

AROUND
KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD
PAST
AND
PRESENT



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AROUND
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PAST & PRESENT

Contents

Keynsham Flower Show - Sue Trude.....	Page 3
Mr. & Mrs. Wiltshire - B. Lowe & M. Whitehead.....	12
War over Saltford - Mrs. Sabin's Diary	17
Queen Charlton Chapel - B. Lowe & D. Sprague.....	29
Hanham Walkabout - Jean & Mike Rawlings.....	33
Bits & Pieces	40

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Keynsham Abbey Floor Tiles c 1275

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THE KEYNSHAM FLOWER SHOW “THE BIGGEST IN THE WEST”

The History Society has in its archives the minute books of the Keynsham & District Horticultural Association from 1887-1922. These contain a vast amount of information which I have spent a number of hours sifting through; a very satisfying and sometimes very amusing time. For the purposes of this article I have selected three years, 1887, 1898 and 1922.

The first Keynsham Flower Show was held on 20th August 1869. Despite the lateness of the announcement of the show, it generated a great response, so, on 3rd August 1870, the second show was held. A field was lent by Mr William Sheppard (of Freeland House, Bath Street). According to “The Bath Chronicle” of the time, “The town wore quite a holiday appearance, the principal shops being decorated with flowers, evergreens and flags. The main entrance from the Railway Station was passed under a fine arch with the motto ‘no pains no gains’ erected by Mr E. Harvey, who, for his pains and skill in this kind of decoration, gained the prize of 21 shillings offered for ‘the best ornamental arch’” What a great day that must have been, with nearly the whole town participating in the event. From that small beginning the much larger Association was eventually formed.

In 1887 the organising committee consisted of members from Keynsham and the parishes of Brislington, Burnett, Corston, Compton Dando, Chewton Keynsham, Marksbury, Newton-St-Loe, Queen Charlton, Stanton Prior, Saltford and Whitchurch. At a later meeting, it was proposed that Chewton Keynsham be struck out as a parish and its representative, Mr Ben Reed, be included in the Keynsham list. The show was held in the month of August each year (but not always on the Bank Holiday) with committee meetings commencing in January and in each succeeding month until the show date. Merely reading the minutes is daunting, starting with: -Field, Band, Staging, Amusements, Stalls, Fireworks, Refreshments, Tents, Tickets, Ticket Box, Sports, Police, Advertising, Prizes, Judges, Certificates, Lighting and Insurance. This shows how prestigious the event was becoming,

It is interesting to select one or two headings: For example, “The Field”. Mr Clifton was approached for the use of the Park (which appears to have been the northern part of the present Memorial Park, south and east of St Johns Church). In later years, Mr O’Brien (Hick’s Gate Farm) was approached for use of the same piece of land. Under “The Band” heading, tenders were

received from;-

Keynsham	15 performers	@ £5-0-0 (if 2 bands £4-0-0)
Bristol Rifle Volunteers	18	“ @ £10-0-0
Bristol Red, White&Blue	16	“ @ £6-0-0 (12persons£5) No dance music.
WarmleyTower	13	“ @ £6-10-0
Lysaght’s Band	12	“ @ £ 6-0-0 plus refreshments
Mount Hill		£4-10-0
Warminster Brass & Reed	17	“ @ £9-0-0
Wilts Volunteer-Swindon	12	“ @ £ 8-10-0
Melksham		£ 9-0-0
Bedminster	12	“ @ £ 4-10-0 plus refreshments
Brislington	15	“ @ £ 9-0-0
Greenways	13	“ @ £5-0-0

What a choice!

After some discussion, The Bristol Rifle Volunteer Band was engaged to play from 12-00 to 8—30pm.

Under “Fireworks”, tenders were received from:-

Messrs. Brock of London, Mr Gannon of Bristol, Messrs Wilder of Birmingham, Messrs. Penley of Wooton-under-edge, Messrs Baker & Sons of London, Messrs Bishop Bros. of Hanham and Messrs. Llewellyn of Bristol.

Again, after various proposals, Messrs Wilder’s bid was accepted for a £7 or a £10 display. (Not enough to buy even one rocket at today’s prices, let alone a display.) Various seed merchants were approached for offers of prize money. This was forthcoming on certain conditions. For example, Messrs. Daniel’s Bros of Norwich offered 10shillings for three dishes of potatoes of which two had to be new varieties sent out by them and the third to be of Royal Norfolk Russet. James Garroway of Bristol offered three prizes (1st 12shillings and 6 pence, 2nd 7shillings, 3rd 4shillings) for a collection of not less than six varieties of vegetables grown from seed supplied directly from them. Messrs. Biddle of Loughborough offered six shillings and 4shillings and six pence for 9 bulbs of Biddle Giant Spring Onions. Lastly, Mr F. King of Chewton Keynsham gave 12shillings & 6 pence and 7shillings & six pence for a collection of not less than six varieties of vegetables grown by the aid of his manure!.

A thousand entries were received from about 160 exhibitors and Bristol Police were asked to supply members of their force to ensure the safety of the site “ a sum not exceeding 25shillings to be paid for their services”.

A lawn tennis tournament was suggested by H. Gibbons, who reported that, with a little outlay, the ground in part of the Park could be made suitable. This did not

come into effect until the following year, when a sports section was added. The show proceeded along the same lines until 18th February 1898 after a Special General Meeting in the Lesser Public Hall (probably the Liberal Club which stood on Bath Hill). This meeting was to obtain members' consent to change the name from "The Keynsham Flower Show" to "The Keynsham & District Horticultural Society". The aim was to promote horticulture in the surrounding Parishes. Again, Mr O'Brien gave his consent for the land in the Park to be used "on the usual terms" (unspecified)

The growing importance of this event was evident when Dr. Gerrish wrote to the Duke of Beaufort asking him if he would open the show. The Duke replied that it would give him and the Duchess great pleasure to open the show on 13th August 1898. The committee decided that a bouquet should be provided for the Duchess but "not to exceed £ 1-10-00 and that Dr Harrison be asked to allow one of his daughters to make the presentation."

Entrances to the show were adorned with decorative arches via pay boxes. Those wishing to leave the show and return later had to have the back of their hand stamped with the word "pass". The India rubber stamp was loaned by the Poultry Society.

Once again, policemen were supplied to keep an eye on things Bicycles could be parked in a field next to the show ground offered by Mr J.M. Sheppard of Priory Road. Two men were to be in attendance and charge 3pence for each bike. Adverts were placed in the "Somerset Standard", "Wiltshire Chronicle", "Trowbridge Advertiser", two other local papers and three Bristol papers, on five occasions.

Mr Kislingbury of the G.W.R. was approached with a view to arranging trains at a reduced rate on the day of the show. This he agreed to do on trains from Yatton and Frome. Mr Cooper of Bristol supplied the tents and flags and said he would give "sixty yards of turkey muslin for table decorative purposes".

Mr Pruen and Sons were offered the sole right "to enter the ground on show day with Roundabouts, coco-nut shoots, swing boats and shooting gallery for the sum of £10- 0-0, but prohibited from selling buns, aerated water, scent squirters or anything of a like character". The annual event continued in much the same way into the 20th century. Mr O'Brien allowed the Park site to be used for £5-0-0 but in 1907 he raised the price to £ 10-0-0, whereupon the committee approached Mr Puddy who had a suitable site near the station for which he charged £4-0-0. Tents were supplied by Mr Cooper of Bristol until 1913, when Messrs. Dallin Bros. & Sons offered a lower tender. Also in 1913, the show moved to the Hams on land belonging to Mr Clothier (who worked the farm which was in Chandos Road). A tug-of-war was added to the sporting events and challenge cups, silver and bronze

shields and medals were awarded in addition to money prizes. Lighting for the event was provided by the "Electric Light Co".

Between 1915 and 1919 there were no shows due to WWI, but on 10th February 1919, the committee met in Mr Wilkins Tea Room (High Street) and resolved to hold the show on August Bank Holiday 1919.

The last full show report is for the year 1922 when it was decided to hold a two-day event on the Bank Holiday Monday and Tuesday. Sadly, the reports of committee meetings became far less detailed than previously, many decisions being taken by sub-committees.

The various sections now included Flowers, Sports, Fur and Feathers, Cottage Gardens, a Band Contest, Roundabouts, Refreshments, and a Beer Tent (which prompted letters of protest from Temperance Societies). No Police were employed but Mr Robbins acted as watchman.

At the Annual General Meeting that year, a loss of £53-9-3 was reported, due in part to the bad weather. It was felt that steps should be taken to relieve horticultural societies of the entertainment tax. Mention was also made of the sporting events "the equal of which had never been held in Keynsham".

The Local History Society has schedules of the shows from 1920 to 1939, together with A G M notices and balance sheets from 1897 to 1939. Parts of the schedules for 1929 and 1937 are reproduced here.

In 1969, it was decided to wind up the Association by placing an advertisement in the "Weekly Chronicle" (see copy) to that effect. In November 1968, the Clerk of the Council (George R. Ashton) called a meeting of the surviving members for the purpose of winding up the Association and disposing of the balance of the remaining funds. Fifty pounds and a cheque for £30-1s-11d was given to the Keynsham & Saltford Vehicle for the Handicapped Trust and another cheque donated to the Chairman's Christmas Gift Fund. Keynsham & Saltford Gardeners Association received a donation of £145. Two silver trophies were presented to Broadlands School for the Sports Boy and Sports Girl of the Year.

Thus, in July 1969, the affairs of the Keynsham & District Horticultural & Industrial Society were finally closed.

Sue Trude

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY & TUESDAY, AUGUST 7th & 8th
BATH ROAD
3 Minutes walk from Talbot Hotel Main Bus Route

KEYNSHAM 50th ANNUAL

**FLOWER
SHOW**
HORTICULTURAL & INDUSTRIAL

PRIZE MONEY

£350

PRIZE MONEY

Special Attraction on Monday
One mile Somerset County Championship
UNDER A.A.A. LAWS

TUESDAY:

FLOWER & INDUSTRIAL SHOW

SPORTS

PONY GYMKHANA

BABY SHOW

Great Amusement Fair

LOUD SPEAKER EQUIPMENT

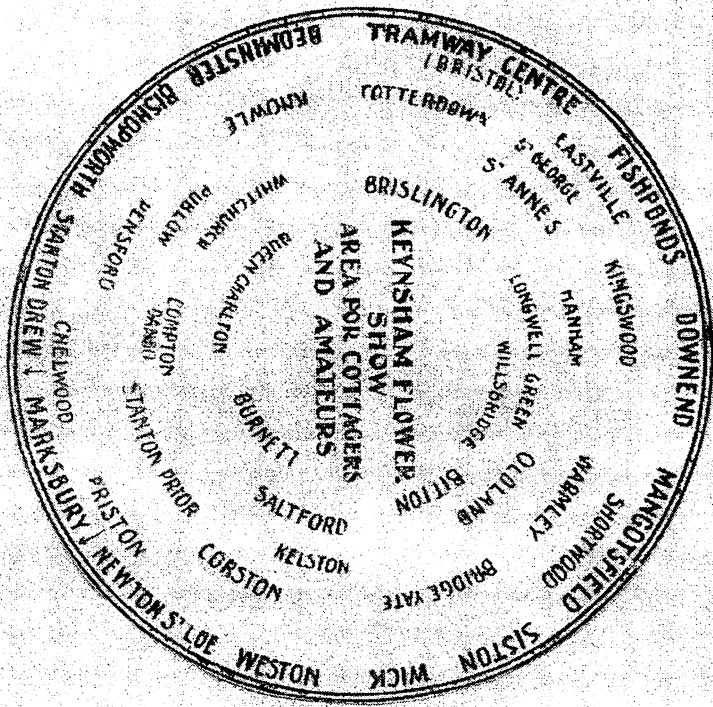
Wet and Dry Canteens on the Ground

PRICES OF ADMISSION

Monday:	Adults, 2 to 6pm 1/3d.	6pm to 8.30pm 6d.
"	Children, 12 and under 6d	6pm to 8.30pm 3d.
Tuesday:	Adults, 2 to 6pm 1/-d.	6pm. to 8pm 6d.
	Children, 12 and under 3d.	All Day.

DURMAN WEST & SONS LTD. Poster Specialists. Paulton, Somts.

Hon. Secretary: R. HAKE, 25 Rock Road, Keynsham



MONDAY—
GRAND
**Flower and Industrial
Show**

SPORTS

including 200 yds. and 1000 yds.
SOMERSET COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS
OPEN TUG-OF-WAR, 108 stone,
and tug-of-war under A.A.A. laws.

TUESDAY—

**Grand Carnival
and Sports**

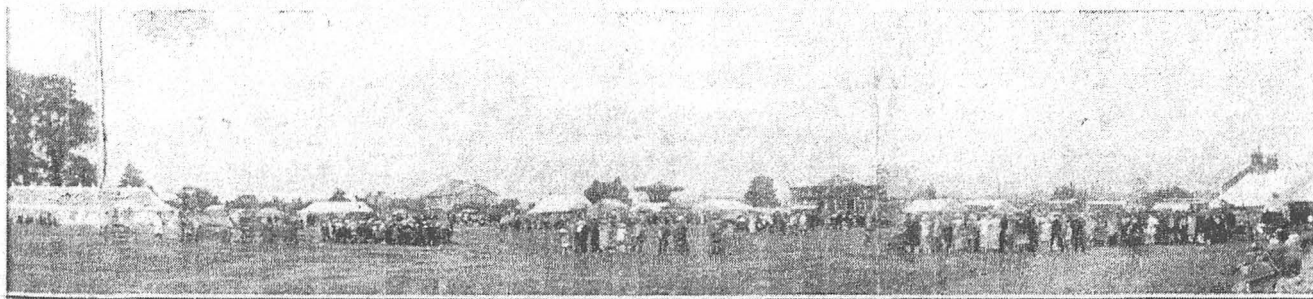
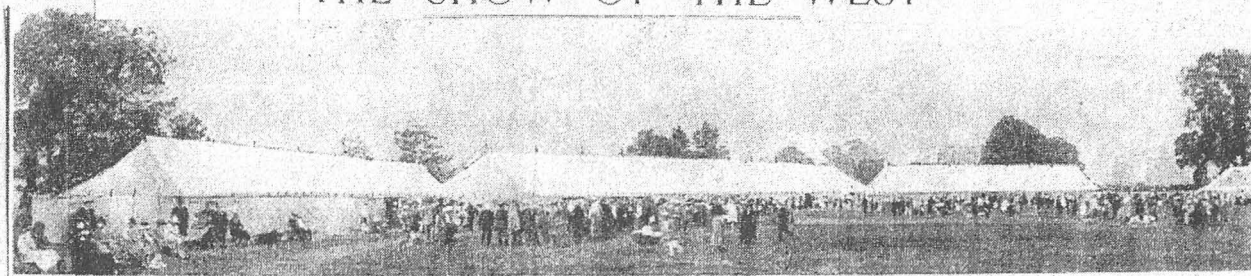
Bath and West Motor Cycling Club.
Gymkhana & Football Matches

DANCING BOTH DAYS.
Rogers & Sons' Famous Amusements.
Dry and Wet Gunners on the field.

Price of Admissions: Adults, 2/6; 5/12; after 5 p.m., 6d.
Children under 12 Half-price.
Buses, 35 and 88 from Centre and Coach Ticket Service.
*Come and spend a happy day at
Keynsham Flower Show!*



Keynsham 41st Annual Flower Show 1929
THE SHOW OF THE WEST



1929

Block by Bristol Photo Engraving Co. Ltd., Broad Street,



Keyrsbham 41st Annual Flower Show 1929

THE SHOW OF THE WEST

August Bank Holiday, Monday & Tuesday, 5th & 6th.

Number of Entries for 1928	-	1,085
Attendance	-	15,151
Prize Money Offered	-	£350

Special attention is called to the extension of the area
for Cottagers and Amateurs

Latest Music for Dancing, and Novelities
will be supplied by

Badman's Marconiphone Amplifiers both days.

The most Efficient and Up-to-date. Come and Listen to the Best Music
Dance and Enjoy yourselves!!!



7-5-1966

NOTICE

THE undersigned have been requested to organise the final winding-up of the affairs of the old

Keynsham and District Horticultural and Industrial Society.

If there are any other past Officials or Committee Members still available will they please contact, within the next 14 days, either:—

**J. S. Hickling,
70, Charlton Road, Keynsham,
Tel. No. 3212; or**

**W. M. Bond,
14, Avon Road, Keynsham.
Tel. No. 2395.**

MR AND MRS ERNEST WILTSHIRE. (1990)

In October 1909 Ernest George Wiltshire was born in Rock Road just a day before Iris Doreen Veale in Temple Street. Both are descended from long established, well known local families.

Ernie's paternal grandparents, George (a lime kiln worker) and Emily (nee Thiers) lived in the Dappers House, Dapps Hill. In the late 18th century a youthful Thiers had been involved in troubles in Northern France and had escaped to this area and married a local girl. The Thiers later changed their surname to Fear by Deed Poll. George's brother, William Wiltshire, dairyman and grocer of Borough Walls, Temple Street, was a keen Methodist. The Primitive Methodist Chapel (Zion), 1861 — 1958, was known as Billy Wiltshire's Chapel.

Ernie's maternal grandparents, James Oswald Harding and Lucy Ann (nee Ollis) lived in High Street. James, born in 1851 in Compton Dando, worked as a letter carrier.

Ernie's parents, George (the first born son always had a "George" in his name) and Edith Fanny (nee Harding) lived at 7, Rock Road which was built in the 1890's, demolished in 1960's, having stood next to the surviving red brick semi's behind Gateway. George was born in the Dappers House in the small hours of the night the logwood mill was on fire (1873). Ernie was the fourth of six children, Dennis Herbert (Joe), Dorothy May, Frank, Jack Austin and Robert William. All survived to maturity but Frank died aged 30 and Robert aged 24 years.

Conditions were hard before World War I. Most villagers did seasonal work on local farms and market gardens in addition to their own trade. Most had largish gardens with a few fruit trees so were able to grow vegetables. Many followed the threshing machines. Chitterlings and bread pudding kept the "wolf from the door".

Ernie's father ran a painting and decorating business and, as a painter during W.W.I, he was engaged to paint black—out on all the glasses of the hanging glass street lamps all along the Brislington Road. He had to leave only a small bull's eye of light at the bottom.

The jubilation at the end of W.W.I is well remembered. There was always competition amongst the young boys of the village to earn money to enable them to go on the annual Sunday School Outing to Weston- super- Mare. So on November 11th 1918, Ernie had gone with the other boys to Ellsbridge House hoping to dig potatoes in the field by the railway line. The boys were lined up on the gravel in front of the house for selection by Mr Shaw Stewart. Ernie was rejected because he was too small (he was the youngest there), so he had to sit on the wall and watch. Suddenly the siren sounded to signal the end of the war

and all the boys downed tools and ran back to Keynsham. Ernie had a head start on all the others, and reached the celebrating inhabitants long before the rest. There were street parties, games and general jollification. There was a German Band — 4 Germans who stood in Rock Road by Willoughby's back entrance and played brass instruments. Later, Ernie himself played the Kettle Drums in the local Brass Band.

After leaving school at 14, Ernie had set his heart on working in the painting and decorating trade with his father, but like all parents, his mother insisted that her sons learned a second trade. Much local work was seasonal and living was hard without a second skill. So Ernie was sent to work in an Estate Office in Whiteladies Road, Bristol, for two years. He cycled to work and was paid 10 shillings a week. To learn his father's trade he attended evening classes for 7 years at the Merchant Venturers College and eventually joined his father's firm.

Doreen's paternal grandparents were William Veale and Emily (nee Green). William was a brass worker and a butcher who lived in Myrtle Cottage (which was next to the Ship Inn, Temple Street). Their son, Gilbert James Veale, married Gladys Oxley whose parents ran a sweet shop in Alma Vale Road, Clifton, Bristol. Doreen was the eldest of five children, William Green (Jack), Marjorie Lorraine, Gladys Emily and Monty Charles. The "Monty" was after a footballer grandfather and the "Charles" after Dr. Charles Harrison. Apparently, Dr Charles often suggested names for newly born babies. Doreen's father was a tailor/cutter—bespoke tailor—so when times were hard in 1911, the family emigrated to Canada. During W.W.I her father was away serving in the army. She clearly remembers him coming home at the end of the war as a complete stranger to her. The family returned to Keynsham in 1918 and, at first they all lived with her mother's sister and her 4 children in Myrtle Cottage. Her Uncle, Horace Veale, kept a grocer's shop on the opposite side of Temple Street and she remembers going there to buy 1d worth of sweets and becoming confused between 1d and 1 cent, and being teased over her accent. They then moved to Durley Park (Dr Fox's old house) and her father opened a tailoring business opposite Keynsham Church. Doreen walked to Bath Hill School through Back Lane. She started school the same day as the new master, Hugh H. Mansey.

Ernie attended the same school and they both acknowledge the great debt they owe this particular teacher. He had come from Yatton and was married with two children. There was great sadness when the son died aged only 14 years. Diphtheria claimed several young lives and there was a particularly nasty influenza epidemic in 1918. Doreen especially remembers the death of one 13 year-old boy, Cecil Williams, apparently from peritonitis. She was fond of this boy and in school it was given out that anyone who wished could go and see the dead child.

Doreen went and regretted it afterwards because she found it so upsetting. In general she enjoyed her school days. She took piano lessons firstly from Miss Shepherd the choir mistress, then from Miss Redpath in West View Road. She became a Girl Guide and attended the Baptist Sunday School.

Young Ladies did not speak to anyone in the street and Doreen still feels the embarrassment she suffered when a kindly lady, who lived below the Catholic School, spoke to her and offered her a penny to buy some sweets which she had to refuse.

Children had to find their own entertainment. Hop scotch, conkers, five-stones were popular games and the boys also fished and swam in the river. Toys were hoops, whipping tops and skipping ropes.

After leaving school at 14 years, it was necessary to adjust rapidly to the adult world. Doreen became apprenticed to a tailor in Christmas Steps, Bristol. She also attended evening classes at the Merchant Venturers College to improve her skills. She travelled by train to Temple Meads and then walked the rest of the way. For two years she worked for a tailor in Park Street but that work ended when the tailor suddenly closed shop and absconded with all the materials. She then decided to set up on her own in a shop opposite the Church.

Using her treddle machine she made clothes for her friends as gifts and then undertook dressmaking until she married at the age of 24 years. Keynsham folk were largely unaffected by the General Strike. People habitually saved a little in the Co—op. Ernie's mother would pay in so much a week for the family clothes. Salesmen came round to the door— he remembers Dibble, Coles (grocer) and Potter. Almost everyone had their own garden produce, perhaps a few hens scratching about, and there were allotments for those who wanted them.

Although Doreen and Ernie had always known each other, it was 16th September 1933 before they married. Courtship in those days was very "proper". They went for long walks around the lanes on Sunday afternoons, to the Picture House and to locally produced concerts and plays. Doreen had joined the Temple Street Temperance Lodge — Ernie says he signed the pledge!

After their marriage they lived in a cottage in Temple Street (now, 1990, Robertson's Photographers) which was owned by Doreen's Uncle Horace. They paid a rent of two shillings a week. There was no running water or bathroom until Ernie built one and put in a water supply. They lived there for 30 years.

When World War II began, Ernie was graded medically C3 and could not join the Armed Forces so was directed to work of National Importance. All through the war he worked for McAlpines and carried out underground construction work at Corsham, Burton Wood American Air Station, Chirton and Castle Cove, Dorset. He was away from home for most of the war.

In Keynsham Doreen and the children had an air—raid shelter in Ernie's parent's garden but, on hearing the siren, they preferred to run to a cottage ten houses down the road where they felt safer under a stout kitchen table. One day Doreen was in the garden picking beans when the approaching hum of "bees" (bomber planes) attracted her attention. There were six in front with rows and rows of planes behind in a triangular formation. Thinking they were "ours" she watched, fascinated, as they came closer. Suddenly, the planes scattered across the sky and other planes (our fighters) screeched up to intercept them. This turned out to be the second Raid on Filton and all those bombers had been heading there. Shortly after this, a hitherto unknown cousin with her two children turned up at Doreen's house. She introduced herself and said she had come from Filton to stay here where it was safer. She returned to Filton after two weeks.

When the war was over, Ernie resumed his decorating business, and in 1949 Doreen opened the well known decorating shop in the High Street, which she ran until 1964 when it was bought by Will-Sam-Mor. Fads now occupies the redeveloped site.

Roughly behind the Fads site stood the old Jasmine Cottage which had its front door in Back Lane and no access to the High Street. Mr Brownsey's widow sold the cottage to Ernie who owned it until it was demolished in 1965. He confirms that Back Lane was a public thoroughfare maintained by Keynsham Urban District Council. He knows the last Council—employed roadsweeper to work in the Lane. The School had a playground entrance also a door into the lane and there was a glass cutting business fronting on to it.

Ernie and Doreen had five children, three daughters and two sons, Martin George and Richard James. The great tragedy of their lives was the sudden death of Richard in 1974 at the age of 27 years. They now (1990) have five grandchildren and one great-grand daughter, Amy, who is in Pennsylvania where her Father is a University Professor.

When they retired they bought Cranmore House in Temple Street. This is a lovely old house which, in 1884, was known as Shambord Cottage and, before that, as Chamberwood Cottage, High Street (Temple Street was part of High Street until 1889 when William Gore—Langton became Earl Temple on the death of the last Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. Temple Street was then named in his honour.) The earliest positive reference to Cranmore House is an Indenture of December 1754 when Sir Thomas Whitmore granted a 99 year lease to Slade Baker of Redland, Bristol. In 1778 the property is described as "messuage with garden thereto belonging, bounded on the North by the house and premises of Daniel Mereweather, on the South by premises lately of Mrs Lyne, on the East by Keynsham Street and on the West by a close of ground commonly called Talledge".

An Indenture of 1779, between Rev. Joseph Woolmer and Slade Baker and George Daubeny, tells us a little more about this Talledge close of pasture admeasuring 1 acre, in occupation of Daniel Mereweather, bounded on the East by the above property, bounded on the West by a close belonging to Thomas Dowling, on the North by a messuage and premises of Daniel Mereweather and on the South by Barton and premises of Mrs Lyne. The name Talledge/Tallage/Talliage as a field name is intriguing. Anciently, tallage was a certain rate or tax paid by barons, knights and inferior tenants towards the public expenses. It would be most interesting to know why that name was given to that particular meadow. In the 1796 Rate Book, John Trull had to pay 2/6d for the Talledge.

In 1828, mention is made of a cottage adjoining Chamberwood Cottage to which there was a right of way over a lane from the main street, and of land planted to an orchard. By 1869 a messuage, Ivy Cottage, is in the course of erection in the garden of the original messuage. By 1905, Deeds refer to Cranmore House as formerly being two messuages, but still with the 1 acre Tallage and the right of way. Ivy Cottage was occupied in 1914 by a florist, Charles Marsh. Now no-one knows where it was, presumably having been demolished shortly after 1914. In 1937 the westernmost .63 acres of Talledge was bought by K.U.D.C. and the Hawthorns now occupy the site. Many people will have noticed the sculptured stone griffin embedded in the front wall of Cranmore House. It most certainly came from Keynsham Abbey and one wonders when it arrived there.

In the 1980's Ernie suffered a ruptured aorta and his life was saved by the Keynsham & Saltford Flying Doctor Service.

This year (1990) Doreen and Ernie celebrated their 81st Birthdays and 57 years of marriage. We wish them many more years of happiness and are very grateful to them for sharing their memories with us. Deeds and documents relating to Cranmore House were willingly made available for our examination, with the result that Keynsham & Saltford Local History Archives now include important previously unknown information. We appreciate the kindness and help given to us.

BARBARA LOWE and MARGARET WHITEHEAD.

This was written following an interview with Ernie and Doreen in October 1990. Sadly, Ernie has since died, but Doreen has given permission for this publication. Thank you, Doreen.

The 1990 "Fads" site is now (2004) shared by Bradford & Bingley and "The Card Warehouse", "Robertson's Photographers is now "The Perfect Fit".

A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE AIR RAIDS DURING
THE SECOND WORLD WAR - AS EXPERIENCED BY
KATHLEEN SABIN OF "SPRINGFIELD", THE FOLLY, SALT FORD

During this time I kept a diary and entered the experiences while fresh in my memory. I have here condensed these extracts, and made them into one (true) story, now that all danger from the air has ceased.

Introduction: "It was ridiculous to worry about a future which so manifestly depended on the continuous recurrence of a beneficent miracle"

June 24, 1940

Our first air raid of the war. Midnight till 3 am. Alert followed by terrific crash. Dorothy and I flew for Elizabeth (then 2 years 3 months old) and carried her to the cupboard under the stairs which we had prepared as a shelter. Away from flying glass, but not otherwise much safer than anywhere else, except there was no heavy furniture directly above us to fall on us should the house collapse. Arthur, being a Special Constable, had to dress and dash out immediately to go on duty on the main road. Difficult to tell if Elizabeth was frightened. She lay in my arms without moving or speaking during the 3 hrs. I found it a great strain to have to remain quite inactive, with nothing to take my mind off the possible danger to Arthur wandering about outside.

We found, of course, that the cupboard was stocked with all the things we didn't need - such as gas helmet, burns lotions and 1st aid kit and few of the things we badly needed. We got hungry and the heat of the cupboard made us thirsty, no biscuits, no water, not enough cushions or rugs. A fair number of odd crashes, which being entirely inexperienced, we were quite unable to judge whether they were a few yards or a few miles away.

Retired to bed on the All Clear at 3 am, very tired, and very stiff from sitting on the floor for so long. Had to get up at 7am, our usual time, in the morning.

Several bombs had exploded at Brislington about 4 miles away. 4 houses demolished, 6 people killed. Dozens of houses with smashed windows. Went to see the damage next day. The crowds seemed very calm. It was strange to find so little damage really, for so many bombs dropped. These were only the small bombs of the early days. It all looked very horrible and distressing. It was to be some months before we witnessed, frequently, whole streets of rubble after each raid. By then we had got used to horrible sights. 7 bombs which failed to explode were dropped on Temple Meads station the same night.

June 26

Bombs dropped at Marksbury, 3 miles away. Up from midnight till early hours of the morning.

June 27

Warning kept us up from midnight till 3.30 am. I cannot, for long, subject Elizabeth to this life of little sleep. I feel I have to wake her up and take her down to the cupboard when the siren goes, and remain till the All Clear. If I risked it and let her sleep on, just one odd bomb falling near might kill or injure her, and I feel I simply must do all I can, little as it really is, to make her as safe as possible. I am so afraid of the windows in her bedroom. Flying glass causes awful injuries. But lack of sleep will get us all down. Arthur also cannot go on being out most of the night, if this is to continue, and working at School all day.

June 28

Bombs dropped at Westbury, the other side of Bristol. Arthur out as usual, but this time we were too tired to get up. I lay in bed ready to dash for Elizabeth if the noise got louder.

June 29

A bad night. Bombs dropping too near, so we got into the cupboard from midnight till 3.30 am. Arthur out. Bombs at Ashton Hill (1 mile) and Queen Charlton (3 miles).

June 30

This morning they sent for Arthur to guard the craters at Queen Charlton from 10am-lpm. Up all night again till 3-30am.

July 1st

5pm. Our first daylight raid. 11.30pm-2.30am night raid. Up again. One terrible moment when 7 bombs suddenly landed around the Railway bridge less than 1 mile towards Bath. The noise sounded as if they had landed on the main road just about where I knew Arthur would be.

Although these raids last some hours, the bombs are not dropping continuously, as they were to do later on. But it was a rotten business waiting during long silences for the crashes that came now and then.

July 2nd

Another daylight raid at 5pm. We take Elizabeth to the cupboard when the siren goes, but it is not nearly so trying as the night sessions. Not so long or so frightening. Up again from 12.30-2.30am. Bombs near Bath. This simply cannot go on, Elizabeth will be ill from lack of sleep. It is ruining our lives. It is difficult to know what to do. I can't leave Arthur for long, nor can I subject Elizabeth to this kind of life. Something must be done. I am almost too tired to think, myself.

July 3rd

Sent a telegram and took Elizabeth up to Preston to stay with Auntie Ethel till I

see if the bombing is going to continue, and if so, try to plan something. It was heartbreaking to leave Arthur, not only the danger to him, but he to, is weary and needs good meals. Dorothy, I know, will look after things for me, but that to is a worry, for I don't know how she will stand being alone each night while Arthur goes on duty

As this is a Raid Diary I shall not record details of our stay in Preston, which produced nothing but quiet, so shall just note details of raids at home, during all of which poor Arthur was up and out on duty. How he stood the strain, I don't know. Two daylight raids. Midday and 5 pm. Arthur of course was teaching at the Cathedral School, Bristol, so was not on duty. The masters take the boys down to the shelters on the siren.

July 4th

Raid warnings. 8. 10am and 3pm, each lasting only half an hour or so. 1 1.30pm - 12.45am.

July 5th Raid at 5pm. A quiet night.

July 6th Raid 8am. Quiet night.

July 7th Raid 10am. Quiet night.

July 8th Raid 9 am and 5.40 pm. 11.30 pm till 3 am. Bombs at Stoke Gifford.

July 9th Various "yellow" (Stand by) signals till 9 pm, but no "red". A quiet night.

July 10th Nothing.

July 11th Raids at night. 1am - 2am. 2.30 -4.15 am. Bombs at Bishops Sutton.

July 12th Raid Midnight - 1am.

July 13th Daylight raids 9.30- 10.45 am. 2- 2.20 pm. Short night raid. 1 am - 1.15 am.

July 14th Daylight raid 8.30 am. Two night raids 11 - 11.20 pm and 11.45 - 12. 30 am.

July 15th Three day raids. None at night.

July 16th 6 am - 6.25 am. Quiet night.

July 17th Night raid 1 am - 2.35 am.

July 18th 3 daylight raids. Quiet night.

July 19th One daylight raid. At night 12.50 am - 3.15 am.

July 20th 2 daylight raids.

July 22nd Night raid from 10.40 pm to 2.40 am.

July 23rd One daylight July 24th One daylight

July 25th One daylight. One at night from 11.50 pm - 1.35 am.

July 26th

Arthur commences his summer holiday. Cannot really stand leaving him any longer. I have had time to think it all out. It seems that the danger is not so very great. Only a few bombs each time, and most of them some miles away. One can never tell

what place may be safe. Any day there might be a heavy raid on the congested town of Preston. At home we are more or less in the country. It seems that by far the worst danger at home is the danger to health and nerves by continually dashing out of bed and pushing Elizabeth into a cold cupboard, and the lack of sleep this causes her. I have decided that in the unlikely event of a direct hit no-one is safe anywhere. This is about a million to one chance.

For the rest, the downstairs rooms are really as safe as anywhere excepting the windows, which I plan to paste over with this anti-splinter net. I also plan to turn the house upside down for the duration of the raids. That is to say, Elizabeth and Dorothy will sleep in beds in the dining room, the safest in the house. It looks out on to a back yard with a high wall a few yards from the window which acts as a blast wall. I will sleep on a bed put up in the lounge in front. We will all 3 then be near the cupboard should there be a bad raid. Otherwise we can remain in bed, awake but comfortable. Elizabeth will I hope continue to sleep through it. The siren did not seem to wake her up when she was at home. I woke her up bringing her downstairs. As Arthur, anyway, has to get up and go out on duty at every siren, it doesn't matter where he sleeps, for he will be out before the bombs drop - in theory!, so he can have his own comfortable bed in the bedroom for the few hours of night he is not on duty. I can't, anyway, stay in Preston indefinitely, nor can I leave Elizabeth here as Auntie has old Miss Keltan to look after. It would be dangerous to send her to Lilah in London, for although raids have not yet started there, they will do so.

So this day (July 26th) I brought Elizabeth home, leaving Preston 8.30 am arriving home about 4.30 pm, very tired. A very noisy night to greet us. Raid from 11 pm - 2 am. Bombs and guns. Also a thunderstorm which caused the bursting of 38 barrage balloons over Bristol. Particularly noisy bombs at Bitton (2 miles away). I am thankful that Arthur now has a long holiday, for it will enable him to sleep during the day. I am worried that he looks so tired.

July 27th Raid from 11.45 pm - 2.45 am

July 28th " " 11.50pm-3.30am

July 29th " " 11.20 pm-2.23 am

July 30th " " 10.50 pm - 2.05 am

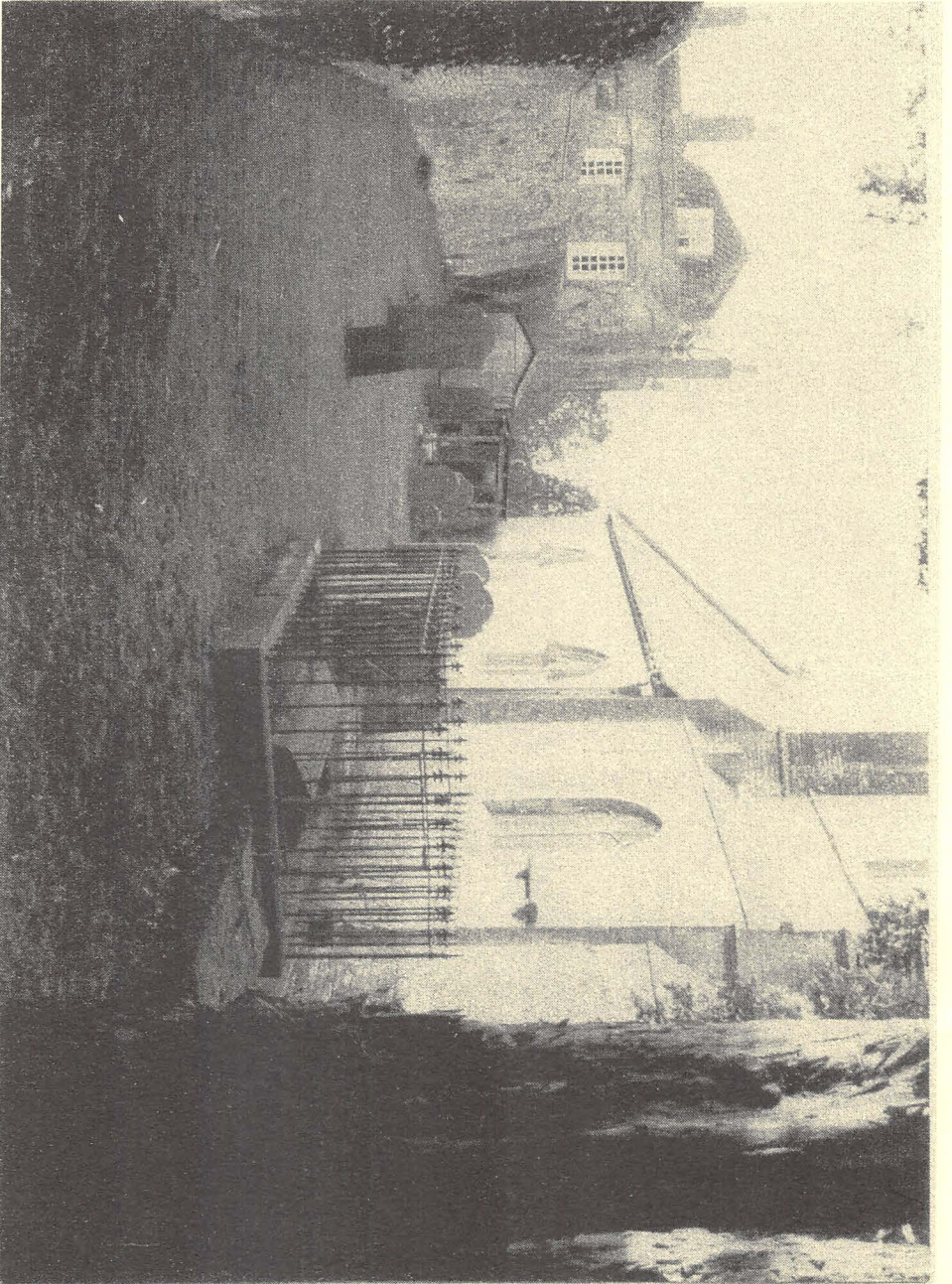
July 31st " " 12.50 am - 1.40 am

So far Elizabeth has slept through all these raids, thank goodness, and I have been able to remain in bed. They have only produced the odd bump in the distance now and then. I have kept awake till the All Clear in case I have to dash for Elizabeth. Arthur still goes out each time. Dorothy seems to sleep fairly well through it all, I get up and get Arthur a hot drink when he returns. It is all very dull and wearisome. August 1st

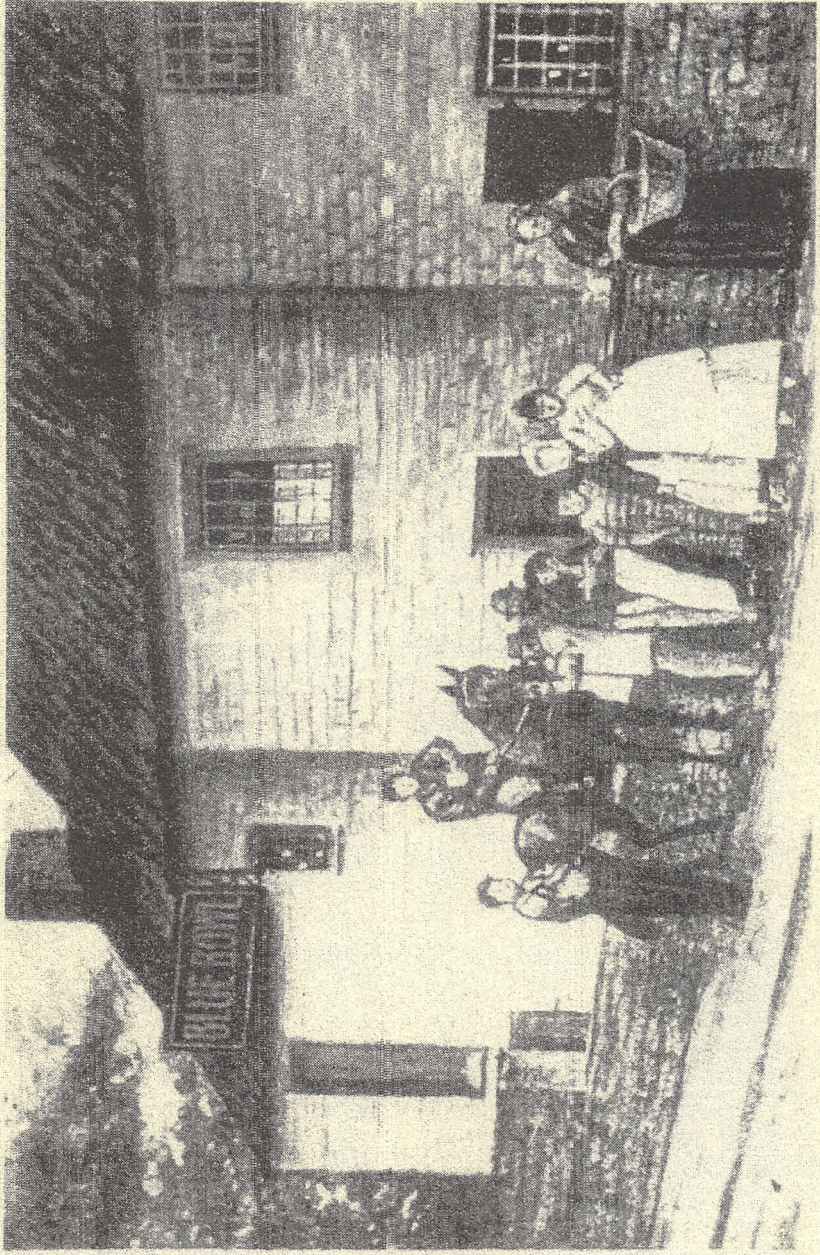
Warning from 11 pm - 1 am. Quite quiet. Only a "leaflet" raid. These informed



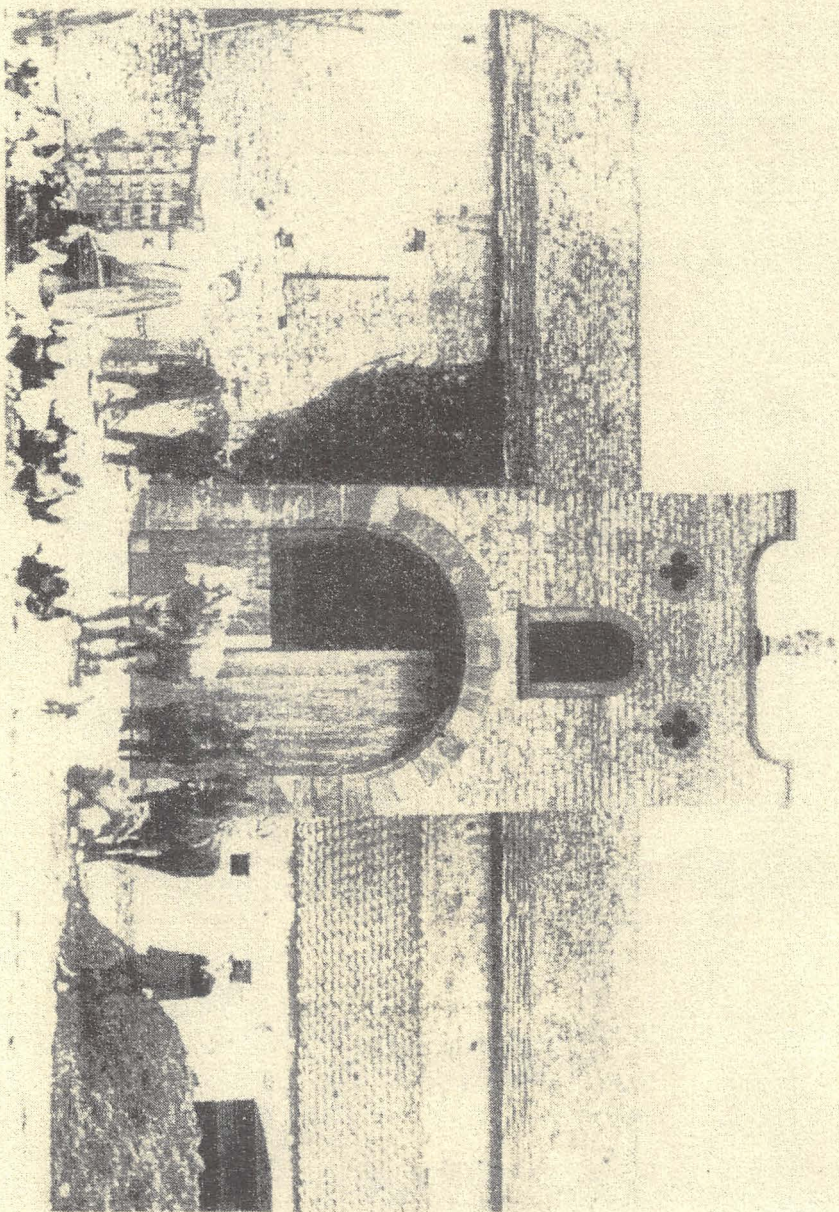
Wessex Tiles in Situ - Keynsham Abbey



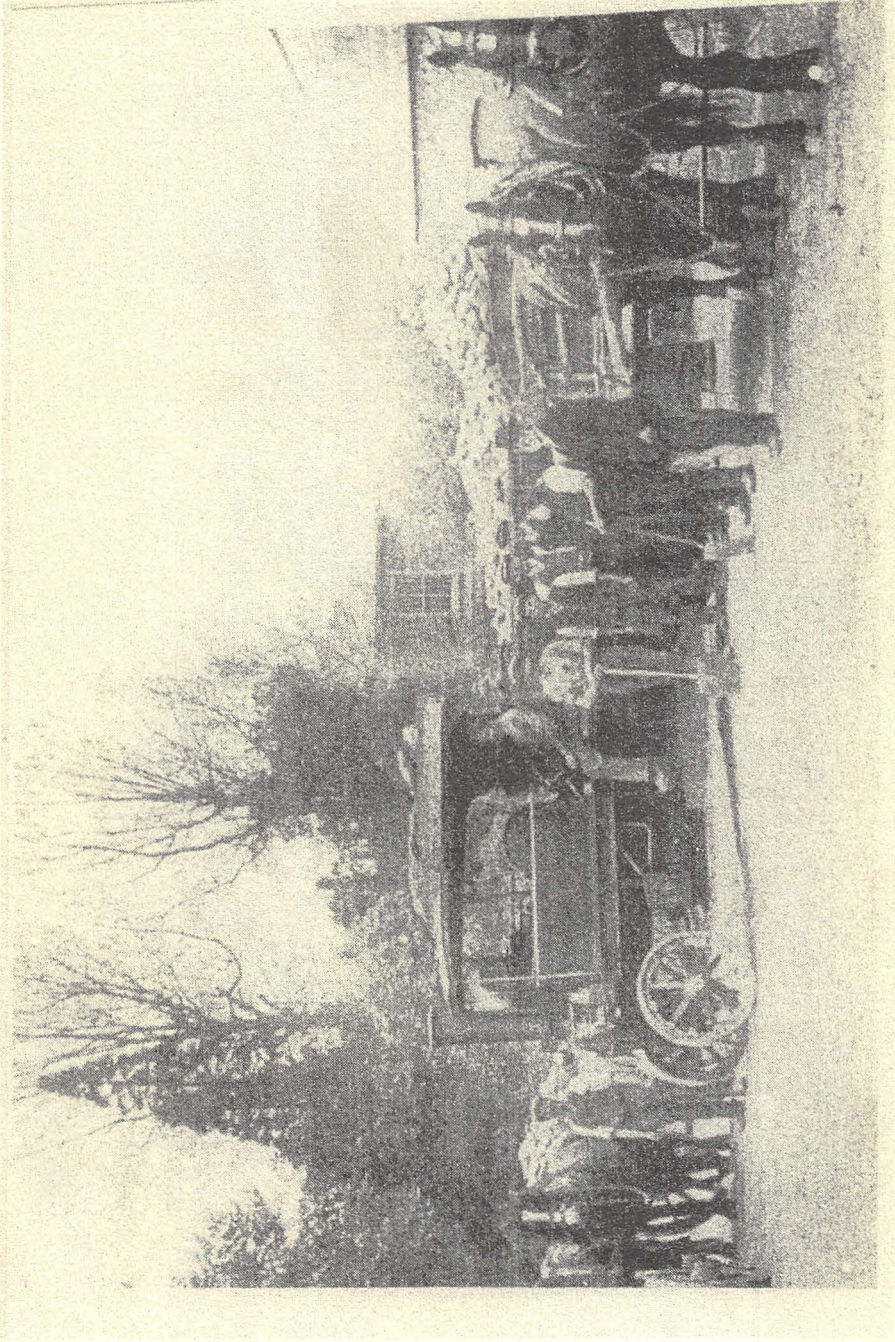
Ford Family Vault Queen Charlton



Blue Bowl Inn, Hanham c. 1896



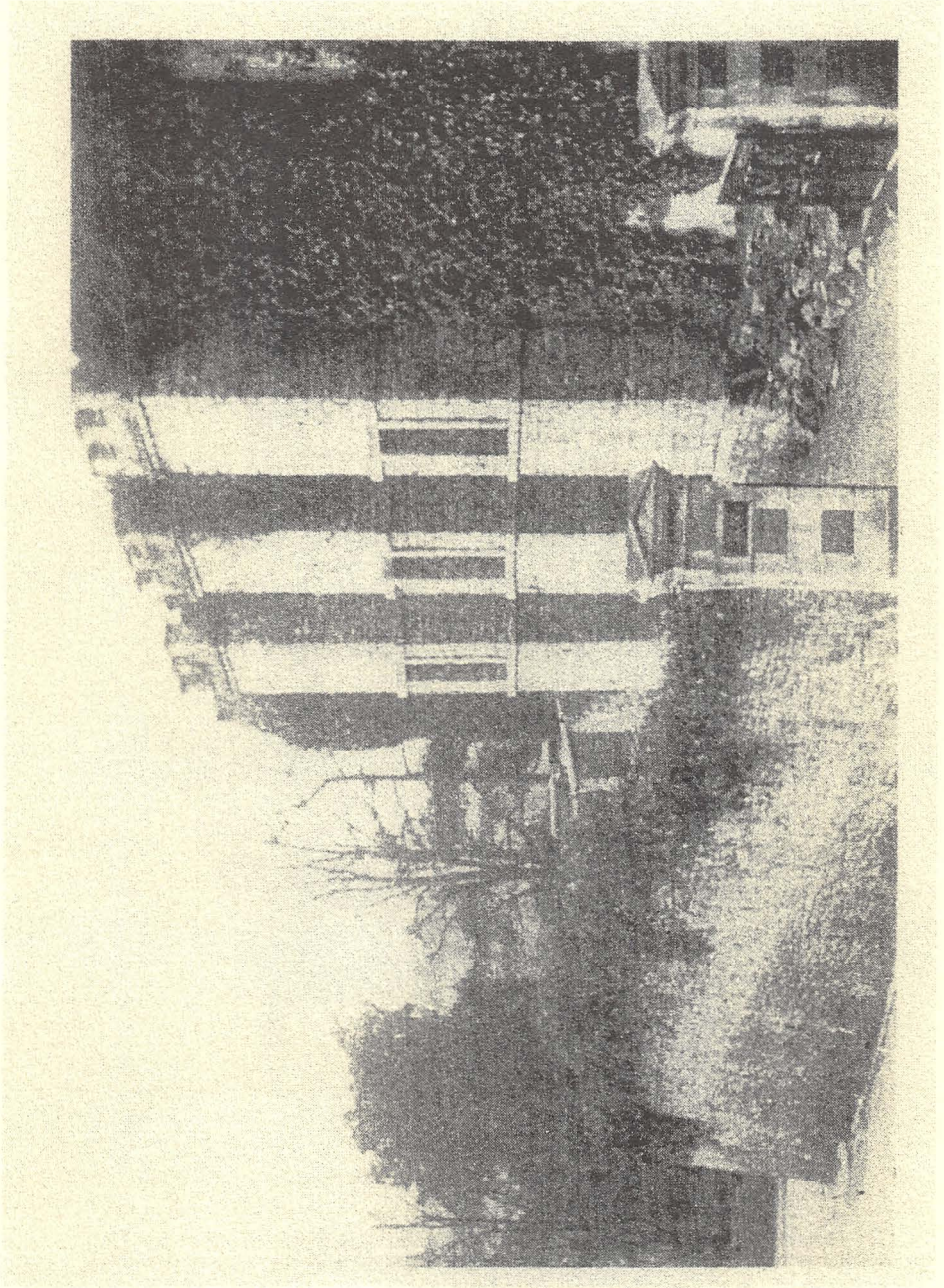
Sally on the Barn, Court Farm Road, Willsbridge



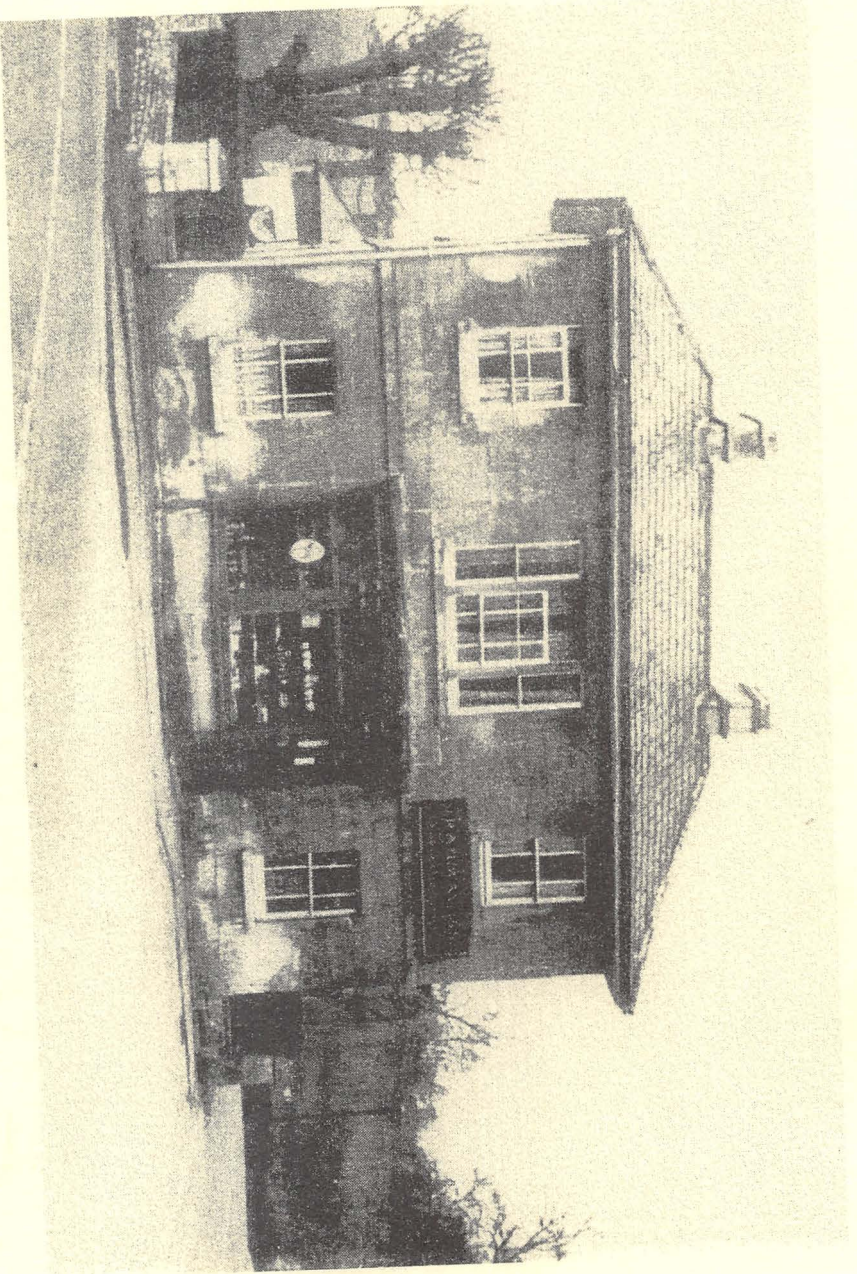
Keelings Lime Works, Hanham c. 1912



Hanham Court, Hanham Abbots



Willsbridge Castle c. 1920's



Railway Inn, Brockham Hill, Willsbridge. c 1930

us that Hitler was prepared for peace (on his terms) and this was positively the last 'warning' he would give us. Who cares?

August 2nd

Arthur went off to a week-end Scout Camp, glad he is out of it, but feel rather nervous in case I have to tackle Elizabeth and a demolished house without him.

Midnight till 2 am, several near crashes.

August 3rd

Short morning raid 8.10 am No noise during 2 evening raids at 10.15 pm and 1.10 am each of about 20 mins. Leaflets again.

August 4th

No raids. Mr Churchill warns us that the announcement by Germany that she does not intend to invade England is probably a prelude to an attempt to do so.

August 5th

No sirens. Hectic noise from our own planes. We are simply surrounded by aerodromes. Not much sleep till 4 am.

August 6th

Constant talk of invasion. Concentrations indicate an attempt will soon be made. If it is, there will be great loss of life, even if unsuccessful. We all keep reasonably cheerful and optimistic, in spite of lack of sleep. My greatest worry is for Elizabeth. What would I do with her if I knew the Germans were coming up our road. Leave her to her fate, perhaps starvation or separation or should I have the courage to kill her - or would that be cowardice? I love her so terribly. I try not to think of it. Siren at 10.20 pm. Final All Clear 1 am. Leaflets again. Arthur remained out most of the time.

August 7th Evening raid 10.30 pm till 1.45 am.

August 8th

A few crashes between 5 pm - 5.15 pm. A very trying night. 3 separate raids between 10.30 pm and 2.50 am. This is far worse than one continual warning for Arthur returns, gets to bed and to sleep, and a short while later I have to shake him awake, when he dresses and goes out again. The strain must be enormous. I do wish he didn't insist that he must go out every time every night. It is killing work. If only they would make a rota and take turns. There are at least a dozen Specials in Saltford. Bombs dropped tonight at Nailsea, the other side of Bristol.

August 9th

Arthur so tired he slept till 11 am and again from 4 - 7 pm. Short alarm in early hours which we were all too tired to hear. Another very trying night with Arthur dodging in and out. Sirens going, answering the phone etc. Rather a lot of German

planes going over.

August 10th

We now stay up till midnight, and await the inevitable first siren about then. There was an hours raid from 11.30 pm. Arthur then went to bed saying he would only get up again for a real emergency. No-one got up for a short raid about 2 am. I got little sleep as I was in a lot of pain with rheumatism in my spine, no doubt with so much sitting in the cupboard. A few distant bombs.

August 11th

Listening to a wireless play when Arthur was called out for a siren at 10.15 pm.. Soon after, bombs dropped in Avonmouth direction. Dorothy and I continued to listen to the play. About 12.20 am after we had gone to bed, there were some very near explosions. Several bombs dropped again in Brislington (4 miles) around the same roads as before. All Clear 12. 40 am.

August 12th

Short morning raid. No noises. Rotten night. Arthur went out on the Alert at 10.40 pm, got to bed at 1.15 am. Half an hour later, had to drag out again until 3 am. I wonder how long this can go on? He is so dead weary I have to go upstairs and shake him awake if there is more than one raid. He insists he must go out. Constantly getting out of a warm bed when overtired, will, in the end stir up endless trouble regarding health, I fear. That is going to be the trouble everywhere. More people are going to be killed by pneumonia and rheumatism either through going on duty or sitting in cold, damp shelters than will ever be killed by bombs.

August 13th

Short afternoon raid. Again a foul night producing 3 separate raids and several bombs 2 or 3 miles off. At. 10.15pm, at 1.20am and again, at 4.15am.

August 14th

Early evening raid. Lot of gunfire and explosions. Bombs at Patchway. Quiet night, thank God.

August 15th

Morning raid from 9.30 am - 10.45 am. The night was the worst so far. Almost continual row of either guns or bombs from 10.40 pm - 4.30 am. Arthur and others on duty spent quite a while lying flat on the road to avoid the blast, for several bombs seemed to be coming too near for safety. During a lull at 4 am the Specials all went home for a few minutes to see how their families were getting on. A most unusual event! Another racket just as Arthur returned to the top of the hill again. At one stage Dorothy and I got Elizabeth into the cupboard. Fortunately she slept on. We made tea at dawn and had a couple of hours sleep before packing up to go for a short holiday to Churchinford on the Blackdowns.

We were taking Dorothy with us and all hoped for sleep more than anything else. We were away a week, the quiet was heavenly. The racket, we heard, continued at home. One night 7 bombs of the 'whistling' type which make a shriek as they come down, fell in Keynsham area about 3/4 of a mile from the Special's Post on the hill, I am glad Arthur was out of it. Our Specials were phoned to go and find where the bombs were. One of them, poking with a stick, put it almost on a Time bomb. They all ran like hell, and the bomb exploded a few minutes later making a crater the size of a house. Later, Fighter Command phoned Saltford that 2 enemy planes were shot down in our area.

August 23rd

Returned to Saltford, and the racket. 10 pm the raid started. 12.35 am All Clear. Numbers of bombs at Radstock, Pensford and St. Georges. Arthur returned after this and none of us got up for, or even heard, the second raid from 1.15 - 4 am.

August 24th

One morning and one afternoon raid, each of 1 hour. Awful night. Started at 9 pm. From then until 5 am. no sleep. Guns and bombs every half hour. Some dropped in Keynsham (2 miles). Many petrol incendiaries, also an attempt to fire the crops. 150 had already been dropped at Midsomer Norton. At one time there was a noise as if an express train was rushing over the house, almost felt the wind, followed by a terrific crash which shook the house. A whole string of the petrol incendiaries landed in a field near Newton St. Loe about 1 1/2 miles away.

August 25th

A 20 min. raid at 8 am this morning. Night raid 9.15 pm till 4 am. A few bombs. I fell asleep at midnight but Arthur out till the All Clear. Have not had to get Elizabeth up so far. The gun barrage is not yet too near or too hectic, and the raids only produce a few explosions at intervals, which don't seem to wake her up, or seldom. The distance varies - sometimes about 1 mile away, which shakes the house, sometimes further off. It would appear that so far the German Pilots did not intend to brave the Bristol barrage, so they drop them all round us. So far, we have had much more noise, and therefore more sleepless nights, than Bristol, and certainly more than London. Blitzes have not yet started, but lack of sleep is going to wear us out before they do. Though the bombs have not yet landed on top of us, any one is liable to do so any night, which means I am constantly strung up waiting to dash to Elizabeth. I have a nightmare dread that she will be buried, or injured. If she were not here, life would be quite different. I think I would just go to sleep and not bother, as I am so tired. I wish I could get her away.

But where? I know of no one who would look after her in a safe area. No doubt I could get her away if I went too, on some farm, but I just cannot leave Arthur when he is going through such a strain.

August 26th

Short 20 min afternoon raid. It seems that one or two planes came over to inspect damage and to photograph, bringing a few bombs with them. There has been quite a lot of machine gunning of crowded streets in various towns, too. Arthur is now, thank goodness, only officially on duty every other night. That is to say, on off-duty nights he will only be called if anything drops near, or there is a block or other trouble on the main road. He won't go to bed though, much before midnight - waiting to see what is coming. Thoroughly restless. Raid started 10.15 pm. Continual row of planes and some gunfire. At 11.30 pm bombs started dropping fairly near, ending in some that had the horrid wail of the whistling bombs. These are made with a cardboard collar with holes punched in. Some HE's and some Time bombs, later known as D.A. (delayed action) fell in Kelston, the village just over the River from us. 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile. At 7.30 am the raid being over at 4 am they phoned for Arthur to go and guard the Time Bomb area.

August 27th

Arthur went on Guard Duty 8 am - 12 and again 4 pm - 6 pm. Several of the bombs had not then exploded. I was in Bristol during a short day raid. At present, on the Alert, buses stop, shops close and the streets clear. This is rather frightening, as it gives one the feeling that something awful is about to happen and one must rush. I hate enclosed places, nothing would induce me to pack in to a street shelter, I would always far rather be out in the roads. On this occasion I went into Bright's shop till it was over. 9.1 5pm - 3.15 am night raid. Arthur out on Duty. He has now been made Group Leader in charge of the Saltford Specials, so will now, I suppose, feel he must be out whenever there is much row, even if not his Duty night. Several bombs some miles away, went to sleep at midnight, as the raid was fairly quiet.

August 28th

Some near bombs at 8.15 am. Night raid 10.15 pm - 5 am. Much din in early stages, but not bad later. Arthur not out. All went to sleep. Never heard more bombs that came at 2 am.

August 29th

Arthur now goes on Patrol Duty 9pm - 12 every other night, raid or no raid, and continues out until All Clear on Duty nights. Raid 9.20 pm - 3.15 am. Much noise of guns and planes, no bombs near, Slept 1 am - 3. 15 am. This is becoming a rotten existence. At one time, for a short while, I was so tired I could sleep at any

odd hour during the day. But by now, having for so long had little sleep night after night, I am getting past the sleepy-tired. I cannot really rest at any time. Sleep in daylight is impossible. At night during the odd 2 or 3 hours, I sleep with one half of me. A deadening existence of work all day, and fear all night, without the slightest relief or outside existence. Arthur is always out. I go nowhere and do nothing, no outside conversations. How I envy those who are free to know the communal life of raid duty. Those in Police or Civil Defence who go on Duty in groups. Who can have some sort of life and outside exchange of views, even if there is danger and cold and tiredness.

August 30th

Evening raid 9.20 pm. Gun fire early. Some bombs at Weston-Super-Mare later. All Clear at 2.10 am. We all slept from midnight.

August 31st

Arthur on Patrol 9 pm. Raid 9.20 pm. He returned at 2 am. Not much noise, early gunfire.

September 1st

Warning 9.15 pm - 3.15 am. Long quiet spells, but the few noisy ones produced bombs very near. In a field in Saltford near Grange Road. Some on the Ammunition Dump on Ashton Hill, about 3/4 mile. Also Newbridge and Twerton, a couple of miles towards Bath. Queen Charlton and a few in Bristol.

September 2nd

Short afternoon raid with a few bumps. 10.10 pm - 2.30 am at night. Not much doing. Time bomb exploded in Saltford at 6.20 am.

September 3rd

Short afternoon raid. Arthur back at School. Night raid 9.15 pm - 3 am. Fierce gunfire and some bombs near enough to shake the house. This kept me awake from 1 am - 3 am, but Arthur, Elizabeth and Dorothy slept through it all.

September 4th

2 very noisy raids, morning and afternoon, of 1 hr each. Kept bringing Elizabeth to the cupboard. Arthur on Duty for the worst night we have yet had. Gun fire much of the time 9.30 pm - 5 am. Bombs all over the place, Bath, Bristol and in between. Bathford and several in the Saltford area. Brislington, Knowle and other parts of Bristol. Halfway through, the strain of remaining in bed was too great. Got Elizabeth into her small cot in the cupboard where she slept on.

September 5th

Following a sleepless night, we had a very noisy 1 hr raid this morning. After that, a terrific explosion of a Time bomb dropped last night in Saltford. Then I had to do some shopping in Bath. Another raid which I spent in the Salvation Army

Shelter 12.15 - 1 pm. Much noise. A plane had machine-gunned people in Brislington. I am getting dubious about letting Dorothy take Elizabeth out during the day. Night raid at 9.15 pm. We all mostly slept from midnight, not much except gunfire.

September 6th

Odd gunfire during the day, but no sirens. A fairly quiet night, though the Alert was on from 9.30 pm - 2.30 am. Arthur on Duty.

September 7th

The happenings of this day seem to prove that miracles can still happen. At the Cathedral School in Bristol, the bell had just been rung for the 11 o'clock break. In 2 or 3 minutes the yard would have been full of boys and masters, Arthur included. But one minute before they got there, a plane suddenly, without a siren warning, dropped 5 bombs on the school. 3 fell in the, fortunately, still empty yard. One bomb demolished the Head's house. He had just gone in to it and fetched a book but heard the bomb coming and dived under the dining room table, from which he was later dragged suffering only from shock. The Lab was also destroyed. Usually a class would have been in progress there, but the boys had been taken to the Cathedral garden for a Botany lesson. No one was killed, only 2 boys slightly injured. I suffered a horrible sinking feeling when Arthur later recounted the tale. Night raid 10.15 pm - 5.30 am. There is a special 'Invasion' and 'Parachute' scare on. Instructions have just come through that Specials are to take it in turn to go out with the Home Guard to patrol the streets from 7 pm - 6 am stopping all cars and pedestrians. Home Guard may challenge and shoot, but not arrest. Police may arrest but not shoot, so it seems that both are needed to cover anything that may arise! More night work. 3 night raids between 8.45 pm - 12.10 am. Arthur out. He was on this special Home Guard duty 4 am - 6 am so had to be shaken awake for that, he is getting almost doped with tiredness, not much sleep for any of us.

As life went on like this, day and night, by now producing 2 or 3 day raids and 2 or 3 night ones most days, to read a repetition of this would be as dull as the actual experience of it became. I will not give a day to day report but only tell of occasional particular upsets. London was now beginning to be bombed day and night which added to my anxieties, but did not cause the bombing of our area to cease. Very worried about Lilah's safety in Beckenham, and also Russell and his family (Sandhurst, Kent) are in the area where most of the German planes are being shot down. As well as the family, I have many dear friends in London whose safety means a good deal to me. Daddy, fortunately has left London and gone to

live with his sisters in Southport. London badly bombed day and night over this week-end. On Saturday 308 killed, 1,400 injured. Lilah writes that Beckenham has been in the thick of it.

Try to phone Lilah, cannot get on, only priority. Send telegram. Days go but with no reply. Speech from Churchill saying we may expect Invasion in a week or two. Germans massing above entire French, Dutch, Danish and Norwegian Coasts. London behaving very well. Awful slaughter, 70-90 enemy planes shot down almost daily. The Battle of Britain is on. Planes and bombs falling like flies around Russell. Fortunately mostly open country.

Buckingham Palace bombed. Madame Tusaudes, Burlington Arcade. Many old city churches. Later, news of damage to House of Lords, Somerset House, Regent Street, Piccadilly Hotel, Law Courts, and again, Buckingham Palace.

September 15th

185 German planes shot down to 25 of ours. 300-400 planes again bombed London in daylight.

September 16th

Germans say we are using poison gas. This is not true, but may be their prelude to using it on us. I dread this. It means that I would not then dare to leave Elizabeth to sleep on after a siren. She will have to be away from the windows ready to put on a gas mask - though goodness knows how that will be done. In spite of all my coaxing, she screams at the very sight of her mask, and would have hysterics if ever I had to force it on. I would need to tie her hands down. I don't blame her. To me there seems hardly any air in the things, and after keeping mine on for one minute I always feel in a panic that I shall stop breathing. In fact all my life I have had that intense fear of confined spaces. Being packed in crowds. The small air raid cupboard sends me crazy. I long to be out in the garden. The same applies to gas masks and Elizabeth thinks the same on this subject. An interesting discovery is that people on the whole are far braver over raids than any of us expected to be. For anyone to say they are not frightened is just a lie. At the same time people have one particular thing they specially fear. One person who will take a rush of H.E.'s without turning a hair, will turn sick with fear at the thought of gas. Another will fearlessly leap upon any incendiary bomb and beat it out but will shiver at even a distant HE. bomb. For myself, I would far sooner face any bomb injury, or rush through any fire caused by incendiaries, than I would face the awful, haunting thought of being buried alive.

September 17th

Letter from Daddy in Southport. Bombs have dropped near Uncle's house in Liverpool. A great deal of damage has been done around our old house in

Streatham so I am glad he left London.

We still seem to have our morning, afternoon and evening raids. Taking a radius of about 2 miles, and drawing a circle round our house, it is estimated that somewhere within that circle, nearly 100 bombs have fallen, not counting hundreds of incendiaries. These include ordinary HE's, Time bombs. Shrieking bombs and Petrol bombs.

German submarine sank Canadian bound evacuee ship. Only 7 of the 90 children saved.

'Rumour' seems to be demolishing one by one, all the buildings in London! In 5 1/2 weeks the Germans have lost 4,000 trained airmen against 348 of ours, and 1,867 planes against 600 of ours, but still it goes on. Liverpool now being bombed.

September 21st

Lilah writes that some bombs fall on Beckenham every night. One fell on a house 4 doors away. Another on the post box almost opposite. All this is very distressing yet I have to admit that the actual damage and loss of life is really far less than it might sound from the accounts. Blitzes have not really reached their height. Bombs are mostly in the 250 lbs category. These can demolish the actual house they fall on. For the rest, windows and so on may be smashed in many surrounding houses, but few people in them are killed. So when one inspects 'said damage' whether in London, Bristol or Liverpool, one sees 'gaps' here and there. They seemed terrible to us until we later had to become familiar with the results of 6 or 7 hours continuous dropping of bombs, many of them of 1,000 lb, some of 2,000 lbs.

Submitted by Elizabeth Sabin

QUEEN CHARLTON

Keynsham Abbey held the Advowson and Rectory of (Queen) Charlton Church. Although the original Foundation Charter of the Abbey is missing, the Prise-Say documents (Vincent, Proc Bristol & Glos Soc. 1993) state that this was part of the initial grant to the Abbey. In 1292 , when Keynsham parish Church was appropriated to the Abbey, Queen Charlton Church was mentioned as one of the five dependent chapels (Dugdale, Monasticon 1661).

In 1972, Mr Clifford Humphries, Churchwarden of Queen Charlton, asked Douglas Sprague and myself to undertake a small excavation in the south-eastern part of the churchyard where the Sexton had great difficulty in digging graves because of underground walling. We were delighted to do this because of the connection with Keynsham Abbey, whose excavation and history we had been working on then for ten years. So, with the permission of the Vicar of Keynsham we consented. Our first task was a thorough examination of the present building and then to discover the history of the church and examine all the Church records, both in the church safe and at Somerset Record Office.

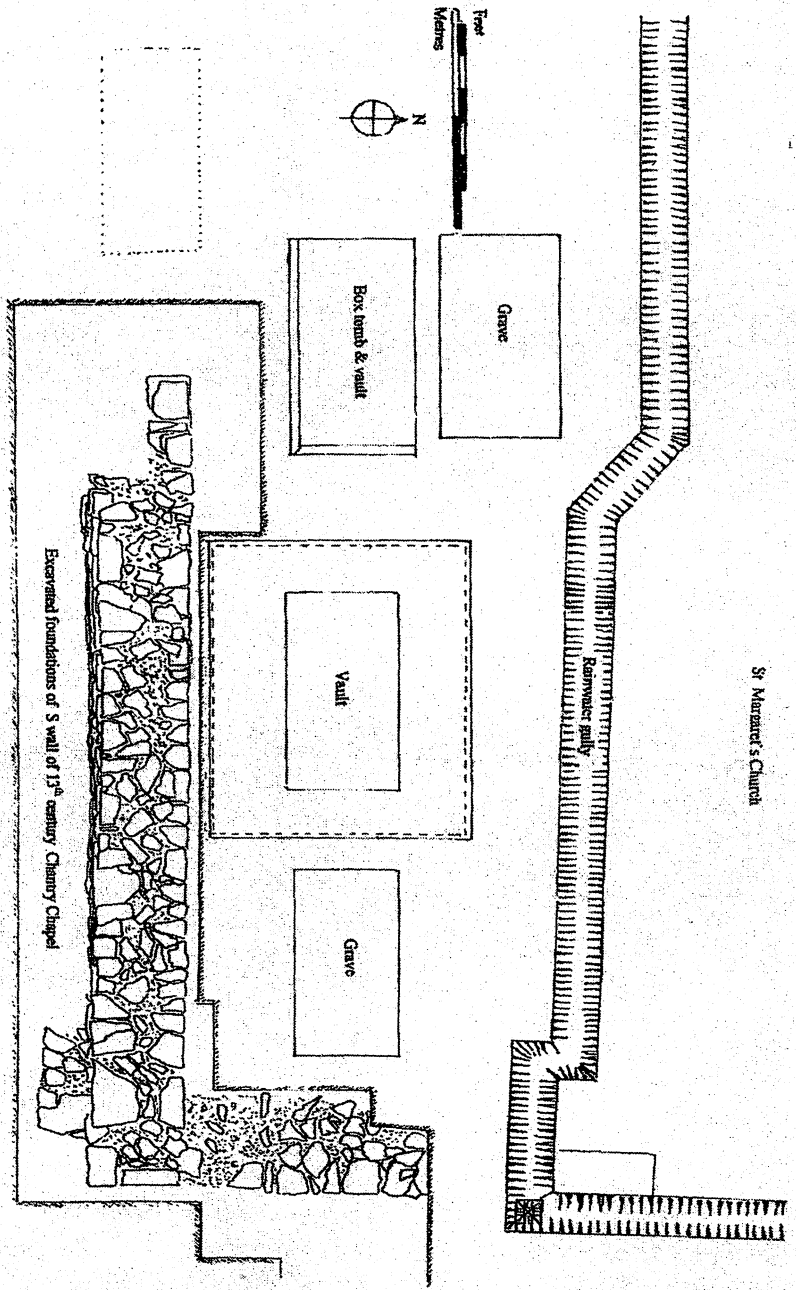
The most obvious, intriguing feature in the Church is the walled off portion south of the Chancel, Elegant arches with lovely carvings lead nowhere and a man with a "balaclava" helmet has his nose against the blank wall. Obviously, some kind of chantry chapel had once stood beyond the arches.

It was necessary to trace the ownership of the Manor and advowson of the Church backwards to the Dissolution. Having found a link with the Hunstrete Estate, a search of these estate papers deposited at SRO, revealed a Faculty of 1795 and a plan and survey of the estate in 1760. The Bath and Wells Episcopal Office at Wells kindly provided a copy of the Faculty of 1860. Nothing else of relevance was found. These two Faculties revealed that a chapel and south porch had been built before 1337 and taken down in 1795. The South Porch had been rebuilt but taken down in 1860 and then rebuilt on the north side of the Nave.

The churchyard was enlarged on the north, east and south sides, when some 20 perches of land were sold to the then incumbent, George Druce Wymme Ommanney, by Francis Vickris Dickinson in consideration of the sum of £11 - 5s. The new area was consecrated on 1st April 1861 from 11am to 3pm.(SRO D/D/ B 38).

The churchyard south of the Chancel is some 20 feet (6. 15m) wide and bordered by the boundary wall of the Manor House on the south. This latter wall was built in 1861 when the churchyard was enlarged, taking in part of Manor House grounds, and the old boundary wall taken down. It is likely that foundations of this still exist

St. Margaret's Church



QUEEN CHARLTON, Somerset 1972-73

Douglas Sprague

in the churchyard. Accordingly, a rectangular excavation area, 3ft (0.9m) wide was laid out parallel to the south wall of the Chancel at a distance just south of an iron-railed tomb and vault in which were buried members of the Ford family, who once lived in the nearby Fords' Farmhouse (fig. I) This vault occupies an area 9ft 2in (2.79m) by 7ft 3in (2.20m) and lies parallel to and at 3ft 7in (1.09m) from the south wall of the Church. Conditions for excavation were very difficult. A huge yew tree had spread enormous roots all over the area, and apart from the box tombs, flat slabs etc., the whole area had been used as a dumping and bonfire area for churchyard rubbish. The layer immediately below the topsoil yielded several sherds of 19th and 20th century pottery and items such as rusty hacksaw blades, wreath wire, plastic foam etc. and a penny of 1873. At a depth of 1ft (30.5cm) was an E-W wall 2ft 6in (76cm) wide whose northern face was only 3in (7.6cm) south of the Ford vault. The top of this wall was excavated to its full E-W length of 25ft 5in (7.75m), although the western end had been robbed out in the past. The eastern end had been considerably damaged by the Yew tree roots, some of which had to be removed to locate walling stones, and, at this stage, it was impossible to discover if the wall turned north or south or terminated here. Examination of the northern face of the wall was only possible for a few inches in width and depth because of the proximity of the Ford vault. However, this face was an internal one because creamish plaster, 0.7 in to 1.25in (1.8 to 3cm) thick still adhered to its surface from a point 4ft (1.22m) from the western end of the walling and extending for 11 ft 5in (3.48m) towards the east. Later excavation at the western end of the wall revealed that the plaster extended to within a few inches of the base of the wall.

Excavation continued along the southern face of the wall which was built upon bedrock at an average depth of 26.5in (67cm). This depth was fairly consistent along the entire length, except at the western end where it appeared to drop away. This drop was not further investigated due to burials in the vicinity. The fact that the plaster on the northern face extended to a depth of about 24in (61cm) was puzzling because the floor there seemed well below that of the Church. However, further investigation revealed that the floor level of the Church was 20in (50cm) below present ground level. Scattered all over the site, within a few inches of the top of the wall, were a considerable quantity of window glass fragments and three pieces of window lead.

With the exception of four small pieces of medieval glass, all were either semi-clear or varying shades of yellow. These fragments were composed of Crown and "Nailsea" type sheet glass, probably 17th or early 18th century. Two fragments bore the traces of a glazier's cutter (probably a wheel) and had not broken correctly.

This could indicate that some repairs had been undertaken on site. One fragment of the medieval glass bore traces of two lines and was probably a border. A probable date would be 14th /15th century. These four fragments could well have been used in the same window. The three pieces of lead are of a type known as flat-headed and can be placed at c. 18th century. Several sherds of 18th century combed ware and fragments of late 17th/early 18th century bottle glass, plus numerous nails and five pieces of roof lead were recovered. Close to the base of the wall were tiny sherds of Ham Green ware and two fragments of roof and ridge tiles. A surprise find was a Roman coin of 340 AD. caught in the south face of the wall at a depth of 13in (33cm), some 18ft (5.49m) from the east end of the wall.

The exposed walling was very neat, almost Roman in appearance, constructed with local pennant stones and, because of its position and internally plastered north face, this certainly demarks the southern extent of the chantry chapel referred to in the Faculty of 1795. Wishing to ascertain the E-W extent of the Chantry, excavation was attempted to locate the north and south returns to the church. Investigation at the eastern end was limited by a grave to the west and the Yew tree to the east, so the trench was staggered to miss the obstacles. The roots had displaced wall stones and it was necessary to excavate 3ft (91cm) in depth before the remains of wall footings were located - At a depth of 1ft 10in (56cm), under a root, a 15th century worn, bent, Nuremburg token or jetton was found. A rain-water gully alongside the church prevented further excavation towards it. At the east end of the main wall was an area of stones, roughly 35in (89cm) by 17in (43cm) running under the southern face (possibly remains of a buttress).

Having located the eastern extent of the chapel, an attempt was made to locate the western limit and the original south doorway. There was considerable disturbance here due to grave digging and stone quarrying of the bedrock. A brick built vault of a box tomb was quite hazardous and prevented full exploration. A number of stones from a wall had been displaced but on the northern face of the main wall there was evidence of a wall of similar width having been keyed into it at right angles. A dressed bath stone was located and this could represent a corner keying stone at the junction of the west and south walls. No signs of the south doorway could be found in the area available for examination.

The external dimensions of the destroyed chantry chapel were estimated to be 14ft (4.29m) by at least 25ft 6in (7.77m). It was not possible to accurately define the western limit nor locate the position of the original south doorway.

ESSAY ON A WALKABOUT BY CLLR. MIKE RAWLINGS GIVEN TO
MEMBERS OF KEYNSHAM HISTORY SOCIETY ON 19-06 2002.

HANHAM ABBOTS.

The hamlet was mentioned in the Domesday Book as follows: “lands of Erulf dettesding — the same Ermulf holds Hanum, and Humbald holds it from him — Edric held it. In the demesne are two ploughs with 8 borders and 4 slaves. It is worth and was worth 40 shillings”. The Tithe map commissioners of 1843 describe the village as follows “the hamlet of Hanham lyeth in the Parish of Bitton in the Hundred of Langley and SwineHead three miles from the city—” containing by estimation 1195 acres of which 407 are cultivated as arable land, 528 as pasture land and 65 acres are as homesteads and orchards.

The journey begins at the County Bridge at Keynsham where, proceeding to Willsbridge, the fields to the left hand fronting the river have much history to relate. This area was a common field and is known as Sydenham Mead. Prior to enclosure in the nineteenth century this area provided 49 individual plots of arable land to entitled residents. This field is a water meadow, and each year during the winter season will be flooded by the River Avon and will receive sediment providing rich lands for crops. There are 4 such meadows hereabouts. Later on we shall learn of Edensfield Mead actually in the Parish.

Sydenham was the spot where the Duke of Monmouth had his Army camped in 1685. To this day pistol balls and coins dropped accidentally by his Pitchfork Rebellion are unearthed. Monmouth, having reached this place, began a retreat to Norton St. Phillips, and finally to Sedgemoor and defeat.

Near to Willsbridge we pass Londonderry Farm, again to the left of the highway. The unusual name is derived from “Londoners” and was purchased by Richard Jones in 1606 when it was described as a Roveless Tenement called “Burnt House”. This was thought to be because of the Duke’s army the year earlier. Jones rebuilt the House and sold it to Thomas Coster MP for Bristol. Jones created a charity for the Poor of Hanham out of Sydenham Mead, which finally ceased during the 1970 decade, when inflation caused the yearly rent charge of £5 to be of little value. The Clapp family have farmed this land since 1914 and the house appears much as Jones left it.

The Avon and Gloucester Railway ran along Brockham to Londonderry Wharf and Keynsham lock near to the present day Marina. The streets of Bath were lit with gas from the late 18th century and coal from Coal Pit Heath provided fuel to produce the gas via this dramway. Roads at that time were only suitable for non-wheeled traffic. The Gravity/Horsedrawn Avon and Gloucester Railway began an extension of a line which ran from Coal Pit Heath, Rams Hill Colliery to a wharf

in St. Phillips, Bristol. The Act of Parliament 1828, authorizing the Dramway from two wharves at Bitton to a junction of the original line at Rodway Hill, was passed. The method of locomotion was by gravity — horses hauling the empty coal skips back to the Pit Head.

The Railway lingered until 1890 when a branch was connected to California Pit, Oldland. An entry in Hanham Abbots Parish council minutes of 1901 record “Mr. Cockram spoke respecting the inefficient manner in which notice of approaching trains when crossing the road at Willsbridge, was made by the person in charge, and the clerk was instructed to write to the California Colliery, Cadbury Heath, respecting it.”

At the junction of the Keynsham road with the Bath road at Willsbridge, on the left side of the Keynsham road, is the original way and crossing station of Avon and Gloucestershire Railways — now a garage of Brockham Hill House. From that place, looking across the Bath Road, in the middle of which is the original Turn Pike road sign, the Turn Pike Toll House was in the middle of that junction. Picture A shows this building between 1870 and 1930 when it was “The Railway Tavern”. The writer can remember it in the 1950’s when it was a ladies’ hairdressing shop. Traffic had to go around it and the road width was very narrow. For this reason the building was demolished at that time by Gloucester County Council, and the road was reformed into a roundabout. Brockham Hill House, complete with guard dogs in stone, was the home of a local philanthropist Mr. Cunnington, who assisted coal miners in the General Strike of 1928. With his brother he left the house and garden with the wish that cottages should be erected and the remaining garden enjoyed by local elderly folk. Beyond Markham House can be glimpsed Cleeve Woods — an ancient wood mentioned by Creswicke in his map of 1670 and the Tithe Map of 1843. If we turn left at Brockham and proceed towards Willsbridge Hill, we pass by the Queen’s Head Tavern and hat manufacturers (shown on Creswicke’s map) owned at that time by Mrs. Masters. Since then it has, with adjoining cottages, served as a tanyard, slaughterhouse, laundry, brewery, blacksmith, farriers, carters, staymaker and hat and boot manufacturer,

A little way up Willsbridge hill is Willsbridge Castle formerly called Kyte House, which has been a domestic building since 1652, but became the home of Thomas Pearsall in 1798. Mr. Pearsall was an internationally known composer and chorus master of Madrigal choirs. He composed “Oh who will ride the down so free” well known to lovers of early madrigal music, and was the son and heir of Thomas Pearsall. This man — Robert Lucas Pearsall - retired to Switzerland in 1842. The person who bought the estate, Captain Robert Stratton, converted the house into a mock castle. In 1857 the building became the James T Lightfoot Seminary for ladies, and in 1880 Ella and Kate Fraser’s Academy for young ladies.

Upon reaching the summit of Willsbridge Hill — formerly called Stouts Hill — we turn left into Court Farm Road formerly called Limekiln Way. At the rear of the bus shelter to the side of Northfield House, a German high explosive bomb fell during 1940, probably intended for Fry/Cadbury's Factory and a further two which landed at Stonehill. Northfield was the residence of the Willsbridge miller—the last was Miss Bull who died around 1960. She was a property developer and built an estate of semi-detached houses at Whittocks Road — still highly regarded locally and labelled 'Bull built' by local estate agents. A few steps along Court Farm Rd. is Kilnhurst Close, a source of burnt lime — the last owner was Oliver Keeling of Keynsham. In 1905 a Roman stone coffin was unearthed from the 3rd/4th centuries containing the bones of a young Roman girl. The coffin may be seen in Bristol City Museum. During the War, the Lime Kiln's premises were used by the Government and were finally removed in 1960 by a local builder for an estate of bungalows. Before arriving at Court Farm, on the right of the road are late 18th century farm labourers' cottages built in local Blue Lias Stone, complete in every way except for a 1920's front door. The garden walls and gardens are delightful in summer and give an excellent idea of a cottage of the late 18th century. On the left hand side, an old local stone bungalow is seen and this building was the Lime works' stables for Keeling's horses and the surprise shown on entering the premises is to find that, as it is built into the side of a stone quarry, it is a two storied building.

This Quarry was the source of much Blue Lias for buildings both at Bitton and further a-field. On the 12th March 1798 at a meeting at Bitton Vestry (forunner of the Parish Council) was a proprietor of the Lime Works, called Tom Stibbs. A sum of £170 was collected for "the defence of King and constitution against the attempts of their violent and inveterate enemy the French".

The Tithe map of 1843 again shows two lime kilns in this area. Court Farm Green is a Public open space, albeit small but it gives an excellent prospect of Court Farm Barn built around 1830, following Creswicke's selling large portions of the estate. It has original ironwork on its doors and is crowned by a statue of a lady reported to be Ceres, goddess of the harvest. The statue is reputed to have come from Keynsham Abbey and it probably represented a Christian saint. However, in the age of enlightenment it would have been more fashionable to have renamed the image to a Greek Goddess. We know that it was erected on 5th January 1839 by a local man John Couch, and the cost was 7/- (shillings) per day, and 1 shilling (5pence) for the boy who helped to erect the statue on the Barn roof.

Proceeding westwards to Stephen's Green, which was shown on the Tithe Map of 1843 as Tillies Green, - this new name is interesting. The famous ink

manufacturer owned the Court at the early part of the 20th century and owned the Green. The original gate posts to the Court are still in place at the extreme west end of the site. An agreement between Hanham Abbots Parish Council and the Stephens family was made and so the Green was renamed and the Council took ownership.

The Council planted the Lime Trees around that time — now bluebells and snowdrops, together with masses of daffodils, adorn the Green in Springtime. Near the gate at the west end of the Green, hidden in undergrowth, lies the village Pound — a post-medieval ruin where stray animals were impounded until some seventy years ago. Behind the Pound, northwards towards Stonehill, lies the lost village. The Parish Council has a map of the earthworks in the field, but little is known of the remains and further investigations need to be done on the site to find out what is under the soil.

Beyond the old entrance pillars to Stephen's Green westward lies the village Pond. The Pond is the haunt of great crested newts as well as toads and frogs. During the 17th century a Pipe consisting of hollowed-out tree trunks was laid from Hanham Mills to Lawfords' Gate Bristol and it is supposed that the Pond was the Header Tank to provide pressure for the water supply to Bristol. The Pond was used in the 19th century by the adjoining Brewery to water the horses used in the business. Retracing one's steps back to the Green can be seen Hanham Court Lodge; although the original building was razed to the ground around 1990, it has been rebuilt to the original design. Inside the estate, the group of Church, Tithe barn and House form a typically English group, and the estate was held by Keynsham Abbey. The oldest building of the group is the Church of St. George, which is 14th century, with a plain 15th century tower, a wagon roof and at the east end a Lady Chapel now used as a vestry. At the south end are three bays. The entrance door and porch are 14th century originals, including the locks on the doors. The treasures contained in St. George's church are a lovely Pillar Piscina from the 13th century and a 12th century Norman Font in Caen stone.

A most tuneful pre-reformation bell in the Tower is rung during divine service. The Tower and cupola are 19th century. The original wrought iron entrance gate with the Creswicke Coat of Arms has recently been replaced to its original position and the 17th century wall paneling of the main rooms is in store awaiting restoration.

Whilst the Tithe Barn is said to be 12th century, Pevsner has said that the construction is 15th century as it has a central two storey Porch with Tie and Collar Beams, and arched wind braces in its roof construction. These Red Sandstone buildings contrast with those of Court Farm which are in Blue Lias Lime Stone. To the rear of the Tithe Barn is an ancient dog kennel, thought by

locals to be 18th century, and unusual in its design of stone. To the rear of the Court is a well, written by locals as belonging to the Canons' Grange, but has not been officially identified by experts as such. The Hanham Court Estate was bought from Thomas Colston by the Creswicke family in 1638. Sir Henry Creswicke was Mayor of Bristol in 1660 and a personal friend of King Charles II, who knighted him in 1663. King James visited Hanham Court between those dates. When Francis Creswicke, a grandson of Henry, owned the estate in 1685, the lands included Sydenham Mead. During the occupancy of the Duke of Monmouth's Army, Francis visited Sydenham and spoke to Monmouth regarding compensation for loss of hay and damage, and this prompted a local landowner, Sir John Newton, of Barrs Court, Cadbury Heath, to gain an arrest warrant on Francis on the basis of "Being in favour of rebellion and in correspondence with the enemy". Francis was arrested and imprisoned at Thornbury and Gloucester. Further investigations were made and the correspondence proved to be a bill for compensation and Newton was found to have bribed witnesses to testify against Creswicke. Francis described Newton as a "neighbourly adversary" and charges were dropped. Francis Creswicke then got into more hot water by the murder of the Irish attorney, General R. Rochford in Dublin and was imprisoned there for many years, having been found guilty of this act of murder.

During the 18th century the estate became heavily in debt and, early in the 19th century, the last of the Creswicks, then living in Willsbridge, married Sarah Ann Burgess, the daughter of the landlord of the White Hart (now called the Lock Keeper). Sarah had been born at the Queen's Head, Willsbridge, and was as wealthy as Henry. Together, they sold the land and emigrated to Barrie, Canada, where Henry helped to found the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Henry Creswicke's Day Book is held by Reading University Library and can be viewed at the White Knight's campus. Creswicke Avenue, Hanham, is named after the family that owned Hanham Court Estate as long as the Black Canons of Keynsham. A walk along Ferry Road from Stephen's Green will bring one to Hanham Mills. Upon reaching the Avon River bank, to the left is a car park with a field at the rear which was the second common field, Evenfield Mead. Again, each winter this becomes a flood plain for the river and is shown on Ellacombe's map, 1881, as having had 11 allotments in former times. Between 1831 and 1834, and again in 1849, Cholera fever broke out amongst the local inhabitants, due to contaminated water.

Retracing our walk about to Stephen's Green and proceeding westwards along Abbots Road, we pass a stile to a field on our right. This item is locally "listed" and is known as a "Gloucestershire Stile", a large slab of Forest of Dean sandstone held by pennant stone pillars and steps. There are three of these on Hanham Common

at the junction of Whittucks Road and Abbots Road.

Hanham Common is special to locals and although just a 6 acre field surrounded by a stone wall, it was the subject of an Act of Parliament for inclosing land in the Parish of Bitton 1819. "George III. Whereas Samuel Whittuck, Lord Henry Howard, Molyneux Howard, Henry Creswicke, Robert Jefferey, Reverend William McDonald, clerk, Prebendary of Bitton claim to be Lords of several manors of Bitton -- John Brown, Young Sturge, Land Surveyors of Brislington appointed as official surveyors -- Schedule.

Open and commonable arable field estimated to be 190 acres in size ---

Whereas the said commons and wastelands in their present state are the resort of idle and disorderly persons and are subject to continual encroachments and the means of heavy and increasing burdens upon the estates of the persons having common rights therein and the said common fields lie intermixed and dispersed in small parcels and in their present situation incapable of any considerable improvement, if the said commons or wastes were divided and inclosed and the surplus after deductions were properly enclosed in a ring fence ---"

This last statement explains the fine stone wall and Gloucestershire stiles enclosing the common, albeit reduced from 190 acres to 6.

The roadway running alongside Hanham common is called Common Road and some yards past the common lies a Squatters Cottage. Common Law allowed a cottage to be built on waste or common ground as long as it be built overnight and that a fire was going within the cottage before daybreak. People would arrive and build overnight and much nuisance was caused as the Act of Parliament states. Lawless actions such as these were common in the 17th century and many complaints were made to Bristol authorities but ignored. In 1667, a complaint about Hanham Squatters that large numbers of cottagers settling in surrounding woodland "without leave--- and generally live there without government or leave--- and generally create problems".

During the 18th century the situation became worse and it often became impossible to enforce the law. People behaved more or less as they pleased with no fear of punishment. In 1726, when there were major industrial disputes in neighbouring Wiltshire towns, rioting weavers were sent to invite local people to their assistance. Chiddy Cottage lies in Memorial Road, a continuation of Abbots Road, formerly called Pit Lane. Subscriptions were collected throughout the kingdom for John Chiddy's widow and his eight children "for the erection of a house at Hanham" across the river to the place where John died. The story, well known to Keynsham people, is that John spotted a large boulder straddling the railway line where it had fallen from the rock face. John used almost super-human strength to move the stone to a safe place but the express train which was due, killed John. His action

saved the lives of many travellers on the express.

The house keys were handed to Mrs Chiddy on 8th January 1878. John's grave can still be seen in Christchurch nearby. The lane was renamed Memorial Road and a large slate inscription to the side of the house is still legible.

On the other side of the road is the last remaining coal pit building, closed down in the general strike of 1928.

Returning to Hanham Abbots, we proceed northwards along Whittuck's Road, named after the family of pit owners in 18th and 19th centuries, and on the right side, their home, Hanham Hall, which was formerly an hospital and now to be developed for domestic housing. The surgery was built in the former grounds of the Hall, c. 1985. and is the only public building in Hanham Abbots apart from seven public houses. One such tavern is the "Blue Bowl", High Street.

Tom Cribb was born in what is now known as Furber Road. In 1781, the year in question, life was very different from today and fist fighting was normal for rough Hanham coalminers and bootmakers. Tom was the best fighter and fought, at Wick, a local pugilist called Henry Pearce, and had many fights at a ring located at Jefferies Hill, Hanham. Tom eventually trained at the Blue Bowl, where facilities existed, and later travelled to London to meet an American Black Boxer called Malineaux. He fought bare-fisted, and, in the two bouts arranged, beat the then World Boxing Champion and gained the title in 1812. Tom's training at the Blue Bowl became impossible due to the crowds who flocked to the pub, so Tom purchased a property on the Bristol to New Passage Road. The location was then unnamed but became known as Cribbs Causeway.

Jean and Mike Rawlings

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BITS and PIECES

Where is it now? (The bas-relief— a section of chimney piece.)

In our last journal I wrote about the Harington family. I mentioned the fact that part of a fireplace had been rescued by Inigo Jones some years after the original Manor House had been destroyed but its whereabouts was unknown. During our summer walk around Kelston I enquired about the unusual carving and was told it had been built into part of the Old School house. As the school was built by Lieut. Colonel W. Inigo Jones in 1863 it seems perfectly natural that, having rescued the bas- relief, he would incorporate it into the building.

Yard & Pool Barton

Some time ago, it was brought to the attention of the Local History Society, nudged along by Miss Iris Lupinier, that planning permission was being sought to build three town houses and nine apartments on the land called Pool Barton at the rear of the Pioneer Pub. As there might be some historical/archaeological significance to the site, we wrote to the planning office alerting them to this fact.

Since then, several proposals have been put forward, the last one for “eleven apartments with associated works”. The applicant is Latham & Brownstone. All previous petitions have been turned down. Sue Trude.

CORRECTION

“Saltford Reminiscences” on page 12 of the last Journal [Series 2, no. 3. 2003], was written by Bunty Dunford not Elizabeth Sabin. Apologies to both for the misunderstanding.

BOOKS.

Last autumn another Keynsham “picture” book, “Images of Keynsham” was compiled and written by members Barbara Lowe and Margaret Whitehead. It was published by “Tempus Books” at £12- 99 and all Royalties come to the Local History Society.

Also last autumn, Somerset County Council and Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society published “The Decorated Medieval Floor Tiles of Somerset” at £14-99. This was written by Barbara Lowe and includes details of 101 different tile designs from Keynsham Abbey.

VIDEO.

1st TAKE VIDEO is currently preparing a video illustrating the histories of Keynsham & Saltford. Several members of the society will be involved in the production and Royalties will be paid to the Society

