for a house. In 1939 Mr A William Cummings was living at Sunnymead, Cirencester Road, so possibly this was the house built around 1922.

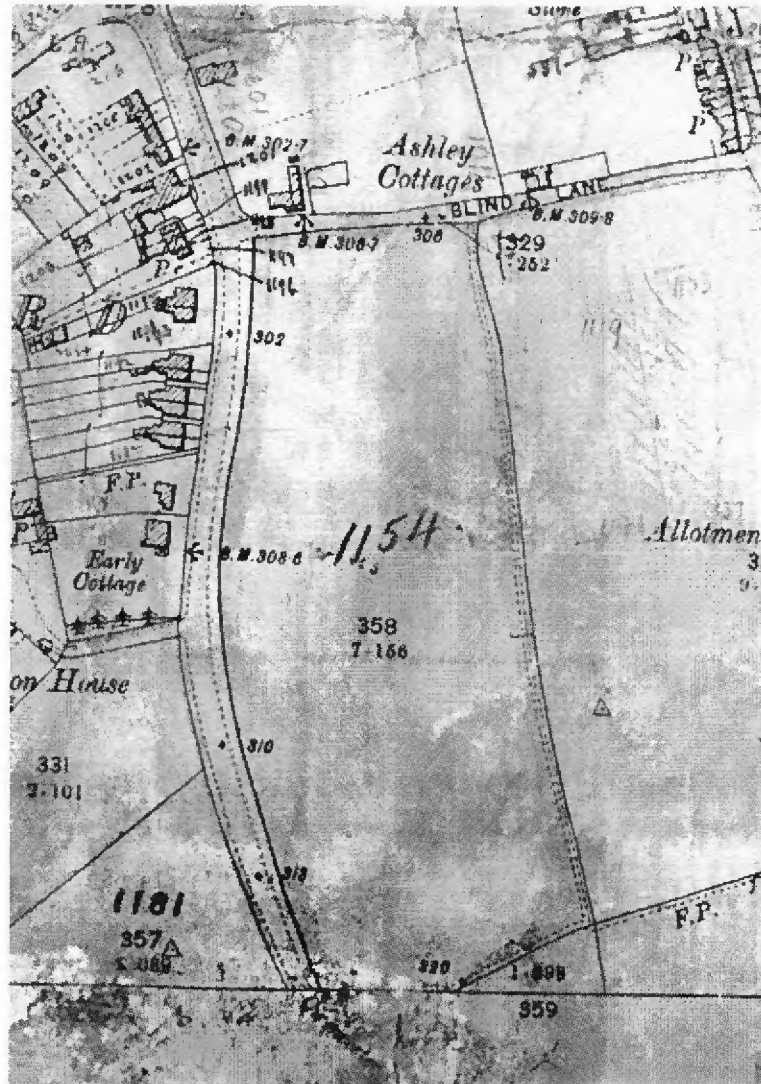
An interesting point emerges from this information in the land survey. The late Victorian houses in Lyefield Road West only reach from Copt Elm Road to Brookway Road, but the last section before Cirencester Road has three quite different houses along it. These three were built on the end of plot 1025 which in 1909 was a field. When the Cirencester Road was made, Lyefield Road was extended to join it. Once the Charlton Park estate had sold the field, houses could be built along this extension to Lyefield Road West as well as along Cirencester Road. This is a good example of the importance of field boundaries in determining later building development.

Two of the houses at the Cirencester Road end of Lyefield Road West



The 7 acres of Arthur Dugdale's land, plot number 1154 on map 2, also on Cirencester Road, were valued at £1660.

Map 2



The land was sold by Dugdale in 1921 for £1800 to Fuller and Maylam, nurserymen, who had occupied it in 1909. Arthur Dugdale lived at Egginton Hall in Derbyshire, and this sale of land to the occupier was very typical of what was happening after the first World War, when the collapse in agricultural prices and the effect of death duties forced many land-owners to raise capital. The land seems to have been part of the Lilleybrook estate, the ownership of which Dugdale shared with two others. The Lloyd George Survey does not make it clear who developed the land in 1934, but it is likely to have been Messrs Bradley, builders, who sold twenty-one houses between September and December 1934. A further nineteen were sold in 1935. These houses were given names, not numbers.



Prices ranged from £460 and £560, just two were significantly more expensive. Purchasers' names and house names are listed in an Appendix.

[An article by Ann Hookey in *Bulletin 48* quotes from the Dents' 'Abstract of Title' showing that Messrs Bradleys of Okus Quarries, Swindon, Wilts, builders and contractors, had purchased land on the east side of Cirencester Road. Walter and Gladys Dent moved into No 3 Okus Road in 1935 as a newly married couple.]

The first twenty-one houses were in Okus Road; five of the occupiers in *Kelly's Directory*, compiled in 1959, had the same surname as initial purchasers: Bowen, Cratchley, the two Dents and Hickman. The second eighteen were in Croft Road [called Blind Lane when the map was made]: Fole Bank, Murrayfield, Balcarras and St Hilary were named in the 1959 *Directory*, all on the south side of Croft Road and two had occupiers with the same surname, Lewis and Savory, as the first purchasers. It is surprising that so few of the occupiers named in *Kelly's Directory* for 1939 were the same as the original purchasers. For some, perhaps, the first purchasers were mortgagors, but for many the purchase must have been an investment and the houses were immediately let for rent.

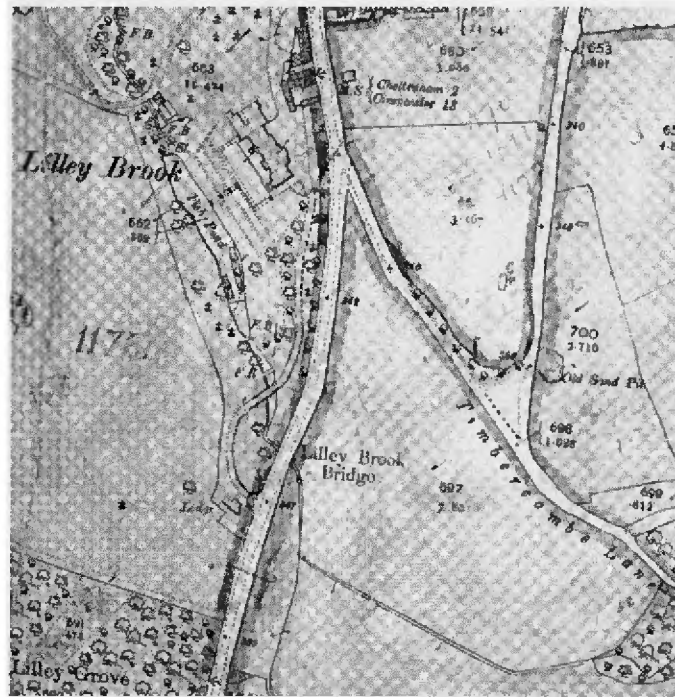
#### No 3 Okus Road



The present owners of No 3, Okus Road, Mr and Mrs R Flood, purchased the house from the Dents, the first owners.

To return to the sales following the break-up of the Lilleybrook estate, some land was purchased by Leckhampton Quarries Co. and some by the Lilleybrook Hotel, while housing development took place between 1932 and 1934, and 1938 to 1940 on land bordering Cirencester Road and leading from it beyond Timbercombe Lane along a new road: Gadshill Road; it can be seen pencilled in on map 3.

Map 3

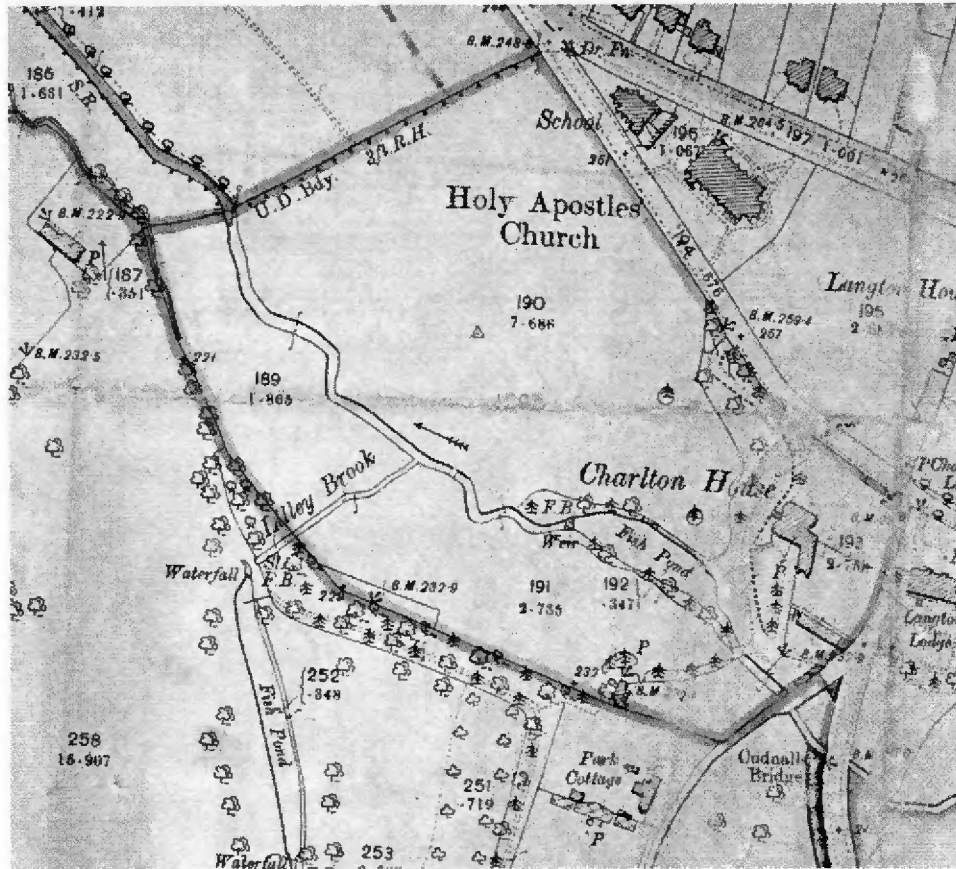


Charles Dickens Ltd, a Cheltenham tobacconist, was the developer and Gadshill Road was supposedly named in reference to the home of Charles Dickens near Rochester in Kent<sup>5</sup>. Seven of the houses had names. Four houses here were sold in 1932-3: Glenroy for £1450, Humbly How £1200, Windyridge £425 and New Studland £745. Lt Col RCB Stuart bought Glenroy and in 1934 added some more land to his house plot. He was still there in 1959.

Finally, Charlton House, a valuable property of 15¼ acres, valued at £7,500, was owned by Thomas Rome, whose address was given as Goring-on-Thames, and occupied by Archibald Macbean. This plot is 1293 on map 4. The valuation of Thomas Rome's property for estate duty was recorded on 15 May 1916 as £3750, but this represented only part of his 1909 estate, either the house or the land, as a sale by Burton and others to Rhodes for an equal amount was recorded in 1919. There follows a list of seventeen sales in 1935 and 1936, some certainly, and probably all, by Billings who was a builder. Some were for quite small sums like £50, most were for £200 to £300, and three were over £1000, which may represent land or even Charlton House being sold on.



Map 4



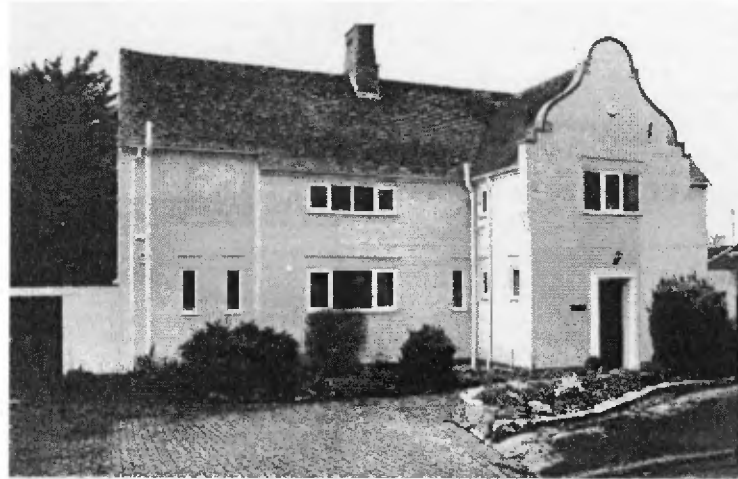
Some of these new houses bordered Cirencester Road, opposite Holy Apostles' church, and some were in Charlton Drive, like Roman Hackle, sold to G Wilson for £1250. The houses was individually designed and built, and named rather than numbered.

Roman Hackle in Charlton Drive, named after an Irish racehorse owned by Dorothy Paget, which won the Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1940



Another interesting house is the one at the end of the road called Eden End. Its unusual gable end can be seen as you walk across Cox's Meadow towards Charlton Kings.

Eden End



Apart from a few instances of the building of expensive houses, it is clear that suburban development of semi-detached, privately-owned houses was taking place in Charlton Kings in the mid-1930s, as it was in Cheltenham, Leckhampton and Prestbury at the same date. Nationally the number of owner-occupied houses rose from one tenth before 1914, to a quarter in 1939. Moreover there was a surge in council house building. Living standards must have risen significantly despite the overall folk memory of the thirties' depression.

**Appendix:** Purchasers and House Names recorded in Croft Road and Okus Road in 1934 and 1935.

Allen	£560	"Foy"
Archer	£470	
Barr, W J	£470	
Beatty	£560	"Beater"
Bindoff	£560	"Firle"
Bonn	£560	"Robecq"
Bowen	£460	"Dunbar"
Brown	£560	
Browning	£460	"Veldure"
Cratchley, C	£470	
Dent, VM & WL	£485	
Dent, WP & GW	£485	



Ellard, WC	£500	“Gritmore”
Farmer	£470	
Greenslade	£500	“Kapoude”
Greenslade, G	£560	
Hackfield	£560	“Castleton”
Hall	£485	
Harris	£460	“Mervyn”
Hayes	£460	“Llannissa”
Hickman, H O C	£470	
Johnson	£560	”Thirley”
Lewis	£560	“Fole Bank”
Lucas	£485	
Midwinter	£560	“Darwin”
Mills, WCD	£1,019	
Moore	£560	“Morley”
Norman, CM	£485	“Lilifred”
Oakes	£560	
Potter	£560	
Rowe	£560	“Sherwood”,
Savery	£560	“Murrayfield”
Skilton	£560	“Balcarras”
Stubbs	£560	
Tandy, C	£750	
Taylor, N	£470	
Thorne	£475	“Beulah”
Townsend	£560	“Krastale”
Williams	£560	“St Hilary”

### References and Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> The volunteers were: Andrew Baynes, David Broad, David O’Connor, Ann Hookey, Gail Jolley, Brian Lickman, Pat Norman, Tony and Jane Sale, Mary Southerton.

<sup>2</sup> The Charlton Kings records in Gloucestershire Archives are catalogued D2428/2/38 (Form 37-Land) and the maps used in this article are D2428/3/26/12 and 26/16, sections of these maps are reproduced from the 1903 Ordinance Survey maps with the kind permission of the Ordinance Survey.

<sup>3</sup> J Hodson, *an Historical Gazeteer of Cheltenham* (BGAS 1997), p26

<sup>4</sup> A. Jones, *Cheltenham, A New History* (Carnegie, Lancaster, 2010), p328

<sup>5</sup> J Hodson, p66

## TWO HENWOOD COUSINS – A FULL CIRCLE

By Ann Hookey

---

Two Henwood Brothers, William and Frederick, and their respective families are buried in adjacent graves in St Mary's Churchyard, on the West side opposite The Royal Hotel. Their family history is outlined in David O'Connor's Book "Lives Revisited", but following recent contact with Joyce Gibbons, a descendant of the Henwood family, and Frederick Doepkens, who has researched the life of Frederick Dimble Henwood, the history can now be carried down to the next generation. This is the story of two Henwood cousins, Frederick Dimble and Arthur Dimble – Dimble being a maternal family name – both born locally, who pursued different paths in life, both in their careers and spiritually. One went West, one East and both ended in Charlton Kings.

Frederick Dimble Henwood was born on 23 December 1864 at Jersey Lodge, Cheltenham. He was the youngest son of Frederick and Rebecca Henwood. As a young scholar he pursued an art education, firstly in Gloucester and then in London, where he studied under P. Wilson Steer, a landscape painter. At this time he also developed a talent for modelling and sculpture.



In 1880 he moved to Paris, enrolling at the Academie Julian, and studying at the ateliers of Bougereau, T. Robert-Fleury and Jules Lefevre; subsequently under the tuition of Carolus Duran and Boldini. Around 1884/5 he travelled to Algeria, where he lived for three years, earning a living by painting scenes of Moorish life. Most of these earlier drawings and paintings are in private collections.

On 9 October, while back in London, he married his first wife Grace Hayter (niece of Sir George Hayter), in the non-conformist Trevor Chapel. At this time he was actively painting and exhibiting at the Salon de Paris, and in fact had an atelier in Paris where he taught a number of students. Frederick and Grace emigrated to the United States and by 1893 were settled in Wakefield, Massachusetts. He also had residences and a studio in Boston, where he exhibited his works with the Boston Art Club from 1896-1912. He received many commissions for portraits – particularly for children – more orders than he said he could complete. It was a great disappointment that they did not have children themselves. Up to this point all his artwork was signed “Frederick D Henwood”.

By 1910 he and his wife were living in Philadelphia, where he converted to Catholicism and began using the name “Frederick D de Henwood”. He now started painting numerous murals and 14 Stations of the Cross for the Most Blessed Sacrament Church which was near to his home. During World War 1 he returned to England and served with the British Forces on the camouflage of war equipment and ships.

When he returned to the USA his reputation for murals and church paintings had increased and these became the larger part of his repertoire, thus he was commissioned to paint 18 murals on the life of Mary in St Mary’s Church in York, Pennsylvania. He also had some articles published in the “Salve Regina” magazine issued by the Catholic University and National Shrine. By 1924 they were living in Washington DC. where, at that time, artists and architects were visiting the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which was under construction at the University. He was appointed to be in charge of the Shrine Art Musum. At the same time he completed many murals, paintings and portraits of clergy and local dignatories. Commissions continued to come in from many other churches. One was for a series of 18 angels decorating the organ gallery, the 14 Stations of the Cross and a painting “Our Lady of Eastport” for St Joseph’s Church, Eastport, Maine.

In the late 1920s Grace died and he moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where he worked as a residential artist for the newly built St Mary’s Seminary in the Roland Park area of Baltimore.

On 20 October 1931 Frederick married his second wife, Margaret Mary MacDonald MA, LHD, Doctor of Literature. Margaret had received numerous honours for social and charitable work in the U.S, France and elsewhere, including “Matron of the First Class of the Holy Sepulchre” which she received from the Pope. (A formidable woman). They spent their honeymoon taking a long voyage around the world and then made their home in Elmhurst, N.Y. Here Frederick completed a sculpture of his brother-in-law which still

stands in Macdonald Park, Queens. The summary of his known artworks includes some 60 paintings, over 60 murals and at least 4 sets of Stations of the Cross.

Early in 1940 Frederick returned to England “to help with the war effort” – he was then 76 years old! He lived in Brockworth, alone as his wife Margaret divorced him in 1946. He ended his days living at Nazareth House, Bath Road, which was then a Catholic “Children’s and Retirement Home” and died on 11 December 1948, just short of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was buried in his parents’ family plot at St Mary’s churchyard.

Frederick’s first cousin, Arthur Dimble Henwood, took a completely different career path. He was born on 1 September 1876 at Greenway Villa, Charlton Kings, the youngest son of Thomas and Maria Henwood. As his father’s business prospered the family moved to a larger property, Courland in Brookway Road. In 1894, at the age of 18 years, Arthur followed his brother Henry to London, where Henry was employed by the Capital and Counties Bank Ltd, in Threadneedle Street, and obtained a post as Clerk with the London and Midland Bank Ltd., Cornhill. However the financial world did not suit him, in contrast he felt a calling to the Church and missionary life. He left the Bank in 1897 and enrolled in the Christian Missionary College, Islington. Having finished his studies he departed for the Colonies where he took a C.M.S. post, first at Poona in India, and three years later in 1903 in Bombay.

Arthur returned to England in 1906 and undertook a three-year course at University College, Durham, gaining a BA degree. He was accepted into the Church and appointed a Lay Priest in the diocese of Ely, and later in 1910 a Chaplain, Cambridge Pastorate. During this time he continued his studies, as a late Jarrett Scholar of St Catherine’s College, Cambridge, gaining a BA 1<sup>st</sup> class Part I Theology Tripos, then 2<sup>nd</sup> class Part II and finally an MA in 1915. In that year he was appointed Vicar of Emmanuel, Weston-super-Mare.

In 1921, having married Florence Wyeth, Arthur became Home Superintendent of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The report of his appointment in the Christian Journal appeared under the heading “The Love of Christ for Man is really the Chief Force in the Universe”. They moved to Warwick in 1929 where Arthur became Vicar of St Mary’s Church and then Rural Dean. He was transferred again in 1936 to the diocese of Gloucester as Rector of St Andrew’s, Haselton, together with St Oswald’s, Compton Abdale and he ended his ministry as Rector of Rodmarton, where he died on 11 April 1948, aged 71 years. His name is included in the Board of Rectors in both St Andrew’s Church Haselton and in Rodmarton Church. His widow, Florence, having come to live with her sister-in-law, Maria Henwood at Gowan Lea, Charlton Kings, died three months later aged 79 years. Arthur and Florence had married late in life and there were no children. They were buried in his parents’ grave in St Mary’s Churchyard.

And so, Rev Arthur Dimble Henwood, an Anglian Priest, with his wife Florence, and Frederick Dimble Henwood, Painter, a Catholic convert, were laid to rest a few yards apart in St Mary’s churchyard.

## 100 YEARS OF SCOUTING IN CHARLTON KINGS

By Peter Newth

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[Peter Newth has just written a booklet entitled 'A Brief History of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham (Charlton Kings) Scout Group'. This article is only a summary of the booklet, so if readers would like to know more and to enjoy all the photographs that Peter has assembled they should get in touch with him at [peter.newth@charltonkingsscouts.org.uk](mailto:peter.newth@charltonkingsscouts.org.uk). to order a copy in exchange for a donation to the Scouts (Minimum £3). Ed.]

The Scout Movement was launched by Baden-Powell in August 1907 with the first experimental camp held at Brownsea Island. When 'Scouting for Boys' was published in 1908, the idea spread rapidly and Scout troops began to be formed all over the country.

Cheltenham was no exception and in Charlton Kings a certain Mrs Griffiths from Battledown initially spoke to Frederick Fry, Headmaster of the Boys School, suggesting that a troop should be formed in the village. At first Fry thought 'Scouts' would be just a passing fashion, but later, when several troops had been formed in Cheltenham, he decided there definitely was something in the idea. He had noticed the improvement in behaviour of those boys who were already Scouts and agreed a troop should be formed in Charlton Kings.

The Group was registered in Cheltenham as an open group on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1909 and an influential committee was organised to run the troop for boys from the Charlton Kings Boys School. Mr Addis, a teacher at the school, was invited to be the first Scoutmaster. Members of the committee included Mrs Griffiths, Captain Macbean, Major Dudgeon, Captain Hibbert, Major Russell and Mr Pratt. In April 1910 pupils from Holy Apostles School were invited to become members of the Charlton troop and numbers increased rapidly. By that summer the troop had 32 boys and Mr Addis was assisted by Hubert H. Fry, George Ryland and Charles Booth. Scout meeting took place initially in a classroom at the Boys School.

At this time Charlton Kings was not a rich area and the committee provided considerable financial help by carrying out fundraising events to raise money to pay for the hire of the premises and to subsidise camps. The first camp was a joint one held with the Cheltenham College troop at Deerhurst with 20 boys attending from Charlton Kings. Each troop put up its own tent, helped with cooking, and on Sunday marched to Tewkesburt abbey for a service. Various competitions were held and these were all won by Charlton boys.

In 1913 George Ryland became Scoutmaster, but with the outbreak of war in 1914 he joined up and Percy Crowther replaced him for a short time before Jim Thorne took over later in the year. From September 1914 the group rented East End Hall (jointly with the Church Lads Brigade). Later, in 1916, the first Wolf Cub pack was formed to cater for



younger boys. During the war activities included stretcher drill, rifle shooting, knitting socks for the troops, as well as washing up at the War Hospital at Moored Park and helping the Red Cross with wounded soldiers returning from the war by train to Charlton Kings Station. As a reward for a certain number of hours help, the Scouts were awarded the 'War Service' badge.

By 1919 George Ryland and other earlier leaders and supporters had returned, some with special honours: Lieutenant Frederick Fry was awarded the Military Cross and Harold Peacey the Military Medal – both are mentioned in the 'Scouts Book of Heroes' published in 1919.

During the 1920s the group continued to be very active and by 1927 there were 18 Scouts, 16 Wolf Cubs and 6 Rovers under the leadership of E.J.Fear. After 12 years as Scoutmaster Jim Thorne had resigned in 1925 when he became Headmaster of the Boys School, and the position was then filled by Ken Cleveley until 1926 when Fear took over. Later in 1926 Mary Griffiths (the Group's Fairy Godmother) died after supporting the group actively and financially since its formation in 1910. The position of President was happily filled by Mrs Herbert who took a similiarly active and supportive role for many years



This photograph was taken in 1921/2, when Jim Thorne was the Scoutmaster, he is in the centre of the middle row. At the right-hand end of that row is Ken Cleveley who succeeded Jim Thorne in 1925, and at the left-hand end of the middle row is E.J Fear.



The 1930s saw the group continue to flourish under the leadership of E.J.Fear with assistant Scoutmasters Ryland and Silvester and cubmistresses Miss Hersher and Mrs Silvester. In 1937 5 Scouts attended the 5<sup>th</sup> World Jambree at Vogelenzang, Netherland. . The Scout hall was still rented but the installation of electricity by E.J. Fear was a big improvement. Activities during the 1940s were understandably curtailed with many leaders and older scouts being called up: E.J.Fear was often running Cubs, Scouts and Rovers with little assistance. The Scouts helped the war effort by distributing gas masks, providing latrines at the railway station for the London evacuees, running messages for air raid wardens and collecting waste paper to sell to raise money for the Hurricane Fund. Fire fighting practice was held in the field at the back of Charlton House with a mobile pump and water from the Chelt.

In February 1950 (the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Group) Alan Sallis became Scoutmaster and held the position until 1965. After previous unsuccessful attempts to buy the Scout Hall from the Council the Scouts were finally able to in 1954, and in 1959 plans were produced for a new extension to the hall, which was built by members of the group. A number of Scouts and Rovers attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Jamboree-Indaba-Moot in Sutton Coldfield. The Group's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated in 1960. Interest in the Cubs grew and in 1962 a second Cub night was started. In 1966 the group celebrated 50 years of Cubs in Charlton Kings. Signifiant changes were made to the uniform throughout Scouting in 1967 with the wide brimmed hat, staff and shorts replaced by beret and long trousers for the Scouts. The Cub green jersey and cap remained very similar.

E. J. Fear finally retired as Group Scout Leader in 1970, marking the end of 56 years of day to day involvement in the Group since joining as a Scout in 1914. He went on to serve as President of the group. New Group Scout Leaders included Derek Midwinter, Alan Rigby, John Chesborough and in April 1978 John Blackwell assumed the role which he held until 2002. The Group continued to grow with a third Cub night started in 1973 and a second Scout night opened in 1979. Scout leaders included Hugh Barton and Mike Berry, while Cub leaders included Ted Hughes, Mrs Hulbert, Mahon Davis, Pat Maher and Jane Murnaghan. The 70<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries were celebrated in 1980 and 1985. Membership consisted of 65 Cubs, 28 Scouts and 23 Leaders and instructors. 1984 saw the formation of the Group's first Beaver colony (aged 6-7) led by Cynthia Turner. An extremely active Venture Scout Unit was led by Dave Sallis from 1985 to 1990. Many of the Venture Scouts from this period went on to become the present Cub and Scout Leaders. Girls were allowed into all sections of Seouts from the late 1980s.

All sections of the Group continued to prosper in the 1990s – the Beavers in particular with Barbara Deacon taking over in the mid '90s. Julien LePlain took over as Group Scout Leader following John Blackwell's retirement in 2002. In 2007 the Group celebrated the Scouting centenary and Cubs attended a special Scout event at the O2 Arena in London. In 2009, a second Beaver colony was opened and numbers have continued to grow. At the begining of 2010 there were 35 Beavers, 76 Cubs, 41 Scouts,

28 Explorers, 21 Leaders, 5 Assistants and 8 Committee members – all looking forward to the next 100 years of Scouting in Charlton Kings. With this in mind, work has started on a Centenary project to repair and upgrade the Group's headquarters.

Charlton Kings Scouts celebrated their Scouting Centenary throughout 2010 with a series of special events. In February nearly 300 past and present members got together on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Scout meeting in the village in 1910. An exhibition of Scouting history was on display together with a collection of Scouting memorabilia. In June 170 members took part in a Centenary Camp at the Gloucestershire County Scouting Centre at Cranham. On the Sunday the curate from St Mary's in Charlton Kings led a 'Scouts Own'. Parents and former members had the opportunity to watch the youngsters enjoying the various activities. In December, nearly 200 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders and Committee members took over the Ten Pin Bowling in Gloucester to celebrate the end of the year in style. Activities came to a climax in February with a special firework display to mark the end of the first 100 years and looking forward to the next.

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### **Sale of Contents of Charlotteville – 17 June 1847**

Charlotteville had recently been run as a school by Miss Grigg who was moving to Plymouth. The house, later to become known as Langton Lodge, is at the west end of Cudnall Street. Among the contents to be sold were some interesting musical instruments: a very highly finished double-acted harp, *Delveau's Patent*; fine toned six and half octave semi-grand patent pianoforte, by *Stoddart*, in mahogany, and cottage piano by *Tomkison* in rosewood, both nearly equal to new; a square pianoforte by *Tomkison*, and grand piano by *Broadwood*.

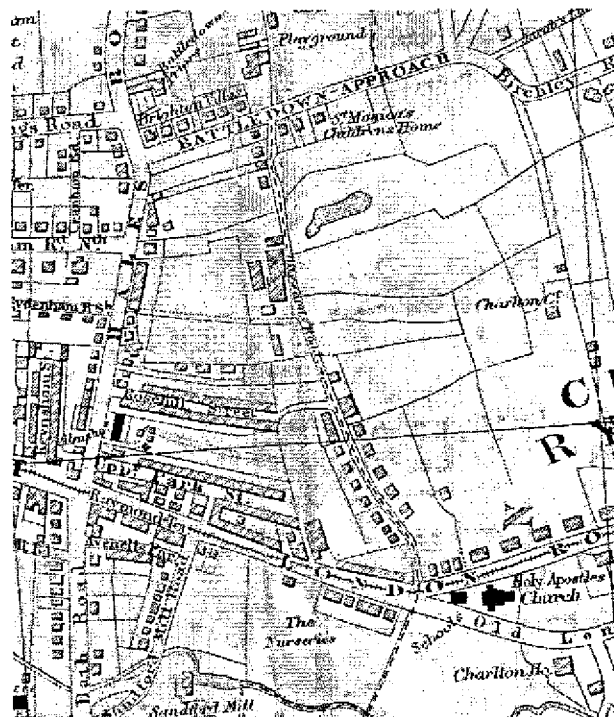
Other pieces of furniture mentioned were a brilliant plate chimney glass, several painted press wardrobes, capital mangle, with mahogany bed; Dampier's patent metric Geometrial balance; books, plated and japan goods, china, glass, earthenware, culinary requisites and other effects.

[I am grateful to Mike Grindley for this cutting]

## 130 YEARS OF HAYWARDS ROAD

By Gail Jolley

Among the material at Gloucestershire Archives, deposited by W Leslie Barrow, architect, are his plans for repairing or rebuilding three houses in Haywards Road which were damaged by a gas explosion in 1968<sup>1</sup>. This prompted me into investigating the history of the road and the following article is the result of that research. The census of 1841 describes two families by the name of Hayward, headed by brickmakers, in London Road. James Hodson in his Historical Gazetteer of Cheltenham suggests that these families may have given their name to the road.



[This map shows Haywards Road running north from the junction of the London and Cirencester roads. The larger building opposite the turning into Rosehill St is Ewens Farm, a much older property.]

### Ownership of the Land:

In 1885, following the death of Charles Cooke Higgs, John Higgs, architect, and Benjamin Bonnor were admitted tenants to the pasture ground known as Great Ewins. This included the land that would become Haywards Road. In 1889 this land was 'surrendered to the use of Charles Edward Gael and John de la Bere Gael'.<sup>2</sup> At this stage the land was situated in Charlton Kings, but in 1892 the Cheltenham Boundaries Provisional Order stated that the portion of Charlton Kings to be added to the borough is that 'embraced by drawing a line through Haywards Lane – the lane running from the Holy Apostles Church into Battledown Approach'.<sup>3</sup> By 1899 the land on the east

side of the road up to the centre of the road had been transferred to George Brydges and that on the West side to Matthew Adcock, bootmaker.

Certain covenants existed regarding the land;

1. Any dwellinghouses constructed should be private and not used for any trade or business.
2. Any dwellinghouses constructed within 40 feet of Haywards road should face the road and they should be set back 15 feet from the front line of the road.<sup>4</sup>

### **Construction, Repair and Maintenance of the Road:**

By 1900 the owners of the land on each side of the road agreed to pay 1d per foot for upkeep until Haywards Road be taken over by the local authority.<sup>4</sup>

In 1906, the Borough of Cheltenham produced a specification for the construction of the roadway, manholes and nameplates. The foundation would be 10 inches thickness hard stone with a coat of 'best broken granite' which would be 4 inches thick. The manholes on the sewer would be covered with a cast iron cover and frame of the 'corporation pattern' and paved around with granite cubes. There would be a nameplate at each end of the road and a crossing would be provided 'to be 6 feet wide and to consist of 3 inch granite cubes'.<sup>5</sup> At the Cheltenham Borough Council Street and Highway Committee meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> 1908, Haywards Road, up to the footpath leading into Rosehill Street, was declared a highway.<sup>6</sup>

By 1923, there was a need for repairs to be made to the road. As the road was now a highway and the boundary between Cheltenham and Charlton Kings lies along the centre of Haywards Road, both Cheltenham Corporation and Charlton Kings Urban District Council were jointly responsible for the maintenance of the road. An agreement was made between the Cheltenham Corporation and Charlton Kings Urban District Council on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1923 in which it was decided that Cheltenham Corporation should be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the carriageway for its whole width from the junction with London Road for 434 feet and CKUDC for the remaining 434 feet up to the passageway to Rosehill St. It was also decided that the surveyors of both corporation and council should act together so that any repairs would be carried out at the same time and to the same specification and standard. The decision was made that the road should forthwith be 'scarified and rolled and coated with two and a quarter inch gauge granite macadam well rolled with the necessary granite chippings and water for binding purposes and the channels relaid where necessary'. It was also agreed that the footpath and kerbing should be put into a good state of repair and that ornamental trees should be planted.<sup>7</sup>

In 1967 a further proposal to resurface Haywards Road at an estimated cost of £3530 was postponed by Cheltenham Borough Council despite the fact that Charlton Kings Urban District council was willing to contribute half to the scheme. The reason for this was that the road was constantly used by heavy vehicles going to the nearby rubbish tip. These lorries would continue to use the road until the tip was due to close in 18 months time.

A newspaper report stated however that Cheltenham Town Council would be asked to reverse this decision. The finance committee recommended that the Town Council's

portion of the expenditure (£1765) should be borne out of revenue. The Town Clerk had received a petition from the residents of the road requesting reconsideration of the Council's previous refusal.<sup>8</sup>

### **Building Houses:**

Prior to the 1901 census, the only property to be found was 'The Hewins', the farm located at the top of Rosehill Street as it is today.<sup>9</sup> The 1901 census shows that by this time house building had started in the road. Several sets of title deeds could be examined at Gloucestershire Archives. In 1900, William Newman paid £50 for 25 ft frontage along Haywards Road. In 1901 he secured a mortgage of £235 from the City of Gloucester Working Men's Conservative Association Benefit Society for the piece of land together with 'the dwelling house and domestic offices erected and built on the said land by the mortgagor and now in his own occupation and known as Ferndale'.<sup>10</sup> Also in 1901, Thomas W Smith, a builder, purchased from Matthew Adcock 40ft frontage for £80; he constructed Hazelmere and Harwood.<sup>11</sup> Thomas Smith also purchased land on the eastern side of the road in 1904; the conveyance stated that no more than four houses should be built on this piece of land and that each house should be of the value of at least £300, the outside walls should be constructed at the front with faced or pressed bricks and stone or terra cotta dressings of the side or back wall with best building bricks but ornamental or white or blue bricks may be used in lieu of stone or terra cotta.<sup>12</sup>

The Lloyd George survey from 1912 shows that of the 21 properties on the east side of Haywards Road, ie. in Charlton Kings parish, less than half were occupied by their owners. Of those owners, over half were female. Several owners lived in nearby London Road and two owners lived in another property in Haywards Road. The valuations for land and house in 1912 ranged from £261 to £306. The survey showed that over the years several houses changed ownership and the valuations rose steadily. For example, 'Wellscot' valued at £306 in 1912, £335 in 1918 and £450 in 1932.

Sales particulars could be examined at the Archives for the proposed auction of 'Halesleigh' in 1923. The house was described as 'a desirable modern villa', and as having 4 bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, kitchen-dining room, scullery, coal house, 2 wc's, with a garden in front and long garden at the rear. There was a side entrance and gas and corporation water were laid on. All furniture and effects were also to be sold and these were listed. Handwritten next to each item was a valuation; the total value of the contents was assessed to be £130-6-0.<sup>13</sup>

Drama came to the road in 1968 when, on Monday February 5<sup>th</sup> number 39 (Fairford) was reduced to a state of near ruin following an explosion. The Gloucestershire Echo reported that four people were taken to hospital with slight injuries. The house was severely damaged both front and back with a gaping hole at ground level. It was said that the explosion rocked the whole street and shattered windows all round. The explosion was stated to have been heard as far away as Whaddon. Ambulances arrived swiftly and residents from neighbouring houses were moved to safety while Gas Board officials examined the house. Later they stated that a gas pipe to the house had been inadvertently cut. Private contractors had been working outside the house at the time of the explosion – they had been laying kerbing for pavements.

A report in the local paper the following day stated that all three houses damaged by the explosion, ie no 39, and nos 37 and 41 were 'mortgaged through the council'. Charlton Kings Urban District Council were to offer the family from no 39 accommodation in Ewens Road. The council surveyor had inspected the damaged property and had arranged for demolition contractors to remove the front wall and shore up the building. It was stated that the damaged building would have to be 'fairly completely rebuilt'.<sup>14</sup>

The specification of works for reconstruction of Nos 37, 39 and 41 Haywards Road describes plans for rebuilding and renovation after damage to the terrace of 3 houses. Nos 37 and 41 would be cleared of contents, the contents of no 39 to be carefully salvaged before demolition. No 39, and party walls on both sides of the rear extension would need to be demolished to the foundations, before being rebuilt. There was also considerable damage to no 37 and less so to no 41. A note of costs dated 17.10.68 were £1313 for no 37, £3100 for no 39 and £618 for no 41.<sup>15</sup> Trade directories show that these properties were still unoccupied in 1969.

### **People's Lives:**

The census of 1901 gives some insight into the lives of the residents of Haywards Road. Apart from the farm, occupations tended to be clerical or teaching, with some tradespeople. Similarly, in 1911 the families were mainly employed as tradesmen such as carpenters, painters, a piano tuner, a draper, laundryman, bookkeeper, employed in the jewellery and watch making trades, a cabinet maker, confectioner, and several shop assistants. There were two school teachers, an umbrella manufacturer, a farmer, two civil servants and one assistant superintendant of an insurance company. Over the years, some occupations were listed in the trade directories despite the original covenants to the land stating that any dwellinghouses should not be used for business.

Trade directories and title deeds show that the names of several houses were changed over the years and one house at least was named after its new owner. Following the death of Julia Van Coillie of 'Claremont', the title deeds reveal that the property was to be vested in her son Willy Van Coillie "together with the messuage or dwellinghouse and outbuildings erected thereon known as Willy House, 10 Haywards Road formerly called Claremont" – document dated 19<sup>th</sup> October 1943.<sup>16</sup>

Both World Wars affected the residents of Haywards Road. In 1915, John Baker, private, of 3 Gloucestershire Regiment and of Elmwood, Haywards Road, accidentally drowned on 27<sup>th</sup> June, aged 17. He was the son of John and Emily Baker and had been apprenticed as a builder to his grandfather in Winchcomb St. As he was only 17, he was posted to the reserve battalion which was stationed at Gravesend. He drowned whilst bathing when a wave swept him off his feet.<sup>17</sup> Trade directories show that J Baker lived at Elmwood from 1911 until 1925. Elmwood was first listed in Trade Directories in 1911.

In 1940, James Purkiss, aged 5, was evacuated from Eastbourne, lived with Mr and Mrs Dex in Haywards Road. He was admitted to Holy Apostles School 14 Sep 1940, then transferred to Naunton Park and returned home 31 July 1941. His brother (name unknown) and their parents also stayed with the family.<sup>18</sup>



In 1942, Alan Jones, Pilot Officer 67108, was killed in action on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1942; his aircraft was seen to fall into the sea in flames – there were no survivors. His name appears on the Charlton Kings War Memorial and at Holy Apostles Church.<sup>19</sup> Trade directories show that Herbert Jones moved into St Brandans in 1916, the year of his son Alan's birth and the family remained there until 1957. St Brandans was first listed in Trade Directories in 1901 and was therefore one of the earliest properties to be built in the road.

Due to the high volume of cars, Haywards Road today no longer has the peaceful aspect of the early part of the twentieth century. However, as no houses have been demolished (apart from no 39), it is still essentially unchanged and one can still visualise the appearance of the neat suburban villa frontages with their iron railings or walls as they once were.



[Haywards Road photographed in 1918. The chimney in the distance is that of the Battledown Brickworks, which closed in 1971]

### References:


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| <sup>1</sup> G.A. D 7684 Box 32  | <sup>2</sup> G.A. D6084/73                            |
| <sup>3</sup> Cheltenham Examiner 20.01.1892 (Notes on Charlton Kings vol II p 84 – Bridgman) |   |
| <sup>4</sup> G.A. D5907 Box 16/7   | <sup>5</sup> G.A. CBR/C5/4/1/15/1                     |
| <sup>6</sup> Cheltenham Borough Council minutes 1908   |   |
| <sup>7</sup> G.A. DA3/154/3/9  | <sup>8</sup> Glos Echo 1967                           |
| <sup>9</sup> 1881 Census   | <sup>10</sup> G.A. D5907 Box 16/7                     |
| <sup>11</sup> G.A. D6084/73  | <sup>12</sup> Land Registry Copy Title no GR169194    |
| <sup>13</sup> G.A. D4442/12/1  | <sup>14</sup> Glos Echo 6/02/1968 Glos Echo 7/02/1968 |
| <sup>15</sup> G.A. D7684 Box 32  | <sup>16</sup> G.A. D6084/62                           |
| <sup>17</sup> 'Leaving All That Was Dear'  | <sup>18</sup> CKLHS Bulletin 52                       |
| <sup>19</sup>  |   |

## MAGIC AT RYEWORTH

By Jane Sale

“Charlton Kings is very significant in the history of the British Ring of the International Brotherhood of Magicians”. These were the words that both amazed and intrigued me and set me on the trail of the so-called ‘Professor Bofeys’ who was living at Westmon House, Ryeworth during the 1930s. Our Society had been approached by Roy Field, a retired county librarian who had also been a member of various magical societies including the Magic Circle, and the International Brotherhood of Magicians. The British section is known as the IBM British Ring, and he had been asked to write a history of the Ring from its formation in 1928.

This article is a combination of material sent to me by Roy Field, local research undertaken by Mary Southerton and myself, and photographs taken by Tony Sale by kind permission of the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum.



**Prof. L. BOFEYS** (Conjartisian)  
and  
**Valere** (Renowned Crystal Gazer)

**SEND GREETINGS**  
*to Magicians the world over,  
and I will be pleased to meet  
any visiting Magicians*

Hullo! Syd Lorraine  
and Prof. Blankenbaker

Westmon House,  
Charlton Kings,  
Cheltenham

**LONG LIVE THE I.B.M.**

Apparently Professor Bofeys was the organiser of the very first convention of British magicians in June 1931 and had offered his house and garden for the event. About a hundred magicians congregated at Westmon House in Ryeworth, and the convention was so successful that it was repeated in 1932. Unfortunately Westmon House no longer exists and its garden has been built on, so it is difficult to visualise the size of the

property. The 1914 Rate Book shows that the house was valued at £25.10.0, while the Ryeworth Inn was £21.10.0 and the majority of other properties in the area were between £4 and £8, so it was obviously a house of some importance.

The programme for the 1931 convention gives us an idea of what happened: the official opening was 3pm followed by tea and then 'magic entertainment'. Six different magicians took part including Bofeys, who described himself as a 'Conjartisan'. The entertainments were followed by 'cold luncheon' at 7.30pm and then there were competitions for prizes, such as 'best original trick with balls', 'best original liquid trick' etc. It was on this occasion that Bofeys performed his version of the Indian Rope Trick in the driveway to his house, and this photograph appeared in the *Gloucestershire Echo* for June 27<sup>th</sup> 1931.



The report in the *Echo* read as follows: 'At 8.30pm Prof Bofeys donned a cloak and threw a rope in the air where it became rigid. It was about 15ft high and not near any buildings. Ethel Byford, aged 7 (the daughter of magician Archie Byford) climbed up the rope and disappeared. A moment or two later she re-appeared in an adjacent wicker



basket.' The reporter states that he took a photo of Ethel at the top of the rope, but when he developed the film she was nowhere to be seen. Had he been hypnotised, he mused? Was he either very gullible or had the classic rope trick (minus the grisly bits) actually been performed? Whatever, it gave good, even national, publicity to the IBM and magic in general.

What else is known about 'Professor Bofeys'? His real name was Benjamin William Henry Fry, a member of a well-known Charlton Kings family. The 1901 census shows him, aged 4, living with his parents, Thomas and Julie Fry, at Thornton Piece/Place in Charlton Kings. By 1911 he was boarding with an Ernest Workman at the Malt House, Sheepscombe, and listed as a schoolboy. On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1923 he married Dorothy Peacey, a member of another very well-known Charlton Kings family. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Peaceys owned or rented several properties in Ryeworth, in fact a John Peacey is listed in the 1882 Rate Book as the owner of Westmon House. So it seems likely that it was as a result of marrying Dorothy that the 'Professor' was able to offer his house and garden for the conventions. The photograph below was published by the *Graphic*.



**A CHARLTON KINGS WEDDING.**  
The Marriage was solemnised at St. Mary's Church, Charlton Kings, on Wednesday, August 29, of Miss D. Peacey, daughter of the late Mr. W. and Mrs. Peacey, of Ryeworth-road, and Mr. B. Fry, son of the late Mr. T. and Mrs. Fry, of Chapel Cottage, Ryeworth-road. Our photograph shows the party at the reception.

Later, in September 1932, the *Graphic* reported on a fete held in the grounds of Charlton Court in aid of funds for the Charlton Kings Baptist Church memorial organ at which Professor Bofeys 'gave a clever display of conjuring'.

Apart from his conjuring skills Bofeys was known for his Punch and Judy shows. The Gloucestershire Archives hold a taped interview with 'Professor Boface' made in 1965 in which he is asked specifically about the Punch and Judy shows. He claimed to have been doing it with his wife for over 'half a century', and to have performed at our present Queen's third birthday party, as well as in front of Winston Churchill and Lord and Lady Moseley. He seems to have built up a national reputation quite early in his career. When asked what aged children his shows appealed to he replied 'anybody from 2 to 98 – we make them humorous rather than frightening'. The tape includes excerpts from his shows with appropriate voices.

It was with some excitement that I learnt that his Punch and Judy puppets had been given to the Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museum by the 'Professor's' niece, a Mrs Roberts of Charlton Kings in 1981. The set, consisting of thirty eight items, had been examined at some point by John Blundell, then Director of Cannon Hall puppets, who thought they may have been made in Germany in the 1920s, but had since been badly repainted.

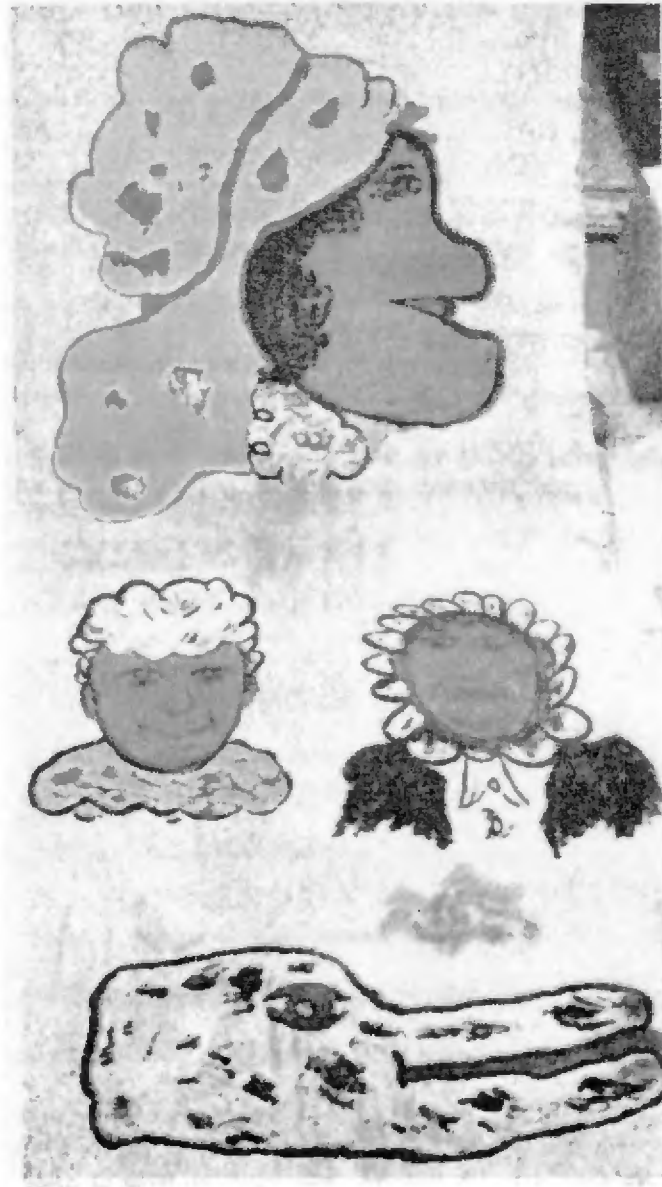
I am very grateful to Ann-Rachael Harwood, Curator of Human History at the Museum and Art Gallery, for her willingness to allow Tony to photograph the puppets and for her patience in unwrapping them and packing them away again for us. The puppets were larger and heavier than I had expected, the head being fixed to a solid wooden handle which would be held from below by the puppeteer. The heads varied in length between 230mm and 110mm (roughly 9 to 4 inches) and then there were dresses or uniforms varying in length from 500mm to 820mm (roughly 20 to 32 inches), which covered the wooden handles. [see photographs on next pages]

'Professor Bofeys' died in 1973, aged 76. He is remembered by some of the older residents of Charlton Kings. He has been described as a small man, married, with no children but several dogs. He carried his 'tools' around in a van. It is not known whether he had any other occupation but he was 'moneyed'. Each year the Ryeworth Inn and the Duke of York joined forces for a charity walk between the two. Bofeys would entertain the waiting families at the Ryeworth Inn.

No doubt as a result of the famous Indian Rope Trick performance, he had the reputation of making people disappear. One gentleman describes how he was walking along Ryeworth Road one day when a child walking in the opposite direction suddenly disappeared. Bofeys was to blame! Magic at Ryeworth indeed.

Backcloth for Professor Bofeys' Punch and Judy Shows

Judy, two children and the crocodile





A Group of Professor Bofeys' Puppets:

Clown, Baby, Clergyman and Policeman



## A CHARLTON KINGS HERO REMEMBERED

By David O'Connor

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This article describes the all too short life of a Charlton Kings boy. His name is on our war memorial and there is an excellent biography in Graham Sacker's *'Held in Honour'*, but this material has been supplied by his brother who still lives in Charlton Kings.

Sydney William Robert Mabbett was born at 12, Croft Avenue on 27 August 1919 to Mary Annie Louise and Robert Round Mabbett. His Christian names proved surplus to requirements, for he was always known as "George". His father drove for a living, and at the time was working as a chauffer to a Mr Maurice Remfrey of Fairmount Road. George attended Charlton Kings School or "Crab End College", as it was known to the impolite. He was tall for his age, as the class photos show: George is head and shoulders above the rest.



George was a keen member of the Charlton Kings Scouts; a clever boy, he passed what was then known as the 'scholarship exam' and obtained a place at Cheltenham Grammar School, where he studied for five years, leaving in 1936 to work at the Gloucester Aircraft Co. He was a keen sportsman and played rugby for the school and later for Cheltenham and Gloucester Rugby Football Clubs: in 1938 he was capped for the Gloucestershire County side. In this 1938 photo he is playing for Cheltenham against Gloucester. Fifth from the right, at six foot one, he towers above the rest.

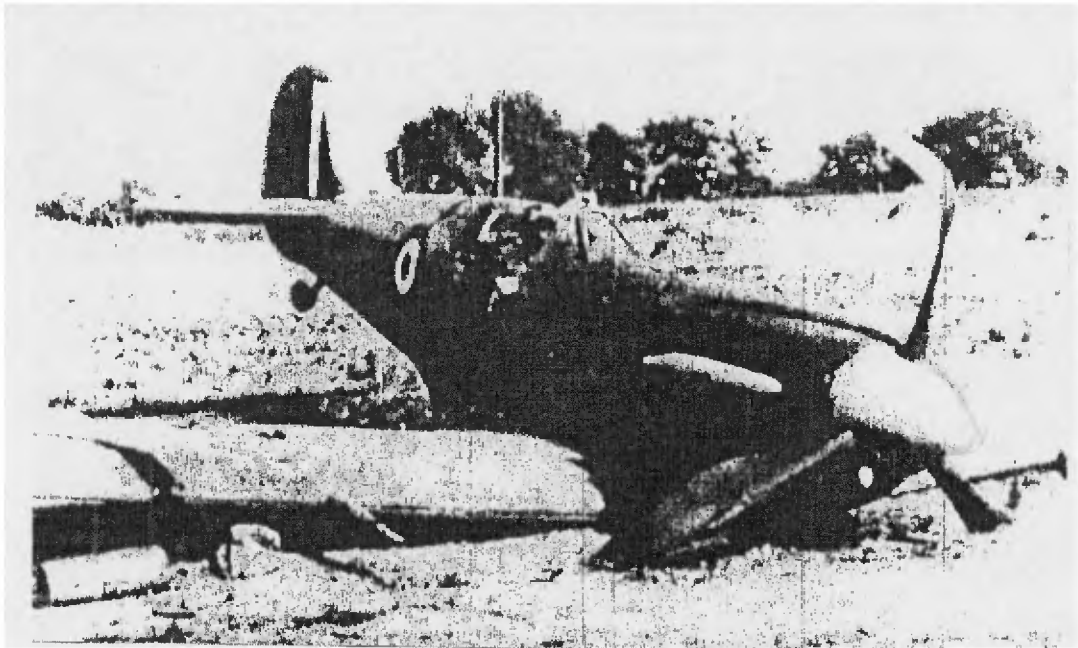


George had developed an interest in flying and in 1938 volunteered for flying duties with the RAF Volunteer Reserve, logging many hours at weekend training sessions at Staverton. He was about to join the Police in 1939 but instead was called up to join the RAF. After further flying training, he was judged good enough to become a fighter pilot, despite the fact that his rugby forward's physique made him a tight fit for a Spitfire. In 1941 he was transferred as a Sgt-Pilot to Wing Cdr Douglas Bader's Wing at Tangmere, where he flew as "wingman" to the RAF ace, Pilot Officer (later Squadron Leader) "Johnnie" Johnson, DSO, DFC. The Battle of Britain was over, but Luftwaffe night bombing raids on Britain were continuing and the RAF had switched to offensive sorties over France, where the German bombers were based. George Mabbett's Spitfire was in the thick of the fighting.

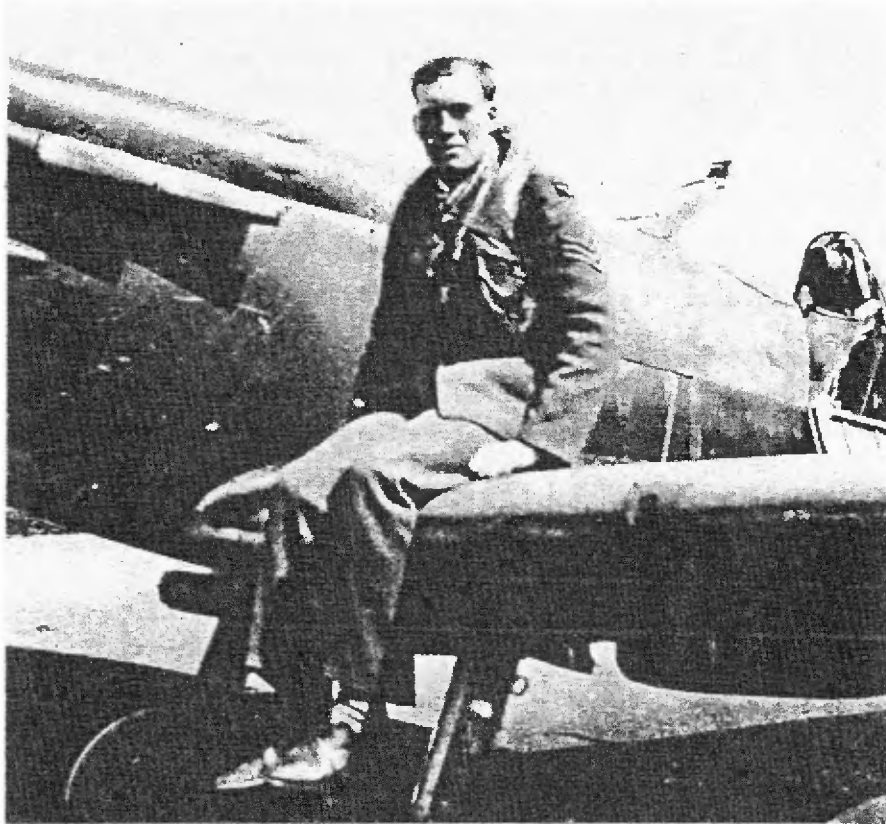
In early July he took some leave and returned to Cheltenham for a rest, though he found time to visit the Grammar School and talk to the boys in the Air Training Corps about his experiences. However, on one such sortie on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1941, Johnson and Mabbett were 'bounced' by several Messerschmidt 109s and when the dogfight was over, Johnson found his wingman missing. Subsequently the local press reported the news that Sgt-Pilot Mabbett was missing on active service. In fact, he had been shot up and severely wounded and, although he managed to crash-land his Spitfire in Northern France, he could not survive his injuries.



Sadly, George was to have been promoted to Pilot Officer rank on the following day. His death was reported by the Germans in August and it was later confirmed that he had been given a full military funeral. A photograph (below) of his downed Spitfire was retrieved from German records after the war.



Sgt-Pilot Sydney William Robert Mabbett, George to his friends, lies today in Longuenesse (St. Omer Souvenir) Cemetery. He is remembered in the Cheltenham Grammar School Roll of Honour and is one of the many commemorated on the Charlton Kings War Memorial. It is fitting that he should also be remembered as part of Charlton Kings History.



## NAZARETH HOUSE 1884-2010

By Ann Hookey

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In 1851 Victoire Larmenier, later known as Mother St. Basil, came from Brittany to London, and with encouragement and support from Cardinal Wiseman and others, founded the Congregation of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth, whose work was to be the care of the elderly and for poor or abandoned children. The first House was at Brook Green, Hammersmith. By the time of Mother St. Basil's death, seven houses were established.

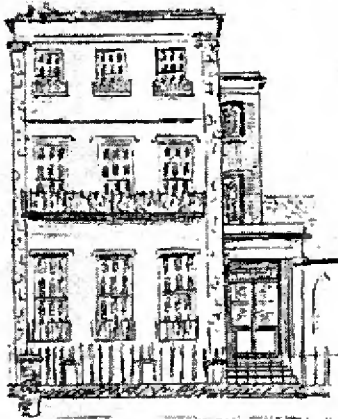
On November 1884, four Sisters, accompanied by Mother Mary of the Nativity, the second Mother General, came to Cheltenham where a house had been purchased for them to start a new Care Home. When they arrived they found that it had been fully furnished, even with cots for the infants. Five days later, Father Wilkinson, the Parish Priest, brought from the workhouse several elderly people and three children, who were Edward McPartlin and his two sisters. They were the first of many.

In 1886 a soup kitchen was opened at which 300 were served daily. Applications for admission were so great that it was necessary to find larger premises, and in December 1886 all moved to a house in Sandford Place, Bath Road (now demolished). In 1906 one of the adjacent houses was purchased but it was soon filled to capacity, so a third adjoining houses was bought – and this then housed boys from the Rescue Society. The 1920 register records that, in view of the lack of space, 53 boys were moved to another Nazareth home in Westbury-on-Trym.

The first re-union of girls who had spent their childhood in the Home was held in 1925, and since this was a great success it became an annual event. Evidence of a happy, caring Home. 1934 was the golden Jubilee of the opening, a special occasion with a Mass offered by Bishop Lee. At this time there were on average 70 children and 50 elderly residents in care. The Home depended entirely on financial support from Benefactors, parishioners and local townsfolk. The writer well remembers the bi-annual visit of two Sisters to Cirencester, walking from shop to shop with their collection tins. They must have walked miles visiting all the neighbouring towns seeking funds for the upkeep of the Home.

The work of the Home did not diminish during World War 2, in fact a fourth house was added – primarily to house evacuees – 34 babies from Southend and some elderly people from Southampton. When they returned home they were replaced by 50 babies from Bristol. In 1942 there was a total of 130 children in the Home. In 1945 the Nursery was affiliated to the National Society of Children's Nurseries. Some years later a few of the children emigrated to Australia where it was thought they would have a better life.

# NAZARETH HOUSE CHELTENHAM



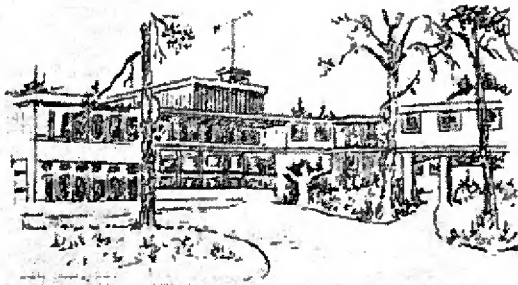
1st Foundation Nov. 21st  
St. Gregory's Parish

**1884**



2nd Foundation Bath Road  
Jan. 8th

**1885**



3rd Foundation Charlton Kings  
Sept. 8th

**1968**

**SOUVENIR BROCHURE**



In 1964 the number of children in care was decreasing and it was decided to close the nursery wing in 1965. To that date over 3000 infants and children had been cared for by the Sisters. It was now proving very difficult to keep updating and maintaining the property, so it was decided to sell it and acquire a more suitable residence.

Springfield in Charlton Kings came on the market, was purchased, and in 1966 work began to turn it into a purpose-built Home for the Elderly. Work was completed in 1968 and those residents who had gone to Cardiff temporarily were able to return. On 8<sup>th</sup> September the new House was opened and blessed by Bishop Rudderham.

During the following fifty years there has been further building - extensions, renovations and improvements to conform with the ever-changing legal and safety requirements and, of course, for the comfort of the residents. The waiting list is never-ending as it has a happy, loving and homely atmosphere in beautiful surroundings.

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## **THE DRINK AGAIN**

Samuel Spiller was charged with being drunk in the churchyard at Charlton Kings during divine service on the previous evening, also with assaulting P.C. Chappel, while in the execution of his duty, and further charged with damaging the door of the cell at the police station at Charlton. P.C. Chappel said about half-past seven he found prisoner in the churchyard drunk. Service was going on at the same time. On being taken into custody prisoner became very violent, kicked witness and struck him twice in the chest. When put into the cell he broke the door to pieces. Prisoner said when he tasted any beer he could not rule himself. Chairman: Then why do you get beer? Prisoner: Why it is like this. I gets very bad without it. If I go for a time altogether without it I gets ill and am bound to take a little. Chairman: You have been here three times this year. Prisoner: Yes, but one time was perfectly wrong. Supt. Day remarked that prisoner was very dangerous when in drink. Prisoner: I will tell you what I will do; I won't take any more beer in a public house; I will take it home before I go to bed. Chairman: You had better go without it altogether. Prisoner: Then I should go mad. I find a little beer, with bark, does me good.

Prisoner was then fined 5s with 4s 6d costs, or seven days, for being drunk; 10s with 7s 6d costs for the assault on the police or ten days imprisonment; and 2s damage to the door.

[I am grateful to Mike Grindley for this excerpt from the Cheltenham Mercury dated 28.12.1878]

## JAMES HUMPHRIS AND BATTLEDOWN LAWN

By David O'Connor

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On 29 June 1847 Mr Charles Dowle purchased for £400 a piece of copyhold land adjoining Hale's Road. This land had been until 1799 the property of the Earl of Essex; it was in that year that he and the countess sold much of the land they owned around Cheltenham, including that on which the Pittville Estate and later, the Battledown Estate were built. In 1847 Dowle's purchase had been held previously by William Newman, a farmer of Birdlip and George Sexty, a fellmonger, who was a dealer in skins who prepared hides for a tanner. The land, situated in Coltham Fields, measured two acres or thereabouts, and was bounded on the east and south by land of Mrs King, on the north by that of James Agg-Gardner Esq, and on the west by the new road, hitherto Coltham Lane but intended to be called Hale's Road. The name was actually changed in 1846, but the new road not officially opened until 1847. The land was on the Manor Roll of Cheltenham, the Lord of which was the same James Agg-Gardner. It was, however, in the Parish of Charlton Kings, since the boundary between Charlton and Cheltenham then ran along Hale's Road. At the time of the sale the land was rented by one Thomas Witts and some at least was divided into selions for ridge and furrow agriculture.

Charles Dowle was a brewer, malster and coal merchant of the Carlton Brewery, Hewlett Street. He advertised in George Rowe's *Illustrated Cheltenham Guide* of 1847, offering beer at 8d and 10d per gallon for the cheapest X beer, rising to 1s 8d to 2s for the strongest 3X's. He put the land into trust with the lawyer James Brend Winterbotham as the Trustee, for the benefit of his heirs. However, for whatever reason, on 24 October 1849 Charles Dowle sold this same land to James Humphris, ironmonger, for the same sum of £400.

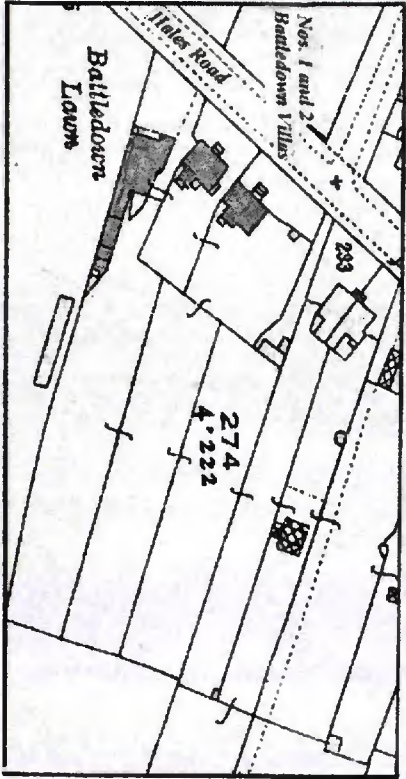
James Humphris was born in 1807 and was one of an industrious family of tradespeople and farmers. He and his brother Robert ran the Furnishing Ironmonger's business at 405, High Street and his other brother John owned a flourishing building firm in Keynsham Bank. James was married to Elizabeth, the daughter of the Cheltenham Postmaster, John Nicholson; they lived at Sandford House and raised eight children, though the first child, John, died at the age of four. The land that James had bought had no dwellings on it and the maps and census of 1851 show that this was still the case at that date. However, Charles Hale's bold improvement of Coltham Lane, which had been described as "just a muddy lane and a deep ditch before his changes" produced opportunities for the building of desirable residences close to Cheltenham which speculators and others were not slow to appreciate. Between 1852 and 1855 Humphris had three houses built on his land: one for himself and two to let for income. The architect and builder are not known but it seems unlikely that it would not have been kept in the family. Daniel James Humphris, James' cousin, born in 1806 was the owner of the large family building firm, Humphris



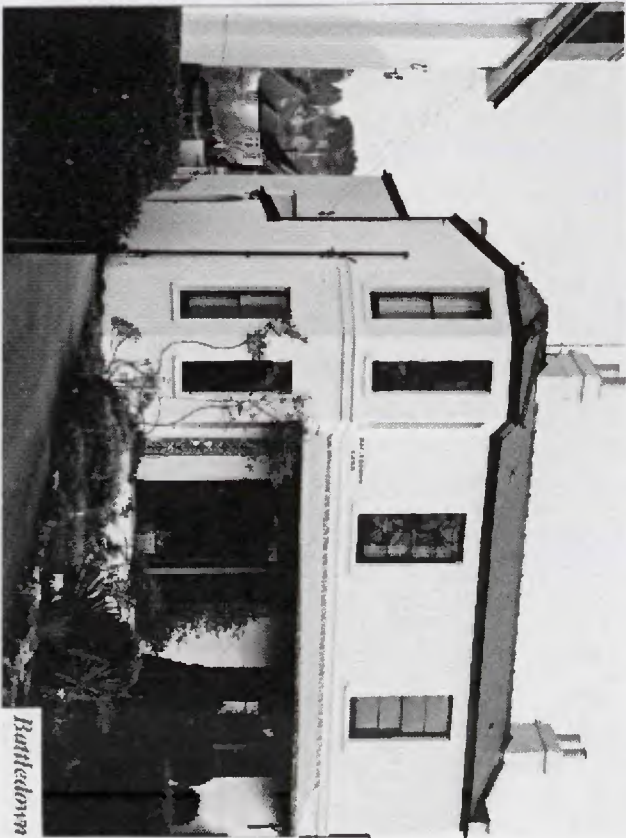
No. 1, Battledown Villas (with later extension)



No. 2, Battledown Villas (from the Battledown)



The 1923 map shows the eccentric siting of Humphreys' three houses, built between 1852 and 1855. It is possible that the original intention was to have two houses, each with roughly the same amount of land but the third house, Battledown Lawn, was added during the building process. This may account for the idiosyncratic shape and position of the latter, which, however, gives it its individual charm. The turret shape on the left front may be a later extension, though it was built by 1881.



Battledown

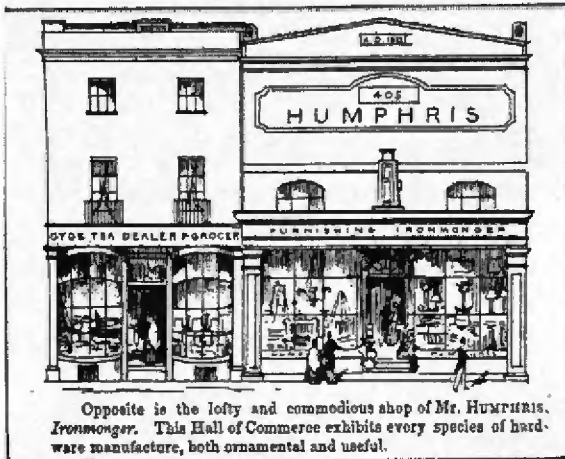
and Co, which employed 120 people. Daniel, who rose to be the Borough Surveyor, was a qualified architect who designed the General Hospital (1849) and the first Cheltenham College Chapel (1853). Daniel was very close to James and it must surely have been he.

The three houses were named, from left to right, Nos 1 and 2 Battledown Villas and Battledown Lawn. The two Villas were similar rectangular houses with a raised ground floor, cellars and steps to a central front door. Battledown Lawn was totally different, indeed eccentric in its siting and shape. The locations of the three houses raises the suspicion that the original plan was to build two only, with approximately equal plots, but a third was added at a later stage. The two Villas sit tightly against their southern boundaries while Battledown Lawn is wedge-shaped, with its front sloped back to increase its width. To further preserve the frontage, the main entrance has had to be moved to the side of the house and the domestic offices and outbuildings follow the main part of the house in a decreasingly thin tail. It is, nevertheless, a clever design which has produced a uniquely attractive house.

There is conflicting evidence of the order in which the three houses were built but 1856 appears to have been the year that the Humphris family moved. In that year James dissolved his partnership with Robert and in February an announcement of the wedding of their oldest daughter, Mary Ann, to another ironmonger, James Madgwick Attwood, gave her father's address as Battledown Lawn. In May of the same year Sandford House was advertised to let. However, Harper's Directory of 1857 listed James Humphris Esq of Battledown Villa with no number. There is some evidence that the two Villas were built before Battledown Lawn. The Battledown Estate map was drawn up around 1858, though the accuracy of the surrounding is uncertain. It shows two identical rectangular houses with central steps, which the Villas were, and no third house. It is therefore possible that Humphris moved into the first Villa, named it Battledown Lawn and then took the name with him to the third house when it was completed. For it was Battledown Lawn that was to be the new Humphris family home. In April 1858 No 1, Battledown Villa was advertised to let, apply Humphris, Battledown Lawn and by 1860 all three houses were occupied with Harry Hokins Tennant, Gentleman, and his family in No 1 and John Partridge, Grocer and Tea Dealer, and his family in No 2.

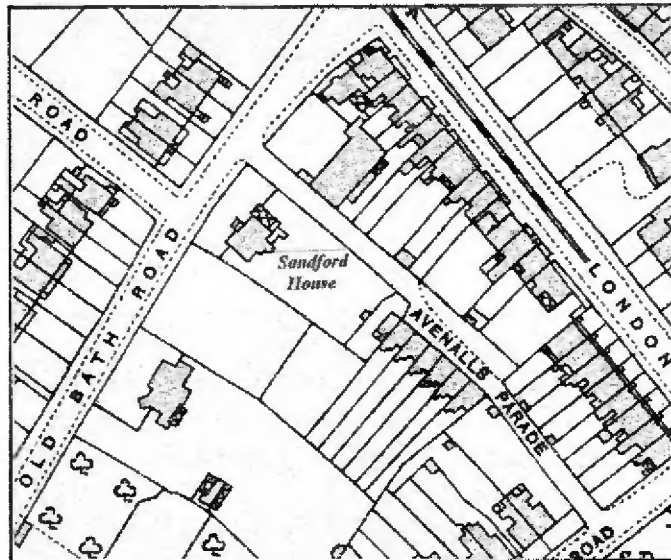
Battledown Lawn was not a happy house for the unfortunate Humphris. On 24 November 1859 his second daughter, Elizabeth, died there after a painful illness, aged 21. Ten months later, in October 1859, his only surviving son, James, also died at Battledown Lawn, after a lingering illness, also aged 21. On 23 March 1862 his wife's eldest sister, Mary, who had married Daniel Humphris, late of Southfield Farm, died at Battledown Lawn aged 65, and only five days later on 28 March, James Humphris also lost his wife Elizabeth, after four weeks' illness, at the age of 53. All four joined the infant son John in the family grave at St Mary's, Charlton Kings. The following year some joy appeared in the marriage of his daughter Jane to Richard Rogers, the dentist and later Mayor of Cheltenham, in "the Old Church" at Charlton. James stayed at Battledown Lawn until 1864, when he moved back to his original home at Sandford House. In 1863 and 1864 both the Villas were unoccupied but in 1865 John Storer Dumergue, a retired Indian Civil Servant, took up the lease of Battledown Lawn with his mother-in-law, Mrs Ann Brodie





*James Humphris' Ironmonger's shop at 405, High Street, as shown in George Rowe's Guide of 1845. Humphris began his business here with his brother Robert in 1837, converting the building from a Literary Saloon. The shop, later Humphris and Attwood, was demolished in 1954 and rebuilt with the neighbouring premises as a sports goods shop.*

*This 1923 map shows Sandford House on the Old Bath Road, which was James Humphris' original home before he moved to Battledown Lawn. He also owned the terraced properties in Avenall's Parade, behind the main house. He returned to Sandford House in 1864 after the death of his wife Elizabeth and died there on 30 October 1868. Despite that, as can be seen from the headstone below in St. Mary's, Charlton Kings, he preferred to be remembered as James Humphris, Late of Battledown Lawn.*



MacPherson, widow of Colonel Duncan MacPherson, late 78<sup>th</sup> (Seaforth) Highlanders. Battledown Lawn now appeared frequently in the "Fashionable Arrivals and Departures" columns of the local papers, since Mrs MacPherson's son was a Major General who was knighted and Lady MacPherson, children, nieces and grandchildren from India and Scotland came to and fro. In the 1871 census there were fourteen people at the house, including three servants. Both of the Villas were occupied too.

In January 1866 James Humphris decided to mortgage some of his properties. The reason is not known but subsequent events seem to indicate that, although rich in property, he may have had liquidity problems. As was quite common, the mortgagee was a clergyman of the Established Church, the Reverend James Jerram, together with James Brend Winterbotham, a well-known Cheltenham lawyer. The sum lent was £2,584 and the mortgaged properties were:

1. All those buildings used formerly as a Ball or Assembly Room and afterwards as News Rooms and a Library, and now as an Ironmonger's Shop and Showrooms situate in the High Street No 405, extending from there to Bath Street with the cottage erected thereon;
2. South Cambray House on the north side of Bath Street;
3. All that close or parcel of land in Coltham Field, 2 acres or thereabouts, and all those villas or messuages built upon the said land by the said James Humphris and known as Nos 1 and 2 Battledown Villas and Battledown Lawn, and now in occupation of Mr Partridge, James Roger Wilson and John Storer Dumergue Esq as tenants.

That this was not all the property he owned was made clear when James wrote his will on 31 October 1867. He appointed John M Attwood and Richard Rogers, his sons-in-law, and Daniel James Humphris, his cousin, as executors, who were to hold the will in trust until his youngest daughter Margaret was twenty one. She was then fifteen. He then divided his properties among his remaining five daughters as follows:

1. Mary Ann Attwood – 405, High Street and the adjoining cottage and South Cambray House, subject to her paying half of the outstanding mortgage of £2,584, and after her decease, equally between all her children and the issue of any child then dead.
2. Jane Rogers – Nos 1 and 2, Battledown Villas and Battledown Lawn, subject to her paying the other half of the mortgage, and with the same clause regarding children.
3. Ellen Humphris (later Madgwick) – Sandford House, with the same clause regarding children.
4. Maria Humphris – Five houses in Avenall Parade and Bath Cottages, again the same clause regarding children.
5. Margaret Humphris – Nos 410 and 410½ High Street, same clause regarding children.

James added that, in the event of any daughter not having issue, she could bequeath it to her husband. In the event only three of the daughters married; Mary Ellen had four children, Jane had none, and Ellen had seven. James had, of course, left the first two beneficiaries with a substantial debt to clear before obtaining their inheritance. Despite this, he had laid down that his daughters should not sell, mortgage, charge or in any way anticipate their life interest. However, he did not foresee that his provisos contained the seed of substantial legal problems.

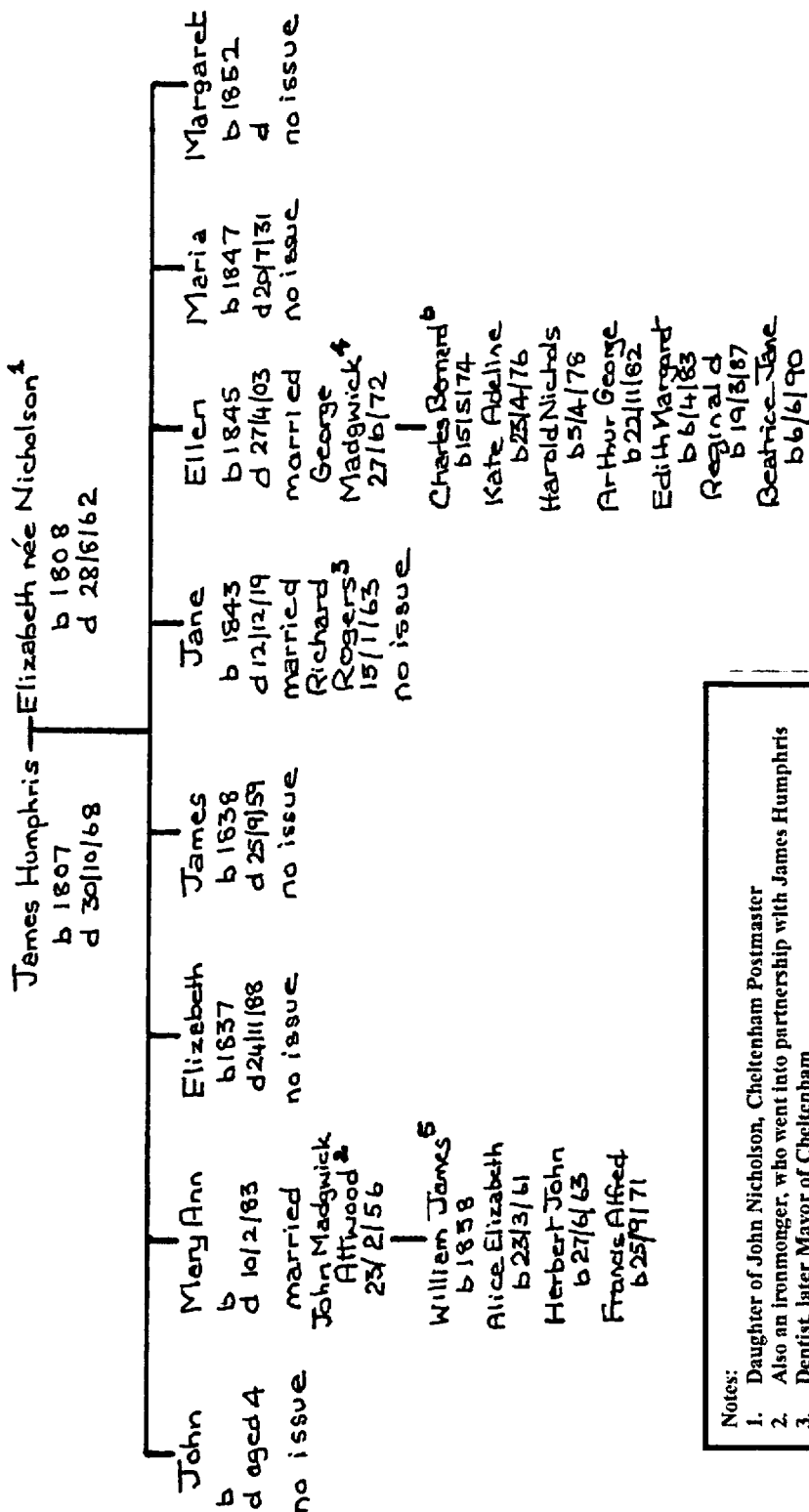
James Humphris died on 30 October 1868 at Sandford House, after a brief illness. It was recorded that "he had been for many years in business in Cheltenham and was well respected. He was one of the Charlton Kings representatives on the Cheltenham Union Board and a Member of the Charlton Kings Local Board". He was buried in the family grave at St Mary's. Although he had spent his previous four years at Sandford House, his grave shows him as "late of Battledown Lawn" and this was a measure of the status he attached to his old home. By 1880 neither of his two beneficiaries, whose husbands were executors of the will, had cleared the mortgage as required. Daniel James Humphris, the other executor, had died in 1879 and so had the mortgagee, the Reverend Jerram. More legal documents were required to transfer the mortgage to his son, also a clergyman. The surviving executors decided to sell the High Street properties, which they did to Thomas Ralph Jackson, a grocer, for £3,300. This appeared to have closed the matter but it had not.

Rogers and his wife Jane never lived in their properties, which were let for between £50 and £65 per year. In 1871 Rogers had built Ferncliffe on Oakley Road of the Battledown Estate, from where he could see and walk directly to the three houses he owned below on Hale's Road. The spinster daughters, Maria and Margaret Humphris, lived with the Rogers. In 1894 the Rogers moved to the newly built Battledown Court, where they stayed until 1909, before moving to St Stephen's Manor. For this move, Richard and Jane Rogers mortgaged the Battledown Villas and Battledown Lawn, originally with the solicitors Winterbothams, but then by transfer to another clergyman, the Reverend Samuel Edwin Bartlett of Dursley Rectory, an Honary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral. Alderman Colonel Richard Rogers, JP, VD, died in 1914. In February 1917 Jane Rogers sold Battledown Lawn to the Reverend A M Maclean of Highnam Vicarage, after first enfranchising the copyhold, making it freehold. This was effected by making a one-time payment to the Lord of the Manor. She was a little premature, since by Part V of the Law of Property Act 1922, all copyhold land was enfranchised and the system of copyhold ended. Jane Rogers died in 1920, and this appeared to end the connection between Battledown Lawn, the Villas and the Humphris family, but it had not.

Battledown Lawn was the first of the three houses to be sold, as opposed to let, and there were signs that there was a problem about ownership of the houses. This was confirmed when in 1917, forty nine years after James Humphris had died, a High Court judge ruled that "in the matter of 1 and 2 Battledown Villas and Battledown Lawn, settled by a settlement created by the will of James Humphris of 3 December 1867" it was necessary to appoint three new trustees of his will. They were Herbert John Attwood, younger son of Mary Ann Attwood, née Humphris, John Burt Folliot, a bank clerk who had been an



## The Family of James Humphris, Ironmonger



Notes:

1. Daughter of John Nicholson, Cheltenham Postmaster
2. Also an ironmonger, who went into partnership with James Humphris
3. Dentist, later Mayor of Cheltenham
4. Probably related to John Madgwick Attwood
5. All children born in Cheltenham. "The Attwood Beneficiaries"
6. All children born in Lewes, Sussex. "The Madgwick Beneficiaries"
7. James Snr, Elizabeth Snr, John, Elizabeth Jnr, James Jnr and Maria are all buried in St. Mary's churchyard, Charlton Kings, in grave D002, together with Mary, sister of Elizabeth Humphris, who married Daniel Humphris of Southfield Farm.

executor of Richard Rogers' will, and Charles Bernard Madgewick, eldest child of Ellen Madgewick, née Humphris. A second High Court ruling established a number of beneficiaries under the will, essentially the two surviving daughters and nine grandchildren of James Humphris. It is not stated what the flaw in the execution of James Humphris' will was, though references to "various subsidiary events and devolutions at law" were mentioned. However, it appears that the terms of the will had not been met, in that payments of the mortgage on the High Street properties and the three Hale's Road houses had been met by the trustees from the £3,300 obtained by selling the High Street properties alone. Jane Rogers, had not, therefore, paid her half of the outstanding mortgage and thus did not have sole title to all three houses.

The effect of this was shown when No 2 Battledown Villas was sold in October 1923. The sale was between the Beneficiaries under the Will of James Humphris and Commander W E Sherwell, Royal Indian Marine. Sherwell paid £950 for the house and he did so by making eleven different payments, totalling £950 in all, to those whom the judge had identified as the Attwood Beneficiaries, the Madgewick Beneficiaries and the two surviving spinster sisters, Maria and Margaret Humphris. Each of the four entities had a quarter share. The sale of Battledown Lawn to Reverend Maclean was not affected in this way, presumably as it was accepted that Jane Rogers had her own putative share at the time of the sale. It is not known whether this arrangement also applied to the first sale of No 1 Battledown Villas. Thus it had taken fifty six years to put James Humphris' will to rest and to put an end to a veritable bonanza for lawyers.

## AN AGREEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT

By Jane Sale

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Having prepared a display for the October Local History Meeting in Gloucester on the subject "A Fair Day's Work for a Fair Day's Wage", it was interesting to come across a document describing an Agreement of Employment in a deposit made by Jessops the solicitors.<sup>1</sup> It was made on 16 April 1917 between Alfred Willie [sic] Martyn, trading as the Gloucestershire Aircraft Co, of Cheltenham manufacturer (the Employer) and Charles Henry Denley of Charlton Kings cashier (the Employee). It was agreed as follows:

1. The Employer shall employ the Employee as Cashier Accountant and Book-keeper in his business at Cheltenham during a period of five years from 1 March 1917 upon terms and subject to stipulations and conditions hereinafter contained.

2. During the continuance of his employment the Employee shall

a) devote the whole of his time and attention during business hours to the business of the employer, and not be engaged or employed in any capacity in assisting or carrying on of any other business whatsoever, and not be interested or concerned directly or indirectly in any company or firm whether the business is or is not of a similar nature or may compete with that of the Employer.

b) at all times faithfully obey and perform all lawful and reasonable requirements and commands of the Employer according to the best of his skill and ability and with due punctuality and dispatch.

c) at all times conduct himself honestly and properly in the course of such service towards the Employer, his customers and all other persons with whom he transacts business, and also towards all other clerks and employees of the Employer.

d) not at any time, except with the consent of the Employer, or in case of sickness or unavoidable accident, be absent from the Employer's place of business during business hours, provided always that the Employee shall be entitled to two weeks holiday in each year at such time as the Employer thinks fit,

e) not in any way pledge or attempt to pledge the credit of the Employer and not deliver to any person upon credit any of the employer's goods or merchandise which may from time to time be under his care, without previous consent of the Employer.

f) use his best endeavours to promote the interests and extend the business of the Employer and not at any time do anything which may cause any loss or damage to the Employer in reputation or otherwise.

3. The Employee shall not, either during the term of his employment or at any time thereafter divulge or disclose to any person, company or firm, any information concerning the business or affairs of the Employer, or of his customers, or others of any

secret entrusted to him or coming to his knowledge in the course of his employment for his own benefit or to the detriment of the Employer.

4. The Employer shall pay to the Employee for his services a salary at the rate of £208 per annum by equal monthly payments on the last day of every month during continuance of his employment, so long as the Employee shall observe the agreements on his part herein contained; and in case of the Employee being unable to fulfill his duties in consequence of illness or accident, the Employer will (on production of a medical certificate) pay to the Employee in any one year during the first month of such incapacity a salary at the rate of £208 per annum and for the following month a salary at rate of £104 per annum, after which period no salary will be paid. (£208 p.a. would be the equivalent of £18,600 today)

5. In the event of the Employee becoming incapacitated for two calendar months by illness or any other cause from performing his duties, the Employer may, at any time after the expiration of any such period if the incapacity continues, determine this agreement on giving to the employee one calendar month's notice in writing. At the expiration of such notice the Employee shall receive a sum equivalent to one month's salary at the rate of £104 per annum. If such illness be the result of the conduct of the Employee, and also in the event of the Employee committing an act of bankruptcy, or being guilty of misconduct, then the Employer shall be at liberty to determine this agreement without notice and without any salary beyond such proportion of it as shall be due.

6. If employment continues after the expiry of the period mentioned in clause 1, the same may then be determined by either party on giving to the other one month's notice in writing and until any fresh agreement, verbally or otherwise entered into, between Employer and Employee the continued employment shall be upon the same terms and subject to the same provisions.

7. In the event of a Company being formed to acquire the said business of the Employer, this agreement shall be assignable by the Employer to such new Company, but such assignment by the Employer shall provide for the said new Company accepting and adopting this agreement in its entirety and subject to such acceptance and adoption by the said new company the Employee shall have no further claim upon the Employer.

The document was signed by Charles Henry Denley. Another document in the same collection showed that he was still in employment twelve years later, when he witnessed an agreement between H H Martyn and Co and Lloyds Bank on 15 January 1929.<sup>2</sup> This concerned the borrowing of a large amount of money, so Charles was obviously a reliable and trusted employee.

Mary Southerton has undertaken some research on Charles Henry Denley and found that he was born in Cheltenham in 1891, the son of Ernest, a paper hangar, and Florence Denley. By 1911 he was working as a clerk for a building firm and living with his widowed mother in Rosehill Street. He married Edith Cook, who had also lived in



Rosehill Street, in 1914. The next time details were found about him was in a Directory dated 1924, when he was living at Eastleigh, Ryeworth Road. As his 'Agreement of Employment' was made in 1917 it is unlikely that he was called up during the war. His work for the Gloucestershire Aircraft Co would be sufficiently important to be exempt from active service with the forces. It seems likely that he and Edith rented accommodation as they moved house quite frequently – Maer Lodge in Cirencester Road from 1929 to 1933, then Wyesham, London Road in 1936 followed by No 93, London Road in 1940 (this might be the same house). The last record of Charles was in 1961 when he was living at 169, London Road.

**References:** <sup>1</sup> GA D2202 Box 48/373.      <sup>2</sup> GA D2202 Box 48/1330

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## **THE CHURCH PIECE CHAPEL 1828-1837**

**By Martin Leonard**

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All that remains is the corner of a car park, and what there was only lasted for about nine years. It was a chapel, but if it ever had a name even that is lost. So it is hardly even a footnote to our local history, but it is documented and should perhaps be recorded in case it links in with better-known places of worship in Charlton Kings.

The document concerned is an indenture of 1828, found among an uncatalogued deposit in the Gloucestershire Archives deposited by the firm Jessops, solicitors<sup>1</sup>. It records that a chapel was to be set up, with nine men named as trustees, on a piece of ground with a frontage of 74 feet on the east side of Horsefair Street running northwards from Grange Walk. The depth was only 22 feet. A building was already there : '... a Chapel or building for religious worship has been erected' – but it is not clear when or who by. The nine trustees followed a variety of trades, from grocer to marble mason, and all were said to be from Cheltenham. Four can be identified with reasonable certainty in the 1841 census, and of these just one, Samuel Ockford, a cabinet maker, was then living, with his wife Mary, in Park Street, Charlton Kings.

Legal documents, then as now, are rarely noted for clarity, and this one has a few errors and some major gaps as well. In the indenture, the nine trustees agree with four other parties a complex web of transactions involving trusts, mortgages and releases which would at this point be difficult if not impossible to disentangle, and not only because three of the people involved are referred to as 'the said A.B.' even though none of the

three has previously been mentioned. One can only wonder what Samuel Ockford, cabinet maker and local resident, made of it all before signing his name as a trustee. But the general picture is fairly clear: the nine trustees and their successors, could set up and maintain a chapel in the building, but subject to meeting the mortgage and rental payments referred to (though not all the figures are stated).

So what sort of a chapel was it to be? In *A History of Charlton Kings*, Mary Paget calls it a Methodist chapel, and certainly there were later Methodist connections involving the building. But the indenture makes no reference to any denomination (surely a major omission), and also includes items which indicate a denomination other than Methodist. The contents of the indenture appear unbalanced, in the light of what one might think were the priorities of the time, not just because of the preferences of later historians. There is much detail about the way that the trustees were to maintain a working number, and even more about the role of the treasurer and the care and expenditure of funds, but little about the membership conditions or even what the particular beliefs and activities of the members were to be. So all one can attempt now is to look at such information as the indenture contains, and so at least narrow down the possibilities.

First, 'the said chapel and premises [were] to be used as a place of worship by protestant dissenters professing the doctrines embraced in the assemblies [*sic*] catechism and for no other purpose'.

Second, 'the choice of ... ministers ... and also of the deacons for the said chapel and also their discharge shall be vested in the [trustees] until a church membership shall be formed, and afterwards by them or him [i.e. the minister and deacons] and a majority of two-thirds of the then members of the said chapel duly assembled according to the usual mode in churches of the like principles'.

Third, 'the minister, with the consent of the ... majority of other members ... may admit to the sacrament but not to church fellowship any persons who shall acknowledge the doctrines aforesaid though they may differ from the said chapel with respect to Baptism and Church Government'.

A full analysis of these points might be thought superfluous, given that the chapel lasted only nine years (apparently because the payments due to others could not be maintained). But Methodists would be unlikely to refer to themselves as 'protestant dissenters', and the appointment of Methodist ministers is not made by the local church, as was to be the rule here. The distinction between church fellowship or membership and admission to the sacrament (i.e. to the communion service) is characteristic of what are now mainly the 'Free evangelical' churches, which do appoint their own ministers locally rather than on an area or national basis. But, given that the indenture refers, rather surprisingly, to a 'catechism' but fails to mention any of its key features, that is as far as one can go.

**Ref:**

<sup>1</sup> Gloucestershire Archives D2202/ Box 52

# THE REVEREND SEYMOUR GODWIN CHANCE

By Mary Southerton

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1913 a new curate was appointed to St Mary's Charlton Kings, the 22 year old Seymour Godwin Chance. He was to replace the Rev. Marriot, who had married Dorothy Vassar-Smith and moved to the parish of St John's Torquay prior to this. The Rev. Chance was still a deacon but was to be ordained priest on the coming Trinity Sunday, at Gloucester. The priest in charge at this time was the Rev Edgar Neale.



Looking at the relevant census returns we find that Seymour was born in 1889 in Hereford, the eldest son of Thomas and Jessie Chance. His father was a solicitor and newspaper proprietor. By 1901 the family had moved to Streatham where his father was described only as a solicitor. In the 1911 census Seymour is at Litchfield Theological College, a student of Divinity and living with other students. His parents were by now living at Westbury on Severn. This may account for the fact that on his arrival in Charlton Kings, the local paper described him, as 'belonging to an old local family'. Having completed his studies in 1912 Seymour became a curate at Dymock. In St Mary's parish magazine of November 1912, the Vicar writes that he has secured the Rev. Chance, and in January we learn that he will arrive in the parish at the end of the month and will be living at Avening, Cirencester Road. He had been guaranteed £140 p.a. and if possible the Vicar would

like to raise it to £150, as he is entirely dependant on his stipend. He was having to work hard studying to pass his Bishop's examination prior to his ordination.

As the curate he was working mainly with the children of the parish. In February he addressed the junior guilds and in March he addressed the children. Over Easter he preached at various children's services at St Mary's and was allowed to preach at the Ham Mission. Reports must have been favourable, because he preached at the Choral Eucharist at

St Mary's on Ascension day. The April church magazine reported that he had passed his examination and his ordination would take place in Gloucester Cathedral on Trinity Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>. However he had only been in the parish a year when his health began to suffer and the doctor recommended a move. The Rev Neale hoped he would be able to stay until after Christmas but it was not to be. He obviously left very quickly for in his farewell letter, addressed to 'My Very Dear Friends', he wrote, "I had hoped to have a few more weeks with you. However it has proved impossible, for I am compelled to go away at once (it is no use trying to argue with doctors)". He seems to have enjoyed his time at Charlton Kings.

He moved to All Saints, Hastings where he remained from 1914 to 1921, perhaps the doctor thought sea air would do him good. Having had several moves as a curate, he became Vicar of All Saints, Hereford in 1929, where he remained twenty seven years, until 1956. He then moved to Worcestershire, now aged 67, where he held several posts within the Diocese. In 1958 he retired to Malvern Link where he died in 1962 aged 72.

## CHARLTON KINGS CATTLE TROUGHS

By Alan Underwood

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The Metropolitan Free Drinking Fountain Association was founded in London on 12 April 1859 by Samuel Gurney, the philanthropic MP for Penrhyn and Falmouth and nephew of Elizabeth Fry. The aim of the organisation was to provide free, clean drinking fountains in the metropolis in the days when a clean supply of drinking water was often unavailable. The first drinking fountain, paid for entirely by Samuel Gurney, was opened amid scenes of public rejoicing on 21 April 1859, in the boundary railings of St Sepulchre's Church EC1A. In 1867 the fountain was dismantled to allow the construction of the nearby Holborn Viaduct but was re-instated in a slightly modified form, in 1913. The fountain is still present today in the church railings just a stone's throw from The Old Bailey.

The R.S.P.C.A. soon recognised the value of the new Association and as a result a large number of troughs were erected to provide free water for cattle, sheep, horses and dogs, prompting the Association to change its name to The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association in 1867. By 1877 the Society's reputation was well established and many influential patrons offered support. Queen Victoria donated £100 for both a fountain and an animal trough in Esher, Surrey, both of which are still there today alongside the busy Portsmaouth Road just along from Sandown Park racecourse.

The earliest troughs were constructed of iron or timber with zinc lining. None of the brittle iron troughs, or easily damaged wooden troughs, survive today. Granite was soon adopted as the most durable material and was used for cattle troughs until about 1914 when a cheaper material, granolithic (a mixture of cement and granite), became available. Although most of the early troughs and fountains were erected in central London the need for a clean water supply for both people and animals across the country, and abroad, extended the geographical range of the Association. Cattle troughs were erected in most counties in the UK, often with the co-operation of local branches of the R.S.P.C.A. or similar organisations such as the dumb Friends League (now The Blue Cross).

A total of 24 cattle troughs were erected in Gloucestershire including two in Charlton Kings. According to the MDCFTA records, the first of these was erected on 19 December 1912, somewhere near the Railway Station. It was a bequest of Leslie Young in collaboration with the Cheltenham branch of the R.S.P.C.A.. The cost of the construction and transportation of the 9ft 6in trough from London was £49.9s.6d. The second trough, slightly smaller at 6ft 6in, was erected on 16 June 1924, again with the co-operation of the local R.S.P.C.A. at the east end of Charlton Kings.

My interest in these troughs and fountains started when I noticed several of them in the Clerkenwell area of central London where I used to work. I wondered how many were still extant in London and resolved to track down all the remaining structures. I have recently extended my search across the rest of the UK.



In September 2010 I contacted the Charlton Kings Local History Society for help, with the hope that local knowledge could locate the current whereabouts of the two troughs. Jane Sale was kind enough to provide me with a photo of the trough presented in 1924 in front of the Duke of York Inn on the London Road [Bulletin 26]; and another photo of a barely discernable trough on Ashgrove Farm [Bulletin 34].

The name 'Ashgrove Farm' caught my attention because the MDFCTA records also describe a 9ft 6in trough originally erected in Pitsea, Essex in 1920 and moved to Southam in 1926, with an intriguing handwritten note "possibly moved to Ashgrove Farm". Was the trough in the photo from Jane the one that had travelled from Pitsea to Southam?

In November 2010 I embarked on a field trip to Gloucestershire to inspect another extant trough in Andoversford and investigate the trough at Ashgrove. The trough has survived and is now serving as a plant-container. With the permission of the owner of the property I took several photos of the trough including this one.



Although the fountain-head, dog-trough (normally underneath) and plinth etc have been lost, the trough at Ashgrove Farm, which I measured as as 6ft 6in in length, is almost certainly the one erected in 1924 at Charlton Kings East End. With one mystery solved, I still have to track down the trough erected near Charlton Kings station and the one that was possibly moved from Pitsea to Southam in 1926 (amongst several hundred others!)

[Alan Underwood's search continues, so if any reader can add any information to this account please contact him at [info@londontroughs.co.uk](mailto:info@londontroughs.co.uk) ]

## **CHARLTON KINGS COMMON WALLING PROJECT**

**By Wayne Sedgwick**

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The project outlined below is nearly at completion and is the result of a year's work of grant finding and commitment from a number of different people/organisations. Organisations such as Cheltenham Borough Council, Natural England, The Cotswold Conservation Board, Friends of Leckhampton Hill, Gloucestershire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, The Summerfield Trust and Gloucestershire Entrust. Mr Daniel Powell, the neighbouring farmer, has been instrumental in allowing us vehicular access and a site compound. The work on the wall has been carried out by Cotswold Estates and Gardens

Originally Charlton Kings Common was bounded by around 4.5 km of historic stone wall, most of which has now disintegrated having not been maintained for many decades. The aspiration long term is to completely replace the whole length of wall. At present the Borough Council was fortunate to be offered a percentage grant to rebuild 1300m of the southern boundary utilising European funding, meaning that the Council would also have to find a percentage of the project cost. We were offered the funding mainly due to the hill's status as a Site of Special and Scientific Interest where, with the help from Natural England we are trying to achieve a "favourable condition" for the site, which is a government target for all such sites.

It is designated as a S.S.I. because of its 'unimproved limestone grasslands' and nationally significant geological exposures. It is one of the top twenty of ninety six 'unimproved limestone grassland' sites within the Cotswolds AONB.

The project is part of a wider project to re-initiate extensive grazing on the common as would have been in the past. Grazing is used as the traditional way to conserve such areas as the common, mainly due to the aspect/gradient on the north facing scarp, where mechanical/manpower is restricted due to steepness. At present and within the next year the rest of the boundary will be fenced to completely enclose the area. The fencing erection will probably not occur until October or November. Prior to this I have to apply to the Planning Inspectorate. Extensive consultation has been carried out with the local community to get us to this point.

The project halted in June 2010 due to funding reasons but fortunately within six months more funding was granted and the project was restated in December. To date 1000m has been completed. We intend to reach 1260m by 31<sup>st</sup> March as unfortunately we are still around £40,000 short, which due to the current financial climate will be difficult to find.



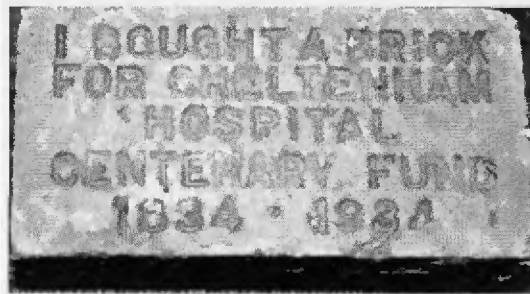


## THE CENTENARY BRICK

By David O'Connor

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In early 2010 I received a request for a copy of “The Hole in the Ground – The Story of the Battledown Brickworks” from a lady in Hales Road, whose house bordered on to the territory once occupied by Webb’s Brickworks. In the course of delivering the item, her husband produced a miniature brick which he had found embedded in the house brickwork while making some changes. Measuring about four by two and a half inches, the brick was a substantial receipt for a donation to the Cheltenham General Hospital Centenary Appeal Fund in 1934.



The old Hospital had been funded by voluntary subscription but by the 1930s state-aided and rate-aided hospitals were coming into existence to meet the increasing demand for medical care. Cheltenham General was badly in need of a building programme: the waiting list was steadily growing and in June 1934 *The Echo* reported that over 80 people were waiting to go into a hospital too crowded to find room for them. The Centenary year was set to raise a target of £40,000 by the Chairman of the Board, the Rev. R.H.M. Bouth.

This was an enormous sum, equivalent to about £1.1 million today, needed to build a new block for Eye, Ear and Throat patients next to the General Hospital on the Sandford Road site, to enlarge the women’s wards, build balconies and establish a patients’ lift. Subscriptions were sought from the wealthy and not so wealthy and many organisations made their own events, appeals and collections. By June 1934 voluntary subscriptions from individuals and clubs had raised some £12,000. The highlight of the year was the carnival, starting with stalls all along the Promenade selling a variety of delights. The Promenade event was followed by a massive procession to Pittville, where a fete was held in the evening. People turned out in their thousands to wind up the day. “Cheltenham Capitulates to the Spirit of Carnival” and “Huge Crowds Support Hospital Effort” trumpeted *the Echo*, adding “It used to be said that Cheltenham was poor, proud and pretty but it is demonstrably untrue today”.

Webbs’ Brickworks supported the appeal and it is probable that the miniature brick came from the Battledown Works. However, that may be, we have very solid evidence that at least one citizen of Charlton Kings supported the Centenary Fund Appeal.

## A COMMON LAW MARRIAGE

By Jane Sale

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[I am grateful to Judy Kimber to alerting me to this excerpt from the Bishop's Court Book 1606 – 1609] <sup>1</sup>

### PAGE 343

**CASE** Margery Bellinger v John Dickinson  
Matrimonial

**DATE** 17 September 1607

**DEPONENTS** John Jones, mercer, of Charlton Kings. Lived there 10 Years. Born Down Ampney. Aged 47  
Grace Jones, wife of John Jones, mercer, of Charlton Kings. Married and lived there 9 years. Born there. Aged 32  
Edith Bellinger, spinster, of Charlton Kings. Born and lives there. Aged 26. On the part of Margery Bellinger.

### DEPOSITIONS (abstract)

John Jones said that there had been a feeling for the last six months or so that Margery Bellinger and John Dickinson should be married together and for all that time they have been very familiar with each other. On the Thursday before last mid-Lent Sunday John Dickinson and Margery Bellinger, accompanied by the mother and sister of Margery, came to Jones' house in Charlton Kings and contracted themselves together in the presence of him, Grace Jones, his wife, Sibell Bellenger [sic], Margery's mother, and Edie Bellenger, Margery's sister. John Dickinson took Margery Bellinger by the right hand with his right hand and said to her, "Margery, I do here give thee my hand, my faith and my troth and before God and this company do promise to make thee my wedded wife and to marry with thee", to which, she, holding his hand, said "John, I do here give thee my hand, my faith and my troth and before God and this company do promise to make thee my wedded husband." Thereupon they kissed and wished that God might confound him or her that first departed from their contract or promise. Since then Dickinson has bought a girdle of crewel and a pair of gloves from him [John the mercer] and given them to Margery as a token of his love. Since the contract he has acknowledged before John Vaughan and Alice, his wife, of Oxenton, and before a butcher of Bishop's Cleeve, that he and Margery were contracted together in matrimony.

All this is confirmed by Grace Jones and Edith Bellinger.



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All this is confirmed by Grace Jones and Edith Bellinger.

This appears to be an example of a Common Law Marriage taking place in a private house without benefit of any clergy. The fact that it took place during Lent may be relevant – during the Middle Ages the Church had forbidden marriage during Advent, Lent and Rogationtide. Advent remained unpopular until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and Lent remained a prohibited period. If we read between the lines of the deposition we can deduce that Margery may have been heavily pregnant by the time of the ceremony. Unfortunately there does not appear to be any record of the outcome of this case, which took place about six months after the ceremony..

### Reference.

<sup>1</sup> GDR/100/p343

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## NOTES AND QUERIES

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1. In Bulletin 56 I wrote an article entitled “Why was 12 inches so important?”. David Young kindly wrote to give me his views on this matter explaining that ‘it might be possible that the sale of this strip of land was a “tidying up” of uncertainty in land boundaries so that the fence could be erected without disagreement from the involved parties. Possibly there had been an unclear definition in title deeds?’ David went on to say how he was reminded of a similar situation in his employment with a major charity in the City of London: a property owned for centuries was sold and soon after our shamefaced solicitor contacted him to say that a triangular piece of land, no side more than six foot, had not been included in the conveyance! It was because of re-alignments of pavements, road etc. The matter was settled satisfactorily but several thousand pounds were involved!

Thank you very much David, I’m sure you have provided the answer. Also thank you for informing me about Sunnybank Farm. According to David’s 1927 Cheltenham Street Directory it was next to the New Reservoir Inn on the London Road, with William Henry Parslow, farmer, as occupant.

2. A Society member passed on to me the following information: There is a memorial at St David’s Station, Exeter to men of the GWR who died in the second world war. A number of men from Cheltenham are names but also:

Engineering Department Charlton Kings: Bloxome W J, Bubb F, Howes W F

This memorial was re-dedicated by the Bishop of Exeter on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1995 on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the second world war in Europe and in remembrance of those GWR employees who died in service 1939-1945.

## BOOK REVIEW

By Jane Sale

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Three new books relating to the History of Cheltenham were published during the summer months of 2010. Three very different books but together providing local historians with invaluable additions to their book shelves.

**1. Gloucestershire Record Series Volume 24. The Court Books of the Manor of Cheltenham 1692 – 1803. Edited by James Hodson. Published by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society.**

The main content of this book comprises the edited abstracts of some 4000 entries in the court books of the manor court of Cheltenham from 1692 to 1803, which are housed in the Gloucestershire Archives. 1692 marks the start of an unbroken run of records, a direct legacy of the good practices restored by John Prinn, court steward for over 40 years. The finishing point of 1803 brings the account up to the era of the Cheltenham Inclosure Award.

Apart from these edited abstracts there is an informative Introduction covering such aspects as Cheltenham Hundred and Manor; Summary History of the Manor; Location and Frequency of Courts; Court Procedure, and Analysis. There are lists of the Lords of the Manor and their Stewards for the period and Cheltenham Bailiffs from 1691 to 1728; an Account of some Memorable Antiquities collected by John Prinn; and an explanation of The Cheltenham Act 1625.

Finally the book is indexed under: A – Persons; B – Manorial Properties and Boundary Features; C – Places of Origin; D – Occupations, Offices, Professions and Qualities; and E – Selected Subjects. Such detailed, and accurate, indexing is of enormous help to researchers.

Altogether this book is a scholarly but approachable work, which every local historian interested in the transfer of land in Cheltenham, Leckhampton, Swindon Village and Charlton Kings during the 18<sup>th</sup> century should have on their shelves.

**2. Cheltenham A New History by Anthea Jones. Published by Carnegie Publishing Co.**

The author herself answers the question ‘Why another book on Cheltenham?’ In the preface she states “This book approaches the history of Cheltenham from a different standpoint. It attempts to unravel the factors that underlie the topography and street plan of the present town. It focuses particularly on questions of land ownership and social and

economic structure, comparing these with other Gloucestershire towns, and reveals some unappreciated aspects of this town's history.”

The reader is immediately struck by the quantity, and quality, of the illustrations. There is hardly a page of text without a map, a reproduction of an old document, or a photograph of the countryside, a church or house. Each of these has quite extensive explanatory notes, which make very interesting reading, but rather interrupt the flow of the main text. In fact I found the most satisfactory way to appreciate this book and get the most out of it, was to treat it almost as two separate works, by looking at the illustrations first and their accompanying notes to give an overall picture, and then to go on to study the main text which is packed with detailed information on every page.

This book will grace many a coffee table for the interest and enjoyment gained from the illustrations, but also take a prominent place on many serious local historians' shelves as an invaluable reference book.

### **3. Cheltenham Past and Present. By David Hanks. Published by the History Press.**

This book is a photographic record of the development of Cheltenham and its near neighbours from the early 1900s to the present day. The author has arranged two photographs on each page, an old one and a contemporary one. This makes it easy to compare and contrast the two views. He has also added historical notes to accompany them – some I feel of rather tentative veracity.

There has been some disappointment expressed that the contemporary photos are not in colour, but I think that would have jarred with the old ones. In fact one of the striking aspects of this book is the quality of the early photographs.

There is a very informative Introduction concerning the early days of photography in the town. Apparently Cheltenham was surprisingly early – its first photographic studio opened in September 1841. By 1900 there were 18 independent photographic businesses in the town.

This book has given, and will continue to give much pleasure to many people and is a valuable addition to any collection of local historical books.

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**The Editor would like to record her gratitude  
to 'Mike of Top Flight'  
for all the good advice and help  
he has provided over the years**