

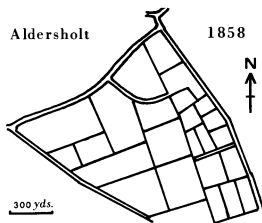
## Aldersholt – A Village Overview

Aldersholt is a village and parish in East Dorset. It was once part of the larger Cranborne Parish, but it became an ecclesiastical parish on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1849 and has now an area of 3,769 acres.

It does not boast many places of interest because for many years it was a sparsely inhabited area of heathland. Only in recent years has the village grown to what it is today. Between 1851 and 1975 the population rose by 160 to 800. But today it is over 3000!

By tradition, the Battle of Catgurnion was fought between King Arthur and the Saxons before he marched to retake Witesbury (Whitsbury).

The village was not always where it is today. The main settlement was along Aldersholt Street (now called Sandheath Road). Like any typical village we find the church (St. Clements), farms, the mill, a blacksmith, a Manor, a village green and pond and the public house (the New Inn).



In 1858 part of Aldersholt Heath to the south was enclosed by act of parliament. This action provoked much opposition among the cottagers (commoners) as they took it to be an invasion of their common rights.

With the building of a new road along the northern edge (Station Road / Park Bottom),

the freeholders (among whom Mr. Churchill and Lord Salisbury were the largest landowners) began to build many cottages. As more land was enclosed from the waste, more cottages were built. Aldersholt Street ceased to be the main area of population and the settlement along the Fordingbridge – Cranborne road became the new centre of the village. Since 1975 nearly half the enclosed land has been built on.



### **Churches.**

#### St. Clements

Built in medieval times and situated on Aldersholt Street. Dedicated to St. Clement, Bishop and Martyr and was a 'chapel of ease' for the Cranborne Church. It is referred to in a document of 1574. The church was destroyed by Cromwell's army in the civil war and fell into ruin.

#### Ebenezer.

The Congregationalists built a chapel of mud and thatch at Cripplestyle in 1807. This collapsed in 1976. The site

is marked by a memorial stone and garden.

#### Aldersholt Chapel.

A mud and slate building was built in 1820. A brick replacement was built in 1861. This was pulled down in the late fifties. The existing building was opened in 1923 and redeveloped in 2011.

#### St. James

Built from locally quarried sandstone and consecrated in 1849. It is situated in the geographical centre of the parish and dedicated to St.



James the greater, Apostle and Martyr. Extended in 1922.

#### Crendell Methodist.

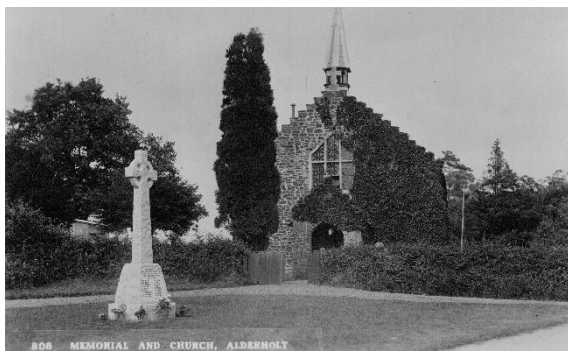
The present building is dated 1870. It was closed in 2011.

#### Williams Memorial

Built in 1888 to replace Ebenezer. Named in memory of Samuel Williams, for forty years a pastor. The congregation joined with Aldersholt in 2000. The building is now an art studio.

#### Tabernacle Full Gospel Church.

In Camel Green. Opened in June 1938.





## Industries

### Pottery

The parish straddles a narrow band of clay situated between the chalk uplands of Cranborne Chase and the sandy heathland to the south and east. From records it is known that a community of potters had become established on the edge of this heathland at Alderholt by the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The last kilns operated in the area towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A kiln mound can still be seen at

the Salisbury Arms farm on Presseys corner.

### Bricks

The same clay was used to make bricks for local use. Billets and Rakes were situated in Camel Green, Pagets in the station yard (where the surplus stores used to be). There were other Brickworks near Alderholt Mill and on Hillbury Road. A lot of the bricks were used in Bournemouth. Production stopped just before the last war.

### Hurdles and Thatching Spars

Made from Hazel, cut from coppices. Several people were involved in this trade. Wilfred Foster (pictured) at Cripplestyle. Peter Bond was the last hurdler in the area. The product is now no longer financially viable due to modern production techniques.



## Public Houses

### The Churchill Arms

Originally called the Railway Arms. Situated near the Daggons Road station.

### The Gold Oak Bar

Halfway between Alderholt and Cranborne. Now a private house. Until a few years ago the writing of the bar was still visible on the farmhouse wall.

### The New Inn

Alderholt Street. Converted to two cottages before 1850.

### The Red Lion

Fordingbridge Road. Now Red Lion Cottage.

### The Salisbury Arms

The ruins of this public house on Pressey's corner stand in the grounds of Salisbury Arms Farm.

There were also several micro-breweries in the area.

The Churchill Arms is the only one that has remained open.



## Schools

There were "Little Dame" schools at Alderholt Street, Crendell and Cripplestyle. The National School, St. James was built in 1847.

This school was enlarged several times until 1982 when a new building was built on Park Lane.

## Amenities

### Village Hall

Built in the early 1920's. A new hall built by a local builder was opened in 1968.

### Reading Room

Built in 1904 through the generosity of Lord and Lady Salisbury. It was intended for silent reading as there was no village hall at the time.

## Railways

The Salisbury and Dorset Line was opened in 1866. Lord Beching closed the line in 1963. The bridge has been demolished and Daggons Road station is now private housing.



## Alderholt Archives

### Enclosures and Commons

by Adrian King



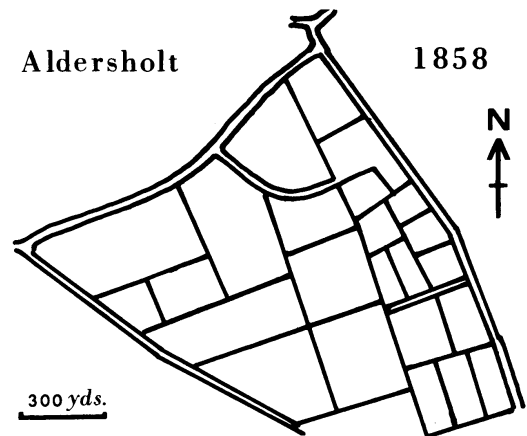
Not everyone was happy with this!

John Clare wrote –

*There once was lanes in nature's freedom dropt,  
There once was paths that every valley wound, –  
Inclosure came and every path was stopt;  
Each tyrant fixt his sign where pads was found  
To hint a trespass now who cross'd the ground:  
Justice is made to speak as they command  
The high road now must be each stinted bound:  
--Inclosure thou'rt a curse upon the land  
And tastless was the wretch who thy existence plann'd.*  
(Early Poems, II, 170)

In 1848 the population of Alderholt was 404. Most were living along Alderholt Street (Sandleheath Road) and at Alderholt Corner (Presseys Corner.) If you stood at Presseys Corner 170 years ago and looked over what is now Windsor Way you would see a different scene than you see today! You would be facing an area of Heathland. The track that is now Station Road ended on the Heath after a short distance! This part of the Alderholt Heath in the southern part of the parish was enclosed by act of parliament in 1858 and divided up into large near-rectangular fields of two to twenty acres. This action provoked much opposition among the cottagers as they took it as an invasion of their common rights.

Enclosure is the conversion of landholding and agricultural practice from open field farming to severalty (privately held land not subject to any form of common right.)

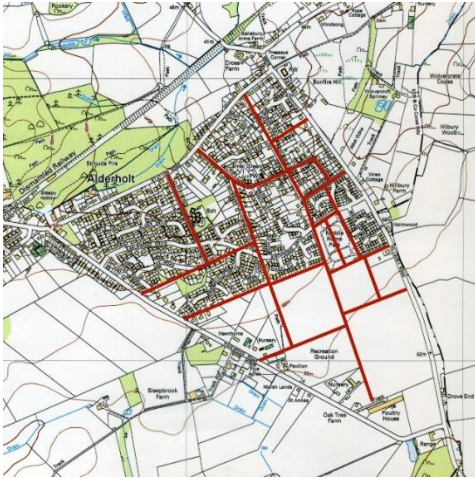


*The original field boundaries*



*Camel Green viewed from Antells Way!*

The cottagers were “farmers” who had leased plots of land on lives on easy terms from the Lord of the Manor – the life could be renewed on payment of a fine. Upon their holdings the people built a cottage and though they may have had to toil as hard as any labourer, there was a feeling of independence. The house, often a poor one with mud wall, was their own in a sense, and so were the fields, which they or their fathers, had enclosed from the surrounding wastes of heath and furze. From this waste they eked a living.



*The original field boundaries overlaid on the village in 2000*

But enclosure changed all this – as they fell, the holdings, were attached to adjacent farms and the cottages allowed to tumble down.

A typical example is that of Starvington Farm on Batterley Drove – it is long since gone and the land attached to another farm!

With the building of the new road along the northern edge, the freeholders (among whom Mr. Churchill and Lord Salisbury were the largest landowners), began to build many cottages. As more land was enclosed more cottages were built. Alderholt Street ceased to be the main area of population and settlement along the Fordingbridge – Cranborne road became the village centre.

Most of the enclosed land has been in-filled with the developments of the last thirty years but it was still possible to trace the original field boundaries in the 1960's but it is beginning to get harder!

But there still existed plots of land not owned by anybody, where common law still stood.

Rodney Legg says in Dorset Commons and Greens, “what is remarkable is that so little of Dorset Heaths were protected under the commons registration act 1965.

The result is that in 200 years, 130 square miles of heathland has been lost to development.

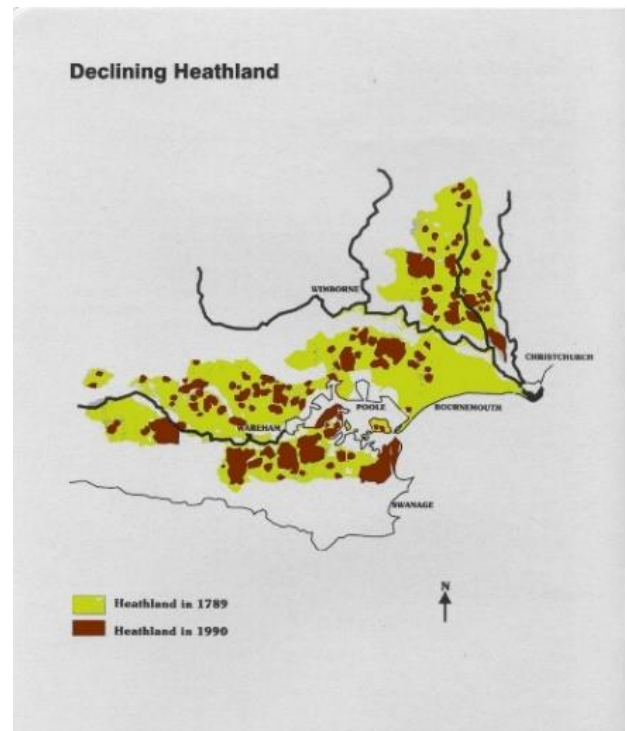
He also said that, “Alderholt was the most vigilant parish in the county during the commons registration of 1967-70!”



*The view from King Barrow Hill looking over the common towards St. James Church after a recent fire*

#### Commons and Greens in Alderholt

- Bridleway Green – 1.5 acres of an old roadside green beside bridleway 26 (Sandy Lane) near Cripplestyle – VG 34
- Cripplestyle Chapel – 0.2 acres adjoining the Ebenezer Memorial Garden at Cripplestyle – CL 161
- Grass Triangle (1) – 0.03 acres of grass triangle at the Alderholt Park Lodge near Home Farm – VG 33
- Grass Triangle (2) – 0.05 acres of grass triangle at the entrance to Wolvercroft Garden Centre – CL 160
- Home Farm Pond – 0.17 acres at the Home Farm Pond – CL 163
- King Barrow Hill – 23.62 acres at King Barrow Hill – CL 253 and CL 162
- War Memorial – 0.05 acres at the War Memorial – CL 159
- Wastelands – 34.1 acres of wasteland in Cranborne and Alderholt Parishes in an extensive pattern of roadside verges (includes Crendell Common) – CL 127



# Alderholt Archives

## Alderholt Mill

by Adrian King



This mill stands on the Ashford Water, a tributary of the River Avon. The stream is the boundary for both parish and county, the latter being between Dorset and Hampshire. At one-time part of the county of Wiltshire

reached to the river (the Wiltshire parishes of Damerham, Martin and Whitsbury were transferred into Hampshire in 1895). There was a village saying that a man standing in the stream in one county could lay his hands on the other two. The first Squire Churchill, who owned property in all three counties often told how he flushed a duck in Dorset, shot it in Hampshire and picked it up in Wiltshire.

Above the bridge the stream is called the River Allen and below the bridge it is called the Ashford Water.

Salisbury Estate records show references to the Mill in the 1330's but there may have been a mill on the site before then. For many centuries, it was known as Padner Mill and when first mentioned the Miller was William de Paednor. Throughout the medieval period it was one of the customs of the Manor (Cranborne) that the customary tenants of the village should have their grain ground there.



Apart from the mill being used in 1942 during the war for grinding cattle food it had little use in the 20<sup>th</sup> century until 1982 when it was preserved, although a previous owner sometimes used the wheel to power a lathe.

It is the only remaining mill of four mills that were once on the river. Hawkhill is now a farmhouse, the one at Damerham is a cottage and there is no trace of the fourth one.

Behind the mill is an old water meadow and after heavy rains the flooded serrated ditches creates a herringbone effect.

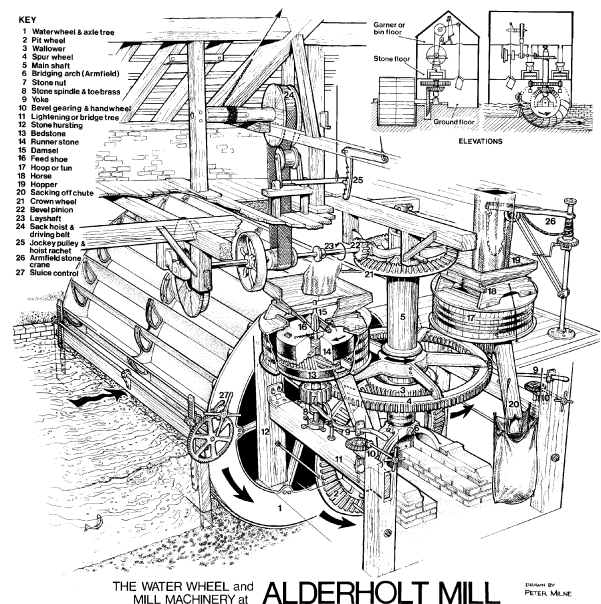
Some of these ditches had hatches along the millstream so that they could be manually flooded.

This field is surrounded by water; the mainstream flowing down one side and the manmade millstream (controlled by a hatch where it leaves the mainstream) down the other side.

Water is backed up in a small millstream to allow the mill to work, instead of the usual pond or leat.

The iron breast shot (struck) waterwheel (made by W. Munden of Ringwood) that is at the back of the Mill replaces one, which was originally inside the building and dates from about C1862-72. W. Munden later became Munden & Armfields and then Armfields. The firm may have done maintenance work on the Mill over the years and recently replaced a number of the paddles.

The wheel was placed at right angles probably to accommodate the unusually wide vanes. Water was diverted onto the wheel from the millstream by closing a hatch under the main building, which sent the water down over another hatch and the tailrace ran behind the house, joining the mainstream before running under the bridge.



The water channel at the front is a result of the wheel originally having been inside the building.

The house that is attached to the mill building by a small annexe was originally three cottages but was converted into one house when the property was sold away from the mill house.

Preservation began in 1982 when woodwork in the mill building needed treating for woodworm and Death-watch Beetle. During the winter of 1984/5 the Spur wheel, downstairs had its entire 200 plus teeth replaced, each separately cut and inserted. The original teeth were probably made from apple or hornbeam, but the new ones were made from beech. Mr. R. Waskett completed the repairs to the Spur wheel.

Sadly, most of the old working drawings of the Mill were destroyed.

Recent renovation of the mill has been –

- The replacement of the old footbridge over the millstream.
- A new grid in front of the hatch by the wheel to stop unwanted debris getting under the paddles and causing damage.
- The hoist was rebuilt in 1986.
- Also, in 1986, a new Horse was constructed for the centre of the French Burr stones, (this guides the corn into the stones and controls it).

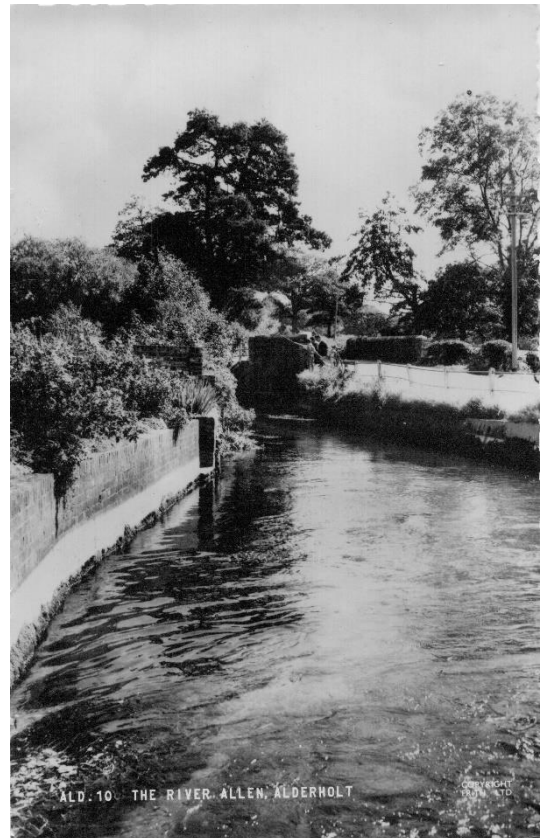
It was not until February 1987 that milling of locally grown wheat commenced. 100% Stoneground Wholemeal flour is now produced for sale in the Mill and to selected shops in the area.

The Mill and craft centre had been opened to the public in 1982 in order to self-finance future preservation work. Maintaining machinery and restoring the mill to full working order was made possible with the profits from the arts and crafts exhibitions.

The Mill is open for Cream Teas and Milling Demonstrations, weekends only, Easter to August Bank Holiday. Alderholt Mill is called Alderwood Mill on the 1791 map of Hampshire that was surveyed by Thomas Milne and published by W. Fabia.

### Millers

William de Padenor	1330's
William Sterlyng	1459
Nicholas Snell	1547
Thomas Snell	Late 1700's
Samuel Richardson	
Stephen Witt	
Edward Cutler	
William Hollins	
Frederick Joel Bailey	1915
Sidney Bailey	
Sidney Bailey (Mrs.)	1931
Fred Bailey	1933
John and Ann Pye	1978
Richard and Sandra Harte	



## Alderholt Archives

### Churchyard Flowers

by Adrian King



Alderholt St. James churchyard is managed with wildlife in mind – as a sign indicates as you enter the churchyard by the lower lynch-gate.

Over a period of twenty years the church has entered a competition run by the Dorset Wildlife Trust called “The Loving Churchyard Project.” They received a certificate each year – frequently a gold one, but sometimes just “highly commended!” The churchyard dates from the opening of the church in 1849 and graves date from that time to present with an area for the future currently being used as a paddock.

John Hensel said, “the new area dates from 1982 and a team of mowers cut the grass between the graves every week in the summer. The older areas are managed by a contract gardener with his strimmer, but this is now carried out in a designated fashion with some areas being cut monthly from June and other areas being cut once, twice or three times from June to October. We aim to collect the strimmed grass once it has dried off to lower the fertility of the ground and encourage the finer grasses and smaller flowers. This is particularly important after the main big cut in July and it is surprising how quickly the task is accomplished by a team of volunteer rakers!”

John Hensel produced a Flower Count every month from February to August in the Parish News. Here is a list of Flowers and Shrubs that have appeared in his count.



The Churchyard when the Bluebells are out

Aquilegia  
Barren Strawberry  
Bay  
Beaked Hawksbeard  
Birds Foot Trefoil  
Bitter Cress  
Black Bryony  
Black Knapweed  
Blackberry  
Blackthorn  
Bluebell  
Box  
Broom  
Bugle  
Buttercup  
Cats ear  
Centauray

Chickweed  
Choisya  
Common Field Thistle  
Common Sorrel  
Common Speedwell  
Cotoneaster Horizontalis  
Cow Parsley  
Crab Apple  
Creeping Buttercup  
Crocus  
Cuckoo Flower  
Daisy  
Dandelion  
Devil’s Bit Scabious

Dock  
Dog Rose  
Dogs Mercury  
Early Forget-me-not  
Elder  
Few Leaved Hawkweed  
Field Thistle  
Foxglove  
Germander Speedwell  
Geum  
Goose Grass (Cleavers)  
Greater Celandine  
Greater Columbine  
Greater Stitchwort

Ground Elder  
 Ground Ivy  
 Groundsel  
 Hairy Bitter Cress  
 Hairy Chickweed  
 Harebell  
 Hawthorn  
 Hazel (male and female)  
 Heath Bedstraw  
 Heath Milkwort  
 Hedge Parsley  
 Herb Robert  
 Himalayan Balsam  
 Hoary Plantain  
 Hogweed  
 Holly  
 Honeysuckle  
 Hop-Leaf Trefoil  
 Knapweed  
 Laurel  
 Leafy Hawkweed  
 Lesser Stitchwort  
 Lesser Willowherb  
 Magnolia  
 Martagon (Peruvian Lily)

Meadow Buttercup  
 Milk Thistle  
 Montbretia  
 Mouse-Eared Hawkweed  
 Oxalis  
 Ox-Eye Daisy  
 Periwinkle  
 Pignut  
 Pineapple Weed  
 Pink Campion  
 Pink Clover  
 Primrose  
 Privet  
 Purple Vetch  
 Ragwort  
 Rape  
 Red Dead Nettle  
 Red Oxalis  
 Rhododendron  
 Ribwort Plantain  
 Robinia  
 Rough Hawkbit  
 Self-Heal  
 Shepherds Purse  
 Sheep Sorrel

Shining Cranesbill  
 Smooth Hawk's Bit  
 Snowdrop  
 Spanish Bluebell  
 Speedwell  
 Star of Bethlehem  
 Stinging Nettle  
 Sycamore  
 Thyme leaved  
 Tormentil  
 Vetch  
 Viburnum  
 Violet  
 Wall Speedwell  
 Weigela  
 White Bryony  
 White Clover  
 White Deadnettle  
 Wild Daffodil  
 Wild Strawberry  
 Wood Anemone  
 Wood sage  
 Yarrow  
 Yellow Corydalis  
 Yew



Wild Daffodils in the Churchyard

People were encouraged to walk the labyrinth slowly as an aid to contemplative prayer and reflection, as a spiritual exercise or as a form of pilgrimage.

The path is 20 inches wide and about half a kilometre long in 7 concentric part circles.

Labyrinths were a feature of many medieval cathedrals. Unlike a maze they have only one path – there are no dead ends!

The Churchyard is awash with colour in spring! First, the Snowdrops, then the Crocuses, then Wild Daffodils and finally the Bluebells and the Wood Anemones.

A grass labyrinth was made in the paddock towards the bottom of St. James Churchyard. It was envisaged in 2012 and first available for use between 7.30pm – 9.00pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014.



The Churchyard Labyrinth



## Alderholt Archives

### The Village Hall

by Adrian King



The village hall was a “large green wooden building“ built in the early 1920’s on land given to the village by the Cecil family, using two old 1914/18 army huts with heather hauled from Cranborne Common for the

foundations.

It was nearing completion in July 1922 and ready by the following year.

Don Hibberd says that his father, Fred Hibberd had helped to erect it and he had found that some of the timbers were of such bad quality that he refused to use them! Help was also given by the British Legion.

The management committee reported in Nov 1923, that the outstanding debt had been reduced to well under £100.

It was hoped that the financial obligation to Mr. Mills who it is assumed lent money for the project, would be cleared away. But in the event, it was not fully repaid until after November 1926.

In the Parish News from November 1923, Horace Henry Coley, (the vicar) was

generally pleased with the way things were going but called the boasting of some people that they had got into events without paying, “a despicable business and disgraceful.”

He said, “it would be a pity if the management committee had to buy an iron turnstile. I would recommend a cheaper remedy – to dig a deep pond and try a little ducking on the offenders!”

In 1926 there were problems getting a committee for running the hall. After a couple of public meetings to which only a handful of people came was a committee eventually formed.

At the back of the building was a hollow surrounded by logs forming a swimming pool – it was fed by the stream which runs through the car park! It is not known if it was ever used! Or were miscreants ducked in it! During the Second World War the hall was used as a dining hall for troops billeted in the village.



*The Old Hall in 1967*



*Manston Family Gathering – Occasion unknown*

The Royal Ordnance Corps (R.O.A.C.) also had their headquarters in the hall.

Stan Broomfield said that “after World War II with the formation of Alderholt Rifle club in the 1947, the club was given permission to create a firing target butts under the stage with a 15-yard range – licence approved from the MOD!” In 1967 a building at the Daggons Road Brickyard Site was converted to a 25-metre range.

By 1957 the hall had deteriorated to such an extent that the management committee

decided that it would be too expensive to repair, so a fund was set up for a new hall. There was a five-year target of £4000.

In 1967, with the help of loans and a grant from the government, work started on the new building and the foundation stone was laid – Lord Cranborne officiated.

The new hall was built by Mr. Lockyer, a local builder and was officially opened on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1968.

Because of illness the Marquis of Salisbury had been unable to attend the opening – his grandson, Robert Cecil officiated instead.

At the opening Robert Cecil quoted the words from his grandfather who had first come to the village in 1902. “The Hall is the heart of the place, where young and old meet and where the pulse beats most strongly.”



*New Hall Stone Laying in 1967*



*The New Hall in the 1970's*

After the ceremony, Mr. Cecil received a scroll giving him the freedom of the Hall, from Mrs. Jean Pattle, who was secretary of the Hall Management Committee.

Over the years there have been additions and improvements which would not have been possible without the support of the local community and grants and donations from the Parish, District and County Councils.

At a small ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2004, Lord and Lady Salisbury opened the newly refurbished kitchen facilities. £9000 had been raised and representatives from the councils, organizations and individuals who had

so generously contributed to the fundraising attended the ceremony.

In his short speech, Lord Salisbury referred to the last time he had visited the village, when, as a young man, he had deputised for his grandfather, the then Lord Salisbury at the official opening of the Hall.

An event was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hall being built.

The current Lord Salisbury, who opened the hall in 1968, returned to officiate and unveiled a 2.5 metre tapestry depicting Alderholt scenes and life, that had been created by the local Knit and Natter Group. It is now a permanent feature in the hall.

The local MP, Simon Hoare also attended.

There were displays of old pictures of the original and new halls.

The Hall is run by a committee.

*Officers on the committee in 2004/5 were –*

Dr. John Hensel	President
Lawrence Fordham	Chairman and Treasurer

Norman Jones	Vice Chairman
Elizabeth Edmunds	Secretary
Vi Male	Letting Officer

*Officers on the committee in 2019/20 were –*

Norman Jones	President
Richard Wood	Chairman
Chris Walker	Vice Chairman
Naomi White	Secretary
Tina Huntley	Treasurer
Mandy Robbins	Bookings
Lyn Lyons	Committee
Kate Mason	Trustee
Jean Mortimer	Trustee
Jason Routley	Trustee



*A Harvest Supper in the Old Hall*

## Alderholt Archives

### Rev. Samuel Williams (1808-82)

by Adrian King



Travelling from Alderholt to Cranborne, just before the Verwood turning you will pass a chapel at Cripplestyle. If you take the advice of the signpost and travel down the lane by the side of it to “Cripplestyle Only,” you will

eventually reach a memorial garden where the tarmac becomes mud! This was the site of Ebenezer – the old chapel, where Samuel Williams, was pastor for forty-two years.

When he arrived at Cripplestyle, the thirty-two-year-old student from Penywaun in Brecon must have wondered how he had allowed himself to get into this situation. He had only come to Cripplestyle to preach on probation having spent a year with the Reverend Thomas Evans from Shaftesbury to ‘familiarize’ himself with the English language. It was June 1840 and Samuel Williams had recently travelled the twenty-five miles over the Chase to this isolated community on the edge of the Dorset Heathland. The congregation could not be faulted; they were poor by the world’s standards but rich in God’s love. They had built their chapel from mud and thatch with their own hands thirty-three years previously, and called it Ebenezer, ‘hitherto hath the Lord helped us’ – such was their love for Bible truths. Their



*Samuel Williams*

pastor, William Bailey, had been dead two years.

Mr. Williams came for three months and did not originally intend ‘prolonging his residence in that isolated spot’ for longer than he could help, yet he remained as pastor there for forty-two years. He was ordained in 1842 by Dr. Condor from Poole.

Not long after he took up the pastorate, he married Sarah Fry (1826-1912), a local girl, and they had eleven children. Thomas (1843), Elizabeth (1845), Henry (1847), John (1850), Susannah (1852), Morgan (1857), Ann (1859), Jane (1861), Arthur (1865), Mary (1868) and Sophie (1871).



*Samuel Williams’ eleven children and Mrs Williams – his funeral was the last time that they were all together!*

Due to their circumstances, the people were not able to support the

pastor fully, but the Home Missionary Society and the County Association gave substantial help.

Samuel Williams had a social ministry, his love was for his flock, ensuring that they were fed and educated both physically and spiritually.

In 1844, a schoolroom was built in which there was a day school, and another room was added to this in 1861. Samuel collected financial support for a teacher right up to the time of his death. A story is told that whilst collecting support he was riding through a sunken track on the heath and he got stuck whilst his horse went



*Ebenezer Chapel, Cripplestyle*



*Ebenezer Memorial Garden*

from under him leaving him suspended. In 1858 he held classes in Cranborne; the notice announced that ‘a certain proportion of time will be devoted to the Holy Scriptures’.

He also had an itinerant preaching ministry; walking seventeen miles to Salisbury to preach and returning that same day was a regular occurrence. He also had calls to other churches that were able to pay a greater stipend than he was receiving; but accepting them never seemed right.

He never quite settled with his second language! There was a time at college when he found that there were not enough words in that “dreadful English language” (as he called it); he had been struggling with the sermon from the start, but ‘could contain himself no longer bursting forth with poetic eloquence and feeling in his native tongue concluding in vigorous and stirring Welsh the sermon which he had so anxiously begun in English.’

In the early years of his ministry, he conducted an evening service at Cranborne, but this was discontinued when a chapel was purchased at Damerham. He went there twice a week to conduct a Bible class and service and ensured that the pulpit was supplied on a Sunday.

The “established church” never got on well with the non-conformists in the area. On one occasion a meeting was arranged for the Dissenters of the district. The local vicar fearing trouble arranged for two constables to be present. Samuel had been asked to pray and he confined his prayer ‘to asking God’s blessing on the vicar and upon his spiritual needs as he went in and out among his parishioners.’



*Hither Daggons – the house built by the Marquis of Salisbury for Samuel Williams’ retirement*

Rev. Williams announced his retirement in 1881 but died on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1882, too early to be able to take up residence in the small cottage that the Marquis of Salisbury (the prime minister) had built for him in the grounds of the manse at Hither Daggons.

He is buried in Alderholt St. James Churchyard.

A new chapel and manse were built in 1888 and named in memory of Samuel Williams.

The old chapel continued to be used for many years but in 1976 it collapsed after a summer of drought and an autumn of torrential rain! A memorial garden with plaque was opened in 1978 – this was replaced with a more substantial stone in 2001.



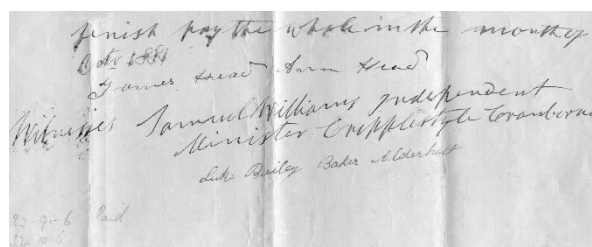
*Williams Memorial Chapel and Manse*

I was brought up at Cripplestyle where my “aunties” and “uncles” could still remember the younger children of

Samuel and Sarah Williams. Sarah Williams ran a shop in the old part of the house at Hither Daggons – she extended credit to her poorer customers! Susannah was a Sunday school teacher for many years.

But times change, people move on; in 2000 with an aging congregation and only a few members, the Williams Memorial Chapel at Cripplestyle closed its doors and joined with the Chapel at Alderholt.

It was used for several years but eventually sold – Williams Memorial is now covered by the inscription “Naughty Boys Studio!”



*Samuel Williams’ Signature on a Deed*

## Alderholt Archives

### Daggons Road Station

by Adrian King



This was the station on the old Salisbury and Dorset line that served the village. The distance from Alderbury Junction was 11 miles and 21 chains. It seems that it was not originally intended that a station should be built, but Mr. George Onslow Churchill of Alderholt Park sold land to the company for the construction of the line only on the understanding that a station would be built. It was built in 1874/75 and opened 1<sup>st</sup> January 1876, eight years after the line was opened.



Before this there had been years of lawsuits between the railway company and Mr. Churchill.

The road crossed the line by an over bridge to the south west of the station. To the south the road is known as Station Road and changes to Daggons Road after crossing the bridge.

During the 1980's the bridge was removed when Churchill Close was built.

When it was first opened the station was in the "middle of nowhere" because the centre of the village

was more to the northeast but subsequently over the years has "grown" towards the railway!

The station was opened as Alderholt, but five months later in the year it was renamed Daggons Road so as not to cause any confusion with Aldershot in Hampshire. It is thought that military personnel may have turned up at the platform thinking that they had arrived at Aldershot! It was not known as Daggons Road until 1903 or 1904.

It was also known locally as 'Paraffin Junction' because there was no gas or electricity lights in the station.

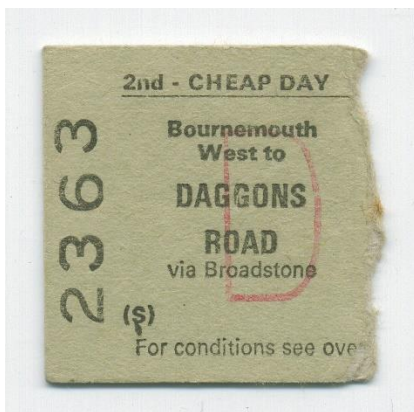
The station originally consisted of a single platform 229 foot in length on the upside with one siding



which was private and ran to the brickworks which at the time was operated by Eustace and Colley. A short second siding which ran from the private siding to a loading dock behind the platform had been added by 1901.

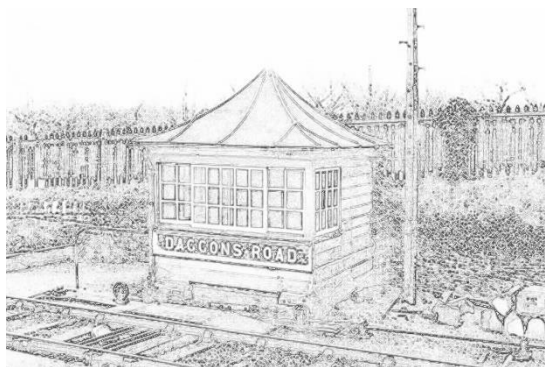
There was a 374-foot head-shunt siding which ran parallel to the main line to the north.

There was eventually a third siding on the downside which served cattle pens and a coal yard. It was extended with points in May 1904 and converted into a down goods passing loop 430 foot in length with a head-shunt at its north end being 215 foot in length, but the station was never used as a block post. The passing loop had a level access for Lorries.



The station building which included the station masters house was a two-storey double gabled brick building with single storey extensions but had no canopy at its north end.

The Station Building housed the booking office and waiting room. It was unusual that the station's running in board was mounted on the roof of the booking office. It was later relocated to a pair of tall concrete stanchions in front of the booking office. A single storey timber building with a hipped slate roof stood further along the platform; this housed the ladies' waiting room. Between the two buildings there was a gents' toilet. Behind the two station buildings there was another single storey building at an angle to the station. It was probably a goods or parcels office.



*Daggons Road Signal Box*

The signal box was unique in structure being a non-standard ground level box with a pointed "pagoda" style roof and was located alongside the down loop, opposite the main station building at the north end of the platform. In August 1903 It was reduced to a ground frame and all signals apart from shunt signals, removed.

A siding was built behind the station during the Second World War so that trucks could be shunted into the area of the 'old brickyard'. This enabled the Royal Army Ordnance Corp (RAOC) to move equipment into their workshops.

Many used the station for transport to the Grammar Schools – the boys to Wimborne Grammar and most of the girls to Parkstone or Poole Grammar.

Clifford Butler, Kenneth Porter, Derek Rake, Amanda Butler and Don Hibberd to name a few!

Don Hibberd used the station from 1936 – 43. He said "the train for Wimborne left Daggons Road at 7.50 a.m. and from Wimborne Station we had to walk a mile to school. The evening train left at 5.15 p.m. arriving at Daggons Road at 5.40 p.m."

"On Saturdays we had to attend school and would arrive back home at 2.15 p.m."

The compiler was often taken on the train to have a haircut at Verwood! We returned from Purbeck during the winter of 1962! Station Masters were based at the station but after the Second World War became based at Fordingbridge overseeing the stations at Verwood, Daggons Road, Breamore, and Downton.

There were Senior Station Porters tasked with general Duties from Office, Line, Yard Control and Passenger Care.

Watercress was transported to Covent Garden from the station.

Doctor Beeching closed the station with the line on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1964. A residential cul-de-sac called Station Yard now occupies the land where the station once stood on the north side of Daggons Road.



*The last passenger service 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1964*



#### Station Masters

Charles Prangell Long	1876 – 93 KC1885, 1889, KA1891
Francis Clarke	KA1895
Alfred Oliver	KA1903, 1907
John George Lillington	KA1911
Henry Ernest Gaiger	KA1915
William Mark Tennant	KA1920, 1927
Thomas Coombs	FA1933
Fred Thorne	OaA p.140
Ronald Tague	OaA p.140
Mr Tett	1964

## Alderholt Archives

### Schools

by Adrian King



There were a number of schools in the parish.  
*Alderholt Street* – in the vicinity of Home Farm.  
*Alderholt St. James* – National school  
*Crendell* – In the Methodist Church. For many years

there were still desks in the schoolroom!  
*Cripplestyle* – Near Ebenezer Chapel  
*Lower Daggons* – On the north side of the wood between Lower Daggons and Crendell.

#### Cripplestyle

During the 1840's Samuel Williams persuaded the men of his church to build a school and a cottage attached to it for a teacher to live in. Both buildings were made from mud and thatch. The financial support and also that of the salary for the teacher could not be raised locally so it fell upon the minister to travel widely to seek support for this venture.



A teacher named Charlotte was there during the 1850's but she left to marry one of the Fry's up at Pye Lane farm.

Julia Annie Davies a pretty, petite young woman of twenty-five years who came from Abergavenny replaced her. Owen Davies said that she was far too attractive for some of the more sober matrons of the chapel. One of them on being asked, "She was beautiful, wasn't she?" replied guardedly "There are different types of beauty."

Many a heart sank when she married Mark Nicklen of Alderholt in 1885.

The school premises were destroyed by fire on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1886. It was thought to be caused by an incendiary.

Dennis Bailey had always wondered where the building was. He says, "I mentioned it to Dennis Manstone who lived almost opposite the chapel for many years of his life, and he said that he knew where it was. For 50 years



I had been asking this question, but no one knew, yet I must have asked everyone except him. He took me less than 100 yards up the track toward Cow Hill Arch and pulled back some hedge and brambles and there was a beam which made up the foundation of the school. It was showing signs of being burnt which tied in with its eventual demise."

#### Alderholt

St. James School (full name Alderholt St. James CE VC First School) is the old church foundation school situated near the church on land made available by



the Third Marquis of Salisbury and dates from 1847. Until this date there were only the fee-paying little Dame schools dotted around, but these gradually disappeared.

The school was funded in part by the Marquis. Some parts of the original building were constructed from cob with a slate roof and the headmaster's house was part of the building. The school was enlarged in 1874 to take 156 pupils and again in 1912. Later a schoolhouse was built opposite the church and the old schoolhouse either

demolished or incorporated into the school buildings during redevelopment. Plans in 1928 to make Cranborne a Senior School took many years to happen - my mother, Mavis Bailey (1930-2004) left school at fourteen! For most of the children this would be the only education that they would get! They would start at five years and continue until they were fourteen. Scholarship examinations would be offered to school children aged eleven and a few would then travel on the train to Grammar Schools at Wimborne (boys) and Poole / Parkstone (girls).

With the village growing so big a new St. James school costing £1½ million was built in 1982 on Park Lane. The 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Salisbury opened the building on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1983.

Stan Broomfield says that the school comprising an area of 3.5 acres was built on land extracted from Norman Smith's long garden and paddock on Station Road, and land purchased from landowners on Park Lane – primarily the Brewer family!



The old school continues to be used for the village youth organisations, primarily KingsWood Nursery.

The roof of the old school was badly damaged by fire on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1998. Four pumps attended the fire.

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, the new school became an Academy joining with Sixpenny Handley First

School, Oakhurst Community First School, Three-Legged Cross Nursery & First School, St. Mary's CE VC First School, West Moors, and St. Ives Primary and Nursery School to form the Heath Multi Academy Trust.

#### Head Teachers

*Old School in Daggons Road.*

Mr. Joseph John Hinton	KC1875
Mr Alan Hetherington	
Mr. George William Fletcher Mann	1874 – 1908
Mrs. Rose Jane Mann	
Mr. H. G. Bracher	1910 – 1937
(Percy Charles)	
Mr. Henry Harvey	1937 – 1959
Mr. A. E. Barfoot	1960 – 1970
Mr. P. W. Richardson	1971 – 1973
Miss K. Mitchell	1973 – 1982

*New School in Park Lane*

Mrs. S. Davies	1982 – 1993
Mrs. Karen Tomkins	1993 – 1997
Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart	1997 – 2001
Mrs. Clare Tickel	2001 – 2011
Mr. Andy Poole	2012 – 2015
Mrs Kathryn Cousins	2015 – 2016
Mrs Clare Hewitt	2016 – 2016
Miss Jo Hudson	2017 –



*Mr. Richardson's class – 1972-3*



## Alderholt Archives

### The Reading Room

by Adrian King



The Reading Room situated opposite Camel Green Road in Station Road was built in 1904, through the generosity of Lord and Lady Salisbury.

It was proposed to open the building on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 1905. At the time there was no Village Hall, and their concern was that the youth of the Village had nowhere to gather. The then Lord Salisbury donated the land, and Lady Salisbury had the Room built at her own expense, with Squire Churchill providing the books and magazines. The intended use was for 'Silent Reading' on Sundays, with the watchful eye of either the Vicar or the Headmaster of St. James School. Ludo, cards, boxing, and billiards were later introduced. The room was initially open each evening and for two hours on a Sunday, the weekly fee for the use of the room was 2d, rising to 4d after the First World War.

Many other parishes had reading rooms to give the local people a chance to improve their education in this way. It is known to many a passer-by as "the little tin shed."

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 1905, a committee was appointed consisting of –

Lord Salisbury (President)	Mr. J. P. Neave (Vice-president)
Mr. Hayne (Secretary and Treasurer)	Rev. Sanderson (Chairman)
Mr. T. Thorne (Committee)	Mr. Oxford (Committee)
Mr. Oliver (Committee)	Mr. W. Read (Committee)
Mr. F. Inkpen (Committee)	Mr. Elton (Committee)

This committee was not large enough to manage the building and more were added later –

Mr. Forsey (Committee)	Mr. Stratten (Committee)
Mr. J. Hayter (Committee)	Mr. W. H. Read (Committee)
Mr. J. Rose (Committee)	



*The Reading Room in 2004*

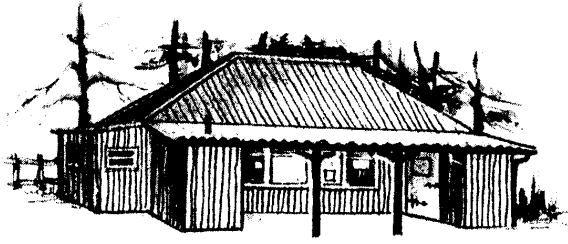
Money was raised by having various entertainments – a minstrel show was organised for January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1905, to raise funds for an organ, which raised £3.

A farce called "Cherry Bounce" was presented on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1905, to raise funds to purchase a bagatelle table which was going to cost £13.

At the start it was decided by the committee to close on Bank Holidays, but this was later rescinded because of the outcry!

Rev. Sanderson commented in the parish news "that it was rather a large order for members to expect that everything would go smoothly during the first year of existence and that a man who never made a mistake never did anything worth doing".

By the time of the first annual meeting in November 1905 it was noticed that attendance was beginning to fall away. The outcome of this was that it was decided to close the Reading Room during the months of June, July, and August. Opening in the evenings at 7.00 pm in April and May and 6.00 pm during the winter months of September to March.



*A line drawing of the Reading Room taken from the Front Cover of an old Parish News.*

It was also decided to reduce the annual subscription to four shillings and sixpence.

There was a financial crisis in June 1906 – due to the annual subscription being paid in instalments, there was not enough money to pay the monthly paper bill. This forced a closure for the summer of 1906 with the Rev. Sanderson intending to call a meeting at the end of September in order to discuss winter opening.

Rev. Sanderson had paid the outstanding paper bills.

So that the vicar could be repaid, it was decided to hold

some concerts. Mr. Rawlings gave two concerts that winter – one with his gramophone in the school hall and a second in the Reading Room.

Mr. Rawlings was very popular and was asked to stand on the committee as secretary and treasurer. The reading room did well for a time but unfortunately Mr. Rawlings left the village in March 1907.

The vicar wrote in the parish news, “we trust that all members will show their appreciation of this improvement by making and keeping the Reading Room as a quiet and orderly place where anyone who is willing to pay his subscription may come and spend a quiet and pleasant time without being annoyed by those pranks which, however pleasant and funny they may be to some people, are not appreciated by everyone.”

Mr. Percy Neave paid outstanding debts in July 1907, and it was still anticipated to open the Reading Room in the winters of 1908 -10.

Mr. Wesley Brewer was elected as secretary.

In November 1910, in order to purchase a billiard table costing about £20 for the use of members, the committee proposed to sell shares. Share’s costing five shillings each could be purchased from the vicar or secretary.

A game of billiards was 3d to cover running costs and it was expected that the table would earn at least 2/6 a week.

Donald Hibberd says it was a club that “started as a mini-library and developed into a games room.”

After the village hall was built the Reading Room was used less for village functions.

During the Second World War, it was used by the A.R.P and Army Canteens, from which the famous Woolton Pies were distributed.



*The Reading Room Interior in the 1980’s*

Over the years, the black round stove and oil lamps have disappeared, and many changes have been made to provide modern facilities. In the mid-nineties there was a £2000 kitchen extension.

It continued to be used for many village functions, from meetings to children’s parties, but its days were thought to be numbered if the proposed development of Strouds Firs went ahead and the new all-purpose community centre was built - that now seems to be on the backburner!

The St. James Church run Forest Edge Café meets in the Reading Room, Monday to Wednesday every Week.



*Strouds Firs in the 1990’s – the land has been cleared for development! The houses in the distance are on Station Road!*

## Alderholt Archives

### St. James Church - Part I

by Adrian King



Sometimes called Daggons Church.

The Foundation Stone of the Church was laid in 1841. Construction was commenced at the expense of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marquis of Salisbury. He gave the land for the Church,

and it was built in the geographical centre of the parish. A year or two later the Church was almost complete, but a snag arose, and building was suspended. Who was going to pay for the vicar?

The building had been originally intended as a 'chapel of ease' under the parish of Cranborne. It was Mr. Carnegie's (the vicar of Cranborne) opinion that the chapel would be ready for dedication in early 1844.

Eventually the Ecclesiastical Commissioners agreed to make a grant of £50 per annum to the new benefice of Alderholt but this was not until late 1848. When Lord Salisbury received this information from the bishop, he

gave orders for the immediate completion of the Church.

The church was consecrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1849 and dedicated to 'St. James the Greater, Apostle and Martyr and St. Clement'. Dr. Edward Dennison, Bishop of Salisbury performed the ceremony. St. Clement was dropped from the patronage in 1893.

The way in which the village celebrated the opening of the Church throws a strong light on the manners of the time. After the service Squire Key entertained the clergy and gentry at the park.

A rural festival then took place on the green, a

barrel of beer and many stands of cakes being provided to help the dancing. The beer was home-brewed in a local beer-shop; the barrel had two taps, one at each end. The company believing there was two barrels set back-to-back confidently paid one penny more for the same measure from what was supposed to be the superior quality tap. This tale has come down orally to a third generation and is still enjoyed as an amusing joke.

It is remembered that Nimrod Stainer and Eliza Amey were the first couple to lead off. The vicar of Cranborne held a service every Sunday afternoon until the Rev. Lowth took up his appointment later that year.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1849, the Church Authorities decided that the former hamlets of Alderholt, Daggons, Crendell and Cripplestyle in the Cranborne Parish should become a separate district for ecclesiastical purposes.



*An old picture of the church before the new nave was built.*



*The interior of the church before the new nave was added.*



*St. James Church looking from the north.*

The Church is built of locally quarried dark brown sandstone.

The Old Vicarage also known as "The Rectory," near Home Farm served as the Parish Vicarage for a time before one was built nearer St. James Church.

Rev. Richard H. E. Wix and his wife Catherine were living in "The Rectory" in 1861C.

Rev. William Tapp and his wife Louise were living there in 1871C.

Repairs and decorations were carried out to the church in 1885. The present bell was purchased in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee year, though it was not

hung in its present position until 1889.

There was a balcony at the West End of the Church with steps leading up to it from where the hymnbook stand is situated. The choir of 25 men and boys sang from the balcony while the new chancel was being built. This balcony was removed in 1960.

The east wall formed the end of the church. It did not have a window and was in line with the present pulpit. The organ (which replaced an earlier barrel organ with its four tunes) stood against the wall next to the present vestry door.

The font is distinctly of Gothic revival character and probably not contemporary with the 1849 church, so

*For those who are interested, here is a description of the building!*

**Description of Building** – F. P. Pitfield says in *Dorset Parish Churches*, "The original building of 1849 consisted of nave, chancel and west porch and, from the 1:2500 Ordnance map of 1901, its approximate size and shape can be deduced. This shows the chancel to have been only about half the size of its present counterpart, and that the nave extended eastwards only as far as a buttress which still remains on the south side, some 2 metres short of the present south-east corner buttress. Internally the eastern jamb of a large but shallow rectangular wall recess marks this point. A similar recess exists in the same relative position internally on the north side, but the opening to the organ chamber now mostly pierces it. It is difficult to imagine what purpose these recesses might have originally served. They appear to have had no significance externally where the wall remains flush on the undisturbed south side, and as they do not extend to the floor, they seem unlikely to have been any sort of provision for future transseptal extensions.

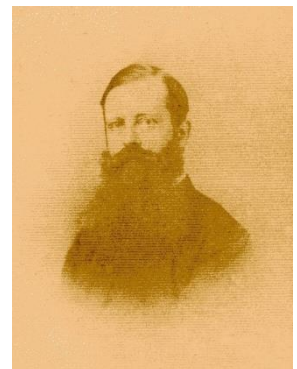
"The original building is pleasantly unpretentious in a rural vernacular style surprising for so late a date. The walls are entirely of the local brown heath-stone with simple two-stage weathered buttresses all in the same material. The four side windows of the nave are single lights with triangular heads and simple chamfered mouldings, whilst the west window, at high level above the porch, is also triangular headed but of three lights with a transom.

"An unusual feature is the stepped motif to the west gables of both the nave and porch, which imparts an almost Scottish flavour to the building – the twelve steps on each side of the nave gable are said to be symbolic of the twelve apostles. There are plain cross finials at the apexes of the gables, and a pierced timber bell lantern on the nave ridge at the west end, roofed by a small spire covered with slates and lead hips.

The nave roof is divided into four bays by king post trusses, with roof-boarded soffits between exposed common rafters!!"

that a small circular font bowl dug up in the vicarage garden some years ago, may have been its predecessor.

*To be Continued*



*Rev. Alfred G. Lowth  
Vicar 1850 - 1853*



*Rev. Richard Hooker Edward Wix  
Vicar 1857 - 1867*

## Alderholt Archives

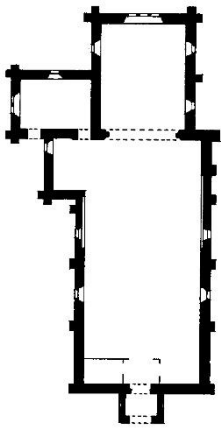
### St. James Church - Part II

by Adrian King



In May 1914, plans were prepared for rebuilding the chancel to a larger size, and the addition of an organ chamber on its north side, together with a vestry on the north side of the nave at its east end. The faculty

application is dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 1914 and the architect was W. Marshall of Hatfield. However, the First World War intervened, and the work was not at that time carried out.



By the end of the war, there had been a change of mind as to the form that the extension should take. A revised plan was deposited showing the proposed organ chamber and vestry transposed to their present positions and the work was carried out on this basis in 1921. At the same time the nave was lengthened by some 2 metres at the east end, terminating with a new buttress at the south-east corner.

Matching local brown heath-stone was used for the new work, but with ashlar dressings. But by this time all the quarries in the village had been worked out so an appeal was given to the parishioners from the Vicar and Churchwardens to collect as much sandstone as they could find and take it to the Church.

The east window of the chancel is of three graduated lancet lights grouped under a flush ashlar stone pointed tympanum externally, whilst the side windows, two on the south and one on the north, are single trefoil headed lights.

F. P. Pitfield said, "the work of 1921 is distinctly of Gothic revival character, contrasting markedly with the less pretentious work of 1849 in the remainder of the building."

The building work was completed within a year at a cost of £1100 (£1300 ). Dr. Donaldson, the Bishop of Salisbury consecrated the new chancel on St. James Day, the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1922.

At this time accounts also show £35 for a new altar in memory of Rev. J. R. Sanderson and £23 for renovation to the organ before placing it in the new chamber. Rev. James R. Sanderson had died suddenly in 1911 after a dedicated ministry of 21 years.

The school children of the village collected and donated money to purchase a pulpit. It came from St. Osmund, Parkstone and had been painted red and yellow.

The pulpit was restored to its original condition, being a very attractive piece in the Gimson style, i.e., black stained wood, an open grid with excessive chamfering.

It has been removed in recent years.

The nave windows have triangular tops instead of arches, and the west facade as well as the west porch has stepped gables.

In the 1980's a great deal of necessary remedial work was carried out: new oak flooring on both sides of the nave, the replacement of pews, rebuilding of the bell-cote. These and many other works were carried out with great expertise and dedication by parishioners.



*Parishioners collecting stones for the new Chancel.*

**Sandstone – List of people who supplied sandstone for the new Church Nave in 1920-23.**

Mr. William Brewer	5 loads
Mrs. Darney – Birch Hill	Parts of loads
Mr. Foster	17 loads
Mr. Fred Fry	1 load
Mr. Hibberd	1 load
Mrs Lucas	Parts of loads
Major Mackintosh	2 loads
Mr. E. Nicklen	4 loads
Mr. Sainsbury	2 loads
Mr. Sims – Vale acre	1 load incl. cartage
Mr. John Sims – Cripplestyle	2 loads
Mr. James Shearing	7 loads
Vicarage	2 loads
Mr. Viney	5 loads
	51 loads total

In the 1970's the vicarage near the bottom lynch gate was sold privately and a new one was built to the north of the church.

After a two-year project a new church hall was opened in July 1990.

At the east end of the church are two recently installed paintings by Brother Leon of Walsingham in Norfolk, which were paid for by donations in memory of loved ones – they belong to an age-old tradition of religious paintings called icons. They are painted on blocks of lime wood, using only natural pigments and materials.

St. James is pictured on the left and is carrying the staff of Christ's authority and the shell symbolising the pilgrim; James has been associated with pilgrimage down the ages. St. Michael carries the globe with the cross on top and the 'sword of the spirit', for angels are agents for God's will to be done on earth.

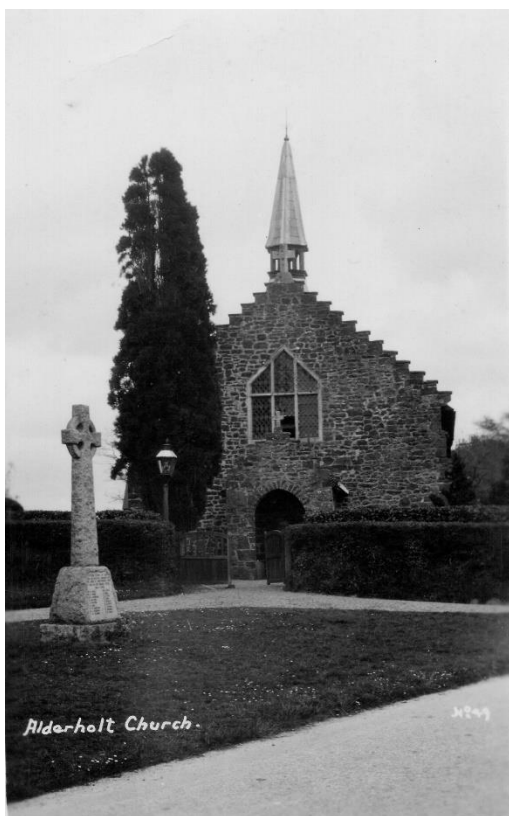
On the north-west corner of the church (the left corner as the church is approached from the war memorial), can be seen an odd honeycomb of circular dents in the sandstone – it is said that these were made a long time ago by children waiting for afternoon Sunday School, using the old penny that they had brought for the collection!

Arthur Mee wrote in "The Kings England," "It is a pleasant church, with something of the grave simplicity of the old tithe barns" .

But not everybody spoke so highly, H. S. Goodhart - Rendall wrote concerning the church: 'Looks like the latest thing by E. S. Prior!'

A Victorian rector gave the village a gift of a silver chalice, which replaced a graceful old Pewter cup, now displayed in a case.

The silver cup of 1576 is the only one in Dorset to display the hallmarks of Exeter.



**Alderholt Church  
1920's**

**Rev. Simon Woodley  
King Barrow 2019**

**Vicars.**

Rev. Alfred G. (James) Lowth	1850 – 1853
Ordained 15 <sup>th</sup> May 1850	
Rev. William Randolph	1853 – 1857
Ordained 17 <sup>th</sup> May 1854	
Rev. Richard Hooker Edward Wix	1857 – 1867
Ordained 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1857	
Rev. William Eggerton Tap	1867 – 1872
Ordained 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1867	
Rev. John Rigg	1872 – 1879
Rev. John William Barrow	1879 – 1890
Rev. James Richard Sanderson	1890 – 1911
Rev. Rupert Shiner (Priest in charge)	1911 – 1912
Rev. R. S. Macdonald	1912 – 1913
Rev. Daniel Frederic Slemeck	1913 – 1921
Rev. Horace Henry Coley	1921 – 1927
Rev. Frederick William Aldous	1927 – 1934
Rev. Clive (E) Essington Boulton	1934 – 1954
Rev. J. H. Rumens	1954 – 1959
Rev. M. C. Callis	1959 – 1965
Rev. H. R. Hadden	1965 – 1977
Rev. J. H. Henson	1977 – 1984
Rev. Steven J. Abram	1984 – 1990
Rev. Phillip J. Martin	1990 – 2017
Rev. Simon Woodley	2018 –

## Alderholt Archives

### Kenneth John Porter (1921-2006)

by Adrian King



In this month of remembrance, I am writing about Kenneth John Porter. He was a village lad who went to war; but you won't find him on the war memorial – he was a survivor!

At the end of November last year Christine Emm passed to me some information that she had received. It consisted of prisoner cards sent home by Private Ken Porter of C Company, Beds and Herts Regiment. One referred to the fighting in Singapore and the other when captive on the Thailand / Burma Railway. What was interesting was that they were addressed to Mr. E. Porter, White House, Alderholt!

I contacted Anita Gillan in Auckland, who I found out later was Kenneth Porters daughter and have been helping her discover her roots in Alderholt and the UK – it kept me busy during lockdown!

**Kenneth** was the son of Ernest and Winifred Porter.

He was born in Christchurch District on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1921, when the family were living in Heatherlands, Ferndown, the youngest of three children. They were living in 18 Avenue Road, Wimborne when his mother Winifred died in 1925 – he was only 3 years old!

Thomas Hardy had lived in the house next door during his two-year stay in Wimborne – he wrote *Two in a Tower* there!

By 1930 Ernest was living at White House, Fir Tree Hill, Camel Green. Kenneth was baptised in All Saints Hampreston Parish Church on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1921, confirmed at Wimborne St. Giles Parish Church on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1938 and took his first communion at St. James Parish Church, Alderholt on Easter Day, 17<sup>th</sup> April 1938. The Rev. Boulton was the vicar.



*Kenneth John Porter*

Following education in the village school, he attended Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Wimborne in 1936 and received a School Certificate A in 1938.

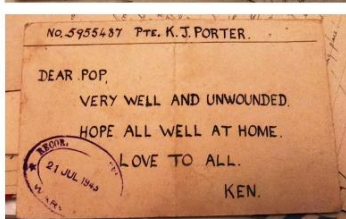
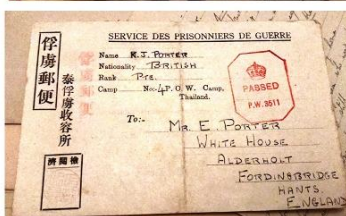
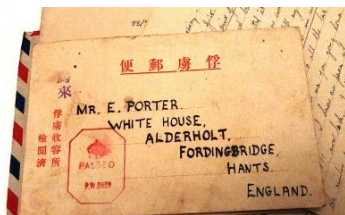
Ann Hickman remembers that he and her brother Clifford Butler were friends and travelled from Daggons Road to Wimborne on the train. Clifford gave him the nickname, "potter!"

Anita Gillan said that her brother's friends also used the same nickname!

He worked in a bank for a short time when he left school.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 Kenneth attempted, still a teenager, to join the Army. He eventually enlisted on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1940 having added another year to his age and served in the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion!

His service number was 5955487.



*Prisoner Cards*



*Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Hat Badge*



*The Title page to Britons Never Never*

After an initial Infantry and Snipers course he served in the Far East (Air) Campaign, embarking on the Reina Del Pacifico.

Kenneth became a POW on the capitulation of Singapore on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1942, whilst holding position near the McRitchie Reservoir.

He was held in Changi and River Valley (Singapore), February to October 1942, Tha Sao, Tha Muang, and Tha Makhan (Thailand).

Kenneth was liberated by the British on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1945 and was demobbed 1<sup>st</sup> February 1946.

In Thailand, he was put on the construction of the Burma Railway and maintenance of the bridge over the Khwae Yai. Then they marched to Lampang in Northwest Thailand – they walked 609 km!

He suffered Jungle Ulcers, Dysentery, Malaria and Malnutrition during his imprisonment. Kenneth was awarded the 1939-1945 Star, the Pacific Star, and the War Medal 1939-1945.

After the war he could not settle and enlisted in the Royal Air Force on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1946 and did a tour of duty in the middle east attaining the position of Sergeant. He served in the RAF Police and was invalided out on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1953. Service number 4017919.

Kenneth then worked for a few months in 1953 for a Lebanese import and export company in Liberia, West Africa – his passport for that year has many stamps from exotic locations around Africa!

He emigrated to New Zealand in 1957 fulfilling a pledge made with a comrade in a prison camp that if they survived, they would emigrate, and sailed with the New Zealand Line, leaving Gravesend on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1957, and via the Panama Canal, arriving at Wellington 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Kenneth became a Dairy Farmer in the Waikato going into business with his brother-in-law Ian Spooner.

Later he was an Auto Spares Manager in Auckland.

He married Lalita in January 1972 and they had two children, Anita, and Antony.

In 1993 he wrote and self-published a book, “Britons Never Never (Subtitled - Once I Built a Railroad)” in Auckland, published by Queenstown Publications about his time as a prisoner of war.

Anita Gillan published a second edition in July this year and sent me a copy!

In 1990 he returned to Thailand with Antony and a couple of other lads to see the infamous death railway at the border of Thailand and Burma (Myanmar.)



*Kenneth Porter at Kanchanaburi Station on the Thailand / Burma railway in 1990*

Kenneth died 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and is buried in Papatoetoe Cemetery, 357 Puhinui Road, Auckland.

His daughter, Anita said in April 2015, “my father was an amazing man. Loving, kind, gentle and extremely patient. As children my brother and I listened to him tell us of the hardship and torment he faced during the war....He is sadly missed by his wife, son, and daughter.”



*Memorial Plaque at Papatoetoe Cemetery, 357 Puhinui Road, Auckland.*

Ernest Porter died in 1951 and is buried in Alderholt St. James Churchyard.



**CHRISTMAS AT HARTS FARM**

by Adrian King



Harts Farm is above Lower Daggons. The farmhouse is early middle C17. The two-storey dwelling is built of brick in an irregular bond with a half-hipped tiled roof. There are two stacks: one at the left end and a twin right

of centre. The C20 porch has a hipped roof and an Oak ledged door. The ground and first floors each have three casements with a centre horizontal glazing bar under segmental arches.

Internally the main ground floor room has a large open fireplace with a timber lintel. There is evidence of a bread oven. There are several exposed chamfered ceiling beams, and the original roof structure still survives.

The barn, 20m south of the farmhouse, to which it is linked by a range of C19 cow-stalls is probably C18. The timber-framed walls are weather-boarded externally and are on a brick base. The roof is of corrugated iron.

The elevation facing the house has stable doors, one shuttered and the other with a part glazed, part slatted window.

Both buildings are grade II listed.

James Hibberd (1800-1876) farmed there from 1840 until his death. His son Silas farmed there until he retired in 1894. Alec Butler and Ron Harris have farmed there since.

Christine Emm says that Alec and Connie Butler are responsible for a legend about a donkey that was taken upstairs and would not come down again!

Ann Hickman was born at Harts Farm and remembers the life there, particularly at Christmas time.

She says, "I was born at Harts Farm, Alderholt, the youngest of four children, six years younger than my siblings so was always "the baby" of the family. In the 1910's my mother had come from London as a schoolteacher. My father, Alex Butler was a well-known local character. I was born in 1929, six years younger than my three siblings.

We all attended the local school (Daggons Road C of E) and then all went to Grammar Schools. As I was the youngest, they had all left their schools before I started at Parkstone in 1942. A small number of us caught the train from Daggons Road station to Parkstone.

During the war, the train was used by the soldiers who suffered like we did with very cold carriages and dim

lights. I left home at 8.45am and came home at 6.00pm and had to cycle over a mile each way, through the woods on a gravel road. Sometimes soldiers were lying in the trees, but no one ever stopped me. After a cooked meal and the table was cleared, I had to do my homework and then bedtime to start all over again the next day.

We had a mixed farm, cows, horses, pigs, and chicken and some years my uncle would give my mother a few turkey chicks to rear. I remember that they were difficult to keep alive and were fed on chopped up boiled eggs mixed with



*Aerial View of Harts Farm*



“sweethearts” (goose grass and cleavers.) We always managed to rear one for our Christmas dinner. In later years, my uncle gave us a fully-grown bird.

In those days there was no electricity, so we used oil lamps and candles. The lavatory was about 100 yards down the garden. All the water for the farm and the home was pumped from the well. We only bathed once a week on a Friday night. The copper, (a large iron or copper vessel built into a brick or concrete structure,) was filled with water and the fire lit underneath. We had a tin bath and as I was the youngest my turn came last. We only



*Amanda, Clifford, Emily, and Ann Butler with their parents*

changed our clothes once a week before a woman, Mrs. Young, came to do the washing on Monday. The two coppers were filled and lit, one with soap to boil the whites and the other for general use and rinsing. We had a huge mangle (consisting of two large rollers connected by some menacing cog wheels) which was difficult because the handle was hard to turn. Later in the week, Mrs. Young came back to do the ironing. All the cooking was done over an open fire except for a Valor Oil Stove used for baking.

My father had a licensed slaughterhouse, so every year a pig was killed and then scolded to remove the hairs – incidentally, the same tin bath was used for this as was used for our weekly bath! Mum would salt down the meat every day for about a week, it would then go into the larder (pantry) in a “critch” until we needed some, like at a Christmas, when she would soak the ham in cold water for a day or two. It was then boiled over the kitchen fire and was always delicious. We enjoyed the fresh liver and I remember that the chitterlings were cleaned every day for two weeks before we ate them.

My mother cooked all the vegetables over a big open fire with a bar across to hold the pans – My children still say that there was nothing better than Granny’s potatoes cooked that way. The kettle hung from a central chain with a hook which supplied all our hot water, and we had a small oil stove which we used for roasting etc. At Christmas dad would light up the old bread oven. First a faggot (a bundle of pea sticks) was put into the oven and lit to heat it. Then the ashes would be moved back, and the turkey would be put in. Latterly we would take the bird to the baker at Damerham by horse and cart, to be cooked in the bread oven and of course it had to be collected later in time for our Christmas Dinner.

We had Christmas Dinner at home, and I remember we took a Christmas Dinner to someone in Lower Daggons who lived alone. This was a practice which my family continued wherever we lived.

In my early years we would always go to my grandparents for Christmas supper at Gold Oak Farm, Cripplestyle. Latterly we had Christmas Supper at Harts Farm when the ham was enjoyed with pickle and cheese etc.

It goes without saying that we had homemade Christmas Pudding, cake, and mince pies. Harts Farm was decorated with our own paper chains, and we collected Holly and Mistletoe and a Christmas Tree making our



*Ron and Amanda Harris*

home a magic place for children.

My siblings were delighted because Father Christmas visited them for many years as I was much younger than they were. I can still remember vividly the excitement when opening my Christmas stocking. It was wonderful.

We went to church in the morning and in the evening mum or dad would play the piano and we would sing carols and play party games. We enjoyed and entertained the many visitors who came in the Christmas period.

Although times have changed so much, I feel they are not for the better. Everything has become so commercial now.

Nevertheless, we can continue to help and befriend people as we did back then.”

*Reproduced with permission from Ann Hickman.*

## Alderholt Archives

### Telegraph (Pistle) Hill.

by Adrian King



Telegraph Hill is situated on the parish boundary towards Verwood, it can be reached from Blackwater Grove. It is also called Pistle Down and was a landmark in Napoleonic times. On a clear day it is said that the

spire of Salisbury Cathedral is visible. Once an open site, but the trees have now grown high.

There is an earthwork just above the 300ft contour consisting of an enclosure and platform. This is the remains of a station in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century semaphore telegraph between London, Portsmouth and Plymouth – it was on the Plymouth Extension. The Admiralty Shutter Telegraph System was in operation for about twenty years.

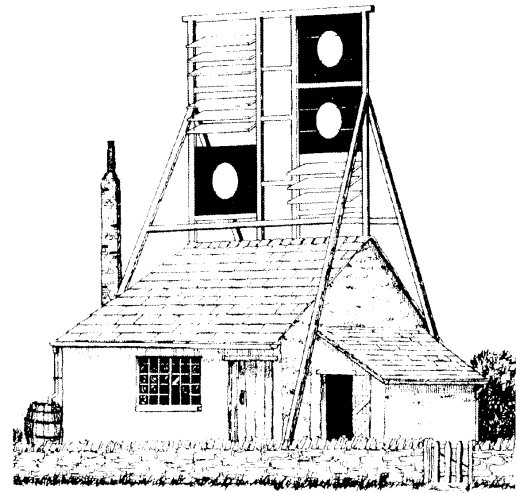
At the beginning of the Continental War an optical telegraph developed by Chappe was already in use by the French. The admiralty worried by the military implications of this quickly sought a system of their own.

They purchased a system known as the Murray Letter Telegraph in 1796 for £2000.

It was developed by Sir / Lord George Murray (1761-1803) and consisted of a stout vertical frame, thirty-foot-high by twenty-foot-wide, which held six shuttered discs. By means of control ropes, these shuttered discs could be moved into a horizontal (“invisible”) and a vertical (“visible”) position. The two positions represented the value of a binary sign. Hence, with six shutters one could transfer a six-digit binary data word.

There was a total of sixty-four different possibilities so that apart from the letters of the alphabet and the ten numeral digits there was space for various special signs, which had been agreed upon. These were either protocol signals (e.g. “ready to receive”) or short signs (e.g. “alarm” or similar). The codes were readily available, and most people knew what was being sent.

A line was built between London and Deal (Kent) in 1795/6 followed by Portsmouth (1798), the branch to Plymouth (1806) and Yarmouth (1808).



Early nineteenth century Admiralty shutter telegraph relay station built on the site of Blandford Camp 1806–1825.



George Roebuck was directed to choose the sites for the Plymouth extension in October 1805. It has been said that this system of semaphore could flash a message from Devon to London and carry a reply within minutes. On 12<sup>th</sup> July 1806, the Naval Chronicle reported;

*The new telegraphs are nearly complete; and the lodges for those men who work them are almost finished. A short message has been conveyed, and an answer returned from London, in a space of time from 10 to 12 minutes; [a speed] of conveying intelligence hitherto unknown in this part of the country and will be a great saving.*



There was about five to ten miles between each station the adjacent stations to Pistle Down being Bramshaw (Telegraph) to the east and Chalbury to the west.

There were twenty-one stations between Plymouth and the junction at Beacon Hill on the Portsmouth line.

It is known that a short message could be transmitted over 72 miles between London and Portsmouth and an answer received within 15 minutes.

In 1815, it took two days to get post from London to Plymouth but during the years of the telegraph as we see, this was greatly reduced.

When Captain Lord Cochrane made landfall at Plymouth on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1809 in HMS Imperieuse the fact of his arrival was telegraphed to London. Within one hour of anchoring he received a telegraph to report to the Admiralty at London.

It was this semaphore system, which helped carry the news of Nelson's Trafalgar and Wellington's Waterloo. Following the signing of the Second Peace (Treaty) of Paris on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1814, all four lines were closed. They would have served a useful purpose during the 'hundred days' which followed Napoleon's escape from Elbe, but there was insufficient time to get them working again.

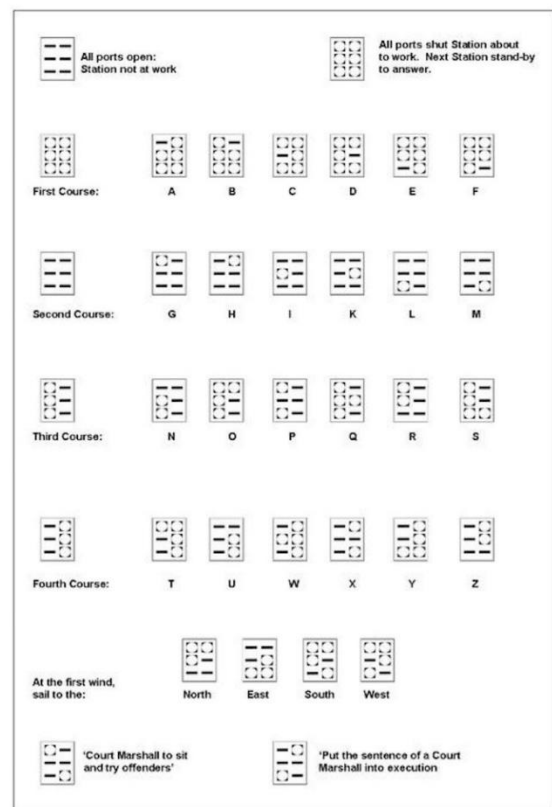
Yet there is evidence that the Portsmouth and Plymouth branch were reopened in 1815 (it was back in use by July and August of that year) and closed a year later.

The Telegraph Cottage was still occupied in the early part of the twentieth century and my mother Mavis King remembers her father (Arthur Bailey) telling her that the families worshipped at the Ebenezer Chapel at Cripplestyle and arrived at the chapel in the winter carrying lanterns after a hard journey across the common. A bank, much damaged by trees enclosing an area 40yds by 50yds represents the station today. A platform 30ft square is situated in the centre of the area.

All that remains of the Telegraph Cottage are the wild apple and cherry trees that were once in the garden.

### Telegraph Stations on the Plymouth Branch

- Charlton Down (5.8miles/9.3km)
- Wickham (7.7/12.4)
- Town Hill (9/14.5)
- Toot Hill (5.7/9.2)
- Bramshaw (9.5/15.3)
- Pistle Hill (9.2/14.8)**
- Chalbury (4.8/7.7)
- Blandford Racecourse (8.6/13.8)
- Belchalwell (5.2/8.4)
- Nettlecombe Tout (5.2/8.4)
- High Stoy (5.2/9.3)
- Toller Down (7.8/12.6)
- Lambert's Castle (9.7/15.6)
- St. Cyrus (4.7/7.6)
- Rockbeare (7/11.3)
- Haldon Hill (10/16)
- Knighton (9.2/15)
- Marley (9/14.5)
- Ivybridge (8/13)
- Saltram (5.4/8.7)
- Mount Wise, Plymouth (4.8/7.7)



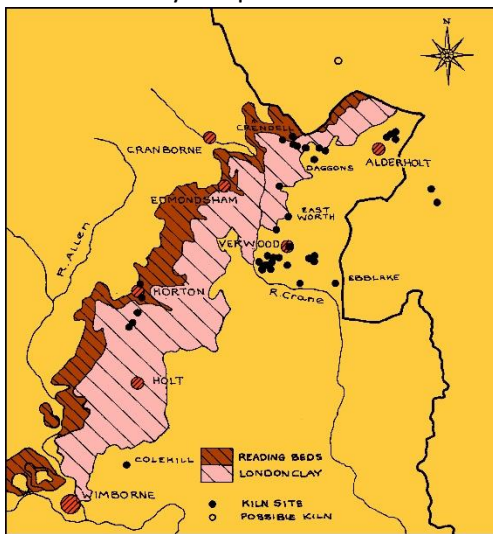
# Alderholt Archives

## Potteries – Part I

by Adrian King



The Parish straddles a narrow band of clay (London Clay over Reading Beds) situated between the chalk uplands of Cranborne Chase and the sandy heathland to the south and east. This band of clay extended from an area between Sandleheath and Rockbourne in a south-westerly direction to just north of Wimborne. The heaths of Cranborne and Alderholt Commons nearby were important because they supplied sand and firing wood that was needed by the potters.



From records, it is known that a community of potters had become established on the edge of this heathland at Alderholt by the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. But with this knowledge it is possible to speculate that there had been continuous potting activity in the area between Romano-British times and when records of the sites were first discovered.

There was a discovery of new deposits of clay on the western side of Crendell Common, (in the field's which are to this day still known as 'Clay Grounds' and 'Old Clay Grounds') in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Towards the end potters were digging clay at Holwell.

The potters were producing a good quality product, with ferruginous and lead glazes and to satisfy the demand for domestic earthenware from the rapidly expanding population of

the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, additional kilns were sited at Daggons and Crendell.

In a letter to the Marquess of Cranborne in 1832 it was estimated that the thirteen kilns in Verwood, Harbridge, Alderholt and Crendell employed about 325 people. This did not include spouses and family, which would bring the figure to well over 500.

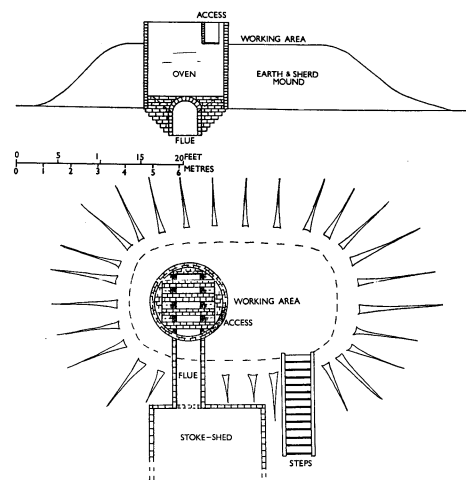
In this year there were two kilns in Alderholt run by Richard Foster and John Viney, and four in Crendell run by James Foster, James Thorn, George Thorn and James Baker.

Improved communication (especially rail transport) was the downfall of the Alderholt kilns because it opened the market for mass produced Midland pottery. The last kilns operated in the area towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The methods of East Dorset pottery manufacture changed little over the years.

"Their products were 'hand thrown earthenware's with course green, yellow and orange glazes.' Everyday articles such as jugs, dishes, bowls, large containers and the distinctive harvest bottles or Dorset Owls were produced.

The pottery was distributed over a wide area by horse drawn wagons."



Plan and section  
OF  
kiln — mound

In his article, "The Pottery People," Roger Guttridge says, "the rather primitive process involved soaking the raw clay in water for three days, then treading it three times into a sprinkling of sand on a brick floor, the ratio of sand to clay being about one to ten. After a final "wedging" to remove impurities and air pockets, the mixture was cut into lumps weighing up to forty pounds, depending on the size of the pots to be thrown."

"Most of the pottery was thrown on a wheel, then dried in special drying sheds, lead glazed and eventually fired in a kiln. The Dorset kilns were usually open topped brick cylinders, about ten foot in both height and diameter and surrounded by a mound of clay, soil, and broken pots, which provided insulation and support. Kilns were probably fired several times a year and took three or four days to reach the required temperatures, which must not have exceeded 1,000 degrees Centigrade. Potters judged the temperature by eye, for example by studying the glow of the red-hot timbers."



*My great grandfather Henry Charles Hopkins displaying Verwood Pottery at Winsor near Cadnam*

Verwood continued to be the centre for pottery production, but this ended with the close of the Crossroads Pottery in 1952.

Verwood continued to be the centre for pottery production, but this ended with the close of the Crossroads Pottery in 1952.



*Hare Lane Farm Pottery*

The last potter in the parish was probably Jonathan Garratt!

He was a one-man potter, producing a wide range of genuinely frost-proof garden pots, at Hare Lane Farm, all fired exclusively with wood. Local clay was refined at the pottery and produced subtle mellow colours on the finished ware. He made wall pots, alpine pans, long toms and a wide selection of planters. The large round kiln also fired glazed earthenware pots for the kitchen and table. Jugs, bowls, dishes, plates - all wood-fired!

#### **Potters Bond.**

Open clay-pits were a constant danger to grazing animals and travellers.

The way around this problem was to compel the potters to purchase a bond before they started production of pots.

This bond required that following extraction of the clay, a site would be left in a safe condition.

A few bonds exist; one is for Nicholas Francis of Alderholt.

"Bond of Nicholas Francis of Alderholt in the parish of Cranborne potter in £10 to the Earl of Salisbury, 25<sup>th</sup> March 8 George II, 1735. The Earl as Lord of the Manor of Cranborne has granted Francis licence to dig and raise clay for his own use by proper workmen appointed by the Earl, upon the Earl's waste land called Crendell Common, in that manor, for seven years, yearly rent five shillings. The condition of this obligation is that Francis shall employ workmen for the above purpose and pay the above rent and shall fill up and level all such pits as shall be opened for digging and raising clay and shall contribute his share of charges towards repairing the King's highway between Crendell Gate and an oak called Gold Oak on that Common, leading from Cranborne towards Fordingbridge. Also, that he shall not cut or cause to be cut any turf, heath, furze or bushes on the said waste lands, to be burnt or employed by him in his kiln or otherwise for his carrying on of the trade of a potter, to the injury of the said Earl or his tenants in their rights in the said commons or waste lands."

The bond money would be forfeit if the contract was broken.

When he died in 1722, John Major of Alderholt had £20 'in bond'.

# Alderholt Archives

## Potteries – Part II

by Adrian King



There are twelve known kiln sites that have been discovered in the parish.

### **Alderholt (Crendell) Cluster**

These sites were built close to the clay source.

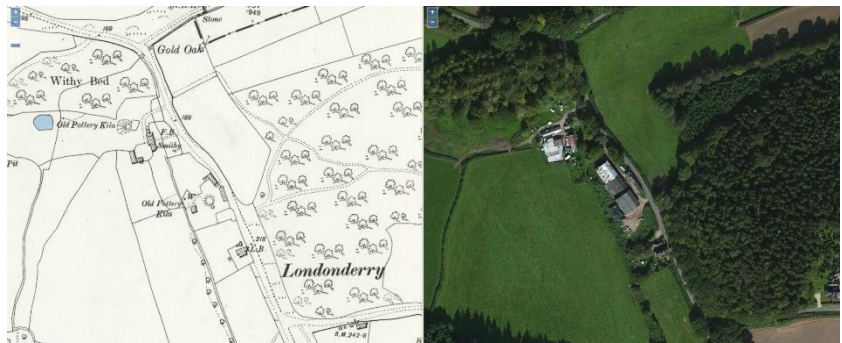
#### Site 1 (SU089129)

Near Gold Oak Farm. This was enclosed from the waste of Daggons in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and was in the possession of Lawrence Chubb before 1710. After his death six years later, his widow Margaret continued as tenant with her sons Lawrence and Edmund running the kiln until 1754 when the holding was granted to Henry West.

This was the last pottery kiln operating in the Alderholt area.

#### Site 2 (SU088130)

Near the Gold Oak was the freehold known as Bucks. James Zebedee was potter and tenant in 1844 and remained there until the site closed in the late 1850's.



*Kiln Sites One and Two*

#### Site 3 (SU087132)

In the plot opposite 'Keswick' Crendell. The Salisbury Museum Archaeological Research Group did limited excavations in 1975. They found that the kiln mound still existed, but the cottage and garden associated with it had disappeared long ago. Excavations discovered that the kiln itself belonged to the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century but the large quantities of waster sherds, which had been re-deposited within the insulating mound, were of an earlier date.

#### Site 4 (SU084132)

Site near Pond Farm. The Harvey family was probably potting here in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. By about 1800, William Fry and then Henry Fry had taken over, but the business was to finish before 1840.

### **Alderholt (Daggons) Cluster**

#### Site 5 (SU093126)

Situated between Daggons and Crendell. James Foster (14<sup>th</sup> Dec 1790 – March 1871), brother of Richard Foster (Forster) from Alderholt, enclosed the holding from the Common in September 1822 and built a workshop and cottage. From the Cranborne Manor Survey we know that he was potting from 1831 – 39. It was apparently not a financial success and in 1841 he was granted permission to demolish the kiln and workshop and build a barn and cart shed in their place.

#### Site 6 (SU100125)

Fernhill Farm. Situated on the Alderholt Cranborne road just as the road bears right for Broxhill.



*Alderholt (Crendell and Daggons) Clusters*

This site was in the possession of the Helliors family from sometime in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Site 7 (SU097124)

Upper Daggons Farm. It is possible to see the workings of this site to the left and right of the Alderholt / Cranborne road.

#### Site 12 (SU102126)

This site was constructed in the grounds of Daggons Farm (Woodside Rest Home) and little is known about it.

The Hellior family were possibly working it in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Alderholt (Presseys Corner) Cluster

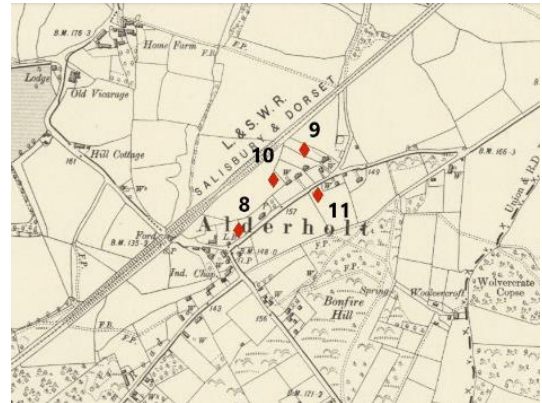
This is where it all began. The earliest known reference occurs in the Cranborne Manor accounts for 1337, when the tenants of the village paid 14/- for the privilege of digging clay to make pots. Although the number of kilns at this time is unknown, there was clearly an established and thriving community operating here.

In 1392 there were 9 villagers paying for clay and in the early 1500's there seem to have been seven kilns operating probably along this road between Pressey's Corner and Red Lion Cottage.

Until the second quarter of the 15<sup>th</sup> century the deposits in Alderholt were able to supply the potters. But by 1500 as the vein of clay was worked out these potters were digging their clay from the common at Crendell and this was to remain their main source until 1742 when it was said that these deposits were exhausted.

The four kilns that are known, straddle the Fordingbridge Road a little to the south of the original settlement.

There were practical reasons for putting the early kilns here. This area was at the edge of the wild heathland (marked "Bruere Commune" on the old maps). The kilns needed clay, sand and wood for pottery production and had a built-in fire risk. The homes of the potters were built possibly up by the "green," a little way up Alderholt Street.



*Alderholt (Presseys Corner) Cluster*



*Pottery Kiln mound in the grounds of Salisbury Arms Farm at Presseys Corner.*

#### Site 8 (SU123131)

At Pressey's corner (in the grounds of Salisbury Arms Farm) the kiln mound is tree-covered and gives the impression of a tumulus.

This was the longest occupied site in the area. There is a possibility that pottery was being produced here from before 1400 to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The sherds that have been found are similar to that found in Potters Field at site 11 but are of a later date, about 1840.

Production ceased towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. No Potters are present on the 1891 Census.

The discovery of a large quantity of stoneware inkbottles in a nearby field adds to the speculation that in the later years of the kiln such bottles were being made there for Stephens Ink.

Peter Gould found a 15-inch diameter pipe still full of (dry) 17<sup>th</sup> century soot.

#### Site 9 (SU124133)

John Attwater constructed this site at the rear of the Red Lion Cottage in 1602. It is known that his son Thomas was potting there in the 1620s.

John Major had taken possession of this site along with Site 10 by 1700. Both were finally closed before the end of the century – possibly in the second half.

A nearby pond was still called Potters Pond in the 1920s.

#### Site 10 (SU123132)

Pots were being fired here possibly as early as 1400.

John Major was tenant about 1700. Production ceased somewhere in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Site 11 (SU124132)

The Hennings family ran this site for much of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the last of which was Charles. In 1809 John Viney was running the kiln. Later William Bailey and his son (also William) held the tenancy and continued potting until the 1860's. The kiln was demolished during the 1950's. Mr. Rose found a small jug just three inches high with a buff body, the brownish glaze of which was speckled freely with haematite (ferruginous salts). The jug was dated to about 1700-1720. In a field nearby, known as Potters Field a large quantity of sherds was found during excavation for a bungalow foundation. These were of a different type; they had not been so hard fired, and the glazing varied from brown to green. The shapes were typical of that being produced from 1750-1800.



## Alderholt Archives

### Bowerwood Farm

by Adrian King



As you drive from Fordingbridge to Alderholt you will pass a gateway on the left as you cross from Hampshire into Dorset. Much activity has taken place here in recent years!

This is the site of Bowerwood Farm, also known as Boward, Bowers or Bower Farm. The buildings have long gone! The road beyond was called Sandy Lane on a map of 1605. Perry Farm was to the north of the property.

On the 1849 Tithe Map, the farm consisted of a house, yard, orchard and buildings (App376). The arable fields were, Little Higdens (App375) and Hilly Higdens (App351) which were north of the Fordingbridge Road, Barn Close (App377) and Hall Stile Ground (App378) to the south.

Barn Close and Hall Stile Ground were previously known as Farley Close on the older map of 1605.

Footpath E34/5 crosses these fields and meets the county boundary near Wolvercrate Copse.

The pastures were, Square Higdens (App352) and Peakes Higdens (App353) north of the Fordingbridge Road.

Higdons e17 is derived from Cecelia Hykedon 1328.

In 1835 there is an indenture, John Viney and James Street to Henry Woodvine.

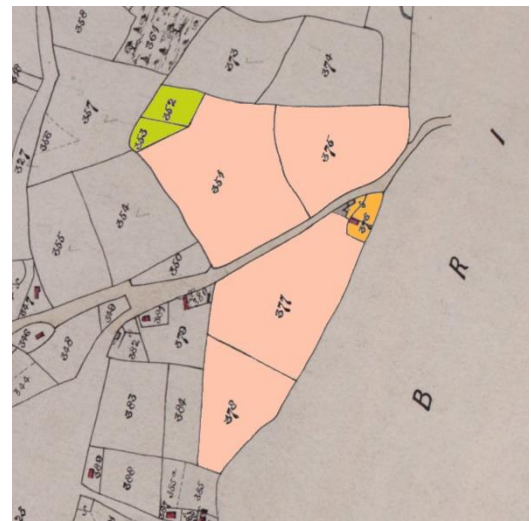
In 1847 the farm was rented by Richard Withers and Charles Viney was the tenant.

Sir John Bulkley from Burgate House owned the farm in 1605. There were tenant and sub-tenant farmers.

In 1801 on the death of a John Bulkley / Coventry, John Coventry (1765-1829) inherited. On his death in 1829 his son also John Coventry (1793-1871) inherited the farm.

When John Coventry died in 1871 his third wife Ellen Wyndham Coventry took possession of Bowerwood Farm. Ellen must have given the farm to her stepson Frank Coventry (an illegitimate son of John by his second wife).

After Ellen's death on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1905 and because Frank also had died, the farm was left to his sons, Frank Chetwynd Coventry, and John Wyndham Coventry. Frank Chetwynd Coventry made his mother, Louisa Ellen Coventry attorney in 1919, to dispose of Bowerwood Farm.



*Bowerwood Farm and fields on the 1849 Tithe Map*



*The site of Bowerwood Farm as it is today – October 2021. For many years there was a well up on the hill in the right centre of the picture. The wheel is long gone!*

After a devastating fire the farm was auctioned in three lots on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 1873.

Lot 1 consisted of “the farmyard and the materials left from the late fire, together with the garden, orchard and arable field”. (App376 – 378).

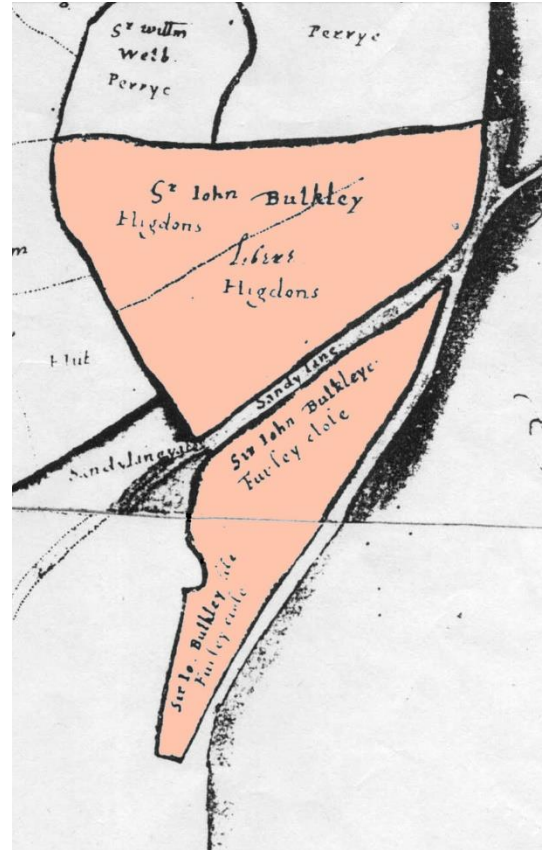
Four loads of firewood from the New Forest were annually granted to this lot.

Lot 2 consisted of “all those four fields called Higdens”. (App351 – 353 and App375)

Lot 3 was “an Allotment in Alderholt Common”.

No. 38 on the Inclosure Commissioners Award – its area was 1 acre 0 rods 4 perches and occupied by Simon Lockyer.

Mr. Hannen ran the auction in the Greyhound Inn, Fordingbridge.

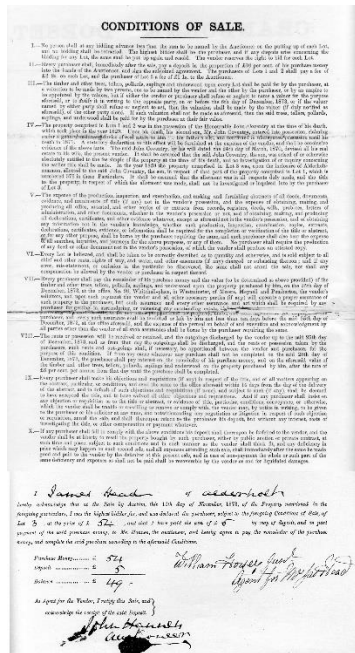


1605 map of Bowerwood Farm

James and Ann Head bought Lot 3 for £54 for which they gave a deposit of £5, but later sold it in 1881 to James Woodvine for £58! The sale document was witnessed by Rev. Samuel Williams (Independent Minister) and Luke Bailey (Baker, Alderholt). In 1900 James Woodvine bought Bowerwood farm from the Coventry's. James Moulard had been the previous tenant at the farm. In 1919 the farm was occupied by Woodvine and Parsons.

The Bowerwood fields were included in the Cross Farm, Sandleheath Road fields and were still part of that property in the 1970's but have since been sold.

Owners and Tenants	
John Viney	1835
James Street	1835
Henry Woodvine	1835
George Coper/Coker	1841C
Richard Withers, Charles Viney, and James Moulard	1847
Thomas Webb	1861C
James Woodvine	1900
Woodvine and Parsons	1919



James Head's purchase agreement for Lot 3



Farley Close / Hall Stile Ground from the public footpath E34/5. October 2021.

## Alderholt Archives

### Palmers Stores

by Adrian King



It all started with the iconic picture of “Alderholt Corner near Fordingbridge,” taken about 1905 – I will not reproduce the complete picture!

If you look in the right half of the picture you will see a lady in a horse and trap, a man standing by her side and about nine children in front of a shop widow. Undoubtedly this is James William Palmer (who owned the shop), his wife Kate and nine of their ten children.

James, previously a brickworks manager, now in his mid-forties, became a grocer, after purchasing the store on Alderholt Corner sometime after 1904 – his wife Kate (nee Rose) had been born in the village and they were moving home!

Percy Palmer, the second youngest was born in Burnham, Bucks in 1899 when James was managing a brickyard there.

In 1908 a local builder, Harry Elton, built Whiteleaze at Charing Cross, and it was originally a Drapery and Boots shop.

James, sadly died on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1913.

Around this time the family bought the shop at Charing Cross from Mr. Green and in 1915 moved there – Percy was only 16 years old!



*“Alderholt Corner” cropped – James William Palmer, his wife Kate and nine of their ten children outside their shop on Presseys corner about 1905.*



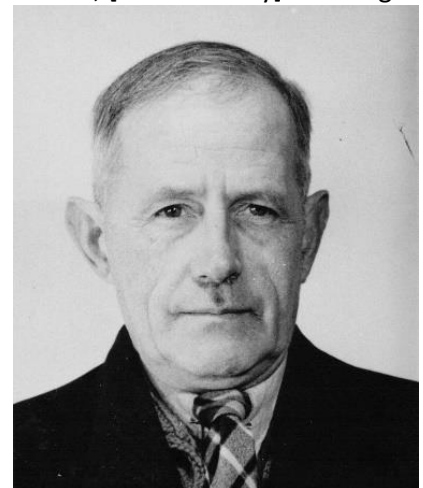
*The doorway of the shop at Charing Cross – probably about 1911. The Union Jack and bunting celebrating the coronation of George V!*

Trading as Kate Palmer and Sons, the shop probably started selling groceries. Percy was learning the trade of baker but in 1918 he went through selection for the Dorsetshire Regiment at Dorchester. He gained selection in May of that year but probably never saw active service as the war ended a few months later.

Percy was best man at my grandfathers, [Arthur Bailey] wedding in 1928, they were cousins!

Percy married Bessie Hounsell in 1932 and they had three daughters.

Tim Pattle, (a grandson), said that during the war, the family “had to move out and go to live with an aunt further up Ringwood Road as my grandfather [Percy Palmer] had to house some soldiers up in the attic and whatever room he had.”



*Percy Palmer*



*A view of the shop at Charing Cross. Notice the chimney to left of the building and near the tree. It is the brickyard on Camel Green!*

A daughter said that “they were the cooks who fed the soldiers in the village hall and the officers stayed in ‘The Pines,’” a little way up Station Road.

Stan Broomfield can remember that boys used to flatten halfpennies on the railway lines and pass them on as pennies in the store! Percy generally accepted these as legal tender, and the boys purchased their four chews!

Who can remember life before the internet and home deliveries?

Always innovative, Percy bought an Austin J4 van and went round the local area with a mobile shop. He also delivered grocery

orders – the orders were phoned through and assembled by the staff.

Tim can remember delivering to my parents at Cripplestyle with his grandfather.

A couple of Ford Anglia estates and then an Austin 1300 Countryman were added to the fleet.

But the world was not quite ready, and the venture was only for a short while!

For some years the shop was a ViVo Store.

In 1976 a new store was built next to the original shop, with further development after 2010 with a larger car park.

Percy Palmer died in 1980.

When the new shop was built, it became an agent for SPAR, but in 2007 the Southern Co-op took over the running of the shop – also since 1996 the store has housed the Post Office Counter which was originally opposite the Churchill Arms.

The original premises now holds a ‘nearly new’ children’s merchandise shop.

The family sold the bakery on Presseys Corner to

Thomas William Pressey – where we get the change from Alderholt to Presseys Corner – after they moved to Charing Cross. Another owner was Mr. James – It was still open as a bakery during the 1960’s and 70’s. Tim



*An aerial view of the shop at Presseys Corner during the 1960’s/70’s. Since this picture was taken there was artwork where the OXO sign was. This was destroyed when the building was demolished, and a dwelling built in its place!*

Pattle can just remember it being open as a bakery. “Mum used to send me down on a Saturday to get a fresh loaf – the trouble was I always had to go a second time as by the time I got home the loaf was hollow!”

In the last forty years the property was the Moonacre Restaurant but is now a house.



*The Charing Cross shop when it was a SPAR. Picture taken by Clive Perrin in 2005*

# Alderholt Archives

## Brickworks – Part I

by Adrian King



For many years, bricks have been made from the deposits of London Clay found in the parish.

One of the earliest records was in 1635 when William

Wigg was granted a lease for ‘a piece of ground taken out of the common and enclosed to make brick.’

### Boxbury

The site of a brickyard opposite Periwinkle Copse on Bull Hill Road operated possibly by William Read.

Aaron Read probably took this yard over on his father’s death in 1837. A headed invoice from the Sandleheath Yard puts the date of establishment as 1837. Aaron operated two other brickyards in the parish, one being the Charing Cross, Ringwood Road Brickyard, but the other is unknown.

At Boxbury there was a brickyard and kiln with an adjoining dwelling house. The brickworks covered an area of 14 acres 2 roods and 1 perch.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1873 Aaron agreed to rent the land and buildings he already occupied in the area for a further twenty years

The annual rent to Mr. Churchill was £47 (£100) and the yard was also contracted to supply bricks to the park for 28s per thousand from all his brickyards.

Samuel Reed took over the brickyard after his father’s death in 1894.

Bricks from Boxbury were used to build the kilns at Sandleheath when the family moved there.

George Thorne? from Crendell worked at the yard. He was asked what the silver coin was that hung around his neck. It seems that it was all that was left

### Brickworks Locations in the area

**Boxbury.** Situated opposite Periwinkle Copse on Bullhill.

**Brick Kiln Bottom.** Near Lower Daggons. The name has contracted to Bricklebottom and the track starts near the top of Broxhill.

**Camel Green.** Situated off Antells Way.

Shannon Rake Brick Manufacturer

KA1915, 1920, 1923, 1927,

and 1931

G. Billett and Sons

KA1939

**Daggons Road Brickyard, Station Yard.** Behind the Churchill Arms.

**Hillbury.** Old maps show a Brick kiln on the east side of Hillbury road, opposite Windsor Way.

**Marlow’s.** Don Hibberd mentions a brickyard in the vicinity of Manor Farm called Marlow’s Brickyard.

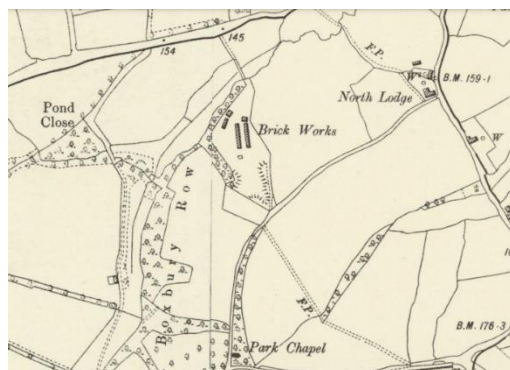
**Charing Cross, Ringwood Road.** Situated near the entrance to Earlswood Drive.

It is possible that it was also known as Daggons Road or Alderholt Brickyard. Operated by William Read for a time.

Owned by G. Billett and Sons in MoW1943.

**China Cottage.** Near Ashes Farm, Cranborne.

All the brickworks in the area (including Verwood) were closed by 1939.



Boxbury Brick Works on the Bull Hill Road

of a hoard of George III silver coins that had been found at the works. The rest “got in the way” and were mixed in with the clay.

It is entirely possible that a number of the buildings around here may be made from bricks containing silver coins!

Bob Hill played a prank on the compiler at school in the sixties, saying that he had found some coins!

Aaron Read was living at Alderholt Mill Farm when they had the Brickyard.



## Ringwood Road Site

Aaron Read operated the land off Ringwood Road for a while. On 29<sup>th</sup> September 1873 Aaron agreed to rent from George Churchill for a further twenty years, 4 acres and 2 roods of land known as Blacksmiths Piece or Baileys Piece for £5 per annum. Also included was 1 acre 3 roods and 28 perches on the south side of the railway at Daggons Road Station for £5 per annum. In the contract bricks were fixed at £1. 8s. per 1000. William Read took over the Brickyard on his father's death in 1894. In 1943 Billett and Sons owned the brickworks – they were probably



*A tile engraved, "Wm Read June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1793." Discovered at the Greyhound Hotel, Fordingbridge.*

using the works to extract clay for their brickyards in Sandleheath.

The northern edge of the brickworks was near the entrance to Earlswood Drive from Ringwood Road, just where 2 Earlswood Drive is. The whole site included all of Pine Road and part of Oak Road.

The landscaped area between Oak Road and Earlswood Drive was a pit.



*Aaron Read (1817-1894)*

## Brickle Bottom (SU094126 – SU097130)

Brickle Bottom is a track, E34/26 leading from the road at Broxhill towards lower Daggons. Probably a corruption of Brickhill Bottom.

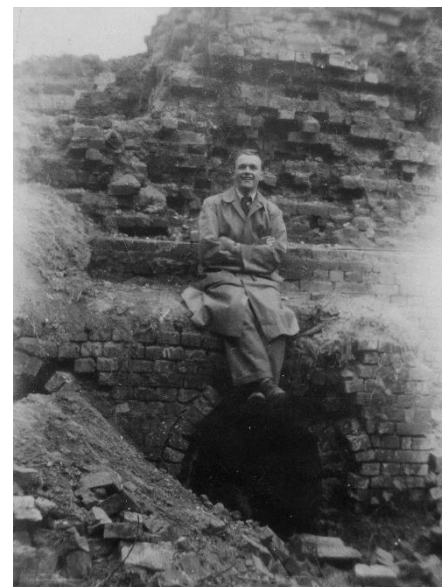
The arable field near the track, 636 on the Alderholt Tithe Map Apportionment is called Brick Kiln Bottom!



*My great grandfather Harry Bailey working at China Cottage Brickworks at Cranborne.*

## China Cottage

Dennis Bailey said, "When I was about 19 my girlfriend (now my wife) and I went to explore the woods at "China Cottage" as my father had said that the old kiln where my grandfather (Harry Bailey) used to burn bricks for the estate, was still visible. This is situated near Ashes Farm not far from Jordon Hill. We were quite exhilarated when we found it in a hazel coppice – the long hazel rods almost concealing it. Immediately we knew that it was old because unlike the kilns in the brickyard owned by my girlfriends' father at Sandleheath the fire hole



*Dennis Bailey sat on the Bavin burning Kiln at China Cottage Brickworks – 1950's*

was much larger. This was designed for taking "Bavins" - that is bundles of hazel rods. Later kilns were designed to take coal.

My father said that the job of burning with bavins was extremely tiring as when the kiln had reached its hottest the bundle was consumed almost immediately. We returned some years later but could not find it and assume it had been taken down and the bricks which by then had some value had been sold. Fortunately, my girlfriend took a photo of me sitting on it!"

## Alderholt Archives

### Brickworks – Part II

by Adrian King



#### **Billetts Brickworks. (SU124125)**

This was the Brickworks that used to be situated in the Camel Green / Park Lane Area. An area of about 10 acres.

Shannon Rake operated the yard from 1915 - 31, but he seems to have had financial problems and G. Billett and Sons were operating this brickyard by 1939. Shannon Rake also had yards in Sandleheath – he built Fernlea, Camel Green Road and was living there in KA1939.

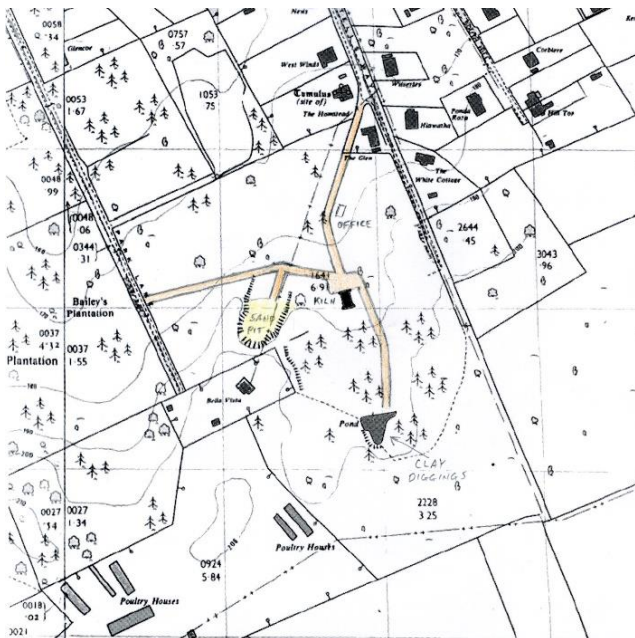
The Brickworks made red bricks with two kilns (still standing in 1971), two chimneys, mixer, and drying shed. Bricks were used to build the Ashburn Hotel in Fordingbridge.

Stanley Broomfield says that the entrance was in Antells Way, with “Homestead” being the brickyard manager’s house. There was a site office positioned along the track into the brickyard kiln area. It was made of corrugated tin with a brick chimney and fireplace with a window and a door. The track continued up the hill to the kiln, which was a Scotch Type, typically used by other brickworks in the area. In front of the kiln one branch of the track went west to the sandpit and an exit to Park Lane.

The other went to the left of the kiln and up the hill to the claypit at the top. The claypit was a pond in the 1960’s.

The brickworks have now been built on – it is now part of Birchwood Park; Birchwood Drive goes through the centre and includes Bramble and Ash Closes.

The old kiln was situated in the area that is Birchwood Drive, nearly opposite the Broomfield Drive entrance. The Sandpit was in the Bramble Close / Birchwood Drive area, the edge of it being at 10 Birchwood Drive. The Claypit was east of Broomfield Drive in the vicinity of numbers 5, 7 and 9.



*A plan of Camel Green Brickyard as remembered by Stanley Broomfield*

It was down as closed in the Ministry of Works Directory of Brickworks in Great Britain 1943.

The sand was used for the facing of bricks.

Stan Broomfield says that it was also used for moulding sand in foundry casting as it was unique, not sharp or edge, but more like marbles which made it ideal for that use.

Eventually the workings created a large pit of about ½ acre with the cliffs backing as far as Bella Vista at the top of Park Lane.

Peter Lane said that Billetts took sand from Camel Green using a Ford V8 3 tonner with a tipper body – the sand was used to coat bricks to stop them sticking.

In 1943 Billetts also owned Charing Cross Brickyard.

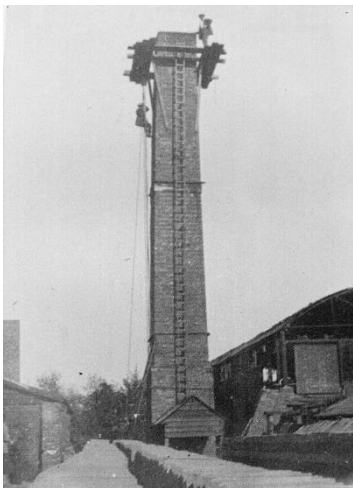
Billetts also had brickworks in Sandleheath (SU123152).

G. Billett and Sons purchased the brickworks to the east of the Rockbourne Road in Sandleheath from the Salisbury Brick and Terra Cotta Co Ltd around 1926. Then around 1930 the West Park Estate Brickworks was purchased, and the two yards merged. Always innovative, Billetts introduced many modern processes into their yards. At the time of closure in 1965, the Sandleheath Brickyard was owned by J. G. S. Mitchell. Clay continued to be dug from time to time for use in the Hale Yard.

**Daggons Road Brickyard. Station Site**

This is the Brickwork’s that used to be situated in the station yard.

Originally built to manufacture tiles the site later began to manufacture bricks.



*Daggons Road Brickyard Chimney*

Clay was retrieved from the near area. A network of tramways brought the clay to the kilns. If you take the public footpath (E34/30) that starts by the old school, you will cross a concrete bridge above a deep ravine. This is one of the old tramway routes.

Fancy terracotta work for the typical Victorian villa was produced for a while. Many houses in the area (including the rapidly developing Bournemouth) have decorated corbels from this yard.

The manufacture of hand made products became uneconomical with the modernisation of the industry and the yard closed during the 1920’s.

The Royal Ordnance

Corps (R.O.A.C.) took over the brickworks during the war and a special railway siding was built – the headquarters was in the village hall.

In MoW1943 it was being described as, “closed in voluntary liquidation, derelict condition.”

In 1967 a building at the site was converted to a 25-metre range for the rifle club.



*Daggons Road Brickyard Workers.*

The legendary Alderholt Surplus Stores occupied the site for a while. Until its destruction by fire in 1986 the store occupied some of the old buildings. A modern store was opened in May 1987 but has since been closed.

A lunchtime blaze destroyed a large brick outbuilding on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1992.

It is now earmarked for housing development, but decontamination is proving expensive. At one time there was an application for the erection of 89 dwellings!

**Useful dates for the Daggons Road Brickyard.**

Francis William Pagett	A Century of Service p95 1881C
Robert Newton	KC1885 and 1889
Frederick Jung	KC1895
Eustace and Colley	1901 (dissolved)
The Hants, Wilts and Dorset Brick Company	KA1907 and 1911
Daggons Road Brickworks Ltd.	KA1920 and 1927
C. E. Maloney and Co. Ltd.	KA1931
Southern United Brickworks Ltd	MoW1943



*A view of Daggons Road Brickyard from a point near Infield House on Birch Hill – notice also, South Lodge, the Churchill Arms, and the old Post Office!*



## Alderholt Archives

### Whitsunday and Whit Thursday.

by Adrian King



These were the Sunday school (Sunday) and Church (Thursday) anniversaries at Cripplestyle Congregational Church.

Thursday was a special day even before the new church was built. Thursday was the day that the children held their Sunday – School anniversary. A newspaper article of 1887 says, “This in bygone days used to be the great event of the year, and hundreds of people would come from

miles around to Cripplestyle tea.” It has been said that at one time there would be a thousand-people sitting down to tea. “But excursions, and club fetes, and the thousand and one attractions that draw people now, have played sad havoc with this gathering; so that last week there could hardly have been more than three or four hundred people assembled.”

“However, the children marched as usual, in holiday attire, headed by a brass band, to the top of Kingbarrow Hill, a considerable eminence that left people but little wind for singing when they had climbed it.” On the hilltop “they were addressed by the Rev. E. E. Cleal, of Wimborne; and then reforming again in procession, they marched back, their appetites for tea none the less keen for the climb.”

Cripplestyle anniversary has always been known for the rain, the reporter continues; “by this time, however, the rain that had been threatening all day began to come down in good earnest, and

people looked out for shelter. Some few, a little braver than the rest, affected to defy the elements, and went about endeavouring to persuade themselves that they were having a good time. But it was no use, the rain kept on, and when the chapel was flung open for tea, it was soon filled.”

“At half-past six the public meeting began, under the chairmanship of the Rev. J. Oliver of Totton, who was followed

by the Revs. E. J. Hunt, of Fordingbridge, E. E. Cleal, of Wimborne, G. H. White, of Ringwood, and Mr. J. Hillier, of Salisbury – and a very pleasant meeting it was.”

In the early part of this century the crowds that came to the anniversary could be counted in the hundreds.

The Bailey family were responsible for putting the flag on the hill – the flag read “Feed My Lambs.”

The Manston family boiled water over an open fire – in later years electric coppers were used.

In Oct 1976 it was suggested that of the three boiling pots, two should be sent to missionaries in New Guinea and the third one to the museum at Fordingbridge.



*Dennis and Christopher Bailey putting up the flag in 1969 – with Alistair.*



*Climbing Kingbarrow Hill in the 1960's*



*Service on Kingbarrow Hill in 1984*



*The Manston family were responsible for boiling the water for the tea – this is Charlie Manston in 1957*

Over the years the flag needed maintenance. A new flag was made for the 1957 celebrations.

In 1957 the ladies discovered that buying the cakes from one place had reduced the cost by about £3.

This was still an issue in the 1993!

The compiler remembers that the cakes were usually bought from shops in Cranborne.

The marquee and trestle tables needed repair in 1959.

In 1993 it was suggested that the traditional hymns which were normally sung should be changed/added for some more modern hymns!

For a while, following the closure of the Williams Memorial Chapel in 2000, the traditions and customs were deemed to be worth continuing for their value in reminding everyone of the faith of those who built the original building.

For five years Alderholt Congregational Church arranged the celebrations, which were now usually on the Whitsun weekend, because it was now getting difficult to get anybody to turn out during the week.

In 2005 it was decided to transfer the organisation of the celebration to the churches in the parish.

It now took on a different form. For two years there was a



*We all met back at the old chapel after the service for an anniversary tea.*

pilgrimage taking in the memorial site and Kingbarrow but also visiting all the places of worship in the parish – Alderholt Congregational, The Tabernacle, St. James and Crendell Methodist.

In 2005 the walk started at Alderholt Congregational and ended at Crendell Methodist and in 2006 the walk was reversed.

However, 2007 was the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the building of the Ebenezer chapel and it was decided to revive the traditional celebration to mark this on Whitsunday May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Due to usual bad weather, the planned service on the hill did not take place but a few gathered at the memorial site for a prayer and a hymn, (Come thou Fount of every blessing) and then made their way to the Williams Memorial Church where the service was



*Anniversary Tea in the Old Chapel in 1957 – that's my grandfather, Arthur Bailey, bottom right!*

held. Dennis Bailey was the Chairman; Keith Bailey from Southampton was the speaker and musicians from the parish provided music.

A few hardy individuals made it to the top of King Barrow in the pouring rain, said a prayer and sang the first verse of "What a friend we have in Jesus" before returning to the chapel for the service.

There was a display of pictures from past celebrations and artefacts that had been in the original building.

Dennis Bailey showed videos that he had made over the years.

Since then, a few have met on the hill with a short time of worship led by Philip Martin.

2019 was the last time that the flag was put up. Post Covid-19 a service was arranged for Whitsunday 2021, but the weather was inclement and only a few hardy individuals attended!



*Tea in the Marquee in 1963. Left to right, my brother Charles, Keith (my future brother-in-law), my cousin Alistair and myself!*

## Alderholt Archives

### Alderholt Steam Rally

by Adrian King



This was an annual event that occurred in the village between the years 1972 - 1988. Affectionately known as the "Steam Up", this rally started with the request from the Village Hall Committee to the Dramatic and Musical Club that they should

help to raise funds to purchase a storage shed for the Hall. When the Dramatic Club met, Mrs Barbara Hood proposed that a "Steam Up" should be run with the help of the club members. This first event was run on a Saturday afternoon at her home, "Fernlea", Camel Green.

The event was very successful, and enough funds were made to enable the purchase of the storage shed. By popular request, a further one-day event was staged on a Saturday afternoon the following year, this time at the Parish Allotment field in Hillbury Road. The organisations that benefited from this rally were Fordingbridge Infirmary, Highfield Cottage Hospital, and the Village Hall.



*Ron and Barbara Hood with their Aveling and Porter Steam Roller, "Baroness."*



*Traction Engine at Ringwood Road 1974*

After two years of "Rallies" the village had come to expect an annual function of this nature. Village clubs and organisations that were interested met at a special meeting and agreed that they would all help in organising the running of a "Steam Rally" as a two-day event. The reasons for this were economic because more exhibitors would support a two-day event. People came forward to Guarantee the Rallies and it was decided to hold them as near as possible to the first full weekend of August. The Rally also became affiliated to the National Traction Engine Club of Great Britain. One of the benefits of belonging to this

organisation was that the Rally was advertised in all parts of the world where there was an interest in steam, so the Rally sometimes had a number of international exhibitors.

The Steam Rally ran for a number of years in fields around the village until land was no longer available. Most years a Rally had been prepared but there was no field available to hold it until the last moment. In 1979 the Rally was held at Hucklesbrook Farm on the A338 midway between Fordingbridge and Ringwood. The following year it moved to Plumley Farm on the Somerley Estate where it remained until 1985. The last Rallies were held in the show ground at Godshill.



*Alderholt Steam Engine Parade, Line-up, 1980. Somerley Farm.*

**Alderholt Steam Rally Venues**

1972	Fernlea, Camel Green.
1973	Allotment field, Hillbury Road.
1974	Ringwood Road, Alderholt
1975	Ringwood Road, Alderholt
1976	Alderholt Mill
1977	Wheeler's Cottage, Sandleheath Road
1978	Ringwood Road, Alderholt.
1979	Hucklesbrook Farm. On A338.
1980	Plumley Farm.
1981	Plumley Farm.
1982	Plumley Farm.
1983	Plumley Farm.
1984	Plumley Farm.
1985	Plumley Farm.
1986	Godshill Showground.
1987	No Rally.
1988	Godshill Showground.

Adverse weather during the early part of August caused the event to have its "ups and downs". The last rally held at Plumley Farm was a disaster because of the very wet weather.

But it did prove a benefit to the village clubs and organisations that supported it because it provided an extra income for them. It was in 1988



*Organ at Ringwood Road 1974*



*A Floral Display in the Rest Tent celebrating the marriage of Charles, Prince of Wales to Diana Spencer. 1981*

that the Rally Committee decided to call it a day and close the event. That last Rally was very successful because of lovely weather of that weekend, and it went out on a 'high note'. £12000 was distributed among the village clubs and organisations whose members had made the running of the events possible.

In about 1978, local churches were asked to provide a Rest Tent. A committee was formed and provided this amenity for the next ten years. Alderholt, Crendell, Cripplestyle, The Tabernacle and Stuckton provided committee members.

There were topical displays and children's programmes over the weekend of the rally.

In 1981 the Rest Tent did a floral display in celebration of the marriage of Charles, Prince of Wales to Diana Spencer.



*Alderholt Steam Rally at Ringwood Road 1974*



*A board of Alderholt Steam Rally plaques located in the Reading Room. The plaques which were electro printed on aluminium were presented to every group or rally entrant on attendance.*

*Compiled from "A Century of Service, Alderholt Parish Council 1894 – 1994."*

## Alderholt Archives

### 1<sup>st</sup> Alderholt Scout Group - the early years

by Adrian King



The Brownsea Island Scout camp was the site of a boys' camping event on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, organised by Lieutenant-General Baden-Powell to test his ideas for the book "Scouting for Boys." Boys from different social backgrounds participated from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August 1907 in activities around camping, observation, woodcraft, chivalry, lifesaving, and patriotism. The event is regarded as the origin of the worldwide Scout movement.



Daniel and Christopher King at the  
Commemoration Stone on Brownsea  
Island in 1993

Alderholt was quick to start its own troop.

By June 1914, St. James Church and Cripplestyle Congregational Chapel were forming groups of "Boy Scouts."

By June 1915 "1<sup>st</sup> Alderholt B. P. Scouts" were meeting with other recently formed groups in the district.

By kind permission of the Earl of Shaftesbury they met in the grounds of St. Giles House.

An eyewitness describes the event. "The morning was spent in an exciting scouting game, and after eating our dinners in the Rectory Garden we went over part of St. Giles House. We then had some sports in the park, and marched to the schools, where a splendid tea was given by some friends of the District Scoutmaster (the Rev. J. A. Bouquet), to whom much of the success of the day was due. The various troops performed some short sketches, and we all returned home about 6.30 pm."

In 1915, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badges were being awarded to Patrol Leaders, Hayter and Sid Raison and Second Green Patrol Scouts, Bracher, Bartlett and S. Philpot.

Sid Raison left to go to London in August 1915 and his place as leader of the "Wood-Pigeon" Patrol was taken by scout Percy Palmer.

Sid Raison was later to return as Scoutmaster in the 1950's.

Badges were awarded to Patrol Leader P. Palmer, and Scouts Gaiger, H. Shearing, J. Hayter, Bracher and S. Philpot.

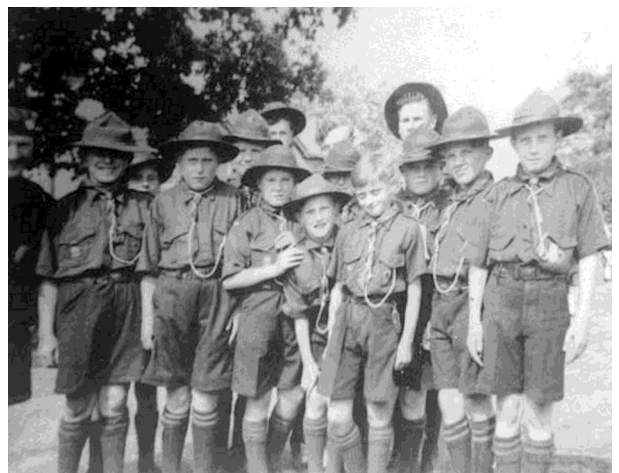
It appears that the Troop did not survive the First World War but was formed again by Rev. H. H. Coley in the early 1920's.

He stated his intentions in the parish news of July 1922, "I am willing, if the numbers are large enough to justify it, to start a Scout Troop for the boys..."

A concert in aid of the Scout Troop Fund was arranged for January 1928 and the Rev. F. W. Aldous said, "if a nice trim scout comes round to your house, do buy a ticket from him. You will please him, and at the same time will help the troop, and I believe the troop is going to be a real asset to your village."

In December 1927, Major Stilwell allowed the Rev. F. W. Aldous to hold Alderholt Scout Troop meetings in the Park Mission Hall. John Curtis was told that his uncle, Douglas Curtis was a cub and met in the building in 1930.

Then followed another period when there was no Scout Group in the village – but it was reformed in September 1953. The new Scout Troop was formed by District Scout Leader, Arthur King, and Sid Raison, who was now living at Cripplestyle, and had offered to become Scout Master.



1<sup>st</sup> Alderholt Scout Troop about 1956/57.  
Fred Jerrard on the right

1<sup>st</sup> ALDERHOLT

John Curtis said that he “had heard whispers amongst the choir boys at St. James that six had been chosen to form the first six in the Scout Troop ... and had found out that this was to be after the next Choir practice.”

He continues, “I decided that I wanted some of this, and that I was not going to be left out!”

Arthur King and his family lived in Church Farm, next to the old village school ... when choir practice finished, I waited and observed the six leaving and making their way 100 yards down the road. I waited 10 minutes or so and followed, banging on Mr. King’s door. When the door was answered I said that I wanted to join the scouts. He said, ‘you had better come in then!’”

John would not be eleven until November, but my dad allowed him to join!

“Our meeting place was in the old primary school ... we progressed through our Tenderfoot and Second-Class Scout Badges and also obtained Proficiency Badges.

During the summer months we held our meetings in Alderholt Park ... we called this area the parade ground, where we erected a rustic flagpole. Several weekend camps were held at Hill Farm ... we had to sleep in an old bell tent, heads to the outside wall and feet to the centre pole. Sid taught us to hollow out a hole



**Presentation to the Commissioner at Alderholt Park House. L to R — Sid Raison, Scout Commissioner and David Pattle, Queens Scout.**

each, big enough to accommodate our hip bone – once the ground sheets were in position it was very difficult to find these holes again, no sleeping bags in those days, just blankets pinned together.

We spent a most uncomfortable and cold couple of nights at this first camp – toilets were some hessian attached to poles with a dug hole to go to number one and a horizontal pole suspended over a dug pit which we had to sit on to go to number two!! Things were very frugal at that time; I remember vividly the lumpy porridge and the very tasty stew cooked over a wood fire.

Our first week camp was at Tiptoe near New Milton. The owner kept pigs and you could always smell the waste food being boiled up to feed them – these were happy days!”

Arthur King eventually left and was tasked by the then District Commissioner, Jimmy James, to start up a Scout Troop in Cranborne, eventually called ‘Lord Cranborne’s Own.’”

There was another period when there wasn’t a Scout Group in the village.

The Scout Group was reformed again in 1983 after a group of parents decided that they wanted their sons to have the opportunity to participate in Scouting. Inevitably therefore it was from parents that the first leaders were recruited and on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1983, twelve expectant boys and three very nervous and inexperienced leaders gathered under the guidance of the experienced leader of the Cranborne pack – Esme Isaacs – for the first cub pack meeting.

Christine Hensel writes in 1999. “As the cub pack grew, leaders and boys were busy also forming the Beaver Colony (1987), Scout and Venture Scout Units over the next few years so that up to 80 boys at a time and their leaders have been Scouting in Alderholt during this period. In the late 1980’s Alderholt was the only group in the district to have all four sections represented in the Group, a fact of which we were justly proud!”

Christine Hensel was Cub Pack Baloo from 1983 to 1998 and Pat Gilbert was Group Scout leader from 1993 to 2005, a position which Sheenagh Bradford now occupies.



**1<sup>st</sup> Alderholt Scouts at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Jamboree at Sutton Park, Warwickshire in 1957.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Alderholt Six – 1953**  
 Fred Jerrard  
 Barry Wallis  
 Terrence Wallis  
 Robert Raison  
 Len York  
 Tom Lane?  
 and John Curtis!



**Beaver Investiture — 1991**

### Cob

by Adrian King



building was usually thatched.

Ebenezer Chapel at Cripplestyle was built using this method. An old minute book says, "Upon land leased from the Marquis of Salisbury on three lives, by William Bailey, a place of worship was erected, the work being done by the



***Ebenezer Chapel Cripplestyle not long before it fell down in 1976***

people themselves. In the evening when the day's work was over, men and women set themselves diligently to work, the men dipping and working the clay, the women getting heath from the common, with which to bind it together. So, by the self-denying, but willing labour of the people themselves, the structure rose."

In 'Grampy,' by Pam Bailey, Sidney Frampton describes making a building from cob.

"First you prepare your foundations, you dig them and then put in concrete. Some people used to put sandstone into the foundations, but this is not so good because later you tend to get cracks in the walls of the building in line with the joins in the sandstone.

"Then you get a cartload of clay, or loam and tip a cartload on to each way (where you intend the walls to be). Then you use water to make the clay wet and then tread the mixture well. You tread it first, then turn it over with a prong and tread it again. When you've done that a time or two you put green heather into it. Heather is good because it never rots. Then you turn it again and keep on treading it and adding more heather until the texture is right. That's until it's stiff enough to stay on the prong. Now you can start. You start by plumping it down on the wall, eighteen inches wide all the way along the wall. Then you come back and build the wall up to eighteen inches high all along. You must do this in one day. Then do another wall in another day, and so on until you have four walls at the end of the fourth day. On the fifth day, if it is dry enough, you can add another eighteen inches to the top of the first wall.

"Of course, this is a job for the summertime, you must have dry weather. So, you can see that this is a long and hard job. But for warmth you can't beat a cob wall."

In "The New Forest," Heywood Sumner says that the material should be "sandy, clayey loam with small stones in it: and with heath (heather), rushes, and sedge-grass, or straw, thoroughly puddled into the mass by trampling. In the best made mud walls this was dobbed and bonded by the mud-waller with his trident mud-prong in successive layers.

Cob is a mixture of clay and heather used to make the walls of buildings.

Many cottages and outbuildings were made from this material because everything was readily at hand on the common. The

structure rose."

In 'Grampy,' by Pam Bailey, Sidney Frampton describes making a building from cob.

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***The remains of a cob wall at Cripplestyle, once a shop run by Keturah Butler Remains like these used to be dotted around the parish!***

### Cob Buildings in the parish

#### Fordingbridge Road / Wolvercroft

Wolvercrate Cottages – demolished  
Red Lion Cottage – Part only due to additions  
Martha's Cottage – Demolished and rebuilt  
Vine Cottage – Part only due to additions  
Rose Cottage Grounds – Demolished  
Plot opposite Red Lion Cottage – Demolished

#### Sandleheath Road

Cross Roads Farm - Demolished and rebuilt  
Holly Cottage – Demolished  
Hill Farm Cottage Workshop – Demolished  
Home Farm – Part only due to additions  
Hillside Cottage – Part only due to additions

#### Station Road / Hillbury Road

159 Station Road – Demolished and rebuilt  
Evergreen Cottage – Demolished  
Hillbury Cottage (Wren Cottage) – Current

#### Daggons Road

St. James School Classroom – Demolished  
Church Farmhouse – Part only due to additions  
House between Church and Woodside – Demolished  
Cob Barn at Daggons Farm (Woodside) – Demolished.  
Fern Hill Farm – Demolished and rebuilt

#### Broxhill / Crendell / Lower Daggons / Bull Hill

Hither Daggons – Part only due to additions  
Remains of cob wall at Corner Wood where there was once a building – Now demolished.  
Old Pond Farm House – Part only due to additions  
Lopshill Cottage, next to Crendell Methodist Chapel – Part only due to additions  
Lower Daggons Cottage – Part only due to additions  
Higher Bull Hill Farm – Part only due to additions  
Hawk Hill Mill – Part only due to additions

#### Cripplestyle

Ebenezer Chapel – Collapsed in 1976  
Remains of house at Cripplestyle. Possibly a shop. Still there in 2001 but now demolished.



*Hillbury (Wren) Cottage in 1974*

About two feet, vertical, being raised at a time, then left for ten days to dry” before the next layer was added. “Walls built thus on Heathstone (sandstone) or brick footings, stand well”. He complained of poor mud walls “raised without any footings, and by inexperienced ‘mudders’ who used the wrong sort of clay; who did not temper it still with heath; and who could not build a wall with a mud-prong but trusted to board ‘clamps’ and thus this serviceable walling material has been discredited, most unfairly”.

During the 1920's the Cranborne Estate began demolishing cob buildings and replacing them with the standard semi-detached bungalows that are common in the Cripplestyle area.

Evergreen Cottage was one of the cottages that sprung up during the 1800's along Station Road. Like



*A typical Cranborne Estate semi-detached bungalow*

most of these cottages it was built of Cob with a flint foundation but had a slate roof and stood in a plot of about 2 acres. The original building was basically two up two down.

During the 1940's Mrs. Georgina Wallis owned it and let it to Mrs. Ada Wiseman. Mr. Eric Wallis (Mrs. Georgina Wallis' son and Mrs. Ada Wiseman's son in law) brought the property in 1949. He was not allowed to knock it down and build new, so he modernised it, building a new wing at the rear. He also renamed the house Inglenook. Peter Wallis bought the house from his father in 1956 and lived there until 1993 when Sherings bought it and demolished it so that the land could be redeveloped! A number of houses stand on that plot of land now.



*Evergreen Cottage*



*Lopshill Cottage and Crendell Methodist Church*



### Dirk Jacobus Klink (1912 – 42)

by Adrian King



The area of flooded gravel pits to the south of Ibsley was once the site of a wartime airfield. Ibsley Airfield was constructed by 'Mowlems' in 1940 and was not operational until February 1941.

It was used by the RAF until the end of 1947. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Air Force used it for short periods between 1942 and 1945 – it was U.S. Airfield No. 347.

On Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 1942 there were 14 flights by 40 aircraft of RAF 118 Squadron, Fighter Command that were stationed at Ibsley; these consisted of formation flights, aerobatics, section attacks, camera gun, cannon attacks and practice interception. It was the latter that led to tragedy. Pilot Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, Dirk Jacobus Klink (Dutch) who had only joined No. 118 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May was following his Section Leader, F/O Stewart, up through cloud, when at 3,300 feet he was seen to be lagging. P/O Klink was flying in 'Hominis Vis,' the presentation Supermarine Spitfire Mk 5b R7334, donated by Hovis when it crashed in Alderholt Park, Fordingbridge, the aircraft bursting into flames and the pilot burning to death. The Spitfire had been previously known as 'Perfect,' proclaiming the products of H. J. Heinz Ltd.

Seventeen-year-old Ronald Duffet was picking strawberries in the kitchen garden of Alderholt Park House where he worked as a garden boy for Major and Mrs. Mackintosh.

"Suddenly I heard an airplane just above me – on looking up I saw this Spitfire coming out of what I remember as heat haze, straight at me with smoke coming from both sides of the plane."

"I made a rush out of the strawberry bed and the plane seemed to suddenly turn a little to its right which seemed to me to avoid the cottage where the Chauffeur (Mr. Ewert Thorne) lived. It went 'blast' into the corner of the wood, I should say some quarter mile (might be less) from where I was."



*Dirk Jacobus Klink (1912 – 1942)*



*An Aerial View of Ibsley Airfield*

Desmond Manston, who was in the field next to the wood picking up hay with Ewert Thorne, remembers it vividly.

"The plane was at full throttle and as it banked to the left a distress parachute was released. "He's coming right on down here," I said to Ewert, and it flew right into the spinney.

Ronald continues, "I ran out to the crash as quick as my legs would let me, but there was nothing anyone could do. When the flames calmed down, we found the pilot's body mangled up in the cockpit seat, an awful sight."

"There were canon and machine gun cartridges going off most of the time that we were there."

Derek Thorne who lived at Alderholt Mill, and Arthur Rose also saw the crash.



**A Hurricane approaching Ibsley Airfield – RAF Ibsley**

The RAF was quickly on the scene and within hours the tangled remains of the Spitfire were removed on a Queen Mary Low Loader.

The official statement was that the cause of the crash was unknown – P/O Klink lost control in cloud, came out of cloud almost vertically at 1000 ft and was unable to pull out in time.

P/O Klink died on his thirtieth birthday, and the tragedy was all the more poignant because his wife Barbara, had arrived at Ibsley only the day before to spend his birthday with him. They had been married in Kensington in early 1942.

Dirk Klink was the second husband she had lost during World War II, the first having been killed by a bomb.

P/O Klink was laid to rest in the Churchyard at Ellingham the following Wednesday. Revd. Catley officiated at the funeral service, which was attended by Klink’s widow and other relatives, representatives of the Dutch Government, No. 118 Squadron Officers, escort and firing parties. Sometime later, P/O Klink’s body was exhumed and moved from Ellingham Churchyard. He now lies in the Mill Hill Dutch War Cemetery in Middlesex.

Christine Emm says, “The plane caught fire and burnt an oak tree down. Scarring can still be seen on a surviving oak tree at the site. Various digs on the site have revealed scraps of fuselage. The owner of the land has a fuse in his possession from the Spitfire which still works. I, myself, found a uniform button on the site which we feel proves the pilot remained with the plane.

Dirk Klink’s name can be found on the memorial stone at the former RAF Ibsley, near Ringwood, Hampshire, England. Our annual Remembrance Day is 11<sup>th</sup> November. On that day, the Ringwood branch of the Royal British Legion read out the names from the memorial in a church service, Dirk Klink’s is one of those read.



**A Spitfire in the Memorial Park, Hamilton, New Zealand.**



**Dirk Klink’s Memorial at Mill Hill Dutch War Cemetery, Middlesex.**

For many years, my husband [Mike Emm], having researched this pilot, placed a red poppy cross on the oak tree on Remembrance Day. Now we take the cross to the Alderholt War Memorial so that Dirk can be part of the Remembrance service.

At the going down of the sun, we will remember him.”

In Feb 2006, after a service at Ringwood, which was held on Septuagesima Sunday to commemorate men and women who served at RAF Ibsley, John Smith of Ringwood British Legion (who had also lived at Alderholt Mill as a lad) brought a cross up to put on the scarred oak tree hit by the plane as it crashed.

Barbara Klink (nee Ayers) was born in Birmingham and grew up in London. She had lost her British Citizenship when she had married Dirk and had to apply for it again after his death.

Barbara was posted to Egypt and then went to Canada in 1948 where she married Thomas (Tom) Hanley in 1951.

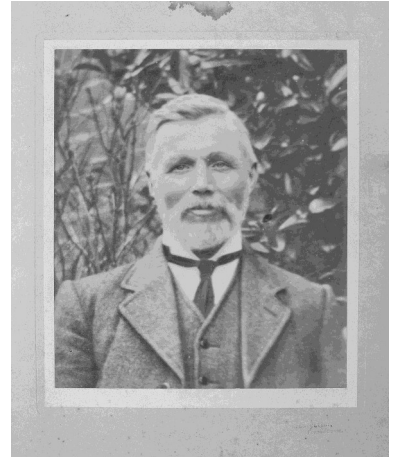
*Compiled from, “So much sadness, so much fun,” a history of Ibsley Airfield pilots and ground crews compiled by Vera Smith of the RAF Ibsley Historical Group, and eyewitness accounts. Chris Hanley from Uxbridge, Ontario (Barbara Klink’s son by her third marriage) and Christine Emm have supplied additional information.*

**Harry Bailey (1865—1923)**

by Adrian King



Harry Bailey was my great grandfather. I have heard so many lovely things about his life. My Uncle, Dennis Bailey writes, “He worked for the estate as Brickmaker and woodman. In my childhood the large pit saws were still hung up in the woodshed at Hill View. Everything I have ever heard about him was good – that is if you call being gentle, kind, and thoughtful, good. He was a Sunday School teacher and Deacon at Cripplestyle and throughout my early life people have said, “If you turn out anything like your Granddad, you’ll be OK.” Owen Davis refers to his light-coloured beard which framed his “kindly face.” An article in the Dorset Yearbook by Mrs. Christine Hurley in 1957/58 entitled “Affairs of State,” says that she thought he had the face of Christ. Whenever she thinks of Christ the face



**Harry Bailey (1865-1923)**  
This picture hung in the vestry at the Williams Memorial Chapel for many years - it is now in the Dorset History Centre.

which comes to her mind is that of Harry Bailey.

“My father (Arthur Bailey) used to relate stories about his dad many of which I do not recall but one I do

remember. Quite regularly two of the children from the Sunday School who lived down the road used to wander, hand in hand, up the leafy road to his cottage where, if they could catch his eye, they knew he would invite them in and perhaps give them a biscuit. One day they appeared and were invited in. He sat them down one each side of him at the table and from the cupboard took out a packet of sweets. He then told them he was going to share them out between them.



**A family Christmas card from about 1905 - Harry and Charlotte Bailey, my grandfather Arthur and the “pet” cow! Happy Christmas Everyone!**

So, he started. “One for you – one for me – one for you – one for me – one for you – one for me – one for you. “Each time he gave himself one as he passed both ways resulting in him having twice as many. After a while one of the children said. “That’s not fair. Look what he’s got!” With a twinkle in his eye Harry did it again this time equally. It was his “bit of fun” which marked him out from the rest.

“When I was still at home a preacher came to take the afternoon children’s service on Whit Sunday. In his address he said he was one of six older boys who were in Harry Baileys Bible Class. One Sunday they were particularly trying. He could not get them to concentrate – they misbehaved the whole time. As they left, they noticed that he looked sad and had tears in his eyes. This spoke to them more than the things he had been trying to say. The preacher went on say that Harry Bailey had such an affect upon him that it was not long after he became Christian and later a preacher. He said of the six boys five were involved in the Christian ministry.

“Tom Butler was also saying that Harry Bailey was a good man, but he rather spoiled it by saying that the one thing that always reminds him of



**Harry Bailey making bricks at China Cottage Brickworks, Cranborne.**



**Hill View, Cripplestyle in the 1920's.**

**This was taken before the Marquis of Salisbury built the extension that enabled my grandparents to move and look after Charlotte when she became ill.**

evening Harry should call on the man to make peace with him and explain that it was against his principles to take delivery of animals on the Sabbath. The man was out but his wife listened attentively for him to finish, then putting her hand on his shoulder as a gesture of consolation she said, "I admire you for it, Mr. Bailey."

"My father gave me a graphic account of when his father unexpectedly died at the age of 57. They were all in bed when his mother called loudly for him to come quickly. He rushed into their bedroom where he found that his dear father had stopped breathing and was already dead. He tried to console his mother who was urging him to go up to the manse to get the minister. In great distress he dressed quickly and ran up the road to the manse banging the door and threw soil against the bedroom window. Suddenly there was an almighty crash. My father said that distressed as he was, he burst out laughing as he contemplated what might have happened. Laughter and tears are not so distant from each other at such times, and he didn't feel any guilt over his mirth. As it was the reason for the crash was funnier than anyone could imagine. Mr. Whatley, the minister awoken by the knocking – got out of bed and fumbled in the dark to find his trousers so that he could answer the door respectfully. He tried to tuck his shirt into the trousers but unknowingly tucked in the bottom of the window curtains. As he rushed to the door, he pulled the curtains down complete with rod which fell on the table throwing the unlit oil lamp to the floor, which smashed into pieces. When dad heard the complete story, he was even more amused though sad about the loss of the lamp.

"The obituary to Harry Baileys death which was also reported nationally in the Christian Herald conveys the esteem with which he was held in the community. The chapel was packed to capacity and the procession which followed

was "impressive." His Bible Class formed a guard of honour each side of the hearse for the long walk to Daggons Road Church Yard whilst the children of the Sunday School followed carrying a garland of flowers to put on the grave. Even the local vicar took part in the service at the grave.

*[The grave has no headstone and its location in the churchyard is unknown.]*

"There was a sequel to Harry Bailey's death. Stories got around as they often do in a small community that the night before he died Harry had eaten some apple dumplings. Mrs Hurley, in her article in the Dorset Yearbook, who was then a child, would not eat apple dumplings for years, because they might have caused this lovely man's death!"



**Harry, Charlotte, Arthur and the "pet" cow!**

Harry is when he hears anyone with squeaky shoes. "If Harry walked up to the front to say a prayer his shoes always squeaked as though they were brand new."

"Owen Davis also records another story, which my father had told me himself. One Sunday he was coming out of chapel after the morning service when he and the others around him saw a horse and cart outside of his house directly opposite the chapel. In the cart were some squealing pigs, which had been brought from a farm some miles away. Harry stood in the gateway preventing the cart from entering. "I'm not having pigs brought into my sty on a Sunday," he said. "But you bought em," said the disgruntled carter. Harry was adamant. There was nothing for it but for him to turn round and go back home with the noisy pigs. However, it was true to his nature that next



**The Sunday School outside the newly built School Room in 1907 - Harry Bailey back row on the left . My grandfather, fifth from left, front row.**