

**NORTH WANSDYKE
PAST
AND
PRESENT**



Keynsham & Salford Local History Society

No. 10, 1998

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Cover illustration: Percy Baker's first shop in Keynsham High Street.

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The Domestic Accounts of a Keynsham Housewife 1935-1939

Barbara J. Lowe (ed.)

[Please see accompanying plan and list for location of traders mentioned in the text.

Money is quoted in Sterling.

£1 = 20 shillings; (s) = 240 pennies (d); = 480 halfpennies ($\frac{1}{2}$ d); = 960 farthings ($\frac{1}{4}$ d)

1 new pence (p) = 2.4 old pence (d)

1 old penny (d) = .4166 new pence (p)

1 shilling (s) = 12d = 4.9992p

A form of shorthand was often used, so that £4-3s-6d was written 4/3/6.]

Emily Sarah Louisa, daughter of Farnham George Budgett and Sylvia Sarah King, was born in 1869. She married Samuel John Harris II, son of Samuel John Harris I and Annie Oatway, in Clifton on 19th July 1894.

Sam and Emily came to live at 5, Abbey Park, Keynsham in 1894. This was then owned by Emily's father but his executors sold it to Samuel in 1915 for £800. Their only son, King Oatway (Rex) Harris, who was born 28th December 1902, became very well known in Keynsham. When Rex married Lena Hilary Vowles, they came to live at 'Abbey Mead' which Hilary's father, Frederick, had purchased from the Gibbons family about 1924 (although the Vowles had lived there since 1906). So all Rex had to do was to pack his shaving kit and walk across Abbey Park field (now Keynsham Park) to his in-laws house.

Number 5 Abbey Park is a large, substantial, stone, semidetached villa, built as part of a select Victorian development on the northern perimeter of the former precinct of Keynsham Abbey. Its sloping back garden extends eastwards down to the River Chew and is terraced by a low, Medieval, North to South wall whose foundations continue under Keynsham Memorial Park towards the bypass. Abbey Park, a private road, terminates at a field gate, just beyond the property.

Emily Harris's accounts cover the period November 1934 to July 1939, when their children had married and left home and the household consisted of Emily, Sam, Fanny their living-in maid and Mrs Green who came in 2 or 3 days a week to clean and Harper the gardener. Emily makes occasional references to personal and family events such as the birth and christening of a grand daughter, weddings, funerals, holidays, hailstorms (severe one, very cold, 2nd June 1936), burst pipes (October 1936) and a grandson's first day at school. Emily herself fell downstairs on 1st July 1937 and broke her thigh, and as a result, remained a cripple until her death in 1948. Reading through the accounts, one is immediately struck by the contrast between the present way of life in Keynsham and that here before World War 2. Although officially a market town, Keynsham was then essentially still a

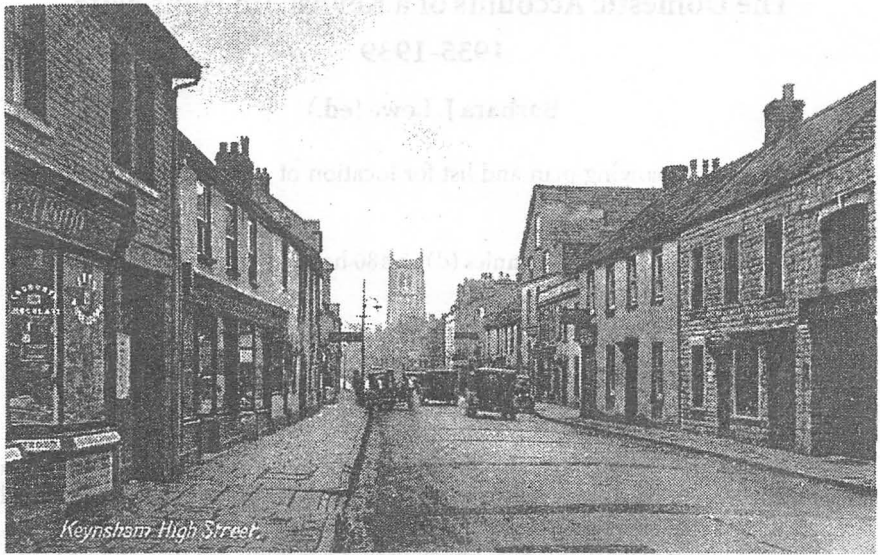


Fig. 1: Keynsham High Street, c.1928.

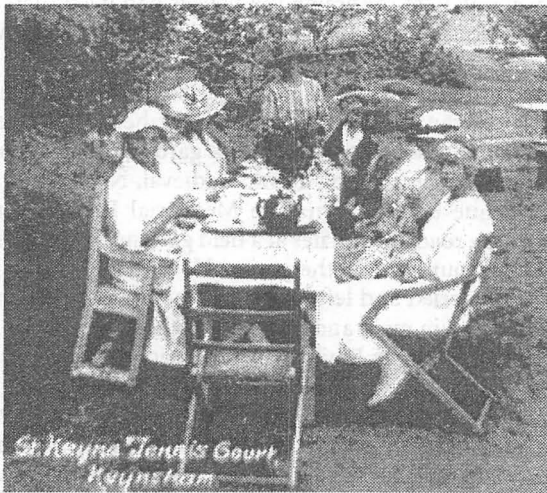


Fig. 2: St Keyna Tennis Club

village, a rural community. Families were close-knit, its members mutually supportive and neighbours unhesitatingly helpful. The Church or Chapel (as in the Budgett/Harris family) was the central pivot and community activities were almost universally supported. The family still has the silver-plated trowel from the Foundation Stone-Laying of the Keynsham Wesleyan Chapel and Schools by Mrs Budgett in September 1886. The emphasis was not on material things but on the welfare of family and friends. A glance at the enclosed list of High Street shops in 1935, will show the wide variety of goods offered. In contrast to today, everything necessary for everyday life was available locally. All tradesmen took orders for goods and delivered them to your door. Delivery boys on their distinctive bicycles were a common sight on the streets.

Clearly, Emily took an active part in Keynsham's life; in the regular monthly sewing meetings, giving 6d or 1s towards the tea; in supporting the Operatic Society (Rose Marie in 1936); the Croquet Club [croquet was played at Keynsham Tennis Club, behind the Police Station]; Mothers' Meetings; 'Daisy Day'; and contributing to the parties and teas which they gave. She frequently donated cakes or flowers or cooking sherry (3s a bottle) or money. There was a Schoolroom Supper each May, and 'Sales of Work' for various good causes such as a Bazaar every April; the Zenana Handkerchief Stall in May run by Mrs and Miss Fairclough to raise money for heating apparatus in the Church (1935) and repairs to Bath Hill School (1936); the July 'Sale of Work' at Bitton; the Church Sale in November, organised by Miss Mills (1935); the December Sale run by Mrs Coates (1936). The highlight of the year was the Annual Flower Show in August. This two-day show was inaugurated in 1883 and by 1930's attracted around 15,000 people, with over 1,000 of them entering for the £350-worth of prizes. In 1929/1930, Emily's father was Chairman of the Show. The visit to a Christmas Pantomime was a regular family event and Emily gave her own party on December 27th.

Of course, Keynsham still has its local Sales and Coffee Mornings for various 'good causes', amateur dramatics and musical events, but they are no longer central to our way of life. How many of us take the time and trouble to sew or knit goods for charity sales? The pace of life is too fast and hand made goods are not valued as they once were, as thoughtful labours of love. Personal skills, patience, and painstaking handicraft are often despised. Television, too, has taken its toll of social life and community spirit.

Something else which most of us no longer have is the excitement, fun, and sheer hard work of the annual 'Spring Clean', in April or May. Mercifully, our smokeless fires, easy, clean, labour-saving homes and efficient domestic appliances render it unnecessary, but, reading Emily's description of what had to be done invoked happy childhood memories of my grandparents' life in their large, draughty farmhouse which had only pumped-up well water and coal fires until the early 1960's. (I was fascinated by this pump because my grandmother had told me that my hair was as straight as a yard of pump water.) Their lives were very hard by today's standards but my grandfather used to boast that he had never



Fig. 3: 'Zenana' Handkerchief and Linen Stall.

SALE OF WORK MAY 27th, 28th,
 ——— 1934 ———

HANDKERCHIEF STALL

~~~~~

Once more comes the appeal  
 For our Schools, upon Bath Hill,  
 They need repair, and we all feel  
 We must help to pay the bill.

It's **HANDKERCHIEFS** we are asking for,  
 Of every kind and hue.  
 If you will send us one or more  
 We shall have quite a few.

To be without a **HANDKERCHIEF**  
 Is really quite distressing,  
 So if you will only send us one  
 'Twill surely prove a blessing.

Gifts to be sent to :  
 (Miss) D. FAIRCLOUGH,  
 12, PRIORY ROAD,  
 KEYNSHAM.

Fig. 4.

been to a Doctor in his life.

Every Spring, each room in the house was thoroughly 'turned out' in sequence (Emily began with the kitchen at the end of April), and family, employees and friends rallied around to help. First of all the chimney had to be swept (essential after the coal fires of winter, beginning in October. Emily bought 5 tons 10cwt of coal in 1939). Someone had to go into the garden to watch for the emergence above the chimney pot of the sweep's brush to ensure that he did the job properly. There were two sweeps in Keynsham at this time, Bert Sweet and Henry Hine. The charge for Emily's kitchen chimney was 3s 6d and 2s for each of the others.

Over the next few weeks, room by room, choosing dry bright days, all the furniture was moved out, rugs and loose carpets (not stair ones) taken into the garden, hung on lines and beaten (broom and beaters 5s 7d from Carters), the linoleum washed and rolled back and the floor boards below mopped and inspected for infestation by mice or woodworm. Appropriate action was taken before lino and rugs were reinstated. I can well remember the clouds of dust which emanated from the ubiquitous rag rugs which I helped my grandmother and mother to make from strips of old clothing. They were colourful and exceedingly effective against draughts and for insulating bare feet from ice cold linoleum as one leapt from bed on winter mornings. The "best" rooms had woollen Axminster or Wilton carpets but they were not "fitted" as today. They were rectangular, of standard sizes (usually 3 yards by 3½ yards) and covered the centre of the room only. All the heavy, draught-proof winter curtains were taken down and sent to be cleaned (Brooks 8s 8d per pair) and the roller blinds carefully washed or renewed (Emily bought new green ones for the dining room in May 1937). Long lost items were recovered from behind and under the heavy wardrobes and chests and further searches made for evidence of unwelcome residents, including moths. Whilst a room was empty, the opportunity was taken to carry out any necessary repairs or redecoration. In May 1935, Mr Harvey painted Emily's kitchen and in September the same year, she had her first electric stove installed (in May Mr Gill had to mend the boiler and fit a new bottom to the kitchen range, so, obviously, it was wearing out). In May 1937 Emily bought 2lb of paint for the scullery (1s 6d) and new coconut matting for the floor (Carters 4s 9d) and in June 1938 Mr Harvey tackled the breakfast room ceiling. (Emily paid for the decorating materials but the cost of the new stove and labour did not come in her domain.)

Other household items listed in Emily's accounts were mundane articles like house-cloths (4s 4d), mop (2d), kneelers (2s), scrubbing brushes (2s 2d), kettle (1s 10½d), broom (3s 6½d), bedstead (Ollis 2s), floor polish (1s 4d), hose (£1), chamois (2s), knob for kettle (2d), colander (1s), castors (8s), face flannel (7½d), fire bricks (£1 11s 0¾d), cups and saucers (1s), basins (1s 9½d) and frypan (2s 7½d). Most of these items came from Carters.

Sam and Emily, with Harper's help, made good use of their garden. They grew their own early potatoes (seed potatoes 2s 6d from Stokes), put in 100 cabbage plants (1s), grew asparagus for which she bought salt (add 1oz to mulch, per plant), and had several productive apple trees and a walnut tree. Emily bought

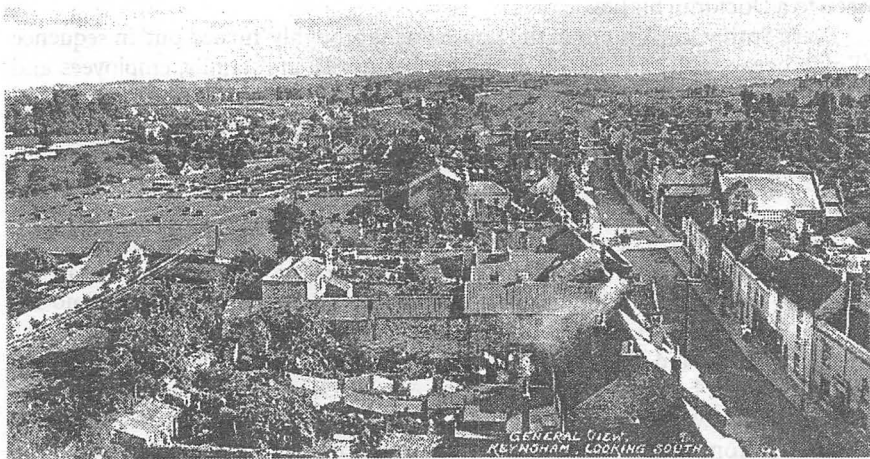


Fig. 5: View of Keynsham showing Jack Titley's poultry houses in the Memorial Park

special apple baskets (Carters, 3 for 5s 9d) for picking her 'rosy' apples in early November. These would have been stored for use at Christmas and later. (I can recall nothing as delicious as the smell of apples stored, neatly spaced, on newspaper covering the bare floor boards of an unfurnished 'box room' or spare bedroom at my grandparents' farm.) Emily picked the walnuts from the tree which had been planted in her back garden on the day of Rex's birth (28/12/1902), but she picked them in early July whilst the hulmes were still soft and the nuts not fully formed. This was because she pickled them—a delicacy these days. [Another walnut tree stands across the road in front of her house and this is still productive (and large) but no-one pickles the nuts. I confess to eating any which fall within the Abbey site.] There is a walnut tree in 'Abbey Mead' which was planted the year the Vowles bought the house

Emily also pickled shallots, onions and red cabbage. She 'potted' eggs in 'water glass', buying large quantities of eggs when they were most plentiful and therefore cheapest (in April, 7 dozen at 1d per egg, 15 dozen at  $\frac{3}{4}$ d each, 10 dozen at 1d each). It comes as something of a surprise today that before 'battery' poultry farming, supplies of hens eggs fluctuated at certain times of the year. Most domestic hens produced a peak of 170 to 190 eggs per bird during their first or pullet year but gradually fewer in subsequent years. A chick hatched in the Spring began laying 20 to 26 weeks later. The first dozen or so were the smallest (pullets eggs) but thereafter the size remained constant (except in very hot weather). So, if one required an all-the-year-round supply of eggs, pickling in 'water glass' was the answer. ['Water glass' is a solution of sodium silicate, and by immersing the eggs in it their porous shells become sealed and so prevent entry of bacteria.] There were then several poultry keepers in Keynsham who raised Rhode Island Reds and



Wyandottes and some entered their birds in the local 'Fur and Feather' Show; e.g. Mr Bush (Old Manor House), Mrs Willis (24 High Street) Mr Willoughby, Mrs Paget (Burnett), Mr Chappell (West Field) and Jack Titley (Park Farm). The latter ran his poultry in what is now the Memorial Park and photographs of his poultry houses still survive.

Emily's food accounts show a varied and interesting diet including some foods which we would consider luxuries. She mentions lemon sole, salmon, oysters, ducks, chicken, guinea fowl, turkeys, rabbits, beef, tongue, pork, mutton and whole 10¾lb cheddar cheeses. In summer she bought strawberries (7s 7d), raspberries (2s 6d), blackcurrants (12lb for 8s), plums and damsons to make jam. Each October she made and boiled nine Christmas puddings as well as baking the usual cake in November.

There were several excellent bakers then in the town—Pearce's for bread, buns and Easter Cakes; Watts for tarts; Wilkins (Wilkie) for extra special buns.

No coffee, not even 'Camp' seems to have been on the menu but they drank a great deal of tea (Ceylon 6lb for 10s 6d, China 12s 4d). Cooking sherry was used in the kitchen and Fanny was well supplied with ale (7 quart bottles £2 0s 0½d) but whether this was for cooking or drinking I know not. Soda water cost 2s 4½d, sparklets 3s 1½d.

Sam and Emily were surprisingly mobile. They had no car but used train or 'bus or relied on their son, Rex, to drive them. There were frequent trips to places like Clevedon, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Lyme Regis and they took an annual holiday for the whole of August, usually to St Ives, which was followed by a week in Cheltenham.

The return fare to Bristol by bus was 11d which I find surprising because when I first came to Keynsham in 1955, single fare to Bristol was 5d (and 7d to Bath).

Emily's annual expenditure seems amazingly small to us. Sam worked in the Bristol business founded by his father (Harris & Co.) and probably made about £500 per annum, of which Emily seems to have had half for housekeeping. They lived very well and happily on that money. Nowadays, the national average wage is £8.71 per hour. Taking a 37 hour week, this averages about £16,758 per annum.

Excerpts from Emily's actual accounts are given below:

|                  |                 |                      |                |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| <b>For 1935:</b> |                 | <b>August</b>        | £20 - 0s - 0d  |
| January          | £19 - 15s - 0¾d | St Ives              |                |
| February         | £20 - 11s - 11d | September            | £15 - 0s - 0d  |
| March            | £21 - 6s - 7d   | (away to 16th Sept.) |                |
| April            | £20 - 1s - 6½d  | October              | £24 - 9s - 1¼d |
| May              | £20 - 7s - 9d   | November             | £20 - 7s - 2¼d |
| June             | £18 - 13s - 0½d | December             | £23 - 4s - 3d  |
| July             | £18 - 13s - 9d  | Total                | £242 - 11s - d |

**For 1936:**

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| January   | £21 - 6s - 9d   |
| February  | £20 - 1s - 0d   |
| March     | £20 - 13s - ¼d  |
| April     | £14 - 10s - ½d  |
| May       | £17 - 6s - 6½d  |
| June      | £21 - 16s - 0½d |
| July      | £19 - 8s - 1d   |
| August    | £10 - 1s - 1½d  |
| St Ives   |                 |
| September | £19 - 10s - 0½d |
| October   | £18 - 10s - 1d  |
| November  | £18 - 16s - 0¾d |
| December  | £21 - 4s - 8¼d  |
| Total     | £223 - 6s - 0¼d |

These sums included several regular payments like:

- Church magazine, 1-6d annually
- Light and Pew Rent, £1-0-0d monthly
- Fanny's wages, £3-4-8d monthly
- Insurance stamps, 4-4d weekly
- Mrs Green's pay, 3-6d daily

**1937**

Accounts are quoted in full for January, February, March, September, October, November, December, but only extracts given from the other months.

**January**

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Fanny                            | £3/4/8 |
| Lights and pew                   | 1/-/-  |
| Mrs Green (3½ days)              | 3/6    |
| fish                             | 1/6    |
| milk and cream                   | 7/4½   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Insurance stamps | 4/8    |
| stamps                           | 3/-    |
| bread                            | 1/11¾  |
| sundries                         | 2/-    |

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| buns                               | 3d     |
| chemist                            | 3/1    |
| Evans laundry                      | 2/9½   |
| Willoughby                         | 1/0/2½ |
| Harper                             | 7/6    |
| Mrs Green (3 days)                 | 10/6   |
| soda water                         | 2/4½   |
| Church magazine                    | 1/6    |
| fish                               | 3/-    |
| buns                               | 3d     |
| matting, Carters                   | 4/9    |
| bread                              | 2/3¼   |
| milk                               | 11/6½  |
| butcher                            | 1/2/11 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Fanny's ale        | 1/9    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Evans             | 3/6    |
| Derry                              | 5/-    |
| fish                               | 2/6    |
| Harper                             | 6/-    |
| ale (Georges)                      | 4/6    |
| Mrs Green (3 days)                 | 10/6   |
| 4 Insurance stamps                 | 4/8    |
| buns                               | 3d     |
| 2lb paint for scullery             | 1/6    |
| milk                               | 6/10¾  |
| bread                              | 2/3    |
| Harper                             | 1/6    |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Evans laundry     | 2/6½   |
| fish                               | 2/9    |
| Mrs Green                          | 7/-    |
| goods from Kitty                   | 2/10/7 |
| Derry                              | 1/9    |
| tea and sugar (George)             | 15/2   |
| milk                               | 6/4¾   |
| bread                              | 1/-    |
| 4 writing pads                     | 2/-    |
| Cakes for mothers' meeting         | 2/-    |
| bun 4d, flowers /1-                | 1/4    |
| Pyrex cord Carters                 | 7/7½   |
| cooked beef                        | 1/-    |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Harpree afternoon | 3/-    |
| 2 Insurance stamps                 | 2/4    |
| butter                             | 3/-    |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> Evans             | 3/1½   |

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Derry                    | 1/9       |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> butcher | 12/-      |
| Willoughby's             | 1/8/0½    |
| bread                    | 1/6       |
| sewing meeting tea       | 6d        |
| milk                     | 6/7½      |
| Harper                   | 2/-       |
| Mrs Green (2 days)       | 7/-       |
| Total                    | £20/11/7¼ |

## February

|                                          |        |
|------------------------------------------|--------|
| Fanny                                    | 3/4/8  |
| Lights and pew rent                      | £1/-/- |
| Evans                                    | 3/10½  |
| fish                                     | 5/1    |
| Mrs Green (2)                            | 7/-    |
| Mutton from Bristol                      | 3/3    |
| milk                                     | 8/6½   |
| bread                                    | 1/9    |
| Insurance stamps                         | 4/8    |
| butter                                   | 3/8    |
| Flowers for Sunday                       | 2/6    |
| postage                                  | 1/-    |
| Mills and Mills                          | 5/6    |
| stamps                                   | 3/6    |
| Willoughby's                             | 1/9/8  |
| sundries                                 | 1/6    |
| Fanny's ale                              | 1/9    |
| Harper                                   | 3/-    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Evans                    | 3/8½   |
| butcher                                  | 14/10½ |
| fish                                     | 2/6    |
| Derry                                    | 3/0½   |
| 1½ lb ham (Crocker's)                    | 4/6    |
| Mrs Green                                | 7/-    |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> ale, ours               | 4/6    |
| Mills, cream                             | 8/3½   |
| Harper                                   | 2/6    |
| bread                                    | 1/11   |
| Dory's daffs                             | 1/9    |
| cauli                                    | 5d     |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> Evans                   | 2/1½   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Sweep in breakfast room | 2/-    |
| Mrs Green (3 days)                       | 10/6   |

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Jack — carpet                 | 1/6       |
| butter                        | 4/-       |
| milk and cream                | 7/11¾     |
| bread                         | 1/9¼      |
| Carter                        | 7/3       |
| daffs                         | 1/3       |
| Harper                        | 4/-       |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> Evans        | 2/10½     |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Derry        | 2/5       |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Barry's cake | 5/-       |
| Mrs Green 3 days              | 10/6      |
| fish                          | 1/6       |
| Sewing meeting tea            | 1/-       |
| fish                          | 1/6       |
| scones and cakes              | 1/6       |
| Fanny's ale                   | 1/9       |
| milk                          | 10/8½     |
| bread                         | 2/3       |
| butcher                       | 16/0½     |
| Willoughby                    | 1/1/-     |
| peaches                       | 2/-       |
| Total                         | £18/5/10½ |

## March

|                                        |        |
|----------------------------------------|--------|
| Fanny                                  | £3/4/8 |
| Lights and pew rent                    | 1/-/-  |
| Evans laundry                          | 2/10   |
| fish                                   | 3/9    |
| insurance stamps                       | 7/-    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> chicken                | 4/3    |
| milk and cream                         | 14/0¾  |
| bread                                  | 1/9¼   |
| top for kettle                         | 2d     |
| Mrs Green                              | 7/-    |
| sweets                                 | 6d     |
| Harper                                 | 5/-    |
| tallies for china                      | 2d     |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> Evans                  | 2/11   |
| Derry                                  | 3/0½   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Dr Symes to see mother |        |
| Willoughby's                           | 1/2/6  |
| enamelled meat dish                    | 2/3    |
| sausages                               | 1/-    |
| sherry                                 | 3/-    |

|                  |                               |          |                                                                                      |      |
|------------------|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
|                  | Allenbury's                   | 2/-      | [April to August accounts have been abbreviated]                                     |      |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Sale of work                  |          |                                                                                      |      |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Operatic                      |          |                                                                                      |      |
|                  | Mrs Green                     | 7/-      | <b>April</b>                                                                         |      |
|                  | milk                          | 5/8½     | Carter cups & saucers                                                                | 1/-  |
|                  | bread                         | 1/5½     | Eggs 7 doz. at 1/- (first for potting)                                               | 7/-  |
|                  | fish                          | 4/9      | 6 <sup>th</sup> Did boxroom                                                          |      |
|                  | ale, ours                     | 4/6      | Tongue and beef                                                                      | 2/2  |
|                  | house cloths                  | 4/4      | ¼ cream at Exons                                                                     | 8d   |
|                  | ½lb cream, Exons              | 1/6      | 15 dozen eggs at 11d                                                                 | 13/9 |
|                  | Seed potatoes                 | 2/6      | 3 dozen eggs at 1/-                                                                  | 3/-  |
|                  | lettuce                       | 10½d     | 7 dozen eggs at 1/-                                                                  | 7/-  |
|                  | buns                          | 3d       | 12 <sup>th</sup> Jack did Nursery carpet and Mrs Green Spring cleaning it.           |      |
|                  | dust pan dish etc.            | 4/6½     | Tarts at Watts                                                                       | 1/-  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                         | 3/8      | Grapes at Dorey's                                                                    | 1/3  |
|                  | fish                          | 1/6      | 26 <sup>th</sup> Sweep in kitchen                                                    | 3/6  |
|                  | 4 Insurance stamps            | 4/8      |                                                                                      |      |
|                  | postage                       | 1/6      | <b>May</b>                                                                           |      |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Harper                        | 3/-      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sweep in Dining room                                                 | 2/-  |
|                  | Sale of Work                  |          | 10 <sup>th</sup> Supper in Schoolroom                                                |      |
|                  | Mrs Green                     | 7/-      | 13 <sup>th</sup> Upper stair carpet                                                  |      |
|                  | sundries                      | 1/6      | 21 <sup>st</sup> 4 tons coal from Mr James                                           |      |
|                  | butcher                       | 14/9     | 27 <sup>th</sup> Jack doing stair carpet and pantry. New green blinds in Dining room |      |
|                  | bread                         | 1/9¼     | 26 <sup>th</sup> Kitty buried. Mr Willoughby.                                        |      |
|                  | milk                          | 11/4½    | Sweep in Breakfast room.                                                             | 2/-  |
|                  | lettuce                       | 8d       |                                                                                      |      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                         | 2/11     |                                                                                      |      |
|                  | Derry                         | 2/5      |                                                                                      |      |
|                  | fish                          | 2/4½     |                                                                                      |      |
|                  | Harper, turnip greens         | 5/-      |                                                                                      |      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | ale, Fanny's ½ dozen          | 1/9      |                                                                                      |      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Willoughby's                  | 11/10    | <b>June</b>                                                                          |      |
|                  | Pearce's Easter cakes, buns   | 4/-      | Gas, Electric, Pew Rent                                                              | £1/- |
|                  | cream Flo and Ethel           | 5/8      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> 30cwt coal                                                           |      |
|                  | 3¼ butter, mother's           | 3/3      | Garden broom and stain (Carters)                                                     | 4/8½ |
|                  | Dorey's cauli, cress, lettuce | 1/9      | Castors (Harpers)                                                                    | 8/-  |
|                  | bread                         | 1/11½    | 10 <sup>th</sup> Gloucester & Cheltenham for day                                     |      |
|                  | milk and cream                | 9/8      | 15 <sup>th</sup> Our own new potatoes                                                |      |
|                  | Insurance stamps              | 4/8      | Dorey's peas, strawberries, cucumber                                                 |      |
|                  | butcher                       | 18/8½    | Harpree beans                                                                        | 8d   |
|                  | Willoughby's                  | 1/19/5   | 3lb peas, 1lb toms                                                                   | 2/-  |
|                  | 2 guinea fowls at 3/6         | 7/-      | 23 <sup>rd</sup> salmon                                                              | 6/1½ |
|                  | Total                         | 18/17/0½ |                                                                                      |      |

## July

|                  |                               |     |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Fell down in stairs           |     |
|                  | Last strawberries             | 4/- |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | raspberries                   | 11d |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | gathered walnuts for pickling |     |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 1 doz (baskets) blackcurrants | 8/- |
|                  | raspberries                   | 2/6 |
|                  | Bitton sale of work           | 2/3 |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | last raspberries              | 1/6 |
|                  | Dettol                        | 1/8 |

## August

St Ives, back 28th

## September [in full]

|                  |                                  |         |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
|                  | Worcester 1-6th                  |         |
|                  | Fanny                            | 3/15/-  |
|                  | Lights and pew rent              | 1/-/-   |
|                  | fish                             | 2/4     |
|                  | Insurance stamps                 | 9/4     |
|                  | letter cards                     | 1/6     |
|                  | ale                              | 4/6     |
|                  | Fanny's ale                      | 1/9     |
|                  | Fanny (Worcester)                | 14/-    |
|                  | butcher                          | 16/4    |
|                  | Willoughby's                     | 1/15/1½ |
|                  | Harper, at home to 11th          | 5/-     |
|                  | milk (Worcester)                 | 6/0½    |
|                  | Mrs Green's Sally ill with mumps |         |
|                  | writing pads                     | 1/-     |
|                  | ½ cream Fairford                 | 2/5     |
|                  | tea, sugar, Redcliffe Hill       | 13/3    |
|                  | pegs                             | 4       |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Evans                            | 1/-     |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | fish, 2 weeks                    | 3/8     |
|                  | Harper, whilst we at Worcs       | 7/-     |
|                  | milk                             | 4/4½    |
|                  | bread                            | 2/-     |
|                  | Derry                            | 2/9½    |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | ale                              | 4/6     |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | John Thayer cheese etc.          | 2/16/11 |
|                  | Fanny                            | 2/-     |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                            | 2/10    |

|                  |                       |          |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|                  | bread                 | 1/5      |
|                  | Harvest loaf          | 2/10     |
|                  | milk                  | 5/6      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Green (settled)   | 6/-      |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | " " 1 day             | 3/6      |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | fish                  | 2/4      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Harper beetroot       | 7/9      |
|                  | bread                 | 1/5      |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | milk and cream        | 6/11½    |
|                  | Evans                 | 3/4      |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | fish 1/- Derry 2/11   | 3/11     |
|                  | Willoughby's          | 1/-/-    |
|                  | butcher               | 5/9      |
|                  | Carters apple baskets | 5/9      |
|                  | 100 cabbage plants    | 1/-      |
|                  | Mills and Mills       | 1/9      |
|                  | chicken               | 5/-      |
|                  | Mrs Green 2 days      | 7/-      |
|                  | Insurance for August  | 2/4      |
|                  | Harper                | 6/-      |
|                  | Total                 | 19/14/8½ |

## October

|                  |                           |        |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------|
|                  | Lights, pew rent          | 1/-/-  |
|                  | Fanny                     | 3/15/- |
|                  | Insurance stamps          | 4/8    |
|                  | stamps                    | 3/-    |
|                  | Evans                     | 2/1½   |
|                  | milk                      | 6/-    |
|                  | bread                     | 1/9¼   |
|                  | chamois                   | 2/-    |
|                  | ale, Fanny's 7 bottles    | 2/0½   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | sundries                  | 1/-    |
|                  | fish, 2/1½, 2/1½          | 4/2½   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Willoughby                | 17/11  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Mrs Green 2 days          | 7/-    |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Harper                    | 6/-    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                     | 2/4    |
|                  | milk                      | 6/-    |
|                  | bread                     | 1/9    |
|                  | Dorey's grapes, mushrooms | 3/9    |
|                  | towels for scullery       | 1/5½   |
|                  | Postal Order for Perth    | 3/6    |
|                  | letter cards              | 1/6    |

|                  |                                    |          |
|------------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | ale, ours                          | 4/6      |
|                  | fish                               | 2/3      |
|                  | 3 chicken (paid Thayer, Nov)       |          |
|                  | 3 dozen eggs                       | "        |
|                  | 1 cwt potatoes                     | "        |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Green                          | 7/-      |
|                  | stamps                             | 3/-      |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Harper                             | 7/-      |
|                  | stamps                             | 3/-      |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Insurance stamps                   | 4/8      |
|                  | Evans                              | 3/2½     |
|                  | Derry                              | 4/8      |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | milk, cream, cakes                 | 11/1½    |
|                  | bread                              | 1/9½     |
|                  | fish                               | 2/-      |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | Willoughby                         | 1/10/11½ |
|                  | butcher                            | 12/5     |
|                  | Mills and Mills                    | 6/-      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                              | 2/10½    |
|                  | fish                               | 2/-      |
|                  | Willoughby                         | 12/6½    |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | ale, ours                          | 4/6      |
|                  | Fanny's                            | 2/9      |
|                  | stamps, letter cards               | 3/-      |
|                  | 4 Insurance cards                  | 4/8      |
|                  | Mrs Green 3 days                   | 12/-     |
|                  | Harper                             | 5/-      |
|                  | butcher                            | 13/2     |
|                  | stair carpet from landing<br>down  |          |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | 2 dozen eggs (paid Thayer,<br>Nov) |          |
|                  | 2 ducks, 1 chicken                 | "        |
|                  | 2 dozen eggs                       | "        |
|                  | 1 rabbit                           | "        |
|                  | Boiled 9 puddings                  |          |
|                  | Total                              | 6/19/9¼  |

## November

|  |                     |        |
|--|---------------------|--------|
|  | Fanny               | 3/15/- |
|  | Lights and pew rent | 1/-/-  |
|  | Evans               | 3/11½  |
|  | milk                | 7/10½  |
|  | Derry               | 2/3    |

|                  |                        |         |
|------------------|------------------------|---------|
|                  | s. coat                | 2/-     |
|                  | fish 2/6, 2/6          | 5/-     |
|                  | bread                  | 2/1     |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Mrs Green 2 days       | 8/-     |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Harper                 | 5/-     |
|                  | beetroot               | 3d      |
|                  | sweets                 | 1/-     |
|                  | chemist                | 1/6     |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Evans laundry          | 1/8     |
|                  | milk                   | 6/10½   |
|                  | bread                  | 1/9½    |
|                  | fish                   | 2/7     |
|                  | Mrs Green 3 days       | 12/-    |
|                  | Willoughby's           | 1/5/10½ |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | oysters                | 2/-     |
|                  | butcher                | 13/6½   |
|                  | bread                  | 1/5     |
|                  | Harper                 | 6/-     |
|                  | Insurance stamps       | 4/8     |
|                  | sweets                 | 1/-     |
|                  | colander               | 2/-     |
|                  | knob for kettle        | 2d      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                  | 2/3½    |
|                  | Derry                  | 3/5½    |
|                  | milk                   | 6/10½   |
|                  | fish                   | 2/7     |
|                  | John Thayer (farmer)   | 3/3/3   |
|                  | bread                  | 2/2     |
|                  | Mrs Green 2 days       | 8/-     |
|                  | Harper                 | 5/-     |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | drove to fetch chicken |         |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Fanny fell (wrist)     |         |
|                  | Mrs Green 3 days       | 12/-    |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Evans                  | 2/10    |
|                  | milk                   | 7/10½   |
|                  | fish                   | 2/8     |
|                  | Mrs Green 2 days       | 8/-     |
|                  | Harper                 | 4/-     |
|                  | Willoughby             | 1/14/5  |
|                  | bread                  | 2/3     |
|                  | sundries               | 2/6     |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                  | 2/6     |
|                  | Derry                  | 3/4     |
|                  | oysters                | 3/3     |

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| milk and cream            | 10/4    |
| Insurance stamps          | 4/8     |
| Willoughby                | 10/1    |
| Dorey's grapes etc.       | 3/9     |
| Mrs Green                 | 8/-     |
| An extra 9/-, Fanny's arm |         |
| Total                     | £21/1/4 |

## December

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Fanny          | 3/15/0 |
| Lights etc.                    | 1/-/-  |
| Evans                          | 3/4½   |
| milk                           | 7/2    |
| fish                           | 7/2    |
| ale, ours                      | 4/6    |
| bread                          | 1/7½   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> soda water     | 1/6    |
| stamps                         | 3/-    |
| fish                           | 2/9    |
| ham                            | 2/8    |
| Mrs Green                      | 8/-    |
| bread                          | 2/3    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> soda water    | 1/6    |
| Evans laundry                  | 2/11½  |
| Dorey                          | 2/2½   |
| milk                           | 8/5½   |
| butcher                        | 1/8/1½ |
| Insurance stamps               | 4/8    |
| tea and sugar                  | 1/17/4 |
| stamps                         | 2/-    |
| postage Xmas                   | 1/5    |
| Mrs Green (2 days)             | 8/-    |
| bread                          | 2/3    |
| Harper                         | 3/6    |
| fish                           | 2/3    |
| corn beef, Weasers             | 1/-    |
| sweets                         | 8d     |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Evans laundry | 3/0½   |
| fish                           | 8d     |
| 2 Insurance stamps             | 2/8    |
| ½d stamps, 2 lots              | 2/-    |
| milk, cakes etc.               | 10/6½  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2 lots fish   | 5/4½   |
| Mrs Green 2 days               | 8/-    |

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| 2 turkeys 16½lb and 17½lb  | 6/11/1  |
| 2 dozen eggs at 2/3        | 4/6     |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> chicken   | 7/-     |
| ale                        | 4/6     |
| Willoughby                 | 3/3/5   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Mrs Evans | 2/8     |
| milk                       | 8/3     |
| Harper                     | 6/-     |
| cooking sherry             | 3/-     |
| sundries (veg)             | 4/-     |
| Mrs Green 2 days           | 8/-     |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> butcher   | 10/11½  |
| 2 rabbits at 10d each      | 1/8     |
| Total                      | 26/15/2 |
| Christmas boxes            |         |
| laundry                    | 1/-     |
| butcher and boy            | 1/6     |
| Willoughby                 | 2/-     |
| Fish                       | 6d      |
| Paper boy                  | 6d      |

## Accounts for January to May, 1938

### January

|                                  |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Fanny            | 3-15-0 |
| Lights and Pew rent              | 1-0-0  |
| Evans (laundry)                  | 3-0    |
| Harper (gardener)                | 5-0    |
| cushion                          | 1-11¼  |
| bread                            | 2-3    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Mills            | 7-7½   |
| fish                             | 1-3    |
| Mrs Green (3 days)               | 12-0   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Evans (laundry) | 2-10   |
| sweep                            | 2-0    |
| Mrs Green                        | 8-0    |
| Mills etc.                       | 9-6    |
| bread                            | 2-3    |
| butcher                          | 15-11  |
| onions (Harptree)                | 1-0    |
| Dairy                            | 1-10   |
| fish                             | 1-10   |
| oysters                          | 4-11   |

|                  |                              |          |                                   |        |
|------------------|------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|--------|
|                  | Insurance stamps             | 4-8      | veg from Harper                   | 1-6    |
|                  | 2lb butter (mother's)        | 4-0      | sole (Hilary)                     | 2-0    |
|                  | cream (Exons)                | 1-6      | vegetables                        | 2-0    |
|                  | 1 lb cream                   | 2-8      | 7 <sup>th</sup> Evans laundry     | 2-6½   |
|                  | Harper                       | 5-0      | milk                              | 8-11½  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                        | 2-8      | 8 <sup>th</sup> fish              | 3-0    |
|                  | Fanny's ale                  | 2-3      | Dorey                             | 1-10   |
|                  | fish                         | 3-5      | 10 <sup>th</sup> butcher          | 1-2-0  |
|                  | Mills                        | 7-6½     | Willoughby                        | 1-11-8 |
|                  | Insurance stamps             | 4-8      | Mrs Green (1 day)                 | 4-0    |
|                  | Pearce's sweets              | 1-8      | Harper, flowers                   | 6-6    |
|                  | Mrs Green (3 days)           | 12-0     | parsnips                          | 6      |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | cake for Mothers' meeting    | 2-0      | knob for kettle                   | 4      |
|                  | flowers for Mothers' meeting | 3-6      | 12 <sup>th</sup> ale, ours        | 4-6    |
|                  | Willoughby's                 | 2-12-4½  | 14 <sup>th</sup> Evans            | 3-4    |
|                  | cooking sherry               | 3-0      | milk                              | 8-7    |
|                  | Dorey's                      | 1-7½     | bread                             | 1-6    |
|                  | Harper                       | 6-0      | letter cards                      | 1-6    |
|                  | Carter's                     | 1-8      | 15 <sup>th</sup> sweep in kitchen | 3-6    |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                        | 4-6½     | Mrs Green (3 days)                | 12-0   |
|                  | Dorey                        | 3-2½     | fish (Tuesday)                    | 3-8    |
|                  | fish                         | 3-1½     | fish (Friday)                     | 4-0    |
|                  | Mrs Green (2 days)           | 8-0      | Harper                            | 6-0    |
|                  | Tulips                       | 2-6      | flowers                           | 1-2    |
|                  | Harper                       | 5-0      | stamps                            | 3-0    |
|                  | milk                         | 11-1     | Fanny's ale                       | 2-0    |
|                  | tea and sugar                | 17-8     | Evans                             | 3-6    |
|                  | grapes                       | 2-6      | Dorey                             | 4-3    |
|                  | Daffs                        | 1-0      | fish                              | 4-2    |
|                  | chicken                      | 4-6      | 21 <sup>st</sup> milk and cream   | 9-8½   |
|                  | bread                        | 2-3      | bread                             | 2-3    |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | Evans                        | 1-10½    | Insurance stamps                  | 4-8    |
|                  | milk, cream, cakes           | 13-11½   | Mrs Green                         | 8-0    |
|                  | from John Thayer             | 1-7-4    | ale, ours                         | 4-6    |
|                  | Total                        | 20-8-10½ | Fanny's                           | 2-0½   |
|                  |                              |          | 2lb butter                        | 5-5    |
|                  |                              |          | ham ¼lb                           | 1-4    |
|                  |                              |          | cooking sherry                    | 3-0    |
|                  |                              |          | parsnips, carrots                 | 10     |
|                  |                              |          | sweets                            | 8      |
|                  |                              |          | chocs                             | 4      |
|                  |                              |          | mincer                            | 3-0    |
|                  |                              |          | onions, Mrs Green                 | 2-0    |
|                  |                              |          | 28 <sup>th</sup> Evans            | 3-0½   |
|                  |                              |          |                                   |        |
| <b>February</b>  |                              |          |                                   |        |
|                  | Fanny                        | 3-15-0   |                                   |        |
|                  | Pew rent and lights          | 1-0-0    |                                   |        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | sole, lemon sole             | 3-7      |                                   |        |
|                  | Insurance stamps             | 7-0      |                                   |        |
|                  | Mrs Green (3 days)           | 12-0     |                                   |        |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | bread                        | 1-6      |                                   |        |
|                  | Harper, flowers              | 6-0      |                                   |        |



|                  |                    |         |                                      |       |
|------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-------|
|                  | fish               | 2-9     | cauliflower, Harptree                | 6     |
|                  | butcher            | 1-3-3   | fish                                 | 1-3   |
|                  | Willoughby         | 1-0-5½  | butcher                              | 14-7½ |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | milk               | 9-4½    | Mr Morgan                            | 4-6   |
|                  | bread              | 2-3     | 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2lb butter (mother) | 5-0   |
|                  | Mrs Green (3 days) | 12-0    | fish                                 | 1-10½ |
|                  | Total              | 20-9-1½ | Mrs Green                            | 8-0   |

### March

|                  |                     |        |                    |         |
|------------------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|---------|
|                  | Pew rent and lights | 1-0-0  | Harper             | 7-0     |
|                  | Fanny               | 3-15-0 | turnip greens      | 1-6     |
|                  | Evans               | 3-3    | 2 chicken          | 10-0    |
|                  | milk                | 5-10   | bread              | 1-6     |
|                  | scone               | 3      | Evans              | 4-6½    |
|                  | Dorey               | 6-6    | milk               | 8-11½   |
|                  | Derry               | 1-10   | Insurance stamps   | 4-8     |
|                  | Exon, cream         | 1-6    | Mrs Green (2 days) | 8-0     |
|                  | Insurance stamps    | 4-8    | fish               | 2-8     |
|                  | ham                 | 2-0    | bread              | 1-6     |
|                  | fish                | 2-6    | Willoughby's       | 1-5-6   |
|                  | postage stamps      | 3-0    | Easter cakes       | 1-0     |
|                  | Pearce's            | 1-8    | Total              | 17-10-7 |
|                  | Dorey               | 1-6    |                    |         |
|                  | Carter's (rings)    | 5      |                    |         |
|                  | bread               | 2-1½   |                    |         |
|                  | Mrs Green           | 4-0    |                    |         |
|                  | Harper and brother  | 1-0-0  |                    |         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | chicken             | 4-6    |                    |         |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Evans               | 3-4    |                    |         |
|                  | milk                | 10-1   |                    |         |
|                  | fish                | 1-10   |                    |         |
|                  | ale                 | 4-6    |                    |         |
|                  | Bristol with Hilary | 1-6    |                    |         |
|                  | Easter cakes        | 1-0    |                    |         |
|                  | oranges and bananas | 1-6    |                    |         |
|                  | Mrs Green (3 days)  | 12-0   |                    |         |
|                  | Harper              | 7-0    |                    |         |
|                  | turnip greens etc.  | 1-0    |                    |         |
|                  | eggs                | 1-1    |                    |         |
|                  | Willoughby's        | 1-14-6 |                    |         |
|                  | bread               | 1-10½  |                    |         |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | Evans               | 5-0½   |                    |         |
|                  | Derry               | 2-11   |                    |         |
|                  | milk                | 11-7   |                    |         |

### April

|  |                                  |        |  |  |
|--|----------------------------------|--------|--|--|
|  | Fanny                            | 3-15-0 |  |  |
|  | Lights and pew rent              | 1-0-0  |  |  |
|  | milk and cream                   | 9-3    |  |  |
|  | Dorey                            | 1-6    |  |  |
|  | Easter cakes                     | 1-0    |  |  |
|  | Harper and brother               | 10-0   |  |  |
|  | greens                           | 1-6    |  |  |
|  | Derry                            | 1-11   |  |  |
|  | repair scoop                     | 6      |  |  |
|  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Insurance stamps | 4-8    |  |  |
|  | fish                             | 2-0    |  |  |
|  | Willoughby's                     | 10-4   |  |  |
|  | oranges and bananas              | 1-6    |  |  |
|  | kettle                           | 3-6    |  |  |
|  | Petraline                        | 1-10   |  |  |
|  | bread                            | 2-3½   |  |  |
|  | Baker House cloth                | 4-9    |  |  |
|  | 9 <sup>th</sup> Harper           | 5      |  |  |
|  | Mrs Green (2 days)               | 8-0    |  |  |
|  | 11 <sup>th</sup> Evans           | 1-11   |  |  |
|  | fish                             | 3-9    |  |  |
|  | 13 <sup>th</sup> ale             | 4-6    |  |  |

|                  |                            |        |                  |                         |        |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------|------------------|-------------------------|--------|
|                  | butcher                    | 1-3-8  |                  | postage                 | 6      |
|                  | broom and beaters          | 5-7    | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Evans                   | 4-6½   |
|                  | bread                      | 2-3    |                  | butcher                 | 14-6½  |
|                  | Harper                     | 8-0    |                  | Dorey                   | 2-6½   |
|                  | turnip greens              | 9      |                  | milk and cream          | 10-11  |
|                  | Fanny's ale                | 2-0    |                  | Fanny's ale             | 2-0½   |
|                  | Willoughby's               | 1-7-8  |                  | Harper (2 weeks), seeds | 18-0   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                      | 2-11½  |                  | Mrs Green apron         | 1-6½   |
|                  | Mills                      | 11-4   |                  | fish                    | 2-6    |
|                  | Mrs Green (2 days)         | 8-0    | 13 <sup>th</sup> | Mrs Green (2 days)      | 8-0    |
|                  | Derry                      | 2-1½   | 14 <sup>th</sup> | bread                   | 1-10½  |
|                  | Insurance stamps           | 4-8    |                  | Willoughby              | 1-16-0 |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | fish                       | 3-9    |                  | Dorey's last week       | 1-3    |
|                  | bread                      | 1-10½  |                  | Insurance stamps        | 4-8    |
|                  | postage stamps             | 3-0    |                  | 3 writing pads          | 1-6    |
|                  | Harper                     | 8-0    |                  | Dorey's                 | 2-3    |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Easter cakes               | 1-0    |                  | jam sponge              | 10     |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                      | 1-11   | 16 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                   | 3-11½  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | fish                       | 4-1½   |                  | fish                    | 2-8    |
|                  | milk and cream             | 6-1½   |                  | Derry                   | 2-8    |
|                  | Mrs Green (4 days)         | 16-0   |                  | cauliflower             | 2-0    |
|                  | butcher                    | 17-4½  |                  | Mrs Green (2)           | 8-0    |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | chicken                    | 4-6    |                  | Harper and plants       | 8-6    |
|                  | eggs at 1/2 dozen          | 5-10   |                  | bread                   | 1-6    |
|                  | bread                      | 1-10½  |                  | cyder                   | 10     |
|                  | Daisy Day                  | 6      | 21 <sup>st</sup> | bananas                 | 7½     |
|                  | grapes, oranges at Dorey's | 2-1½   |                  | tea                     | 14-8   |
|                  | Harper                     | 10-0   |                  | corn beef               | 1-0    |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Easter cakes (Pearce's)    | 2-0    |                  | chicken                 | 4-9    |
|                  | Mrs Morgan                 | 2-6    | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Evans                   | 1-11½  |
|                  | Total                      | 14-1-6 |                  | milk                    | 7-6    |
|                  |                            |        |                  | fish                    | 3-7    |
|                  |                            |        |                  | ham                     | 2-0    |
| <b>May</b>       |                            |        |                  | butter                  | 4-6    |
|                  | Fanny                      | 3-15-0 |                  | Mrs Green (3 days)      | 12-0   |
|                  | Lights etc.                | 1-0-0  |                  | Willoughby's            | 1-4-3½ |
|                  | Evans                      | 3-11½  |                  | chicken                 | 5-4    |
|                  | fish                       | 1-4½   |                  | domestic stamps         | 4-8    |
|                  | Mrs Green (3 days)         | 12-0   |                  | Parsons                 | 3-3    |
|                  | Derry                      | 1-10½  |                  | 2 lb tomatoes           | 2-4    |
|                  | milk and cream             | 7-0    |                  | Harper, plants          | 10-0   |
|                  | 4 domestic stamps          | 4-8    |                  | ale                     | 4-6    |
|                  | cauliflower                | 6      |                  | apples                  | 6      |
|                  | letter cards               | 1-6    | 30 <sup>th</sup> | Evans                   | 4-2    |
|                  | fish                       | 1-3    |                  |                         |        |

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| milk             | 8-8     |
| Derry            | 3-5½    |
| butcher          | 19-3    |
| fish             | 1-3     |
| sundries         | 3-0     |
| 2 chicken        | 10-4    |
| chicken (Hilary) | 5-0     |
| Mrs Green        | 8-0     |
| fish             | 3-2     |
| bread            | 2-4     |
| fruit and bun    | 1-3     |
| Harper, plants   | 9-0     |
| Total            | 23-0-9½ |

### Acknowledgement

I am most grateful to Mr Brian Harris, one of Emily's grandsons, for allowing me to borrow this fascinating account book and reproduce some of the information contained therein.

## Appendix

### Keynsham High Street, 1935

#### West Side

|     |                              |                               |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2   | Gray, Lilian G.              | stationer, P.O.               |
| 4   | Exon, Herbert                | dairyman                      |
| 6   | Dorey, Herbert               | greengrocer                   |
| 8   | Lennards Ltd                 | boot makers                   |
| 10  | Gill, Hewart J.              | electrical engineer           |
| 12  | International Store Ltd      | grocers                       |
| 12a | Moore, Norman                | electrical engineer           |
| 14  | Bass, Joyce                  | draper                        |
| 16  | Williams, Cecil              | tobacconist                   |
|     | Argile, H. W.                | road surveyor, rate collector |
|     | Fox, Whittuck, Pitt, Elwell  | solicitors                    |
| 18  | Sharp, James A.              | chemist                       |
| 20  | Westminster Bank Ltd         |                               |
| 22  | Keynsham Constitutional Club |                               |
| 24  | Pearce, William              | baker                         |
|     | Perry, John B.               | quarry owner                  |
|     | Robinson, Frank J.           | architect                     |
|     | Willis, David Stanley        | fruiterer                     |
| 26  | National Provincial Bank Ltd |                               |

|    |                      |                                |
|----|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 28 | Bass, Henry          | stationer                      |
|    | Boseley, Percival T. | gents' outfitter               |
| 30 | Fairclough, Grace    | milliner                       |
| 32 | Private house        |                                |
| 34 | Dorey, Frederick     | Registrar; Employment Exchange |

## Charlton Road

### Victoria Methodist Chapel

|       |                                           |                        |
|-------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 36    | Stokes, C. C. & Sons Ltd                  | corn merchants         |
|       | Watts, Charles                            | dairyman               |
| 38    | Customs & Excise & Old Age Pension Office |                        |
| 40/42 | Hickling & Sons                           | ironmongers            |
| 44    | Drs Harrison, Charles & Claude            |                        |
| 46    | Parsons, T. C.                            | draper                 |
| 48    | Wiggins, Edward                           | builder                |
| 50    | Carter, Walter H.                         | china and glass dealer |
| 52    | Fray, David                               | butcher                |
| 54    | Tyler, William & Son                      | brush manufacturers    |
| 56    | Anstey, Cornelius                         | saddler                |
|       | Upton, William F.                         | estate agent           |
| 58    | Rogers, Jessie                            | draper                 |
|       | Courtney, Arthur B.                       | watch maker            |
| 60    | Stroud, Thomas                            | confectioner           |
| 62    | The Lamb & Lark Hotel                     |                        |
| 64    | Cantle, Earnest James                     | fishmonger             |
| 66    | Freeth, Percy V.                          | grocer                 |
| 68    | Ollis, Frederick & Sons                   | bakers and carriers    |

## East Side

|       |                                         |                           |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3     | Railway Tavern                          | (Fred Bailey)             |
| 5     | Private cottage                         |                           |
| 7     | Winter, Frederck John                   | motor engineer            |
| 9     | Weaver, Alex John                       | butcher                   |
| 11    | Milton, Hilda Jane                      | shopkeeper                |
| 13    | Private cottage                         |                           |
| 15    | Private cottage                         |                           |
| 17    | Chappell Bros                           | grocers                   |
| 19    | The Royal Oak                           | (James Hawkins)           |
| 21    | Kohler, Christopher                     | hairdresser (Chard House) |
| 23    | The Foresters Arms                      | (Richard Harris)          |
| 25    | Private cottage                         |                           |
| 27/29 | Bristol Industrial Co-operative Society |                           |

|    |                                         |                                         |
|----|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 31 | Maggs, George T.<br>Bristol Gas Company | Parish accountant & clerk               |
| 33 | Richardson, R. C.                       | plumber                                 |
| 35 | Private cottage                         |                                         |
| 37 | Mills & Mills<br>Shipway, W. H.         | chemist<br>dental surgeon attended here |
|    | Baptist Chapel                          |                                         |
| 39 | Lloyds Bank Ltd                         |                                         |

### Back Lane

|       |                                 |                         |
|-------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 41    | Private house                   |                         |
| 43    | Baker, Percy                    | tailor                  |
| 45    | Private house                   |                         |
| 47/49 | St Keyna Motor Works            |                         |
| 51    | Hall, Roswell                   | tobacconist             |
| 53    | Throsper Factory                | eyelet manufacturer     |
| 55    | Joll, Edward                    | outfitter               |
| 57    | Private house                   |                         |
| 59    | Mr Carter's house               |                         |
| 59a   | Halliday, Elizabeth M.          | ladies' hairdresser     |
| 61    | Carter & Sons                   | carpenters, undertakers |
| 63    | Heal, Mary<br>Wiltshire, George | ironmonger<br>decorator |
| 65    | Chappell's coach house          |                         |
| 67    | Jarrett, William                | boot repairer           |
| 69    | Withers, Edith                  | draper                  |

# Keynsham High Street, 1935

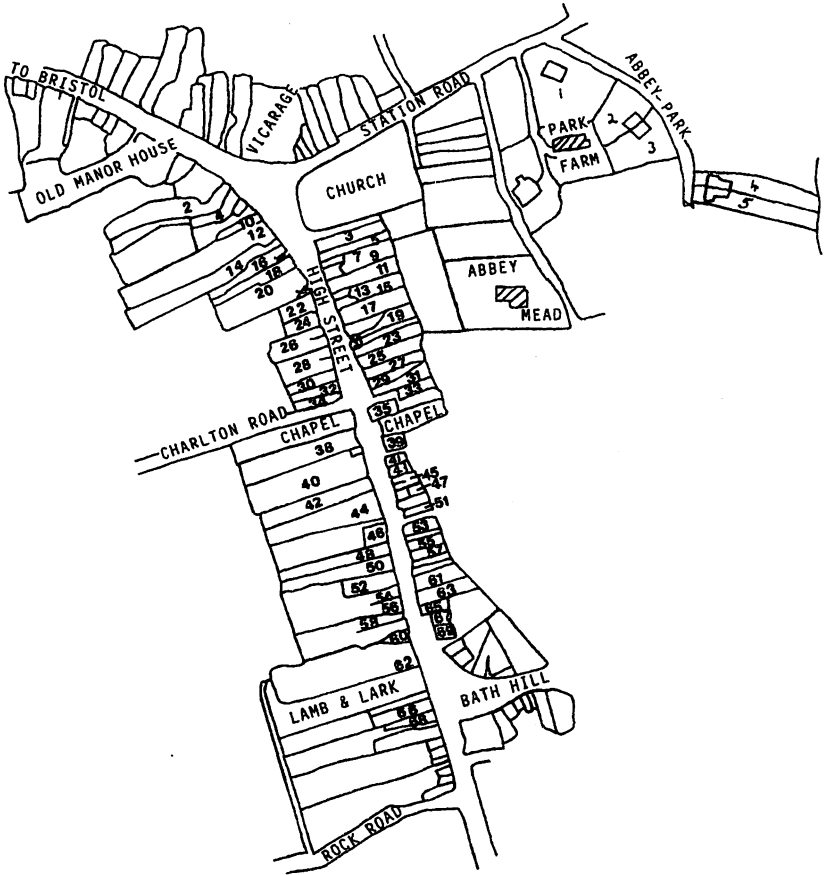


Fig. 6: Plan drawn by Barbara J. Lowe

## Memories of Park House Farm

Susan James

It was September, 1946 and I shall always remember the sense of anticipation as my husband and I drove down Park House Lane for the first time. The hedges were overgrown, forming a green tunnel leading to an unknown place which proved to be a handsome three storey house with barn, cow stall and cart shed across the adjoining yard.

We soon made up our minds to buy it.

It proved to be a hard farm to work, being on deep clay which soon became badly pounded if cattle were left out in the Winter. But clay proved an advantage in dry weather when our fields were still lush and green while those towards Queen Charlton were burned brown, being on stone brash.

As years went by, we bought more land; also the standing grass on the fields where 'Federated' now stands. There the clay was very near the surface, born out by one of the old field names 'Starve Lark'. We had the grazing of the fields right down to where Kelston Road School now stands.

Having that land was interesting in that we could see old gateways in the hedges which made us wonder if Park House Farm originally consisted of the large triangle of land bordered by Charlton Road, Park House Lane and Park Road.<sup>1</sup>

When our two boys were small, I dealt with the house, the family and the poultry. After they went to school, I took over the afternoon milking until we decided to change from Guernseys to Friesians. This we did because Friesians give more milk. However, I thought the latter were too big for me so I passed the job onto my husband! We then agreed to have help in the house so that I could be free to do more tractor work which I enjoyed more than polishing floors, so I helped with the field work - disc harrowing, rolling, driving the sweep to bring the hay into the ricks during hay making, and chain harrowing in the Spring.

All this time, my husband ran the farm with the help of one young man, and at haymaking and harvesting 'strappers', i.e. men who came to help after their day's work at Fry's.

Work was hard in those days before we had combine harvesters and balers. I suppose we ran an old fashioned farm in an old fashioned way, quite impossible in these days of rules and regulations, quotas etc.

There's one adventure I would like to record. It would be quite unthinkable these days.

We rented some fields on Stockwood Hill where we had a milking bale, i.e. a shelter for milking the cows and a small shed to house the milking machine engine. In the Spring, we drove the cows down Charlton Road, St Ladoc Road and the Bristol Road (with someone leading the way and seeing that the garden gates were shut) to the gateway opposite the Cemetery. We milked on Stockwood Hill until the Autumn rains came and it got too wet. We then had to take the cows back to Park House Farm. They were so glad to be homeward bound that they went at a

good spanking trot, with our boys keeping them together and my husband and I in the car, driving at a snail's pace in the rear.

But our most memorable experience, was the flood of July, 1968. We had had more than our fair share of rain and the ground was already saturated before the heavens opened and the really heavy rain began to fall, accompanied by thunder and lightning.

My son Mark was at home, so I called to him that I was going ditch clearing (he was watching television!!) but I soon realised that the water was getting the better of me. It started flowing through the back door and out at the front. I gave Mark another loud shout. He came running and soon had a bale of straw across the back door to stop the flow. He then took a crowbar and raised a large piece of curbing which bordered the garden path. With it, he diverted the water round the house, and in no time at all the front lawn, which sloped away from the house, had filled up and the water was flowing out through the garden door. I thought then that we ought to draw a stone or two from the Park House garden wall to relieve the pressure of water. We went out into the lane and saw that it would not be necessary because the water was spurting out between the stones in fountains. At that time, the bend at the top of Park House Lane was not banked so the water flowing down Charlton Road came roaring down the lane a foot or more deep. Meanwhile, my husband was at a Council meeting and had no idea what was going on. My younger son Norman, who was driving a rather low sprung sports car, was trying to find a route clear of water to take his girl friend home. When my husband Clifford came home he realised that the water was too deep for Norman's car, so he drove a tractor up the lane and left it there for Norman. In the meantime, Norman had succeeded in taking his girlfriend home. It was now quite dark and as Norman came down the lane he wondered why his way had been blocked. But he soon found out as he stepped into deep water! He left the car where the water was not quite so deep and came home on the tractor. Meanwhile, in the house, the water had seeped through the wall into the study, soaking the carpet. It had flowed into the dining room on it's way to the front door. I found out afterwards that it had run under the floorboards of the sitting room—the only ground floor room with a board floor. That room smelled musty for a long time. Then came the problem of drying the carpets. Clifford put up lines in the cow stall and there the carpets hung for a week or more. It took some time for the poor old house to dry out and be put in order again.

Out in the fields, there was much crop damage with laid corn and late hay well and truly soaked.

So, July 10th, 1968 will always be remembered!

## Note

1. See *North Wansdyke Past and Present* 8 (1996), 23-32.



## Keepers Cottage

Mary Axford Mitchell

*This article is the result of a walk around Brislington by Avon Local History Association in the Summer of 1996. It finished with very welcomed hospitality at Keepers Cottage, one of two 17th century cottages at the top of Brislington Hill.*

Knowing how much we appreciated a hot cup of coffee after the ALHA walk round Weston in early Spring on a cold and windy evening, I thought it would be a good idea to end the walk round Brislington at Keepers Cottage for a welcome cool drink on a very hot Summer evening. Although most people's experience of Brislington is a traffic jam on the busy A4 there is much else. On this particular evening the sun shone, the church bells rang, the ancient meadow was being cut and the horses ambled over to be fed, only a short distance from the busy road, as if to say 'This is how it used to be'.

Keepers Cottage is part of this history. Dating from around 1691 we know very little about its origin, but in the days before the enclosure of Brislington Common, its situation at the top of a rough, steep hill on the route to Keynsham and Bath would have provided an extensive view over the Common in one direction, and Brislington and Bristol in the other. I think it could have once been two cottages, the older part being nearest to the road, and in common with many old buildings has its 'ghost'. This was seen by members of the Dalby family during World War II, and my younger son described 'a person in light' coming through a door from the kitchen that was once an outside entrance. One day in 1991, after having a very strong feeling that someone else was with me in the garden, I briefly saw a figure standing there. It is not a frightening ghost!

The house is reputed to have become the first school in Brislington set up by Hannah More. She was a friend of Squire Ireland, and wrote the epitaph for his second wife, Frances, who died in 1805 and whose memorial can be seen to the left of the altar in St. Luke's Church. The Deeds of the house describe it as 'The Old School House or Keepers Cottage'. Could Hannah More have visited the cottage to check its suitability? The 'school bell' still hangs in the hall, and I like to think that what is now my china pantry stored the school books.

In a letter from the Squire to the widow of John Fletcher he pays tribute to Henrietta Cotton, 'our schools mistress in this parish' who had died during the year. 'She lived to see the fruits of her labours, and I also see it daily as one of her pupils is my confidential servant.'

Another later story is from Mrs. Coles who lived in a cottage at Hicks Gate and went to school at Keepers Cottage, her father paying 2d a week for her. On her way to school she did not like walking from Ironmould Lane to Brislington House Gates because the trees still had chains hanging from them where they hung the sheep thieves.

The next interesting occupant was Richard Nicholls. On 3rd November, 1853

he came with his family by train from Rampisham in Dorset to work as game-keeper for Squire Ireland. We are told that his father became bankrupt after standing surety for a friend and that he was offered the job on the estate to enable him to continue to look after his family and live a country life. I have portraits of him and his wife Ann: he must have been a man of courage and resourcefulness to bring his family to a new area and care for his widowed mother who died in 1856. He became a parish constable in 1860.

I have visited Jenny Martin, Richard's great grand daughter, and seen and handled the pistol and spyglass given to him by the Squire, and the New Testament with the inscription that it was brought to Brislington by his mother on 3rd November, 1853. She still has the grandfather clock that used to tick away in Keepers Cottage, (I wonder where), when he lived here. There is a story that one of his grandchildren used to climb up to alter the hands 'to make the time come sooner' when he would come in from the estate for his dinner.

Of his children, his elder son Edward remained in Brislington and was a member of the celebrated Tom Weymouth's Band for over 50 years, and died at the age of 95 in 1936. His younger son, Thomas, who lived in Weston-super-Mare for many years, started his own prosperous coach building business, and also invented the first perambulator with four wheels that is in the Science Museum. The family intermarried with the Bishops from Linton Farm, the Pobjoy, Fuller and Coggins families and Donald Nicholls Smart has researched the family back to 1722.

Richard retired in 1878 to one of the new 'town houses' in Brislington Village now called 'Bellevue Park'. These would have been considered much more modern and comfortable than the stone cottage with stone flagged floors, very little heating and no running water. The Squire, who was a good landlord, had the house re-furbished with a new roof. The upper ceilings were raised, new drains dug, and as it later transpired, he provided a well in the garden.

When we bought the house, the pump was still in place and we surrounded it with a small flower bed and a circle of stones. One afternoon in 1963 I was clearing up the garden and attempted to level one of the stones. There was a swoosh and splash. The well was still there and part of its covering had collapsed after the previous hard Winter. We sought advice from the local builder Mr. Bert Stone, and the top of the well was excavated and securely covered for the children's safety. Mr. Stone subsequently gave me a hand-written notebook kept by Squire Ireland's bailiff that contained the following details:

'The well is 10 feet from the garden hedge depth of well 40 ft. bricked up with dove tail well bricks, width of ditto from 3 ft. 6 in to 4 ft. inside the well 11 ft. depth of water. The same bricked up by Mr. William Sheppard of Keynsham the charge of the same complete without pump and digging the well being £19.0.0d. The well, recess pools, and drains were all dug in 1878.'

The cottage remained the property of the Squire and was let to a number of tenants until 1923 when it was purchased by David Sherwell when the Ireland Estate was broken up.

Henry Knight lived here with his family around the turn of the century, and they emigrated to South Australia around 1907. After a surprise visit from his great grand daughter in 1990, I was delighted to receive a clear photograph of the cottage taken around 1905 from the field that is now a concrete forecourt, showing Hector Stephen Knight and his sister Winifred sitting on the wall. Hector Stephen moved from South to Western Australia to become a farmer and died in 1987. Both sides of the family still have an affection for 'Bath Hill Cottage' as it was called then, and I have visited two cousins in Perth and Melbourne who have not seen each other for forty years.

1691 'Time passes, shadows fall. Let it pass by, Love reigns 1923  
over all.'

Mrs. Blanche Sherwell moved to Keepers Cottage in 1924 on the death of her husband. A very efficient lady, she installed partial central heating and added a bathroom, lavatory and linen cupboard. Over the french doors Bill Sleep painted the following verse for her:

Many shadows, both personal, local and national, have fallen on the old house since then. During the Blitz when Brislington Hill House was bombed the tiles on the roof were shuffled up like a pack of cards by bomb blast that also bent over the top of the scots pine at the top of Brislington Hill, but it survived.

The late 1960's saw the destruction of the old Brislington Square and the demolition of Gothic Lodge and the lovely old wall of Brislington Hill House for the building of ugly flats and a shopping centre. Threatened with demolition for twenty years by the original route of the Avon Ring Road, the cottage is now Listed and in the Brislington Conservation Area.

For the last thirteen years it has been the base for the Brislington Conservation and Amenity Society of which I am Hon. Secretary, hosting all of our Conservation, Planning and History Group Meetings. During this time we have commented on planning issues, organised events and exhibitions, established a Conservation Area and published *Brislington*, recording life and times in Brislington over 130 years of which we are very proud.

Set back from the road, it is still a simple country cottage with uneven walls, doors filled in at different times with different coloured mortar either side of the front door, old beams and wide uneven elm boards upstairs. A lintel that had to be replaced was made of two rough tree trunks, and local workmen lopped off doors to fit when wooden floors were laid above the stone flags.

Children have been born and educated here. It was part of my wedding day, and people have died here. I am in touch with the families of many former occupants. Hopefully it will survive the onslaught of increasing traffic and the Ring Road—if it comes—for many more years.

## Memoirs

### Percy Baker (1905-1991)

I was born in 1905 in a cottage in the fields at the bottom of Durley Hill known as Little Hams. I was the youngest of seven, and was probably never intended, as my father had reached the bottom line of the records in the family Bible and had to include me at the top above my elder brothers and sisters. We were a very happy family, but money was very scarce. There was no water in the cottage and, of course, there were only paraffin lamps and coal fires.

I went to school at Temple Street and later moved to Keynsham 'High' School in Bath Hill where the head-master was 'Gaffer' Wheeler, an ex-army man who lived next door to the school. Our principal lessons were the three 'R's and courtesy and good manners. Keynsham was a village-cum-town of 3-4 thousand people.

One of my earliest memories is of the tea and sports celebrations on the occasion of the Coronation of King George V in 1910

The fields near us were then, as now, flat enough for football and many of the local lads came to play there - the goals being two odd pieces of wood and a rope strung across as a crossbar. The Stockwood Brook was a regular stopping place for the steam wagons and lorries to pick up water by the main road at the bottom of Durley Hill. Flooding of the fields was common in winter but the water never reached our cottage. In 1912 we moved up Durley Hill to a larger cottage rebuilt out of two former cottages.

When the War came in 1914, my brother Charles joined up in the first week but was killed at the Battle of Ypres in July 1915. He was buried on the banks of the Ypres Canal. My eldest brother Reg joined up in 1915 and was drafted to Mesopotamia where he was involved in all the campaigns including the relief of Kut al Imara and the battle of Baghdad. At the end of the war he was at Baku on the



Fig. 1: Percy Baker's birthplace on the Hams, viewed from Durley Lane.



Fig. 2: Local lads who came to play football near the cottage on the Hams.



Fig. 3: Camping opposite the cottage. Front—Stanley Baker who was killed in France in 1916 aged 19; back right—Reg Baker who became a partner in 'Willoughby's'.

Persian/ Russian border. Another brother, Stanley, at the age of 19 was at the Battle of the Somme at Delville Wood in 1916 , where he was posted missing, and, after several weeks, listed as presumed killed.

During the War women worked for the local council doing highway jobs and sweeping roads. These jobs were taken over by the men returning from the forces in 1918. I can remember men cracking stones by the roadsides for the making of roads and being paid so much a yard. Jobs were scarce and there were queues outside the Labour Exchange in the High Street. Wages were low and, with rationing, times were very difficult. Although we were short of money we were always well fed with produce from the garden and allotment. In any event travel was not easy and most families stayed at home.

Christmas was always a happy time with the family at home and Sunday dinners always the big occasion of the week. No one commenced eating until Father and Mother sat down and Grace was said. My sister Alice went blind at the age of three, but she was well-loved and cared for by all of us. She eventually went to a school for the Blind in Exeter. The chief events of the year for children were the Sunday School parties and the annual outing to Weston-super-Mare. Bath Races always created excitement when the few coaches went through Keynsham on the way from Bristol to Lansdown. Children would cry out 'Please throw us a penny' and if the occupants were in a good mood then the children would be lucky. The roads were very dusty and in hot weather the water carts with their sprinklers were a regular feature.

In 1919, when I had reached the age of 14, I had to leave school, but being unable to find a job I helped in a large house at Durley Park where the lady of the house wanted me to be a page-boy. This did not appeal to me so I found myself as a five-year indentured apprentice with a Ladies and Gents Tailor in Bath. This also did not appeal to me but I had no option. I caught the train at Keynsham station at 8.30 am and came home in the evenings on the 6.40 or sometimes the 7.20. The fare cost me 4s 6d a week and my wages in the first year were 7s 6d a week. There was a rise every year and in the last year of my apprenticeship I should have been receiving 35s a week but it had been cut to 32s 6d a week. Keynsham had a good train service as well as two competing bus services, one of which became absorbed by the other.

The first council houses were built in the 1920's and the village had grown to a town of 5,000 inhabitants. There was a fair amount of industry around, with the Colour Mill, the Brass Mill, the Logwood Mill all on the Rivers Avon and Chew and the 'Throsper' factory in the High Street while the Polysulphin soap works gave employment to many local people. Fry's came to Keynsham in 1924 bringing employment in the building of the huge Somerdale chocolate factory and later in 1926 in the factory itself. Many were housed on the estate built by Fry's on land adjoining the factory (Chandos Road area).

Local transport was mainly by horse and cart and two carrier vans went to Bristol every day where they had centres for goods which had to be delivered to the Keynsham area. Names which come to mind are Ambrose Ford, David Short

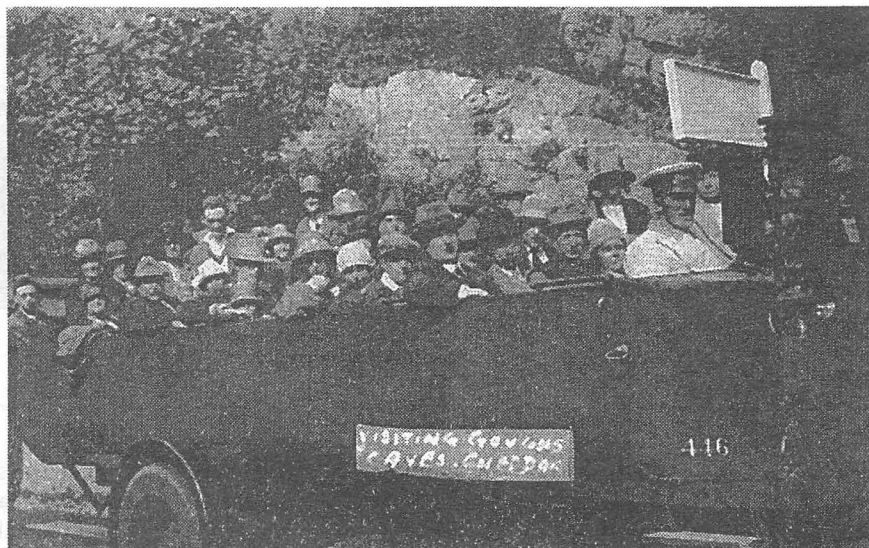


Fig. 4: Typical coach outing organised by Tom Stroud (then owner of the shop which is now *Church's*).

and later Ollis Brothers (whose transport firm is now known countrywide). Locally there were traders who sold oil, candles, soap, etc. from horse-drawn carts, such were Walter Carter and Vernon Skuse. The Ollis family of 16 (8 boys, 8 girls) lived in a cottage in Bath Hill where they were bakers. In another Ollis family, George became Keynsham Town Crier. He wore an attractive costume of jacket, knickerbockers, coloured stockings and pointed shoes as well as a tricorn hat. He announced forthcoming events after ringing his bell and shouting 'Oyez' three times. Before the noise of motorcars his announcements near the church could be heard at the top of Durley Hill. A lady offered him a flashlight (torch) one dark night but he thanked her and said 'I can manage very well with the Parish lantern.' (the moon).

Many other characters come to mind. Jackie Weston kept a small farm (demolished now) in Charlton Road about halfway to Queen Charlton. He was one of the last men to drive a pony and trap which he often tethered to a lamp post outside the British Legion. Watercress Jack slept on the Humpty Dumps off Durley Lane after selling his watercress from door to door.

Chris Kholer was a barber (they were not then called hairdressers). Mr Bowden, the druggist, had a black beard and a dog always at his feet. Cornelius Anstey, the saddler, sewed away munching apples. Tom Stroud's shop (now *Church's*) was open seven days a week for the sale of sweets, pins, cigarettes and



Fig. 5: Keynsham's first Council houses.

even green-grocery. There was a shop in Temple Street where you could always buy faggots and chitterling. Sooty Hine and Mr Sweet were chimney sweeps and a Mr Gibbs with a long white beard kept a newsagents' shop in Bath Hill. The local paper (cost ½d) was issued on Friday and was very popular.

My schoolmaster at Bath Hill, 'Gaffer' Wheeler said to one of my friends, Jack Bailey, whose father kept the Railway Tavern (SWEB shop today), 'I want to see you at 12 o'clock today.' Jack had a worried morning wondering what he'd done wrong. He duly reported at the Head's room at noon and was very relieved when Gaffer said 'Bailey, I want you to go home and get me two flagons!'

Nicknames were much in vogue in the old days - I recall Tanner Jack, Lizzie Kelly, Barley May, Bonny Williams and the aforementioned Watercress Jack and Chopper Harvey.

Keynsham Cattle Market attracted a considerable trade in animals and the roads were often busy with cattle being driven to or from the Bath Road site, or off to the slaughterer. There was a blacksmith's forge at the back of the old Westminster Bank premises which always attracted much interest from idle bystanders.

No one ever died of thirst in Keynsham. There were 14 public houses in the town—15 if you cared to walk to the White Hart (now The Lockkeeper) over the County Bridge on the Bitton Road. There were always several 'bobbies' on the beat in the inter-war years. Sometimes justice was handed out by a 'clip round the ear' in Back Lane. Keynsham was one of the first places to have electric street lighting which with the police patrols kept crime to the petty category. People were able to leave their doors open and be sure the contents would be untouched.

Most people got around by walking, and a favourite walk was from the Pioneer Inn in Station Road, down Hawkeswell fields to the Humpty Dumps, then over what used to be Fox's grounds to Broomhill Road and then into Victory Park. Another walk was down Durley Lane to the River Avon to the ferry by Hanham Lock. A loud shout would bring the ferryman, who for 1d fare would take you over to



the Chequers side for a walk back along the Hams to join the Bitton Road. Footpaths were well marked and much used in those days, and, if obstructed, there was always someone with a pair of pliers to clear the way.

## My Trade

My apprenticeship was in a tailor's shop over-looking the Abbey Churchyard in Bath and I was privileged to see many important weddings, funerals and civic processions at the Abbey. Bath was always an attractive city with its historic buildings and parks and I used to see the wheelchairmen in the Abbey Churchyard waiting for fares for a ride around the city.

I had two very good foremen who taught me the tailoring trade, but eventually the firm was sold and promises did not materialise and disturbed by being let down so badly, I determined to open on my own account. Fortunately my late foreman suggested we open together in a small workshop in Monmouth Street at the back of the Theatre Royal and work 'piecework' for the Bath shops in addition to any trade we could get on our own account. This was in 1926 and no sooner had we started when there was a General Strike. I had to cycle to Bath as there were no trains. We worked long hours—with several all night sessions. In those days work had to be finished when the clients required it, otherwise it was no use and the order was cancelled.



Fig. 6: Percy Baker's first shop in Keynsham High Street.

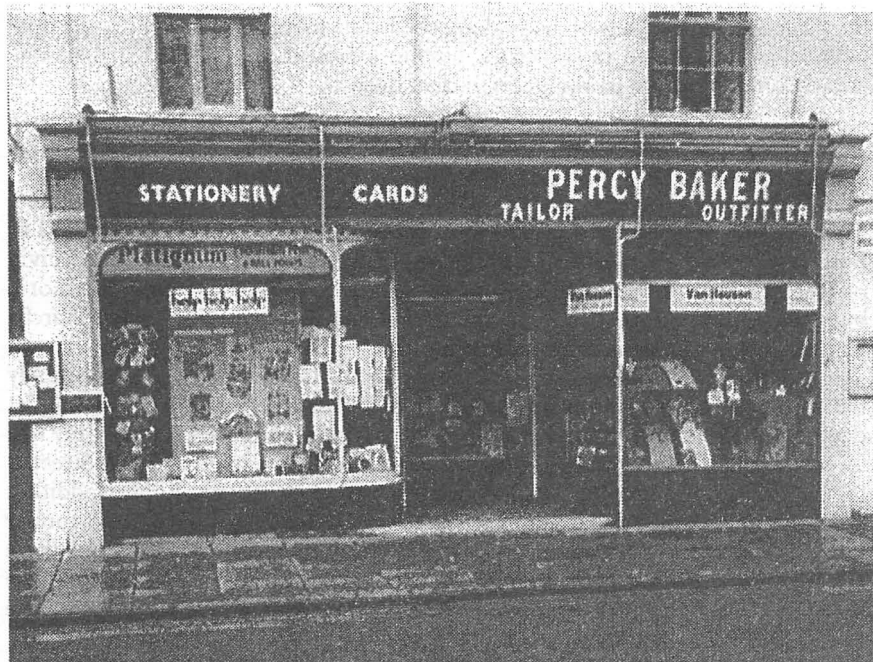


Fig. 7: Percy Baker's shop next to the NatWest Bank.

My trade from the Keynsham area increased and late in 1927 I dissolved the partnership and opened a shop above the saddler's shop in the High Street. The saddler was Cornelius Anstey. I married in 1928 and rented a new house in Norman Road, Saltford, but in February 1929 I returned to live over a shop in the High Street, in a rented house (now Abbey Pharmacy). There was no shop window so I had to leave the door open. Later the landlord put in a shop front and I stayed there until 1950. In 1945 I bought the other outfitter's business near the Fear Institute - a lock-up shop - and kept both going. I moved into a house in Charlton Road, and then sold the original shop.

I was in business for 46 years and I recall the friendliness and trust of local people. A man called one day and left his money with me to pay into the bank as he could not wait for the bank to open. People came in and borrowed their bus money if they had forgotten it. Many local personalities were my customers. I was privileged to make Oxford bags for the local toffs - Punch Ollis, Les Jones, Harry Pester and Stan Williams. The widest I made were 28 inches at the bottom.

The outstanding customers were the Doctors, Doctor Charles Harrison and his son Claude who lived opposite me in the High Street. Dr Charles set a pattern of

service to his patients beyond the call of duty. Dr Claude I considered a saint—my idea of a practising Christian. He lived and worked for others. I know that many a night he did not go to bed between calls for help, but slept in a chair. As a relative of Dr W. G. Grace he had cricket in his blood. He was a great benefactor to the local cricket club in which he held many official capacities. Dr Claude attended his surgery, dispensed his own prescriptions, visited his patients in the afternoons and returned to take evening surgery. Like his father, he seldom sent out any bills and sometimes when he did send an account and people made an effort to pay he sent receipts and also returned the money. I think he adopted this system to test their willingness to pay. This benevolence was only known to a few such as myself. During clothes rationing in the Second World War, he seldom used his coupons himself, but bought presents at Christmastime for patients and friends. The butcher would be given a list of poor and deserving people with instructions to drop in a joint of meat for them. In his early days he was a keen member of the local Dramatic Society, but when his father retired he became more involved in the care of his patients and his interest in the Society suffered. When he eventually retired in 1954 he was persuaded to stand for the local Council and he topped the poll. Early in 1957 he died. The Parish Church was absolutely packed. He had little time to attend church in his lifetime, but to me he was the epitome of a real Christian.

## **My Council Work**

Dr Claude had urged me to stand for the Council, and some two months after his death I was elected. So began my 17 years as an Independent councillor. I have always believed that there was no need for Party politics in Local Government, and I had two fights against two different party candidates and had the satisfaction of winning both.

I have been Chairman or Vice-Chairman of most of the various committees, and became Chairman of the Keynsham Urban District Council for the last two years of its existence. Wansdyke was formed on 1st April 1974 - the Urban Council had been formed in 1938.

Of my other interests: I have been Chairman of Keynsham Charities, a Governor of Broadlands School and one of the Managers of St John's Junior School and Chandag Junior School. I have been Chairman of Keynsham Bowling Club and am now President. In 1975 I was Club Captain.

For many years I have been General Secretary of Keynsham Men's Fireside Fellowship, formed in 1934/5 and which I joined two years later.

I have seen Keynsham change considerably with the building of the first council houses in 1922, the coming of Fry's, the founding of a Telephone Exchange at 33 Rock Road under the care of Miss Webber, the once very popular Keynsham Flower Show, the intensification of building in 1954 to accommodate Bristol overspill, the coming of chain stores and supermarkets, the building of the

bypass in 1963, the disastrous flood of 1968, the building of the New Town Hall in 1965 and the development of the Temple Street area to provide a leisure centre and swimming bath.

Highlights of my Council career were two close associations with the Town Clerks, George Ashton who served the Council for 31 years, and his successor Frank Maude, both Manchester born. One of my greatest memories is of visiting Buckingham Palace for the Queen's Garden Party with my daughter Joyce and Mr and Mrs Maude during my term as Council Chairman.

My life has had its tragedies, for I lost two brothers in the First World War, and my son was killed while working as an assistant engineer in the construction of the Kariba Dam in Rhodesia. My wife never got over the shock and died in 1967. She had been wonderfully tolerant of all the demands made upon my time by Council work and other interests. In 1978 I remarried and moved with my wife Win to a bungalow in Charlton Road. Now, ten years later, I still take an active interest in the world around me.

Keynsham has grown into a town of 20,000 people. I have always advocated progress but not necessarily change. Finally I ask myself are people with all the modern amenities happier than those like myself with our meagre possessions in the old days?



