

AROUND
KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD
PAST
AND
PRESENT



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KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD
PAST & PRESENT

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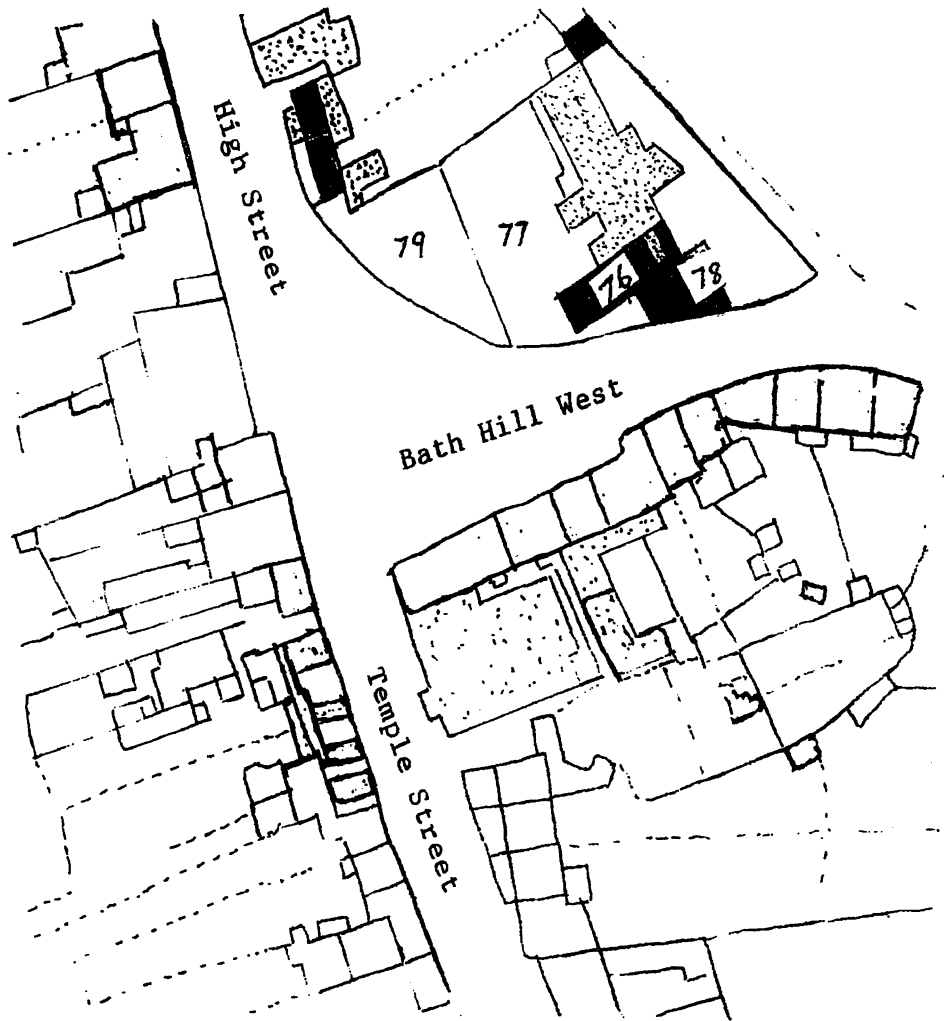
The Lamb and Lark Hotel 1968

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Keynsham Tythe Map 1840

Fig. 1. Site of The Old Lamb & Lark Hotel



- 76 House
- 77 Garden
- 78 House, Malthouse and yard
- 79 Garden

THE LAMB & LARK INN, HIGH STREET, KEYNSHAM.

There was a Lamb & Lark Inn in Keynsham, at least by 1729, as can be deduced by the following advertisement which appeared in The Bath Journal of 28th July 1745;- “William Thomas, who hath kept the Lamb & Lark Inn, Keynsham, in the county of Somerset, upwards of 16 years, being directly to remove to the new Lamb & Lark Inn & Tavern, just above his old houfe in the faid town of Keynsham, gives notice, that the faid —

New Lamb & Lark Inn & Tavern

Will be opened on Friday 21st of this infant March, whence all gentlemen, ladies and others may depend on being accommodated with the best of liquors and treated with the greatest civility. And for the better entertainment of those who shall please to favour him with their company, he will always prepare a good ordinary every day, between the hours of one and two, where anyone may dine at a moderate price and be assured of meeting with a hearty welcome — from their humble fervant William Thomas.

N.B. - The above new Lamb and Lark is a very commodious houfe, with good stabling, a fine yard, a good coach houfe and all other conveniences Note Also the old Lamb and Lark is to be let at Michaelmas next; having a good malt house and other conveniences — for further particulars, enquire of the faid William Thomas. (Fig 1. Site of Old Lamb & Lark Inn)

The following advertisement appeared in the same newspaper;-

“To be LETT at Michaelmas next, At KEYNSHEIM, between Bath and Bristol, A Large convenient MALT-HOUSE, that will make twenty Quarters a Week with Pleasure; likewise a good Dwelling-Houfe adjoining, with a Brew-houfe, good Water, and other Conveniencies. — Enquire of Mr William Thomas, at the Lamb and Lark in Keynsham” (Fig 2 . Copy of this advert)

X To be LETT at *Michaelmas* next,
At KEYNSHEIM, *between BATH and BRISTOL*,
A Large convenient MALT-HOUSE, that will make
twenty Quarters a Week with Pleasure; likewise a
good Dwelling-Houfe adjoining, with a Brew-houfe, good
Water, and other Conveniencies.—Enquire of Mr. *Wil-*
liam Thomas, at the *Lamb and Lark* in *Keynsheim*. **X**

The old Lamb & Lark premises were situated on land stretching from the junction between the High Street and Bath Hill West down the hill to Back Lane At that time the corner was a sharp, right-angled bend at the top of the hill and a hazard to horses and carts and pedestrians alike. Turnpiking removed this sharp bend in 1827, causing some buildings on the site to be demolished when the road was widened. On 24th June 1757, again in the Bath Journal, the old inn was offered for sale, auction or otherwise, at William Thomas' s New Lamb and Lark, enquires to be made to Jeremiah Osbourne, attorney in Bristol, or Samuel Harris at Keynsham. The sale was again advertised in December 1757. On January 14th 1758, Felix Farley's Bristol Journal advertised "To be sold. The Inn called the old Lamb & Lark, well situated at Keynsham (in the county of Somerset) for business, having good stabling, both sorts of water and other conveniences. Also a good, convenient Malt House garden and Backside thereto adjoining, in the tenure of Joseph Wise, all of the yearly value of £22 and held by lease under the Hon. Sir Thomas Whitmore for 3 good lives at yearly Chief Rent of 8/6 plus 11- for Heriott By June 1769, John Emery, a maltster, held the lease of the old inn and adjoining malt house and stables and on 12th June that year, began a carrier service to Bristol and Bath. The malt house complex appears to have continued in use until, at least, mid- 19th century and the old Lamb & Lark is referred to in the 1832 voters list. (Photo 1 & Cover The "new" Lamb and Lark, High Street, c. 1968) The new Lamb & Lark appears to have prospered but in 1758, William Thomas died and his wife, Gwen, attempted to carry on the business. Felix Farley's Bristol Journal of January 7th 1758 carried the notice "All persons having claims on the estate of the said William Thomas are desired to send in the accounts, and those who are indebted are hereby required to pay the same to his said widow." However, on Saturday 2nd August 1760, this notice appeared in the above mentioned journal;- "All persons who have any demands on the estate of the late William Thomas of the Lamb and Lark, Keynsham, in the Co. of Somerset are desired to bring in their respective bills immediately, as the widow is going to leave the business: and all Persons indebted to the estate are desired to pay the same forthwith to the said widow Thomas."

By 1829/30 the premises were indeed large. When these came up for sale (in fee) by auction then, an advertisement in January 1830 described them thus; "All that the said large commodious, convenient and well-frequented inn, called or known by the name or sign of the Lamb, formerly The Lamb and Lark, situate in the town of Keynsham in the Co. of Somerset, together with the Brewhouse, Bowling Green, Garden, Stables, Coach House and other Out buildings thereto

belonging. Keynsham is situated on the London Road midway between Bath and Bristol. The Inn is large and most advantageously situated for business — etc. The Brewery alone sells large quantities of Beer and Business in that line is capable of great extension to the safe customers. The stock in trade, Brewing Utensils, Malt Mill and Household furniture to be taken by purchaser at valuation.” Beer was first made dutiable in 1660 and we know that the Excise had an office in the Lamb and Lark, so it is possible that the old inn was in existence by the late 1600’s.

Most of the early alehouses brewed their own ale/beer on their premises therefore it was necessary to have a local Excise Officer to cover Keynsham and district. The earliest reference to the Lamb and Lark being used as an Excise Office is dated 13th October 1753. Robert Hunter was the first Officer named, followed by William Thomas (Landlord). The Excise Office remained at the inn but in Kelly’s Directory of 1866, it is described as an Inland Revenue Office (coming under the Old Board of Inland Revenue). In 1908 it became part of “H.M. Customs and Excise”.

The Revision Courts (concerned with revising voters lists for a County or Borough) were held at the inn until 1897. Balls and other functions were held there as were meetings of the Union Friendly Society which was begun in 1763. (Fig. 3. Advert of Keynsham Fair and Flower Show). The inn was a staging post for coaches travelling to Bath, Bristol and London but with the coming of the railway its prosperity declined. (Fig. 4. Bill for meal in 1875)

There were frequent changes of Licensees and eventually, in 1909, it was taken over by George’s Brewery.

Until the 1914-18 War, it remained “the gentry’s pub” but trade gradually ebbed and by 1960’s its fabric had deteriorated but it still retained a certain grandeur. A report in the Keynsham Weekly Chronicle at that time, describes it thus;- It is in a commanding position as one enters Keynsham from Bath and one of which any town might be proud: first the view of the park and church tower from the top of Bath Hill, then the valley with the superb span of the by-pass bridge over the park trees: then the Town Hall, quite satisfactory from this angle, and the ancient courthouse opposite as one comes up the hill. (fig. 5. Sketch of roof line.) At the top one looks directly at the three best surviving frontages at this end of town; Ollis’ s, now perfectly charming, Ronto’ s spoiled by the flat new upper windows but retaining its good proportions, and Hartnell Taylor’s also charming and with one of Keynsham’s best 18th century fanlights. Then comes the Lamb and Lark, dun-coloured and shabby, not, at first glance, very distinguished, but the making

Lamb & Lark

HOTEL.

Keynsham Fair & Flower Show!

NEXT WEDNESDAY, August 19th.



Dinner Parties catered
for.

CHOPS!

STEAKS!

TEAS, etc.,

Without Delay.

THE KEYNSHAM BRASS BAND

Will play a Choice Selection of Dance Music on the

MAGNIFICENT LAWN

At the rear of the Hotel,

During the Afternoon & Evening.

W. E. GRANT,

Proprietor.

Fig.3 Advert of Keynsham Fair & Flower Show

B. SKUSE.
Lamb & Lark Hotel.

LAMB & LARK COMMERCIAL HOTEL.

KEYNSHAM.

REFRESHMENTS AT MODERATE CHARGES.

FOREIGN WINE & SPIRITS OF THE BEST QUALITY.

GENUINE HOME BREWED BEER. WELL AIR'D BEDS.

GOOD STABLING.

1875

Jan. 11 th	1/2 Brandy			5	
	1/2 Port			4	
	— Sherry			6	
	— Servants			6	
= 12 th	12 Dinners 5/-	3.	0.	0	
	3 Bottles Sherry			18	
	4 — Port	1.	8		
	Cigars & Tobacco			3	
	Desert			10	
	Coffee			4	
	Attendance			10	
				4.	19 0
	1/2 Sherry			10	
				8.	3

Sattled B. Skuse
Jan. 12th / 75

Fig.4. Bill for meal at Lamb & Lark Hotel



Fig 5. Sketch of roof line top of Bath Hill 1970

of the area. Its proportions are right with the other three — and it is one storey higher. THAT is the crux of the matter — for some 34 feet of skyline is broken by the upper storey, followed by the plunge to the yard; Then comes Church's and the other buildings along the High Street."

This roof line was visually very valuable and was a focal point whichever way it was approached. This variation of height and the portico entrance gave character to this end of the High Street. Look at what is there now! (Photo 3. Present view of site of Lamb and Lark)

Strenuous efforts were made to save the inn from demolition, with much correspondence between Keynsham Urban District Council and George's Brewery and officers of the LHS, Nan Benfield, Eric Linfield and others but all failed.

Just a few asides to complete the story. The year 1745, when the new inn opened, was the year of the great Jacobite rebellion of Bonnie Prince Charlie. "Butcher" Cumberland, who so bloodily defeated him at Culloden, was something of a hero in England, and for a while the Lamb and Lark changed its name in his honour. The Bath Journal reports on April 21st 1776;- "We are assured, that the real Senior Shappee, Practitioner in Physic and Surgery, who travels by Act of Parliament for curing Ruptures or Broken Bellies of all kinds, if the Grief can be put up, in Half an Hour was at the Duke of Cumberland in Keynsham in order to receive patients from Bath and Bristol" (No anaesthetics then:). It is unclear whether this inn was the old or new Lamb and Lark

The Lamb and Lark was the starting point for many works outings. Photo 4. shows employees of the Tangent Motor Works just before they set off on a charabanc trip. Mr F. Cannock, Mrs G. Newman, Mr Hacker are some of those in the picture. Can you name any others?

The Lamb and Lark is referred to by name in the famous "History of signboards" by Larwood and Hotten (8th edition, 1877). I quote;- "at the present day there is a Lamb and Lark at Keynsham, Bath and in Printing House Lane, Blackfriars". It is thought that the London one vanished during the London Blitz, so, when it was evident that the last surviving inn of that name would be demolished, it was suggested that a memorial plaque should be placed on the building which replaced it. This was not done, of course

The Bristol Times of 6 April 1999 carried a picture of a sentimental painting of a lamb looking at a lark perched on a gate post, said to have been done for the Keynsham inn. Does anyone know where it now is?

Licenseses and or occupiers of The Lamb and Lark Inn, Keynsham.

- 1729 William Thomas (old inn)
- 1745 " " (new inn)
- 1758 Gwen Thomas
- 1760 Wallace Dutton
- 1762 Thomas Crew
- 1774 Mary Crew
- 1786 George Saunders
- 1787 Jenny Saunders
- 1788 John Woodman
- 1810 William Bunce
- 1815 Joseph Dobson
- 1829 William Gregory (inn called the Lamb now).
- 1848 Charles Amos (inn back to Lamb and Lark)
- 1861 Arthur Bowker
- 1866 William Weeks
- 1873 Daniel Skuse
- 1874 Betsy Skuse
- 1877 James McQuillan Smith
- 1880 Henry James Cox
- 1890 Michael Clure
- 1891 Joseph Henry Wood
- 1894 William E Grant.
- 1899 Mrs E. J. Stanhope

1902 Elizabeth Davies
1906 Joseph Major
1907 Fred H. Otto
1910 Thomas W Newman
1919 Joseph Whiting
1923 Oliver John Joy
1927 Frank Reginald Smith
1939 Harold Arnold Penney
1956 Cyril Beck
1970 Inn closed
1971 Inn demolished.

These dates are approximate.

The information in this article is mainly from L.H.S. Archives and the Milward documents at the Somerset Record Office.

SALTFORD REMINISCENCES.

This week a friend lent me a copy of the Magazine of St. Mary's Church, Saltford for October 1937 and it makes interesting reading. As I grew up in Saltford, I remember some of the people mentioned. The names listed on the cover are those of the Rector, who was also Editor, the Rev. James Evans, and Percy Sims the then Honorary Secretary of the Parochial Church Council who wrote a popular history of the village some years later.

Cecil Ewins was Secretary of Saltford Boy Scouts and now his son, Trevor, is a lay reader at Newton St. Loe, part of the Benefice of the three villages, Saltford, Corston, and Newton St. Loe.

The Magazine has advertisements for local businesses - St. Keyna Motor Works which used to be in the High Street, Keynsham, and FH. Crofts, the newsagent at Saltford (whose son, Bev, now attends the Day Centre at Saltford and is a leading authority on "Scrabble"!)

I don't remember Saltford Kindergarten and Preparatory School at Meadowlands, which took children from four to twelve years, but I do remember Hancocks the 'General Ironmonger' on Bath Road. Spears pork pies also got a mention and all local telephone numbers were just two digits.

The Rectors letter started by saying that October should be the eighth month of the year since "octo" means eight, but the Roman year started in March or early spring, so the eighth month is now the tenth

The page entitled "Church News from Home and Abroad" included an item on the "Clipping" ceremony at Painswick in Gloucestershire which had been revived forty years previously. I saw this some years ago. Parishioners join hands in a circle all around the Church thus "clipping" or embracing it. On the same page is a picture of eight brothers who, before the Great War, all sang in the choir of the Chapel Royal at Brighton.

There are interesting articles, one of which explains why yew trees are popular in churchyards; and stories, one of which is 'to be continued' so we will never know 'who dun it'; another is the sad tale of 'The Man What Sold Winkles', about a widower with a young daughter wrongly accused of stealing a handbag.

I loved the household hints on washing, sewing, cooking and cleaning and "Today's Thoughts": "To those who rise early, God often gives the dew his blessing" or "All five fingers are not alike, but they can work together".

I noticed that women were usually addressed as Mrs or Miss, with no initials. Mrs Bunker, the headmistress of the school, and Miss McDonald, another teacher — come to think of it, we never knew their first names.

Today Church Magazines are very different and far less formal.

A sobering thought is that I was a small child in 1938 and now I am History!

A WARTIME CHILDHOOD IN SALTFORD.

I was born in 1938 in a Nursing Home at the bottom of Bathwick Hill, in Bath, but we lived at ‘Springfield’ in The Folly. Where now there are bungalows between The Folly and The Glen was part of our large gardens. Here my father grew vegetables, with soft fruit at the far end - I can remember lovely juicy raspberries and loganberries. Adjoining The Folly was a large horse chestnut tree, a magnet for boys looking for conkers, but a nuisance to my father as he was forever digging up suckers out of the vegetable plot.

Our house was semi-detached, and the next detached house up the lane was ‘Woodside’, where Mr. Radcliffe lived. He was a J.P. and his daughter Joyce was the only one of my god- parents whom I ever knew. Mr. Radcliffe became High Sheriff of Somerset in 1948. He died, aged 81, on the 16th June 1952, with his funeral being three days later at Corston Church.

The next large house was shared by friends Miss Cockram and Miss Perrott. They lived separately, one in each half of the house. Miss Cockram ran a kindergarten, which I attended from the age of four-and-a-half. I think we had a good grounding, and I remember learning to recite the alphabet backwards! The house was covered in a Virginia creeper, which turned a glorious red colour in the autumn.

My best friend, Guy Smith, lived in ‘The Cote’, the house at the top of the Folly. His father was away at the War and I was devastated when Guy was sent off to boarding school. Beyond his house were fields, with a rather delapidated shack-like building, (I believe called ‘Tree Tops’) where we used to play ‘house’.

With the freedom of fields and woods to play in, the War seemed far away, but it did affect us. I was given a gas mask but apparently screamed hysterically at the sight of it. We did not have an Air Raid Shelter, but when the sirens sounded we went into the cupboard under the stairs, which was cold and cramped. Being so close to Bath and Bristol, we did get bombs when those cities were being targetted, and shocks from bombs falling some miles away. On the night of Sunday 26th April 1942 a 1,000 lb. bomb fell near the front of the house and two 500 lb. ones a few yards farther up the hill. Most of our front windows were blown out and a ceiling in one of the top rooms of the house collapsed on to a bed and books stored there. This meant we had no gas for heating or lighting, (we didn’t have electricity)

and my mother was trying to cook things in a saucepan on a small coal fire in the living room, with no glass in any of the windows. To make matters worse I had whooping cough badly, which I gave to my mother, though she should have been immune, having already had it as a child. The gas supply was restored three weeks later, but the windows were not replaced until the 8th June, having in the meantime been “blacked out” with felt by the Council.

My father was a Special Constable during the War, and spent many nights out on Air Raid duty. Mother was involved with the Housewives Services organisation at Keynsham, the W, V.S. and with the local First Aid Point, which Dr. Taylor was instrumental in setting up. He gave frequent lectures, including, by 1944, on how to administer morphine. A permanent Point was established at Mrs. Taylor's in the High Street in March 1941.

The lady living in the large house at the bottom of The Folly took in evacuees, I believe from the East End of London. I was told not to have anything to do with those boys, as being too rough, but one couldn't help meeting them occasionally.

We must have eaten reasonably well and my mother was fined by Keynsham Magistrates for accepting more meat than our ration. The butcher delivered in The Folly; probably there were other deliveries but I did sometimes go with mother to Crofts, the grocers at the top of Saltford Hill, by The Crown.

My parents had moved to Saltford from Bristol in 1933. Before the War mother played golf, and also took her dog to the golf course, getting there from the top of The Glen, with permission from Mr. Bill Gibbons. I think it was out of bounds to us children, as I only remember going there with an adult.

A favourite walk with my parents was down The Shallows to the river. It was fun to “cooee” under the railway bridge, to get the echo. Shepherds was a bustling place with all its boats, and we walked past the various club boathouses in the Bath direction. There was a wooden platform which one could use to haul oneself across to the other side of the river, and apparently before the War mother used to swim from it. The Packers at “The Bird in Hand” in the village were friends of my parents, who went there for relaxation, sing-songs, and great celebrations at the end of the War!

In September 1944 I started at Amberley House School in Keynsham. It had been evacuated from Bristol, and similarly Northumberland House School was

next door. I believe both houses were demolished for the Keynsham By-Pass. I travelled from Saltford by train with my father, who continued on to Bristol, where he taught at the Cathedral School. One morning there was an emergency stop just after we left the station - apparently the doctor was so busy chatting that he had boarded the train but left his medical bag on the platform! From Keynsham station I walked up the path to the school in Station Road; in the afternoon I took the bus back to Saltford with other children. The headmistress of the school was a formidable lady who had rendered me almost dumb with fright at my initial interview, so I was placed in the bottom class. By the first afternoon I was moved up one class, and the following morning I was moved up again! The top two classes were accommodated in a hut somewhere else, and there was great excitement when we heard that there had been a fire at the premises - did this mean they would not have to go to school?

As the War drew to a close there were ups and downs in my life. I belonged to the Saltford Brownies, and took part in their play at the Women's Institute. I have no recollection of what part I played - I can only remember walking home on a pitch-black night. Some months later I contracted measles and lay in a darkened room for ten days. There was a week's holiday in Weston-super-Mare, and a visit to Bristol to see Mr. Churchill arriving to receive the freedom of that City.

In August 1945, as my mother was away, I went to Scout camp with my father, who was Assistant Scoutmaster of the 1st Saltford Scouts. To my disappointment I slept in Hunstrete House, (then owned by Colonel Buller-Leyburn-Popham) instead of in a tent, but I joined the camp next to Lord's Wood during the day, and was allowed to stay up for a sing-song round the camp fire on the last night.

September 1st 1945 was the day of the Victory Sports and Tea for children, held at the Manor Field in Saltford. For the only time in my life I won a race, and that was only because Grace Lavington, who was in front, kept looking round to see how close I was! Some days later Mark and Shelley Durman came to see us off as we left Saltford to live in Bristol - a time of great sadness for me.

ELIZABETH SABIN.

GREEN HILL FARM

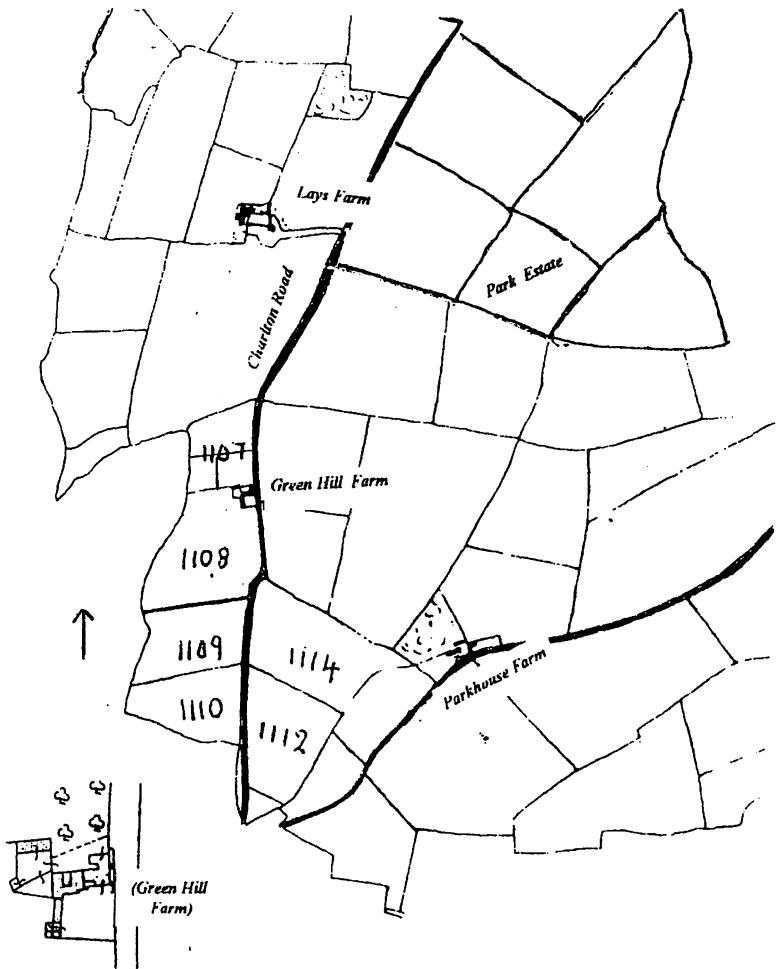
Margaret Whitehead

Green Hill Farm, or Little Lays as it was known prior to Mr Albert John Weston changing the name sometime before World War II, was situated at the top of Charlton Road just beyond Lays Farm. It consisted of 4 fields of arable land, all bounded by the road on the east and adjoining fields on the west side in Queen Charlton parish. As will be seen from the plan opposite based on the 1841 tithe map, which delineates the parish boundary, these fields (plot nos. 1107-1110) form the western boundary of the parish at this point. Research to date shows that the 4 fields have been a separate holding for a long period, perhaps because they form one long strip beyond the larger holding of Lays Farm from which they may have been separated at one time. By the time the farm was put up for sale in 1968 two fields on the other side of Charlton Road (tithe plot nos. 1112 & 1114) were also being farmed by Mr Weston.

Another name for this farm was 'The Donkey' at a time when it sold beer, long remembered after it ceased to do so. To the drivers of pack animals bringing the small brown coal used for industrial processes from Pensford down to Avon Wharf just beyond the County Bridge on the Willsbridge Road, it was a godsend.

The long pull out of the Chew Valley up Publow Hill was a tiring one and the farm, situated on the crest of a hill, provided water for the animals and a good home brew for the drivers. The late Mr W. Matthews of Dapps Hill said the last occupier to supply beer was Mrs Sarah Fear. The same family appear to have had a long association with the farm according to the the records I consulted.

Albert John Weston, known to everybody as Jackie, came to farm at "Little Lays" prior to 1923 with his wife Edith. He died in December 1967 aged 81 and his funeral took place at Compton Dando Parish Church. According to the obituary in the Keynsham Weekly Chronicle, he was born in Woodford, near Wells. He was a member of the NFU and farmed in Saltford prior to coming to Keynsham. A photograph of his wife, who had died about five years previously, was found when the house was being cleared and was reproduced in the Keynsham Chronicle. It shows Edith with three other ladies holding collecting boxes bearing the words "Free Meal Fund" standing beside a draped barrel organ. A man standing in the background was probably pushing the barrel organ to draw attention to their collecting. It was thought to have been taken in London where Mrs Weston was known to have lived in her young days.



I am indebted to Julian Arthur for the following facts about the Westons and Green Hill Farm which he has kindly allowed me to use. Julian came to work at Green Hill Farm on 11th May 1956 having just completed a course in agriculture at a YMCA training college near Yeovil. Prior to that, as an orphan brought up in Devon, he had been living in Bristol with a foster mother. He knew Keynsham as the place through which he came with the annual Sunday School Outing on their way from Bristol to the Shallows at Saltford and remembers St. John's Parish Church as the main landmark in the town.

He lived in at the farm and loved working on the land and with the animals. Jackie Weston who was hard of hearing then, gradually became stone deaf which made communication with him difficult, Julian can remember having to go into Bristol at intervals to get parts for his hearing aid. Right up to when he died he made all his local journeys by horse and cart and was a very familiar sight driving up and down Charlton Road and through the High Street. A close friend used to drive him about by car when he went further afield. Although generally thought of as an awkward character, he was well liked I am told.

Green Hill Farm was a dairy farm with between 16 to 18 Friesian cows producing milk, which was collected daily in churns by Bristol Dairies, then at Stokes Croft in Bristol. There was one horse to pull the cart and hay rake. The crops of Kale, Swedes, Turnips and Mangolds were all grown for winter feed for the cows. Vegetables were grown for their own table and the free range eggs were sold locally. Only a small amount of fertiliser was used along with cow manure on the fields. Cattle were not fattened on the farm. Any calves or barren cattle were taken in the cart by Jackie for sale at the weekly Cattle Market run by Cooper & Tanner next to the Talbot Inn. The Market ceased in 1975. It is now the site of Homeavon House, a large complex of flats.

The house, as will be seen in the photograph, was stone built with two rooms and a kitchen downstairs and 3 bedrooms upstairs. Although there was hot and cold water in the kitchen there was no bathroom and Julian remembers having to go to a friend's house for baths!. He has fond memories of Mrs Weston who was very kind to him.

When Jackie Weston died, Julian had been on the farm for eleven years and, as the house was put up for sale with the land and stock, he was made homeless. He was allocated a flat by the Council and was offered another job at Fields Farm,

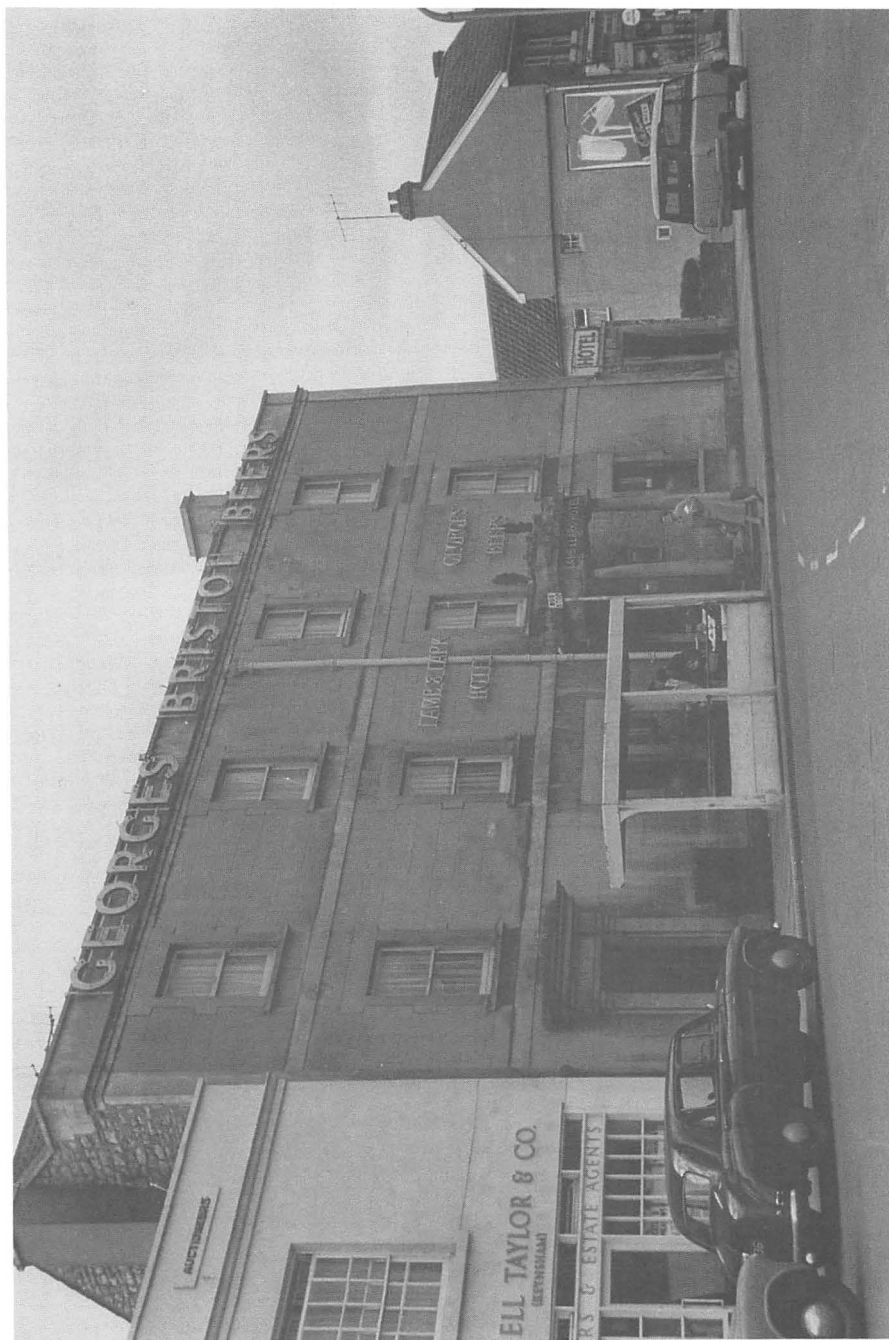


Photo 1. The Lamb & Lark Hotel 1968 (Also as Cover Photo)



Photo 2. Roof line at top of Bath Hill 2003



Photo 3. Greenhill Farm



Photo 4. Charabanc trip by employees of Tangent Motor Works



Photo 5. Mr Eric Linfield

Corston, near the Wheatsheaf Inn. This was a larger farm and the Frappels had beef cattle as well as dairy cows. Julian was there until 1974 when he began work as part of the team which maintained the gardens of all the local hospitals and which he continued until his retirement.

In March 1968 the farmhouse and land were put up for sale by public auction at the Lamb & Lark Hotel *

It was to be sold as three lots and was described in the sale notice as -

“The Property comprises a farmhouse, buildings and some 36 1/2 acres of useful land just on the outskirts of the thriving Market Town of Keynsham, on the road to Whitchurch (Charlton Road)”

The house and 22 acres of pasture land (the original holding) along with 8 acres of accommodation land were sold to Mr Enoch Williams of Chepstow. He had been the managing director of the Beachley-Aust ferry, which had been recently made redundant due to the opening of the first Severn Bridge. The remaining 6 acres of accommodation land was purchased by Mr R.J. Taylor of Wellfield House, which was on the other side of Charlton Road near Parkhouse Farm. Mr Williams admitted that he was not a farmer and was planning to let the land on a grazing tenancy. He was not sure what he would be doing with the farmhouse. The rateable value was £38 with a current annual rate of £24.

At the time of sale, the field south of the farmhouse (Tithe map No 1107) had been divided into three pieces and field nos. 1108/9 were one field.

Brian Woodham, who was a regular contributor to the late lamented Keynsham Weekly Chronicle for many years, wrote an article in March 1974 in which he described walking past Green Hill Farm every day on his way to and from his cottage in Queen Charlton and feeling very sad that an era and a way of life had come to an end. He was full of nostalgia about the Westons, remembering the animals, the scent of the grass in the sunshine and the small quaint barns, and described how every autumn he would go up to the farm and buy his yearly bucket of fresh milky walnuts. He would sit by the log fire with Mr Weston who would now and then tap his hearing aid back on the right wavelength. He also remembered when Julian Arthur, a pleasant young lad, came to live and work there. He describes the house as a sad ruin with smashed windows, the barns crumbling and suburbia creeping inexorably up to within a couple of hundred yards. It was eventually demolished, although the land is still being grazed.

We can only hope that our Green Belt will be protected and that this land will remain as it has been for several hundred years, instead of being sacrificed to the insatiable demand for more development.

Historical Notes:

The earliest mention I have found of the farm was in 1781, when the land was in the occupation of Lyn (Lyne) Fear and described as “Lyes” and listing the 4 fields. However, as I found that he had been assessed at 13s. 4d. (66p) in the 1766 Land Assessment Tax for Keynsham, I think it is highly likely that this was the same holding. For a variety of spellings and possible origins of the name, refer to my article on Lays Farm in Journal No. 8, also the article on Keynsham Great Park by Barbara Lowe in the same issue. Lyne Fear is documented as being of Queen Charlton in 1778, but moved to Keynsham and is described as a yeoman farmer. In 1801 he was paying rates on Lays. His son, also called Lyne, was a glazier and is recorded in the Vestry Minutes as an Overseer of the Poor and seemed to be generally involved in the life of the town.

In the 1841 Tithe apportionment, Giles Fear is listed as the occupier of field Nos. 1107-1110 described as:

Leigh's 4	acres)		
8	“)	Owner:	The Duke of Buckingham
6	“)		
5	“)		

There is no reference to a cottage or barns with the land and he and his family were living near Milward House in the High Street. In the 1851 census he is described as a farmer of 30 acres, aged 78 with a wife Hester aged 74, both born in Keynsham and still living in the same property. I have not been able to ascertain whether he was a brother of Lyne Fear Jnr. , or a cousin. He is named in the Vestry Minutes as Assistant Overseer of the Poor in 1829 at a salary of £30 pa., and is recorded as a committee member of the Union Friendly Society of Keynsham.

Also listed in the 1851 census is Frederick Fear, described as a maltster, and Eliza his wife, both aged 34 with two sons, Lyne aged 3 and Sidney aged 1. They were living in the vicinity of Charlton Road and it is quite likely that if the cottage had been built by the time that they were living there.

It is of interest to note that Samuel Fear, a plumber and glazier (son of Lyne Fear Jnr.) also aged 34, with Elizabeth his wife aged 33 and 3 children, John Nelson, aged 11, Sarah aged 9, and Elizabeth aged 5, were living in Temple Street in 1851. The son, John Nelson Fear, became one of Keynsham's most well-known men. When he died in 1917 he left considerable property in his will, some of which he left to be sold in order to set up the Fear Institute. He was Secretary to the Keynsham Gas Company and a prominent member of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and following family tradition, figured in the public life of Keynsham. I have not been able to establish whether it was his wife, Sarah, who was selling beer at the farm, as remembered by Mr Matthews.

When the Chandos Estate was put up for sale in 1858 due to the bankruptcy of the 3rd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, an advertisement appeared in the Bath Chronicle on 20th May and the Bristol Mercury on 22nd May 1858, as follows:

“Important Sale of the Freehold Estates, in the Parish of Keynsham, Somerset, known as The Chandos Property ... Mr Alexander will Sell by Auction At Lamb & Lark Inn* On Tuesday 8th June 1858 at 2 O'clock precisely in 58 lots

Lot 31 Tithe No. 1107 Leigh's 4 acres Arable 4 acres 1 rood 32 perches Tenant Mr Fear. Substantial stone cottage used as beer house. Most eligible plot.
Lot 32 “ No. 1108 Leigh's 8 acres 8a. -r. 6p Adjoining Lot 31
Lot 33 “ No. 1109 Leigh's 6 acres 4a. 3r. 37p Superior Arable
Lot 34 “ No. 1110 Leigh's 5 acres 5a. -r. 16p All fronting east side of Charlton Road

This is the first mention of a cottage, the barns appear to be contemporary with it and would have been necessary for the beer brewing, also for any animals being overwintered on the farm by this time. It is interesting that the farm had two wells.

A Mrs Elizabeth Fear is listed as a farmer in Charlton Road in the Kelly's Directory for 1875. In 1881 Eliza Fear, a widow aged 64, is living in Clovelly Villa, The Park, with her daughter and son-in-law, Cecil Hamilton Oxford, (son of the well known Thomas Oxford who was Clerk to the Keynsham Union), She is almost certainly Frederick's wife, listed in the 1851 census aged 34.

By the 1881 census the enumerator is naming the streets and roads. An agricultural labourer and his family living in Charlton Road are listed next to the occupiers of

Lays Farm as John Holcombe, 36 with his wife Elizabeth, also 36 and their five children. It is possible that Elizabeth was the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Fear who was aged 5 in the 1851 census, thus continuing the long association by the Fear family with Little Lays.

The farm is listed in the Kelly's Directory for Keynsham from 1910 up to 1939.

1910	Charles Skuse	Farmer	Little Lays
1914		"	Little Lays, Charlton Road
1919		"	"
1923 - 1935	Albert John Weston	"	"
1939	"	"	Greenhill Farm

One final comment on the name, all references to Green Hill Farm, apart from the above, separate the two syllables. Kelly's Directories are a very useful research tool, but I have found frequent spelling errors in them.

Margaret Whitehead February 2003

Notes:

I would like to thank Mr Julian Arthur for his kind hospitality, for so willingly giving me the information about his time on the farm and for permission to use his photographs.

The historical sources and references are contained in the Society Archives and includes the following:

Transcripts of 1766 Land Tax Assessments

Transcripts from Keynsham Rates Book 1797-1801

1841 Tithe Apportionment

1851 Census

1881 Census

Kelly's Directories

Articles from Keynsham Weekly Chronicle

Sale notice of Auction

* The Lamb & Lark Inn was used for auctions of local houses and land for over two hundred years as it was the only public building big enough and suitable for this purpose.

THE HARINGTONS OF KELSTON

Extracts from “Memoranda, Historical and Genealogical, relating to the Parish of Kelston by the Rev. Francis I Poynton, MA. (Rector). Printed privately in 1885.

We are grateful to Mike Rawlings who allowed us to borrow such an interesting book.

The exact birthplace of Sir John Harington is not known. It is just possible that his birth could have taken place at St. Catherine’s Court, another Harington property near Bath.. Sadly, all the registers of that Chapelry have been lost. However, John Harington, Sir John’s father, had a residence in London or Lambeth, so it is more likely that his son was born there in 1561. Later, he was baptised in one of the Royal Chapels, possibly Greenwich, because his sponsors were Queen Elizabeth I and the Duke of Norfolk. In recognition of this event, a golden basin, or miniature Font was used and consequently became treasured by the family. Unfortunately, it was lost in the siege and surrender of Bristol Castle as the family plate had been sent there for greater security during the Civil War.

The Harington family moved to Kelston when their Manor House , designed by James Barrozzi of Vignola, was completed in the 1580’s. A Dr. Pocock (British Mus. Mss. No. 14260) describes the house thus;- “There is a handsome Doric door-case to it, with niches in front, divided by Ionic pillars, and at the back of the house is a door- case, if I mistake not, with an Ionic entablature, and a broken pediment with a vase in the middle, which is not judged to be in good taste, but in other respects a fine door- case. There are two grand chimney pieces — one in the Corinthian order, the other a bad execution of a kind of Tuscan, with a bas-relief of a king and people about him and a tower as with men on it. Under it (the bas-relief) is the inscription “Psalmes cv”

The windows are the large kind divided into several compartments. There is a grand room both above and below in which are these chimney pieces; within them are two smaller rooms divided in two by cage-work, to which are closets in the [one?] tower. The staircase is in the other tower, the floors of which are solid timber. The room up two pairs of stairs seems to have been designed as a gallery; so that the sleeping rooms seem to have been in the tower. The house is all hewn stone, but of the tower only the coigns and window frames. A wing joined on each side of it of stables and kitchen offices”.

Besides the Manor House there were thirty-six messuages, one water grist mill,

three fulling mills, two dovehouses, forty gardens, forty orchards, eight hundred acres of land, one hundred acres of furze and heath, one hundred acres of meadow, three hundred acres of pasture, forty acres of wood, one hundred acres of moor, sixty shillings rent common of pasture for manner of cattle, common turbary, free fishing in the River Avon and also the Advowson of the Church of Kelston.

Although Sir John Harington was Queen Elizabeth's Godson, he was not always in favour. He was twice commanded to leave her Court and return to his manor at Kelston and, during one such retirement (between 1594 and 1596) he invented the water closet hundreds of years ahead of other similar inventions. [In 1981, the Gladstone Pottery Museum in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, which houses a fine collection of sanitary ware, reconstructed a full-scale, working model of Sir John's closet, to provide a starting point for that display.]

Queen Elizabeth I visited Bath in 1574 and instigated a collection throughout the county to help in the restoration and completion of the Abbey (not as you see it today). She is reputed to have wished that the Abbey should become the parish church of Bath.

At the Dissolution the Commissioners tried to sell the Abbey to the City for £500. The City Fathers refused the offer and it was subsequently sold to Humphrey Colles, all saleable materials going for scrap. Shortly afterwards it was sold again, to Matthew Colthurst, then his son, Edmund, presented the roofless, windowless shell to the City.

Nothing much happened until after Queen Elizabeth I's visit.

Sir John Harington was a staunch ally for the restoration of the Church. He is suspected of resorting to graffiti in charcoal on the Abbey ruins thus:-

“O, Church! 1 waile thy wofull plight

Whom King nor Cardinal, nor Clerke nor Knight

Have yet restored to auncient right!”

(The second line refers to Bishop King and his successors).

When Bishop Montague visited Bath on a very wet day, Sir John Harington suggested they should shelter in the Abbey. When the Bishop commented on the fact that he was still getting wet, Sir John drew his attention to the roofless state of the building, thus starting the final stages of restoration.

It was said that the visit of Queen Elizabeth I cost Sir John the sale of St. Catherine's Court.

Towards the end of Queen Elizabeth I's reign. Sir John may well have been wondering about his position under a new sovereign, so in 1602, he sent a lantern to King James of Scotland:-

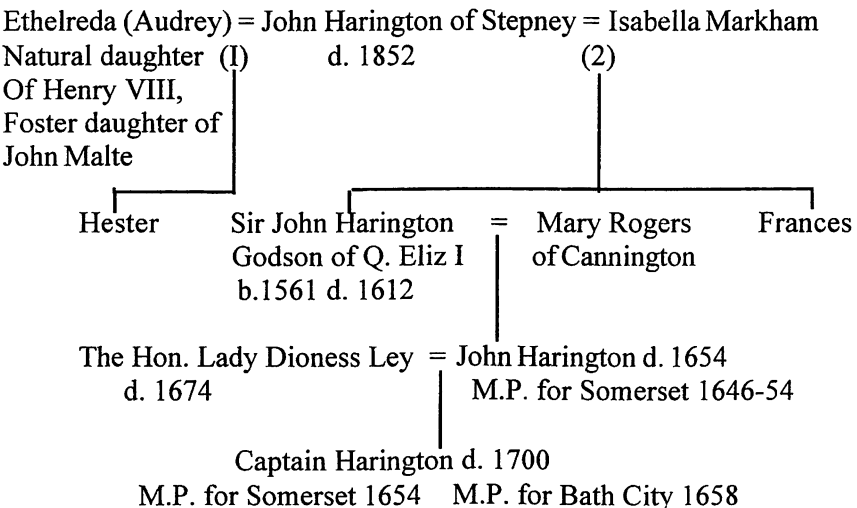
Quote from book,“—— it must have taxed his ingenuity to devise, it was what is commonly called a dark lantern. It was made of four metals, gold, silver, brass and iron. The top of it was a crown of pure gold: within it was a shield of silver to reflect the light: on one side of it was the sun, with the moon and seven stars, and on the other the story of the birth and passion of Christ as is reported to have been sculptured on the walls of Nottingham Castle by David II, King of Scots” It was duly sent to King James and this was his reply;-

“To our trustie and well belovede Sir John Harington of Bath, Knt. R trustie and wel-belovite friende, we grete you hairtily weill We have raissaivit your lanterne with the poesie you sende us by our servande Williame Hunte, givinge your hairtie thanks, as lykewayse for your laste letter, quhawin we persaiife the continuance of your loyall affectione to us and your service: we shall not be unmyndefule to extend our princelie favoure heirafter to you and your particulars, at all guid occasions. We committe you to God. (signed) James R”

From our Court at Hallruid House April the thyrde, 1603.”

Sir John’s forethought paid off as King James made him a Knight of the Bath in 1603, and gave him the entierey of the Kelston Manor, by granting him the advowson of the Rectory which was withheld from him by Queen Elizabeth I. Last but not least, King James confirmed to Harington and his heirs for ever who descended from Isabella Markham and not from Audrey Malte, the possession of all the estate that Audrey Malte and her heirs, or failing any issue from her, the heirs of Malte her foster-father had received by Grant of King Henry VIII.

The following may help in understanding the above;



A brief account of Star Chamber suit between Sir John Harington and his brother-in-law Edward Rogers 1602; is as follows;-

On the death of Lady Jane Rogers, mother of Sir John's wife Mary, Frances Rogers (daughter of Mary's brother Edward) only 11 years old, and Mary herself, were executors of the will. Edward Rogers was away at the time, so Sir John Harington went to the house at Cannington and installed himself there to conduct the affairs of the deceased. Lady Jane Rogers was said to have declared that her son Edward was not to interfere.

When Edward returned and found Sir John in the family home and himself excluded as executor, he consulted with Richard Weeks, then Under Sheriff of Somerset, and others who then went to the house at Cannington carrying an assortment of weapons (swords, daggers, pykes, halberds and pistols). Luckily Sir John Harington had bolted the door as they "maliciously and riotously" tried to break in. Sir John then promised to allow Edward Rogers to enter the house if he behaved himself and he would explain the wording of the will and his reasons for being there. Rogers, however was not appeased and told five or six of his party to carry Sir John upstairs and lock him in a dark room without "fyre, candle, light, bed or stool to rest for nine hours". Rogers and his party then ransacked the place in their own time until 11 the next morning. They broke open several boxes, caskets and portmanteaus of Sir John Harington. (So was he perhaps helping himself to various bits and pieces?)

Captain John Harington, grandson of Sir John

He was the first Harington to reside in the Manor House of Corston, his mother, Lady Dioness living in the Manor at Kelston He was married four times and had twenty children. Lady Dioness had refused to allow her son to live at Keiston Manor after the death of his father (hence his home at Corston), although she resided mainly at Bath allowing the Manor House to fall into disrepair. By so doing she probably caused the ultimate loss of the estate in the 18th century.

He became a Captain of Horse in Cromwell's army in 1655 and later a Captain of Foot in April 1660, but when in May of that year, Charles returned to England as King, John Harington was about to have his estates confiscated and was facing ruin. Luckily for him, he had a great number of very influential noblemen and gentlemen in the West of England who made an earnest representation to the Crown begging for a full pardon.

The letter basically said that John Harington became a captain in Cromwell's army at the request of the signatories to protect them from "ruin and plunder — his compliance rendered him exposed to loss of friends and relations in battle,

and loss of fortune in many acts of goodness — and our duty obliges us to render him our best services to protect him from his Majesty's displeasure".

This was signed by no less than 24 gentlemen and did, in fact, secure John Harington's pardon. He dropped his title of Captain and wisely returned to his estate at Corston and remained there until the death of his mother in 1674 when he removed to Kelston

The signatories were;-

Poulett, Marleburgh, Thos. Bridges, George Norton, John Pearce, Christopher Dillon, John Newton, Maurice Berkeley, William Basset, E. Phelipps, George Clarke, G. Speke, John Bampffield, Sam Horner, Thomas Hall, William Hall, Henry Neville, John Graham, Sam Gorges, Hugh Smyth, Will. Helyar, George Sydeham, Thomas Pigott and A. Poulett

Kelston Manor house fell into disrepair and had to be sold in 1764 to Caesar Hawkins Esq. who commenced the immediate demolition of the house. The Harington of that time left the manor to reside in Bath, only to see the destruction of his old home during his lifetime.

When Lieut.- Col Inigo Jones came to reside at Kelston in 1857-8, he rescued the bas relief (mentioned at the beginning of this article) and placed it under cover. It was apparently then outside the stable block. This curious and interesting stone had already sustained injury since the demolition of the house. It was described as being of freestone, native to the district, and measuring four feet square and six inches thick. I wonder where it now is?

Mrs Susan James.

Sadly, in July 2002, we lost one of our most regular members, Susan James. Susan was born in 1910 to Captain J.S. and Mrs Parker of Upton Cheyney. In 1919, at the end of the first World War, her family moved to St. Omer in France where her father was instrumental in setting up the Imperial War Graves Commission. Susan was educated at boarding schools in Folkestone and Tours, becoming a Nursery Governess working in Tours and then in Naples. Later, she trained at Welgarth College, Golders Green and worked as a Nursery Nurse in the London area.

When World War 11 began, she joined the WRENS and met her future husband, Clifford James, whilst stationed at Yeovilton. They married in 1943 and, in 1948, moved to Park House Farm, Keynsham, with their two sons, Mark and Norman. Both Clifford and Susan were involved with the local community. Clifford became a Councillor & School Governor, whilst Susan joined the Townswomens Guild, K & S Local History Society, Keynsham Hospital League of Friends, became Church Secretary and later, Churchwarden of St. Margaret's Queen Charlton. Her prime interest was in the Keynsham Charities and she was a Founder member when all Keynsham Charitable bequests were amalgamated under the aegis of the Charity Commissioners in 1956. A predecessor of Susan's, Louise Jane Milward, was Founder of the Milward Homes in Charlton Road in 1886, so the welfare of the homes and inhabitants was of particular concern to her.

When Clifford died in 1982, Susan moved to one of Keynsham's oldest surviving houses, the Dappifer's House in Dapps Hill. (A Dappifer was a Steward to the King.) She loved to cycle around Keynsham but as the years advanced, she used an electric buggy to visit shops and St. John's Church.

It was a pleasure to talk to Susan for she was a fount of knowledge and kept pace with modern life.

ERIC GEORGE LINFIELD.

25-4-21 to 16-8-02.

Those who attended Eric's Thanksgiving Service will, I am sure, feel as I did that it was a happy occasion. Everyone had such fond memories of him; of the man himself, his great love of books; his enthusiasms; his wide knowledge, his humour, his joy and need to pass on his thirst for learning and the enormous pleasure it gave him. I first met Eric when I joined the Local History Society in the 1960's. We were just starting to collect facts and photographs of what was, at that time, a vanishing Keynsham. The members divided into groups, each researching a certain aspect. I joined Eric's group called "Inns and Alehouses" (many, I'm sure, fondly thinking "what else" or "I should have known" or "of course".) Our findings are in the Society's Archives and those in respect of the wantonly destroyed "Lamb and Lark" are printed in this Journal.

I cannot do justice to Eric but the following are some of the tributes to our great friend and colleague.

Susan Trude.

Many people in the area were saddened by the death of Eric Linfield of Saltford. He worked as an active Parish Councillor to develop the modern community; and as a founder member of the Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society, a founder member and secretary of Keynsham & North Wansdyke Heritage Trust (and for many years a member of the executive committee of Avon Local History Society) he worked to uncover Saltford's history "to preserve its legacy"

He was, of course, a supporter of CAMRA and his "Inns and Alehouses Research Group" combined documentary research with practical sampling! The house where he and his wife, Sheila, lived was home to thousands of books. A colleague once remarked that Eric was the only person he knew who had a house extension built to accommodate his books. His first book was about English Humour and his collection of over 1,800 humorous books forms the "Linfield Collection" at the University of Kent.

At his Memorial Service in Saltford Church, his former colleagues and students recalled his lectures where the fascinating digressions sometimes ousted the subject and overran the time. Several spoke of the inspiration he had been to them in their careers and their decision to teach. His appearance (he and his clothes had reached "a friendly accommodation"); his love of discussion, especially in the pub; his zest for life; his wit; all were recalled with love and gratitude.

He was a man who made a difference to many people's lives. We shall miss him.

Elizabeth White.

Eric George Linfield (25.4.21 — 16.8.02)

The Thanksgiving Service to celebrate the life of Eric Linfield was a perfect reflection of the person we knew. It couldn't be sad because Eric loved life and it brought a smile when his hearty chuckle was remembered.

There were so many facets to Eric's personality, a compassionate, intellectual man who never let his own brilliance diminish others. In fact, he appreciated that his educational opportunities had freed him from a life on the land which had been the lot of his West Sussex ancestors.

Eric's interests ranged widely covering almost any topic but as a countryman he cared deeply about the local environment and its history. He had been a parish councillor, a leading member of Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society and just before his death had been presented with the Countryside Medal from the Council for the Protection of Rural England. All this doesn't include his professional life as a Lecturer in Education remembered fondly by former colleagues and students.

It would take a book to do justice to Eric's memory (and how he loved books!) The last two lines of Christina Rossetti's poem "Remember", read by his daughter Janet at the Service, is an appropriate summary.

"Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad."

Our thoughts are with Sheila, Janet and Julia and all his family as they come to terms with his passing.

BD

A Tribute given at the service by a colleague at Newton Park

ERIC

It's my sad privilege to have been asked by Sheila to talk for a few minutes about Eric, whose death we all mourn today, but whose life had a richness and quality which demand our highest praise and celebration. Wordsworth got it right when he wrote of the child being the father of the man, a truism particularly applicable to Eric whose early experiences explain much of what he achieved and became. So — the biography.

He was born in the West Sussex village of Henfield, under the northern lee of the South Downs, into a family which, according to Eric's meticulous researches, had declined in fortune from substantial yeomanry in the 18th and 19th centuries. His father was a farm worker and tree feller in the decade, the 1920s, when agriculture was in one of its cyclical troughs. The family's straightened circumstances were further exacerbated by a crippling accident to the breadwinner, which permanently incapacitated him. Despite such setbacks Eric had three crucial advantages — brains, a strong, capable and highly intelligent mother, and excellent schools close at hand.

A precocious pupil, he passed the scholarship, as we called it in those days, in the village school at the age of 10, and moved on to nearby Steyning Grammar School, then under the head mastership of the excellent John Scragg (a splendidly Dickensian name for a schoolmaster, if I have ever heard one!) But increasing financial constraints forced Eric to leave school in its Lower VI to find work in the Electricity Showroom in Brighton in order to ease the family's predicament.

He remained there from 1937 until his call-up in the war, not into the Royal Army Medical Corps as he had hoped, but into the Auxiliary Fire Service. He served both in England and later in a special unit attached to a regiment stationed near Virton in newly liberated France. This was in 1944/5. During this period he became interested in socialism, a political creed he embraced throughout his life — although somewhat disenchanted with its current manifestations! When he was demobbed, through his Labour Party connections he obtained a place at Ruskin College, Oxford where he crammed an enormous amount of study into one year before winning a scholarship to Christ's College, Cambridge to read Psychology and Moral Philosophy. The Further Education and Training Scheme introduced by

the 1945 Labour Government rewarded his faith in left- wing social justice and financed his studies, as it did for thousands of returning servicemen and women. And so for this latter-day Jude the Obscure the gates not of Christminster but of Christ's Cambridge opened to let him in!

He later acknowledged that a conscious vocation for teaching led him to try to repay this gift of education. His first post after graduation was a two-year stint as a travelling W.E.A. tutor in Cumbria, based in Carlisle — not a bad lot for the country boy! From there he moved as a class teacher to a primary school in Loughton, Essex. He was there for five years during which time he studied for his Postgraduate Certificate of Education at the London Institute. A two-year appointment followed, as deputy headteacher in Stevenage New Town before he gained his headship in Fareham.

Armed with this formidable body of experience at the chalk face, Eric in 1963 took up a lectureship in the Education Department at the City of Bath Teacher Training College, Newton Park, now known more exotically as Bath Spa University College. He remained there until his retirement in 1984.

During his school teaching years, Eric met, wooed and married Sheila, a lady equipped with her own distinguished talents as a music teacher and performer on piano and cello — and a perfect foil to Eric's mercurial temperament. Eric's pride and delight in her and their two daughters, Janet and Julia, were always evident to his friends — as well as the pleasure he felt in the additions to the family in his sons-in- law and the four grandchildren, Nicole, Richard, Hannah and Caity.

Eric was popular with everyone at Newton Park, staff and students alike; a genuine character indeed, who will long be remembered and reminisced about whenever old students meet. He was instantly recognisable as a countryman — the open, rubicund, indeed cherubic countenance with its ready smile accompanied by an endearing chuckle; clearly a man incapable of guile or cynicism; of a generous and comforting build with which his clothes made a mutually satisfying accommodation — and all crowned with the beloved cap!

A central strength of Eric's character was his strong but discriminating loyalty and commitment to any institution or movement he joined. In lecture and seminar he taught with enthusiasm, indeed passion, drawing on his practical experience

and the rich resources of his omnivorous reading — indeed the learned digressions sometimes took the whole of the lecture — with scant reference to the clock!

Omnivorous reading indeed! The extent of Eric's personal library is legendary. Books fill every corner of his and Sheila's home, and when at Newton Park there were satellite outposts of his collection filling his study, the boot of his car — even his capacious pockets. And he knew much of the contents of his books and not merely the covers. His instant recall seemed strong and accurate — a powerful teaching tool and invaluable in argument. He made a specialist collection of, appropriately, British Humour which is kept under his name in the University of Kent. His contribution in print to the collection is an anthology of humour entitled 'Laughter in a Damp Climate' — edited Linfield and Larsen.

In other aspects of his professional duties, Eric was always caring and accessible in his pastoral concerns, and a reassuring and encouraging presence to the fledgling teacher in the classroom.

His 21 years at the College covered a period of continual change and flux, of expansion, amalgamation, a movement from the award of certificates to honours degrees and at least three changes of validating bodies. Eric never shirked the responsibility of taking an active part in the decision-making process in Academic Board and Assembly — involved, supportive, critical when he felt it necessary.

But an academic community is not only about teaching, research and administration, and Eric was always at the heart of the fun, whether at a Senior Common Room party, or dancing veiled as the King of Egypt's daughter in the Christmas Mummings' play — or, the imagination quails here — as a grass-skirted maiden in the Music Department's Concert.

A TRIBUTE TO CHRIS WIGGINS

Mr. Christopher Wiggins died on 17th. March 2002 at the age of 85. Chris was a Keynsham man through and through having been born in Keynsham in 1917 in No.48, High Street — sadly no longer there.

He was the third generation of a family building firm founded by his grandfather. The eldest of four children, responsibilities came early because his father died when Chris was only fifteen. Chris was educated at Bristol Grammar School and fought in the second World War, being taken prisoner by the Japanese and held in a prisoner of war camp for three years. The story of the Wiggins family and of Chris's life is detailed in several books on Keynsham, particularly 'The War over Keynsham' compiled by Mr. Michael C. Fitter.

Chris was an enthusiastic member of the Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society where his memories of the 'old' days were much appreciated. He did considerable research into many aspects of Keynsham history, particularly his own family tree.

Chris played rugby for Keynsham until he joined the Army and on his return he worked hard to raise the reputation of the Club to its present enviable high standard. He was Secretary for many years and was awarded life membership for his outstanding service to the Keynsham Rugby Club.

Chris was a good hearted man and he was concerned for the welfare of others, particularly the elderly and infirm. This desire to help others led Chris to join the Keynsham Rotary Club and also become involved with the League of Friends of Keynsham Hospital. As a Rotarian he organised many community events such as Summer outings, Christmas shopping trips and visits to concerts. Chris was elected President of the Rotary Club in 1962 and completed 47 years service to the Rotary Club.

His work for the Keynsham Hospital endeared him to staff and patients, even to those in the High Street who responded to his collecting box on the Hospital Flag Day! Chris not only 'did the rounds' of the Hospital faithfully week after week chatting to the patients and giving them encouragement and affection, he organised the Annual Hospital Fete which raised thousands of pounds for the improvement of patients comfort and welfare. He led by example and gathered a wonderful team of volunteers to help him.

Many will have other memories of Chris Wiggins —his smile - his love of his garden and the countryside, little kindnesses done without fuss - the days at the Hospital Fete in sun or rain — happy social occasions and times of sadness-personal things that add up to a lovable, generous and loyal friend. We have been priviledged to have shared in some part of Chris Wiggins life and we treasure our memories of him with gratitude and affection.

Trevor Ewins

