WYCHWOODS HISTORY

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WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Contents

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Foreword

When the first Journal appeared in 1985 the then chairman, Jack Howard-Drake, commented that the first issue represented no more than a modest beginning but with the work continuing there was hope that further results would be published from time to time. This issue is the twenty-fifth journal of Wychwoods History and the Society can be congratulated on this achievement. The research carried out by members has been wide-ranging and in each Journal we have tried to have a mixture of the academic and the general. This edition perhaps inclines toward the academic with three of the articles representing subjects that the Society has long wished to report: a building survey of the Shaven Crown Inn; an examination of the accounts books of the Crown Inn Charity, its former name; and a study of Shipton in the Hundred Rolls 1279-80.

On the boundary of Shipton and Ascott, by Coldwell Brook, is a house theoretically in Shipton but seemingly part of Ascott. An article explains this anomaly. The article about the stolen clappers of the bells of Shipton Church is a connection to our first Journal when we reproduced on page 31 the poster headlined 'Sacrilege!' Many entering the church probably do not notice the little figures in the niches above the porch, here explained as an Annunciation Relief.

And we have an appreciation of the enormous amount the Scott family have contributed to the Wychwood villages since 1937.

Joan Howard-Drake, Trudy Yates and Sue Jourdan

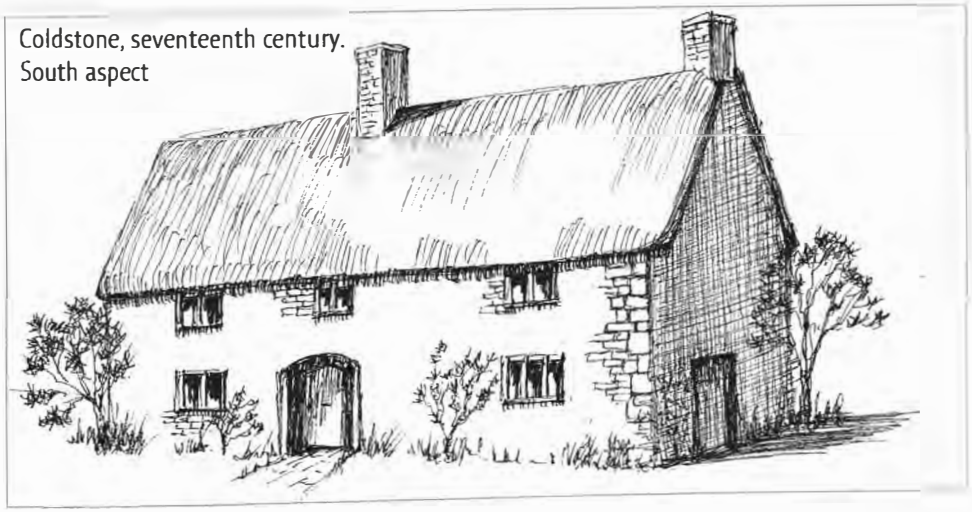
Coldstone: An Ascott Anomaly

Wendy Pearse

A stone dwelling house, once erected, and provided there is always someone prepared to maintain it, will stand for centuries. Its occupants come and go. They emerge from the mists of time mainly through the survival of documents, carefully conserved. We can never know the true story, only gain glimpses of happenings and events, important enough at the time to be recorded. Such a dwelling house is Coldstone at the western end of Ascott. In Ascott, yet not of it, since the parish boundary, the Coldwell Brook, runs to the east of the house, decreeing throughout time that Coldstone House should stand in the parish of Shipton.

People associated with Coldstone emerge out of the mists, their names recorded on the documents. Leonard Boxe, Rowland Lacy Esq., William Lardner, Nicholas Perry, Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker, Edward Marshall Hacker, Mary Marshall, John Gomm, and so on into the modern era. These people now long forgotten. Yet still Coldstone stands, despite even its most recent trauma, the floods of 2007.

In this article I hope to reveal a few of Coldstone's secrets, not necessarily a timeline of occupants, but through intriguing cameos of some of those associated with Coldstone's story.



Coldstone, seventeenth century.
South aspect

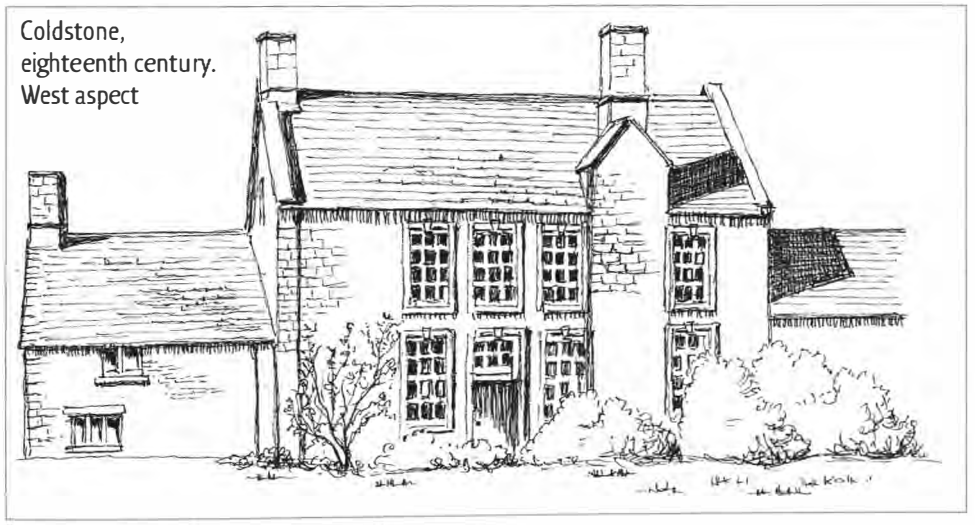
The first known mention of Coldstone occurs in the Shipton Baptism Register for 1607. It reads 'Thomas, son of Master William Fifefeilds at Coldston Master Boxes his house'. Can we infer from this that Leonard Boxe, the grandfather of Thomas, was the owner? A survey made for Sir Rowland Lacy of Shipton Court, in 1617, records that Leonard leased farm buildings on the same site, strips in the open fields of Ascott, and some closes in Shipton, from Sir Rowland Lacy, but there is no mention of a house. So did Leonard Boxe have the original house built? We shall never know. Certainly parts of the house date back to that period and in an inventory made of Leonard's goods and chattels, when he died in 1623, an entry at the top of one page reads 'in the Kitchinge of his house at Colestone'. Coldstone was the centre of a farming enterprise and although at the time of his death Leonard did not live there himself, it appears that members of his family did. Most of the Coldstone entries on Leonard's inventory are farming requisites, implements, vehicles, crops and animals, probably under the control of his relatives. A Keeper of one of the Walks in Wychwood Forest, Leonard and his wife Marye lived a fairly luxurious life in Roger Hill Lodge, now High Lodge, at the top of Brazil Lane in Ascott. Leonard's story can be found in Wychwoods History number 6, under the heading 'Leonard Boxe, Gentleman of Ascott'.

In the seventeenth century, the pattern of farming in the Wychwoods still followed that established by the Saxons. The arable land in the parish of Ascott was divided into three large open fields. Those fields were divided into a substantial number of furlongs, which in turn were divided into individual strips. Originally these strips may have been divided amongst all the men of the parish but six hundred years on, the majority of the strips had passed into the hands of just a few wealthy owners who then let them out to tenants. The hay meadows in the valley bottoms used for haymaking and commonly grazing livestock, followed the same policy. So together the meadowland and the strips, marked either by ridge and furrow or by carefully placed meerstones (boundary stones) on the higher, stonier sides of the valley, and a few small enclosed closes, comprised each tenant's total area of land. This land was scattered all over the parish. Leonard Boxe leased eighty-one acres from Sir Rowland Lacy. These acres were made up from seventy-five individual strips and a few enclosed closes near to the farm buildings.

Leonard Boxe died in 1623 whilst living at Roger Hill Lodge, and when his wife died twelve years later, her will states that she was of Shipton. This may indicate that she was living with one of her daughters at Coldstone. Her daughter Mary had married Thomas Oven in 1617. Later, their son Leonard and his wife lived there and between 1651 and 1667 took their eight children to be baptised from the house. It also seems likely that during Leonard Oven's occupation the house was enlarged, perhaps to meet the needs of his growing family. In the Hearth Tax Returns of 1665 the house is listed with eight hearths,

one of the largest in the parish (Shipton), certainly much larger than Leonard Boxe's inventory of 1623 would suggest.

By 1711 the Lacy family had long sold Shipton Court and had become established at Pudlicote. However the land at Ascott still belonged to Coldstone under the ownership of the Lacys, and in fact, at some date in the previous fifty years, the house itself had also come into their hands. That was until the then owner, Rowland Lacy Esq., decided to put the whole package up for sale. And this is when William Lardner, Nicholas Perry and Ann Walter emerge through the mist, and perhaps for the second time, Coldstone became detached from most of its land.



Coldstone, eighteenth century. West aspect

In his will of 1731 William Lardner of Coldstone, Yeoman, stated 'give unto my said Grandson William Lardner all that my house and two Orchards which I Bought of Rowland Lacy Esq. which is known by the name of Coldston'.

In a Marriage Settlement dated 6 February 1724/25 Nicholas Perry of Ascott under Wychwood, gentleman, arranged that his daughter Mary and her future husband Thomas Hacker of Kingham, gentleman, should have released after their marriage and the death of her parents, along with other assets '2 yardlands in Ascott under Wychwood, Ascott Doyley and Earls Ascott lately belonging to a messuage or farm called Cold Stone bought from Rowland Lacy, Esq.'

It is, however, through a lease connected with a legacy left by Ann Walter, daughter of Sir William Walter of Sarsden, that we learn the date of the sale. She left £600 in her will dated 1705, to purchase land, the rents and

profits of which were to be used to educate poor girls under the age of twenty years, of Church of England denomination and born in Churchill or Sarsden. On 12 June 1711 trustees were appointed to oversee the lease of three closes in Shipton under Wychwood 'All now or late parcel of a tenament or Farm called Coulstone Farm'. These were the closes that ran westward on the south side of the Evenlode between Coldstone and Langley Mill. The two nearest to Coldstone were to be leased to William Lardner, wooldriver, the man who had purchased the house and orchards. So it seems that 1711 was the year that the various assets of Coldstone were divided and sold to three different purchasers.

William Lardner, yeoman and wooldriver, was a wealthy man. He owned an estate at Lyneham, another estate at Chilson, land in Shipton and a cottage in Ascott which may well be 'The Old Farmhouse' in High Street since the date plaque containing the letters W and M (his wife was Margaret) and L, ties in with his life in Ascott. A wooldriver was a person who took wool to market, so apart from his farming enterprise, he probably acted as an agent and dealer in wool for local farmers.

It seems that William was already living in Ascott before his purchase of Coldstone, since he had four sons and a daughter christened at Holy Trinity Church, Ascott, between 1679 and 1692. The eldest, his namesake William, died aged only twelve, so the last son, born one year after the first William's death, was likewise christened William. This latter William married Lucy sometime before 1719 when their first daughter Mary was born and her entry in the Ascott Parish Register reads 'Mary daughter of William of Cole-stone' so by that date the extended family was firmly established at Coldstone. In the following two years, two more children, Sarah and William, were born to William and Lucy at Coldstone. Sarah only lived for one day and unfortunately only two years after William Junior's birth, William his father died. So this would appear to have left the grandparents William the Yeoman and wife Margaret living at Coldstone with their daughter-in-law Lucy and young grandchildren Mary and William. However by 1727 William the Yeoman's eldest surviving son John was also noted as 'of Coldstone' when sadly his wife Sarah and son Thomas were buried from there in that year. William the Yeoman left a number of substantial legacies to his numerous grandchildren when he died in 1734, a year after his wife Margaret, but the house at Coldstone was to go to his grandson William, upon his attaining the age of twenty-one. This was upon the condition that young William gave his sister Mary the sum of £120 within twelve months of his coming of age. If he refused to pay Mary then she was to have the house and orchards for her and her heirs forever. Unfortunately the sum may not even have reached Mary for she died within six months of William reaching his majority. William's mother Lucy and his uncle John also died in 1743, the same year as sister

Mary, so abruptly twenty-one-year-old William was bereft of his closest relatives.

Now we must return to 1711 when Coldstone House and orchards were sold separately from the farmland. At that date Nicholas Perry of Ascott had purchased some of the closes and all the strips and meadowland situated in the open fields of the village, which had previously belonged to Coldstone.

The marriage settlement dated 6 February 1724/25 which notes the release of the land to Mary Perry and her intended husband Thomas Hacker, after the death of her mother and father, was duly enforced the following day when the young couple's wedding took place in Ascott church. This must have been a most notable event in the village for it was the only marriage that took place at Holy Trinity Church between 1702 and 1737. It must also demonstrate that Nicholas Perry was a man of considerable influence. His wealth is further apparent since the marriage settlement includes other land in Shipton and Ascott as well as property in Hook Norton, Wescott and Nether Westcott. No doubt Mary was being provided with a substantial dowry.

Her intended, Thomas Hacker, Gent. was descended from a line of wealthy landowners in Kingham and Churchill. A single son with five sisters, he was heir to a major inheritance. He had matriculated at Oriel College, Oxford on 8 July 1710, aged fifteen and received his BA four years later. At the time of his marriage, he was living at Kingham on the manor estate that was leased from New College, Oxford. His name and status of churchwarden is inscribed on one of Kingham's church bells dated to the year prior to his marriage. Following the birth of the couple's first child Catharine, who was baptised at Ascott in 1726, their son Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker was baptised at Churchill in December 1728. The entry describes Thomas Hacker as Bailiff and Churchwarden. Sadly Nicholas Perry had died the previous May so he did not live to see his namesake and grandson.

Meantime the Lardners still owned and lived at Coldstone until at least 1743. But on a poll of the Freeholders of Oxfordshire dated to 1754, the tenant and landlord listed was Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker Esq., the son of Mary and Thomas Hacker. He was then aged twenty-six. His father had died in 1733 at the early age of thiry-seven, but the family had continued living at Kingham until at least the death of his grandmother, Hannah Perry, in 1747. However, apparently sometime after that date, Coldstone House and orchards had been purchased by the Hacker family and rejoined to its land which they already owned. It seems that Mary Hacker had returned to her childhood village with her son and daughter.

By 1754 Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker was a prominent figure in the district, known to frequent the races at Chipping Norton. When Hannah Perry, his grandmother, made her will in 1745, two years before her death, all she left to her grandson was 'all the moneys that are due to me on two notes of

Hand from Thomas Hacker his father Late of Kingham Gentleman Deceased'. This, despite the fact that his father had died twelve years previously, perhaps indicates an uncertain if unknown family relationship.

In 1752, probably with the Hackers already living at Coldstone, Mary Townsend, spinster, the sister of John Townsend who rented a substantial acreage of land in Ascott from the Duke of Marlborough, produced a daughter, likewise christened Mary Townsend. Three years later, thirty-year-old Mary Townsend, spinster, produced a son John. However two months on she married William Brookes, presumably John's father. Mary was apparently not blessed with good luck, for after only four years, William died, leaving Mary a widow with two young children. Not daunted however, two years later Mary married Thomas Rose, this time three months before daughter Sarah Rose was born. The significance of this family will be revealed later.

The Duke of Marlborough's Survey of Ascott dated 1764 lists Mary Hacker as the freeholder of all the Coldstone land in Ascott which she rented out to tenant farmers. She also owned a small amount of copyhold land with a house and other buildings which may originally have been the home of Nicholas and Hannah Perry. Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker is listed as owning just a small area of land, and the fishponds which were later converted to the sheepwash on the parish boundary. Coldstone house and buildings are not mentioned, situated as they are in Shipton parish.

The following year 'Mrs Mary Hacker of Cole-Stone' was buried on 28 May. The tombs of Mary and her husband Thomas and that of her parents Nicholas and Hannah are the two table tombs on the right, as you emerge from the porch of Ascott church. The next year Mary's daughter Catharine, who had acquired a house for herself in Shipton, also died, and was interred with her parents.

The Perry and Hacker tombs in Ascott churchyard

These sad partings obviously led the unmarried Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker to consider the situation of his inheritance, and the following

year he signed an intricate and complicated will. This was to have far reaching repercussions. When the will was signed on 30 April 1767 Thomas Nicholas had obviously left Coldstone and Ascott behind since he is recorded as 'of Churchill'. Hackers House in Churchill still stands but we cannot know for certain that this is where he resided. He left legacies to all his servants, and to Mary Townsend, daughter of Mary Rose of Ascott, late Mary Townsend, spinster. So can we speculate that he may not have been a husband, but perhaps a father?

The rest of his considerable estate in Ascott, Kingham, Churchill, Shipton, Curbridge and Mickleton, Gloucestershire, was bequeathed to a long list of male relatives in turn, beginning with his cousin John Bulley, a surgeon in Oxford, whose father, Thomas Bulley, resided at Chadlington. John Bulley was to have the estate for life, and then it was to pass to his sons. Next in line was George, his brother, with the same stipulations. Then James, his brother, John Herbert of Buckingham, surgeon, Nicholas Marshall of Church Enstone, and Edward Marshall of Oxford University. All were governed by the same stipulations and were the male heirs of Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker. John Bulley who was the executor, was also to have a messuage in Shipton which Thomas Nicholas had inherited from his sister Catharine, and all the plate and china. The leasehold part of the estate at Kingham was to be disposed of to cover debts, mortgages and funeral expenses. The final stipulation was that any person inheriting under the above provisions was to take the surname and arms of Hacker.

Thomas Nicholas also left instructions for the conduct of his funeral before he was interred with his parents and sister. Six poor men from his labourers or former labourers were to carry his corpse to the church, for which they were each to receive two guineas. Then gold mourning rings, and black hatbands and gloves were to be provided for the clergyman conducting the service as well as for all the Hacker tenants. Like the day of his parents' marriage, 3 December 1768, the day of his funeral, must have been a notable one in the history of Holy Trinity Church. For Thomas Nicholas Perry Hacker died, aged only forty, of what was described in Jackson's *Oxford Journal*, as 'gout of the stomach'.

So John Hacker, surgeon, duly took on the inheritance and surname, and was elected as one of the original staff of the Radcliffe Infirmary, although he could not take up the position as other 'avocations' prevented him from serving. Subsequently over the next few years several adverts appeared in Jackson's *Oxford Journal* regarding the sale or rent of the properties in Kingham and Shipton, with enquiries to the Bulley Hackers of Chadlington.

But it seems that none of the Bulley brothers or John Herbert of Buckingham, had heirs to inherit and the properties eventually came into the hands of Nicholas Marshall of Church Enstone. He died unmarried in 1827

so all of his estate passed to his brother who then became the Revd Edward Marshall Hacker. He was the perpetual curate at Iffley and the vicar of Sandford St Martins.

It was probably around the same time that the Gomm family from Milton took over the tenancy of Coldstone Farm. John Gomm and his brother Richard, two years his junior, were born in Milton in 1801 and 1803 respectively. Sometime before 1830 the family moved to Coldstone as tenants and the two brothers remained there for almost all of their lives. Richard died in 1879 and John gave up the tenancy in 1880. He died in 1884 aged eighty-three. They were probably the longest-standing tenants in the whole of Coldstone's long story. Their father may have taken on the original tenancy but when he died, aged eighty-seven in 1845, John was the primary tenant. John married Sophia Young in 1833 and in 1839, their daughter Jane was born. Unfortunately she died just prior to her second birthday, a year before her brother, another John was born. This John grew up to marry one of the elder daughters of Alfred Groves of Milton, and after the death of his father or even earlier, he moved to Milton where he eventually became an insurance agent.

During John Gomm's long tenancy, major changes occurred in the farming life at Coldstone. In 1838 the Enclosure of Ascott's open fields took place and Coldstone had sole occupancy of its designated lands in the western part of Ascott parish. This situation would continue for 114 years, until the final separation of Coldstone Farm and buildings from its land, in 1952. The Private Enclosure of the land took place at the instigation of Lord Churchill of Cornbury who owned two thirds of Ascott parish, following the passing of a bill in Parliament, allowing this procedure to take place provided two thirds of the landowners of the parish agreed. However, the Revd Edward Marshall Hacker, the then owner of Coldstone, was determined to make absolutely certain that he received all his allowances, by having a very detailed map drawn up. This showed the measurements of his closes and all the strips scattered about the open fields of Ascott. By that date many of the individual strips were being joined together but even so, he still had 114 separate parcels of land. Unfortunately he had little time to consider

Memorial plaque for Mary Anne Marshall in Iffley Church

his allotment since he died the following year and Coldstone went into the hands of his wife, Mrs Mary Marshall Hacker. Whilst she was the owner, the railway was constructed through the Evenlode Valley. This must have caused much disruption to John Gomm and his workers, as it effectively cut the farm in half, making access to the land on the north side of the valley very difficult. She remained the owner until 1860 when the couple's daughter Mary Anne Marshall inherited. Presumably she did not add Hacker to her name since she was not a heir male. She continued the owner until her death in 1901. A brass plaque in Iffley Church records her passing.

In 1880 following the retirement of John Gomm, Mr Alder became the tenant. He was a coal, hay and straw dealer from Shipton. The farm was apparently in very poor condition and much rebuilding had to be carried out. The piggery, stables, cowshed and henhouse were all renovated and later rebuilding of the farmhouse took place. Mr Alder was considered a good tenant and needed to be kept happy in the hope that his son would continue with the tenancy. But the last quarter of the nineteenth century was a totally disastrous period for British farmers and in 1892 Mr Alder went bankrupt. Mr William Mace from Langley Farm took over the tenancy, followed in 1899 by Mr Brian Edginton from Chadlington.

After the death of Mary Anne Marshall in 1901, the property passed to Edward Henry Marshall who was probably her nephew. But the Hacker legacy dating back nearly 200 years was reaching its final fling and in 1913 a new owner came into view. He was Henry Sanderson Furniss (later Lord Sanderson) and shortly after he purchased Coldstone and all its land, he had Chestnut Close (now Wychwood Manor) built in the close of the same name on the Shipton side of the parish boundary.

Although born into a successful and wealthy Victorian family, Henry Sanderson Furniss, despite being semi-blind, developed a serious social conscience. He and his wife lectured on behalf of the workers, became members of the Labour Party and supported the emerging trade union Ruskin College in Oxford. They actively worked on behalf of the Workers' Educational Association, introducing Ascott as one of the first villages to promote this organisation on behalf of the workers.

They were also contacts and friends of Joseph Ashby of Tysoe, Methodist preacher and ardent promoter of worker's rights. So following their purchase of Coldstone, they encouraged him to move to Ascott and take over the tenancy. In 1914 the Ashbys made the trek from Tysoe to Ascott, sheep and cattle preceding cart, wagon and gig. Joseph Ashby felt, however, that the farm was not the model of convenience, since the fields stretched in single file from hillside to hillside across the valley, and the farm roads were poor. At first there was a sufficient supply of staff to work the land but as the young men were called up in the First World War, it became very tough coping with the work.

Sybil, Joseph's seventeen-year-old daughter became a mainstay, haymaking and ploughing with a three-horse team. Joseph Ashby died in 1919 and his son Richard continued on until 1926 when Lord Sanderson sold both Coldstone and Chestnut Close.

Coldstone was sold to Edgar Hughes Walton and James Jesse Walton for £2600. In 1928 the Waltons mortgaged the farm for £8000 and soon became bankrupt. Mr Farrant of Chipping Norton, the mortgagee in possession, then leased the farm in 1932 to Henry John Pearse a descendent of a long line of farmers from Kingham. However, twenty years later, following Henry John's sudden death, Mr Farrant decided to sell the property. It was bought by Len Hill of Birdland, Bourton-on-the-Water, fame. The large timber trees on the property were soon felled and dispersed, Len Hill hoping for a quick resale. Unfortunately this was not to be and it was finally decided to divide the property into separate lots. The house and barn were each sold separately and the land was divided and sold in four separate units.

So after more than 200 years, following the gathering together of the property by the Hackers in the early eighteenth century, in 1952, Coldstone Farm as a farming enterprise, was finally dissolved for the last time.

Coldstone, twentieth century. South aspect

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The Silence of Three Shipton Church Bells Explained

Joan Howard-Drake

IN our first Journal in 1985 we published a picture of the reward offered for the detection and conviction of the 'wicked and daring villains' that stole the clappers of three of the church bells. Now the ''villains' have been revealed as the ringers of the bells themselves. In the story below written by Henry J. Coombes he tells of the background to the incident.

The true story of the Shipton Church Episode

About the year 1840, the relationship between the then vicar of the Parish (the Rev R Philimore) and the Bell ringers became much strained through the objection of the Vicar to a proposed Muffled Peal in honour of an old ringer.

When the ringers assembled to ring the Tributary Peal they found the Belfry door locked & were refused admittance. At that time the Ringers were composed of the leading Farmers & Tradesmen of the Village and were the type of men to count what they deemed Autocratic action.

The result was, the discovery on the next Sunday when the Sexton tried to chime a bell or two, that they wouldn't as he termed it 'spake'. It was found that the clappers of the second third & fourth Bells had been removed & were missing. Active steps were taken to discover the culprits. A Notice was Posted headed 'Sacrilege' and a considerable reward was offered for information.

None however was forthcoming and matters went on for about 6 weeks after which time a Paper was found near the Vicarage study consisting of a piece of Rhyme dealing With the missing portion of the bells & how to recover.

I regret not being able to remember more but I know it ended thus.

'Down in Boweram Pail there you'll find the Clappers.
Take the [?Cross or boys] and go & search
and bring them back quite safe to the Church'

This was done and the Bells were put in Order & Peace returned. I should state that the Belfry was not again locked and the Ringers not again unduly interfered with.

This information given me by a very near relative who was the junior delinquent and whose tools were commanded for the job of removing the Clappers. It was done by getting on the leads with a ladder one dark & wet Friday night & crawling through the windows into the Tower.

I have in my Possession the Original Notice referred to offering the reward.

I could report many amusing stories Re the Rev Philimore who was on the whole a very kindly man but possessed of Magisterial & Clerical Powers which on that day were very [arbitrate] & drastic.

Signed: Henry J Coombes

Copy: To Master Cross

We the undersigned Churchwardens request you to give the Key of the Belfry to the ringers to ring the twenty ninth of May in case of your refusal we intend keeping the Key in our own possession in future As it is a customary thing throughout the Kingdom to ring on that day

Signed: Wm Bould & Richd Bould – Churchwardens

The Manor of Shipton in the Hundred Rolls, 1279–80

Anthea Jones

THE historian in Oxfordshire is fortunate in that the 'Hundred Rolls', detailed surveys of land-holding compiled in 1279–80, have survived. Oxfordshire is one of a band of midland and eastern counties, with Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, for which the records exist, although not complete.[1] Fragments also exist for parts of Leicestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Warwickshire, and for Shrewsbury.[2] The surveys which remain are hugely detailed and cumbersome, and the whole project may have been aborted before it was anywhere near completed. Edward I's intention seems to have been to examine his royal rights in rather more detail than the Domesday survey of 1086, and to legislate to restore property which had been lost or 'usurped' during the years of unrest and civil war in Henry III's reign; he had succeeded to the throne in 1272. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, was the principal usurper of royal franchises.[3]

The hundred

As the name implies, information was collected through the administrative organisation of the hundred. Within each hundred the township was the primary means of locating land, as it was in Domesday, and again as in the earlier survey, the manor was the primary unit of land-holding; 'information was assembled hundred by hundred, village by village and within the village manor by manor'.[4] Royal commissioners moved from county to county collecting material in the shire courts. It is assumed that the bailiffs of each hundred chose four knights who in turn chose a jury of twelve men to answer the questions put to them. Probably the jurors often used manorial documents to supply the answers, but the evidence was either presented or confirmed verbally; entries begin 'they say ...' and quite often the jurors said that they did not know the answer, particularly to the question 'by what warrant or for how long has a particular situation existed?' The way in which answers were presented varied from one set of commissioners to another, as it did in the Domesday survey, or possibly what survives represents different stages in summarising and simplifying the information.

Three hundreds had been attached to the king's manor of Shipton at the time of the Domesday survey, but were not named; six other Oxfordshire manors held by the king also each had three hundreds attached to them, suggesting a systematic organisation. In 1279 the hundred of Chadlington covered a large area, while the manor of Shipton was dealt with separately. The third Domesday hundred may possibly have been Lyneham. There is a twelfth century reference in the *Place Names of Oxfordshire* (1954), compiled by Margaret Gelling, to the 'two hundreds' of Chadlington, and at a rather later date to the hundred of Lyneham, which was in Chadlington in the Hundred Rolls.

The hundreds were important administrative units from at least the tenth to the fourteenth century, by which time royal justice was replacing local justice. Their origin seems to be in the need to impose order in both former Danelaw and English areas, following Edward the Elder's success in winning control over the country. Cattle rustling seems to have been a pressing problem. At first the reeve of a royal estate was required to hold a regular monthly court in a place convenient for the surrounding area; the reeve was responsible for much village administration and in 1086 reeves had been the important men giving information to the Domesday enquiry. Men over twelve years of age who were resident in the tithing's area for a year and a day were required to be banded together, notionally in groups of ten called a 'tithing' from the Anglo-Saxon word for ten; the system was called 'frankpledge'. Knights, clergy, freeholders and women were not required to be in frankpledge. The name 'frank' or free indicates that the men bound together in a tithing were personally free, not slaves, even though their land-holdings were 'servile' because of the obligation attached to them of working on the lord of the manor's land. The tithing's function was to bring to justice any one in the area accused of a crime. It made sense for a whole village to form a tithing, or where a village was populous, it could be broken down into smaller units. Twice a year the sheriff had to inspect or 'view' the tithings to see that everyone who should be was in a tithing. A group of tithings formed a hundred, which was therefore both a court and a territorial area. Hundreds were arranged for tenurial convenience not geographical coherence; the Bishop of Worcester, for example, arranged that his estates should be administered together and hence places like Blockley were in a hundred with mainly Worcestershire properties, and were islands of Worcestershire surrounded by Gloucestershire, while Widford was an island of Gloucestershire surrounded by Oxfordshire because it belonged to the monastery of St Oswald in Gloucester. Hundreds continued to be useful units for locating land, and were used in this way in the early nineteenth-century censuses.

The jurors in 1279 recorded that Shipton manor and Chadlington hundred were both held by the Earl of Gloucester, though temporarily forming part of the dower of Matilda, Countess of Gloucester. Gilbert de Clare, 'Gilbert the Red', was the seventh earl of Gloucester; his father, Richard de Clare, had died in 1262, but his mother, Matilda or Maud, whose dower these two estates

were, did not die until 1288 or 1289. Shipton manor and Chadlington hundred were held on different terms. The king's grant of Shipton manor included a set of 'liberties' or 'franchises', which were rights to do justice in the manor rather than going to the hundred court under the sheriff, and to collect the fines imposed as punishments. The earl had the right to capture and punish thieves (*infangentheof*), and take their possessions, even hanging a thief in extreme cases; hence the Earl had the right to gallows, tumbrils, and pillory. He also had the right once a year to take the view of frankpledge, enabling him to collect the moneys paid by the tithings within the manor of Shipton; the unvarying payments were sometimes known as 'cert money' or 'tithing penny'. Another right or franchise was to collect the waifs and strays (horses, cattle and sheep) and to keep them, or collect a fine if claimed by the owner. The rarely-granted 'return of writs', a particularly valued asset which enabled the bailiff of the hundred to deal with the king's writs and exclude the sheriff, was not one of the Shipton manor franchises. The stronger the franchises, the better respected the authority of the holder of the hundred or manor would be, enabling him to collect taxes and impose his wishes on the tenants who would be in fear of his judicial powers. The jurors did not know by what warrant the Earl had these franchises. After the account of Shipton manor franchises there is a statement that the church was a prebend of Salisbury and Adam de Brimpton was patron, though here, too, the jurors did not know by what warrant.

The jurors also did not know by what warrant or authority Chadlington hundred was held by the Earl, but they knew that he paid the king £4 a year 'hidage', a traditional payment for a free estate. He also paid the king 30*s* 2*d* from the income of his 'tourn' or view of frankpledge, on the feast of St Martin (10 November), and 10*s* from the view of Norton (Chipping Norton and Hook Norton were dealt with separately). The hundred was said to be worth £26, showing that the king had granted a financial asset. The arrangements for frankpledge were often complicated. The jurors said that the sheriff held his tourn twice yearly in Chadlington hundred, and collected half the fines, 10*s*, while the earl collected the other half. Norton and Spelsbury, Swerford and Minster Lovell were not subject to the earl's view; John Lovel of Minster Lovell had franchises like those of the earl of Gloucester in Shipton.

The townships of Shipton manor and parish

The arrangement of entries in the Hundred Rolls indicates clearly the structure of Shipton manor. It was a large and important one. It was also a complicated one. As it is described in 1279–80 it did not correspond with the later parish, which is simple to state but not easy to explain. The largest block of land making up the manor was in Shipton township, but it included land in other townships. After the account of Shipton (*Schipton*) and its tenants,

there followed Leafield (*Felda*) described as a 'member' of the manor, and then Ramsden (*Rammesden*). The details of the Earl's tenure of Chadlington (*Chadelinton*) hundred came next, and was succeded by an estate referred to as 'Chadlington member of Shipton', and Walcot and Shorthampton (*Walcot* and *Scorthampton*), similarly 'members'. Two estates in Swinbrook (*Swynebroc*) 'belonging to the manor of Shipton' followed.

Shipton parish related to townships or estates which were in Chadlington hundred in 1279, but not in Shipton manor, and which may never been in the manor, like Ascott (*Estcot*), Langley (*Laungel*) and Lyneham (*Lynham*). Milton (*Middelton*) was in Shipton parish, but its manorial position in 1279 was divided and not very clear. Until Shipton prebend was divided, Swinbrook, Fifield (*Fifide*) and Idbury (*Iddebir*) were also in Shipton parish; Fifield and Idbury were then attached to Swinbrook church. The considerable spread of Shipton manor and Shipton parish, and the privileges pertaining to the manor of Shipton, are particularly telling arguments for the founding of an Anglo-Saxon 'minster' church there. This study takes the townships which were either within Shipton manor or known to have been subject to Shipton church.

The entries in the Hundred Rolls in each case named the lord of an estate first, then the villagers, and the size of their holdings and their relationship to the lord, followed by the cottagers, and finally the free holders. The occupier of land was always described as 'holding' it from a superior lord and ultimately from the king; there was no 'ownership' in the modern sense of the word. A free man was not bound to work for the lord, though he still paid a money sum to him in recognition of his 'holding' from him. Land was measured in hides, ploughlands (*carucates*), yardlands (*virgates*) and acres. All were approximate assessments of area and value, not precise measurements. Ploughlands had generally replaced hides in the eleventh century, and were probably more realistic indications of the amount under cultivation. Both ploughlands and hides contained four yardlands. A yardland could vary greatly in size; the term applied to roughly comparable holdings of arable land within a township and manor, with similar meadow and pasture rights attached. 'Acres' might appear superficially exact, but were based on the number of strips in the common arable fields; four strips made up an acre, and some acres were larger than others.

The interlocking of manor and township meant that the same personal name sometimes appears in more than one context, and it is not certain whether either the person or the land-holding which is described is the same one. For example, Alice de Lyngure was said by Shipton jurors to hold one ploughland in Chadlington township but in Shipton manor, and Walter de Preston to hold seven yardlands similarly located. However, when the jurors of Chadlington gave evidence, they also mentioned Alice, holding one hide, and Walter holding seven yardlands, though there is a different account of Alice's duties. These

two holdings were possibly split between the two manors, without any actual physical division. Another example is the abbot of Bruern's seven yardlands located in Milton, and held from Nicholas de Gardin, surely the same seven yardlands which were referred to in the jurors' account of Milton township.

Lords of the manor

Lords of the manor whose holdings were reckoned as a knight's fee or a part of one, were in a special sense the masters of their lands. They were mostly not resident, as they had lands spread widely in England and Wales - Gilbert de Clare was one of the wealthiest and most powerful barons in England - but they were responsible to the king for the number of knights specified; by this date, in view of the sub-division of fees, the obligation was often discharged with a money sum. These tenures indicate an earlier division of territory for what was a military tax. Such lords did not necessarily hold their land direct from the king; often there was a chain of tenants and sub-tenants, and a payment was gathered by each holder in the chain. The Earl of Gloucester and the Warden of Wychwood Forest were the only tenants-in-chief in this area, holding directly from the king. The order of the entries in the table opposite has been altered from the original Hundred Rolls to show the component holdings within the townships.

Roger d'Oyli of Ascott had held his two knight's fees from Hugh de Plesset, who was the king's tenant-in-chief; but he had passed on the manor to Beogo de Clare, though only for his lifetime. Beogo or Bogo de Clare was the younger brother of Gilbert, Earl of Gloucester. The manor courts would have been held in de Clare's name by his steward. Wood within the Forest of Wychwood belonged to the manor, and was in the core area subject to the king's own detailed supervision or 'Regard'. John de Fifield was at the end of a longer chain of command; there were three on the ladder between him and the king. Lyneham was reckoned as half a knight's fee, but the manor had been divided into two equal parts held by Jordan Forester and John de Myre, and each had different intermediate lords. Brianus de Bampton fulfilled the interesting dury of guarding Wigmore Castle in the Welsh Marches when there was war between the king and North Wales; then he had to supply twenty horses for forty days. There was one man between him and the king. The manor of Langley had been created for the Warden of Wychwood Forest, consisting of land in Langley and Milton. Like the Idbury manor, there was no military obligation here. In addition, four yardlands in Shipton and a mill were held by the Warden from the Earl of Gloucester, but the entry in the Hundred Rolls does not make clear whether this was part of Langley manor or a separate deal made by Thomas de Langley individually.

The Earl of Gloucester's manor of Shipton had a more substantial military obligation. In addition to the three and a half knight's fees for which he was

Table 1 Lords of the manor

Immediate Lord	Township	Knight's fees	Demesne: Hides, ploughlands or yardlands	Demesne: Value £ *s* *d*
Heirs of Roger d'Oyli (Beogo de Clare for his lifetime)	Ascott	2	4 hides	£10
John de Fifide	Fifield	½	1 ploughland	£2
Brianus de Bampton	Idbury	wardship of Wigmore castle	18 ½ y'lands	13*s* 4*d*
Reginald de Wautheran (*Shipton manor*)	Chadlington	½	2 ploughlands	
Alicial de Lyngure (*Shipton manor*)	Chadlington	½	1 ploughland	
Roger de Leye (*Shipton manor*)	Swinbrook	½	1 ploughland	£4
Alanus de Cranell (*Shipton manor*)	Swinbrook	⅓	1 ploughland	£4
Stephen de Walcot (*Shipton manor*)	Walcot and Shorthampton	½	2 ploughlands	£5
Shipton manor Earl of Gloucester (Countess Matilda in dower)	Leafield			
do	Ramsden			
do	Shipton	3½	3 ploughlands	£15
Langley manor Thomas de Langley	Langley	wardship of Wychwood forest	3 ploughlands	£8
do	Milton		4 y'lands	£2
Nicholas de Gardin	Milton	4 hides	1 hide	£2
Bruern abbey	Milton	⅕	10 y'lands	£4
Bruern abbey	Milton		7 y'lands	£2 16*s*
Bruern abbey	Nethercot and Tangley		12 ploughlands	£30
Jordan Forester	Lyneham	¼	2 hides	£5
John de Myre	Lyneham	¼	[2 hides]	£5

directly responsible, he had sub-contracted to four people the obligation to supply a further two knights: Alice de Lyngure paid a money sum to discharge the half knight's fee which she held in Chadlington, matched by Reginald de Wautheran's half a knight's fee there; similarly in Swinbrook, Roger de Leye and Alanus de Cranell each held half the township, one for half a knight's fee, but one for a third part. Wood within the boundaries of Wychwood Forest, but not within the 'Regard', was attached to Shipton manor, and the total value, £54 14*s*, was a very substantial sum.

The lordship of Milton was divided but Bruern Abbey had a dominating position. The name Bruern probably derives from the old French *bruiere*, meaning 'heath'. It would be typical for a Cistercian monastery to be granted a site which was apparently uncultivated, its first task being to clear it; the remains of the heath still exist - albeit as recreation ground - in Milton. Bruern's principal endowment which the Hundred Rolls recorded was given by Nicholas de Bassett (in 1147), and was twelve ploughlands in Nethercot and Tangley, more than 1,000 acres. However, Bruern was not tenant-in-chief of this land, which was held from the Honour of Wallingford belonging to the Earl of Cornwall. Bruern held ten yardlands in Milton of the same 'Honour', reckoned as one fifth of a knight's fee. Bruern also held seven yardlands in Milton in the 'fee' of Nicholas de Gardin. The two blocks of twelve ploughlands and seven yardlands were held in 'frankalmoign' or 'perpetual alms'; this type of grant meant that the whole income of the estate was gathered by the religious institution, without any payments or services due to a lord. The abbey also had nine yardlands in Fifield and three in Walcot and Shorthampton in frankalmoign. Frankalmoign tenure was abolished in 1925.

Most interesting is Bruern's third holding in Milton, forty cottages, which the abbey appears to have owned outright. There is here a possible explanation for Milton's dual characteristics, of a street with many independently-owned cottages, and a number of larger farms in Upper Milton. The forty cottagers must have supplied the labour force for Bruern, as there is no trace of 'village' settlements in Nethercot or Tangley, nor any villagers (villeins) listed in the Hundred Rolls.

Nicholas de Gardin's 'fee' in Milton was reckoned as four hides, held from Fulcon de Lydington; it does not appear as a 'manor', nor to carry any military obligation, and the whole fee was closely associated with Bruern Abbey: Nicholas paid Bruern money in lieu of performing any services for the abbey, and he also paid the abbey the ancient due of 'hidage', so this 'fee', or part of it, had been abstracted from Bruern's lordship or potential lordship, perhaps when it was first endowed, while conversely, Bruern took back, as it were, seven yardlands from Nicholas.

Each manor had some land which could be exploited directly by the lord, the home farm or demesne; the rest of a manor's land was in the hands

of 'tenants', men farming the land but subject to the lord of the manor's superior authority. The amount of Bruern's demesne in Nethercot and Tangley is outstanding; Idbury and Ascot were the next largest, followed by Shipton: the Earl of Gloucester's three ploughlands in Shipton represented about three hundred acres.

The structure of society

The importance of the manorial lord can be exaggerated; although he or she nominally presided over the manor court, and so in some respects had villagers and cottagers directly in his or her control, 'free tenants' or freeholders were largely independent and might in turn have their own subject villagers. What is absent in the Hundred Rolls is any indication of landless labourers in the villages or on the farms. The following figures are for each township, not for each manor. A few entries may have led to some double-counting, but the overall picture is clear.

Table 2 Social structure

	Unfree tenants		Free tenants
Township	**Villagers**	**Cottagers**	
Ascott (*Estcott*)	30	22	13
Chadlington (part)	16		10
Fifield (*Fifide*)	6		26
Idbury (*Iddebir*)	24		6
Langley			16
Leafield			13
Lyneham	37	7	3
Milton		40	8
Ramsden			37
Shipton	36	9	16
Swinbrook			18
Walcot and Shorthampton			14

A very striking characteristic of the Shipton area in 1279 is the number of 'free' tenants or freeholders. Freeholders were by no means a uniform group; some had substantial blocks of land, while others had nothing but a cottage. One of the freeholders in Ascott was the Prior of St Frideswide in Oxford, who held two yardlands in frankalmoign, one yardland in villeinage, and the tithes of the demesne and of ten yardlands. In Fifield, as well as the abbot of Bruern's freeholding, the Hospital of St John de Burford had thirty-six acres in frankalmoign, but nine yardlands for which it paid hidage and had to attend the hundred court. The Hospital cultivated five and a quarter yardlands directly as demesne, but another five and a quarter were in the possession of freeholders of whom four were yardlanders, three were half-yardlanders, and Edde had twelve acres. This appears to be an example of a major reorganisation of land and the freeing of villeins by the lord at some time in the past; in 1086 there had been four slaves and nine villeins recorded in Domesday Book.

In general, free holdings were measured in acres rather than yardlands, and it is notable that Leafield and Ramsden consisted entirely of holdings of a few acres. When the forty cottages in Milton are put side by side with these, together with the freeholders in Langley who all held a 'messuage' or house, with one widow who had a cottage, it does suggest that within the area of Wychwood Forest a number of small-holdings had been created, probably as the result of assarts, which were lands cleared for cultivation in the medieval period.

Surnames began to be created about this period. Many reflected a place of origin or an occupation: Faber (smith) was found in several places, as was Bercar (shepherd), Miller and Reeve; less frequent were Le Palmer, Le Knight, and John the Bachelor; in Milton there was Hugh le Quarrier who held two acres.

Open-field villages

Six places contained classic open field communities: Ascot, Chadlington, Fifield, Idbury, Lyneham and Shipton. In these places, labour services underpinned the stratification of the community: villagers held yardlands or half yardlands, and cottagers or small holders smaller amounts of land measured in acres, each group with carefully defined services exacted in proportion. Generally these arrangements existed in the large manors on old-established estates. But even here, there was no uniformity. (Table 3)

The Hundred Rolls reveal old arrangements which in practice were often no longer in operation.[5] The obligations of villagers and cottagers to work on the lord's demesne in return for a holding were assigned money values, and, if the lord chose, the villager could pay what was in effect a money rent instead of performing services. The Tewkesbury abbey chronicle recorded that Richard

Table 3 Open field village structure

	One yardland	Half a yardland	Cottages
Ascot	14	16	22
Chadlington	16		
Fifield	4	2	8
Idbury	24		
Lyneham	32	6	10

de Clare, the sixth Earl of Gloucester, had a survey made in 1251 of the lands in villeinage on his estates with the explicit intention of maximising the services and the money values which he collected in lieu.[6]

The complexity and exactness of services is remarkable; land tenure became much simpler as money was substituted for labour. Their nature can be illustrated by the first Shipton entry in the Hundred Rolls describing Roger Reeve's standard village holding of one yardland. His name is significant; the reeve still had an important role in open-field villages and as late as 1545 the reeve of Shipton was required to 'attest' to the extent of the manor's demesnes when they were surveyed for Lord Seymour of Sudeley. The farming year was punctuated by church festivals. From Michaelmas (29 September) to Lammas (1 August) Roger Reeve was bound to perform eighty-six works, which were general tasks of cultivation like weeding and sowing, valued at 3*s* 6*d*. He also owed three ploughings worth 6*d* and six harrowings worth 3*d*. He threshed oats against the arrival of the Earl, ½*d*, and paid one hen at Christmas known as 'Wodehen', 1*d*, and eggs at Easter, ¼*d*. The 'woodhen' was a payment in return for the right to gather dead wood, and in Shipton-under-Wychwood this may have meant wood anywhere in the manor, rather than in the remaining Wychwood Forest, since the manor was at one time 'under' or within the Forest.[7] Also of interest in relation to Shipton's name, the yardland holding owed two days washing and shearing sheep, 1*d*. Mowing for three days with one man 4*d*, hay-making for three days 3½*d*, and carting the hay for as long as was required, 6*d*, made up the major works for the year.

In the shorter period between Lammas and Michaelmas the yardlander owed eighteen works, 2*s* 3*d* with four days' work with two men when asked (boon days) without any food allowance, 16¼*d*, and another two boon days with two men and food, 4*d*. It is interesting that the villager could supply two men when working for the lord; whether family, labourers or servants were employed, he was not a poor man. The descent of the term *villein*, translated here as villager, to 'villain', and the fact that the villager was bound to work for

his lord, has distorted perceptions of his status. Other services owed in these two months: three half days carting, 1*s* 6*d*, and, if required, the provision of oxen or cart horses (*affrus*) on ten occasions to be used only within the county, 10*d*, also point to a farmer with resources. Finally he collected nuts for one day, ½*d*. One mark of his servile status, however, was the requirement on him and his 'partners', that is the other yardlanders, to pay tax (tallage) to the lord, which raised 53*s* 4*d*. The sum of all his works came to 10*s* 11¾*d*. Another twenty-nine yardlands existed with similar services attached to them. Two cases were noted of two men sharing a yardland, and two cases of one man holding two yardlands. Altogether there were thirty yardlands, a nice round number. Another six yardlands were held by fewer services though of the same kind, and yielded the lord a correspondingly smaller sum of money.

Eight holdings measured in acres were modest small-holdings, varying from three acres up to eighteen acres, and again services were specified and valued, though many fewer than for yardlanders. This set of names is not headed 'cottagers', but the holdings are of the same order of size as 'cottagers' in other places. One 'messuage' or house had no land.

The heading 'Free Tenants' was last. Twelve free tenants held nearly the same amount of land as the villagers, thirty-three and a half yardlands and some acres; both Richard de Molton and Thomas Toky's land was reckoned as one hide. Thomas de Toky also owed his second best pig, presumably when he died. Thomas de Langley's six yardlands and mill were itemised first, although in dealing with Langley manor, Thomas de Langley was stated to have four yardlands and a mill in Shipton, which illustrates the difficulty of interpreting the Hundred Rolls. Nicholas de Gardin had eight yardlands, in addition to his four hides in Milton. Richard Faber held twelve acres in exchange for making the ironwork for three ploughs (the Earl of Gloucester had three ploughlands in demesne), and another twelve acres without this obligation.

The services owed by yardlanders and half yardlanders in the other five places were very similar to those in Shipton. The smith in Lyneham had to make ironwork for the lord's ploughs in return for a certain amount of land, and washing and shearing sheep was listed in Ascott and Idbury. But mostly it was the catch-all 'works', and ploughing, harrowing, making hay and carting which made up the villagers' services. Indeed, this was true throughout the open-field villages of England.

By the time the Lord Seymour commissioned a survey of Shipton manor and lordship in 1547, there were no labour services, but there were still many people, the successors to the villages of the past, who held their land through the mechanisms of the manor court, and who paid a sum of money to the lord for 'services'. This land became known as 'customary' because it was held and transmitted by the custom of the manor, or 'copyhold' because the holder had a copy of the entry in the manor court roll specifying his title, and paid the lord

a 'fine' on being admitted to the holding. Between 1547 and 1610 there was a reorganisation of Shipton manor, and although titles were still principally described in yardlands, there appears to have been some enfranchisement of manorial tenants to make them freeholders, a status which they would have bought from the lord, while others became rent payers in the modern sense.

Notes

[1] *Rotuli Hundredorum* II (Record Commissison, 1818); Oxfordshire and Huntingdonshire are the most comprehensive. Copies of the relevant sections of the Rolls were obtained by the Wychwoods Local History Society.

[2] In a variety of sources, see T. John, *The Warwickshire Hundred Rolls of 1279-80* (The British Academy, 1992), p.4.

[3] *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

[4] T. John, *op.cit.*

[5] R. H. Hilton, *A Medieval Society* (Cambridge, 1983), pp.124-48.

[6] R. H. Hilton, *op.cit.*, p.132.

[7] G. C. Homans, *English Villagers of the Thirteenth Century* (1960), p.238; Homans used Spelsbury as one of his examples of how the manor operated.

Great Scotts!

Trudy Yates

Envoi

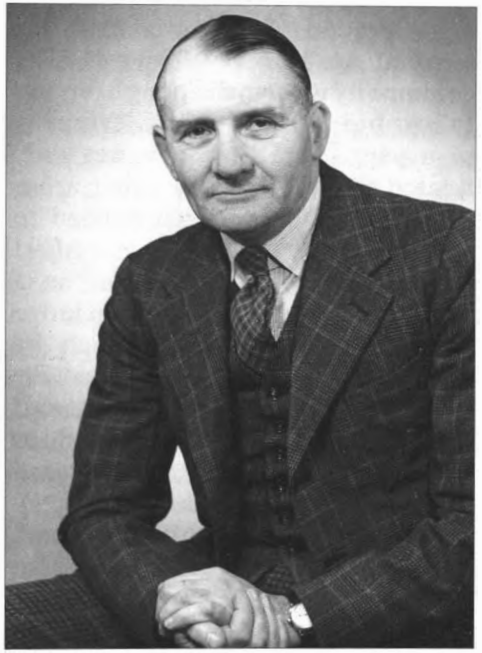
I may not know again the stir of Spring
Or see the breaking buds or Summers sweet
Or smell the May or feel the morning sun
Or watch the ripening fruit or tawnying leaves
Of Autumn's mist and gale. Once Winter winds
Braced me and drove me in those lusty days
Of happy memories, which like them will pass
As will the snow which times will blanket me.
I see my path ahead turn sharply down
Toward the shadows and the evening mist
Which rises from the little river all will ford
Whose water I now hear as when a boy
The summer Allen rippled o'er its stones
Oft called me who am called to deeper joy.
My work is finished and it's end is hid
In unborn days, but leave it soon I must:
Yet hope the advancing years relentless tread
Shall not awhile erase what mark may show
Where striving once I stood.

Pass on all must, that other ears may hear
The marching of the years, that other eyes
May see the changes. What unflawed we leave
May mark that future, we awhile endure
To touch the minds and hopes of th'other men
Who then shall fill our place, whom in their turn
The years shall leave behind.

Gordon Scott

Dr Gordon Scott

When researchers investigate the history of a town or village, they often discover a defining moment, a twist of fate that sets a new pattern of existence for the inhabitants. One such event occurred for the Wychwoods in 1937. A new doctor came to stay and nothing was ever quite the same again.

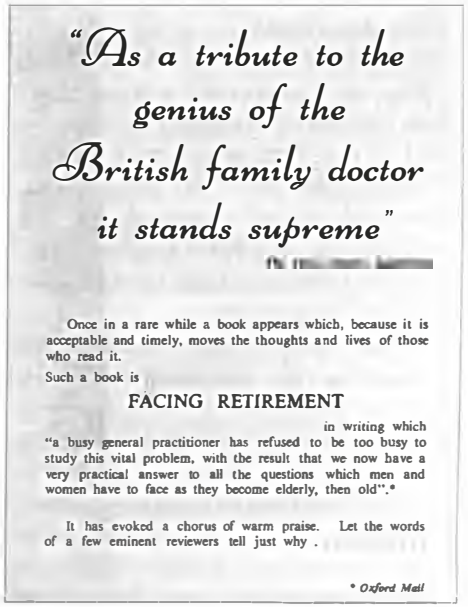


Gordon Scott, doctor in the Wychwoods from 1937 to 1972. He wrote Envoi toward the end of his life. It speaks movingly of his reluctance to lay aside his work and his hope that he will not be forgotten in 'the marching of the years.' The poem was included in the order of service at his funeral in 1986. (The Allen was the small river near his home in South Shields)

Dr Roe had served the community for a number of years prior to 1936. For a time he lived in what is now Coldstream House across the High Street from Mawles Lane in Shipton. His surgery was in a building to the rear of the house. Later he moved to the home on Church Path where Sandy and Wimpy Scott now live. After Dr Roe's death, a broker took on the practice. However, very soon a permanent physician was sought. Dr Gordon Scott responded to the advertisement. Travelling down from London to view the Wychwoods delighted both Dr Scott and his wife, Betty. He immediately set in train the purchase of the practice and the couple with their three-year-old daughter Janet, moved to Nara (the name given to the house by former owners) in July of 1937. A second daughter, Pauline, was born there soon afterwards on 26 October.

Gordon Scott was born in South Shields in December 1905. He met his future wife, Betty Fullerton, born in January 1913, who was training as a nurse, when they were both working at Harrow Hospital. They married in August 1933. At the time of Janet's birth in August 1934, Gordon was prison doctor at Wormwood Scrubs. He had also worked in a similar capacity at Dartmoor, following which he had several other appointments before taking on a general medical practice near Elephant and Castle and then the Wychwoods. At last he had found a place where the Scotts could settle, serve and raise a family. A third daughter, Clare, was born in August 1940 and young Gordon, always known as Sandy arrived in March 1944.

Gordon Scott was in his element in the Wychwoods. The community was small enough for him to become acquainted with everyone in a very short time. He not only treated the sick but saw other areas in the community which needed to be addressed. In the twenty-first century he would be known as a 'facilitator'. He was an excellent judge of character and ability which he used to great advantage. He was very interested in the elderly. He started the Evergreens Clubs (organisations that still exist) for older villagers and he was instrumental in getting the bungalows in the St Michael's and Ballard's Close built for them. He also wrote a book called *Facing Retirement* which he hoped would be helpful to those used to a life of hard work and regular hours. He was equally intent on improving the lot of the very young. He and Nurse Rowan ran a mother and baby clinic in Milton where babies were weighed and examined and where medicines were dispensed. Cups of tea were also provided so that the busy mums could socialize and compare notes. Christmas parties were the highlights of the year with little gifts for everyone. Knowing the value of exercise, the doctor started the Tennis Club and took a great deal of interest in the state of the recreation ground. He was also instrumental in bringing the cinema to the villages at the site of an old till yard in Upper High Street, Shipton. He also had great plans for a Social Centre in Shipton based at the St Michael's home but this never came to fruition.


"As a tribute to the genius of the British family doctor it stands supreme"

Once in a rare while a book appears which, because it is acceptable and timely, moves the thoughts and lives of those who read it.

Such a book is

FACING RETIREMENT

in writing which "a busy general practitioner has refused to be too busy to study this vital problem, with the result that we now have a very practical answer to all the questions which men and women have to face as they become elderly, then old".*

It has evoked a chorus of warm praise. Let the words of a few eminent reviewers tell just why .

* *Oxford Mail*

The flyer for the book *Facing Retirement*

World War Two began two years after the Scotts' arrival. Gordon threw himself into fund raising for the troops and, after evacuees from London came to our villages and troops were billeted here, he saw to it that a rota of women took turns providing meals every day in the Red Triangle Hut for the soldiers and the displaced Londoners. This service was gratefully received and over subscribed every day save one; Dr Scott's bright idea of a Rook Pie Day met with serious resistance despite Betty Scott's tender pie crust. Rook Pie was never served again. The Red Triangle Hut was used for social events as well and was often the venue for whist drives, one of the doctor's favourite fundraisers. Villagers flocked to attend. They enjoyed the sociability and they knew that a fine prize awaited the winner of the game. A chicken or a homemade apple tart was well worth having in those days of austerity. More often than not, Dr Scott had obtained the prizes.

The doctor could not, of course, run all of these projects himself but he was wise enough to choose the locals who could, and would do so, flattered as they were that Dr Scott thought them capable. He served terms in both the District and County Councils and also urged certain capable villagers to become active politically. He prevailed upon Betty Haynes and Dulcie Arundel to stand for seats on the Parish Council and they were elected. The cosy gentleman's club that had existed for so long and so comfortably, accomplishing very little, was quite astonished by the ladies, their determination and their audacious ideas. From the need for heating in the village hall to the clearing of manure from the recreation ground, the ladies fought their corner and rather turned the parish council upside down. Again, Gordon Scott didn't do this himself, but he knew perfectly well who could. How he must have chuckled as his ladies gained in confidence and tackled bigger and better projects. The sleepy Wychwoods were waking up to the twentieth century.

Although he never entertained the thought of leaving the Wychwoods, he was less tied to a single site for his surgery. In the late 1930s, patients were seen in a purpose-built surgery at the side of the Scott's home. It was composed of a waiting room, consulting room and dispensary. 'It was already in situ when we arrived in Shipton,' Janet Wallace, *née* Scott, explained. 'I expect Dr Roe had it built. It was such an eyesore with its corrugated tin roof that no picture of it exists. Surgeries were also held in Leafield, Burford and Milton in the front rooms of private cottages. In the early 1950s, a small purpose built surgery was opened in the Sands in Milton. Ascott also had a surgery in a cottage.' He himself worked on original research, writing a thesis to obtain a MD, a rare achievement by a doctor in general practice.

'About 1967, 62 High Street in Milton was purchased and adapted to become the new surgery. The Sands site was closed and became a domestic property. Surgeries in Ascott and Shipton were closed and the practice premises centred entirely in the new Milton Surgery where three extensions were required over the next thirty-five years.

Dr Scott confided to Dulcie Arundel that at one time he had considered standing for parliament (he was an avid Labour supporter) but, when he settled in Shipton, that idea receded to a dim memory. Perhaps he knew that he was accomplishing far more, albeit on a smaller scale, here in the Wychwoods than he could have done in several terms as an MP. And what else did he do? He provided his country with three capable nurses (his daughters) and a doctor to take his place in the Wychwoods (his son). Janet and Sandy trained at Middlesex Hospital, Pauline at Cheltenham and Clare at Addenbrooke's, Cambridge.

However was this accomplished? We can only guess as our own children and grandchildren single-mindedly ignore our mildest suggestions concerning their future education and careers. Except for a brief flirtation with the idea of tie making from young Sandy, the four Scott children neatly slotted into the careers preordained for them. This, perhaps, was Gordon Scott's greatest achievement.

Mary Walton, who had served as secretary and dispenser in the surgery for many years, died suddenly in 1972 and Dr Scott retired soon after, turning the practice over to his son. He died in 1986 having served the Wychwoods in so many ways for thirty-five years.

Sandy Scott's tenure began in 1971 and he retired in 2006 though is still to be seen as a locum. Between them, the doctors Scott provided seventy years of unbroken medical care to several generations of local patients. An interesting postscript to this first chapter of our story is that a fund was established to honour Mary Walton's memory. The Night Watching Scheme was run by Janet Wallace, who oversaw the participating villagers. They provided friendly, capable night care for at-risk patients in our villages. When this service became obsolete, funds were transferred to the Hospital Transport Scheme. This was set up by Sandy Scott and it required more financial support than its predecessor. To raise further funds, Sandy undertook a Land's End to John O'Groats non-stop round trip of 1862 miles which villagers sponsored. Patients are still able to call upon this service when they lack their own personal transport for clinic appointments.

Janet Wallace provided a splendid thumbnail sketch of her siblings. Pauline, after her training at Cheltenham, did her midwifery in Dublin, where she met Barry Brewster, who was doing obstetrics. They married and Barry went into general medical practice in Settle, North Yorkshire. They have three children, Sammy, John and Katie. Clare, having trained at Addenbrooke's in Cambridge, did her midwifery and married Peter Mathias-Williams, whom she met when filling in for Janet who was at the time a relief sister at the sanatorium at Cokethorpe

Dr Gordon and Betty Scott in 1984

School. Peter was a schoolmaster there and he eventually moved to Rydel School in Colwyn Bay. They have four children, Sarah, who is a dietician, David, Rebecca and Rachel, the eldest, who is a social worker.

Sandy went to St John's College, Cambridge and then to Middlesex Hospital in London where Gordon had trained. While doing his obstetrics training in Cheltenham, he met Vivien (Wimpy) Fawcett, who was a nurse. They married and had two children, Ruari and Jeanie. Incidentally, both Pauline and Clare worked in operating theatres after they trained and also became practice nurses as Janet did. Wimpy Scott has two sisters, both of whom are nurses, one married to a doctor. Janet's daughter is a nurse as is one of Pauline's daughters. Her other two children are both osteopaths, as is Sandy's son Ruari. If Gordon Scott but knew how well the medical dynasty he founded has prospered since his death; I like to think he does.

Dr Sandy Scott

Sandy Scott was (is!) no less the colourful character than his father. If the village needed someone to wing walk on a plane at a fete to raise money or someone to help clean up the debris left by climbers on Mount Everest or to build up a fund to provide a hospital on the mountain, one knew whom to call. He was always a fiery defender of local amenities. Those who witnessed his address at a public meeting to try to save Langston House from closure were delighted to hear the sort of impassioned appeal they themselves would like to have made, had they been imbued with the ability to do so.

The Milton surgery building served well for many years but Scott the younger moved with the times. He considered several locations before he settled on the Meadow Lane site in Shipton and the Wychwood Surgery moved to the new building as Sandy himself retired from day to day practice management. Here, the building could be built large enough to serve the community indefinitely and the parking was equally as spacious. He knew as well as the naysayers that the location was on a flood plain. He built up the foundations of the surgery and, when the whole region was inundated by flooding in 2007, the rising waters stopped short of the surgery by critical inches. Patients praise the new location and wonder now how they ever negotiated the crowded Milton High Street.

Sandy, Wimpy and their children Ruari and Jeanie were always enthusiastic villagers. When the children went off to school, Wimpy started a serendipitous foray into the world of retail. She began modestly, producing smocked dresses for little girls in partnership with Sue Jourdan. Later, there was a pharmacy cum notions shop in Brakespeare House in Milton, followed by a children's emporium in Burford that catered both to wealthy tourists and besotted English grandmas. It was a delight! Then she ventured further afield, setting up a children's and ladies' shop in Cheltenham where she remained for ten years.

It was in 1988 that Dr Scott found his raison d'être of extra-curricular activities. He made his first trip to Nepal and experienced the magic of Everest. He had become interested when he heard a programme about the sixty years of accumulated rubbish at the bases of all the large mountains. Sandy arranged his holiday time and was off! From then on, he made the journey twice yearly. As he became acquainted with local people, he saw the need for a hospital in the area, not only for climbers who got into trouble, but also for the Sherpas and their families. More fundraising. To this end he urged friends to visit Nepal. Many did so and returned to the Wychwoods with the enthusiasm needed to raise the funds for a hospital. The ways and means were many and varied. Some older patients even remembered the doctor's pet project in their wills and through retiring collections at their funerals. The hospital at Pheriche was built and is serving the surrounding Nepalese community and climbers alike.

I must tell Society members and Sandy Scott himself, this small vignette of our 2009 Christmas in Normandy, Surrey. At our daughter and son-in-law's home, my Christmas dinner partner was a charming young Nepalese man. He was studying for an MBA at the University of Surrey and was spending the holiday alone because his wife was in the United States where she wished their baby girl to be born. Roshendra was fascinated by our celebration and appreciative of the little gifts he received, one being a lovely soft toy for his new daughter.

I could not refrain from telling him that we lived in a village in Oxfordshire where there was great interest in his country. I told him about Sandy Scott and how his enthusiasm for Nepal had inspired villagers to participate in his dream for the Everest community. When I mentioned the hospital, Roshendra's face lit up with pleasure. 'Ah yes,' he said, 'I know. He is the English philanthropist!' The young man lives in Kathmandu, has no Sherpa relatives and thus, no real connection with Mount Everest. Still, he knew about the hospital and was in awe of the doctor who had come halfway around the world to improve the lives of the Nepalese people. Perhaps that is enough to tell about Dr Sandy Scott – Gordon Jr.

Janet Wallace (née Scott)

'I was born on 6 August 1934 at Ducane Road, Hammersmith, the first child of Gordon Scott who was born in 1905 and Betty Noreen Scott *née* Fullerton born in 1913.'

This is the first sentence in the memoir Janet Wallace has produced for her children. She is reluctant to talk about herself and, without this wonderfully written piece, we would have the merest sketch of a very interesting life, a woman warmly dedicated to her family and to her community. She remembers little of life in London before the Scotts moved to the Wychwoods except for a stay in hospital when she had a small operation for a cyst on her chin. She

disliked the nasty black stitches and picked at them before they were ready to come out. She was very briskly told off for such a perfectly natural action. That, plus a patient in the next bed being encased in plaster of paris from the waist down and the sickly green paint on the walls completed a perfectly dreadful (and memorable) experience for a two-and-a-half-year-old.

Janet's education began at Cotters Bow School in Fulbrook where Mrs Thompson was the head teacher. Janet liked French taught by Mademoiselle and the liquorice comfits given if the student could repeat the correct colour or number in French. Miss Tarrant was remembered for keeping Janet indoors at play time on one occasion as she had used her finger and a bit of spit to rub out an error in her maths book. Never allowed! She loved reading and the books were in a series so 'the better you got, the quicker you moved up to the more interesting stories like *The Gingerbread Man*, *Chicken Lickin'* and *The Giant Turnip*'.

Clare, Sandy, Pauline and Janet Scott *c* 1945

There is gentle nostalgia in Janet's description of life at home. She lingered over memories of the lovely garden in which she and Pauline spent many happy hours. There was a large sand pit where castles and rabbit burrows were constructed, a swing and, later, each girl had her own little garden. Inside, one of the bedrooms became a nursery where all the toys were kept. 'In those days,' she explained, 'no toys were kept in our bedrooms, so if we were naughty, the usual punishment was to be sent to your bedroom, not very nice and extremely boring.' The dolls, dolls' clothes, cookery things, toyshops, books etc. were so near, and yet, so far.

Clare was born in 1940 but Janet doesn't remember the actual event, just the wonderful story time with her mother between tea and bedtime soon after. Baby Clare would be on her mother's knee while Pauline and Janet listened as they stood behind the cane-type lined armchair and 'did mother's hair. It was all so warm and cosy'. She fails to add that Betty Scott must have approached sainthood with six and four-year-old hairstylists, a book in her hands and a baby on her knee!

Janet remembers trips to the war nursery at Bruern with her father when he went to attend to the health of the very young children evacuated from London. The excitement of Christmas began when Janet helped to prepare the dried fruit and, eventually, with the mixing of the cakes and puddings. Mother and children attended the pantomime in Oxford every holiday season which they all loved. 'It was so magically colourful and a great treat,' Janet recalled.

In summer the children would watch the students walking down Church Path to school. They also frequented the wall of the orchard bordering the High Street to watch people going to the shops - Hathaway's and Franklin's. 'Sometimes we gave apples to people passing by,' Janet continued. 'There were games, puzzles, painting sessions, reading, long walks and a special favourite, a dolls' tea party.' There were tiny jars of jam, fish paste and Marmite. There was a dolls' house and a little cine projector. Dr Scott would send away for one or two films at a time and, after the children had watched them on several occasions, he exchanged them for others. Favourites were Betty Boop, Popeye, Olive Oil and many others. Janet's first real film viewed in Chipping Norton Theatre was *Bambi*.

This was a wonderful, secure, loving upbringing, privileged in so many ways. And then, let us continue the story in Janet's voice; 'Suddenly, in January 1943, at the age of eight-and-a-half, my life changed as I was sent away to boarding school in Harrogate, Yorkshire. I now realise how difficult and expensive this must have been for my parents and I know the reason was to give me a better education but it was quite the most traumatic time. The trunk was packed with a vast number of clothes and other accoutrements and I set off with my mother on the long journey via London, leaving my sister Pauline and younger sister Clare, now two-and-a-half, with a nanny and Father.' Betty and Janet stayed the night with Auntie Eileen in London and travelled on up to Yorkshire the next day. 'Suffice to say that after my wonderful mother went home, I have never been so sad and homesick in my life and I had to endure Oakdale School for thirteen weeks before returning home for a short spring holiday at the end of March. A lot of the misery is blotted out and the second term was better.'

Although there was no bombing in the area, there were frequent air raids, usually at night and the students were awakened by a bell and told to assemble in the front hall to lie on mats placed on the cold stone floors. There they tried to sleep until the 'all clear'. Eventually, Janet's sisters joined her at Oakdale which changed things greatly. In her memoir, Janet explained that there were two reasons her parents chose this distant school for their daughters. First, Gordon Scott's sister had gone there and second, the previous heads of Oakdale School and Harrogate College retired to live at The Grange in Ascott. Janet went on to attend Harrogate College and, when she left in 1951, she was awarded a red belt for good deportment and a diction badge for speaking nicely!

The 'finished' Miss Janet Scott had a short break after leaving school and then worked for a year at the War Memorial Hospital in Chipping Norton. The hospital took on young women who were going into a nursing career to help on the wards. Six months on maternity and six months on the general wards prepared the girls for the training to come. Before entering Middlesex Hospital in London for training, Janet took a six-month secretarial course at Marlborough College in Oxford. Her nurses training began at last on 6 May 1953 with forty-three other entrants. While learning the rudiments of anatomy, physiology, public health and basic nursing, there was the excitement of Elizabeth II's coronation on 2 June.

At the end of three months in the Preliminary Training School, the young women joined the Middlesex nursing staff. Janet clearly recalled that her first ward was Men's Medical and that it was 'absolutely terrifying, especially the night duty'. After three years, the girls passed their SRN exams and were expected to stay on for a further year. This Janet spent in the operating theatre as a staff nurse. It was during this time that she met her future husband, Keith Wallace.

Next Janet went to the Nuffield Maternity Home (at the rear of the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford) where she completed six month's training in midwifery. She continued by saying, 'Father wanted me to get on and do something when I had finished this.' She answered an advert from someone wanting a nurse to look after a man who had cancer and to accompany him on a holiday to the south of France. She applied for and got the job with the Pearsons in Holland Road in London. Janet's employer was very ill but they did go to the south of France where they visited the Riviera, Nice, Cannes, Monaco and many of the lovely little villages inland. After returning to London, Janet remained in Mr Pearson's employ for several more weeks but was anxious to move to Suffolk to be near Keith.

She got a job in a home for the elderly about eight miles from Ipswich. Janet loved the eight old ladies she cared for but didn't get on with the owners. She was soon employed by the Ipswich and East Suffolk hospital as a theatre staff nurse. In October 1959, she and Keith were married. Keith's parents, William and Molly Wallace, lived at the 140 acre Place Farm, Chattisham. Keith worked for his father and Janet remained at the hospital until Dawn was born on 26 June 1961. Three months in the freezing cold wilds of Suffolk in the winter of 1963 was a trying time. Luckily, Gordon Scott had inherited some money when his mother died and he used this to buy the Vicarage in Milton under Wychwood. The house was in poor condition and had been vandalised but Keith began the renovation of a few rooms which were to become the Wallace's flat. At his father-in-law's suggestion, Keith got a job as an agricultural engineer with A. W. Fitt of Little Tew.

Taken in the Scott's garden with the spire of St Mary's Church in the background. *seated*: Pauline and Janet, *standing*: Sandy, Betty Scott, Gordon Scott and Clare *c*1960

The young couple began to get the garden in order, hoping to make some money selling vegetables. Beginner's bad luck plagued them but Keith had some success with all-year-round lettuces, which he sold locally. Stuart was born in July 1964 and, since money was still extremely short, Janet took on the job of Relief Sister for the sanatorium at Cokethorpe School, taking Stuart with her in his carry cot. This was followed by a year of full-time work at the school which was difficult because, should a boy become injured at rugby, Janet was required to take him into Witney or even to casualty at the Radcliffe Infirmary. Janet's next job was classroom assistant in Miss Lily Edginton's reception class at Milton School, again with Stuart in tow. Another pregnancy meant giving up classroom work and becoming school secretary.

'Father had new ideas for the Vicarage,' Janet wrote, and most generously had a Woolaways bungalow built in what had been the kitchen garden. It was a factory-built home and ready for use in eight to ten weeks. After a bad bout of chicken pox which affected the whole family (Janet contracted pneumonia and had to be hospitalised) the Wallaces moved into their new home in September of 1968. Andrew was born in November and Janet spent the next several years at home looking after the family, by which time she had taken the job as part-time secretary at Milton Primary School. This was followed by part-time work at the Burford surgery as district nurse supposedly for three months for Drs Eager and Sharpley. But as Janet put it, 'This started off as two hours a day three times a week until another nurse was appointed. However, by the time I left the practice two years later, I was working five days a week from 9 a.m. until 2-3 p.m. All this time my wonderful mother looked after my children, keeping them fed and occupied. What a debt I owe to both of my parents.'

After the death of Mary Walton, Janet joined her father and brother at the Wychwood Practice as typist/nurse. From March 1972 to March 1997, she served as Practice Nurse, witnessing many changes of staff, enlargement of the building and refinement in methods of diagnosis and treatment. 'During this time, the children were growing up and going through their schools in Milton and Burford,' Janet wrote. Her marriage ended in 1985. Her last paying job was as a conservation cleaner at Chastleton House before final retirement in December 1999.

Janet Wallace with her 'grands'. *left to right*: Luke Greehalgh, Emma Greenhalgh, George Wallace, Matthew Wallace

And so began ten years of volunteering: church work, driving patients to hospital appointments, visiting housebound villagers, interviewing older Milton residents for the Society's oral history program, writing articles for the Journal, heading the refreshment committee for history society meetings. Helping out with children and grandchildren has been a special priority as was caring for her mother until her death in 2000. All of these activities are carried out so quietly and seemingly with so little effort, that it is sometimes difficult to remember who was responsible for doing them. All we notice as we hurry along our busy way is that an important job has been done, and done well, as if by magic. The Scott work and service ethic lives on in Betty and Gordon Scott's eldest daughter. When Janet retired from the surgery in 1997, she added twenty-five years to the Scotts' local service record. That, plus Gordon and Sandy's seventy years combined total, and we have an amazing contribution of ninety-five years from the three of them. Since Sandy and Janet have continued to serve, Sandy as locum and Janet as a volunteer, a century of care and concern has already been achieved, let us just say, 100 years and counting. Great Scott!

The Shaven Crown, Shipton-under-Wychwood

David Clark

Figure 1. The Shaven Crown, Shipton-under-Wychwood (2009)

THE Oxfordshire Buildings Record carried out a detailed recording of the Shaven Crown in the spring of 2009. The objectives of the survey were to gain an overall understanding of the development of the building, if possible with dates and phases of the main elements. We made a general visual inspection of the exterior and such internal spaces as were accessible. Photographs were taken of significant features. The ground plan was measured and drawn, surveys were made of the hall roof, door and window openings, the carriageway, screen, and the ceiling timbers of the front rooms of the north and south wings. The roof structures of the north and south wings were visually examined through available access points.

The basic structure is of a central range parallel to the street and a cross-wing at either end. Each wing extends further to the rear to form an H-plan, with the rear courtyard enclosed by further structures to the west. For the ground plan see Figure 2 below. The key feature is the distinctly different orientations of the two wings and the awkward join between the hall and the north wing. The building material is limestone rubble, roughly coursed, with long dressed quoins to the front. In places there are bands of dressed stone within the rubble. There is also a plinth, not continuous, and not always at the same height. The roofs are slated with Cotswold stone, laid in diminishing courses.

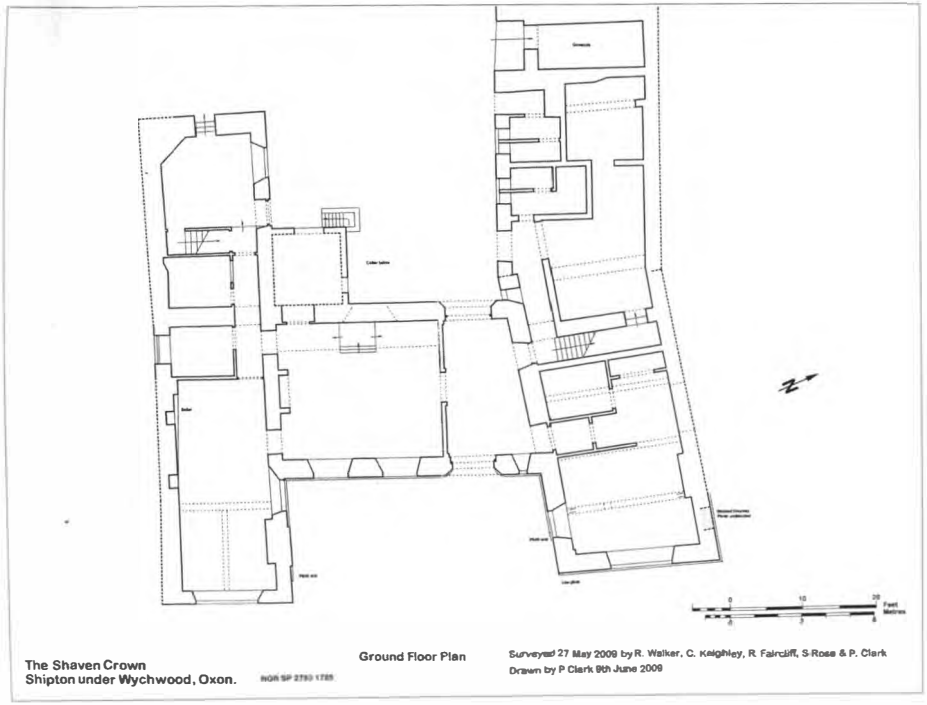


Figure 2. The Shaven Crown ground plan

As a popular landmark, the Crown (its historic name) has over the years been drawn and photographed a number of times and has also attracted speculation as to its origins. The historic illustrations are very helpful in identifying recent alterations, but also show that care is needed before conclusions are drawn. For example most of the windows at the front are from the 1930s as they are not present in Henry Taunt's photograph of 1906 (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Photograph of the Crown, Henry Taunt, 1906[1]

Other key features in the photograph are the octagonal chimneystack with small corbels in the shape of heads at the centre of the north wing gable, probably late fourteenth century and the ridge stack near the middle of the central range, removed in the 1930s. A drawing by Buckler in 1826 shows the octagonal stack in a different position (Figure 4).

Figure 4. The Crown illustrated by J. C. Buckler, 1826

The main entrance has a four-centred Tudor arch with quatrefoils and mouchettes in the spandrels. A very similar arrangement dating from 1486–7 was recorded in Hampshire.[2] The label moulding has been cut back to accept the window shutter visible in 1906. A pitched stone carriageway passes through the building to the rear, where there is a similar archway, with two (non-original) pintles at the exterior of the northern jamb, indicating the presence of a door there which opened outwards into the courtyard. In the soffits of the arch are two daisy-wheel diagrams incised into the stonework.

The roof of the carriageway is spanned by a number of large-section joists, all but the three at the west end having been extended with either simple splayed scarf joints or the more complex stop-splay with undersquinted abutments. The latter joint is known from the thirteenth century, but more recent examples have been recorded.

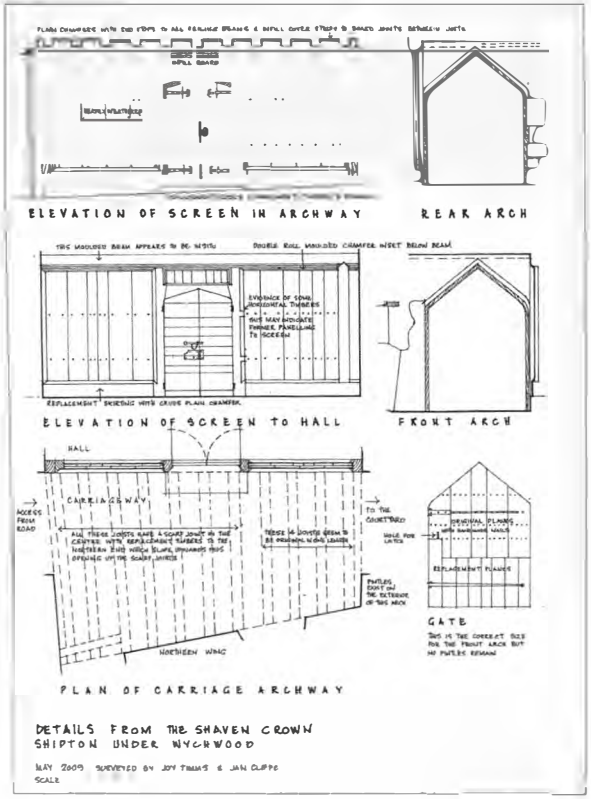


Figure 5. Screen, carriageway and door (J. Cliffe)

A further small daisy-wheel diagram can be seen on the internal face of the central mullion of the lancet pair near the front doorway.

To the left of the carriageway is a (restored) plank screen with a central doorway to the main reception room. The girding beam above the doorway has a double roll moulding; the door jambs extend upwards and are pegged in to it with masons' mitres. The beam appears to be *in situ* but the skirting has been replaced and there seem to be a number of other alterations and repairs. The right-hand door jamb seems to have been made for panelling, as there are two stubs of horizontal rails. One would expect a medieval screen to be of the simple 'plank and muntin' type, with no horizontal members. This may mean that the timber has been re-used, or replaced when this type of panelling

was popular – perhaps in the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries. Another anomaly is the post near the right hand corner, which is set into the moulding of the beam.

The main reception room is a perfect rectangle, 21½ft (6.62m) by 18½ft (5.69m) with a height to the ridge of 8m. Opposite the screen there are two further doorways in the stone south gable wall, either side of a stone reproduction fourteenth-century fireplace, presumably built in the 1930s.

In the south-west corner is a further four-centred arched timber doorframe with an early door, opening outwards (i.e. with external door furniture) into a toilet in a modern extension. The frame appears to fit the stone wall surrounding it, and it is possible that it has been reversed. There is, however, no sign of weathering indicating external use. The construction is of two semi-durns (jambs which continue upwards to form the arched doorhead) with the central part of the moulding as part of the lintel. It is possible that this doorway led to an external stair turret. A scar in the stonework to the right of the doorway may indicate the position of housing for a supporting beam.

The roof structure over the reception room is remarkable for its profligate use of timber. The southern truss sits within the stonework of the gable – thereby also adding stability to the rubble wall – while the northern gable is

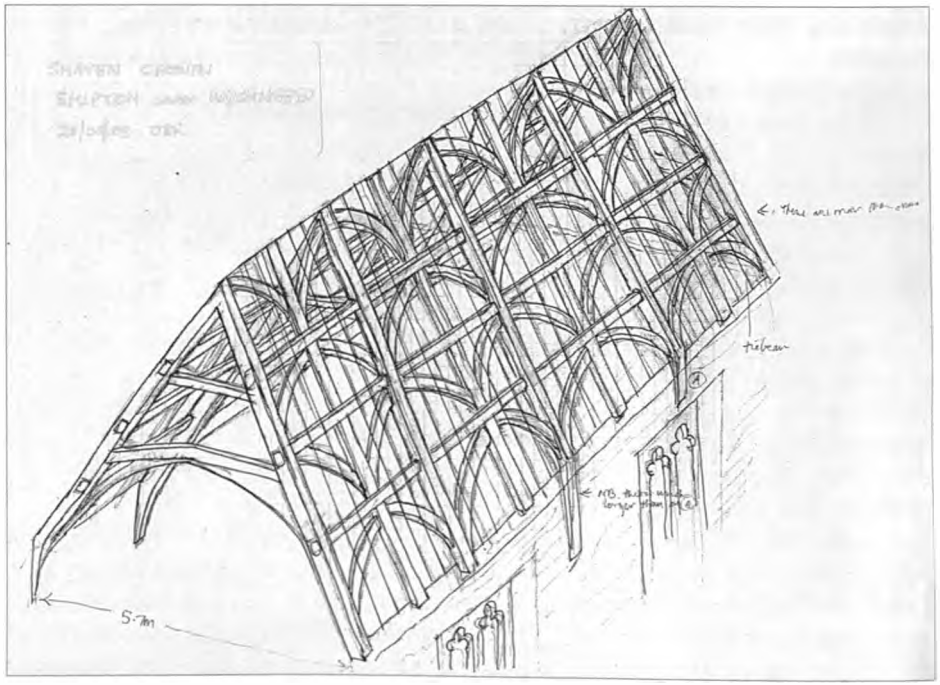


Figure 6. Hall roof structure (J. Steane)

entirely timber-framed with some form of plaster infill. The principal rafters of the central truss are arch-braced to a lower collar, and there are further trusses in each of the bays. There is a ridge, and three tiers of purlins to give lateral stability. Windbraces with concave chamfers are alternately upwards and downwards from the principals to each purlin in each bay. There are four common rafters per bay and inserted replacement rafters in the west side of the two northern bays. There are a number of replacement timbers and pegs, some of which retain their points,[3] but there is no consistent direction for these pegs. The common rafters have sharp arrises.

The North Wing projects forward some way towards the street, but its west gable is also a short distance beyond the rear wall of the central range. Its eaves are slightly higher than those of the central range, and it also stands at a distinct angle to it – see ground plan at Figure 3. The basic construction is similar to the central range – limestone rubble with dressed quoins. The windows are all replacements post 1900. Externally, the earliest feature is the octagonal fourteenth or fifteenth-century chimney-stack, discussed above.

The junction between the north wing and the rear archway deserves comment. The label mould of the north jamb has been cut back, as if the wall of the wing had cut through a pre-existing archway. However, it seems that the south wall of the north wing extends continuously through the carriageway, suggesting that it pre-dates the archway, which is a later insertion.

The front ground floor space seems to have been one large room, with three lateral chamfered beams and axial joists supporting the floor above. There is no evidence of partitioning on the soffits of the beams. Many of the timbers have been re-used. The twelve joists in the bay nearest the street are sawn softwood of thin scantling. The beam nearest the street has a deep chamfer without stops, and has evidence for a former octagonal post with braces housed in long slots to either side, quite possibly the seating of a crown-post. There are augur holes within the slots – evidence that they were made by drilling a set of holes with the rectangular mortice then cut out by a chisel or an axe. The joists to the west have been crudely shaven back to fit a set of marked and sawn mortices in the beam. The joints are straight-haunched soffit tenons. The joists are laid flat in the medieval manner and some have been trestle-sawn – the cuts are at 45° with a 'snap' where they meet. In the rear (western) bays a similar mixture of timbers can be found, and where visible, the joists seem to have been dropped into slots in the beams.

The room above has a roughly arched plaster vault with a single arched truss exposed, and a fluted plaster cornice. The date of this is tentatively put at late seventeenth/early eighteenth century. The fireplace in this room is square-headed with a simple moulding, suggestive of the early eighteenth century.

The westward extension of the north wing does not continue its building line, but is parallel to the south wing and at right angles to the hall range

- see ground plan at Figure 3. The paired gable dormers, hood moulds and casements suggest a seventeenth century date, and it was probably intended as a new service area, containing a new kitchen, the fireplace for which survives to the rear. This also seems to belong to the seventeenth century, with a heavy timber bressumer, bread oven, and remains of an iron crane and chains for holding pots over the fire.

Beyond the kitchen is a narrow dovecote with intact nesting boxes. There is no evidence of a glover (the opening through which the birds flew) and part of the roof has been renewed. The dovecote is the first space in a further westward extension of the north wing, originally narrower than the rest, but now with walls extended and re-roofed, it continues the building line to the archway at the rear of the courtyard.

Returning to the main ranges, as noted above, two doorways lead through the south gable of the central range into a southern crosswing. Again the construction materials match the rest of the building. Its eaves are also higher than those of the central range, but there are awkward aspects of the junction - a window is pushed into the corner, and the corbelling of the western stack seems to continue behind the wall. The wall stonework where visible can also be seen to continue behind the hall wall, although this part of the hall wall may have been rebuilt at some stage and there is a plinth which seems continuous from the hall to the north side of the wing, although it ends about a metre from the end of the wing. The two-light cinquefoil traceried window in the gable at first floor level can be seen in the 1906 photograph and 1826 drawing (Figures 3 and 4 respectively). The left-hand stack relates to the ground-floor fireplace; that to the right vents a first floor fireplace.

Internally, there is again a single large room on the ground floor with exposed beams and joists. Many of the timbers have been re-used, in particular the main cross-beam, which has been inverted. There are blocked mortices and peg-holes on the (present) soffit. From this beam, a further (axial) beam extends eastward to a point above the window. The joists in this part of the room are chamfered and tenoned into this beam, but in the rear of the room, all the joists extend transversely across the width. The ceiling seems to have been reconstructed in the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries.

There are two blocked openings in the south wall, now alcoves. There is a four-centred arched fireplace with a blank (central) shield. Such fireplaces are very difficult to date, as they are found from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries. However, it stands proud of the wall and so is probably an insertion; the re-ordering of the joists in this part of the room may also be connected with this event.

It was possible to study the roof of the south wing through a small trap-door above the first-floor corridor. It has cambered collars, clasped purlins, some windbraces and no blackening. The undersides of the collars, windbraces

and purlins are chamfered. The quality of the roof suggests it was intended to be seen from below and the style of the carpentry suggests a date in the later fifteenth century. It was also possible to study the junction between the hall and the south wing. The balance of probability from the structural evidence is that the hall was butted against a pre-existing wing, despite the earlier carpentry of the hall roof.

The west gable is plastered and has a small window near the apex. The window is now blocked by a later extension to the west. We were also able to look at this roof between a narrow gap in the rafters. Surprisingly, it has a central open truss arch-braced to the collar, clasped purlins and windbraces, seemingly for another room open to the roof. We would suggest this part is from *c.*1500. There is no smoke blackening, and the extension has a gable stack for smoke removal, presumably as part of the build. This stack vents an apparently fourteenth-century fireplace, now in a corner position on the ground floor, having been moved from an upstairs room. This is presumably the 're-used fourteenth-century fireplace with a stone lintel on large corbels' described by Pevsner as being in a bedroom.

It was also possible to examine another key junction, the join between the hall and the north wing at roof level. The key feature is a timber truss based on a haunched king-post sitting on the south wall of the north wing. To the south of this truss is a single purlin and plank ridge linking it to the north end truss of the hall roof, while to the north a similar arrangement sits on top of the rafters of the north range. Many of the timbers are crudely cut hedge poles, others possibly re-used. The main conclusion seems to be that the north range predates the link section.

The south range now extends to the rear where it adjoins the former stable/hayloft building which closes the west side of the courtyard. These were not examined.

History

Nothing is known about the early history of the Crown. There is a tradition that it was a guest house for Bruern Abbey, but detailed research carried out by the local history society has been unable to discover evidence for this. It is not mentioned in any of the extant papers nor is it mentioned in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*. Shipton was a royal manor which went in and out of the king's hands but it is not mentioned in the manor surveys done by Seymour and Warwick stewards in 1547 and 1552. The first documentary mention is a sale in 1566 when the tenant was Simon Chamberlayne and it was called the Inn of Shipton. The inn was part of the endowment of a charity known as the 'Crown Inn Charity', founded by an indenture dated 20 October 1586, with the rent to be used for the upkeep of the Great Bridge at Shipton and Stoken Bridge in Milton. A new barn was built in 1814.

On 3 June 1930 it was sold at auction to Flowers Brewery. Thereafter, it was extensively refurbished by Groves of Milton-under-Wychwood. At this time the floor over the hall was taken down (and presumably the central hall stack was removed), and most of the windows were replaced. The staircase also dates from this period. Photographs from the Packer collection from the 1940s to 1960s (Oxfordshire Studies) show the building substantially as it is today.

In the exterior views, however, the crispness and unweathered stonework of the upper part of the doorway is striking. During work on an extension in 1997, well-preserved medieval deposits were found to the south-west of the existing buildings. Among these were a 'possible' cobbled surface and a large quantity of animal bone.[4]

Discussion

Hall-and-crosswing buildings are often the result of 'alternate rebuilding', where the various elements have been rebuilt one at a time. Forensic examination of the fabric or dendrochronology are often the only ways by which the order of building the various elements can be determined. Window and doorway styles are reliable only to the extent to which they can be shown to be original to the walls in which they sit. As discussed above, the windows of the Shaven Crown were almost all renewed in the 1930s, and by craftsmen able to reproduce medieval tracery accurately. Some more reliable clues are structural – e.g. when straight-joints in the stonework show that one section is butted up against another, or when one roof rests on top of another. We have tended to rely on these in the following discussion, particularly since the other main and usually less altered features – the roof structures – seem to be offering contradictory signals. The following are thus only initial thoughts.

The location of a building and the shape of the plot on which it sits can sometimes offer clues as to the original reason for the structure – mills on streams, church houses and market infill in towns are obvious examples. The Crown sits on a busy road opposite the church, and with a curved boundary to the rear. These features require further investigation, although the road was clearly important, having probably been a salt-way,[5] and later a turnpike. On the negative side, its location a couple of miles from Bruern Abbey argues against the proposition that it was their guest-house. The other puzzling aspect of the site is the distinctly different orientation of the north wing, which clearly respects the northern boundary of the site.

There is a certain amount of evidence to suggest that the north and south wings pre-date the central hall range. Firstly, the walls of the wings continue behind those of the hall (see Figure 7 below) – as does the corbel of the south wing chimney-stack. Secondly, the rafters of the north wing have been broken off to create the junction where the hall range roof extension rests

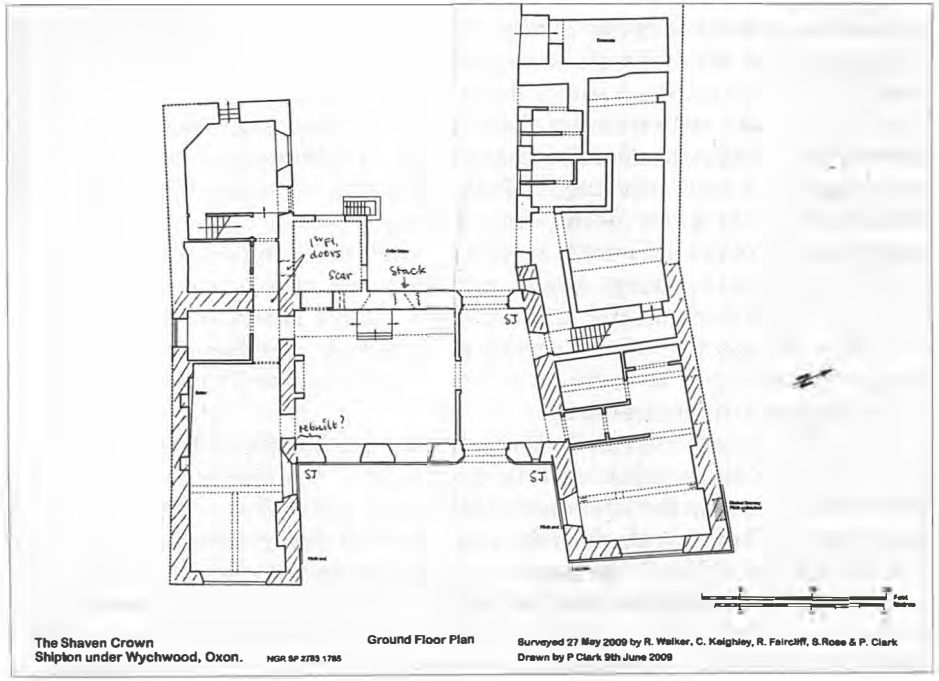


Figure 7. Suggested earliest parts (shaded). SJ = straight joint

upon it, and thirdly, the angle between the hall and the north wing hall is more understandable with an earlier wing.

The roof of the south wing is probably from the second half of the fifteenth century, and from what is visible, that of the north wing is contemporary. However, if the early chimney-stack on the north wing is an original feature, the structure could date from the late fourteenth century. This date would also fit the corbelled stack on the south wing.

Both wings have been considerably altered over the years, and it is not now possible to locate early staircases in the wings. Both wings seem to have had a heated ground floor, and a heated first floor open to the roof. As such they could have been chamber ranges and would have been associated with a hall.

Around 1500 the south range was extended westwards with added (heated) accommodation on two levels.

The central range certainly was built as a hall of a substantial high status building – the roof construction shows little concern for the cost and availability of timber – and probably mid-fifteenth century in date, by analogy with the hall roof at Lincoln College, Oxford (1440s), and definitely intended to be seen. The entrance archways, as indicated above, are of a

style noted elsewhere in the 1480s. If this is correct, then it is highly likely that the roof, or the archways, or possibly both, came here from somewhere else. In this context the various daisy-wheel markings may be significant. There is a debate as to whether these geometrical patterns were some form of setting-out diagram made by masons or carpenters, or whether they are apotropaic (evil spirit averting). Medieval marks are more likely to be the former, while the latter derive from the early seventeenth century when many became obsessed with a fear of witches and demons; these are most often found near openings (doors, windows and fireplaces). The presence of a very small mark on the mullion of the paired lancet by the front door is strongly suggestive of the seventeenth century apotropaic explanation, and hence we might be looking at reuse – possibly of remains from some dissolved monastic institution.

A seventeenth-century hall would have had a proper fireplace, but we know that the south gable stack is modern, and any evidence for a central louvre was lost when the later central stack was removed in 1931 and the roof was repaired. There is a stack on the rear wall with disturbed stonework below, which may be the position of the seventeenth-century fireplace.

There is no evidence that the hall had an internal staircase when built. There are a number of ways in which users of the building could reach the upper floors of the wings. Each wing could have had separate internal or external staircases, but there are two other possibilities. The south-west doorway from the hall could have led to an external stair turret to give access to the upper floor of the south range.[6] This doorway has an unusual shape; two-centred versions with this type of construction are probably fourteenth century, but the four-centred arch does not usually appear until the early fifteenth.[7] It also opens outwards, thus more likely giving access to another internal space rather than to the exterior of the building. The other possible staircase location is to the right of the front doorway. The paired lancet window (and possibly another above) provide just enough light for a staircase, and the joists of the carriageway roof at this point have been repaired with additional scarfed timbers.

The screen and its central doorway, although repaired and altered, seem to be original to the building of the timber north gable wall of the hall. As such it indicates that this was the entrance and 'lower end' of the hall, but none of the usual hierarchical indicators (dais, high end window, enhanced high end decoration, louvre position) of the domestic hall are apparent. Neither is there a normal service end, with pantry, buttery and (possibly detached) kitchen. If it is correct that the hall is a seventeenth-century infill, then the western part of the north wing may be contemporary and have supplied these services (the kitchen of this date survives). The dovecote is probably contemporary with the kitchen.

Given that by the early seventeenth century the property was operating as an inn, these changes were presumably aimed at improving the accommodation and facilities for travellers.

We may conjecture that the re-used timber beams and joists which form the first floors of north and south wings were also part of this rebuilding. Normally dismissed by architectural historians as of limited interpretative value, some features of the remarkable amount of re-used timber deserve mention. The beam in the front room of the north wing has an octagonal base for a post, and the most obvious explanation is that the post was a crown-post. These stand on tie-beams and support a longitudinal timber called a crown plate (or collar purlin) which stops the 'racking' (movement) of early roofs consisting of pairs of A-frames. The crown post is typically braced to the crown plate and/or a collar. Here, the chamfering of the beam is on the side facing the post suggesting that the beam was the crown plate, not the tie-beam of the earlier roof. It is not normally productive to ask questions such as where did such re-used timbers come from, but here there are three key factors. Firstly, crown-post roofs are not normally found in this part of the county, secondly, where found they date from *c.*1280–1350, and thirdly, the quality of the carpentry here as shown by the augured mortice for the braces, is indicative of a high status use. The detailed record made of the joists in the wings shows that they came form a range of contexts – trestle sawn timbers are usually from before 1500, pit-sawn are later, and so the picture of re-use suggests a mixed collection of timber from a high status building or buildings, with structures dating from *c.*1300–1500. One possibility is that the apparent connection of the Crown with Bruern Abbey is not that it was a guest-house but that the timber, and possibly stonework, came from the abbey buildings (including their guest-house) after the Dissolution.

The main obvious changes in the eighteenth century were in the north wing, the plaster vaulted ceiling in the front upper chamber, for example, and the insertion of sash windows in classical surrounds, as can be seen from the early images. Perhaps also in the eighteenth century with increased coach traffic, an intermediate floor was inserted in the hall at the level of the girding beam, and partly supported by a central chimney-stack. These were removed in 1931.[8] The other major alterations in 1931 were the historicist replacement of most of the windows and the creation of a new circulation route by means of a new staircase from the hall to each of the wings.

Conclusion

Inevitably in a building of the age and complexity of the Shaven Crown it has not been possible to understand every detail of its development, and the above analysis may well require revision as new facts emerge. In particular it is recommended that dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) should be seriously

considered. The roofs and other timber features have been judged on their style alone, but more accurate dating could be valuable.

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Notes

[1] NMR BB 73-131
[2] Hall (2005) p.20
[3] Often indicative of an 'Arts and Crafts' replacement
[4] Kenyon (1999)
[5] see Blair (1994) p.85
[6] Sutton Courtenay Abbey has such an arrangement between the hall and north range
[7] Hall (2005) p.18
[8] 1930 sale particulars, which refer to a first floor "bedroom (or Chapel Room) having an old open oak-timbered ceiling", which is illustrated with a photograph of the present hall roof

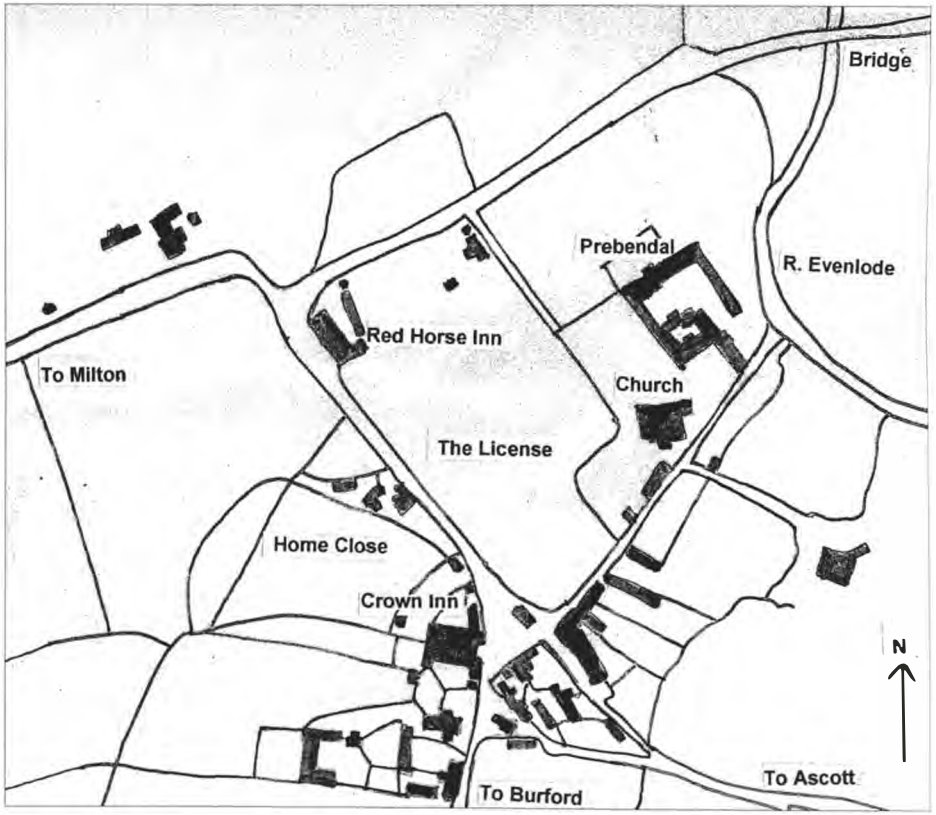
The Crown Inn Charity, Shipton-under-Wychwood

Joan Howard-Drake and Sue Jourdan

THE Crown Inn, Shipton under Wychwood stands on the main road in Shipton, opposite Church Street which was in past centuries the main highway. Nothing is known of the early ownership of the inn but Shipton was in an important Royal manor and in the sixteenth century it was called 'the Inn of Shipton'. There is no evidence that it was owned by the monks of Bruern Abbey; it is unlikely because there is no mention of it in the papers of the Court of Augmentation or the Valor Ecclesiasticus which list the Abbey's properties at the Dissolution. Nor is there any mention of the inn in the manor surveys by the stewards of the Seymour and Warwick, two important Elizabethan families who were granted Shipton Manor in 1547 and 1552. The name 'The Shaven Crown' was given to it when it was purchased by Flowers Brewery in 1930.

The first known mention of the inn is in a sale document of 1566 when the tenant was Simon Chamberlayne and it was called the Inn of Shipton and owned by the Crown.[1]

On 10 May 1566 William Gryce Esq., and Charles Newcommen, gent.,



both of London paid Queen Elizabeth an unspecified sum of money for the 'Inn of Shipton'.[2] The Gryce men, William with Charles, who was a servant of the Queen, and Charles Newcommen bought properties and land in many places in England from the Queen. They profited by selling the properties on quickly as they did in this case. Seven months later, an indenture dated 20 December 1566 says that William Gryce and Charles Newcommen sold the inn to Henry Fletcher, yeoman, of Taynton. The document states that he held it under the same terms from the Queen as Gryce and Newcommen which was 'to be holden of [the Queen] as of her manor of Est Grenewich i.e. by socage and not in capite'.[3] Henry Fletcher now sold the property to Arthur Ashfilde, gent., John Whytynge and George Harris, husbandmen, all of Shipton, and Phillipe Barratt, Myhell Fippes and Andrew Mychell, husbandmen, of Milton.[4] The price was £53 and although the inn was not mentioned by name the indenture is endorsed in a later hand 'The deed of purchase for the Inn of Shipton'. It was witnessed in the presence of, among others, Thomas Fors, one of the bailiffs of Burford and Symon Wisdome, Alderman, all important men of

Burford. From the 1852 Enclosure Act for Shipton it can be seen that the inn included land in the common fields of Shipton of eleven acres with twenty-five sheep commons, one cow common and half a horse common.

Presumably the business of the inn carried on as usual over the next twenty years with the purchasers taking any profit until the Crown Inn Charity was set up.[5] On 20 October 1586 an indenture shows the sale of the property by the men of Shipton and Milton who were parties to the earlier purchase to 'Sir Henry Unton, Knight of Bruern; Michaell Ashefeild of Shipton, gent.; Richard Wisdome, Thomas Whiting, Raffe Smith, George Coxe and John Parratt, yeomen all of Shipton; and William Whiting, William Michell, William Sessions, John Edwardes, Thomas Shewell the younger and John Barratt, all yeomen of Milton'. No price is mentioned but the sale is given as 'for divers good and reasonable causes and consideration'. The purchase was for the purposes of charity and the purchasers were to devote half the yearly revenues, issues and profits to the repair and maintenance of Shipton Bridge 'from the middle of the Great Bow westward; and half to the repair and maintenance of Stoken Bridge in Milton', that is half the bridge over the River Evenlode in Shipton and the bridge over Littlestock Brook on the boundary between Shipton and Milton. Any surplus was to be used 'for such other good and godly uses as the trustees decide'. Instructions were given for the nomination of trustees to fill the vacancies caused by death, stating that these should always be six from Shipton and six from Milton. This was endorsed by William Mayster, vicar, Jamys Cooke, Rychard Cooke, Wylliam Thomson, Andrew Hiatt, Wylliam Webbe, Robart Parratt. and possession was given 1 November 1586. As will be seen from analysis of the charity accounts, the 'good and godly uses' chosen were the repairs to the inn and to help the poor.

Of the parties to the transaction, Sir Henry Unton of Bruern was a member of a well-known Berkshire family; he was a Member of Parliament for Woodstock, Justice of the Peace and keeper of Cornbury Park, a man much involved in Oxfordshire and Berkshire affairs. He was a courtier, soldier and Ambassador to France where he died in 1596. Henry fought in the battle of Zutphen on 22 October 1586 where Sir Philip Sidney was killed, but he was back in Shipton two weeks later to sign the deed setting up the Crown Inn Charity.[6] Michaell Ashfield was a substantial wool merchant and the family was active in Shipton and Oxfordshire matters. Richard Wisdome was a member of the well-known Burford family but was then living in the Prebendal House, Shipton. While the other families were not of such high social status as the former they were some of the more important tradesmen and farmers who were influential in Shipton and Milton. The family names continue to appear in entries in the parish registers and as officers in village affairs from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries

Dispute over ownership of the Inn

There were a number of disputes involving the Crown Inn. The first was with the Whiting family in 1663 when Oliver Pleydell, gent., John Godfrey, gent., Peter Herbert, Robert Wilkins, John Draper, the elder, gent., John Baylie, Rowland Lacy Esq., John Holland, Richard Hicks, John Brookes, Leonard Oven and John Green went to the Court of Chancery asking for Margery and Henry Whiting to be called to account for their occupation of the inn and taking the profits from it. The plaintiffs alleged that John Whiting had been given a lease of the inn in 1611 but John and the trustees of the time had all died with no successors appointed; that Margery, widow of John, and Henry had remained in possession of the property, claiming to be entitled to lease it and keep the profits therefore frustrating the intentions of the charity. The defendants, who held the original deed of the charity, admitted the charge and agreed that the plaintiffs should be nominated as trustees and the original deed handed over to them. Later that year in July the plaintiffs who were of Shipton and Milton or holders of land there, as trustees now granted a lease of twenty-six years to Margery Whiting at a rent of £6 a year. At the same time Thomas Whiting son of Margery, a joiner of London was ordered to pay £25 to the trustees as ordered by the Court of Chancery. On the same day as the lease was granted Thomas Whiting was bound in a bond for £50 to Rowland Lacy Esq. of Shipton and John Draper of Bruern, both gentlemen. There was trouble again with the Whiting family in 1680 when William Whiting and the trustees were at odds over the possession of New Close and Shrubby Moor Close. Agreement was reached between them with New Close going to the Crown Inn Charity and Shrubby Moor Close to William Whiting.

There was another dispute in 1815 when a petition was made to the Master of the Rolls that stated that 100 years previously two ladies named Ashfield held the Crown Inn and were responsible for the Crown Inn Charity. The petitioners Sir John Compton Reade, Bt., Diana Frances Gorges, the Revd Robert Phillimore, vicar of Shipton, John Gomm, churchwarden, George Gibbs, gent., Ralph Ellis, gent., all of Shipton complained that the existing trustees were improperly withholding payments to the charity and information about it. The defendants were Thomas Brookes the elder, John Young, Joseph Young, Joseph Willett, John Perkins who *inter alia* were said to have proposed to make up the number of trustees to twelve by appointing the vicar Robert Phillimore, Thomas Brookes the younger, son of Thomas Brookes the elder, Thomas Brookes, Thomas Young, son of old John Young, John Coomb, twenty-year-old son-in-law of John Young, Edward Young and Daniel Woodman. The appointments were said not to have been made and the petitioners had not been able to get any information. The case was set for hearing on 18 March 1816. There are no further details of the case but in June 1815 new trustees were appointed: Thomas Brookes the elder, Thomas Brookes, jun., Thomas Brookes, John Gardner, John Perkins, William Rawlings, Joseph Willett, Daniel Woodman, Edward Young, John Young, Joseph Young and Thomas Young. This was presumably to face the hearing in 1816 with the fact that the trustees had been appointed.[7]

Names of tenants taken from the account books

In the one hundred and seven years 1723–1830 there were ten tenants but there is a gap of eighteen years between 1749–67 when tenant or tenants are not known.

Elizabeth Shaylor	1723–8	5 years
Thomas Hating	1729–38	9 years
Nicholas Willatt	1739–41	3 years
Ann Willatt	1742–3	2 years
William Hayden	1744	1 year
No name given	1745–67	22 years
William Patrick	1768–9	2 years
Henry Shaylor	1769–91	22 years
Peter Brookes (Mr Brux)	1792–1815	23 years
Mr Thrupp	1819–26	7 years
Mrs Sophia Thrupp	1827–30	4 years

Table 1. Tenants of the Crown Inn from the account books

In a deed appointing new trustees in 1719 Martin Shaylor was given as the Innholder and was required to repair and maintain the property at his expense.[8] This is the only reference to a full repairing lease and, as will be seen, repairs to the inn were one of the major expenses of the charity. Four years later when the new book of Milton trustees' accounts opened, Elizabeth Shaylor was named as the tenant with Milton trustees receiving £6 a year rent. It would appear that she was born Elizabeth Young and had married Martin Shaylor two years previously. In the parish registers Elizabeth Shaylor, widow, was buried in October 1728 and the accounts record receipt of £6 a year from Thomas Hating from 1729. Nothing further is known of this man. Nicholas Willett held the Crown for three years having previously been the tenant of the Red Horse, the other inn across the road owned by Brasenose College.[9] He is described as yeoman, butcher and innholder and had married Martha Arpwood also of Shipton in 1690. He died in December 1744 with Martha living until 1760 when she must have been quite an age. Their daughter Ann

took over the tenancy and in September 1743 she married William Hayden whose name then appeared as paying the rent in 1744. Both Nicholas Willett and his son-in-law William Heyden were active members of the community serving as churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor.

For the next twenty-two years the name of the tenant was not given until in 1768 William Patrick of Shipton who paid rent for two years was followed by Henry Shaylor who was innholder for twenty-two years. It is not known if he was related to Martin and Elizabeth Shaylor. He was succeeded by one of the Brookes family who continued for twenty-three years. The Thrupps, Joseph and his wife Sophia, were both Londoners, and had married in St Marylebone in 1817. He had been a servant to Sir John Chandos Reade of Shipton Court.

In 1814 the Crown Inn Shipton was advertised to be let; it was then in the possession of (William) Peter Brookes. However it was not until 4 February 1817 that an agreement was made between Joseph Thrupp and Peter Brookes when the latter relinquished the possession and goodwill of the Crown Inn to Joseph for £35. Thrupp allowed Brookes accommodation until he found somewhere else to live and agreed to buy at a fair price any part of the personal property of Brookes which was offered to him. He also agreed to pay a reasonable share of the spirit and ale licence for the current year. The land was '12 field acres at £1 p.a. - £12; 2 acres of Lammas ground at £2 p.a. - £4; 3½ acres land at home including garden at £3 p.a. - £10 10*s*, Sheep Commons as stinted at 1*s* 6*d* and £1 10*s* plus the goodwill of the house'. This arrangement did not please Thomas Coombs the younger of Shipton because the trustees had refused the tenancy of the inn to him.

On the day after the agreement Joseph Thrupp gave named trustees, who were said to be a 'majority' of the Trustees, a bond of £200 to indemnify them against any claim by Thomas Coombs concerning their refusal to give him the tenancy.

The Accounts

The two account books used in this article date from Lady Day 1723 to 1815 for Milton and 1781 to 1830 for Shipton and they record receipts and disbursements by the trustees.[10] It appears that the Shipton trustees received the rent and then gave half to the Milton trustees. At a meeting in April 1785 it was 'Also resolved that three books should be kept to enter the Accounts of Receipts and Disbursements of the said Inn - one by the feoffees of Shipton, one by those of Milton and a third to enter the Accounts of both from the separate books on the Thursday in Easter week yearly, on which it is agreed & resolved that the whole Accounts shall be settled before the trustees of both places present'. A third account book has not been found. The rent was due on Lady Day each year, 25 March with the book presented to the trustees on Easter Thursday each year with the rent and the disbursements entered.

The meeting day changed to Easter Friday from April 1801. The quality of the bookkeeping was varied, the handwriting changed from year to year but the calculations of income and expenses were accurate. The accounts in the Shipton book, starting nearly sixty years later than the Milton book, are more uniform than the earlier Milton accounts. From 1732 Milton account book was signed 'seen and allowed by us' followed by the names of eight trustees starting with Rowland Lacey. The accounts were then signed in subsequent years. Shipton's trustees signed from 1781 when their book begins. The number of trustees signing varied from year to year in both Shipton and Milton. A trustee, called the Treasurer in the Shipton accounts 1797, was appointed each year for making payments and was responsible for the account book which he usually signed. There are some years when no treasurer is named holding the money or making the accounts. Trustees continued to be appointed until the charity was united with other village charities by the Charity Commission Order of 13 October 1969, a total of 383 years.

No accounts were kept by Milton between 1777 and 1783 and their book in 1803 states 'Disburs'd the same as Shipton Feoffees, see their book'. This was countered by the instruction for 1808-12 in the Shipton book 'for the parties of the bills see Milton's book'. Both books record that in 1813 'The meeting was held as usual but no Rent paid or business done'. The arrears were paid the following year. By 1815 when 'it was resolved that £2 2*s* be spent for an annual Entertainment on Rent Day all Provisions & Liquors having risen to an excessive Price', it was also decided 'that a joint account shall in future be kept by all trustees'. The amount paid for Entertainment was then entered as £3. On Easter Thursday 1832 an entry states that

> for the better management of repairs - because of enormous expenses of tradesmen & bills no repairs without first receiving a signed estimate to be given to the Chairman on or before rent day. A Chairman to be appointed every rent day to conduct the whole business of the year following but if anything of a serious nature then to call a meeting of the feoffees and consult together. The Chairman to take the job in turn starting with the oldest member and do his duty as for himself and be allow'd expenses for his attendance of 5*s* a year.

At the end of each account the balance was given for 'money in hand' which later changes to 'appears to be in hand'. In 1796 it was agreed that the balance in hand for both villages should be deposited 'in the Box to be laid out on repairs order'd to be done at the meeting'. From this date it appears that the money was kept as 'balance in the Box' or 'cash to the Box'.

Income

The annual income received by the charity from 1723-69 is set out in Table 2. When the account book commences half portion of the rent received by

Milton trustees was £6 rising to £7 with the new tenant in 1770. The total rent having risen to £25 from 1786-92, it was reduced to £20 when Peter Brookes became the new tenant that year but increased substantially again after the building of a new barn in 1813. Some years the rent was in part or in arrears. When Henry Shaylor signed a new lease for six years in 1785 at £25 a year it was unanimously agreed to allow two loads of wheat straw for thatching the inn when required. In the following year he paid £23 in cash and was allowed £2 for wheat straw. The other income received by the charity was in 1815 when £9 13*s* 4*d* was entered as 'Dividends under Atkins Commission'. Two further dividends of £7 5*s* and £4 16*s* 8*d* were received the following year.

1723-69	£12
1770-85	£14
1786-91	£25
1792-1817	£20
1818-20	£50
1821-3	£45
1825-6	£40
1826-9	£45
1830	£50

Table 2. Rent received by the Crown Inn Charity 1723-1829

Expenditure

The charity was set up to provide money for repairs to the bridges of Shipton and Milton and for 'such other good and godly uses as the trustees decide'. From analysis of the accounts, apart from the expenses incurred to meet the charity's aims, the trustees paid for the upkeep of the inn, for their 'entertainment' at their annual meeting, charity to the poor, administration, quit rent and legal expenses. Like the income the bills were divided between Milton and Shipton though in the later period the amounts were only entered in the Shipton book. As can be seen from Tables 3 and 4 more expenditure was accounted for by the Shipton trustees than Milton though the accounts cover a shorter period. The tables show the contrast between the expenditure of the two communities with Shipton spending seventy-two per cent on building works and only two per cent on the poor while Milton spent forty-nine per cent on building work and thirty-eight per cent on the poor though most of this was accounted for between 1723-70, that is before the Shipton accounts start.

Building work unspecified	£626		56%
Building work on inn	£119		11%
Building work on bridge	£62		5%
Building work total		**£807**	**72%**
Poor		£21	2%
Entertainment		£72	6%
Admin, interest, legal fees		£156	14%
Quit rent and land tax		£7	.
Other		£64	6%
Total		**£1,127**	

Table 3. Shipton expenditure 1781-1830

Building work unspecified	£234		44%
Building work on inn	£21		4%
Building work on bridges	£8		1%
Building work total		**£263**	**49%**
Poor		£203	38%
Entertainment		£36	7%
Admin, interest, legal fees		£14	3%
Quit rent and land tax		£0	
Other		£20	4%
Total		**£536**	

Table 4. Milton expenditure 1723-1817

The majority of the expenditure was on building works and, in the Shipton accounts for the 49 years 1781–1830, this was just over £800. Only nine per cent was specified for the inn but it would appear from the context the majority of the £800 was spent on its maintenance. The specific entries were 'paid for repairs for Shipton Inn £1 16*s* 9*d* (1738) or listed the tradesmen. From some entries it is possible to assign the expenditure; in 1796 the first half of the account listed four tradesmen and the other half specified the same men but stated 'for repairing Shipton Bridge' and included 'paid half for Ale at the Bridge 8*s*'. Only very limited parts of the inn were named: 'the Great Chamber' (1733), the kitchen (1733), 'the Great Room' (1792 and 1793), the door (1799), the 'Great Gateway' (1799), the head wall of the stable (1755), the New Barn (1814) and the pigsties erected by Mrs Thrupp the landlady in 1830. The entries did not specify the work done except in 1733 when it had been agreed with John Rawlins to 'rip up that part of ye house over ye Great Chamber at Shipton Inn at 7 shillings per square and he's to find all Manner of materials except lime & hair. At the same time agreed with William Wayne to pave ye kitchen at 3s per foot'.

The tradesmen regularly employed on the inn were the mason, the slater, the carpenter, the blacksmith, the glazier, the painter, the thatcher and some trustees were paid for carriage and carting of materials. Other trustees also did work and provided goods for which they were paid. The materials used were stone, slates, flakes (hurdles), straw, lime, lathe, hair, timber and deal planks.[11] As can be seen from these entries the Crown was built of stone and was partly slated and partly thatched. It is not know what the 'flakes' were for but there was a market at the back of the inn from at least the nineteenth century if not earlier. The mason, George Groves, was employed every year from 1789 until the end of the account book in 1830, and a John Rawlins, slater, was paid most years from 1726 until 1820, presumably sons following fathers, and then William Rawlins is mentioned 1820–30. Only occasionally was a particular repair itemised: 'Paid for a lock & key making 2 cays [*sic*] for the lock 1*s* 3½*d*' (1745); Thomas Coombes 'for door etc. £2 7*s* 6*d*' (1799) and William Hale's bill 'for the Pump etc., 6*s* 3*d*' (1807).

In the early 1790s money was spent on repairs to the Great Room but by 1799 it would appear that the Crown was in poor repair as a note of that year at the end of the account book states 'Resolved: that an Estimate be immediately made of the Expences of New Rooffing and Slating the Great Gateway. That the Slating and Thatching be put in Repair as soon as possible. That the Room under Great Room be likewise put in Repair as soon as possible – money can be raised for that purpose'. That year in Milton's book was entered their half payments to John Rawlings, slater, £1 3*s*, George Groves, mason, 18*s*, Mark Reeves, blacksmith, 2*s* 6*d*, John Brookes, glazier and painter, £1 2*s* 9*d*, Mr Young for carriage, 11*s*, and Thomas Combes for door repair, £2 7*s* 6*d*. Their half of the landlord's bill at the meetings at which this was agreed was 11*s*.

Over the next twenty years expenditure regularly exceeded income. In 1802 and 1803 the tradesmen were only paid in part or in arrears; John Rawlings, William Risby and John Perkins were paid £10 each on account of their bills of £16 2*s* 5*d*, £15 17*s* 3*d* and £16 14*s* 1*d* respectively. In 1815 Milton trustees were advanced £10 10*s* to pay half of Mr William Brookes bill of £25 10*s* 11*d* and John Perkins and Joseph Young owed £5 19*s* to the box. Similarly in 1819–22, when the trustees not only had the regular maintenance bills to pay but also the 'chancery business', money was borrowed from Joseph Thrupp, the landlord and John Reeves was paid £5 for the four years being the interest on the £100 borrowed from him. There is no mention of the capital sum being repaid.

Another major expenditure of the trustees was the cost of building the new barn in 1814 for £58 1*s* 8½*d*. At the same time money was being spent on improvements to Shipton bridge as 'promis'd to the magistrates' and paying Mr William Brookes for 'an advert for letting the Crown Inn by Tender and drawing up and ingrosing a bond and deed of appointment, £21 2*s* 6*d*'. To raise extra money the trustees sold 139 feet of timber at 17*d* each, raising £9 16*s* 11*d*. Ten years later James Shayler was paid £2 2*s* for planting sixty new trees.

The bridges

In Shipton's account book there were twelve entries over the forty-nine years specified for the bridge but in the ninety-four years of the Milton book only eleven entries specifying work on Milton bridge or brook with three more for unspecified bridge work. The first mention was the work of fetching and laying of a load of planks at the bridge in 1735. These were probably of wood but large flat paving stones of Cotswold stone were also known as planks. In 1737 John Groves was paid 8*s* 6*d* for making the bridge at 'lithil' (Little Hill). In 1786 a total of £12 8*s* 8*d* was paid to seven different tradesmen 'for the bridge'. In 1785 when repairs were being done to Shipton bridge, Joseph Kenche was paid 1*s* 4*d* for putting up a rail and in 1815 the trustees paid £19 17*s* for improvements at the bridge at Shipton.

There is no mention in the accounts that when work was carried out on the bridge that it concerned only 'from the middle of the Great Bow westward' as detailed in the original charity deed. In 1823 the Shipton book noted £5 was paid towards 'Stoke Bridge at Milton' and five years later Thomas Brookes was paid 19*s* 'for carriage of stones to Stoke and Great Bridge'. Other work was also carried out to the watercourses in Milton; in 1728 £1 4*s* 6*d* was paid for 'riden' the heath brook and part of 'Blackel Leak', and two years later Thomas Eddon was paid 6*s* for 'scouring the trench at the bul meade'.

Entertainment

As can be seen from the tables the entertainment at the annual meeting of the trustees was about six per cent of the expenditure with half the amount entered in both books as 'the expences at Easter 6*s*' or 'expences at the same time 6*s*'; that is the amount spent was twice this. By the start of the Shipton book this had risen to 'ye Landlord for eating and drinking 12*s*' or 'the Entertainment 10*s* 6*d*' and in 1811 was considerably more at £3 2*s* 8*d* or £6 0*s* 6*d* the following year though the quit rent was included in this sum. By 1815 when 'it was resolved that £2 2*s* be spent for an annual Entertainment on Rent Day all Provisions & Liquors having risen to an excessive Price', it was also decided 'that a joint account shall in future be kept by all trustees'. The amount paid for entertainment was then entered as £3. As has been seen in the examples of money spent on particular occasions, money was also always found for the trustees' refreshment. This was a more major expense in 1819 when the trustees had several meetings about 'the chancery business' and Mr Thrupp, the landlord's, bill was £7 6*s*. It would seem as if the trustees as senior members of the community formed quite a club with their Easter meeting and entertainment

Other expenditure

There are six entries from 1725–34 when the Milton trustees made a number of payments for a school; 'a tabel for the (s)coule, 3*s* 6*d*'; 'glisen the coull hows windo, 3*s* ¼*d*; payd Thomas Horton for the 'yous of the coull', 13*s*'. There are three entries of 10*s* for the 'school hous' and the school master was paid 10*s* and 6*s*. It is not known where this school was. In the early entries the book seems to have been written up by a clerk. In the first year's entry in Milton's book, 1723, is 'Payd at looking over the ritanes 2*s* 6*d*' with the purchase of 'a new bouck 1*s* 6*d*' the following year. For the next few years small amounts were paid for writing up the accounts but it is not until 1818 that there were further administrative costs when Robert Franklin was paid 3*s* for copying numerous manorial papers, and from 1825 to the end of the book in 1830 he was paid 5*s* a year for 'making up this years accounts'. The first payment of a fire insurance premium to Norwich Union Fire commenced in 1825 at £1 5*s* rising to £1 7*s* 6*d* in 1826.

There is little mention of the trustees paying taxes except in 1737 the Milton book listed:

Paid the poor tax 1*s*
Paid expences 6*s* 9*d*
Paid window tax 10*d*
Paid land tax 4*s* 5*d*
Paid for the writing 1*s*
Paid for making the bill of sal(e) and expenses 6*s* 9*d*

Paid for the lease 15*s* 9*d*
Paid expences and excis 6*s* 8*d*

Regular payments of quit rent of 1*s* are made from each set of trustees for most years though this often fell into arrears.

A recurring expense that the trustees had to pay was the legal costs of a new tenancy. This became particularly expensive in the early nineteenth century. The cost of the 'chancery business', £91 16*s* 11*d*, when ownership was disputed, must have been a strain on their resources.

1738	Milton book	15*s* 9*d*	lease
1745	Milton book	7*s* 6*d*	lease
1752	Milton book	7*s* 6*d*	lease
1784	Milton book	£3 15*s* 6*d*	new feoffment, leases and Notice to quit
1785	Shipton's book	£3 15*s* 6*d*	ditto
1790	Milton book	£2 6*s* 5*d*	half the lease
1791	Milton book	3*s* 6*d*	half the expense of letting the Crown
1791	Shipton's book	3*s* 6*d*	half the expense of letting the Crown
1815	Shipton's book	£21 2*s* 6*d*	for advertising the premises to be let by tender drawing & ingressing Bond and Deed of apportionment.
1819	Shipton's book	£91 16*s* 11*d*	'chancery business'
1829	Shipton's book	£12 3*s* 4*d*	lawyers bill for appointing new trustees
1829	Shipton's book	£1 1*s*	terrier of the estate

Table 5. Cost of Leases. Each payment is for half the total expenditure

The Poor

Under the terms of the original indenture the trustees were to use any surplus money after repairs to the bridges for good causes as they thought fit. Shipton and Milton appear to have done this in different ways. Milton having paid its share of the repairs on the Crown Inn spent money on the poor. It is not possible to compare the two expenditures over the whole period because the accounts for Milton run from 1723–1817 and those for Shipton are from 1781–1830. The expenditure given in benefits in the overlapping thirty-seven years shows that Milton spent £9 18*s* 8*d* and Shipton £5 9*s* 4*d* on a variety of goods, medicines and money. When there was heavier than usual expenditure in Milton this coincides with outbreaks of smallpox shown in the Shipton Poor Law accounts of 1742–62. There are no poor law accounts overlapping with the Crown Inn accounts for either Milton or Shipton to show if recipients of the Crown Inn charity were also receiving help from that source. There appear to be no guidelines as to what aid could be given by the charity trustees unlike the poor law payments which were laid out in law and regulations.

Milton trustees assisted people in the 1730s by paying their rent. The sum of 5*s* was the usual amount paid quarterly. This was agreed in 1729 for Jacob Naish, for Margaret Sims from 1731 to October 1734 and for Widow Elizabeth White or Whiter in 1732 for the same amount. Finally Mr Thomas Godfrey was paid £1 for Elizabeth's two years rent in December 1738 and later he received £1 for two years rent of 'Betty Candey's house'. Not until April 1754 is there another entry, 'Betty Whiter accounted her rent' 8*s*, which was paid for the next three years to Joseph Burson. Shipton paid 10*s* for William Eddon's son to go to London and it also cost Milton 2*s* 6*d* for Mary Widdowes' son with payment for William Widdows for 'wearing apparil to go to London which includes 4*s* 6*d* for the making'. A Sarah Widdows also went to London at a cost of 5*s*. In 1766 Milton spent 15*s* to send Ann and Jane Dyer to Bridgenorth. In none of these cases is a reason given for the travel; if they were poor law removals the charity was unlikely to have paid.

Medical attention and medicines also were paid for by the trustees. There is no evidence that any of the doctors consulted was living in Shipton or Milton but at least three attended or treated people paid for by the charity. Dr Appleby who was paid 10*s* 3*d* for 'curing William Harris'; an unnamed doctor was paid £1 11*s* 6*d* for treating Widow Dixon, James Sessions and William Waine in 1750 and 1752; other records show that Mr Hunt was a doctor or physician and received 2*s* for Thomas Rawlings. James Pujolas, an apothecary, was living in Shipton in the mid-eighteenth century and he was paid £5 15*s* 10*d* by the charity for treating many between 1746 and 1768. In 1810 Edward Bartlett received £1 'for a doctor's bill' and Thomas Morton was given the money to pay the doctor for his daughter's treatment. This was unusual; the trustees normally paid the sums themselves.

Shipton did not always show the names of the poor in the accounts at this later time and where they were given no two people were helped twice; John Young was the treasurer for most of this period. Between 1787 and 1795 several sums were paid out and entered as 'things for the poor people' and 'clothes given to the poor'. Two members of the Cross family were helped; Mary had a gown in 1786 and Sarah 5*s* in 'her distress'. Elizabeth Hamblett was buried in Shipton on April 1809; a year later the trustees paid £9 13*s* 3*d* for 'in her illness'.

In Milton the names are given every time the poor received goods or cash and in some cases the assistance went on for a number of years. Certain families can be seen as needing help through several generations and their help was by both regular cash payments and goods. There are no less than ten members of the Burson family assisted between 1731 and 1787. Ann Dixon received money payment for seventeen years from 1750 and 1767 and many others of the family received goods and medical attention. The Ed(d)en, Harris and Kil(s)by families were among many who received benefit from the charity. Eliza or 'Lyzer' Rawlings had £4 13*s* in regular amounts of 1*s* over the thirteen years from 1744 until she died in 1757 and there were five other members of the Rawlings family shown in the accounts. In Milton's account book the term 'Old Christmas' was used by John Wilkins in 1765. Old Christmas Day was 6 January. In 1582 Pope Gregory reformed the calendar because the Julian dating was out of line and eleven days had been lost. Because of the situation between the Catholic and Protestant Churches, England did not change and continued with the Julian calendar until 1751. The Calendar Act brought England in line, eleven days were 'lost' and Christmas Day became the 25 December.[12]

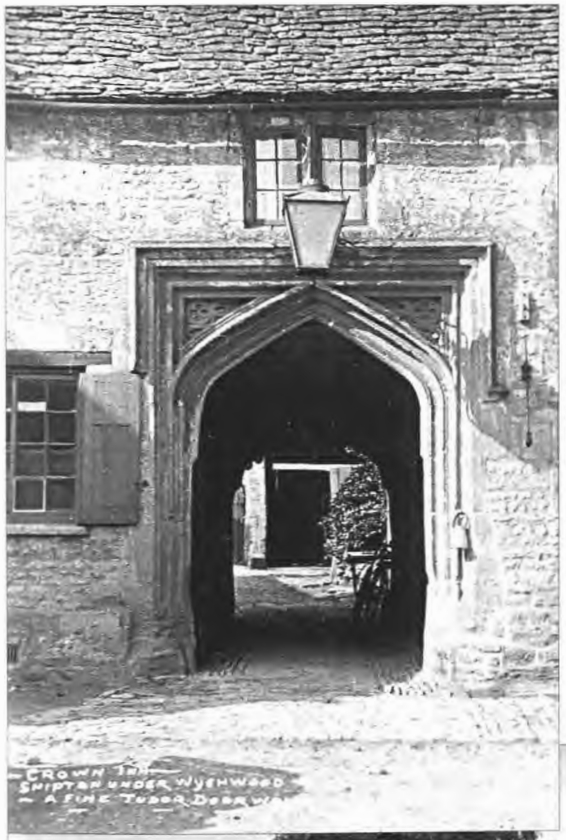
Later in the 1800s the Shipton trustees paid towards four apprenticeships including one for John Ryland of Milton. In 1807 William Burson's son and Edward Bartlett's eldest son each cost £2 10*s*; and £1 was paid for Edward Wilkins in 1824 and £5 was paid for John Rymand [*sic*] of Milton in 1827, both given as 'towards apprenticing'. Milton spent money on nine apprenticeships. In 1731 Milton paid Thomas Hux of Burford £2 17*s* 6*d* for taking Susannah Whe(e)ler. Susannah Air(e)s was also apprenticed in Burford but the amount is given as only expenses of 3*s* 2*d* in 1736. The actual apprenticeship money was £2 16*s* 'plus 6*s*' paid to Stephen Smallbones in April the next year, and in 1740 Richard Mills was paid £2 for 'Airers[Ayers] boy'. In 1738 Moses May took his sister Betty as an apprentice. A Burford tradesman, John Andrewes, took on Mary West's boy in 1741 for £2 12*s* 6*d*. No further apprenticeships appear until later in the century when in 1786 five guineas was paid for Thomas Kirby; £3 3*s* for Thomas Risby in 1787; eight guineas for Thomas Clarke and his indentures in 1789 and finally £10 14*s* for John Harris in 1792. No masters are given in the later period.

There are some one-off payments; in 1723 the trustees paid the 'poores' levy for Mr Woolms [?Wooliams] and 1*s* for Widow Grove's land tax; Richard

Ed(d)en was allowed a load of furze; in 1743 1*s* 6*d* was 'sent' to William Dyer and in the next year 10*d* was 'spent on his account'. Was he in Bridgenorth and was that the reason that Ann and Jane Dyer were sent there? Money was also 'sent' to three other men over several years. In 1745 Mary Eden's wheel was mended for her at 1*s* 3*d*. There are payments to village women for nursing, washing and mending but not in Shipton's accounts. There are few entries of money, goods or medical attention for the poor mentioned after 1793 in Milton and none in Shipton after 1827. It might be expected that help for the poor would have increased in the later period of these accounts in a time of dearth and high unemployment but by then the cost of the Crown Inn itself left less for charitable purposes.

Although the setting up of a charity to maintain the two bridges of Shipton and Milton is unlikely to be unique, it is interesting to speculate as to the reason why the charity was formed. Most medieval bridges were constructed and paid for by the benevolence of private individuals, corporate bodies who saw the commercial advantages or by charitable institutions. They were repaired by the owners of local estates, by the church or other organisations or by the receipts from tolls.[13] At some point it would appear that the alignment of the road through Shipton was moved from the present Church Street, also known as Main Street, on the east side of the church to the site of the present road and bridge to the west. It is not known when this crossing was moved. From the twelth century the Prebendal estate, sited on the bank of the River Evenlode to the north of the church, between the old and new crossings, belonged to Salisbury Cathedral for the endowment of a prebend. A Counterpart Lease of 1684 for the Prebendal House stipulated that as well as other obligations they had to pay for the upkeep of the 'end of the bridge leading to Chipping Norton' and perhaps there was a manorial obligation of the royal Shipton manor to maintain the highways which included the other, western, half of the bridge. The Charity was therefore set up to maintain the bridge 'from the middle of the Great Bow westward' so that in theory at least the charity maintained the western half and the Prebendal the eastern half although there is no mention of this division in the accounts when work was carried out. For whatever reason came the wish to discharge the obligation to maintain the bridges and set in motion the setting up of the Crown Inn Charity.

As can be seen from the analysis of the eighteenth and early nineteenth-century account books, the maintenance of the inn itself consumed most of the income and must also have been the major part of the administrative work of the trustees. It is perhaps typical of a charity that the building was repaired rather than rebuilt. In the earlier account book of Milton the emphasis of expenditure was on the poor while the later book of Shipton shows the deterioration and expenditure required on the inn, a building which was at the centre of Shipton life, both physically and as the village meeting place for business and social affairs.



The entrance doorway to the Crown Inn. 1920s

The market at the back of the Crown Inn with sheep penned with 'flakes'. 1920s

Appendices

Appendix 1 Feoffees Appointed

Brookes, Draper, Godfrey, Greene, Harbert/Herbert, Wilkins were already trustees in 1673

Shipton

1728, 1730	Brookes, John, yeo.
1770, 1785 (the elder)	Brookes, Peter, gent.
1770, 1785	Brookes, Thomas, clerk, vicar of Shipton
1785	Brookes, Peter, gent., son of Dr Brookes, vicar of Shipton
1785, 1815 (the elder)	Brookes, Thomas, jun, gent., eldest son of Peter Brookes, the elder [dec]
1815, 1828	Brookes, Thomas, of the Lane, gent.
1815, 1828	Brookes, Thomas, s of Thomas Brookes, now the elder
1697	Coleing, John, yeo.
1770	Coleman, Edward Hastings, gent.
1673	Draper, John, the elder
1697, 1715, 1719, 1728	Draper, Richard, gent.
1828	Franklin, Robert, yeo., tailor & schoolmaster
1730, 1731	Goodwin, Joseph, clerk, vicar of Shipton
1770	Goodwin, Joseph, the younger, clerk, vicar, S
1673, 1680	Greene, John
1673, 1680, 1715 (the elder)	Hastings, Edward, gent.
1715, 1719	Hastings, Edward, the younger, gent.
1673, 1680	Heylyn, Henry, esq.
1673	Holland, John, gent.
1673, 1680	Hyorne/Hiorne, Bartholomew, yeo.
1828	Maddox, Thomas, yeo., farmer & maltster
1697, 1715, 1719, 1728	Mathews, Ste(e)ven, yeo.
1728	Mathews, Thomas, yeo.
1715	Rooke, Thomas, gent. [given as son of Thomas Rooke deceased]
1828	Sharp, Richard, cordwainer
1719	Shayler, Martin, innholder, [1719 Shayler signed & affixed a seal on a new lease. He agreed to repair & maintain the properties at his own expense]

1730	Whiting, Thomas, chandler
1697, 1715, 1719, 1728, 1730	Willett, Nicholas, yeo., & innkeeper
1815	Young, Edward, miller
1770, 1785 (the elder)	Young John, yeo.
1785,1815(the elder), 1828	Young, John, jun, eldest son of John Young sen,[dec], farmer - treasurer 1786-89, 1791, 1807, 1810, 1815
1815, 1828	Young, Thomas s of John Young now the elder, [late S now Ascott]

Milton

1697, 1715, 1729-36, 1740	Bayli(e)s, John, yeo.
1728, 1731, 1733-6	Brookes, John, yeo.
1731-4	Brookes, Peter, yeo.
1796, 1828	Brookes, Peter, sen, farmer
1796, 1814	Brookes, Peter, victualler
1796	Brookes, T.
1697, 1715	Cripps, William, yeo.
1728	Eeles, Giles, yeo.
1828	Ellis, James farmer & baker, [dec by 1849]
1815, 1828	Gardner, John, taylor & mercer
1673	Godfrey, John
1731-6, 1740, 1743, 1747	Godfrey, Thomas, gent.
1731-6	Goodwin, James, clerk - vicar of Shipton parish
1785, 1787, 1788-91	Greene, Philip, yeo. 1673, 1680 Harbert/Herbert, Peter
1867	Herbert, Philip, vet.
1770	Hux, James, the younger
1680, 1681	Jefferson, James, yeo.
1731-6	Lacy, Rowland, esq. of Pudlicott
1673, 1680	Lord, Edward, the younger, yeo.
1731-6	Matthews, Thomas, yeo.
1867	Morris, Henry Harvey, farmer
1849	Peartree, Thomas, gent.
1785, 1797-1800, 1802-12, 1814, 1815	Perkins, John, yeo.
1815, 1828	Rawlings, William, slatter
1697, 1715, 1719, 1728	Rawlins, Thomas, yeo. [1715 late M]

1785, 1791, 1786-1800, 1802	Risby, William, yeo.
1748-51, 1756-67, 1770, 1776, 1785	Sharpe, John, chandler, [1785 late M - now Hailey]
1776, 1784	Silman, Richard,
1715, 1719, 1728, 1730-4, 1736	Wakefield, Peter, yeo.
1744-51, 1755-7, 1759-65, 1770, 1728-36, 1738, 1740, 1754-9	White, George, yeo. - treasurer 1730-40
1731-3	Whiting, Thomas
1730-4, 1736, 1740, 1743-52	Wilkins, John, yeo.
1770	Wilkins, John, the elder
1770	Wilkins, John, the younger, yeo.
1673, 1680	Wilkins, Robert
1697, 1715, 1719, 1728	Willett, Henry, yeo., & cordwainer, [1715 late M]
1673, 1770, 1776, 1785, 1786, 1790, 1799	Willett, Joseph, yeo.
1800, 1815, 1802-12, 1814, 1815, 1828, 1731-6	Willett, Nicholas [?yeo & innkeeper - see S list]
1753, 1755-61, 1763-7, 1770, 1776, 1785	Willett, Robert, yeo.
1815, 1828	Woodman, Daniel, maltster, [late M now Finstock]
1715, 1719	Young, Edward, maltster - treasurer 1723-9
1785, 1802-6, 1808, 1810, 1815	Young, Joseph, yeo.
1673, 1680	Brookes, John, gent., Lyneham

Social Standing of Feoffees.

Shipton	**Milton**
Clerks - 3	
Vicars of Shipton parish	
Gentlemen - 8	Gentlemen - 2
Yeomen - 6	Yeomen - 19
Farmers - 1	Farmers - 2
Victuallers - 1	Victuallers - 1
Maltsters - 0	Malsters - 2
Esquires - 1	Esquires - 1
Chandlers - 1	Chandlers - 1
Cordwainers - 1	Cordwainers - 0
Horse dealer - 1	Horse Dealers - 0

Miller - 1	Miller - 0
Slatter - 0	Slatter - 1
Vet - 0	Vet - 1
Yeoman, tailor, schoolmaster - 1	Yeoman, cordwainer - 1
Yeoman, farmer, maltster - 1	Farmer, baker - 2
Yeoman, innkeeper - 1	Tailor, mercer - 1
Not specified - 5	Not specified - 8

Appendix 2 Milton Poor named in the Crown Inn Charity Account Books

Ayres/Aires/Ayers, Richard; Susannah	Barnes, Grace; John; Robert; Sarah; Thomas
Bayl(i)es/Bailies, Daniel; John	Beal(l)e(s), Richard
Blackwell *see* May	Bridge, Catherine
Brown, Robert	Burges(s), John
Burson, Alice; James; John; Martha; Mary; Mrs; Nell; Philip; Richard; Widow; William	Busson, Matthew
Cambin, Elizabeth	Cassel/Cas(s)el, Paul; Thomas
Carie/Carye/Cerey/Serey/Sexey, Thomas	Clarke, Thomas
Coomb(e)s/Coumbs, Francis	Day, Mary
Davi(e)s, Charles	Dickson/Dixon, Ann; John; Mary; Philip;
Sarah; Thomas; Widow	Druitt/Druwar/Druett, John
Dyer, Ann; Eliff; Jane; Martha; William; Widow	Eden/Eaden/Ed(d)on, Arthur; Joseph; Martha; Mary; Rachel; Richard; Thomas
Fa(u)lkner, Ann; William	Fowler, Mary; Richard
Gouns, Cathern	Green, Amy; Ann; Henry; Jonathan; Sarah; Widow
Groves, Mary; Widow	Harding, Widow of Sam
Harris, Francis; John; Sarah; Thomas; Widow; William	Hawkes/Haucks/Hakes, Thomas
Hawtin, Thomas	Hiet, Edward

Hirons, Elizabeth	Hollis, William
Huckes/Hux, Dorothy; Widow	Humphri(e)s, Sarah; Silvester; Widow
Ireland/Ierland, John	Jenkins, William
Joh(n)son(s), Ann; William	Jones, George
Kil(s)by, John; Richard; Widow	Kirby, Thomas
Leach, Robert	Lin(d)sey, Ann; Thomas; Widow
Longshaw/Langshaw, William	Macon, John
Marchell, John	Mason, Jane
May(e), Deborah; Mary; Thomas	Miles,William
Mi(t)chel, Elenor; Jane	Morton, Jane; Jenny; Mary sen; Thomas; Widow
Na(i)sh Amy; Ann; Jacob; Richard; Widow	Parrat/Perrott, Joane
Perkins, William	Pill, Sarah
Porland, John	Radborne(Radbone/Radburn, Anne; James
Rawlings/Rol(l)ing(g)s/Rowlings, Ann; Betty; Eliza(Lyzer); Elizabeth; John; Thomas; Widow	Reeve(s), Anthony; Martha; Thomas
Risby, Thomas	Sall, Beni
Seacole, Maria; Robert	Sessions/Shesions, Francis; James; Mrs
Shaylor/Shailer, John; Joseph; Mary	Simes/Sim(m)s, Margaret; Mary
Slei/Sl(e)y, John	Smith, Elizabeth; Jane; Jobe; Sarah
Stringer, Elizabeth; John; Samuel	Taylor/Tail(l)or, Widow
Townley, Susannah	Townsend, William
Waine/Wayne, Charles; Chris; Widow; William	Walklet, William
Wheeler/Weeller/Willer, Betty; Susannah; Thomas	Whil(l)er/Whiter, Ann; Elizabeth; John; Thomas; Whiter's boys
White, Elizabeth (Betty)	Widdow(e)s, Jane; Mary; Sarah; William
Willet(t)/Willat/Willott, Eddy; Elizabeth; Mary; Michael; Widow	

Goods Given to Milton Poor

Ale	1	Apparel	4
Aprons	6	Bread	2
Breeches (Britches)	7	Buttons	2
Caps	3	Cloth	5
Cloth, doulas	1	Cloth, flannel	1
Cloth, lincey	2	Cloth, linen	1
Clothing	3	Coats	29
Coats, foul weather	5	Coffins	5
Frocks	1(smock?)	Furze	3
Garments	4	Goods	2
Gowns	12	Handkerchiefs	5
Hats	1	Hops	1
Leather	2	Malt	1
Petticoats	4	Sheets	3
Shifts	34	Shirts	20
Shoes	49	Shroud	4
Smocks *see* Frock		Soap	2
Stays	6	Stockings, prs	3
Thread	2	Waistcoat, leather	5
Wood	3		

Other things paid for

Apprenticeships and costs - 9	Cash payments to different people - 72
Cleaning	Cures
Cures by surgeons	Laying out the dead
Making clothes	Medicines from Apothecary and Doctors - 8
Medicines from Physic - 1	Mending clothes
Mending shoes - 4	Mending wheel - 1
Nursing - 1	Rents
Taxes, Poor - 1	Taxes, Rent
Washing clothes	Washing people

Shipton Poor named in Crown Inn Charity Account Books

Bartlett, Edward	Burson, William
Cooper, Elizabeth	Cox, Sarah
Cross, Mary; Sarah	Eden, William
Hamblet, Elizabeth	Harding, Daniel
Ryland, John of Milton	Sharpe, Richard
Wilkins, Joseph; Edmund	

Goods given to Shipton's Poor

Cloaths[clothes] for the poor	
Gowns - 2	Shirts - 2
Shorts - 1	Shoes - 2

Other things paid for

Apprenticeships - 3	Towards apprenticing - 1
Money for distress - 1	For illness - 1
To poor person - 1	Travel to London - 1
Unspecified things for the poor - 2	

Paid the poor tax 1*s*	Paid expences 6*s* 9*d*
Paid window tax 10*s*	Paid land tax 4*s* 5*d*
Paid for the writing 1*s*	Paid for making the bill of sal(e) and expenses 6*s* 9*d*
Paid for the lease 15*s* 9*d*	Paid expences and excis 6*s* 8*d*

Apppendix 3
Payment for work with person or tradesman named

Akers/Ekers, Edwd - 1787 [for bells & hanging]
Anson/Hanson, Mr for lime - 1787, 1797
Brookes, - 1791 [for laying deal planks]
Brookes, John, glazier & painter - 1799, 1816, 17, 18, 23, 29
Brookes, Mr Peter, innkeeper - 1770, 74, 91, 92, 93 95-9 [entertainment], 1800, 04, 05, 08, 09, 10-14
Brookes, Thomas(Parsonage) carriage - 1802, 04, 16, 17, 20, 23-6, 28
Busson (Burson), William - 1791 [for doz flakes]
Coombes, Thomas carpenter for door - 1799, 1807, 08, 09, 10, 11, 17
Eddon, Richard for riding the brook & carriage of fers [furze] - 1731, 32
Eddon, Thomas for scouring the trench at Bul Mead - 1730
Farmer, Mr of Shilton for slats - 1797
Franklin, Robert - 1823, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 [for writing up accounts]
Gibbard, Edward blacksmith - 1804-06, 08, 09, 11, 12, 14-17, 23-9
Gilkes, Thomas the glesher [?glazier] - 1727, 39, 41
Green, John mason - 1774, 1814
Green, William for coffin - 1767, 68
Groves, George mason - 1789, 91-7, 99, 1800, 02, 04, 05, 06, 08, 09, 10, 12, 14-18, 20-29
Groves, Jeremy? For lime - 1739
Grove[s], John mason his bill - 1727, 37, 45, 52, 59 [for stone], 60, 70, 74, 76, 81-4, 86, 87, 89, 90, 94
Groves, William for - 1746 [work on Stoken Bridge], 52, 53, 55 [building head wall of stable & straw], 58, 59 [for stone & carriage]
Hale, William carpenter - 1802, 03-07, 18
Harris, John for thatching at the Inn - 1767
Harwood, Thomas half repair of Great Room - 1791 [for deal planks], 1792
Holyfeild, John - 1794, 98 [for ashes & trees]
Howman, for thatching - 1797
Ions [?Jons or Jones], William na[i]ling at the Inn - 1739
Kench, Joseph carpenter - 1781, 1786-9

Kilby, Thomas for flakes for the Inn - 1769
Long, Mr of Witney - 1825 [measuring for repairs]
Longshaw, Francis - 1823 [labour on the premises]
Longshaw, William - 1823 [labour on the premises]
Margetts, Joseph glazier - 1783, 1795, 98
Mathews, Thomas for carrying stone - 1725, 36, 41, 46, 47
Morton, Thomas for riding the Brock(?) - 1723
Morton, William, carpenter, for carpentry work - 1727, 29(2), 34, 36, 40, 44, 45, 46, 50, 51, 52, 58, 67, 76
Perkins, John slatter - 1787, 88, 94, 95, 1802, 03, 04, 11
Rawlings, Edward slater - 1752, 53, 70, 74, 76, 81-93
Rawlins, John, the slater, for the Broues[?] of Shipton for slating & plasteren to the Pine - 1726, 27, 29(2), 30, 33, 35, 36, 39, 40-6, 56, 58, 59, 60-7, 96-9, 1800, 02-06, 14-20
Rawlings, William - 1819, 20 [repairing bridge at M], 21-6, 28, 29
Reeves, Mark blacksmith - 1781-9, 91-9, 1800, 02
Risby, William carpenter - 1791-9, 1800, 02, 03
Shayler, Henry, tenant of the Crown, his bills - 1739, 45, 52, 54, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 65, 74, 76, 84-91
Shayler, Joseph - 1825 [for planting trees]
Sillman, Richard -1774, 81, 84 [mending Heath Bridge],86, 87, 91, 93
Wackfield[Wakefield], Peter for fetching stone from Haslford [?Quarrry] - 1724, 25, 27, 29
Wain [Wayne], mason, for mason work - 1727, 30, 33, 34, 36, 39, 40-6, 50, 51
Young, John carrier - 1774, 81, 83, 84, 86, [carriage to Inn], 87, 88, 89, 92, 94-7, 99, 1800, 01, 02, 04, 05 [one of theTrust], 20, 21, 23, 27
Young, William - 1824 [carriage of 3 loads of planks]

Payments to known workmen with no work named

Bartlett, Edward - 1811, 12, 14, 1815
Bayles[Bayli[e]s], John - 1724, 29, 35
Brookes, Doctor for half repair of Great Room - 1793
Brookes, Robert - 1824-27
Brookes, T - 1817, 1824, 25
Brookes, William - 1815
Chaundy, - 1797
Coleman, Mr - 1752, 60, 63
Coombes, John - 1816-26, 28, 29
Faulkner, David - 1808-12, 1815
Franklin, Robert - 1823, 24, 25

Fruin [Frewen], James - 1815
Gardner, Mr - 1823, 24
Harbutt, James - 1819
Harwood, Thomas half repair of Great Room - 1792
Hayden, Mr - 1748
Melins, Mr - 1787
Morton, Henry - 1754, 55, 56, 59, 60, 63-6, 74
*Newman, James -1792
Patrick, Thomas - 1818
Pauling, George - 1817
Rawlings, Richard - 1754
Rawlings, T - 1817
Rawlings, William - 1819
Reeves, John - 1774
Stephens, Mr - 1769
Upstone, Michael - 1817, 18, 20, 21, 22
Wheeler, John - 1774
Whiting, Mr - 1725 twice
Woodman, Daniel - 1818
Yeatman, John - 1829
*Young, Joseph - 1804, 1818
A labourer - 1745

Appendix 4
Apprenticeships

Hux, Thomas of Burford for taking as apprentice Susanah Wheler - 1731
Smallbone, Stephen of Burford for taking as apprentice Susanna Airs - 1736, 37
May, Moses for taking his sister as apprentice - 1737
Mil[l]s, Richard for taking Airs boy as apprentice - 1740
Andrews, John of Burford for taking Mary West's boy as apprentice - 1740
Thomas Kirby/Risby apprenticed - 1786
Thomas Clarke apprenticed - 1789
John Harris apprenticed - 1792

Miscellaneous
Payd for a table[table] for the coule [?school] - 1725
Horton, Thomas the schoolmaster(?) for the yous [use] of the Coul [?school] - 1727, 33, 34
Payd for a scoll hows - 1728, 31, 33, 34
Willett, Nicholas - 1733 [he was payd for two men - were they lodgers, he had the Inn later]

Greenway, William paid half of making leases - 1752
Humphreys, Silvester for malt & hops - 1792
No food or drink for the poor

Medical payments
Payd the surgeon for the cure of Thomas Harris & John Sly's son - 1731
Payd for meeting the surgeon on account of Willot's daughter - 1731
Morton, Thomas to pay Doctor for his daughter - 1732
Wilet, Doctor payd his bill - 1735
Paid for laying out Mary Morton - 1735
Paid James Pujolas[the apothecary] for Thomas Dickson - 1746, 49, 53(2), 54, 56(2), 58, 61, 62, 63, 66, 67, 68
Payd for nursing - 1752, 67
Payd for medicines - 1751
Towards paying Dr Appleby - 1753(2)
Paid Hunt, Mr - 1763

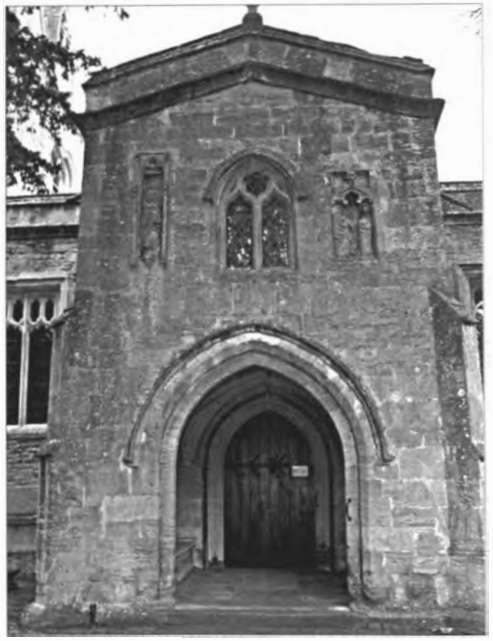
Clothing payments
Paid for a shirt & the making - 1723, 43, 49
Paid for a shift - 1728
Paid for the making of a coat - 1730, 50(2), 51, 52
Paid for cloth & making of a cote - 1733, 54
Paid for material, cloth & buttons etc - 1735, 43, 44, 51
Paid for a shroud - 1734, 35
Paid for a gown - 1735
Paid for a waistcoat - 1735, 54
Paid for John Sharpe for a gown & making - 1746, 48, 52(2), 53(2), 55, 56(3), 59(2), 60, 63, 68(2)
Paid Henry Franklin for making a foul weather coats & smocks - 1756, 59(3), 60, 61
Paid William Perkins for making & mending shoes - 1755, 56, 59(3), 60(2)
Paid William Wakelet making/mending shoes - 1756
Paid John Green for apparel - 1759(3), 61
Paid John Mathews for shoes - 1761
Paid for washing & mending - 1767, 68
Paid Philip Gilkes for shoes - 1767, 68
Paid Thomas Perkins for shoes - 1780, 81, 86
Paid Philip Green for cloth for clothes - 1780, 81, 84
Paid William Hemming for clothes - 1780, 81
Paid Ann Crichlow making gown - 1781
Paid Mrs Rawlings for stays - 1786

Notes
[1] OA/PAR/236/01/R1/2 Registers of Shipton under Wychwood - burials
[2] OA/PAR/236/13/D1-6. The Crown Inn Papers
[3] Free tenure without obligation of military service
[4] *Op cit*
[5] *Op cit*
[6] Jack Howard-Drake, 'The Untons', Wychwoods History 6, 1991, pp.5-18
[7] *Op cit*
[8] *Op cit*
[9] Brasenose College papers
[10] OA/PAR/236/13/F&F1. OA/PAR/236/13/D6
[11] Flakes - Joy Bristow 'The Local Historian's Glossary of Words and Terms'. *OED*. Oxfordshire Record Society Inventories 1550-90
[12] C. R. Cheney, *The Handbook of Dates*, 1978
[13] Christopher Taylor, *Roads and Tracks of Britain*, 1982, p.151

Annunciation Relief, St Mary the Virgin, Shipton

Gwen McConnachie

THE following article is reproduced from a short essay on depictions of the Virgin Mary in medieval art. The building under discussion is the medieval church at Shipton-under-Wychwood, the construction of which dates from around 1200. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The south porch is a later fourteenth-century addition, like so many Cotswold church porches. The pair of low relief sculptures which are the subject of the article are inset in two niches above, and to the sides of the portal. The niche to the right of the portal shows the Annunciation with the angel Gabriel making known to Mary that she will give birth to the Christ child; that on the left has been mutilated and cannot therefore be identified with accuracy.



The exterior of the porch with the niches above the entrance, St Mary the Virgin, Shipton-under-Wychwood

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus.

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee,
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus

I have three reasons for choosing this portrayal of the Annunciation, firstly because it is my own parish church and, like so many Cotswold churches, is a distinguished medieval monument; secondly because I find the portrayal

of the Annunciation untouched by the influence of the Apocryphal gospels[1] one of the most powerfully moving and evocative images in the rhetoric of salvation; thirdly, because it is something of an exception to find sculptural relief of this quality still in its parochial church setting. Inevitably, lack of documentation on the sculpture means that this discussion is more of a muse than an investigation.

I shall first place the image in the context of the building history, then briefly discuss the object itself and finally attempt to achieve some understanding of its liturgical and popular framework.

Archaeological excavations of the 1980s in the adjacent Prebendal indicate that there was a total rebuilding of the church in the Romanesque period, the earliest fabric of which dates from around 1200. The first documented reference to Shipton is 1086. Shipton seems to have been established as a 'minster church' in later Anglo-Saxon times and at the manorial centre of an administrative area. Later, in the thirteenth century, the church and its endowments created a 'prebend', or maintenance, for a canon of Salisbury cathedral. The fourteenth-century two-storey south porch, with the images in their niches which are part of the fabric, would have constituted the regular and most visible new access in preference to the twelfth-century west doorway which would no doubt have been used ceremonially and liturgically on feast and holy days..

One can only speculate whether the dedication to St Mary inspired the portrayal in this prominent position, but certainly the popular cult of the Virgin in England is well documented, particularly from the thirteenth century. There is also the metaphor of Mary as the Gateway, with the Annunciation at the beginning of the christological narrative. St Bernard calls her the 'Door' and in the zeal of scholastic poetry she is exalted as in the following verses:

C'est le tuyau, c'est le conduiz
par ou tout est aconduiz.

She is the way, the guide
through which all is led.

or

The prophet Ezekiel
in his boke it witnesseth wel
thou art the gate so stronge, so stel
as ever is het from manne.[2]

Ezekiel the prophet testifies well
that you are the gateway both strong
and safe
that ever man can have
(translation of last two lines not verified)

M. D. Anderson tells us that in an age of faith, the wealth of an area was reflected in its churches. It is thus less than surprising to find an exceptionally fine, if severely damaged sculpture here in Shipton at this time. Pevsner refers

to 'the Virgin in a swaying Gothic pose with elegant drapery'. In a region of abbeys like Eynsham and Bruern, where, at Taynton, was to be found some of the finest ashlar stone in the country, sculptural workshops would have existed in some of the religious houses. No doubt designs were handed down and adapted by these provincial masons and such patterns appear again and again in the wall-paintings of many parochial churches.

Sculpture on the other hand is a more 'valuable' medium and may indicate higher status. And indeed, the fact that the work itself is an isolated and most visible image seems to confirm that importance. The reliefs are placed under crocketed canopies in niches, about 1.5 by 0.5 metres, on the left and right above the outer porch door, (damage to the sculptures probably dates back to the Reformation's destructive period). The angel's wings are in lower relief. The two figures fit closely under the framing canopy. There is no other image, lily or distaff, to distract from the gesturing angel approaching the Virgin although the traces of pigment which can be distinguished indicate that perhaps some of the conventional fourteenth-century iconography may originally have been painted on to the image. (Although the simplicity of this version of the Annunciation is so powerful, one feels perhaps that a borrowing from the Byzantine image of Mary with her distaff would have been particularly appropriate to a Cotswold wool church!)

The Gothic windows rather sketchily incised to either side of the Annunciation figures are more reminiscent of stained glass as a model than wall painting. Both figures are haloed and traces of colour remain at the upper levels which would have further enhanced the image.

The Angel Gabriel visits Mary, under canopy

One or all of the factors already referred to may have combined to place this fine, if severely damaged, sculptural relief in such a key position. I think, moreover that one has to insist on the importance of the porch as the carrier of the sculptures. Here it is ribbed and vaulted with crowned head-stops. There are stone benches each side and a niche in the wall on the right-hand side, a similar niche in the chamber above. Chaucer reminds us that porches would have been the fulcrum of the life of the community. In *The Wife of Bath's Tale* Chaucer comments that 'husbandes at church door she hadde fyve'. Not only a ritual and liturgical focus but the whole gamut of life, death, education, justice, sanctuary and drama were seen in the porch.

Thus the whole community would have regularly passed beneath and glanced up at the figures over the entrance; the images themselves would have been instantly recognisable, while having an innately story-telling function. How then would this portrayal have been 'read', and 'read' rather than 'viewed' must be used advisedly. In an age where literacy was exceptional, images were 'the bookes of unlearned men that can no letters',[3] and the fourteenth century saw perhaps the greatest popular flowering of metaphorical significance in relation to the Virgin herself and to her place in the liturgical calendar.

In the canonical Gospel accounts, Mary speaks only four times. This type of representation without its accrued apocryphal additions is the most faithful to those accounts. Here, it fuses form and content to the highest degree, the Gothic sway of the figure of Mary fulfilling the idea of her 'trouble' and acceptance, 'be it unto me according to thy word', the tension and resolution within the image expressing exactly the dilemma of Mary within the Annunciation narrative.

Damaged figure, unidentified

The gestures of the participants here follow a sequence recognisable from a very early period. It combines 'showing' and 'relating'. In this isolated position, it cannot be viewed as part of the Gospel narrative although no doubt the interior would have expressed that narrative in the different media as well as in the recital of the Office of the Virgin; but it would have been a reminder of the first chapter in the Virgin's 'Joys' and 'Sorrows' and emphasised the Virgin's role as *theotokos* or 'bearer' of the son of God. I would suggest then that its function here might have been iconic and in a popular sense, devotional, as much to be 'viewed' as 'read'.

Before entering the porch, people would here have been reminded of the Virgin's role as mediator by virtue of her role as mother. The simple image of humility and simplicity and 'trouble', the image of the human reaction in the face of divine intervention, in opposition to earlier conceptions of her as Queen of Heaven would have accorded well with the popular cult of the Virgin as intercessor for their sins. The image with its double function established the code containing one of the most successful propaganda tools in Christian ideology, the setting up of a contrast between *Eva peccatrice* (original sin) and redemption through the figure of a Virgin. Nicola Coldstream tells us that 'the most powerful intercessor in any church was not the main saint but ... the Virgin Mary'. The church in nearby Chipping Norton is also dedicated to St Mary.

Viewed through the prism of seven centuries can this relatively small relief in its niche really deserve such an elevated interpretation? Perhaps M. Camille puts the question in its proper perspective:

> From baptism to burial the local parish Church structured people's lives and it is impossible to understand Gothic art without an awareness of how this Christian ideology sought to control minds as well as bodies.[4]

E. Duffy says much the same when he discusses the effects of the Reformation on communities and reflects on the 'dissolution of the elaborate symbolic framework with which the life of these communites had been shaped for generations'.[5]

In conclusion, no words of mine can better the following verses from these relatively contemporary lyrics which seem to sum up something of the iconic status and allegorical significance of such an Annunciation figure in a parochial church setting and the devotion which it might have inspired in the minds and hearts of generations of Cotswold people.

From the twelfth century 'Hymn to the Virgin'

Sainte Marye, christes bur,	Holy Mary, bower of Christ,
Maidenes clenhad, moderes flur,	Purest of maidens, flower of mothers,
Dilie min sinne, rix in min mod,	Wash away my sin, reign in my heart,
Bring me to winne with the self God.[6]	Bring me to joy with God.

From the thirteenth century

All this world was forlore	All this world was lost
Eva peccatrice	By the sin of Eve (Eva)
Till our Lord was ibore	Till our Lord was born,
De te genetrice	Born of you
With 'Ave' it went away	With 'Ave', sin went away
Thuster night and cometh the day	After night comes the morn,
Salutes	Greetings,
The welle springeth out of thee	You are the wellspring,
Virtutis.[7]	Of Virtue.

(Note the deliberate pun on Eva/Ave)

Sadly, and ironically, it was precisely this inflated Mariolatry which led to the desecration of the scene from Mary's life and one wonders whether the headless figure on the left of the porch was in fact Mary herself.

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Notes

[1] The Apocryphal gospels are a collection of early Christian writings around the life of Christ and the Apostles, not included in the ecclesiastically accepted twenty-seven books of the New Testament, as opposed to the official gospel canon, the 'Canonical' gospels

[2] Probably Willian of Shoreham 'A Song to Mary, verse 2, Medieval English Lyrics

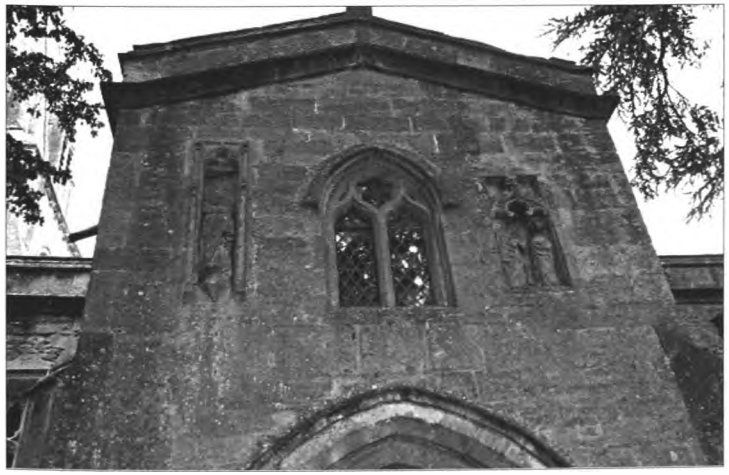
[3] Henriuus Injunction amended in 1538 to delete this quotation

[4] Gothic Visions, p.14, M. Camille

[5] The Stripping of the Altars, page 467, E. Duffy

[6] 'A Cry to Mary', St Godric, Medieval English Lyrics

[7] 'A Hymn to Mary', Medieval English Lyrics



The exterior of the porch with the niches above the entrance, St Mary the Virgin, Shipton-under-Wychwood

Wychwoods Local History Society Publications in Print

Wychwoods History, an Index to Journals 1-19 (2004)
All the Society's past *Wychwoods History* journals are in print. An *Index* of articles, contributors, personal names, farms, maps and subjects in journals 1-19 is available free on receipt of a self-addressed C5 (229 × 162mm) envelope with two first class stamps. See www.wychwoodshistory.org
Wychwoods History 20 (2005) £3.50
Joan Rein Remembers; Milton Church; Roman Activity at Swinbrook; Shipton and the Church Courts; One of Yesterday's Heroes - Albert Oliver; The People of the Wychwoods 1881; 'Tripping The Light Fantastic Toe': Traditional Dance Musicians of Finstock
Wychwoods History 21 (2006) £3.50
Reginald Tiddy; The Thomsons and the Walkers of Shipton Court; James Baggs and his Little Black Book; The Manor Courts of Ascott D'Oilly; Gordon and Jean Carpenter; Kelcot House; Gossip in Lyneham
Wychwoods History 22 (2007) £3.50
Bruern Abbey 1147-1536; To the 'Lee' of the Walkers; William Smith, Clock Maker of Milton under Wychwood; The Society's Fieldwalk Programme - The Final Report; The Shipton Tillyards
Wychwoods History 23 (2008) £3.50
Defiant Women; Joan and Ben Townsend and Albert (Bim) Champness; The Society's Fieldwalk Programme - The Final Report Part 2. The Pottery; The Godfrey Case; The Little Girl From Salisbury Place; The St Michael's Connection
Wychwoods History 24 (2009) £3.50
Shipton under Wychwood Churchwardens' Accounts 1554-1696; Dear Mr Rawlins; Intrepid Travellers - Three Wychwoods Women in the 1880s; St Michael's: Another Connection; St Mary's Church of England Primary School.
The Shipton under Wychwood Constables' Book 1807-1851, ed Margaret Ware (2006) £3.00
Transcript with comprehensive introduction and personal name index
That's How it Was: Women in the Wychwoods During World War Two (Originally £5.50, now 50p)
An illustrated record of life in the Wychwood villages in World War Two, as recalled by the women who lived and worked there
The Second Wychwoods Album (Originally £5.00, now 50p)
Eighty photographs illustrating life in Milton, Shipton and neighbouring villages, particularly between the wars

The Wychwoods Local History Society meets once a month from September through to June. Meetings usually alternate between the village halls at Milton and Shipton. Current membership is £6 for an individual and £9 for a couple or overseas member, which includes a copy of *Wychwoods History* when published. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Wendy Pearse, Littlecott, Honeydale Farm, Shipton under Wychwood, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 6BJ (telephone 01993 831023).

To obtain further copies and back numbers of *Wychwoods History*, please see www.wychwoodshistory.org

An Index of articles, contributors, personal names, farms, maps and subjects in Journals 1–19 is available. See the website for details. The personal names index is also on the website.

Cover illustration:
The courtyard of The Shaven Crown, Shipton-under-Wychwood, pictured during the 1920s.

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