

Alderholt Archives

Telegraph (Pistle) Hill.

by Adrian King



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

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

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

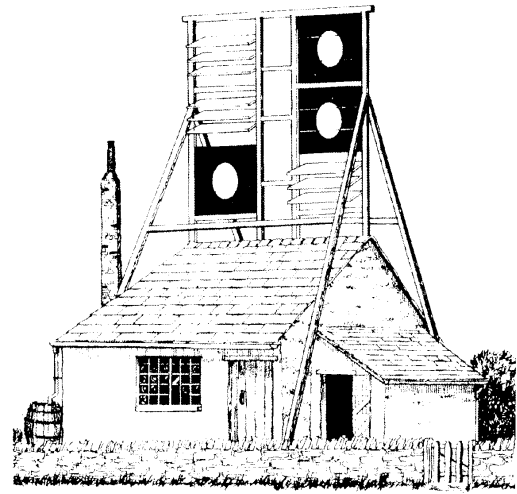
At the beginning of the Continental War an optical telegraph developed by Chappe was already in use by the French. The admiralty worried by the military implications of this quickly sought a system of their own.

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

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

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

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



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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

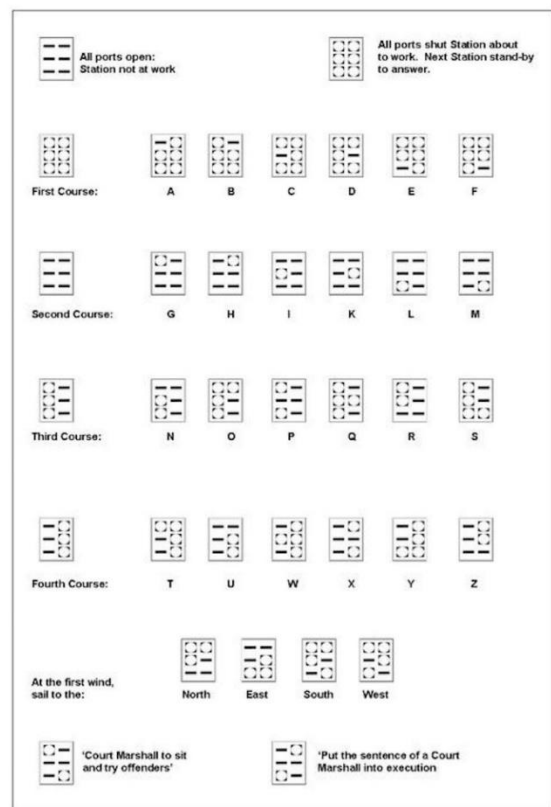
Yet there is evidence that the Portsmouth and Plymouth branch were reopened in 1815 (it was back in use by July and August of that year) and closed a year later.

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

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

Telegraph Stations on the Plymouth Branch

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



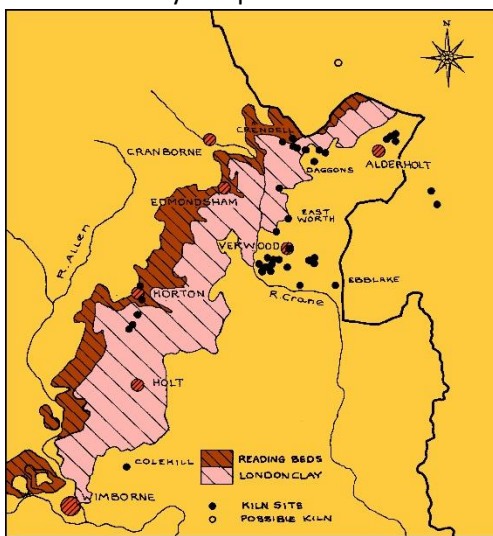
Alderholt Archives

Potteries – Part I

by Adrian King



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



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

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

Towards the end potters were digging clay at Holwell.

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

the 17th and 18th centuries, additional kilns were sited at Daggons and Crendell.

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

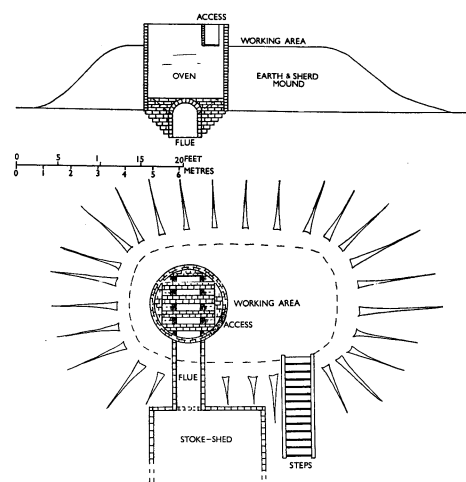
In this year there were two kilns in Alderholt run by Richard Foster and John Viney, and four in Crendell run by James Foster, James Thorn, George Thorn and James Baker.

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

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

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

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



Plan and section
OF
kiln — mound

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

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



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

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

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



Hare Lane Farm Pottery

Potters Bond.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alderholt Archives

Potteries – Part II

by Adrian King



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

Alderholt (Crendell) Cluster

These sites were built close to the clay source.

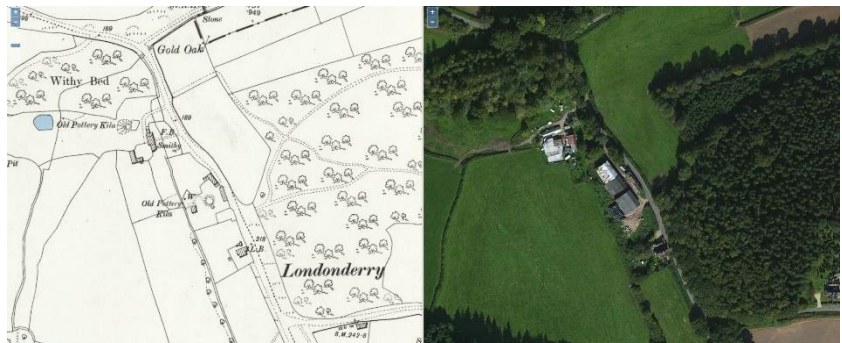
Site 1 (SU089129)

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

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

Site 2 (SU088130)

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



Kiln Sites One and Two

Site 3 (SU087132)

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

Site 4 (SU084132)

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

Alderholt (Daggons) Cluster

Site 5 (SU093126)

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

Site 6 (SU100125)

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



Alderholt (Crendell and Daggons) Clusters

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

Site 7 (SU097124)

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

Site 12 (SU102126)

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

The Helliors family were possibly working it in the 18th century.

Alderholt (Presseys Corner) Cluster

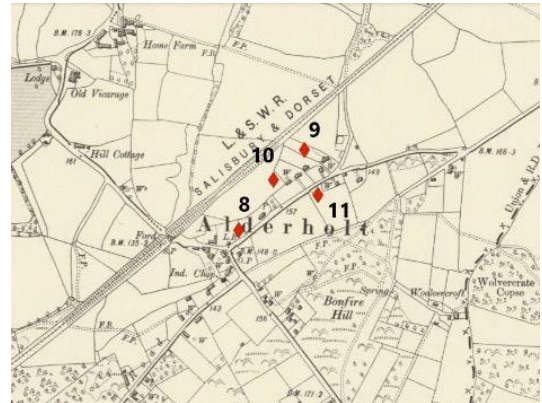
This is where it all began. The earliest known reference occurs in the Cranborne Manor accounts for 1337, when the tenants of the village paid 14/- for the privilege of digging clay to make pots. Although the number of kilns at this time is unknown, there was clearly an established and thriving community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

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

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

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

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



Alderholt (Presseys Corner) Cluster



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

Site 8 (SU123131)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Site 9 (SU124133)

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

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

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

Site 10 (SU123132)

Pots were being fired here possibly as early as 1400.

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

Site 11 (SU124132)

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

Alderholt Archives

Bowerwood Farm

by Adrian King



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

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

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

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

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

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

Higdons e17 is derived from Cecelia Hykedon 1328.

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

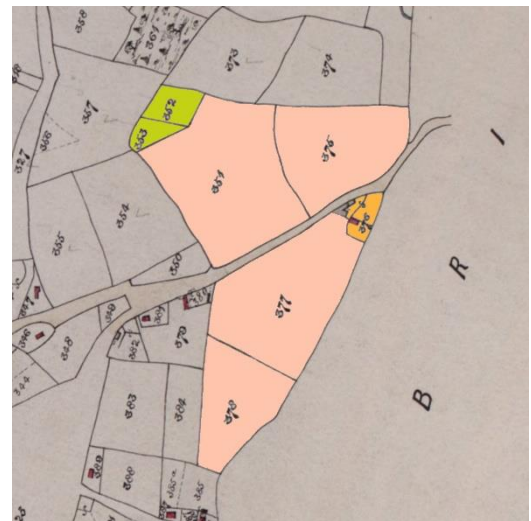
In 1847 the farm was rented by Richard Withers and Charles Viney was the tenant.

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

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

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

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



Bowerwood Farm and fields on the 1849 Tithe Map



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

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

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

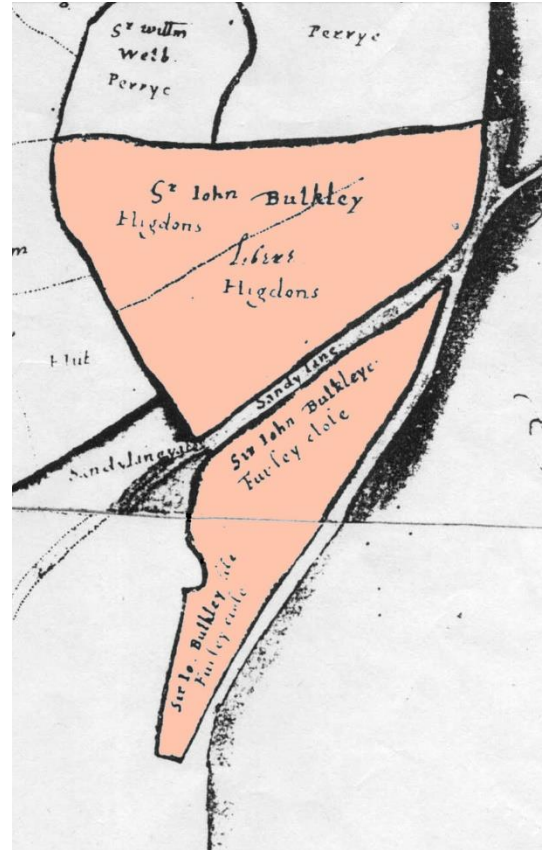
Four loads of firewood from the New Forest were annually granted to this lot.

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

Lot 3 was “an Allotment in Alderholt Common”.

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

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



1605 map of Bowerwood Farm

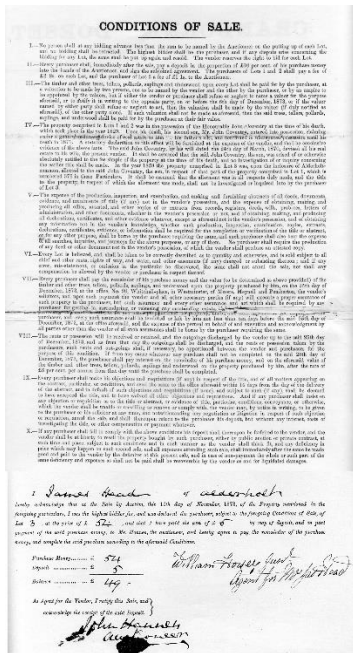
James and Ann Head bought Lot 3 for £54 for which they gave a deposit of £5, but later sold it in 1881 to James Woodvine for £58! The sale document was witnessed by Rev. Samuel Williams (Independent Minister) and Luke Bailey (Baker, Alderholt). In 1900 James Woodvine bought Bowerwood farm from the Coventry's.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

In 1919 the farm was occupied by Woodvine and Parsons.

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

Owners and Tenants

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



James Head's purchase agreement for Lot 3



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

Alderholt Archives

Palmers Stores

by Adrian King



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

If you look in the right half of the picture you will see a lady in a horse and trap, a man standing by her side and about nine children in front of a shop widow.

Undoubtedly this is James William Palmer (who owned the shop), his wife Kate and nine of their ten children.

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

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

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

James, sadly died on 4th June 1913.

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



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



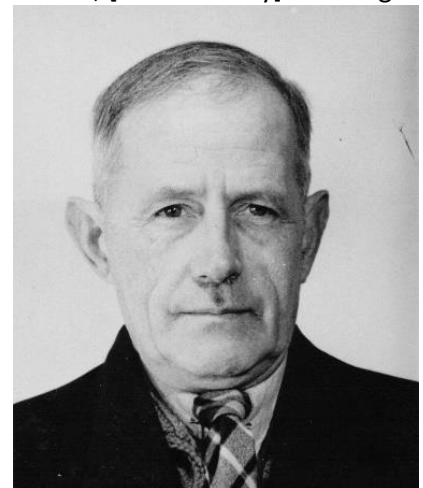
The doorway of the shop at Charing Cross – probably about 1911. The Union Jack and bunting celebrating the coronation of George V!

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

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

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

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



Percy Palmer



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

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

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

Who can remember life before the internet and home deliveries?

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

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

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

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

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

For some years the shop was a ViVo Store.

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

Percy Palmer died in 1980.

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

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

The family sold the bakery on Presseys Corner to

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



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

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

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



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

Alderholt Archives

Brickworks – Part I

by Adrian King



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

One of the earliest records was in 1635 when William

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

Boxbury

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brickworks Locations in the area

Boxbury. Situated opposite Periwinkle Copse on Bullhill.

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

Camel Green. Situated off Antells Way.

Shannon Rake Brick Manufacturer

KA1915, 1920, 1923, 1927,
and 1931

G. Billett and Sons

KA1939

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

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

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

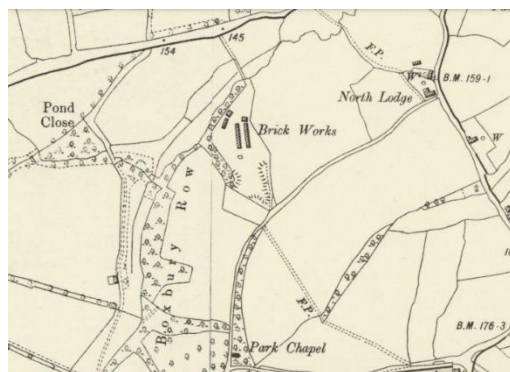
Charing Cross, Ringwood Road. Situated near the entrance to Earlswood Drive.

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

Owned by G. Billett and Sons in MoW1943.

China Cottage. Near Ashes Farm, Cranborne.

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



Boxbury Brick Works on the Bull Hill Road

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

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

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

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



Ringwood Road Site

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



A tile engraved, "Wm Read June 10th, 1793." Discovered at the Greyhound Hotel, Fordingbridge.

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

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

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



Aaron Read (1817-1894)

Brickle Bottom (SU094126 – SU097130)

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

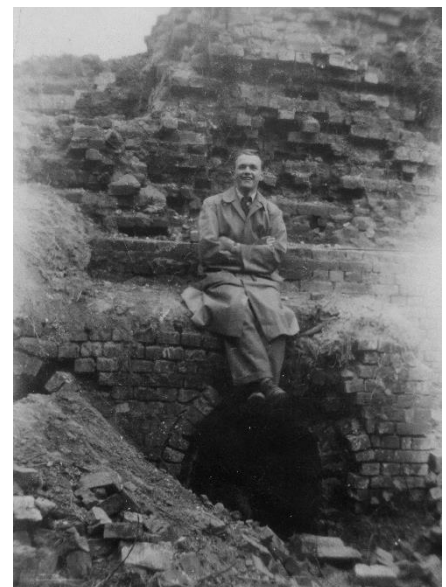
The arable field near the track, 636 on the Alderholt Tithe Map Apportionment is called Brick Kiln Bottom!



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

China Cottage

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



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

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

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

Alderholt Archives

Brickworks – Part II

by Adrian King



Billetts Brickworks. (SU124125)

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

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

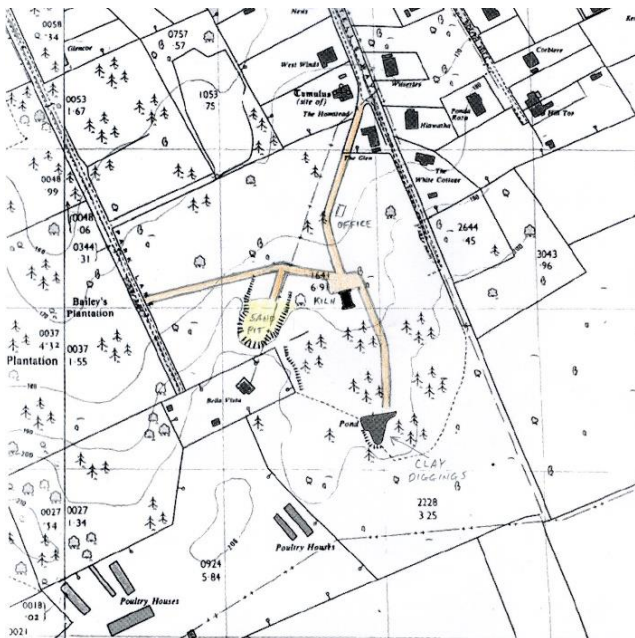
The Brickworks made red bricks with two kilns (still standing in 1971), two chimneys, mixer, and drying shed. Bricks were used to build the Ashburn Hotel in Fordingbridge.

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

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

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

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



A plan of Camel Green Brickyard as remembered by Stanley Broomfield

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

The sand was used for the facing of bricks.

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

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

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

In 1943 Billetts also owned Charing Cross Brickyard.

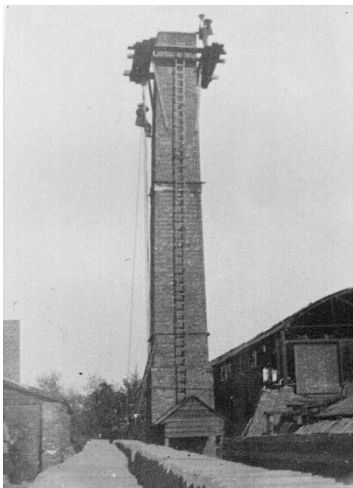
Billetts also had brickworks in Sandleheath (SU123152).

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

Daggons Road Brickyard. Station Site

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

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



Daggons Road Brickyard Chimney

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

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

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

The Royal Ordnance Corps (R.O.A.C.) took

over the brickworks during the war and a special railway siding was built – the headquarters was in the village hall.

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

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



Daggons Road Brickyard Workers.

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

A lunchtime blaze destroyed a large brick outbuilding on 26th August 1992.

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

Useful dates for the Daggons Road Brickyard.

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



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

Alderholt Archives

Whitsunday and Whit Thursday.

by Adrian King



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Climbing Kingbarrow Hill in the 1960's



Service on Kingbarrow Hill in 1984



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

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

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

This was still an issue in the 1993!

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

The marquee and trestle tables needed repair in 1959.

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

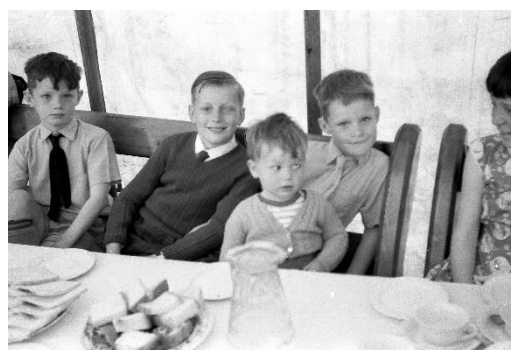
A few hardy individuals made it to the top of King Barrow in the pouring rain, said a prayer and sang the first verse of "What a friend we have in Jesus" before returning to the chapel for the service.

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

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

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

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



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

Alderholt Archives

Alderholt Steam Rally

by Adrian King



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

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

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



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



Traction Engine at Ringwood Road 1974

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

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

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



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

Alderholt Steam Rally Venues

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

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

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



Organ at Ringwood Road 1974



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

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

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

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

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



Alderholt Steam Rally at Ringwood Road 1974



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

Compiled from “A Century of Service, Alderholt Parish Council 1894 – 1994.”

Alderholt Archives

1st Alderholt Scout Group - the early years

by Adrian King



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



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

Alderholt was quick to start its own troop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

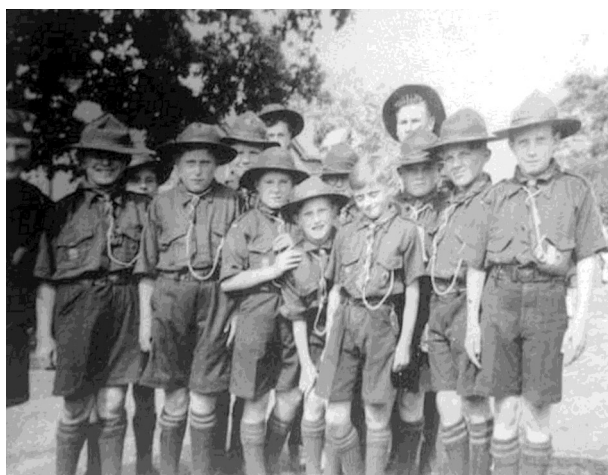
It appears that the Troop did not survive the First World War but was formed again by Rev. H. H. Coley in the early 1920's.

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

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

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

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



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

1st ALDERHOLT

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1st Alderholt Scouts at the 9th World Jamboree at Sutton Park, Warwickshire in 1957.

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



Beaver Investiture — 1991

Cob

by Adrian King



building was usually thatched.

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



Ebenezer Chapel Cripplestyle not long before it fell down in 1976

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

structure rose."

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

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"Then you get a cartload of clay, or loam and tip a cartload on to each way (where you intend the walls to be). Then you use



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

Cob Buildings in the parish

Fordingbridge Road / Wolvercroft

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

Sandleheath Road

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

Station Road / Hillbury Road

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

Daggons Road

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

Broxhill / Crendell / Lower Daggons / Bull Hill

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

Cripplestyle

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



Hillbury (Wren) Cottage in 1974

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

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

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



A typical Cranborne Estate semi-detached bungalow

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

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



Evergreen Cottage



Lopshill Cottage and Crendell Methodist Church

Dirk Jacobus Klink (1912 – 42)

by Adrian King



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

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

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

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

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

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



Dirk Jacobus Klink (1912 – 1942)



An Aerial View of Ibsley Airfield

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

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

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

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

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



A Hurricane approaching Ibsley Airfield – RAF Ibsley

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

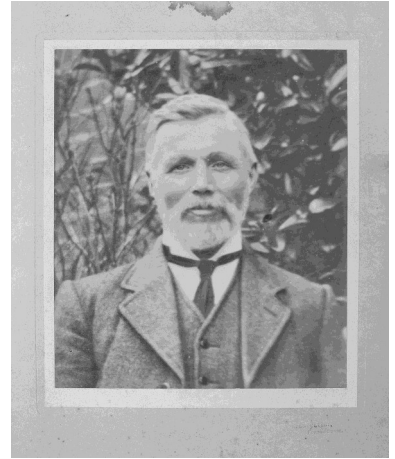
Compiled from, "So much sadness, so much fun," a history of Ibsley Airfield pilots and ground crews compiled by Vera Smith of the RAF Ibsley Historical Group, and eyewitness accounts. Chris Hanley from Uxbridge, Ontario (Barbara Klink's son by her third marriage) and Christine Emm have supplied additional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

Harry Bailey (1865—1923)

by Adrian King



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



which comes to her mind is that of Harry Bailey.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Harry Bailey making bricks at China Cottage Brickworks, Cranborne.



Hill View, Cripplestyle in the 1920's.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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