



Hutton  
*a Somerset  
village*



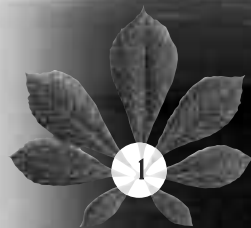
# Hutton

## *a Somerset Village*



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*and*

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### **Authors**

The majority of the chapters in this book were researched and written by **Mr John Chatburn**.

**Mr Arnold Bridge** provided “In The Beginning”.

Other contributions by **John Carrott, Jan Porter, Doris Lovell & Olive Loveridge**

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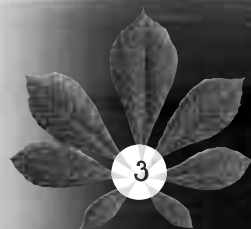
### **Proof Reading**

Our thanks also go to **Brenda Hague** for her assistance in the preparation of this book.

### **Editors**

**Charmaine Johnson and Terry Porter**

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# Introduction

The idea for this small book about Hutton grew from the rules being changed for the judging of the Britain in Bloom Competition. When we needed to add an environmental project to our entry for the competition – part of which was the Millennium Walk – we decided to print a leaflet on the principle landmarks around the village.

This made us realise just how much interesting information there was about our village. It took much midnight oil (and a little red wine!) on behalf of the team to try to keep up with deadlines, and then not always successfully.

This was not intended to be a definitive history of the village, but it does bring together some of the facts, figures and anecdotes from a variety of sources. We hope that you will enjoy reading it and will forgive any errors we may have committed!

The Editors

*The village photograph 1919*



# Chapter 1

## "In the Beginning"

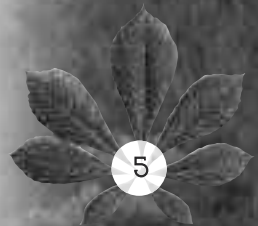


The parish of Hutton extends from the top of Bleadon Hill in the south to Cross Rhyne in the north and westwards from east of Elborough to Winterstoke road. The original village was mainly a linear development east-west along the slightly higher and relatively level land between the slope of the hill and the more marshy area to the north with some scattered settlements on the slopes of the hills.

It is possible that the linear development may also have followed a line of springs as suggested by the presence of several old wells within the village such as the wells at the top of Sutherland Drive and the bottom of Eastfield Road. To a large extent the development of the village has been influenced by the underlying geology of the area, which began many millions of years ago.

About 4,600 million years ago the Earth condensed from a cloud of dust and gas and has been evolving and changing ever since. This early Earth was cold but compression due to gravity and radioactivity of the heavier elements caused it to heat up to a molten state and the lighter materials to move towards the surface.

This process resulted in the differentiation into crust, mantle and core. As the Earth slowly cooled land was formed, the oldest rocks which have been found (in Canada and W.Greenland) are about 4,300 million years old and consist of metamorphosed sediments.



This early land mass eventually split into two, one part known as Laurasia and consisting of North America, Europe and Asia north of the Himalayas drifted slowly northwards. Once the Earth's surface had cooled below 100°C seas could form and the presence of water allowed sedimentary rocks, which are the major rocks of the Hutton area, to form.

## Hutton Village

The high land to the south of the village is part of the western end of the Mendip Hills. The oldest rock in the hills (excluding the Silurian volcanics, see Fig 1. which are in the eastern Mendips near Frome) is the Devonian Old Red Sandstone.

The Devonian Period started about 405 million years ago and lasted for 50 million years. During this time Britain was about 10° south of the Equator with an arid climate but subject to occasional flooding by rivers or shallow seas. These sandstones are not visible in the Hutton area; the nearest places they can be seen are on Wavering Down or on Blackdown, especially at Beacon Batch. At the end of the Devonian Period the land sank or the sea rose and the Carboniferous Period began and lasted for 65 million years.

This period can be split into three groups. The lowest is the limestone series, the middle group is the quartzite or Millstone Grit series and the upper, which is by far the largest, is the Coal Measures.

The middle and upper series are not present in the Hutton area but the quartzite of the middle series can be seen at Brandon Hill in Bristol where the quartzite is known as Brandon Hill grit; coal was mined at Nailsea, Bristol and Radstock.

The Carboniferous Period is represented in Hutton by the lower or limestone series and forms nearly all of the easily visible rock

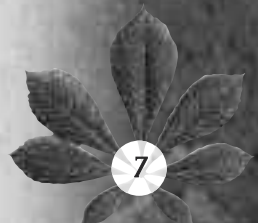
in the area. It is well displayed in the quarries at the lower end of Windmill Hill, Canada Coombe and Upper Church Lane, and at numerous outcrops in the fields and woods. Limestone is made of calcite which is the stable form of calcium carbonate. It was used to build many garden walls and older houses throughout the village. Some of the limestone is stained a deep reddish-brown; this is due to iron as will be mentioned later.

Some of the rocks in the walls and quarries show lines, streaks or blobs of a white or sometimes colourless material. This is almost always calcite which is a purer form of limestone which has crystallised in cracks, joints and fissures in the rock from lime-rich solutions. Very occasionally the crystalline material may be quartz.

Some limestones may show fossils. The two most commonly seen are crinoids (also known as sea lilies) but they were animals not plants, and early shell-fish which occur as curved white lines usually 5-8cms long (but they may be longer or shorter) where the shell has been replaced by calcite.

More rarely but still present in Hutton are fossil corals of both solitary and colonial types. Note: fossil corals and crinoids can easily be found among the stones on the beaches on the north side of Middle Hope. The crinoid fragments most commonly found have the appearance of a column of stacked plates usually around a few millimeters to one centimeter in diameter and several centimeters in length.

The dull grey limestone, which forms the bulk of the walls and buildings in Hutton, is the Black Rock limestone, which is at the bottom of the Carboniferous Limestone series. It was deposited in fairly muddy water about 350 million years ago when Britain was moving northwards across the equator. In Hutton the bulk of the Black Rock limestone is at the top of Bleadon Hill, extending roughly 400-500m either side of the Roman Road.

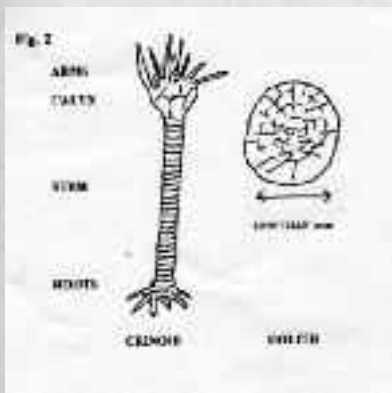




At its northern and southern margins there is a band of Black Rock Dolomite of variable width. The dolomite is similar to the Black Rock limestone except that some of the calcium has been replaced by magnesium and it can be easily recognised by its brownish colour and the fact that where it is exposed on the surface it tends to split into roughly square sections.

The carboniferous limestone in the three Hutton quarries was formed in clear shallow water, probably only a few meters deep and is known as the Burrington Oolite. An oolite is a form of limestone composed mainly of small spherical particles cemented together. The particles resemble fish eggs and are usually less than 1mm in diameter. They are formed of concentric layers of calcium carbonate deposited around nuclei such as grains of sand or shell fragments as they rolled around the sea floor.

**Fig. 2** *Oolith & Crinoid*



During the Lower Carboniferous period there was some volcanic activity in the region, the remains of lava from the undersea eruptions can be seen in the cliff at Spring Cove, Weston and on the beach and on the north side of Swallow Cliff, Middle Hope. The middle and upper parts of the Carboniferous are not represented in Hutton but

during this time the sea level fell leaving large areas of swampy land subject to occasional flooding, which eventually became the coal measures.

During this time the low-lying swampy land was colonised by plants such as horsetails, club mosses, ferns, cycads and ginkgos,

many of which grew to a considerable size. As plants died and decayed a thick layer of litter accumulated on the forest floor and this process continued until the area was again covered by the sea and fresh sediments deposited.

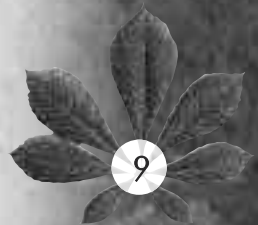
Over time the litter or peat would be compressed and heated by the weight of sediment above it and eventually become coal. This process could be repeated many times giving rise to multiple coal seams.

The Permian Period, which followed the coal measures, is also missing from our area.

The next stage in the Hutton story is the Triassic. This started 250 million years ago and lasted about 45 million years. At this time England was 20° North of the equator, that is at roughly the same level as the Sahara Desert and the climate was hot and dry with alternating wet periods. The main representative of this time in our area is the Mercia Mudstone group, particularly the Keuper Marl which underlies the whole Village from just south of the church to Moorcroft Road and from Windmill Hill to Oldmixon.

To the people who walk on it in wet weather the term "Mudstone" must seem a misnomer as it forms that heavy sticky reddish-brown mud that clings to your boots and stains your clothes. The red colour is due to small amounts of oxidised iron and indicates that the deposits were formed in well-oxygenated conditions such as shallow water or a land surface. This Keuper Marl uncontaminated by topsoil is exposed on the Springwood recreation ground where the bank on the south side has been cut away to enlarge the cricket field, and on the hill on the south east side of the footpath from Canada Coombe to Church Lane.

There are small deposits of another type of Triassic Mudstone known as the Tea Green Marl. This as the name implies is a



greenish-grey colour, the colour being due to reduced iron indicating an absence of oxygen due to deposition in stagnant water or in the presence of decaying organic material. There are small patches of this, though they are not easily visible, in the fields on the north side of Oldmixon Road.

During the dry desert conditions of the Triassic period there were occasional flash floods which formed Wadis, (a wadi is a valley with intermittent stream flow found in desert conditions). These streams carried fragments of limestone from the underlying rock down the hillside, depositing it to form a fresh type of rock at the valley mouth.

This rock, known as Dolomitic Conglomerate, consists of angular fragments of limestone in a red or brownish matrix and the presence of this material at various points along Canada Coombe suggests that the Coombe was formed under these conditions.

Dolomitic conglomerate which is probably not of local origin can be seen in the walls of the church and in many of the houses and walls in the village. It is easily recognised as it is generally reddish in colour and weathers badly in comparison with the limestone blocks around it.

A stronger and more resistant form of the conglomerate was quarried at Draycott and is sometimes referred to as Draycott "Marble" though this term is incorrect as it is not a true marble. This material can be cut and polished and was sometimes used for decorative stonework but its main use in this area was for flagstones and gateposts. The gateposts in the front wall of "The Old Barn" on Main Road are good examples.

At the end of the Triassic period the sea encroached in many areas giving rise to widespread shallow water with local estuarine and deltic conditions, which may have persisted for only relatively short duration.

This was the start of the Jurassic period, which began 205 million years ago and lasted for 70 million years. At this time Britain was about 32° North of the equator, roughly the same latitude as Damascus and Los Angeles. This period also saw the dominance of the dinosaurs (which had first appeared in the Triassic) and the presence of the first mammals, which were small and insignificant.

The limestones and other deposits of the Jurassic have long since been eroded from the Hutton area but representatives of a well known rock of the time, the Bath stone, can be seen in the architraves of the school and the church. Bath stone is wet and quite soft when freshly mined and can be easily worked with hand tools but hardens as it slowly dries and for this reason it is used for decorative stonework and many ashlar buildings such as those in Bath.

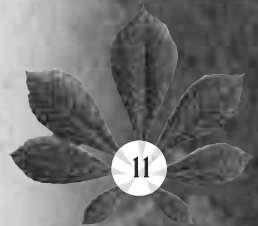
These are the last of the older rocks of the Hutton area. The flat low-lying land north of Moorcroft Road and extending to Worle is all underlain by geologically recent sediments.

## The Origin of the Hills

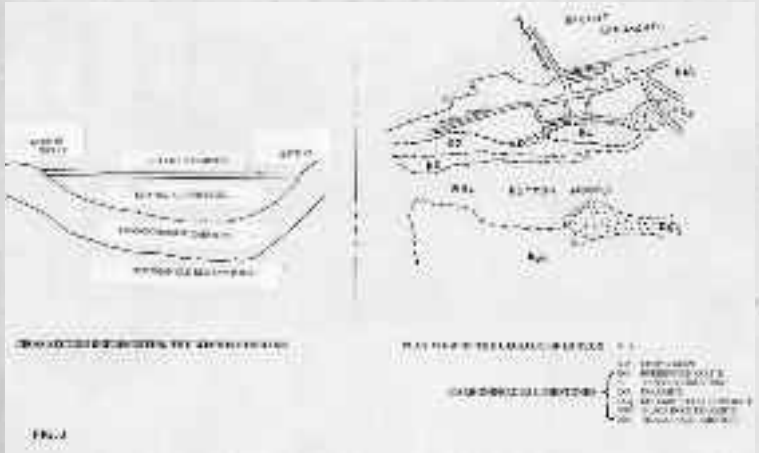
As mentioned before, Hutton and Bleadon hills are part of the Mendips.

During late Carboniferous and Permian times there was a thrust from the south as the African plate pushed slowly into the European plate, giving rise to extensive mountain building in what is now continental Europe and folding of the rocks as far north as south-west England.

During this folding the rocks at the top of the folds were stretched and weakened and eroded more rapidly than the rocks on the limbs. This is the reason why the Devonian Old Red Sandstone is exposed on the tops of the hills even though it was deposited below the Carboniferous Limestone.



**Fig.3.** *The Geology of Hutton*



During Permo-Triassic times the folds continued to develop but as erosion was keeping pace with the rising ground only a low range of hills was formed. It has been estimated that a total thickness equivalent to 3600 meters of rock has been eroded from parts of the Mendips. The steepest dips of the hills are on the northern side.

In the Hutton area the slope varies between 40 and 60 degrees and at Burrington it is greater than 60 degrees, whereas on the southern side, i.e. Bleadon, has an average slope of only 30 degrees and at Cheddar 20 degrees.

### Minerals

The only minerals to be worked in our area in relatively recent times were the limestone for roads, building and lime burning and iron in the form of red ochre. Red ochre is a hydrated iron oxide mixed with a variable amount of clay and is the material which gives rise to the reddish-brown staining in some of the

limestone. The ochre occurs in fissures, joints, cavities and caves in the limestone and dolomitic conglomerate. These deposits of ochre probably arose from the chemical precipitation of iron from solution in iron-rich ground waters.

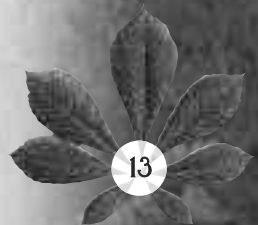
There is no recent record or evidence of lead or zinc mining in the area but Knight in 1902 refers to "some faint memory still survives in the half-obliterated mouths of the old lead-shafts and ochre-pits and calamine-workings that can be traced on the hill and in the fields and woods" (Please see Ref.1 at the end of this chapter).

There is apparently no other record of mining in the immediate vicinity of the village though trials were made for copper in 1791 (Ref.2) and two small copper mines were working in Loxton towards the end of the 18th. Century. Minute traces of gold have been reported from a calcite vein in the limestone in Canada Coombe (Ref.3) and a small quantity of barium in the form of barite was mined at Hillend in 1860 (Ref.4).

## Pre-History and Caves

Palaeolithic	to 9000 BC.
Mesolithic	9000 to 4000 BC.
Neolithic	4000 to 2000 BC.
Bronze age	2000 to 650 BC.
Iron age	650 BC--60 AD.

There are very few reliable references to pre-historic settlement in this area though Aston and Burrow refer to a short term Mesolithic occupation of Hay Wood cave (Ref.5).

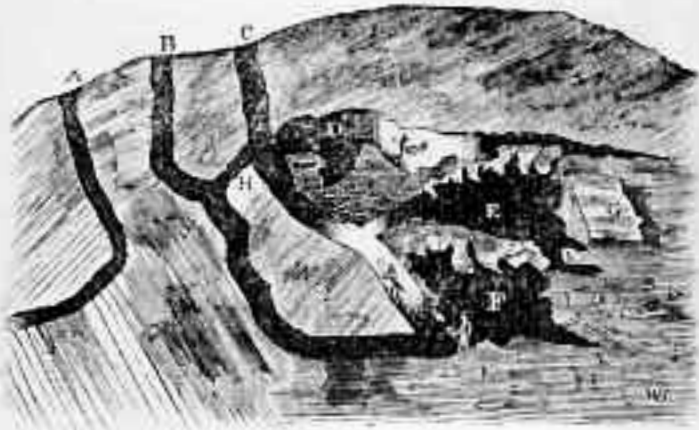


**Fig. 1**

<b>Years ago</b>	<b>Duration</b>	
10,000 to present	Holocene	10,000 yrs.
	Pleistocene	About 1.8 million
	Pliocene	About 3 million
	Miocene	About 19 million
28.7 million	Oligocene	About 12million
	Eocene	About 21 million
	Palaeocene	About 9 million
66 million	Cretaceous	69 million
		135 million
	Jurassic	70 million
205 million	Triassic	45 million
250 million	Permian	40 million
290 million	Carboniferous	65 million
355 million	Devonian	50 million
405 million	Silurian	30 million
435 million	Ordovician	75 million
510 million	Cambrian	60 million
570 million	Precambrian	
About 4,700 million years.		

A and R Everton et al of the Axbridge Caving and Archaeological Societies excavated this in 1957 (Ref.6) when flints of the Mesolithic period were found. At a later time it was used as a burial site for an Early Iron Age community. Remains of twenty eight or more individuals of both sexes and all ages were found. The finds are displayed in the Axbridge Museum. The Hay Wood cave has now been filled in.

Knight (Ref.1) refers to four or five skeletons found at the top of Hutton Hill and another on the approach to the old windmill but gives no indication of their possible age. Similarly he mentions traces of earthworks in an adjoining field with no indication of size, type or age.



**EXPLANATION OF THE VERTICAL SECTION.**

A.—An old shaft, which was drawn, but which led away in a different direction from the great fissure.

B.—A second old shaft which was drawn, leading into F.

C.—The new shaft, which was sunk with the view of searching about the dangerous ground that hung over F.

D.—The upper chamber of the fissure; at the entrance of which, the two tusks, and most of the large bones were found.

E.—The middle chamber, where were found many bones of the horse and wolf, the young tiger, and a large furcula of a bird.

F.—The lower chamber; the roof of which consists of nothing but fragments of rock, ochreous rubble, bones, &c. jammed between the strata, and having no support but the precarious wedge they have formed in falling, it had a frightfully threatening look, and at first sight produced the impression of being buried alive. Here were horse bones chiefly. The strata dip at an angle of 45.

G.—Represents a huge mass of rock that has fallen away, and as yet prevents any farther search in that direction.

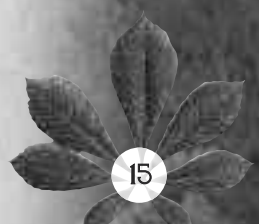
H.—Is a small lateral crack connected with D, running behind the shaft C, into D, at whose extremity poles were found the byrnia's bones, the album-grooved, and another large furcula of a bird.

I.—Is loose ground and ochreous rubble running westward along the drift line of the strata, as yet unexplored.

K.—Are both of urine, in which no organic remains have been hitherto traced.

*The caves of Hutton*

There are several caves in our area, one of which goes under various names such as Hutton Cave, Bleadon Cave, Ochre Cave and Catcott's Cave. This was discovered by ochre miners in 1650 and described by Rutter in his "Delineations of the county of Somerset" published around 1720. Both he and Catcott, who





descended the cave in 1759, remarked on the large quantity of animal bones present (Ref.1). Balch (Ref.7) mentions the presence of mammoth, deer, bear and boar as well as other animals; the finds are now in the Bristol Museum.

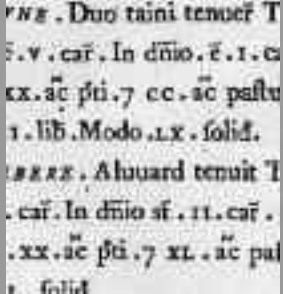
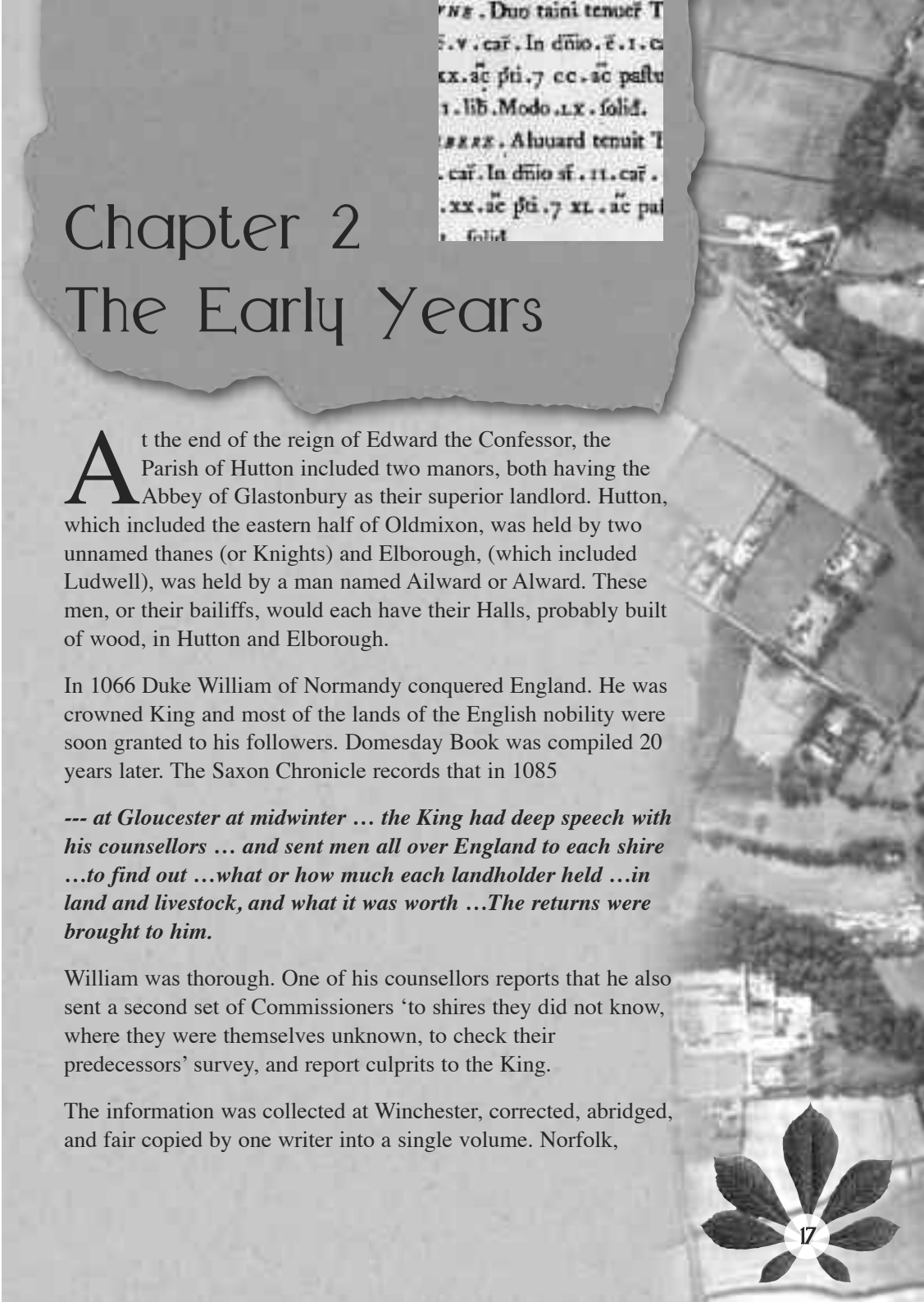
Ludwell cave is easily visible on the right of the path from Ludwell Farm to the Batch and consists of a short dry passage and a lower water-filled resurgence. This resurgence is very dangerous as it is 60 feet long, water- filled and partly obstructed by boulders (ref.8). There is also a small cave or rock shelter at the lower end of Upper Canada Coombe.

Note: All these caves are on private property and two, Hutton and Ludwell, are particularly dangerous.

My thanks to Dr.R.Bradshaw (retired) and Dr. P.Hardy, both of the Geology Dept. University of Bristol, for advice in the preparation of this summary.

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## Chapter 2

# The Early Years


**A**t the end of the reign of Edward the Confessor, the Parish of Hutton included two manors, both having the Abbey of Glastonbury as their superior landlord. Hutton, which included the eastern half of Oldmixon, was held by two unnamed thanes (or Knights) and Elborough, (which included Ludwell), was held by a man named Ailward or Alward. These men, or their bailiffs, would each have their Halls, probably built of wood, in Hutton and Elborough.

In 1066 Duke William of Normandy conquered England. He was crowned King and most of the lands of the English nobility were soon granted to his followers. Domesday Book was compiled 20 years later. The Saxon Chronicle records that in 1085

*--- at Gloucester at midwinter ... the King had deep speech with his counsellors ... and sent men all over England to each shire ...to find out ...what or how much each landholder held ...in land and livestock, and what it was worth ...The returns were brought to him.*

William was thorough. One of his counsellors reports that he also sent a second set of Commissioners ‘to shires they did not know, where they were themselves unknown, to check their predecessors’ survey, and report culprits to the King.

The information was collected at Winchester, corrected, abridged, and fair copied by one writer into a single volume. Norfolk,



Suffolk and Essex were copied by several writers, into a second volume, unabridged, which states that ‘the Survey was made in 1086’. The surveys of Durham and Northumberland and of several towns including London were not transcribed, and most of Cumberland and Westmorland, not yet in England, was not surveyed.

The whole undertaking was completed at speed, in less than 12 months, though the fair copying of the main volume may have taken a little longer. Both volumes are now preserved at the Public Record Office. Some versions of regional returns also survive. One of them, from Ely Abbey, copies out the Commissioners’ brief. They were to ask :-

The name of the place? Who held it, before 1066 and now? How many hides? How many ploughs, both those in lordship and the men’s? How many villagers, cottagers and slaves, how many free men and Freeman? How much woodland, meadow and pasture? How many mills and fishponds? How much has been added or taken away? What the total value was and is? How much each free man or Freeman had or has?

All threefold before 1066, when King William gave it, and now; and if more can be had than at present?

The Ely volume also describes the procedure. The Commissioners took evidence on oath **“from the Sherriff; from all the barons and their Frenchmen; and from the whole Hundred, the priests, the reeves and six villagers from each village”**. It also names four Frenchmen and four Englishmen from each Hundred, who were sworn to verify the detail.

The King wanted to know what he had and who held it. The Commissioners therefore listed lands in dispute, for Domesday Book was not only a tax assessment. To the King’s grandson, Bishop Henry of Winchester, its purpose was that every ‘man

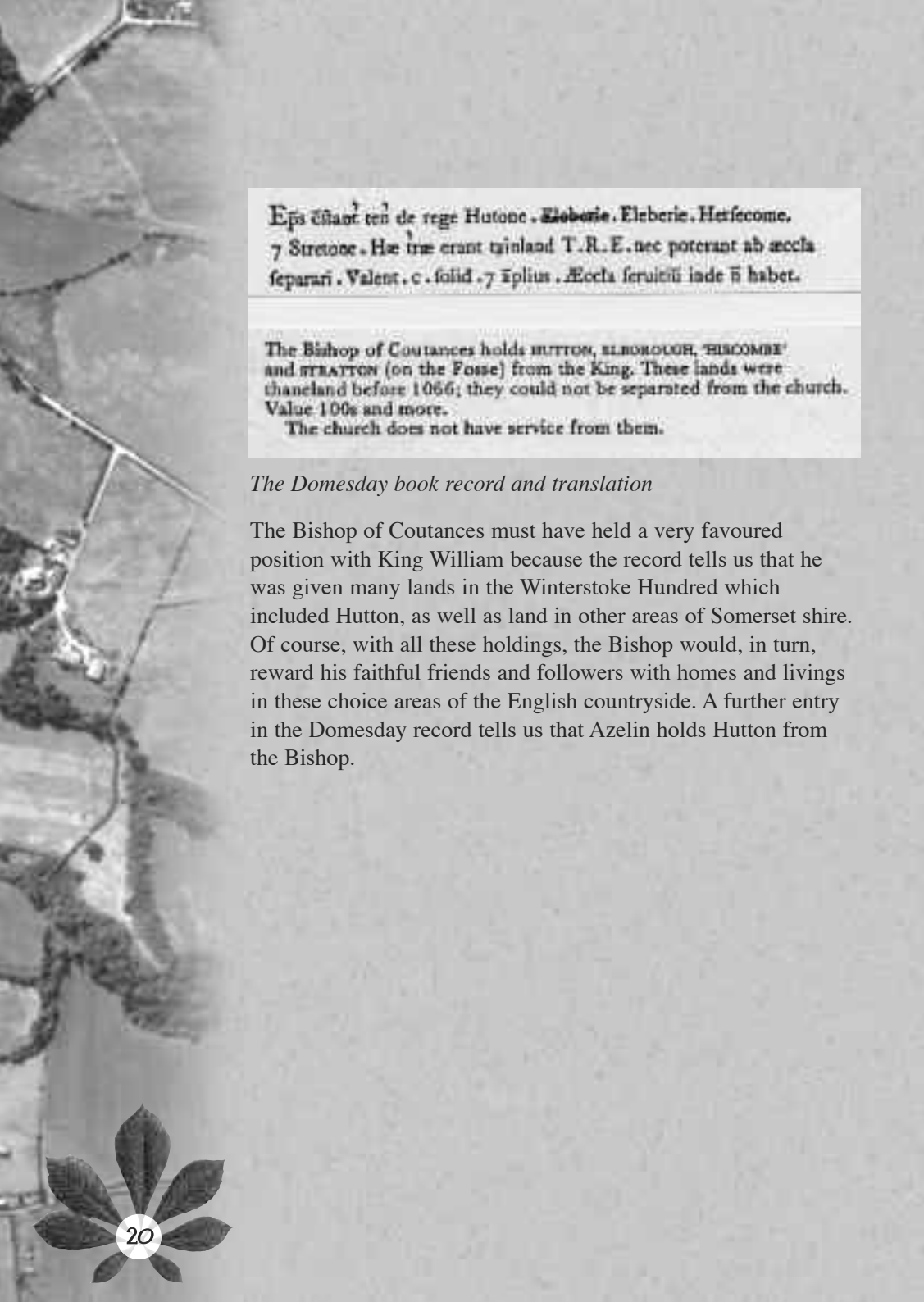
should know his right and not usurp another's'; and because it was the final authoritative register of rightful possession 'the natives called it Domesday Book, by analogy from the Day of Judgement'; that is why it was carefully arranged by Counties, and by landholders within Counties, 'numbered consecutively ..... for easy reference'.

Domesday Book describes Old English society under new management, in minute statistical detail. Foreign lords had taken over, but little else had yet changed. The chief and those who held from them are named, and the rest of the population was counted. Most of them lived in villages, whose houses might be clustered together, or dispersed among their fields. Villages were grouped into administrative districts called Hundreds, which formed regions within Shires or Counties, which survive to this day with only minor boundary changes.

And so it was, that Hutton along with Elborough, is recorded in the Domesday Book as being taken from the Abbey of Glastonbury and given over to one of the Conqueror's staunch supporters, the Bishop of Coutances.

Both manors were held from this Bishop by Azelin de Percival, along with many manors in Somerset.





Eps̄ cūant ten<sup>1</sup> de rege Hutone . Eleberie . Eleberie . Hetsfecome .  
7 Stretone . Hæ tre erant trinland T . R . E . nec poterant ab æccle  
separari . Valent . c . solid . 7 Ʒplius . Æccle seruitiū iade n̄ habet .

The Bishop of Coutances holds HUTTON, ELBOROUGH, 'HISCOMBE'  
and STRATTON (on the Fosse) from the King. These lands were  
chanceland before 1066; they could not be separated from the church.  
Value 100s and more.  
The church does not have service from them.

*The Domesday book record and translation*

The Bishop of Coutances must have held a very favoured position with King William because the record tells us that he was given many lands in the Winterstoke Hundred which included Hutton, as well as land in other areas of Somerset shire. Of course, with all these holdings, the Bishop would, in turn, reward his faithful friends and followers with homes and livings in these choice areas of the English countryside. A further entry in the Domesday record tells us that Azelin holds Hutton from the Bishop.

Azelin ten de efo *HOTTNE*. Duo taini tenuer T.R.E. p. 11.  $\bar{O}$ .  
7 geldb p. v. hid. Tra. ē. v. caſ. In dñio. ē. 1. caſ. 7 v. uilli 7 vi.  
bord hñt. 11. caſ. lbi. xxx. ac pñi. 7 cc. ac paſtura. 7 xv. acrae  
gluze minute. Valoit. 1111. lb. Modo. lxx. folid.

Azelin ten de efo *LILBERNE*. Alward tenuit T.R.E. 7 geldb  
p. 111. hid. Tra. ē. 1111. caſ. In dñio. ē. 11. caſ. cñ. 1. feruo 7 1. uilla.  
7 v. bord cñ. 1. caſ. lbi. xx. ac pñi. 7 xl. ac paſtura.  
Valuit. lxx. fol. Modo. xl. folid.

Azelin holds HUTTON from the Bishop. Two thanes held it before 1066 as two manors; it paid tax for 5 hides. Land for 5 ploughs. In lordship 1 plough; 16 hides.

5 villagers and 6 smallholders have 2 ploughs & 16 hides.

Meadow, 50 acres; pasture, 200 acres; underwood, 15 acres. The value was £4; now 60s.

Azelin holds ELBOROUGH from the Bishop. Alward held it before 1066; it paid tax for 3 hides. Land for 4 ploughs. In lordship 2 ploughs, & 26 hides, with 1 slave and

1 villager and 5 smallholders with 1 plough & 4 hides.


Meadow, 20 acres; pasture, 40 acres. 16 cattle; 12 pigs; 100 sheep. The value was 60s; now 40s.

### *The Domesday book record and translation*

Azelin too must have been very favoured because, as well as holding the Manor of Hutton, he also held from the Bishop, Elborough, Bishopsworth, East and West Harptree, Farrington Gurney and a number of other lands in the County. Whether he lived in Hutton or not the Book does not tell, or to whom of his friends and servants the various manors were passed, but to be sure, the wealth generated in dues and taxes would cascade, each taking his share, to the King himself.

The population of the whole parish would then be about 100, (60 in Hutton and 40 in Elborough). There is no mention in the Exeter or the Exchequer Domesday of any hall or other single





dwelling. This is the only known documentary reference to Hutton before the 13th Century. For more than 150 years after the Domesday Book the history of the village is virtually blank except for two documents.

The first of 1298 called the “Perambulation of the Forest of Mendip” which reveals that after the coronation of Henry II (in 1154), Hutton with its woods and marshes became part of that forest that is part of the Royal Hunting Ground. By 1243, the manor of Hutton and Elborough was held by Adam le Waleys (the Welshman) and by 1298 when Hutton ceased to be part of the Royal Forest of Mendip by John le Wayleys.

The second document of this period dated 1256 mentions another landowner, the first-known John Payn. He was possibly John De Ludwell whose son Payn de Ludwell complained that in 1280 his father was robbed of his rightful common pasture in Bleadon by the Lord of that manor, the Prior of St. Swithin’s, Winchester.

By this time at least some parts of the moor, which was marshland, had ditches or rhynes and in summer parts of it were used as pasture, some of these being enclosed. In times of high tides and severe storms, in the winter months, the whole of Hutton and Locking moor would be under water, there being no protection from the ravages of the sea.

# Chapter 3

## The Court and its Occupants



**T**he Extent Survey, dated 1309, is the earliest document known, which gives a description of the Manor of Hutton and its buildings and mentions the Manor House by name as “The Court”.

Four other manorial buildings are also mentioned in this document, a windmill, a dovecot, a grange and a salting house. This mention of a manor house of which all traces have long since disappeared, would have been built of wood with a thatched roof. Where this building with its outhouses was situated is not known but there is a strong possibility that it was on or near the present site of the Court today.

The oldest parts of the present building date from the mid 15th century, these are the embattled tower, the stately dining hall and the eastern end of Court House and farm.





### *John Payne Brass Rubbing*



John Payne acquired the Manors of Hutton and Elborough from his father Richard and by 1466 was Lord of the Manors of Hutton and Elborough. He held manorial courts at Shipham, Hewish and Uphill as well as Hutton but he regarded Hutton as his principal Manor and made it his home.

He was a great landowner at this time, owning land at Rolleston,

Locking, Axbridge, Puxton, Banwell, Worle, Stone, Churchill, Wedmore, Blagdon, Wolverhill and Weston-super-Mare (including seven fish stalls). He also had a small estate in Marshfield, Gloucestershire. He died on 5th August 1496 leaving ten marks and 60 oak trees “to the wardens of the Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Hutton” where he was to be buried before the high altar. His fine memorial brass depicting himself, his second wife Elizabeth (Stowell) and their eleven children (four sons and seven daughters) is one of the great treasures of the church.

Today the stately dining hall at the Court with its Norman roof is one of the finest examples from this period in the County of Somerset. The roof is constructed of fine English oak and consists of five main and four secondary moulded principals, the latter terminating in carved heraldic bosses giving a semi-circular barrel roof of excellent proportions. The hall measures 35ft by 19ft, an additional feature to the room being the fireplace with refuge in the flue.

At the entrance was an ewery or basin for the use of guests to wash their fingers after eating the Squire’s beef or venison. On

the west wall of the room there would have been a minstrels' gallery, alas long since dismantled. The tower adjoining was built for the safety of the Squire and his family and was also a watchtower, these being troubled times and minor revolts being not uncommon.

*Thomas Payne – brass memorial tablet*

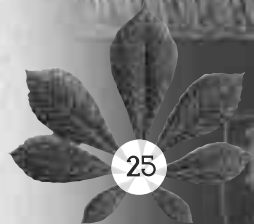


John Payne was succeeded by his eldest son Thomas, who did not receive his father's estates from the trustees and executors until 1510 when he married Elizabeth Lovel. Not to be outdone by his father he also had a family of eleven children, this time however it was eight sons and three daughters. He died in 1528 and his brass memorial tablet,

picturing him at prayer with his family, is upright in a recess in the north wall of the chancel in the church. His heir, Thomas Payne II, was only 17 when his father died and William Oldmixon, who was still acting Lord of the Manor early in 1530, held the manor in trust.

Thomas II survived the troublesome times of the reigns of Edward VI and Mary Tudor and managed to keep the house and estate intact. In 1569 he was in charge of Hutton's local defence contingent against the threat of invasion by Spain, a threat not dispelled until the defeat of the Armada in 1588. Alas, by 1575 the first signs of the family's financial problems became evident when Thomas was forced to mortgage several pieces of land in Uphill, Winscombe and Churchill for cash.

In 1583 he died and his relatively plain tombstone may be seen upright against the south wall of the church porch. It was



*Faint, illegible text from the reverse side of the page, possibly bleed-through from another page.*



formerly in the chancel floor under which he was buried.

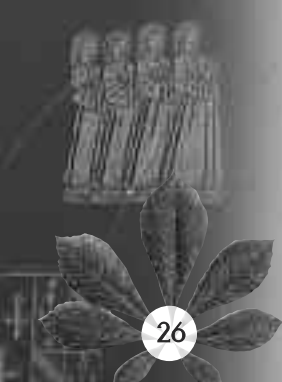
He was succeeded by his son Christopher who, in 1584, parted with more of the family's lands in Banwell, Wolverhill, Burrington and Puxton to Christopher Kenne Esq.. Subsequently, the Payne's shrunken inheritance passed to Nicholas Payne who was forced to sell even more of the estate. He is recorded as one of the Lords of the Manor in 1596.

In 1604 Nicholas sold the Court and much, if not all, of his share of manorial land to Dr. John Still, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and in 1607 he lived in Bristol. The scanty records which have survived from this period present a far from clear picture. Nicholas Payne, or a son bearing the same name, continued to preside over manorial courts as late as 1640 and took the manorial privilege of presenting a new Rector in 1607 and in 1616, yet in 1604 he had sold the Court and his manorial lands to the Bishop.

From 1608, when the Bishop died, until 1626 Hutton Court was occupied by his son Nathaniel Still and his family and in 1615 Nathaniel was actually described as "Lord of the Manor". He was also a Justice of the Peace. It was during this time that the western part of the court was built and one of the bedrooms contains a fine Jacobean mantelpiece.

A memorial tablet, recording Nathaniel's death on February 2nd 1626, may be seen high up on the west wall of the south aisle of the church to which it was removed from the chancel over one hundred years ago. Engraved upon this tablet are the figures of Nathaniel, his wife Jane, his son (who had died in 1611) and his four daughters.

The estate in 1626 consisted of the Court, two gardens, 80 acres of meadow, 50 acres of pasture and 100 acres of other land. Tenants property consisted of 4 houses, two cottages, 40 acres of



land, 40 acres of meadow, 46 acres of pasture and 10 acres of wood and common pasture for all cattle.

The eldest of his daughters, Anne Still, on coming of age, inherited her father's house and the estate and they then passed to John Codrington of Codrington and Didmarton in Gloucestershire, when she became his wife in 1632. For the rest of this century the house and estate belonged to the Codrington family, though there is no record of who actually lived at the Court.

At the beginning of the 18th century, the Court and its estate and share of manorial rights of common were still in the possession of the Codrington family. Certainly by 1720 it was held by William Codrington, whose signature, as one of those who approved the Churchwardens' Accounts presented in 1724, shows that he was resident at the Court and taking an active part in the parish.

He died in 1728 and his tombstone can be seen (like that of Thomas Payne) standing upright against the south wall of the church porch. It would have been the chancel floor under which he was buried. Its inscription, in Latin, records the fact that he was a Master of Arts of Oxford University and the son of Robert Codrington of Dodington in Gloucestershire (i.e. of Anne Still's stepson) and that he died on the 27th July 1728.

By 1730 the house and estate had been purchased by a member of a Bristol family called Brent. Humphrey Brent was a Lawyer of the Middle Temple, his signature appears regularly in the Parish Books from 1737 onwards and he was the Rector's Warden from 1740 to 1758 when he died. In his will he bequeathed the yearly sum of £2.10s to provide bread for the poor of Hutton. He also gave to the church a very fine silver flagon, which is still used to this day.





*Silver flagon*

His nephew and successor, John Coopey, a doctor, assumed the surname Brent according to the conditions laid down in Humphrey Brent's will. He died in 1769 to be followed by his son Charles Coopey Brent who, in turn, left the house and estate to his widow in 1796.

At the beginning of the 19th century Mrs Brent was still in residence at the Court and John Good occupied Court Farm (the east wing of the Court). There appears to have been a family relationship for John Good's son was christened Brent.

Records, alas, are sketchy for this period but by 1820 John Good occupied the Court and his son Brent was living in Court Farm. The Good family were unfortunately short-lived and by 1837 they had sold the Court to Henry Adolphus Septimus Payne, a solicitor who lived there from 1837 to 1842. His connection with the earlier Paynes of Hutton is as yet unknown.

By 1848 there was a tenant in residence by the name of Edward Bowles Fripp, a Bristol merchant. How long he was a tenant is unclear but he joined the Vestry the next year.

There now appears what is possibly the most famous family to reside at the Court since the Paynes of the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Bisdees were of French Huguenot origin and they were to dominate village life for the next 66 years. As early as 1838 Thomas Bisdee farmed the Symons' lands at Oldmixon and occupied Oldmixon Manor, owning nearly 70 acres of land in his own right. By 1859 his younger brother had become owner of the

Court with Sydney occupying the Grange and John Bisdee in residence at Moorlands. To give some idea of the style of life that this family enjoyed in the middle and latter part of the 19th century, they employed nine gardeners, three gamekeepers, three coachmen and one groom.

Edward Bisdee died in 1869 and was succeeded by his son Alfred H. Bisdee, the first to claim to be Lord of two Manors, Hutton & Oldmixon, and who now owned a considerable slice of the parish.

The old deference of the village to the Court is shown by some of the entries in the school's earliest logbook. In 1880, for example, when Alfred Bisdee's son Frederick returned from his wedding tour abroad, the school children were granted a half-day holiday and on the day of Alfred Bisdee's funeral in 1898, the school was closed.


It was at this time that the porch was added to the west front of the Court bearing the Bisdee coat of arms with its French motto "Dieu et ma FOI" ... The translation reads "God and my Faith".

In Victorian times the Court contained a room whose walls were entirely covered with postage stamps – in all 38,291 with a face value of £174.5s 7d. It was at this time that the Bisdee family kept a kangaroo as part of a small private menagerie.

Thomas Gamaliel Bisdee succeeded his father in 1899, aged 47, and with his wife Edith (née Sutherland) and their six children, the Court entered a period of affluence, for the Bisees were great socialites and many banquets and balls were to take place at the house. This was Edwardian England before the Great War, the height of the British Empire and if you had wealth, property and connections as the Bisees had, then life was enjoyed to the full.

One of the great social occasions of this period was the marriage






of the eldest daughter, Miss Marjorie Sutherland Bisdee, who on 22nd July 1908 married Mr Eric Marston Garcia (the third son of Captain Garcia of Buckland Westonsuper-Mare) in St. Mary's Church, the reception afterwards being held at the Court.

The church was packed to capacity, there being present, in addition to the villagers, a large attendance of relatives and friends. The Weston Gazette of the time gives a detailed account of this major event in the village and the guest list, which reads like a page straight from the Tatler, included Mr & Mrs Graves-Knyfton of Uphill Manor, Colonel & Mrs Tyler, Dr. & Mrs Ashley, the Reverend & Mrs Woodforde, Major & Mrs Forbes, Sir Robert & Lady Lucas-Tooth & Miss Lucas-Tooth, Dr. & Mrs Garcia, Dr. & Mrs Percival Crouch, Colonel & Mrs Wylde, Colonel & Mrs Rahilly, Admiral & Mrs Copeland-Sparkes, Captain & Mrs Welldon, Major Garcia D.S.O., Admiral Sir George & Lady Atkinson Willes etc. and so the list goes on.

Thomas Bisdee was active in village affairs, being Chairman of the Parish Council, Chairman of the School Managers and Churchwarden. He could be seen regularly riding around his estate on his great grey horse and any boys who were caught playing in the quarry or orchards or wandering through Hutton Woods were unwelcome trespassers to Mr Bisdee and many a time they fled when the cry went out "look out, here comes Squire Bisdee".



When Edith Bisdee died in January 1926 he gave the church its electric light in her memory. His daughters started the Girl Guide movement in the village and he gave the land and the British Legion Hut to the village just after the Great War.

When, on 16th September 1933, Thomas died at the age of 81, he had been Squire of Hutton for the past 34 years. His eldest son, Thomas Edward Bisdee, who held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, became owner of the Court and its estate upon his

father's death. Alas, within seven months of him becoming Squire of Hutton, he met with a tragic and fatal accident when he was thrown from a young horse and died of his injuries. He was only 46.

This then was the end of the Bisdee family's ownership of Hutton Court, for the following year Percy Palmer, estate agents and auctioneers, sold the house to a Captain Stamp. On 4th July 1935 there was an auction of all the contents including old English furniture, oil paintings, prints and etchings, bedroom equipment and livestock, poultry etc.

*Cover of Sale catalogue*

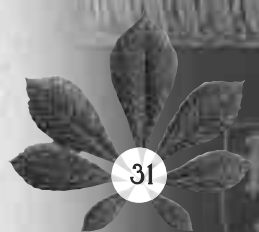


In all there were 336 lots for sale. Just the contents of the dining hall make interesting reading; these were:

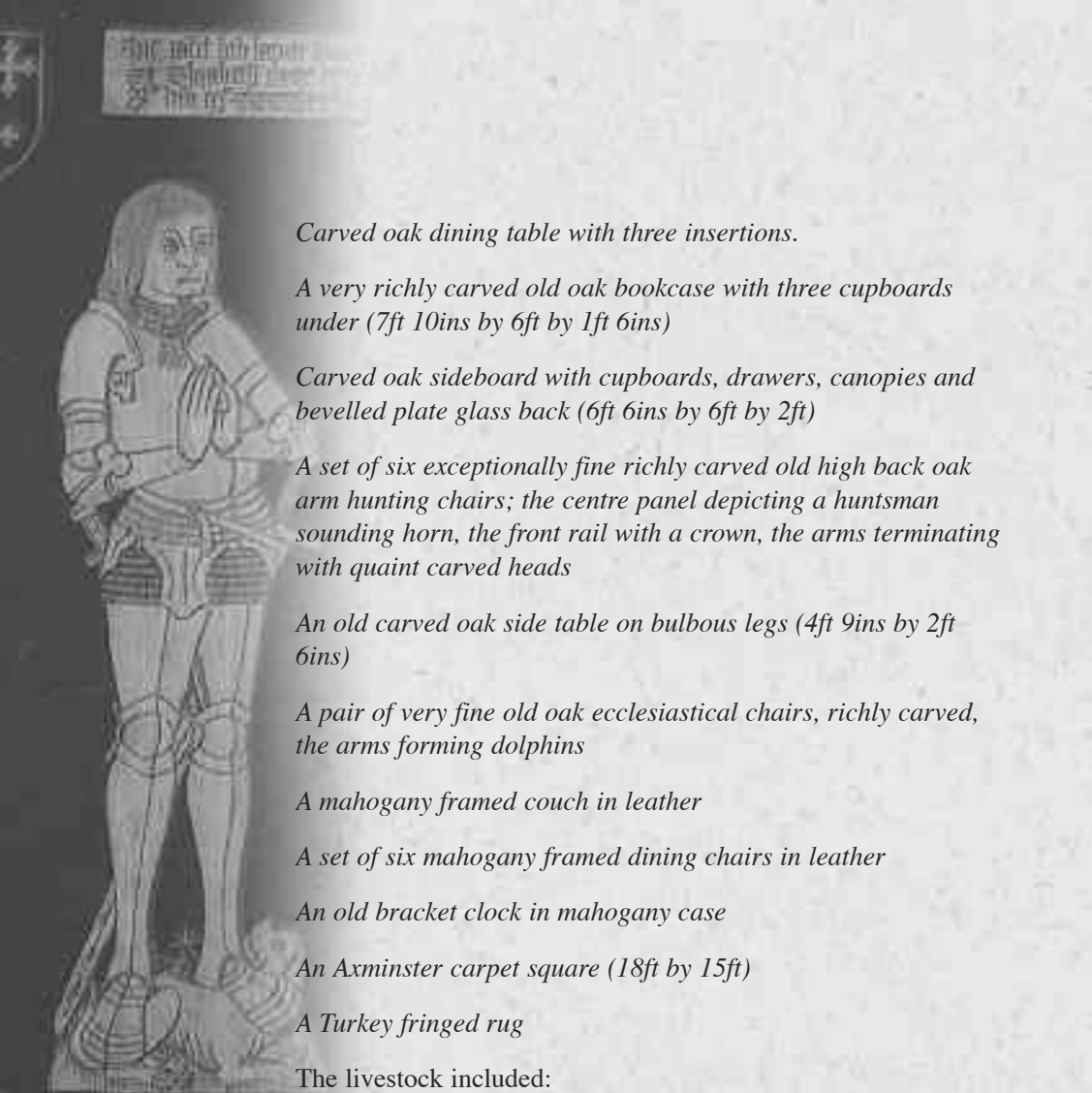
*A richly carved antique cupboard with mask head drawer surmounted with nest of eight drawers and secret cupboard (5ft 10ins by 2ft 6ins by 2ft).*

*A carved oak side table with lion mask and ring handles on dolphin feet.*

*A massive oak buffet with carved panels and canopy (6ft by 5ft 9ins by 2ft)*







*Carved oak dining table with three insertions.*

*A very richly carved old oak bookcase with three cupboards under (7ft 10ins by 6ft by 1ft 6ins)*

*Carved oak sideboard with cupboards, drawers, canopies and bevelled plate glass back (6ft 6ins by 6ft by 2ft)*

*A set of six exceptionally fine richly carved old high back oak arm hunting chairs; the centre panel depicting a huntsman sounding horn, the front rail with a crown, the arms terminating with quaint carved heads*

*An old carved oak side table on bulbous legs (4ft 9ins by 2ft 6ins)*

*A pair of very fine old oak ecclesiastical chairs, richly carved, the arms forming dolphins*

*A mahogany framed couch in leather*

*A set of six mahogany framed dining chairs in leather*

*An old bracket clock in mahogany case*

*An Axminster carpet square (18ft by 15ft)*

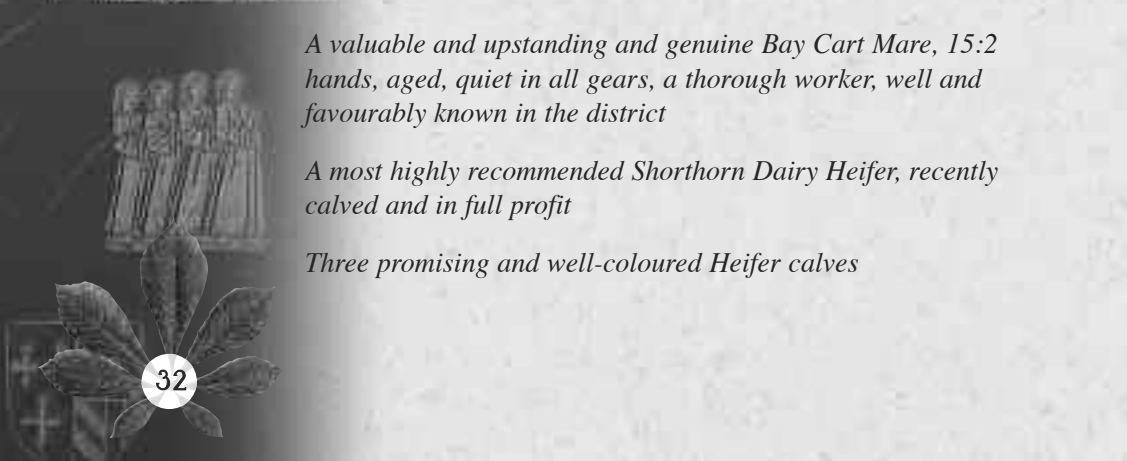
*A Turkey fringed rug*

*The livestock included:*

*A valuable and upstanding and genuine Bay Cart Mare, 15:2 hands, aged, quiet in all gears, a thorough worker, well and favourably known in the district*

*A most highly recommended Shorthorn Dairy Heifer, recently calved and in full profit*

*Three promising and well-coloured Heifer calves*



*Ten healthy Cheviot breeding ewes with lambs*

*A particularly well-bred pedigree Southdown ram*

*Three stock geese, Five goslings, Two turkeys, Seven laying hens, Six ducks etc.etc.*

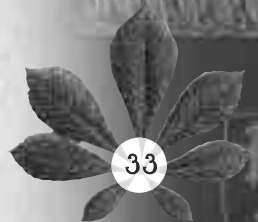
By 1948 the Court was up for sale again – the vendor being Ernest Poole. Percy Palmer was again instructed to conduct the sale. From the sale catalogue the Court is described as an

*“Old-world residential and sporting property with its original refectory dating from the 15th century, and is rich in archaeological interest, retaining many features of the olden time in unrestored condition. It is constructed of bathstone facings and roofed with slates.*

*The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, drawing room, panelled morning room, lower tower room, stately dining room, winding staircase, three principal bedrooms, a bathroom and two additional bedrooms in the tower. The domestic apartments included a kitchen and extensive dry cellarage and outside a separate W.C. There is a heated conservatory on the southern side of the property and a stone-built library in the grounds (now in disrepair) and a productive kitchen garden.*

*The range of outbuildings includes stabling, erected of stone with a slated roof consisting of three loose boxes, two stalls, a harness room and fodder house with loft. There is ample accommodation for two cars, whilst there is a further garage close to the main entrance gate, at present let to Mr Hodgetts.*

*The pleasure grounds and orchard extend to 2 acres, 3 roods & 30 perches (app) and the pasture land known as Home Paddock and Home Field have a total road frontage of app 960 ft and extend in aggregate to 11 acres, 1 rood and 6 perches -the whole lot being about 14 acres.”*



THE HOUSE OF HUTTON  
HUTTON COURT  
1895



Included also in the sale was Court House (the north wing), which had been converted to form two flats. The ground floor flat contained a lounge with beamed ceiling, a bedroom, a kitchen with fitted cupboard and sink (hot & cold), hot water for the bath and domestic purposes being supplied from the grate in the lounge. The flat was let at a weekly rental of 10s.0d. to a Mrs Coleman.

The upstairs flat contained a large sitting room with a modern fireplace, a bedroom, a small kitchen and bathroom with wash-hand basin & W.C. (shared with the ground floor flat). This flat, with the garden adjoining, was let to Mr Hodgetts, again at a weekly rent of 10s.0d.

The purchaser of all this was a Captain G.W.Gwynne, who paid £7,300 for the whole lot. His occupation was short-lived for by the early 1950s the house and estate was again up for sale.

*Old picture of Hutton Court*

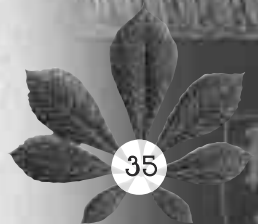


This time Mr Percy Palmer himself bought the Court and its estate and following his death his son Mr Derek Palmer became the owner. Mr Derek continued to live at the Court along with his two housekeepers, Miss Taylor and Miss Brown, whom his father had engaged when he first purchased the Court.

Mr Derek Palmer continued to run the family business of estate agents and auctioneers in the town. He was a keen sportsman and was secretary of the Weston Harriers point-to-point steeplechases for 25 years, following in the footsteps of his father. He also instigated the Weston Speed Trials and was clerk of the course. Mr Palmer sold the Court in the late 1970s and moved, with his wife Sheila, into the former Coach House, which he had converted into a delightful residence.

The Court now changed, for the first time in its history, from being a private family home, into a small exclusive hotel and restaurant.

Three successive owners applied their skills and talents to this venture and it was in the early 1990s when the present owner purchased the house and gardens and once again turned it into a private residence





# Chapter 4

## The Church



**T**he first indisputable evidence of a church in Hutton comes from an undated document concerning, among others, Payn De Ludwell (and therefore between 1256 and 1280) which mentions “The Croft” (an enclosed piece of land) belonging to “the Rector of the church of Hutton”. Then in 1291/92 the records of the Ecclesiastical Taxation of England and Wales, authorised by Pope Nicholas IV, show that the “Church of Hutton paid ten marks” (£6.13s.4d. or £6.67), two more than Kewstoke and four more than Locking.

It can confidently be assumed therefore that by this time (mid 13th century) the Parish of Hutton, incorporating the land of the two manors (Hutton and Elborough) was well established, probably with its northern boundary lying well to the north of the present airfield and railway line.

By the early 14th century the names of the Rectors of Hutton and a few items of information concerning them have been documented and preserved.

1312 January 25th

**R**esignation of John de Ameney not necessarily Hutton's first Rector but the first whose name has survived and the institution by proxy of Roger de Langelond, a boy granted licence to study for holy orders

1312 November 5th

**D**ean Godeley of Wells was granted temporary  
Custody of the Church of Hutton

1313 February 3rd

**I**nstitution of Adam de Hykelslegh, acolyte  
presumably another boy with licence to study for  
holy orders. In 1318 he was then described as a sub-  
deacon and granted a further three years licence to  
study

1342 December 6th

**I**nstitution of John de Sutton, priest, presented by  
John de Walshe. In 1344 he, and "his parish  
chaplain of Hutton" were licensed to hear confessions.  
At some time between then and 1419 John de Sutton  
was replaced by Robert Hochell, whose institution has  
not been traced.

The following features of the present church building may date  
from this early period or even earlier:-

### *Scratch Dial*



The doorway of the south side of the  
Chancel – though rebuilt, imperfectly, in  
1849 it retains its shape (of the decorated  
style) and its medieval scratch-dials

The projecting foundation stones at the  
north-east corner of the tower are out of  
alignment with the present building and  
probably belong to an earlier one.

The 15th century was an important  
period in the history of the parish church for it provided the  
earliest recorded evidence of the dedication of the building to the  
Virgin Mary:-

1440 "The church of the blessed Mary of Hutton"

1441 "The parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Hutton"

This period also provided the earliest documentary references to certain features of the building and its furnishings:-

1404 "a taper burning before the image of the Blessed Mary"

1425 "the chancel of the Blessed Mary"

1443 "a torch"

1496 "the chancel" and "the high altar"

Three of the manorial Lords of this period bequeathed money to the church and were buried inside it. They were Roger Walssche in 1404, Roger Walssche II in 1426 and John Payne in 1496. The last two were buried in the chancel indicating that they had been responsible for some part of its building.

During the second half of the 15th century most, if not all, of the church was rebuilt in the early perpendicular style of architecture. The north wall of the nave, its wagon roof, the stair-turret projecting at its eastern end and the diagonally buttressed tower of typical Somerset perpendicular style, with its trefoil-pierced parapet, crocketed finials and graceful spirelet remain to this day, five and a half centuries after they were built.

Even the chancel (re-built in 1849) and the windows of the aisle (added in 1849 to replace a south porch) retain some 15th century features. Some of the church's finest sculpture belongs to this period, notably the pulpit of Douling stone and the fine tower ceiling with its lierne vaulting, sculptured corbels and four angelic cherubs (recently restored to its former glory by John Chatburn) are some of the architectural beauties of the church.




Some of the few surviving wills of the first half of the 16th century provide a little information concerning the interior of the church and indicate the continuance of the medieval Catholic tradition of worship. In most wills the testator left money or “ a bushel of wheat” to the church and asked to be buried “in the chancel” or “in the churchyard”, which was first mentioned in 1542. There were other sums of money left to “the high altar” and one (John Benet, 1545) “to the high cross light”, probably a reference to the cross which stood on the rood-loft in front of the chancel arch. The absence of such items in the second half of the 16th century is one indication of the reformation and its attendant changes.

Two features, which have survived from this period, are the late perpendicular recess in the chancel (where the Thomas Payne memorial brass is housed) and the fragments of old glass at the top of the first most westerly window in the north wall of the nave. It consists of the five petalled tudor rose and heraldic shields bearing the Payne and Oldmixon arms.

One marked alteration to the interior at this time would have been the removal of the rood-screen. The site of its north end may be clearly seen above the doorway to the pulpit.

The civil war period had little effect on Hutton and the church, although there is the story that a detachment of Parliamentary troops used the church as a stable for their horses. How true this tale is we shall never know for there is no documentary evidence to support this statement.

From 1638 (before the war) until 1664 (after the Restoration), St.Mary’s had the same Rector, Hugh Bennet. He had been presented by Henry Ludlow, who was the heir of Sir Edmund Ludlow of Hill Deverill, Wiltshire and whose family were noted Parliamentarians. Perhaps Hugh Bennet was not entirely hostile to the views of the commonwealth although he must have met



with favour among the Royalists too, for his appointment was confirmed at a later date by King Charles II.

Apart from diocesan records of six successive Rectors of Hutton during the 17th century, a few transcripts of baptisms, marriages and burials and one or two memorial tablets, little information has survived concerning the church. There is one indication that its churchwardens and other parishioners were still active, for three of the present five bells in the tower were first cast and hung.

For many churches the 18th century was a period of great neglect, with absentee clergymen, irreligious or indifferent squires and dwindling congregations. Hutton's records however present a very different picture. Although William Danvers (1710 – 1744) seems to have been the only Rector of Hutton in the period to take an active part in parish affairs, his four successors were well served by their curates, especially William Dark (1754 – 1770) and John Phelps (from 1788 until the turn of the century). John Phelps appears to have been particularly conscientious, leaving his mark upon several parish books.

During the second half of the 18th century money was spent of “righting the church seats” and in 1785 William Apling, the village carpenter, reported that the seats were rotten and it was decided to renew them putting “oak sleepers and good red deals for the pews”. These are the older pews, with doors, on the north side of the nave.

Much other work was also done on the fabric and furniture of the church during this period. There are several entries about plastering, whitewashing and even painting. One bill for painting the King's Arms and the altar-piece in 1798 shows how colourful the chancel must have been at that time.

The pulpit had a door renewed in 1763 and repaired in 1798, and

a sounding-board and the windows received frequent attention. Above all there was considerable expenditure on the bells. The latest two of the five cast by Edward Bilbie were first hung in 1708 whilst Sam Hais and Jo Jones were churchwardens.

In the churchwardens' accounts there is hardly a year without an entry for oiling the bells, renewing the bell-ropes, leather for the bells, mending the wheels or simply "righting the bells". Of the three Rectors of Hutton during the first part of the 19th century, only one, Joseph Smith, appears to have been resident and active in the parish during his short term of office (1820-1825) and for the seven previous years as curate.

His predecessor, Thomas Smith, was absent on the grounds of illness and infirmity. His successor, Alfred Harford, was also Rector of Locking, where he lived, and he relied on a succession of curates. Some of these occupied the Rectory, which stood on the site of the present "Old Rectory" with some of its outbuildings adjoining what are now the properties "White Lodge" and "Lugano".

The churchwardens' accounts present a familiar picture of frequent repairs to the church roof and windows and also the bells. The tenor bell was repaired in 1804 and 1821, the treble in 1822 and in 1842 "by order of the Rural Dean" the "5 Bell" was taken down and re-hung.

From some of the detailed bills and various papers it is possible to visualise some of the features of the church as it must have looked, untouched for nearly four centuries prior to the alterations that were to come in 1849.

The porch on the south side of the nave was the main entrance until 1826 when it became the vestry room. The west door was used as the main entrance from then onwards and the floor of the tower was newly paved. A wooden gallery stretched across the

west end of the nave and until 1824 there was a partition below it. Until 1847, when the gallery was reconstructed with new joists and six new seats, it was approached by a wooden staircase.

The pulpit had a sounding-board and there was a door at the foot of the pulpit staircase. Many of the windows had bars, which were painted. Somewhere a hat rack was installed in 1815. In the chancel there was much painted lettering including the Ten Commandments.

*Church with ivy on the tower*



Until 1827 candles provided the only artificial light, but were then replaced by oil lamps. A stove, burning coal, provided heating. The earliest mention in 1825 is to “ a new stove”, implying that one had been used earlier.

In 1849 the great re-building of part of the church was undertaken for two main reasons:-

The need to provide more accommodation for the ever-increasing population of the village (1841 census 462 - the peak figure of the century – compared with 1801 census of 244). The notice (displayed in church) concerning this work states that by this means “additional accommodation for 61 persons was obtained”. Proposals for the re-pewing of the church, and even building an aisle, had been mooted as early as 1846.

A new tenant at the Court, Edward Bowles Fripp, a Bristol merchant, who joined the Vestry in April 1849, was related to an architect, Samuel Charles Fripp, who restored churches. Within a month a plan for the whole operation was submitted by Edward B. Fripp and the Reverend W.F.Lanfeair, the curate, and had been accepted by the Vestry. Things now moved on apace.

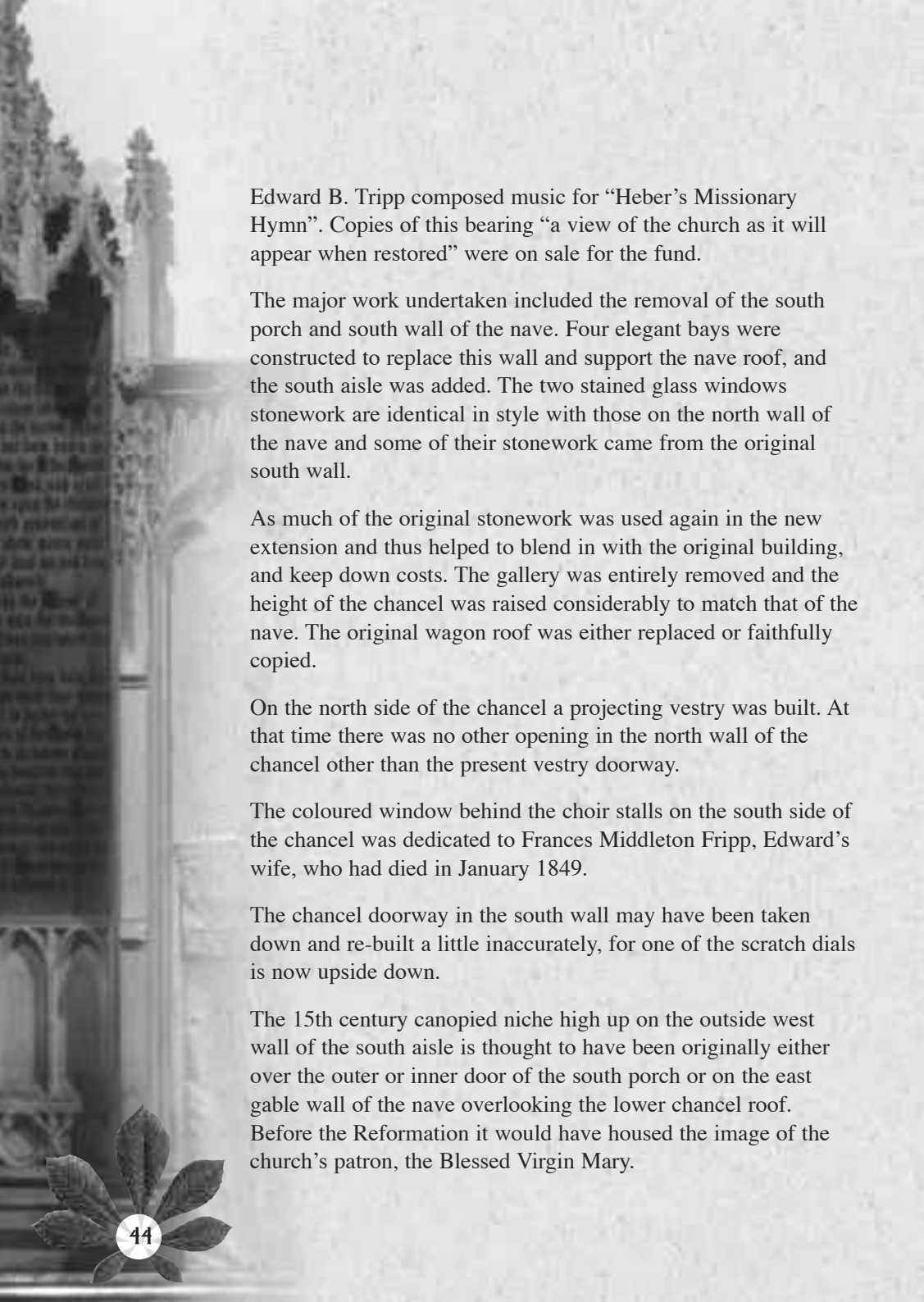
The cost of the building was met in several ways:-

The affluent Rector, the Reverend A. Harford paid entirely for the rebuilding of the chancel.

A grant of £30 was obtained from the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels.

A grant of £10 was made by the Bath & Wells Church Building Association on condition that 165 seats should be made free for use of the poor forever.

Instead of an increased church rate on the parish, an appeal was made for subscriptions, headed by a contribution of £100 from the Rector. In August 1849 a paragraph in the Weston-super-Mare Gazette stated that the estimated cost was about £400 and that about £300 had already been received. The paragraph ends with the following appeal; “It is earnestly hoped that many of those who are in a habit of occasionally visiting Weston and its neighbourhood may be disposed to contribute to so desirable an object”.



Edward B. Tripp composed music for “Heber’s Missionary Hymn”. Copies of this bearing “a view of the church as it will appear when restored” were on sale for the fund.

The major work undertaken included the removal of the south porch and south wall of the nave. Four elegant bays were constructed to replace this wall and support the nave roof, and the south aisle was added. The two stained glass windows stonework are identical in style with those on the north wall of the nave and some of their stonework came from the original south wall.

As much of the original stonework was used again in the new extension and thus helped to blend in with the original building, and keep down costs. The gallery was entirely removed and the height of the chancel was raised considerably to match that of the nave. The original wagon roof was either replaced or faithfully copied.

On the north side of the chancel a projecting vestry was built. At that time there was no other opening in the north wall of the chancel other than the present vestry doorway.

The coloured window behind the choir stalls on the south side of the chancel was dedicated to Frances Middleton Fripp, Edward’s wife, who had died in January 1849.

The chancel doorway in the south wall may have been taken down and re-built a little inaccurately, for one of the scratch dials is now upside down.

The 15th century canopied niche high up on the outside west wall of the south aisle is thought to have been originally either over the outer or inner door of the south porch or on the east gable wall of the nave overlooking the lower chancel roof. Before the Reformation it would have housed the image of the church’s patron, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A few more changes in the appearance of the church were to occur during the last decades of the 19th century. In 1857 the present reredos and windows on the south side of the sanctuary were installed as memorials to the Reverend A. Harford.

### *Reredos*



In 1870 the wide lofty arch in the north wall of the chancel was constructed to accommodate the old W.C.Vowles pipe organ. There had been an organ as early as the 1850s in the church.

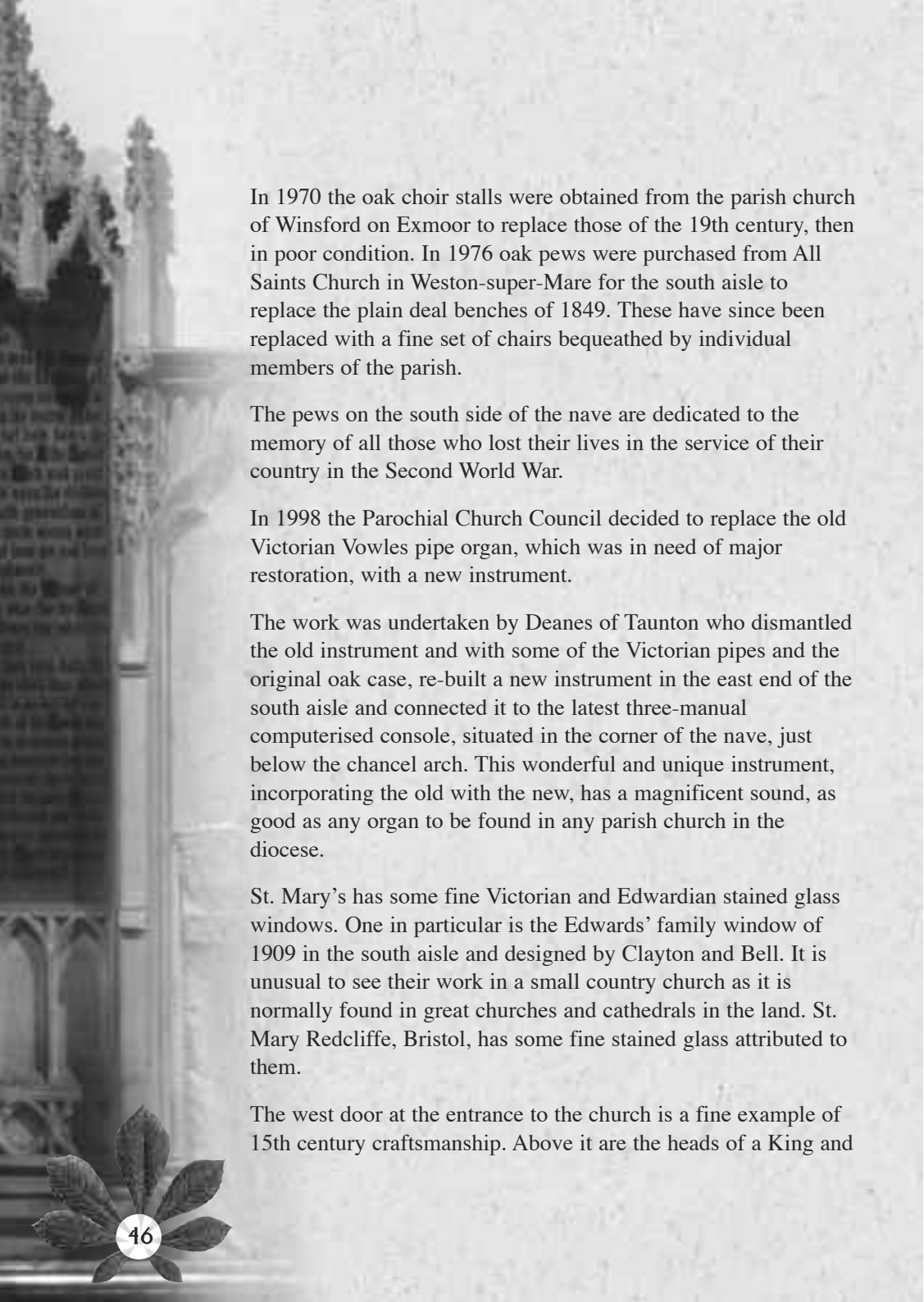
At this time the Old Rectory was built by the Reverend G.H. Gibbs, the architect being Hans Fowler Price.

In 1884 the tombstone of William Codrington, Thomas Payne II etc. now standing on the south wall of the tower as one enters church were removed from the floor of the chancel. The present tiles in the chancel date from this time.

In 1887 the clock in the tower was erected by public subscription to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the cost being £115.

At the very end of the century almost the whole of the north side of the nave and tower was masked by ivy. Its stem was claimed to be the thickest in the West Country.

During the 20th century little changed with regard to the fabric of the church. Additions have included a fine brass lectern to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII in 1902 and the electric light, which was installed in the 1920s by Mr T.G.Bisdee of Hutton Court in memory of his wife Edith.



In 1970 the oak choir stalls were obtained from the parish church of Winsford on Exmoor to replace those of the 19th century, then in poor condition. In 1976 oak pews were purchased from All Saints Church in Weston-super-Mare for the south aisle to replace the plain deal benches of 1849. These have since been replaced with a fine set of chairs bequeathed by individual members of the parish.

The pews on the south side of the nave are dedicated to the memory of all those who lost their lives in the service of their country in the Second World War.

In 1998 the Parochial Church Council decided to replace the old Victorian Vowles pipe organ, which was in need of major restoration, with a new instrument.

The work was undertaken by Deanes of Taunton who dismantled the old instrument and with some of the Victorian pipes and the original oak case, re-built a new instrument in the east end of the south aisle and connected it to the latest three-manual computerised console, situated in the corner of the nave, just below the chancel arch. This wonderful and unique instrument, incorporating the old with the new, has a magnificent sound, as good as any organ to be found in any parish church in the diocese.

St. Mary's has some fine Victorian and Edwardian stained glass windows. One in particular is the Edwards' family window of 1909 in the south aisle and designed by Clayton and Bell. It is unusual to see their work in a small country church as it is normally found in great churches and cathedrals in the land. St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, has some fine stained glass attributed to them.

The west door at the entrance to the church is a fine example of 15th century craftsmanship. Above it are the heads of a King and



a Bishop, now weathered by the centuries. These would have been of King Henry VI and Bishop Beckington of Bath and Wells, who were in their respective offices at the time of the present church's construction.



The west side of the churchyard was consecrated in 1884 and was formerly the site of Hutton's oldest school, which was replaced in 1872 by the oldest part of the present building, still in use at the corner of Church Lane and the Main Road.



At the bottom of the church paths both east and west are the fine oak gates, which were made in 1953 by William Samuel Palmer to commemorate the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

*Coach Outing- Bell ringers, choir.*





## Chapter 5

# The Victorian Church Clock

**H**utton's church clock is a masterpiece of Victorian engineering and is one of the finest in the county and diocese.

The excellent timekeeping of the clock is the result of it being fitted with a Denison Gravity Escapement—exactly the same kind of mechanism is fitted to Big Ben in London. “Hutton Time!” is accurate to within a few seconds of Greenwich, and you can set your watches and clocks by it with confidence.

The clock was installed in 1887 as a memorial of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. It cost £115 and was paid for by public subscription from the village. ( See photograph in centre pages. )

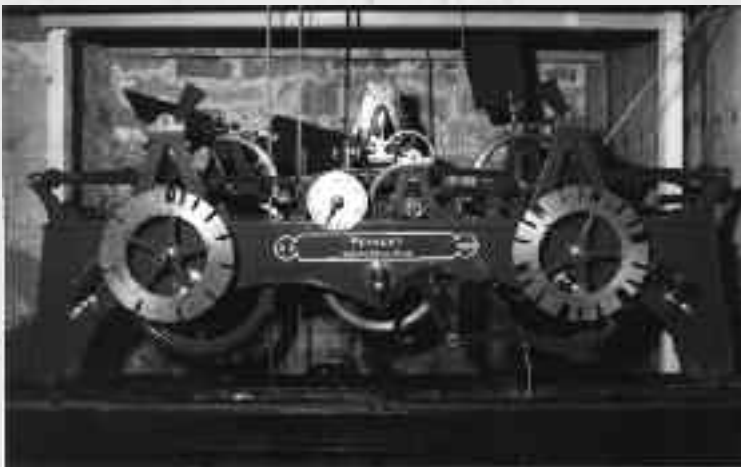
On June 21st 1887 after a short service in church, Mr A.P.Edwards (recorded as a liberal contributor to the fund) set the clock going. In 1900 his wife gave the casing for the clock weights.


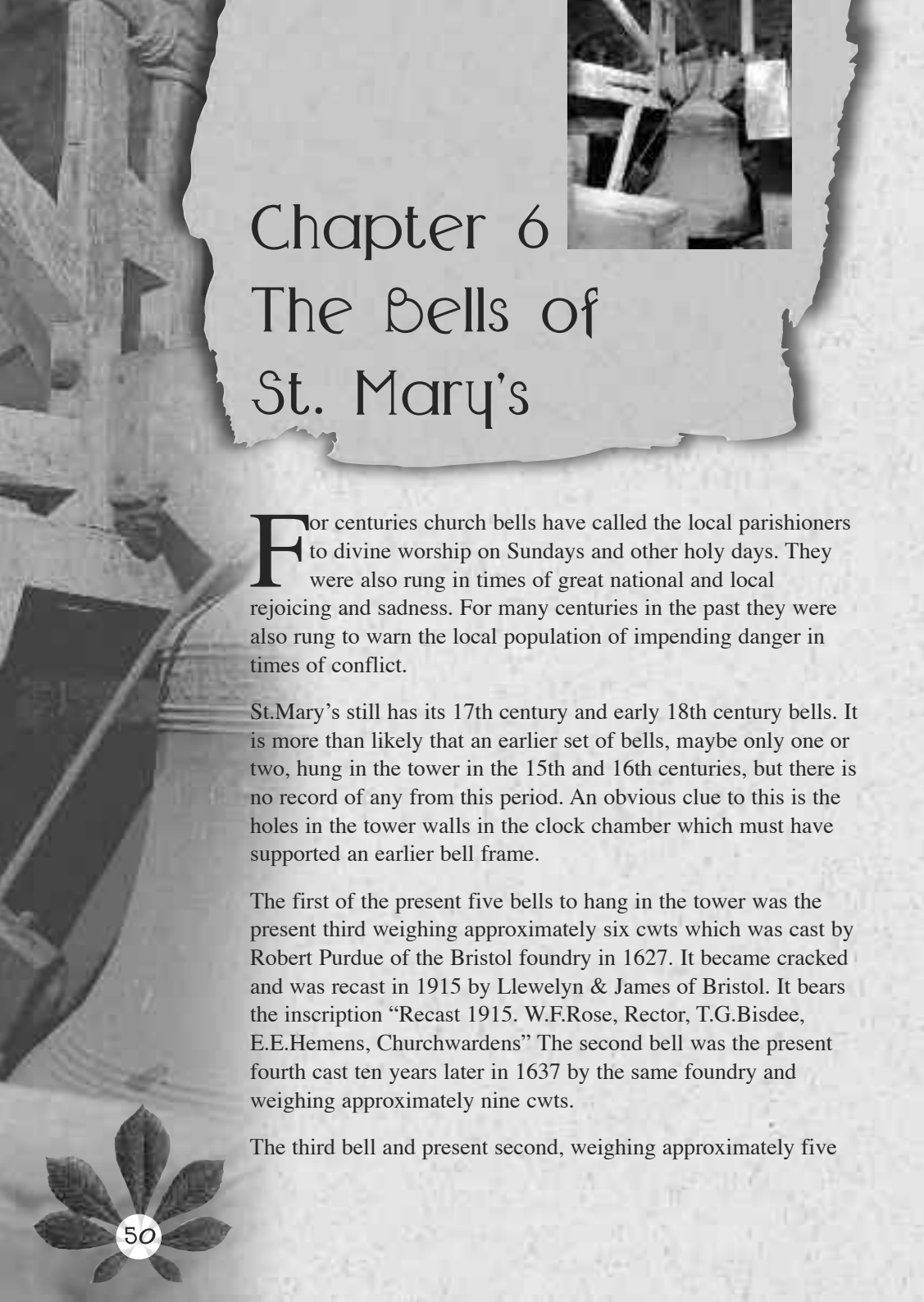
The clock was built by Gillet & Johnson of Croydon, South London and was installed by Messrs W.E. Perrett of Weston-super-Mare who were in business in the High Street. It seems to have given some trouble in its early days, being repaired in 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895.

Hanging from one of the huge oak beams in the tower are the three weights, each estimated to be in excess of 5cwt; these monsters relentlessly drive the clock. In seven days they move from clock level to the tower floor and are then wound back again to their starting point.

For many years the task of winding the clock was undertaken by individuals, such as Jack Stone, who wound it every week for most of the early 1960s. A dedicated team of clock winders who visit the clock chamber every Thursday to wind up the clock now accomplishes this task.

By 1993, after a century of continuous working, the mechanism was in need of major attention as some parts were worn out and giving trouble. The clock was dismantled and was completely overhauled by the firm of A.J.Nicholls of Bristol. In February 1994 it was put back in working order and after a few teething troubles it has kept excellent time ever since. The cost of this work was shared between the Parochial Church Council, the Parish council and individual parishioners of the village.





## Chapter 6

# The Bells of St. Mary's

**F**or centuries church bells have called the local parishioners to divine worship on Sundays and other holy days. They were also rung in times of great national and local rejoicing and sadness. For many centuries in the past they were also rung to warn the local population of impending danger in times of conflict.

St.Mary's still has its 17th century and early 18th century bells. It is more than likely that an earlier set of bells, maybe only one or two, hung in the tower in the 15th and 16th centuries, but there is no record of any from this period. An obvious clue to this is the holes in the tower walls in the clock chamber which must have supported an earlier bell frame.

The first of the present five bells to hang in the tower was the present third weighing approximately six cwts which was cast by Robert Purdue of the Bristol foundry in 1627. It became cracked and was recast in 1915 by Llewelyn & James of Bristol. It bears the inscription "Recast 1915. W.F.Rose, Rector, T.G.Bisdee, E.E.Hemens, Churchwardens" The second bell was the present fourth cast ten years later in 1637 by the same foundry and weighing approximately nine cwts.

The third bell and present second, weighing approximately five

and a half cwts, was cast in 1675. It bears the inscription “Tell G.S. L.B. & C.W. (Churchwardens) and T.P. (Thomas Purdue)” who was a successor to Robert at the Bristol foundry.

It was at this time that the present bell frame was installed. It is built of local chestnut and oak. It consisted of three “pits” to hold the three bells.

In 1708 two more bells were installed to complete the present ring of five. These are the present first or treble weighing approximately five cwts and the fifth or tenor weighing approximately 11 cwts. This bell bears the inscription “When I do call com serve God all”.

Two more pits were added along the east wall of the tower to accommodate the new bells. The total bell weight is approximately 36 cwts and with the frame the total weight in the tower is well over two and a half tons.

These last two bells were cast by the famous Bilbie family who were bell founders at Chew Stoke. There are interesting tales about how they cast their bells. This was done by moonlight as they believed that the slightest sound during casting would spoil the bell. When a parish ordered a new bell the existing bell would be rung by moonlight while one of the Bilbies stood naked in the village pond up to his neck listening to the old bell. This, it is said, taught him about the required pitch and tone of the new bell.

For the reader who is interested in the technicalities of the bells I have listed the following information:-



No	Date	Note	Diameter	Weights	Foundry
1	1708	D	27 inches	5 cwts	Bilbie – Chew Stoke
2	1675	C	29 inches	5 1/2 cwts	Thomas Purdue – Bristol
3	1627	B	32 inches	6 cwts	Robert Purdue – Bristol
4	1637	A	36 inches	9 cwts	Robert Purdue – Bristol
5	1708	G	38 inches	11 cwts	Bilbie – Chew Stoke

The fine Victorian Clock, which is housed in the tower just below the bells is connected to three of the five bells, namely numbers 1 & 4 for the quarter hours and 5 for the hours. The arrangement of the bells is such that the ropes fall in unorthodox fashion, namely anticlockwise four with the treble inside of the four ropes. Hutton is not the easiest of towers to ring!

Bells are hung to swing in opposing directions (otherwise the whole lot would come crashing to the floor!). At Hutton 1 & 2 swing from north to south of the tower in opposite directions on the east side and 3,4 & 5 swing from west to east in opposite directions on the west side. This method of operation helps to minimise pressure on the inside of the tower wall and also helps to keep the frame rigid. Apart from this there is still movement to be seen in the frame when the bells are being rung.

St.Mary's has had six bells in the past. During the church's early history a sanctus bell hung in the small bell-cot at the eastern end of the nave overlooking the chancel. It would have been installed when the church was built and would have been rung at the beginning of High Mass.

Where, when or how it went missing nobody knows; it has not been there for the past three hundred years. A strong possibility is that it was pillaged by Cromwell's Roundheads in the Civil War. They were certainly around this area and in the village at the

time, but there is no documentary evidence to support this theory.


### *The Bells of St Mary's*



The Churchwardens' Accounts of the parish in the 19th Century record the ringing of the church bells to mark the following great events:-

- 1802 "The late escape of his majesty (George II) from assassination"
- 1805 "A complete victory over the French Fleet off Trafalgar by Admiral Lord Nelson who lost his life in the battle"
- 1815 "The splendid victory gained by the Duke of Wellington over Bonaparte at Waterloo which decided the war"
- 1820 "Tolling the bell at the funeral of his late majesty George III"
- 1821 "The Coronation of George IV"
- 1832 "The Coronation of William IV"
- 1837 "The Coronation of Victoria"
- 1887 "The Golden Jubilee"
- 1897 "The Diamond Jubilee"
- 1901 "The funeral of her majesty Queen Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the seas, Empress of India"





In the 20th Century the bells were rung to celebrate the coronation of Edward VII in 1902, George V in 1910 and his Silver Jubilee in 1935; the coronation of George VI in 1937 and our present Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

The last great state occasion when the bells were rung was on Saturday 6th September 1997, when a half muffled peal was rung to mourn the death of Diana, princess of Wales. The team of ringers on this occasion were Mr John Boorman, Mr Mike Cockeram, Mr Richard Harris, Mr Colin Sills, Mrs Jenny Spence and her son Mr Philip Spence.

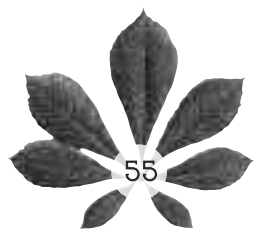
For many years from the period 1920s to 1960s the old team of ringers was in charge of the bells. They included Mr Reginald Palmer, Mr William Palmer (Tower Captain) who always rang the tenor bell, Mr Ralph Fisher, Mr Hubert Dudley, Mr Ted Jones, Mr William Parsons, and as a young lady in her late teens (in the 1960s) Miss Dianne Palmer, now Mrs Dianne Phillips.

By 1964 the bells had become silent due to a lack of ringers, many of the old team having died with no one trained to replace them. For over thirty years they were only rung on rare occasions when a visiting team came to the tower.

In 1996 a thorough inspection of the frame and bells was carried out and after some restoration work to the east end of the frame, and many hours of cleaning rubbish (bat droppings etc.) a new team of ringers trained by Mr Colin and Mr Melvyn Freeman enthusiastically started to bring them back to life.

Today “the bells of St.Mary’s” once again ring out each Sunday over the village calling the parishioners to worship as they have done for the past four centuries.







# Chapter 7

## The Village School

**T**he earliest reference to a school in Hutton is an entry in the Poor Book of 1831 dated 16th March. Reference is made to a bill for “12 bushels of coal for Hutton School”. The schoolmistress was probably Mrs S.Phippen, for it is her signature which appears on coal bills for 1832 and 1833 and according to the Poor Book entry, she also paid the rate for the school house.

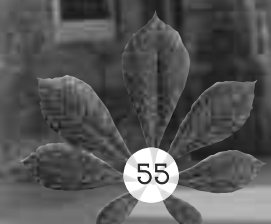
According to the tithe map of 1837, this church school was situated in what is now the west side of the churchyard. In 1835 a Reverend John Skinner of Camerton, near Bath, paid a brief visit to Hutton in September of that year and made two rough sketches of the school and the school house.

The captions on these sketches read as follows:-

No.15 *“School at Hutton built by Mr Battersby & Mr Harford, patron of the living and Rector, September 30th 1835”*

No.16 *“The residence of the schoolmistress behind the church”*

This early church school was in use for approximately 40 years until the older part of the present school was built in 1873. Its Gothic style of architecture (windows and doors) were fashionable at this period but alas all traces of these two buildings have long since disappeared with the development of the churchyard.



## HUTTON SCHOOL & SCHOOL-HOUSE IN 1835

(IN THE REIGN OF WILLIAM IV - TWO YEARS BEFORE VICTORIA'S ACCESSION)

TWO SKETCHES BY THE REV. JOHN SKINNER



### Notes

- 1) The captions on these sketches read as follows: No.15 "School House at Hutton . . . built by Mr. Ba(ttersby) & Mr. H(ar)f(ord) . . . patron of the living and Rector, taken September 30". No.16 "The residence of the School-Mistress behind the church."
- 2) These buildings were situated in what is now the W part of the churchyard. The earliest known reference to this school is a bill for 12 bushels of coal "for Hutton School" dated 16th March 1831 but from the late 18th century. This school was in use until the oldest part of the present school was built in 1873.
- 3) The schoolmistress was probably Mrs. S Phippen who signed coal bills in 1832 & 1833.



- 4) These sketches are only rough ones, hastily made by John Skinner of Cameron during a brief visit to Hutton. They are therefore not strictly accurate in detail. Note the church tower!

However, one building still remains from this period and that is the churchyard tool shed, which was the coal house and toilet for the school. On closer inspection inside this stone building the visitor can see over the fine modern oak door traces of the original Gothic door, which would have matched those of the school and school house.


From this early period of the school's history there survives a Victorian sampler dated Christmas AD 1837. It was made by a young pupil teacher named Cecilia Jones. This fine piece of beautifully worked stitchcraft was made to mark the accession of the young Queen Victoria. It now hangs in the foyer of the present school by the headmaster's study.

#### *Victorian sampler*



Although no girl of this name can be traced in Hutton, there can be little doubt that Cecilia was identical with Celia Jones who, according to the 1831 census return for Hutton was the seventeen-year-old daughter of William and Sarah Jones. William Jones worked on the land and was a widower in 1820 when he married Sarah Wolfe, a widow, in Hutton Church. Both were residents of Hutton and were then about twenty-nine years old. In 1823,

about the time that Cecilia was born, they had a daughter christened "Sally" in our church but there is no trace of the baptism of a "Celia" or "Cecilia". It is possible that the name Sally may have been written down in error, which was not uncommon.



Alas Cecilia's life was unfortunately short as she died on 16th January 1848 at the age of 24 and was buried in Hutton churchyard.

Another possible link in the churchyard today with the old school is the tree stump near the tower, which is now covered with a fine clematis. It is all that remains of the tall Scots Pine, which was severely damaged and had to be felled after the great storm of 25th January 1990.

This tree was well over one hundred years old and could have been planted by the schoolchildren to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1862; however to date there is no documentary evidence to support this theory.

After the Education Act of 1870, making compulsory the establishment of public elementary schools (where there was no adequate provision of other schools) it was decided to build a new and larger school in the northeast corner of the Rectory land.

The Weston Mercury dated Saturday 21st December 1872, carried a lengthy report of an "inaugural ceremony held in Hutton on the previous Thursday evening on the occasion of the opening of the new and spacious schoolrooms that have just been completed". The actual move to the new school did not take place until three months later on March 14th 1873.

The report continues by explaining why and how this great and expensive undertaking came to be achieved:- "As soon as it was ascertained that the premises formerly used as a schoolhouse were inadequate for the accommodation of the children of the parish under the Education Act, a subscription list was opened for the purpose of raising funds for the erection of a building that would not only answer all the requirements ..... but would also be an ornament to the parish". "The handsome sum of £700 was speedily raised by voluntary contributions, upon which plans

were prepared by Mr H.F.Price, and the tender of Messrs Harvey & Son of Torquay, accepted”.

Mr Hans Fowler Price, a gifted and local architect, also designed the Old Rectory in the village and also worked on many buildings in Weston-super-Mare. These include the Mercury offices and the Constitutional club in the Boulevard.

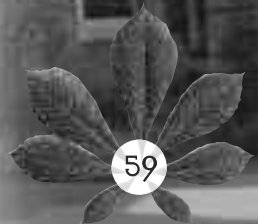
According to Kelly’s Directory of Somerset for 1910, the total cost of the new school was about £850. This was a remarkably fine achievement from a small village like Hutton, the total population at this time being just over 400.

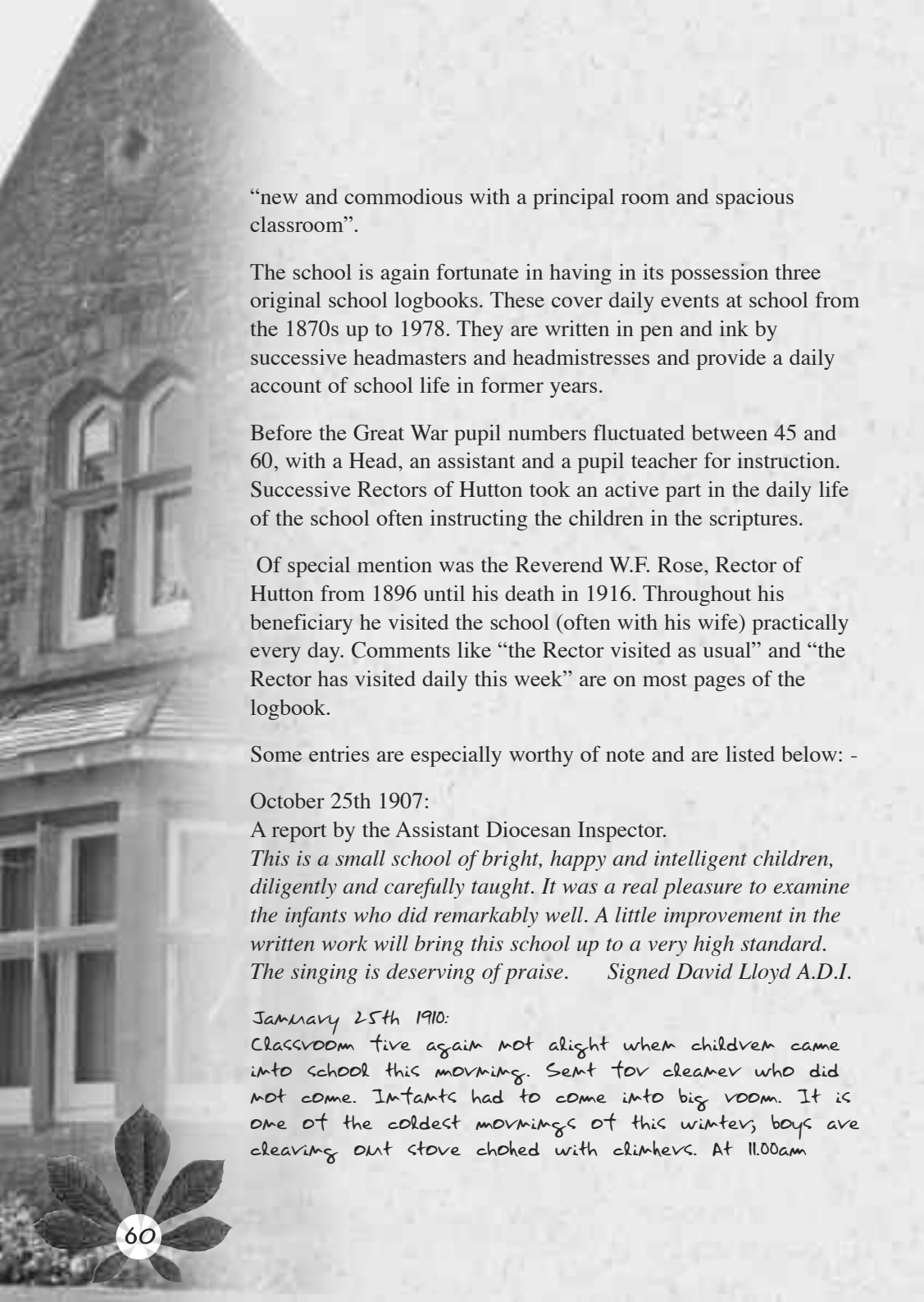
The Rector of Hutton, the Reverend G.H.,Gibbs, who had been largely responsible for the whole undertaking, concluded his opening address at the celebration by saying how very proud he felt at knowing that Hutton possessed a school which for accommodation and appearance he thought was a credit to the parish. Certainly they were well rewarded; the fine neo-Gothic style of architecture that was so fashionable then can still be appreciated today, 126 years later.

Following the Rector’s speech, there was a most successful musical entertainment, which the Mercury reported at considerable length. The account provides an illuminating and amusing record of both the popular musical taste and style of newspaper reporting in the Victorian era.

We may note that “The Watchman was ably sung” by the church choir whose “Men of Harlech” elicited “a hearty encore”, that a pianoforte duet from “Zampa” was played with “marked precision”, that a song “The Captive Greek Girl” was rendered with “telling effect” and that a vocal duet, “A.B.C.” “Provoked much mirth”!

When Her Majesty’s Inspectors visited the school in May 1873 they were full of praise in their description of the building as





“new and commodious with a principal room and spacious classroom”.

The school is again fortunate in having in its possession three original school logbooks. These cover daily events at school from the 1870s up to 1978. They are written in pen and ink by successive headmasters and headmistresses and provide a daily account of school life in former years.

Before the Great War pupil numbers fluctuated between 45 and 60, with a Head, an assistant and a pupil teacher for instruction. Successive Rectors of Hutton took an active part in the daily life of the school often instructing the children in the scriptures.

Of special mention was the Reverend W.F. Rose, Rector of Hutton from 1896 until his death in 1916. Throughout his beneficiary he visited the school (often with his wife) practically every day. Comments like “the Rector visited as usual” and “the Rector has visited daily this week” are on most pages of the logbook.

Some entries are especially worthy of note and are listed below: -

October 25th 1907:

A report by the Assistant Diocesan Inspector.

*This is a small school of bright, happy and intelligent children, diligently and carefully taught. It was a real pleasure to examine the infants who did remarkably well. A little improvement in the written work will bring this school up to a very high standard. The singing is deserving of praise. Signed David Lloyd A.D.I.*

January 25th 1910:

Classroom five again not alight when children came into school this morning. Sent for cleaver who did not come. Infants had to come into big room. It is one of the coldest mornings of this winter; boys are clearing out stove choked with chimneys. At 11.00am

temperature in classroom was 44.0°F!

February 4th 1910:

Attendance poor this week; there is much sickness the unseasonable weather being responsible. Oral lessons today taken by Miss Spratt, the mistress having completely lost her voice by laryngitis.

November 11th 1910:

School will be closed tomorrow for 2 attendance holidays, thus making a longer week-end. It was originally arranged on account of Weston Carnival to which many of the children like to go.

July 7th 1911:

Owing to the great heat, children were allowed to choose their last lesson. They decided on cardboard modelling and preferred to do that to going into the hot playground.

April 17th 1912:

The children will be taken into the playground to watch the eclipse of the sun.

July 25th 1914:

The Day School Treat was held today. The prize-giving took place in the schoolroom. Mrs Bisdee kindly gave prizes for good attendance. Mrs Mitchell kindly gave them for needlework, brushwork, crayon work and writing. Mrs O'Kelly kindly gave prizes for special work. Through the kindness of the Revd and Mrs Rose, tea was given to the children on the Rectory lawn. T.G. Bisdee Esq. allowed the children to have swings, games and sports in one of his fields.



*Mr & Mrs Clarke (nee Parkhouse)*



October 22nd 1915:

Diocesan General Report.

I have found this school a very delightful one to examine. It was very evident that the teachers had aimed at a careful, thoughtful and reverent instruction of the children spread over the whole year with a realisation of the spiritual lessons underlying all the formal teaching. I should like especially to mention something which struck me, - the great naturalness in the reverent demeanour of the children and the way in which the lessons given had taken hold of their young lives. The written work was excellent.

Signed by the Revd.S.J.Swainson, Assistant Diocesan

Director.

February 7th 1916:

Arthur Lyon a former scholar now serving in France, home on leave for a few days, paid a visit to the school this morning and told children some of his experiences in France.

November 30th 1917:

Miss Parkhouse (Headmistress) is unable to attend school as she has injured her leg (E.J.Derrich). Miss Bisdee visited the school today re War Savings Association.

January 16th 1918:

I have returned for part duty today after being absent since Nov: 27th. Miss M. Fear of Uphill School has been taking my place while her sister Mrs Taylor has been teaching at Uphill School.

*Victorian/Edwardian school photo*



September 11th 1918:

The children have been taken out this afternoon for a blackberrying excursion under the charge of the Headmistress.

September 12th & 13th 1918:

The children again taken out. 200lbs of blackberries sent to Mr Jacksons jam factory in Bedford Road, Weston-super-Mare. (October 4th 1918 a further 200lbs of blackberries were sent.)

November 11th 1918:

This afternoon the Rector, the Reverend Goodban and his sister came to tell the children that the fighting had ceased. (The Armistice being signed). Patriotic songs were sung and the children dismissed early to celebrate the event.

July 17th 1919:

We are closing the school this afternoon for the summer holiday. Mrs Turner visited on Monday, Miss Bisdie on Wednesday. Peace Celebrations are to take place in this village on Saturday 19th. A tea is to be provided for the children under 14 and a meat tea for adults. These will be followed by sports, dancing and a bonfire.

An interesting entry appears on September 17th 1920:

An army hut is to be erected for the Boy Scouts use. It has arrived today and some of the boys helped to unload it. (This was the old Legion Hut, which was to serve the village for over 50 years)

The First Armistice - November 11th 1920 - Lessons were stopped at 11.00am today and a short ceremony took place to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice.

April 27th 1921:

A copy of a report made by T. Johnson Esq; His Majesty's Inspector of Schools, after his visit on March 23rd 1921.

*This is a good village school. The instruction is thoughtfully planned and the headmistress and her two assistants prepare their lesson very thoroughly.*

*The children are pleasing in appearance and manners and they take great pride in the neatness of the classrooms, which are gay with plants and fresh flowers.*

*Their written work is neat and well arranged; they answer readily and confidently when questioned about their lessons.*

*Both classes of older scholars worked at tests in arithmetic and composition with creditable success. A special word of praise must be given for the excellence of the written answer to questions set on the year's work of the first class in history and geography. It is noticed that the girls' work is however better than that of the boys!*

*In the infants' class the results of the years teaching are good in all respects.*

*The children read with remarkable freedom and appreciation, their hard work is interesting and varied and they take a very vigorous and joyous share in physical exercises, dancing and singing.*

*Both the Headmistress and teachers have attended courses in physical training provided by the local education authority and there is a noteworthy increase of efficiency in the children's physical education.*

May 24th 1927:

Empire Day. The children were given a lesson bearing on the day. Patriotic songs were sung and the Union Jack saluted.

*School class 1927?*



June 28th 1928:

A day's holiday has been granted for the annual day school outing to Bath.

July 15th 1927:

A day's holiday has been granted for the annual Sunday School outing to Clifton Zoological Gardens.

October 15th 1928:

The hitchem vange in the school-house has been removed to the hut today (Legion Hut).

April 11th 1930:

The Rector and Mr Bisdee visited on Thursday. Miss Rose visited and presented books to those who had written the best account of a visit to see the Picture "Tembi". They were B.Parsons , P.Cox and I.Carpenter.

March 17th 1931:

The Rector visited and read an official notice to the children telling them that all over 11 years of age

would commence attending St. John's School on April 1st.

March 30th 1931:

Mr Lye, Headmaster of St. John's Senior Boys' School W.S.M. visited and gave bus tickets to the boys and girls over 11 years of age who are to attend St. John's Boys & girls Senior School tomorrow.

April 1st 1931:

Six boys and six girls are to attend the senior school. Two girls and one boy are now exempt from attendance at school. Two girls are leaving to attend a private school. **This school is now a junior school.**

May 21st 1931:

The annual prize giving took place this afternoon. The Rector, Mrs Cole, Miss Cole, Miss Bisdee and several parents and friends were present. T.G. Bisdee Esq. kindly gave prizes to E. Trowbridge, V. Coles, D. Light, Timothy Richards and May Parsons for full attendance and prizes for very good attendance.

Mrs Cole presented E. Trowbridge with a silver wristlet watch for making nine years unbroken attendance at this school. Miss Baker, who is leaving to be married, was presented with a clock subscribed for by the Rector, Headmistress, caretaker and scholars.

October 29th 1931:

We are closing the school for the mid term holiday this afternoon. The Head Girl presented me with a fountain pen on the occasion of my marriage. (Now Mrs A. Clarke)

November 3rd 1931:

We have re-opened school this morning. The parents and friends of the scholars of this school have subscribed and presented me with a divan chair. The

Rector made the presentation. The old scholars presented me with a silver plated hot water jug and a silver mounted glass biscuit barrel.

October 19th 1934:

Electric light has been laid in the school room.

November 2nd 1934:

The milk scheme of 1/3rd pint for each child for the children, started today.

December 18th 1935:

The Headmistress was granted permission to attend the opening ceremony of the County School, W.S.M. Miss Searlock was left in charge at 2.45pm.

January 28th 1936:

A notice has been received today from the County Education Committee to this effect:

*"To mark the solemnity of the occasion of the funeral of His Majesty King George V, all public elementary schools in the County of Somerset should be closed on that day."*

September 30th 1936:

My term of office as Headmistress of this school ends today, after holding this appointment since September 4th 1911.

Signed A.Clarke (Née Parkhouse).

October 1st 1936:

I have today commenced duties as Headmistress.  
A.M.Edwards

March 5th 1937:

The school dentist examined 24 children in the British Legion Hut today. 15 children are receiving treatment.

May 11th 1937:

We are closing school today for the holiday granted in celebration of the coronation of His Majesty King George VI.

December 21st 1937:

The annual prize-giving took place this afternoon. Certificates were awarded by the Education Committee for full attendance during 1936-37. The managers awarded book prizes to the following for full attendance:- Leslie Light, Bryan Parsley, George Barwick, Betty Barwick, Lily Cox, Angela Cox, June Gadd, Gordon Barwick, Rosalind Cox and Arthur Cox, and to James Parsons, Joyce Heath, Florence Bryant and Peter West for regular attendance. A large number of parents attended and inspected the children's handwork and needlework.

January 25th 1939:

A heavy fall of snow, which continued all the morning, caused a very poor attendance (50%), so that with the Rector's permission school was closed at 11.30am for the day.

June 27th 1939:

I have today received a notification from the Chief Education Officer that Jean V. Marshall and E. Lily Cox have been awarded special places at the W.S.M. County Girls' School.

September 1st 1939:

Notice received today re closure of schools during evacuation. School closed until further notice. It has been decided that in the event of an air raid the children should be evacuated to the cellars of Middle Farm as the school building is considered by the Chief Air Raid Warden to be highly dangerous.



September 11th 1939:

School has been re-opened today after the period allowed for evacuation.

June 18th 1940:

Admitted 20 children evacuated from Arnold Road School, Dagenham - ages ranging from 5 - 12 years. Miss Williams, assistant teacher (certified) accompanied them. Mr Smelgrove (H.M.I.) and the Head Teacher of the three departments concerned visited on June 17th and authorized merging these children with our own.

July 15th 1940:

Lessons were abandoned from 10.15am - 11.00am and from 2.10 - 3.20pm today during air-raid warnings when the children were taken to the shelter provided.

A meeting of parents was held at 8pm to discuss the protection of children at school during air-raids. It was unanimously decided that the fathers would voluntarily work on the trenches which were to be dug in the adjoining field and lined and covered against the damp.

September 10th 1940:

School opened 10am. Air Raid Warnings 2.45 - 3.10pm.

September 11th 1940:

School opened 10am. Air Raid Warnings 11.40am and 12 noon.

September 12th 1940:

School opened 10am. Air Raid warnings 11.40am, 12.20pm, 1.45 and 2.10pm.

Disruption continued for the next two months with air raid warnings being a daily occurrence.

January 1942:

The Mayor & Mayoress of Dagenham paid a short visit to the school today to see evacuees from their district.

March 3rd - 7th 1942:

During the local Warship Week the school savings group collected the sum of £1,041. 5s. 0d.

June 17th 1942:

A wireless set has been obtained at a cost of £12.15s.0d. Mr Ellis has kindly offered to install the set free of charge.

November 18th 1942:

The children attended a Ministry of Information film show at 3pm. in the British Legion Hut.

May 15th - 23rd 1943:

During the Wings for Victory Week the school savings group collected £1,323. 17s.0d.

*School photo 1949*



July 18th 1944:

Morning prayers were taken by the Rector (the Reverend Davies) in the church and afterwards the older children went on the church tower.

July 26th 1944:

During the Salute the Soldier Week £1,302 has been raised by the school savings group.

May 8th & 9th 1945:

Holiday for V.E. Day

January 7th 1946:

School re-opened after the Christmas holidays. Miss Edwards, Headmistress was absent through illness.

January 8th 1946:

The County Architect visited to take measurements of school and playground.

March 4th 1947:

School closed for heavy snow - drifts blocking pathway and lavatories frozen.

(School remained closed until the 14th)

June 6th 1947:

Notification received that Shirley Harris, Christine Smith and Roger James have been awarded places at the Grammar School. Further, that Roger James, by virtue of his excellent work in the examinations, has qualified for admission to a Public School. His parents have chosen Kings School, Bruton.

December 20th 1947:

Children taken to Junior Arts Club presentation of "The Water Babies", instead of having a Christmas party.

July 22nd 1948:

Notification that Brenda A. Cox had obtained admission

to the Weston-super-Mare Girls Grammar School.

June 24th 1949:

The new Rector, the Reverend H.R.Haines inducted.

November 14th 1949:

Notification received that the school became Voluntary Controlled as from 27th September 1949.

January 5th 1950:

It was necessary (with the approval of the managers) to close school after midday meal as the main road was so badly flooded that it was impossible for the children to get into school building, and all had to be carried out of the hut.

On the 20th November 1952 a meeting was held to look into the possibilities of forming a Parent Teacher Association. Dr Richardson, Headmaster of St. John's School, Weston, gave an address. During the next ten years the school log reports on staff appointments and resignations, concerts, prize giving ceremonies and interviews for grammar school places.

Dr. Anderson, the school doctor, carried out immunisations and Nurse Webber inspected the children's heads and tested eyes.

Mr W. Roe, the school dentist, inspected teeth in the Legion Hut or sometimes in the Central Stores in the Village.

A common occurrence each winter was the closing of the school due to frozen lavatories and pipes.

On the 21st December, after 24 years and 3 months service, Miss A.M.Edwards resigned as Headmistress to take up another teaching appointment. An acting Headmistress, Mrs J.O.Charles, continued the duties of Head from May - July 1961. On the 4th September that year Mrs R.A.M.Kirk took over as Headmistress and re-opened school after the summer holidays. She was to

remain Head for the next four years - resigning in July 1965. Mr J.Pearce took over the Headship as from 1st January 1966. At this time 71 pupils were on the school roll.

Further entries of interest from the log are:-

May 9th 1966:

Mr Lesley, from the County Architects Department, carried out a survey in connection with the connection of the school to the main drainage system.

November 1st 1966:

The children collected £3-16-0d towards the Aberfan Disaster Fund.

March 4th 1967:

Nine children travelled to Bath to take part in the Recorder Section of the Mid-Somerset Festival. A certificate of merit was awarded. The party was accompanied by Mr Conrad & Mr Pearce, together with two parents. Expenses were covered by the Parent Teachers Association.

June 5th 1967:

The school re-opened after the half-term holiday. Twenty two children, accompanied by Mr & Mrs Conrad, left the school at 9.30am to camp at North Barrow Activities Centre.

December 23rd 1967:

A party of older juniors went carol singing this evening, returning to school for refreshments provided by the P.T.A. Donations received went to church funds.

February 7th 1968:

Dr McGowan, Medical Officer of Health, visited the Legion Hut with regard to the proposed setting up

of a Pre-School Playgroup by the Parent Teachers Association. Mr Dennis, County

Inspectorate, gave a talk to the P.T.A. in the hut at 7.30pm. The Rector & Mrs Huntley were present together with a large number of parents.

September 4th 1968:

The school opened for the Autumn Term. Suspended ceilings were installed in the main building during the holidays, but electrical work connected with the installation of storage heaters has not been completed. There were 13 admissions. Number on roll - 94.

December 2nd 1968:

In accordance with the decision of the school managers, school commenced at 9.30am. This is to continue until the end of January 1969.

May 1st 1969:

This afternoon boys from Weston Grammar School gave a display of Morris Dancing and performed a Mummers' play as part of a May Day Tour for the children and for many parents who attended.

May 21st 1969:

The junior children made an educational visit to Nunney Castle, Stonehenge and Avebury. The party was accompanied by Mr Conrad and Mr Pearce.

July 1st 1969:

Eight children took part in the Primary Schools Swimming gala at the Knightstone Baths this evening.

January 6th 1970:

The school re-opened after the Christmas holiday. Eight children were admitted, number on roll - 121. Owing to illness, Mrs Platt, Dinner Supervisor, was

absent from duty. Mrs Wainwright, former temporary School Crossing Patrol, now permanent was absent owing to the death of her mother. Mrs Cragg carried out her duties. Mrs Darroch, newly appointed as Deputy Headteacher, commenced duty today.

During the holidays defective floor tiles in the Somerset Hut were replaced, 13amp sockets were put in the same hut, and into the main building, and an exchange of storage heaters was effected between the Somerset hut and the Pratten Hut to improve heat in the former.

June 9th 1970:

Vincent Griffiths was bitten by a guinea pig during the midday break. As the wound was bleeding freely an ambulance was sent for and he went to hospital.

June 12th 1970:

Catherine Adams was bitten by a guinea pig during the morning break. Mrs Darroch took her home at midday, and on to hospital with Mrs Adams. The very hot weather we have experienced for some weeks may partially account for the most unusual behaviour of these animals.

September 16th 1970:

A meeting of the school Managers was held at the New Rectory, to select a successor to Mrs Parkman, the School Secretary. Mrs Payne was chosen.

On November 10th 1970 Mr Pearce entered hospital for an operation and in his absence Mr F.E.Lord took charge of the school.

February 24th 1971:

The school re-opened today after the half-term holiday. Accounting for school meals in the new decimal currency commenced today. The postal strike

still continuing, mail has been collected from the divisional office and from Axbridge R.D.C. Offices at Wimscombe. Mail has been brought to the school by hand. A fire drill was held today at 11.55am; the school being cleared in less than one minute.

May 19th 1971:

The Reverend H.R.Haines, as Chairman of the Managers, officially opened the new reference library, provided by the P.T.A. The school choir sang a selection of festival songs.

September 13th 1971:

A further five children were admitted today bringing the number on roll to 146. After consultations with the Rector it was decided to close admissions to those classes where the number was 40 and to inform the D.A.O.

December 16th 1971:

The Reverend H.R.Haines, Rector of Hutton, took his final service at Hutton School this morning. He is retiring at the end of the current year, and a presentation was made to him by Janet Jarrett, the oldest girl, on behalf of all present. Mr Haines first visited the school on July 1st 1949 and has since taken a morning service, followed by Religious Education for the older children on a weekly basis throughout each school year.


February 14th 1972:

Power cuts were experienced today, from 12 noon, as a result of the state of emergency consequent upon the miners' national strike.

April 25th 1972:

This evening the Reverend A.K.Isaac was inducted as Rector of Hutton. The lower junior classroom was





used as an "overflow" hall for the serving of refreshments after the service. The weather was fine and spring-like with early blossom.

June 30th 1972:

The junior classes visited the Bath & West Steam Fair and exhibition at Shepton Mallet, accompanied by Miss Henderson, Mr Conrad and Mr Pearce.

December 30th 1972:

Miss K. Henderson, formerly a pupil at this school, and at present employed as a temporary full-time assistant teacher here, was married to Mr Wheadon in Hutton church at 12 noon today. A group of older girls played a recorder piece by Handel during the signing of the marriage register.

January 9th 1973:

The school opened for the Spring Term at 9.00am. One boy was admitted. Number on register 155. The new county milk contract with Manor Farm Dairies came into force today, milk being delivered in plastic bags instead of glass bottles. Mrs Hobson commenced duty as Deputy Headmistress, today, being appointed from the first of January. We also commenced two sittings for school dinners as from today.

The school Centenary week was celebrated in grand style in June 1973.

On Monday 18th the Rector, Mr Pearce and Mr Counsell went to Wells in the evening for a meeting of Foundation Governors and Managers. The following day the Centenary Sports (due to take place in the afternoon) had to be cancelled owing to rain, but the weather improved sufficiently for the comic football match and family competition to be held in the evening.

On Wednesday 20th an open afternoon was held from 2.00pm till 3.30pm with parents and friends visiting the classes. A short

concert at the end was, alas, spoilt by rain.

On Thursday 21st the Centenary Service was held in the church from 9.15am till 10am. The sermon was given by the Archdeacon of Wells, the Venerable J. du B. Lance M.C. This was followed by a coffee morning in the school. Among invited guests who attended was Miss Edwards, Headmistress from 1936 - 1959.

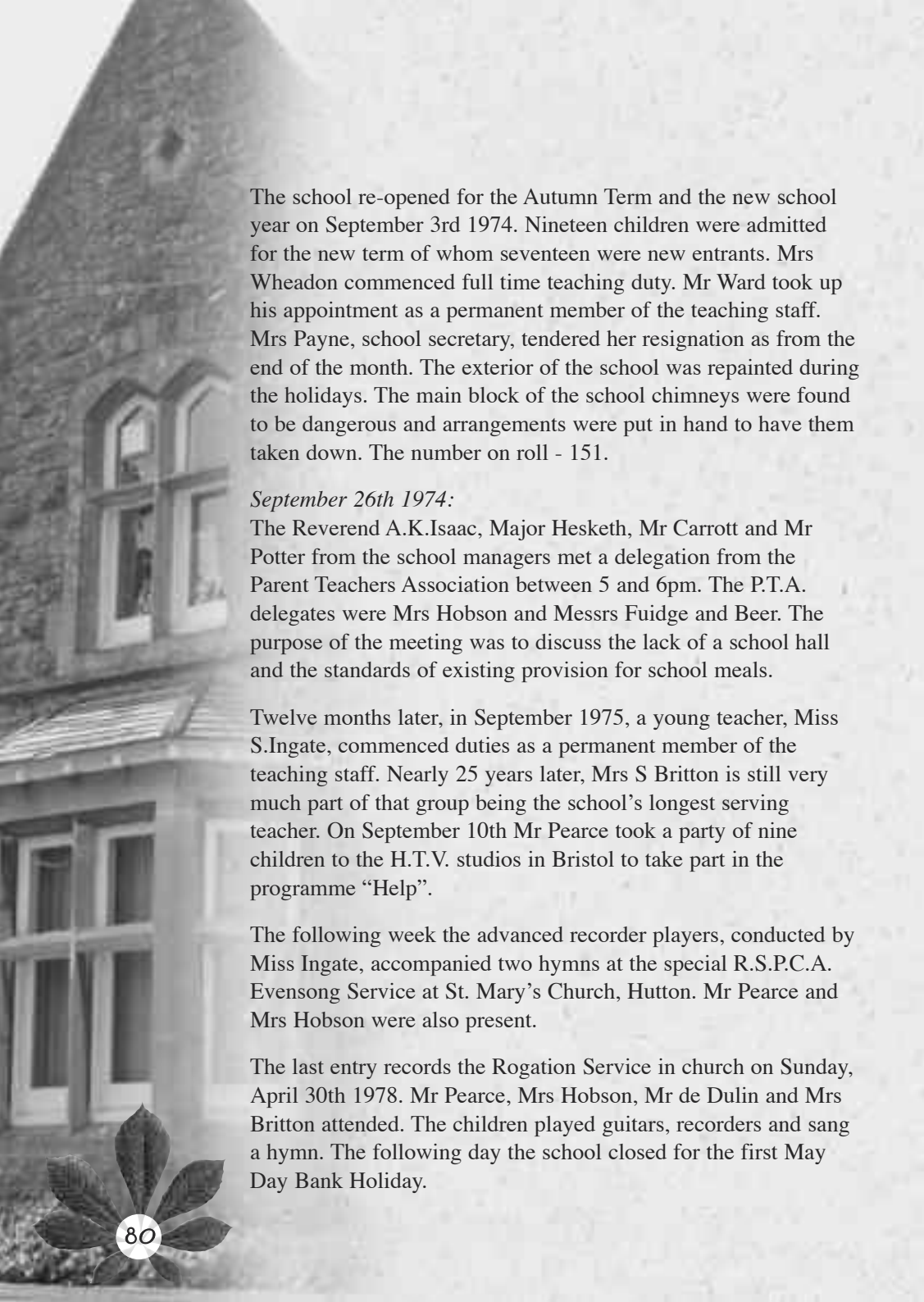
On Friday 22nd a disco dance was held in the Legion Hut, organised by the young wives of the village. On this same evening a group of older juniors travelled to Cheddar to take part in the National Savings Festival at the Kings of Wessex School.

The week of celebrations closed with a fete on Saturday 23rd, opened by the Bishop of Taunton, the Rt. Revd. Francis West M.A.

A tree was planted by Prebendary Franklin, Diocesan Director of Education, and a scroll was presented by him on behalf of the National Society, whose records show the school to have been founded in 1826. Arena events included weightlifting by a Bristol club, a gymnastic display by girls of Churchill Comprehensive School and maypole and country dancing by children of Hutton School under the direction of Mrs Hobson.

Later in the year, on October 11th, a film of the celebrations was shown to parents and the children in school.

On April 5th 1974 the Parochial Church Council made a presentation to Mr Bruce Counsell on the occasion of his retirement as Church Warden and School Manager. The presentation was made in the main schoolroom where Mr Counsell was a scholar from 1895 to 1902. Mrs Hobson attended in lieu of Mr Pearce. On May 14th a meeting of the school managers was held in the school house at 7.30pm. Major T. Hesketh took office in place of Mr Counsell as Foundation Manager.



The school re-opened for the Autumn Term and the new school year on September 3rd 1974. Nineteen children were admitted for the new term of whom seventeen were new entrants. Mrs Wheadon commenced full time teaching duty. Mr Ward took up his appointment as a permanent member of the teaching staff. Mrs Payne, school secretary, tendered her resignation as from the end of the month. The exterior of the school was repainted during the holidays. The main block of the school chimneys were found to be dangerous and arrangements were put in hand to have them taken down. The number on roll - 151.

*September 26th 1974:*

The Reverend A.K. Isaac, Major Hesketh, Mr Carrott and Mr Potter from the school managers met a delegation from the Parent Teachers Association between 5 and 6pm. The P.T.A. delegates were Mrs Hobson and Messrs Fudge and Beer. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the lack of a school hall and the standards of existing provision for school meals.

Twelve months later, in September 1975, a young teacher, Miss S. Ingate, commenced duties as a permanent member of the teaching staff. Nearly 25 years later, Mrs S Britton is still very much part of that group being the school's longest serving teacher. On September 10th Mr Pearce took a party of nine children to the H.T.V. studios in Bristol to take part in the programme "Help".

The following week the advanced recorder players, conducted by Miss Ingate, accompanied two hymns at the special R.S.P.C.A. Evensong Service at St. Mary's Church, Hutton. Mr Pearce and Mrs Hobson were also present.

The last entry records the Rogation Service in church on Sunday, April 30th 1978. Mr Pearce, Mrs Hobson, Mr de Dulin and Mrs Britton attended. The children played guitars, recorders and sang a hymn. The following day the school closed for the first May Day Bank Holiday.

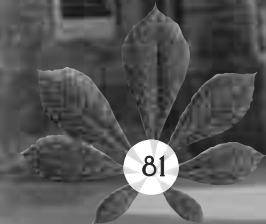
*Recent school photo*



**HUTTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Class II 1999




Miss P. Lee (Class Teacher) Mrs. G. Jones (Head Teacher) Mrs. J. Smith (Nurse) Mrs. J. Jones (Secretary)  
Mrs. K. Brown (Head of Year) Mrs. L. Smith (Head of Year) Mrs. J. Jones (Head of Year) Mrs. K. Brown (Head of Year)  
Mrs. L. Smith (Head of Year) Mrs. J. Jones (Head of Year) Mrs. K. Brown (Head of Year) Mrs. L. Smith (Head of Year)  
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# Chapter 8

## The Buildings of Hutton



The earliest mention of buildings within the parish comes from The Extent (Survey) of the Manor, dated 1309.

In addition to the Court and its outbuildings there were 48 homes: forty of these being “messuages” (a dwelling house with outbuildings and land) of which 26 were in Hutton and 14 in Elborough. There were also 8 cottages – 7 in Hutton and 1 in Elborough. Most, if not all of the buildings at this time would be built of timber with thatched roofs. Assuming an average of 5 persons in each household, the population at a guess would be about 240; 165 of these in Hutton and 75 in Elborough.

This population figure was to remain constant (i.e. between 220 and 250) until the beginning of the 19th century.

Where these 33 dwellings were situated is not documented, but it can be assumed that most were situated along “The Street” (now Main Road) running from the Old Post Office farm in the east to Grange Farm in the west, the majority being built on the north side facing the hill.

By the mid 16th century many of the homes and farm buildings were rebuilt more solidly of stone and some of the houses still standing on The Street date from this period; the reign of Elizabeth I.

The doorway of the house now called “The Old Barn” (formerly part of Middle Farm) is a particularly fine example of the late perpendicular Tudor style.

The arms displayed over the doorway are those granted to Christopher Kenn Esq. of Kenn, near Clevedon in 1561. Other members of this family held land in Hutton and probably lived here. John Kenn (e) had been a regular witness of John Payne’s legal transactions in the 1480s and his widow, Margaret subsequently married Thomas Payne II, John Payne’s grandson.

Most of the houses and farm buildings along the Main Road in the village were probably first built during the 16th and 17th centuries, some still retaining their original casements.

As fashions changed and the owners became more affluent alterations were made to the properties and extensions were added. The sash windows still to be seen in some of the houses indicate alterations made or begun during the 18th and early 19th centuries, the period of greatest change to the existing structures.

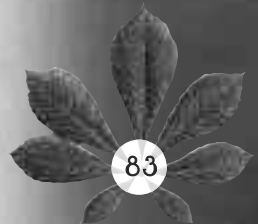
Entries in the Poor Book of 1732 indicate that the roofs of most houses were still thatched. The following entries prove this:-


Paid Jeremiah Trip for a day and a half’s work upon George Jones’ house and making ye spares (spars) - 3s 1d.

Paid William Trip for tartwine and spars and thatching for Mary Adam’s house.

Another member of this Hutton family, John Trip, a carpenter, stated in 1787 that he had lived in the village for forty years in a cottage, which his father built on waste ground. This was probably one of the cottages which, with their small garden plots, were regarded as encroachments upon common land.

Some of these were occupied by miners working in the complex





system of caves and shafts above Hutton woods. Most of these cottages still stand along the Canada Combe road and in the Combe itself. They include Landcross, Deancroft, Maple Cottage, Nethercombe, Chestnut, Yewtree, Walnut and Maytree Cottages and in Upper Church Lane Cobblestones, Woodland and Hillside Cottages. All of these properties have been modernised, and in some cases entirely rebuilt, over the years.

On Windmill Hill the windmill stump is in the garden of the property known as “The Windmill”, is all that remains of Hutton’s windmill. This mill was still in use in 1817 and is probably on the same site of a windmill working in 1482. Although the top of this structure has a modern observation platform, the lower part of the tower mill has remained unaltered and is unique in the parish and rare in the county.

Next door is “Windmill Cottage” which was built in 1817 by the miller. Again much modernisation has taken place at this property.

At the other end of the parish, “Box Cottage” at Oldmixon bears a plaque with the date of 1754. This probably indicates structural alterations to the property for it is much earlier, being specifically mentioned in 1689 and was part of the manor complex in 1675.

“Manor Farm House” at Oldmixon was also part of the manor farm complex mentioned in 1685; it retains much of its original structure with its 17th century windows.

“Oldmixon Manor” is possibly on the site of a house known in 1482, and has Saxon origins. On a map of 1756 the house is shown together with its garden, yard and outbuildings, but much of the interior woodwork and outbuildings date from the 17th century or earlier. Again the house has been considerably altered during the 20th century.

Returning to the village along the Oldmixon Road, Grange Farm

and some of its outbuildings date from 1829 and there was a farm listed on this site in 1771. Again some of the features of the present building date from an earlier period i.e. 17th century. Of particular note is the ornamental ironwork of the early 19th century, the only example in the parish.

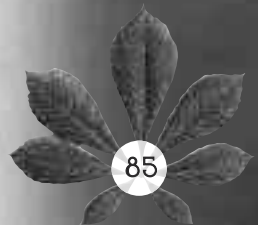
Another property to catch the eye as one enters the village is “Sutherland House”. The older part of this house (the east wing) was a farm and records show it as such in 1817. The outbuildings date from an earlier period, possibly again the 17th century.

In 1826 the fine west wing was built together with its offices, yard and garden. The owner, then a person of some wealth, had the old farm outbuildings converted into a stable block and coach house with domestic quarters above and these remain to the present day. It is the only example in the parish of this colonial style of architecture.

Tucked away, just round the corner from Sutherland House is “Rose Cottage” in Wisteria Avenue. This property was listed in 1837 as part of the Wisteria Farm complex, structurally however it again has architectural features from the 17th century. Next is “Wisteria Farm” which has a typical Somerset cottage style of architecture with a very fine period interior. It is interesting to see how much lower its foundations are in relation to the Main Road outside. Its structure and some features are again of the 17th century or earlier.

On the opposite side of the road are “The Cottage” and “Yew Tree Cottage” and both are listed in 1833 as house, garden and beerhouse. There are some 17th century features about these two properties and Yew Tree Cottage has the only example in the parish of a built-over wagon entrance, which is now blocked up.

The next farm going east along Main Road is Centre Farm House, which again has been altered in the latter part of the 20th





century. The house, garden and yard are listed in 1837 but again the property is probably much earlier.

“The Old Inn”, the only public house in the village, has a typical Edwardian frontage. It was rebuilt in 1909 and again its interior has seen many alterations during the last 30 years, having been in the ownership of several breweries during this period.



*Hutton Stores in 1909*

“Hutton Stores” was listed as a house in 1833 and as a house and garden in 1837. It again has been extensively altered.

There is a fine photograph of the property taken between 1909 and 1914 when it was called “Corner Cottage”, showing a thatched roof and a mounting block for horse riders. The photograph also shows the old county signpost, which reads Uphill (to the west), Cheddar (to the east) and Milton (down Moor lane).



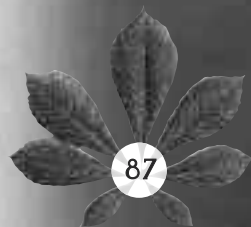
*Hutton Stores in recent time*

On the other side of the road from this property stands “Moorlands”, another fine imposing house in the village. Built in the early 1830s as a gentleman’s residence it has adjoining, its own coach house and stable block with a sweeping drive to the main road. It is a good example of early 19th century (Georgian) architecture.

“Orchard House” and “East Wing” together with “The Old Barn” were all part of the Middle Farm complex of houses and buildings listed in 1771. Parts of these buildings date from a much earlier period (as already mentioned with regard to The Old Barn). Orchard House has a good early 19th century front built on to (like Sutherland House) a much earlier structure.

Opposite is “Hill View Cottage” listed as a tenement and garden in 1833; this property again is of a much earlier structure, probably 17th century.

“St. Mary’s Cottage” and “Forge Cottage” were listed as a house and shop in 1833 and a house and smith’s shop in 1837. These properties are again very much earlier, probably 17th century.



*The barn*



“Bramley Cottage” and “Pear Tree Cottage” (formally Glenrosa and Central Stores) date again from the 17th century.

“Southview” and “Southview Cottage” are listed as house, cottage and garden in 1833; Southview had an early 19th century Georgian front added (with alterations) to a possible 17th century structure.

“The Chestnuts” was listed in 1837 but it is possibly earlier. The front was altered in 1871 to give it the late Victorian style of the period. The building to the side was formerly the wheelwright’s shop.

“The Olde Post Office” is listed as a house and lands in 1829. By 1834 it had become “Hutton Farm” and by 1837 it had acquired a garden. Many residents will remember it, until the late 1970s, as the Old Farm Stores and Post Office.

## *The Olde Post Office*

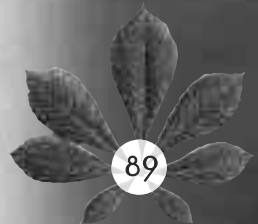



“Valley View” and “Old Post Office Farm” are again listed in 1837 as a house and garden but are very much earlier than this and probably date from the 17th century. They have the typical Somerset cottage style of architecture of this period although there are recent alterations.

“Monks Revel” and “Jasmine Cottage” in Eastfield Road are part of a group of houses and gardens. Monks Revel was probably the Poorhouse built in 1806; however by 1837 Jasmine Cottage was listed as such.

“Field Cottage”, also in Eastfield Road, is listed in 1833 as a house and in 1837 as a cottage! The date plaque of 1877 applies to the north front only.

Down the old drove to the side of Field Cottage lies “Wood View”. Although it now looks out to the houses of Moorcroft Road, in former years (and well within the memory of many of Hutton’s residents) it was quite isolated on the edge of the moor. It is mentioned as a cottage, garden and close in 1833 and in 1837 as a house and paddock called “Little Mead”.





More recently it has been altered but parts of the structure suggest 17th century at the latest. It still has its old stone well in the front garden and the rear garden is very long and narrow (as are many of the adjacent fields) reminiscent of the medieval field system.

Back to Hutton Hill for the last group of properties which include “Little Orchard”, “Blue Gables”, 3, Brow Cottage, “Bryn Golau” and “Prospect Cottage” (formerly Astral House). These are all listed on the 1837 Tithe Map as house and garden or cottage and garden. Bryn Golau and Prospect Cottage are good examples of 19th century 3-storey artisan’s houses although both have been considerably altered, the garage of Prospect Cottage once being a chapel.

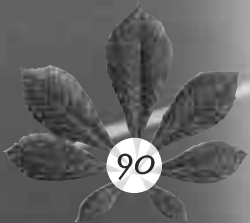
#### *Shelter Shed*



Just off Church Lane on the Millenium Walk is the site of what was once a medieval “shelter shed”.

One further property of interest is “Bath House” in Church Lane. This house was considerably altered in the early 1970s from two old cottages. In the 1930s its address was Nos. 1 and 2 The Quest, and it almost certainly belonged to Hutton Court in the 17th century. The present name is thought to have come from a lead lined “bath” being in one of the cottages.

The Tithe map of 1837 shows that Hutton’s Pound, (used for impounding stray animals) was sited close to the gate of the



present village school. However, when plans were being drawn up for the building of this school, it was resolved to re-site the pound to its present location in 1872.

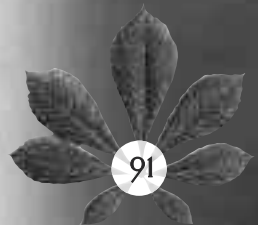
In 1998 the Parish Council employed a local stonemason to carry out restoration work on the south and east walls of this building. Hutton's pound is thought to be one of only three left in the County of Somerset – the others being at Crowcombe and Holcombe in the Quantocks.

### *The village Pound*



To conclude this chapter, by the 1960s the great development of new properties in the parish was to change the way the village looked forever. From approximately 220 properties some 500 new ones were built, and a further 280 in the 1970s at the Woodside Estate at Oldmixon. Many pasture fields and old cider orchards disappeared under the developers' bricks and mortar!

It is interesting to note that at the beginning of the 20th century there were twelve working farms within the parish with well over 90% of the population working on the land. Now, at the beginning of the 21st century there are just three left and less than 1% of the population is directly connected with agriculture.







# Chapter 9

## The War Years

### Great War 1914-1918 – and Hutton's German Spy!

Nothing much happened in the village during the First World War apart from soldiers involved in training exercises on the golf course, which used to be sited on the south side of Hutton Woods.

However, a lot of activity was happening in the Bristol Channel, especially from Bristol, Cardiff and Newport docks where many warships were stationed.

If you were an enemy spy, what better place to view these manoeuvres than from the top of Windmill Hill where there was a spectacular view of the channel from the north west facing windows of “Combe Lodge”. With a good telescope and binoculars, it was an excellent vantage point to watch the shipping.

This story was told by a Mr Charlie Ponsford, a resident of the parish, who was a Corporal in the Machine Gun Corps at the time. He tells the tale that when he was home on leave in April 1916 he saw two lorries full of soldiers arrive in the village and go up Windmill Hill to the residence now known as “Combe Lodge” but was then a farm.

In those days there were only two properties on the hill, one was



“Windmill Cottage” and the other being the farm. Nobody knew what the soldiers were doing at the house but it turned out that after their visit the resident gentleman there suddenly disappeared, never to be seen again!! He had been living at the farm since about 1910 and was a recluse and although parishioners knew that he was foreign, he was rarely seen. Although this visit by the soldiers was unusual, nobody at the time knew what the visit was for but presumably he was arrested, taken away and shot.

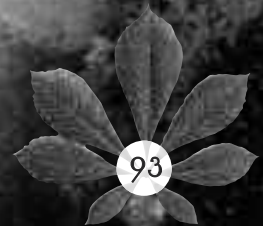
Today, in the garage of Combe Lodge there are four large concrete blocks in the floor, which is thought to have accommodated a generator of some 24 volts. This would have been powered by a big single-cylinder diesel engine. There is also a three-core bitumen wrapped cable, about two inches in diameter, with armoured wire coils around it.


This cable goes out of the garage, under the tennis court and up to the house. It disappears into what is now the breakfast room disguised as a drainpipe. The transmitter for this was possibly in the attic with an aerial out of the window. If this was the case, the messages would be sent to the relay station, possibly on the Essex coast, then across the channel to Germany.

The story gets more interesting and mysterious because the house was left empty, nobody visited and there were no deliveries!

After the war the authorities sold the property to a retired reverend gentleman who bought the farmhouse and 200 acres of land for £500. The deeds that this gentleman acquired stated that, “For the purpose of these documents, they shall be deemed to start on 1st April 1916”. There was no mention of any previous owner or owners. The earlier deeds must have been destroyed by the authorities.

Reading these documents one presumes that the house dates from





this period, - not so, for parts of the building date back over 200 years. There is no mention of any occupant during the years 1910 to 1916 – all a bit mysterious!!

To conclude, the evidence is still there to this day with the unexplained concrete blocks sunk into the garage floor and the heavyduty armour core cable running from the garage to the house. Are there still secret files locked away somewhere in the War Ministry files about this episode of Hutton's First World War spy??

## The War Years 1939-1945

Prior to 1940, Hutton had remained for centuries a quiet undisturbed Somerset village surrounded by farms and cider orchards. All this was to change for in 1940, at opposite ends of the village, the Air Ministry decided to build two shadow factories for the construction of aircraft, one at Oldmixon and the other at Elborough.

At the Elborough factory a modified version of the Blenheim was built called the Buckingham. This aircraft has the fuselage of the Blenheim but with the addition of a new and different wing span, plus a rear-firing gun turret underneath.

When finished this aeroplane was towed by tractor out of the factory, through the wide gates at the corner of the Z bend (where the Elborough Village lake is now sited), and up the specially constructed road (hence the wide verge on each side) to the T junction on the airport road. Turning left, it would then pass R.A.F. Locking and on to the airfield for testing and transportation. Later in the war this factory was to build other aircraft of an American design.

The Oldmixon factory built the Beaufighter, which in its original form was a twin-engined day fighter, but in its final stages of

development became an anti-submarine warplane. It was powered by two Bristol Hercules 1,670 h.p. aero engines.

The main building was the assembly area with the engine stores and wing stores on the north side. These parts of the aircraft were brought into the main building once the fuselage was completed. When assembled the plane was then towed out of the main building to the finishing shed which was east of the main building. They were then fuelled up before being taken out for a flight test.

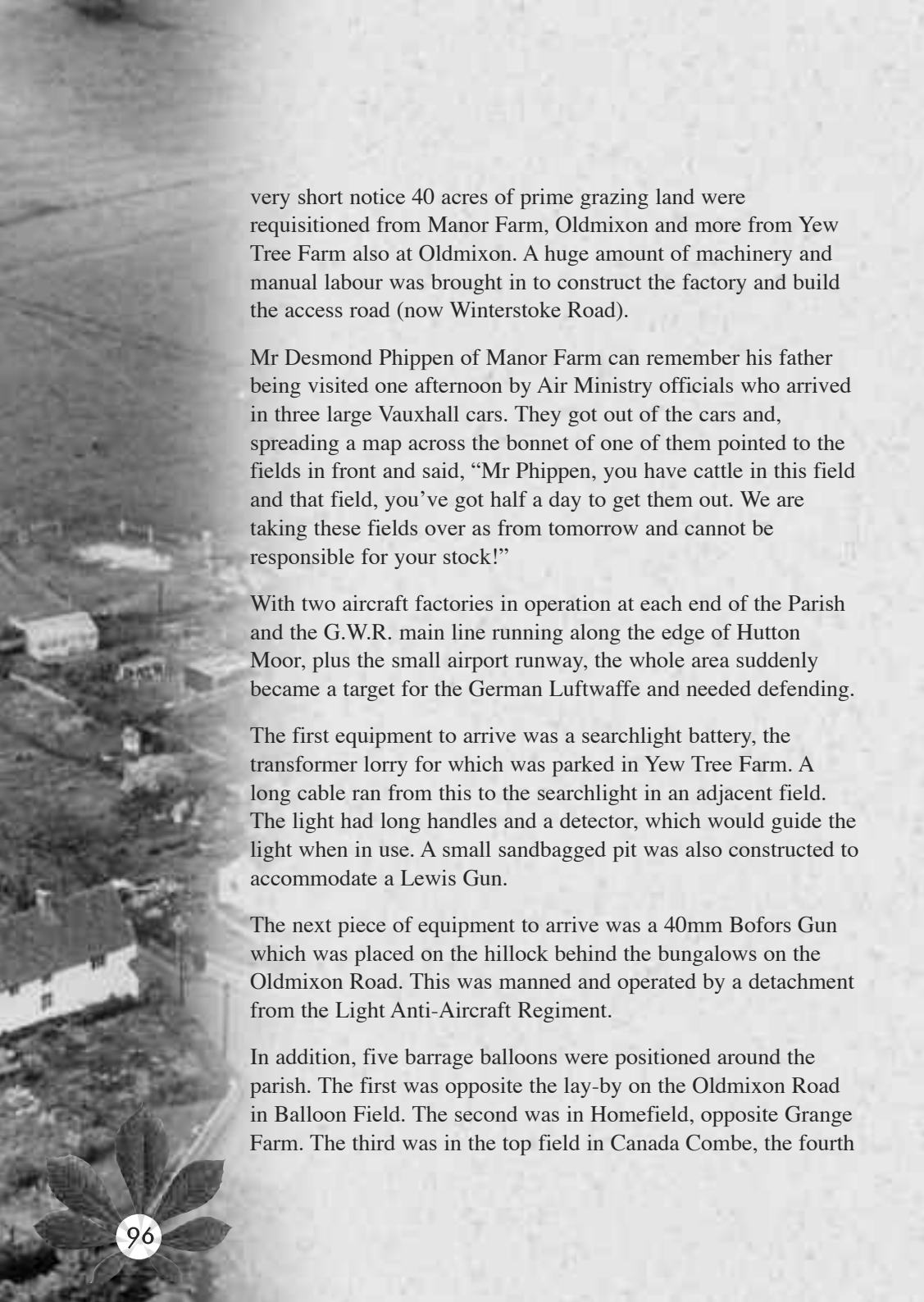
Once this was finished they were then taken to the flight shed to await delivery by Air Transport Command. They very quickly gained a reputation for silence and speed and were called “Whispering Death” by the Japanese.



*Aerial photo of Oldmixon 1940's*

At Oldmixon there was no access from Weston as the railway bridge over the G.W.R. main line did not exist in 1940 and Winterstoke Road, as we know it today, was just a field track. At





very short notice 40 acres of prime grazing land were requisitioned from Manor Farm, Oldmixon and more from Yew Tree Farm also at Oldmixon. A huge amount of machinery and manual labour was brought in to construct the factory and build the access road (now Winterstoke Road).

Mr Desmond Phippen of Manor Farm can remember his father being visited one afternoon by Air Ministry officials who arrived in three large Vauxhall cars. They got out of the cars and, spreading a map across the bonnet of one of them pointed to the fields in front and said, "Mr Phippen, you have cattle in this field and that field, you've got half a day to get them out. We are taking these fields over as from tomorrow and cannot be responsible for your stock!"

With two aircraft factories in operation at each end of the Parish and the G.W.R. main line running along the edge of Hutton Moor, plus the small airport runway, the whole area suddenly became a target for the German Luftwaffe and needed defending.

The first equipment to arrive was a searchlight battery, the transformer lorry for which was parked in Yew Tree Farm. A long cable ran from this to the searchlight in an adjacent field. The light had long handles and a detector, which would guide the light when in use. A small sandbagged pit was also constructed to accommodate a Lewis Gun.

The next piece of equipment to arrive was a 40mm Bofors Gun which was placed on the hillock behind the bungalows on the Oldmixon Road. This was manned and operated by a detachment from the Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment.

In addition, five barrage balloons were positioned around the parish. The first was opposite the lay-by on the Oldmixon Road in Balloon Field. The second was in Homefield, opposite Grange Farm. The third was in the top field in Canada Combe, the fourth

in the lower field at Ludwell (opposite what is now Hutton Garden Centre) and the final one in a field opposite St. Mary's Convent (now Broadway Lodge). There were others outside the parish, across Hutton Moor and on Weston Golf Course.

These balloons, attached by steel cables, could be raised to a great height and were very vulnerable to thunderstorms. On one occasion, during a violent thunderstorm, several balloons came down in flames having been struck by lightning. The steel cables, coming into contact with the overhead power cables, caused mayhem and a major power cut throughout the village and the surrounding area.

Hutton had its own rather crude air-raid siren which was at the Windmill on Windmill Hill where a Mr Badman then lived. He worked for Radio Relays in Orchard Street, Weston-super-Mare, and was quite an astute electrician. He rigged up a "Hutton Siren" which was an electric recording machine attached to an amplifier and loudspeakers! The sound that this contraption gave, when operating, was of a low moan across the village and the parishioners christened it "The Moaning Cow".

In 1940, before the Home Guard was formed, the only protection for the civilian population against the enemy was the L.D.V. (the Local Defence Volunteers). They were, at first, just issued with armlets and a couple of .22 rifles, then after a while they got belts and hats.



### *The home guard*



There was a desperate shortage of equipment from Central Government at this time. Then suddenly a ship would arrive in Avonmouth with a consignment of American Rifles packed in cases and covered in grease. These were issued and cleaned but there was no ammunition for them - that came later. Such was the extremely dangerous situation in the country at this time.

Later many farmers joined the Home Guard when it was formed. They were much better organised and equipped. They took up sentry duty on Windmill Hill, which was an excellent vantage point to view the coast at Weston, the airfield, the railway, the factory at Oldmixon and the gun batteries and balloons.

Dotted around the airfield were small pill-boxes and two of these, at the bottom of Moor Lane, are still standing to this day. These were manned constantly to guard against the possibility of an enemy landing.

Another sudden change due to the war was in dairy practices. Prior to 1939 most local farms had been mainly dairy with the addition of some sheep, pigs and horses.

In 1940 the War Agricultural Committee was set up to instruct farmers what to grow. The Chief Officer of the W.A.C. for this

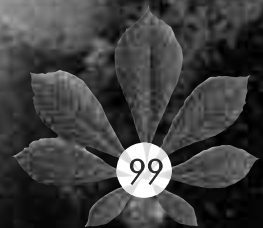
area was Captain Douglas Wills of Wrington who toured the local farms in his Bentley motorcar. Armed with maps of all the local fields each farmer was told which crops to grow. Sometimes it would be wheat in one field and oats or root crops in another.


These orders were compulsory and heavy fines ensued if they were not implemented. If a farmer had not got the necessary machinery, labour or skills to do the job (and some farmers had never seen a plough!) then it was done for him with tractors and ploughs coming from a central depot.



*Home on leave. Left to right: Alfie Taylor, Colston Cox, Bill Osgood, Reg Heath, Dennis Cox, John (William Arthur)Palmer , Phil White Snr.*

The local landscape changed drastically with acre upon acre turned under the plough from the lush green Somerset pastures with their herds of milking cows, which had remained unchanged for centuries. All this was vital to the War effort if the country's





population was not to starve, for the Battle of the Atlantic had claimed horrific losses to allied shipping. In 1940 a thousand ships (some 3,991,000 tonnes) and in 1941 one thousand, three hundred ships (4,328,000 tonnes) were sunk by German U-Boats, which had crippled the country's food supplies from Canada and the U.S.A.

At harvest time all the farmers would help each other with the harvesting of the crops. A visiting threshing outfit would arrive, the wheat and oats being bagged in 2 cwt sacks, which had to be lifted manually. Albert Frost from Langford was the local man with this special equipment and with him he brought the land girls who helped with the harvest. He had the very latest tractor to pull and power this machinery called an Oliver with rubber tyres!

In 1941 the dreaded foot and mouth disease hit the area and all the local farms were affected in some way. Manor Farm lost all its cattle on the 13th day after the outbreak as one animal caught the disease.

All the infected cattle were buried in a lime pit in one of the fields and those not infected were taken to the slaughterhouse in butchers' lorries for human consumption, such was the scarcity of meat at the time.

Stories are told of labour shortages too. St. Mary's Convent housed about 60 to 70 young girls. At potato picking time about 40 of them, supervised by two or three nuns, would help to pick the potatoes; the only trouble was that they would pick up all the stones and anything else that appeared out of the ground as well.

By 1945 a number of German prisoners from the camp at Gothurst, near Bridgwater, were brought to the village by coach to dig ditches on the moor. They were very good workers and were under the instruction of one of their senior officers. They



took pride in the work they were given and were known for making small mechanical toys of wood from the hedges, which they sold to local parishioners.

On the night of 27th March 1944 the village was hit by high explosive bombs, which destroyed a bungalow in Oldmixon Road killing four persons and injuring others.

In many respects it was the most difficult raid of the war. The weather was peculiar with a clear sky and thick low-lying mist driving in from the sea, which appeared to blanket and muffle the sound. It was difficult to locate the enemy planes roaring overhead and sounds originating from the ground, such as anti-aircraft gun fire, were often not heard even a short distance away.

The first bomb fell in the woods above the village, the second was a direct hit on the bungalow and the third landed in the field below the Bofors gun. It left a crater large enough to put a double-decker bus in and showered the field with shrapnel. The cows in the field were covered in mud from the blast but were not killed.

The fourth bomb hit a corner of the shadow factory, which was possibly what the enemy was aiming for. Large phosphorous oil incendiary bombs were also dropped in the vicinity of the Bournville Estate and the adjoining road/rail bridges. The damage left to surrounding property was severe with many domestic windows blown out by the blast and roof tiles smashed.

On a lighter topic, the Legion Hut at this time was home to many war time dances and parties, where local talent provided the music. One noted parishioner, a Mr Harold Woolmington, used to play drums at these events.

The Reverend Davies was Rector of Hutton during the war and lived at the old Victorian rectory. He was a keen motor enthusiast and was friendly with a gentleman called Hodgetts who had a



large American “Essex” car. The tale goes that a certain parishioner complained to the Bishop that the Reverend Davies spent more time under the bonnet of this car than he did in his church!

He also had a large greenhouse at the back of the rectory and certain parishioners took a keen interest in what the reverend gentleman was growing under the glass. It turned out that the large green plants were, in fact, tobacco plants and presumably he kept himself and his friends supplied with this product throughout the war!

A further anecdote from this era concerns the building of the war memorial. This was completed in 1920 and it stands on the Main Road in front of the school and surrounded by a semi-circular wall. The coping stones for this wall were donated by Mr Samuel Palmer who lived at “The Chestnuts” at this time and he took the stones from his garden wall.

*The War memorial*



Many years later (in 1983) John Carrott was passing Broadway Lodge and saw builders throwing away similar stones from the renovation work they were carrying out. With a little persuasion the builders transported the stones to “The Chestnuts” and soon after the garden wall regained its coping stones. Old photographs of the village can be dated as pre- or post-1920 by these stones.



*The Chestnuts-coping stones missing*

It would not be appropriate to finish the chapter on the war years without giving the “Roll of Honour” for the parishes of Hutton, Locking and Oldmixon.

It is interesting to note that the names of all who lost their lives in the three parishes are inscribed on the Hutton memorial because Locking and Oldmixon do not have War Memorials.



# ROLL OF HONOUR

## 1914 TO 1918

LANCE CPL. HERBERT SEARLE	7TH GLOUCESTERS
LANCE CPL. ARTHUR DOUGLAS COGLE LIGHT	15TH KING'S HUSSARS
MUSICIAN FRED NUTT	ROYAL MARINES
PRIVATE ALFRED STANLEY HOUSE	3RD BERKSHIRES
PRIVATE WILLIAM ALISTER FLOWER	EAST AFRICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

## 1939 TO 1945

FLYING OFFICER WILLIAM SYDNEY NEATHWAY	ROYAL AIR FORCE BOMBER COMMAND
SERGEANT REGINALD BARON HENRY HEATH	ROYAL AIR FORCE BOMBER COMMAND
SERGEANT WILLIAM ARTHUR PALMER	ROYAL AIR FORCE BOMBER COMMAND
SERGEANT WILLIAM JOHN PHIPPEN	ROYAL AIR FORCE BOMBER COMMAND

### "AND BY ENEMY ACTION AT OLDMIXON"

SUSAN E. PANNELL	WILLIAM A. P. SHUTE
CLARA J. SMITH	HILDA E. SHUTE

"LEST WE FORGET"





# Chapter 10

## The Post War Years

### Hutton Parish Council

As we enter the year 2000 Hutton Parish Council, formed by the Local Government Act of 1894, is 106 years old.

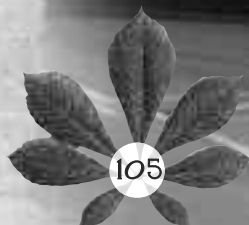
Prior to this date all civil and ecclesiastical matters within the Parish were dealt with by the Vestry, which was a combination of the Parochial and Parish Councils.

The Vestry, whose members included the Squire, the Rector and Churchwardens and Overseers of the village dealt with such diverse subjects as water supplies, road maintenance, local taxes, criminal proceedings, stray animals, vagrants, dealing with vermin, looking after the poor of the parish and repairing the church roof and bells etc.

The Local Government Act of 1894 split the Vestry into two parts. All ecclesiastical matters were taken over by a Church Council and all civil matters became the responsibility of the new Parish Council.

Hutton still has its first Parish Council Minute Book (now kept in the Archive and Record Office at Taunton), which records every Parish Council meeting from December 4th 1894 (the date of the first meeting) to December 4th 1934 – exactly 40 years.

It is in exceptional condition considering its age and its 262



pages are hand written in pen and ink. The front pages set out the constitution of Parish Councils and the general rules and instructions as to the conduct of the meetings. Many of these rules apply to this day.

On page two the first minutes give the names and occupations of the five nominated persons, they were –

A.H.Bisdee	Gentleman	Proposed by Mr S Hemens Seconded by Mr S. Palmer
A.P.Edwards	Land Agent	Proposed by Mr S Hemens Seconded by Mr S. Palmer
Richard Ponting	Farmer	Proposed by Mr S. Baber Seconded by Mr J. Brown
George Starks	Labourer	Proposed by Mr S. Baber Seconded by Mr D. Brown
Alfred Taylor	Mason	Proposed by Mr S Hemens Seconded by Mr S. Palmer

This was “carried unanimously, with a well represented meeting”.

It was signed by the Council’s first Chairman, The Reverend G.H.Gibbs, Rector of Hutton.

Some of the more interesting items dealt with at Parish Council meetings from this first Minute Book include-

- 1901 First telephone in the village
- 1902 Council opened its first bank account

- 1914 Tar spraying of The Street (Main Road)
- 1918 Resignation of the Clerk
- 1919 First public transport
- 1922 Warning signs for motorists (traffic calming 78 years ago!)
- 1928 Electric light

One family, who gave more service to the Parish Council than any other, were the Palmers.

Mr Samuel Palmer joined the Parish Council on 18th March 1897 and was a member for twenty nine years, until his death in 1926

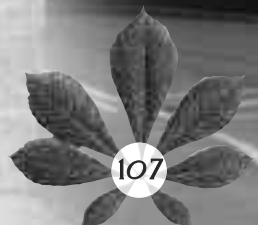
In the following year, his son Mr William (Bill) Palmer became the new parish Clerk at a salary of £4-0-0d per annum.

## Bill Palmer. Parish clerk for over 50 years

In 1971 Mr Bill Palmer was presented with a cheque for £80 and a scroll for completing 52 years as the clerk to Hutton Parish Council.

Born in 1890, in the cottage opposite the school, which he attended, Bill Palmer could recall celebrating the relief of Mafeking.

He left school at 14 to learn his father's trade of wheelwright, but when the First World War broke out he left Hutton to join the Naval Air Service. He returned to the village in 1919 and became the Parish clerk. One of his first duties was to write to the Bristol Tramway and Carriage Company asking them to run a motorbus service to Weston, and after 52 years he was still writing to try and prevent this service being withdrawn due to it not paying.



### *Bill Palmer*



Bill Palmer was the village postman for 20 years, and carried out many of the handyman jobs around the village. During this time he estimated he pedalled his familiar red bicycle over 90,000 miles. His work also involved collecting the rates for Axbridge DC. Throughout the 2nd World War Bill was Chief Air Raid Warden for Hutton and Locking. As a founder member of the local British Legion he helped to build the Legion Hall in Hutton, and he was holder of the Legion's highest award, the Gold Badge.

In 1983 a copse was planted in Upper Church Lane in his memory and you will pass it if you are on the Millennium walk.

### Parish Council Owned Land in Hutton

In 1976 the only land owned by the Parish Council was in the form of the Village Green and "Allotments For The Poor", two sites in Windmill Hill, plus two small recreation areas in Holm Road and Elmhurst Road given by the developers when the houses were built in 1966. An additional site for allotments was rented from the Church on the South side of the main road towards Oldmixon.

A number of Councillors, who having witnessed the destruction of village character and the seemingly powerless authority of the planning process to control the inexorable march of commercial development which engulfed the areas of Worle and Milton and



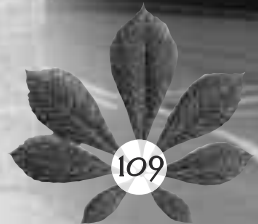
which threatened our own village in the form of a planning appeal for the proposal to develop vast tracts of land from Ludwell North of the populated area to Moor Lane, were galvanised into action. To own the land was the only sure way to control its development!

When the appeal was lost and one of the appeal consortium decided to sell his land the Parish Council successfully bid at auction to purchase the ten acre site which is now The Springwood Allotments and Recreation Ground. The following year, 1977, the Jubilee field, a further 3 acres on the West side of Moor Lane was added.

*Springwood Pavilion under construction*



It was always envisaged that the threat of development engulfing the character of the village would come from the direction of Weston super Mare on the North and West side of the Parish. Efforts were continued by the leasing and subsequent purchase of a further one and a half acres known as St Mary's Field on the



North West side of the village. This determination to protect, as far as possible, the character and setting of the village and parish of Hutton continues to be high on the list of Council priorities into this new millennium.

## Coronation 1953

The village celebrated the Coronation on June 2nd 1953 in many ways. One resident who remembers Queen Elizabeth's Coronation day with special fondness is Mrs Ruby Stone. June 2nd is her birthday and when it was also Coronation day then it was time for celebrations around the village.

She remembers that she and her husband were up early and they took their pony and trap around the village collecting children on the way. They eventually ended up in the field in Church Lane where Percy Palmer, who at that time owned Hutton Court, crowned her Hutton's Queen.

*Ruby Stone takes children around the village*



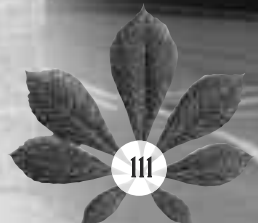
A comic fancy dress football match sponsored by the British Legion entertained residents. Children's sports were held, with races for all age groups and the top prize was three old shillings (15p). In the evening there was a party in the Old Legion Hut that went on until the early hours. Television was a luxury that few residents possessed, so many crowded into friends' homes if they owned one to watch the Coronation.

*Comedy football match*



## A New Village Hall

1976 saw the removal of the old wooden Royal British Legion Hut in the centre of the village, after 57 years continual use. Many villagers were sad to see the old hut go, especially Bill Palmer who had built the hut in 1919 with his father, William Samuel Palmer.



The Hut was originally part of an army barracks canteen used in the 1914-18 war and was bought by local village Squire, Thomas Bisdee, who lived at Hutton Court. He bought it as a headquarters for the local Guides and Scouts run by his daughter Mrs Beatrice Taylor. Later the hut was passed on to the Royal British Legion on condition that the Guide and Scout group could still use it.

### *Legion Hut*



The Hut was 30ft by 36ft and was used for many years by different organisations every day of the week. These included the School for meals and lessons, the Youth Club, WI, Dancing and many others.

As the village grew it became necessary for larger premises to be built and in the late 1960s a Parish Council sub committee was set up to investigate suitable locations. After considering sites such as Sutherland House, eventually a new hall was constructed on the land behind the Legion Hall, this being demolished to form part of the car park. The first stone of the hall was laid by Bernard Spillane on 21st February 1976, and the new Hall was opened in October 1976. It was an ambitious project, with its main hall some 32ft x 55ft and able to take 290 people.


It also has a smaller hall and a committee room, known as the Legion Room, that now doubles as the bar. When originally planned, there was strong opposition to the Hall having a permanent licence, and it was not until 1982 that this was changed.

*Laying of foundation stone.*



*The new Village Hall*





The first management committee was chaired by Bernard Spillane, a driving force in helping to raise £15,000 from the village towards the cost of the new hall, the remaining 75% being met by grants from the Department of Education and Science, Avon CC and Woodspring DC. One of the fund-raising ideas was the “Buy a Brick” scheme and many of the bricks in the interior walls have their donors name on the reverse side.

The hall has today become a focal point for many village activities, and is one of the best facilities available in the area.

## Hutton Scout & Guide Group

The Scout and Guide Group eventually had to build their own headquarters once the new hall was built. Although the Legion hut was built for their use, and the trust deed was meant to protect their position, as the years passed this seemed to be pushed to one side with new rules introduced to restrict activities in the hall, which made use by the Scouts unviable. They now have free use of the hall on two dates each year. In the late 1970s early 1980s a great deal of fund-raising was done and an old wooden school room was taken down in Bristol, transported and rebuilt on its present site. Norman Underwood, Graham Cox, Syd Cherrill, Diane Sims, Pat Watkins and many others were involved in this massive fund-raising and building task. The land for the Scout headquarters was originally leased from Woodspring District Council, but it has since been purchased by the Parish Council to secure the long-term position.

The Scouts did have a licence for use of adjacent land off Bisdee Road, but this was terminated when plans were put forward by a housing association to build on it. This went to an enquiry, and despite its result the North Somerset Council, owners of the land, declined to resite the village settlement boundary at this location. The Parish Council hopes to secure this land on a long term lease.

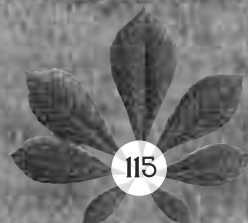
## Jubilee 1977

### *The Jubilee street party*



To celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee, a street party was held in Church Lane on Tuesday 7th June. All the children of the village were invited to enjoy food and entertainment, each receiving a Jubilee Crown and commemorative mug.

Donations were given to help finance the party and they ranged from 20p up to £75 from the Youth Club. Other funds were raised by holding a Bonfire, Dances, Raffles etc, the total cost of the day being £744.88.





## Millennium walk

To celebrate the Millennium, the Britain in Bloom Committee, with the financial help of the Hutton Millennium Committee and North Somerset Council have established the Millennium Walk around the footpaths of the village. New stiles have been installed, and special way markers show the route. Signposts on the walk were made in the village of Watamu, near Dabaso in Kenya. A walk leaflet has been produced to highlight the points of interest as you walk around the village.

## Britain in Bloom

Hutton first entered the Britain in Bloom competition in 1974, and except for a gap of two years in 1996 and 1997 it has entered every year. It has nearly always won an award, but in 1981 it won the Ayre cup and in 1984 and 1990 the Preece Cup.

In the last few years judging criteria have changed, considerably increasing the requirements in some areas. Environmental projects now account for nearly half the total marks and Local Agenda 21, an initiative brought back from the Rio Summit, to promote sustainable development and environmental protection and similar issues, now features in the judging rules. The Millennium Walk and the Village Green project were both undertaken as part of the competition.

The classes have now been reorganised with different bandings for population size. We can no longer enter as a village, but as the population is over 2000 we are classed as a small town, and are judged against others with a population up to 9,999, such as Lyme Regis and Ilminster, towns with considerable Council budgets, backed by a large commercial presence.

The flower displays have also grown considerably over the past

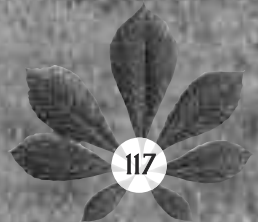


few years, both in both numbers and size, with the villagers contributing to fifty hanging baskets being erected throughout the length of the village to celebrate the year 2000.



*Hutton in Bloom*

In 1999 the HTV cameras visited the village, and the Britain in Bloom display was featured in the “All Gardens Great and Small” programme presented by Rebecca Pow. One of her interests focussed on the winners of the village Best Kept Gardens competition.





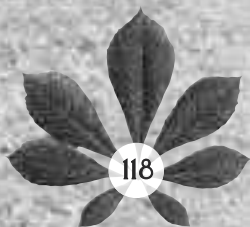
*HTV photographing best kept gardens*

## Village Green

The story of this land and how it came into Parish Council ownership goes back to the Enclosures of 1849 and 1856.

The Enclosure Act of 1849 dealt with land on the moor whilst that of 1856 dealt with the enclosures of hill pastures. The right of certain landowners in the parish to allow their animals (or those of their tenants) to graze on open stretches of common land on Hutton Moor and Elborough Hill was a relic of the medieval manorial systems that had gone on since the 13th century.

In 1856, Joseph Edwards, a land agent living in Hutton and active in both church and parish matters, drew up the award. This was witnessed, confirmed and officially sealed by two of the “Inclosure Commissioners” for England and Wales, dated 1st January 1857. The manuscript of this award takes the form of a scroll attached by seals to a faintly drawn map.



One of the items on this award is-

The Parish Recreation Ground: A plot of land (now enclosing the quarry at the foot of Windmill Hill) was awarded to “the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Hutton, to be held by them and their successors in trust as a place for Exercise and Recreation for the inhabitants of the said Parish and Neighbourhood”

However a Vestry Book entry for December 1858 records that this land “was never used for such a purpose but was constantly trespassed upon by donkies and cattle”

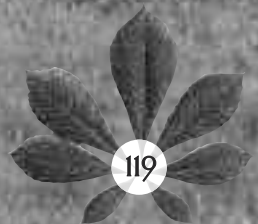
Another piece of land, a little further up the hill, was awarded as an “Allotment for the labouring Poor” in the same way

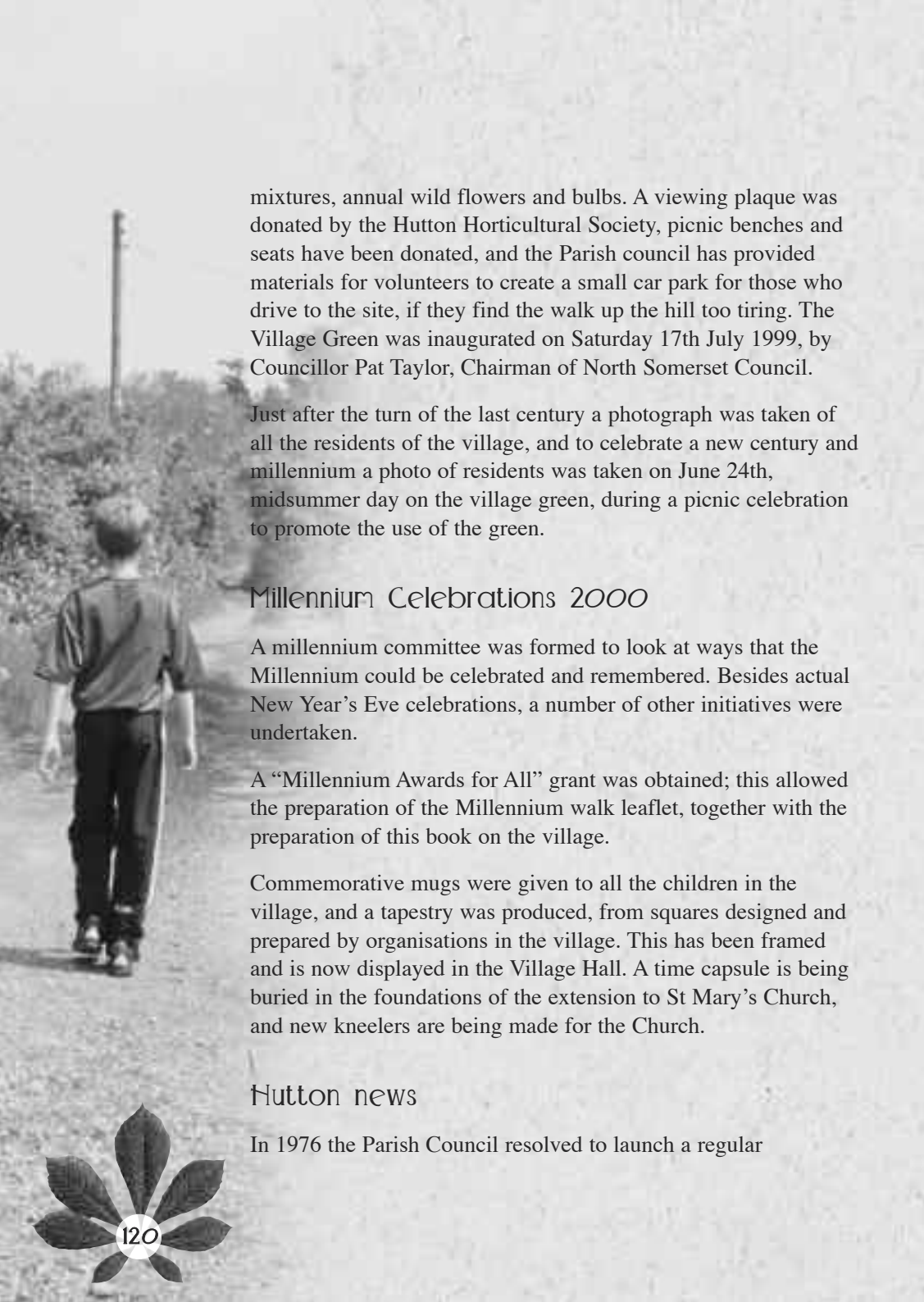
The Parish Council formally registered its title to the land in the 1970s.

The site of the village green has been used on occasions by various organisations such as the Scout group in the 1970s when bonfires and firework displays were held there, but it has generally been left in a poor and overgrown condition. Clearance of the site started in 1998 and then in 1999 the Britain in Bloom committee set out to create a recreational and ecological area for the residents of Hutton.

This was done with the help of grants from English Nature, North Somerset Council, Hutton Parish Council, the Hutton Millennium Committee together with support from village organisations and individuals. SWEB kindly donated a large number of trees to be planted on the green, but even more important they agreed to place the overhead power lines that cross the site underground, at no cost to the Parish Council, owners of the site, thus enhancing the views from the green.

Areas have been dug and planted with local wild meadow seed





mixtures, annual wild flowers and bulbs. A viewing plaque was donated by the Hutton Horticultural Society, picnic benches and seats have been donated, and the Parish council has provided materials for volunteers to create a small car park for those who drive to the site, if they find the walk up the hill too tiring. The Village Green was inaugurated on Saturday 17th July 1999, by Councillor Pat Taylor, Chairman of North Somerset Council.

Just after the turn of the last century a photograph was taken of all the residents of the village, and to celebrate a new century and millennium a photo of residents was taken on June 24th, midsummer day on the village green, during a picnic celebration to promote the use of the green.

## Millennium Celebrations 2000

A millennium committee was formed to look at ways that the Millennium could be celebrated and remembered. Besides actual New Year's Eve celebrations, a number of other initiatives were undertaken.

A "Millennium Awards for All" grant was obtained; this allowed the preparation of the Millennium walk leaflet, together with the preparation of this book on the village.

Commemorative mugs were given to all the children in the village, and a tapestry was produced, from squares designed and prepared by organisations in the village. This has been framed and is now displayed in the Village Hall. A time capsule is being buried in the foundations of the extension to St Mary's Church, and new kneelers are being made for the Church.

## Hutton news

In 1976 the Parish Council resolved to launch a regular

newsletter freely delivered to residents of the parish. In the opening paragraph of introduction in issue 1 dated April 1976 the Chairman wrote :-

“I am pleased to be able to introduce to you the first of what is hoped to be a regular newsletter produced by the Parish Council for and about those who live in the Parish of Hutton.”

Now, some 24 years later, dated May 2000, we have just distributed issue No. 172.

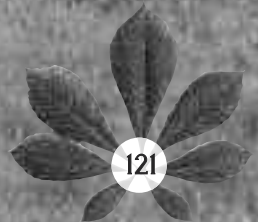
In issue No. 2 produced in May 1976 the village historian and retired schoolmaster, Harold Coward, began the series “The Story Of Hutton”. He embarked upon the subject through local archives, geological excursion, libraries and sheer dint of hard investigative enquiry with enthusiastic fervour, subscribing to 143 issues of the Hutton news until his death in 1995.

Such was the detail of his discoveries and the accuracy of his research that only the more recent years remained to be transcribed and these were completed in a final 22 issues by his near neighbour John Chatburn until the whole record spanned the affairs of Hutton from a prehistoric beginning until it touched the lives some of today’s residents, a truly remarkable achievement.

Of course the Hutton News always did, and still does, report the activities of many other village organisations and activities making it a useful archive record in itself of the life and times of this Parish

## May Day Parades

The first village May Day Parade of modern times took place on Friday 1st May 1970 in order to publicise and raise funds for the Hutton Community Centre Project (Hutton Village Hall).



A parade of children and vehicles took place through the village starting at 6.45pm at the school entrance and ending at the school field at about 7.30pm, where Maypole Dancing by the school children entertained the public.

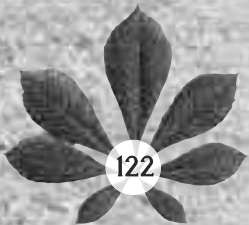


*Wendy Carrott, first May Queen 1970*

The May Queen, Miss Wendy Carrott, was in attendance and after the crowning ceremony a fancy dress football match took place.

Quoting from the church magazine of the time –

“The first May Day Carnival was a very happy affair and the sum of £50-10s-8d was raised for community centre funds. It was very encouraging to see how all age groups in the village co-operated to make this a success and we hope that even more people in Hutton will join in our future activities”





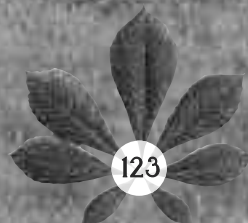
*May Day Parade. 1932 Austin Swallow*

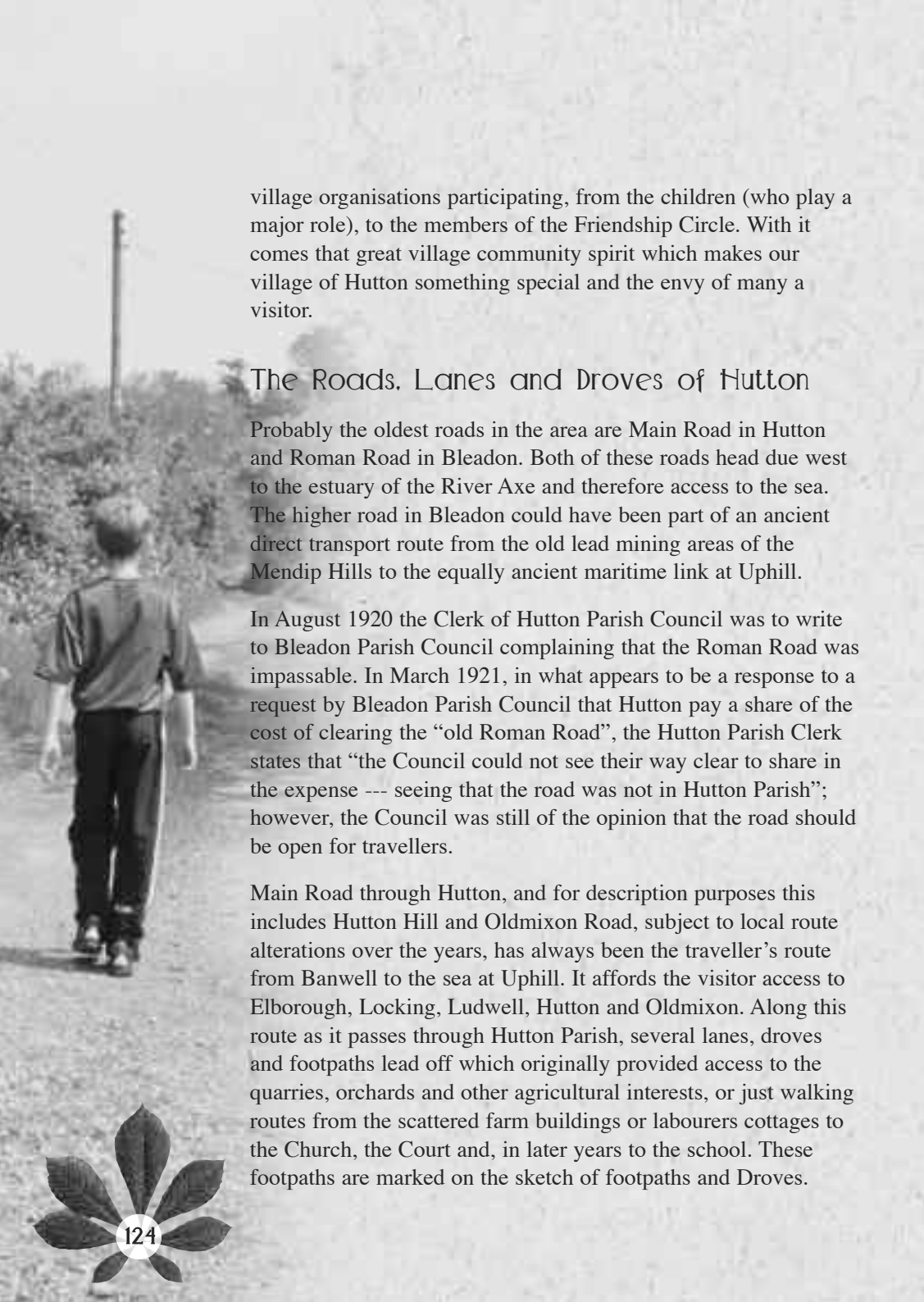
Down the years successive May Queens from Hutton Primary School have been paraded round the village in various forms of transport from a pony and trap to classic cars in more recent times.

This year, 2000, Miss Natasha Phippard was crowned May Queen by the BBC radio and television personality Susan Osman. This took place in glorious spring sunshine and with a bumper crowd attending.

In 1973 Alderman Gordon Couch presented to the then Hutton Village Hall Association a very fine silver rose bowl, to be presented for the best float. Hutton Motor Company won it in 1973 and this year (2000) Hutton Friendship Circle were the recipients.

May Day in Hutton is possibly the top event in the village calendar. It brings together both young and old with all different





village organisations participating, from the children (who play a major role), to the members of the Friendship Circle. With it comes that great village community spirit which makes our village of Hutton something special and the envy of many a visitor.

## The Roads, Lanes and Drovers of Hutton

Probably the oldest roads in the area are Main Road in Hutton and Roman Road in Bleadon. Both of these roads head due west to the estuary of the River Axe and therefore access to the sea. The higher road in Bleadon could have been part of an ancient direct transport route from the old lead mining areas of the Mendip Hills to the equally ancient maritime link at Uphill.

In August 1920 the Clerk of Hutton Parish Council was to write to Bleadon Parish Council complaining that the Roman Road was impassable. In March 1921, in what appears to be a response to a request by Bleadon Parish Council that Hutton pay a share of the cost of clearing the “old Roman Road”, the Hutton Parish Clerk states that “the Council could not see their way clear to share in the expense --- seeing that the road was not in Hutton Parish”; however, the Council was still of the opinion that the road should be open for travellers.

Main Road through Hutton, and for description purposes this includes Hutton Hill and Oldmixon Road, subject to local route alterations over the years, has always been the traveller’s route from Banwell to the sea at Uphill. It affords the visitor access to Elborough, Locking, Ludwell, Hutton and Oldmixon. Along this route as it passes through Hutton Parish, several lanes, droves and footpaths lead off which originally provided access to the quarries, orchards and other agricultural interests, or just walking routes from the scattered farm buildings or labourers cottages to the Church, the Court and, in later years to the school. These footpaths are marked on the sketch of footpaths and Drovers.



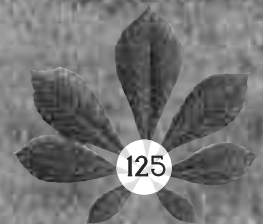
Moor Lane, which leaves Main Road in a northerly direction from a point opposite the large house named Moorlands, as its name implies was a route over the wetland of Hutton Moor towards Worle and the onetime much smaller populated area of Weston-super-Mare.

At the beginning of the Second World War a large area of this flat land was commandeered by The Ministry of Defence. It was drained by an improved ditch (rhyne) system and converted to an airport. Due to the low level of the land the surface water was collected to a pumping station where it was raised into the surrounding field rhyne drainage system. The effect of this was to seal off Moor Lane at the boundary with the airport and make it the “No Through Road” it still is today.

It is only in recent years that Moor Lane has become a wide road. Until the mid 1960’s, before the building of housing estates, it was bordered by orchards and fields. On the entrance to Holm Road and Moorcroft Roads there was a splendid row of elm trees, felled when the builders moved in. Further north, towards the airfield, the lane was bordered by hazel and willow trees.

Considerable development has taken place since the plan was produced by the Ordnance Survey in 1903 but many of the footpaths and droves have been preserved and provide pleasant rural excursions for walkers, well away from the noise, fumes and danger of road traffic, they provide a valuable recreational facility which is devoutly protected by the Parish Council.

One such route leaves Main Road at Eastfield Road a few yards from the village centre. Again as its name implies it gives access to all the fields which are on the east side of the village. At the end of Eastfield Road, starting at Field Cottage is a drove, running parallel with Moor Lane and only a few hundred yards to the east, it passes by what was the Youth Hostel, now Woodspring Lodge. In the early 1960’s Andrew Gibson turned it

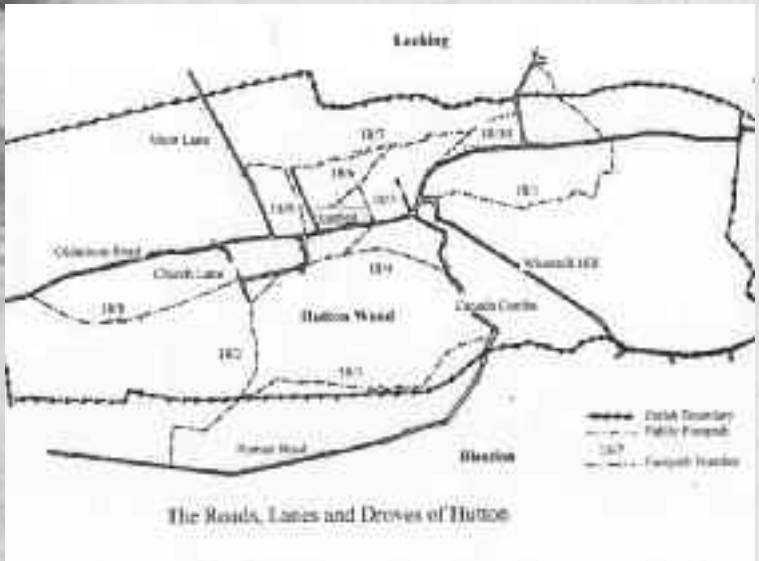




from a hostel into a private house, surfacing the drove adjacent to it. This drove itself is not a defined public footpath but runs parallel and very close to public footpath 18/9 shown on the plan.

The middle part of the drove is now only usable by walkers, with the north end surfaced where it leads to Wood View. Here the drove turns east - becoming part of public footpath 18/7 which continues through fields and playing fields to Ludwell, eventually joining the Bury, the road to Locking. From the Main Road, past Field Cottage and Woodspring Lodge to Wood View, farmers would regularly use this drove with their cattle, hay wagons, horses and carts.

*The roads, lanes and droves of Hutton*




Canada Combe and Windmill Hill are the two roads which run South and South West from the East end of the village. Again aptly named, Canada Combe rises, winding through woodlands and farmland with a fascinating history of bone caves and ochre

mining, to join Roman Road and the beautiful vantage points along the top of Bleadon Hill.


Windmill Hill, as you would expect, passes the site of a windmill which is now a private residence but still very recognisable in its tasteful conversion. The road continues South East to become a track which after a while forks West to join back with Canada Combe, or Eastwards to become a walkers paradise through Christon Plantation to Christon village or over the M5 motorway to Banwell.

A description of the roads and lanes would not be complete without mention of Hutton's commemorative structures. Since the turn of the century the residents of Hutton have seen fit to mark various significant occasions with a lasting structure of some form or other. The story behind each effort is probably a chapter in the annals of our parish, the monuments themselves a symbol of the allegiance of past generations to their sovereign or a token of thankful respect.

The first of these monuments is a village well on the south side of Main Road just opposite Sutherland Drive. This well was sunk in 1902, a year which marked the end of the Boer War and the coronation of King Edward VII. The inscription on the stone tablet reads :-



**1902 THIS WELL WAS  
PRESENTED TO THE  
PARISH OF HUTTON BY  
MRS H E EDWARDS IN  
COMMEMORATION OF  
PEACE AND CORONATION**



Unfortunately the peace did not prevail for many years, and the War Memorial outside the school bears testimony to this. Its roll of Honour is shown in the “War Years” chapter 9.

1935 was the silver Jubilee year of King George V and money raised in Hutton was used to provide three public seats. One under the Horse Chestnut tree in the centre of the village, one at the top of Hutton Hill alongside the main road and one along Windmill Hill.

The inscribed plates read :-

ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION TO  
COMMEMORATE THE JUBILEE OF H.M.KING GEORGE V  
1935

In 1952 our present Queen succeeded to the throne and to mark the occasion of her coronation the following year a pair of gates were made by William S Palmer and erected at the entrance to the Church. The inscription reads :-

THESE CHURCHYARD GATES THE WORK OF WILLIAM  
SAMUEL PALMER OF HUTTON WERE ERECTED BY THE  
PARISHIONERS TO COMMEMORATE THE CORONATION  
OF H M QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 2nd June 1953.



The next time that seats were to be erected in the Parish, there were to be six to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1977. These were placed in the Springwood Recreation area and Holm Road Green.

A stainless steel view guide was mounted on a stone plinth on the elevated ground of the Village Green to mark the millennium year 2000. Just behind it is a commemorative seat by private donation, which was erected in memory of four young people of the village whose lives were tragically lost.

## Twinning Hutton & Dabaso

Following a holiday in Kenya, and a chance meeting between a Hutton resident and builder Mark Orchard and a Dabaso resident Jeffrey Cheggie, an adventure started where initially Mark and four other builders set off in February 1999 to the village of Dabaso, near Malindi in Kenya. Their mission was to fulfil a promise given by Mark to Cheggie (as he soon became known), that he would return to Dabaso to build a much-needed classroom in the school. The new classroom was built in two weeks, and this project caught the imagination of the media. When Mark went to Dabaso he took with him messages of greetings from the village, including the Parish Council, with the offer of developing links between the two communities. When Mark returned, he reported the enthusiasm of the village of Dabaso to twin formally with the village of Hutton.

This proposition was put to the annual parish meeting on 19th April, when it was agreed to proceed with a formal twinning between the two villages, and following this a twinning association was formed.

The BBC became very involved with these developments, and a series of programmes planned on BBC 2's "Close up West". It



was planned that a delegation would visit Dabaso in November 1999, and that twinning ceremonies would be held in both Hutton and Dabaso. Britannia Airlines and the holiday firm Tropical Places arranged for those attending to have to pay only the costs incurred by the firms.

The BBC, under the direction of James McAlpine, filmed all the meetings and the preparations for the twinning. Mark and the builders were given the “People of the Year Award” and Cheggie was brought to Hutton from Kenya by the BBC to attend the formal twinning ceremony in Hutton on Saturday 13th November, where together with Mark, they unveiled new road signs in the village.

*Twinning document*



Many villagers attended this ceremony, together with MP Mr Brian Cotter, local politicians and Mark Turner, a representative of the British High Commission. The first part of the twinning document was signed by Mark Orchard, Geoffrey Cheggie, North Somerset Chairman Pat Taylor, Council Chairman Ian Pickett, Vice Chairman Terry Porter, Rev Bernard Stevenson, District Councillor Ian Peddlesden,

Headmaster Bob Gibbons and twinning Chairman Liz Ockwell and Vice-Chairman Eric Holdaway.

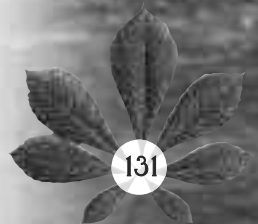
The following day a delegation of forty left for Dabaso in Kenya, accompanied by a film crew from the BBC. The party took with them gifts for the children and villagers of Dabaso, including pens and pencils for the children, medical supplies and seeds to start a market garden.


It took 24 hrs to arrive at Dabaso, with a long delay at customs in Mombasa while negotiations, including singing to the customs officers, were needed to release the medical supplies. Before leaving Eric and Gill Holdaway had been responsible for writing a song for the party to sing at the ceremony in Dabaso. The long journey gave the opportunity for more verses to be written.

Throughout the visit to Dabaso, and the province of Malindi, the party received exceptional treatment. The day began with Terry Porter, Vice-Chairman and representing Hutton Parish Council, inspecting a guard of honour and taking a march past. Mayor Gideon Mungaro then gave a civic reception in the Mayor of Malindi's parlour. Following a number of speeches, and the freedom of Malindi being given to the village of Hutton, the party left for a tour of Malindi province.

A traditional Swahili luncheon was then served in the historic Gedi ruins, while the group was entertained by traditional music. This was the first time that the ruins had been used for a ceremony and such was the popularity of the location that it is now being developed as more of a tourist attraction.

The trip proved busy for everyone, and the visits to Dabaso school to meet the children was an early mission. Doctor Peter Maksimczyk, assisted by Jenny Clay & Jan Porter carried out surgeries in the village nearly every day and treated some six hundred patients, excluding the hundreds when for a day he was accompanied by a number of local doctors. Members of the party from the Hutton Horticultural Society helped local teachers and children to clear, cultivate and sow areas of seeds to start off their market garden.





Singing is natural to the Kenyans and many of the group sang with the children and Cheggie's own choir. Reverend Bernard Stevenson had the opportunity to visit the local churches to preach to their congregations, and links were set up on the internet for photos of the days events to be e-mailed direct to the pupils of Hutton school.

Just before leaving, a twinning ceremony was held. This lasted all day and included a wide variety of musical entertainment. The ceremony became very important locally when the Kenyan Deputy Minister for Tourism attended, together with the District Commissioner and the local mayor. Andrew Tucker, the Acting High Commissioner, travelled from Nairobi, and brought a message from the Prime Minister, represented the British Government. The signing of the twinning documents was then completed, outside a traditional Swahili hut in the village of Dabaso.

Part of the ceremony included turning on the water supply to the village, made possible by donations that had been made to Mark following the publicity from his first visit. There was also sufficient money to purchase enough materials to complete a further classroom at the school, and for local workmen to carry out the work. However, on the day before the group left, it was decided to complete this classroom before departing, and following some hectic activity involving the majority of the party, the task was completed.

On the day of leaving, the villagers of Dabaso gave their own local ceremony to the party, honouring them by giving them Swahili names. The twinning between the two villages is a long-term venture, and in material terms can be a one-sided partnership, but it does not need to be so on a cultural level. The villagers of Dabaso look forward to furthering the cultural links between the two communities, besides their obvious desire for practical help.



# Chapter 11

## Wild flowers of Hutton



Hutton has a wide variety of wild plants and the list below is by no means exhaustive but is intended as a guide to what may be found in the woods and fields of the parish.

The actual flowering period will of course depend to some extent on the location of the plant i.e. light or shade and the weather.

### Late Winter and Spring

Primrose

Sweet Violet – both violet & white varieties

Dog Violet

Wood Anemone

Lesser Celandine

Dog's Mercury

Bluebell

### Late Spring, Summer & Early Autumn

Common Spotted Orchid

Pyramidal Orchid

Fragrant Orchid





Wild Pansy

Cowslip

Wood Sorrel

Wild Garlic also known as Crow's Garlic

Cuckoo Pint also known as Lords & Ladies and sometimes erroneously as Slipper Orchid

Red Campion

Bladder Campion

Red and White Valerian

Greater Plantain and in rocky areas the Puck's Horn plantain

Heath Speedwell

Common Field Speedwell. Flowers mainly in the Spring and Summer but some flower throughout the year. It is probably not a native to Britain.

Scarlet Pimpernel, this may sometimes be white,

Foxglove

Both Common & Wood Vetches

Herb Robert.

Cow parsley, also known as Queen Anne's Lace

Hemlock. Quite common in the Hutton area, This is poisonous and similar to Cow Parsley in general appearance but can be easily identified by the purple blotches on the stem.

Common Mallow

Wild Strawberry

Red and White Clovers

Woody Nightshade also known as Bittersweet. This has red berries and is poisonous

Deadly Nightshade - black berries in late summer. More poisonous than Woody Nightshade

Common Toadflax

Yellow Rattle

Yellow Archangel

Both Red and White Dead Nettles

Daisies, Buttercups, Dandelions, various thistles, blackberries & gorse are very common throughout the Parish.

Teazels with their distinctive seedpods are frequently seen at the edges of fields,

Some plants have long flowering seasons. Wild Pansies may be seen anytime between April and October or the Dead Nettles between March and November in mild seasons. The South-West of England is well known for the profusion of ferns in the coombes, valleys and deciduous woodlands. Hutton Woods and Canada Coombe are no exception.

Bracken, of course, grows throughout the area.

Of the other ferns the commonest in the Coombe and Woods are the Hart's tongue and Male fern and the less common Brittle Bladder fern may be found on the shady side of the old limestone walls and in crevices in the rocks.


Mosses and Liverworts can be found in damp shady places and are best identified with the aid of a book as very few have easily remembered common names.

Mushrooms and Toadstools are present throughout the year but some such as the edible field mushroom are seasonal.

As there are at least 400 species of British and European mushrooms and toadstools these are also best identified with the aid of books and charts.

## A Living Churchyard

In 1995 Tim McGrath, Levels and Moors Officer for the Avon



Wildlife Trust, asked the Weston super Mare Group of the Trust if they would undertake a Living Churchyard Project. It was decided that we would visit six churches, one each month during spring and summer, and repeat the exercise the following year but change the months. The churches chosen were St. John's in Weston, Kewstoke, Wick St Lawrence, Christon, Uphill Old Church and St Mary the Virgin at Hutton.

The first visit to Hutton Churchyard was on June 23rd 1996. A good selection of 18 species of trees and shrubs was recorded and a total of 42 other plants. In all 12 birds were spotted including a Firecrest in the yew trees which was exciting as it was the first time most of us had seen one. Only two species of butterfly were seen which, with the large variety of plants and the sheltered position of the Churchyard, was disappointing. 10 other species of insect were listed, two types of snail and an unidentified yellow spider. More time and expertise would have increased the insect list.

The second visit was on April 20th 1997. We added three more shrubs, 15 extra plants and nine species of birds to our original lists. We also saw a grey squirrel and a field mouse. Fox droppings were found and we were informed by a local resident that badgers frequent the churchyard. Unfortunately no more butterflies were seen, but time of day, amount of sunlight and presence of wind all affect butterfly sightings.

Trees and Shrubs – Hazel, Ivy, Yew, Bay, Bramble, Dogrose, Californian laurel, Variegated Aucuba, Elderberry, Privet, Holly, Sweetbay, Lilac, Elm, Hawthorn, Goat willow, Bay willow.  
Added in 1997 – Clematis Montana, Cherry laurel, Viburnum.

Other plants – Wild clematis, Common daisy, Oxeye daisy, Ribwort plantain, Nettle, Creeping buttercup, Passion flower, Tufted vetch, Forget-me-not, Herb Robert, Bird's foot trefoil, Common speedwell, Teazel, Ragwort, Navelwort, Hart's tongue

fern, Goosegrass, Herb Bennett, Black bryony, Male fern, Enchanter's nightshade, Dock, Smooth sowthistle, Groundsel, Primrose, Broadleaved willowherb, Sorrell, Bindweed, Hop trefoil, Ground ivy, Antirrhinum, London pride, Pansy, Bluebell, Biting stonecrop, White stonecrop, Cow parsley, Yarrow, Hawkweed, Valerian, Lady's bedstraw, Pinks. Added in 1997 – Lesser celandine, Wild arum, Iris foetidissima, Dandelion, Cut-leaved cranesbill, Jack-by-the-hedge, Yellow archangel, Hairy bittercress, Spanish bluebell, Barren strawberry, Crocus, Dog violet, Bugle, Dog's mercury, Lady's mantle.

Birds – Magpie, Crow, Blackbird, House sparrow, Greenfinch, Jackdaw, Goldfinch, Firecrest, Wood pigeon, Robin, Herring gull, Buzzard. Added in 1997 – Blue tit, Chiff chaff, chaffinch, Pheasant, Blackcap, Goldcrest, Longtailed tit, Wood warbler, Missel thrush.

Insects – Ichneumon fly (*Rhyssa persuasoria*), Speckled wood butterfly, Black aphids, Black garden ants, Greenbottle fly, Brinstone butterfly, White tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*), Scale insect (possibly Mussel scale), *Metylophorus nebulosus* (a louse), Common wasp, 7-spot ladybird.

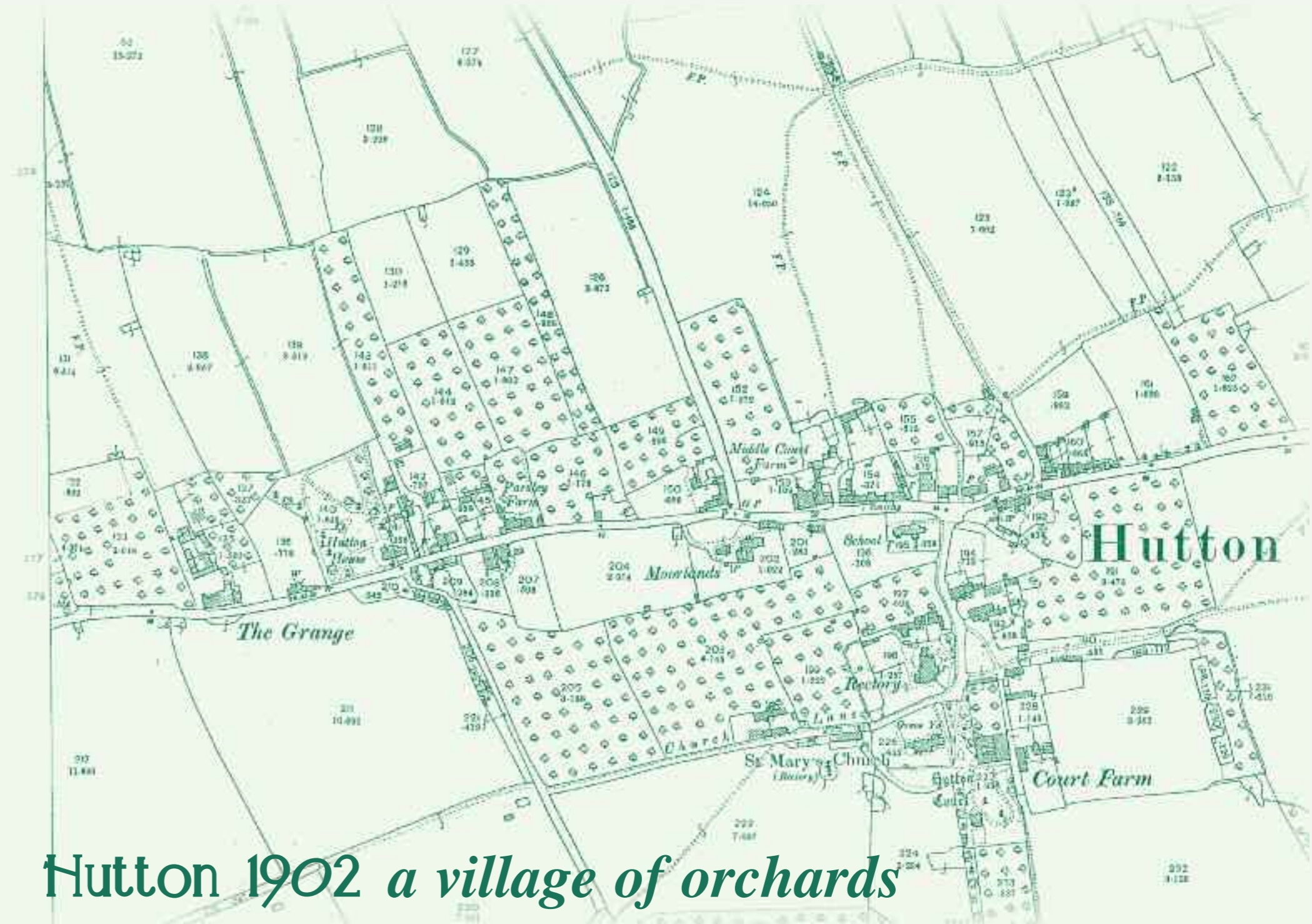
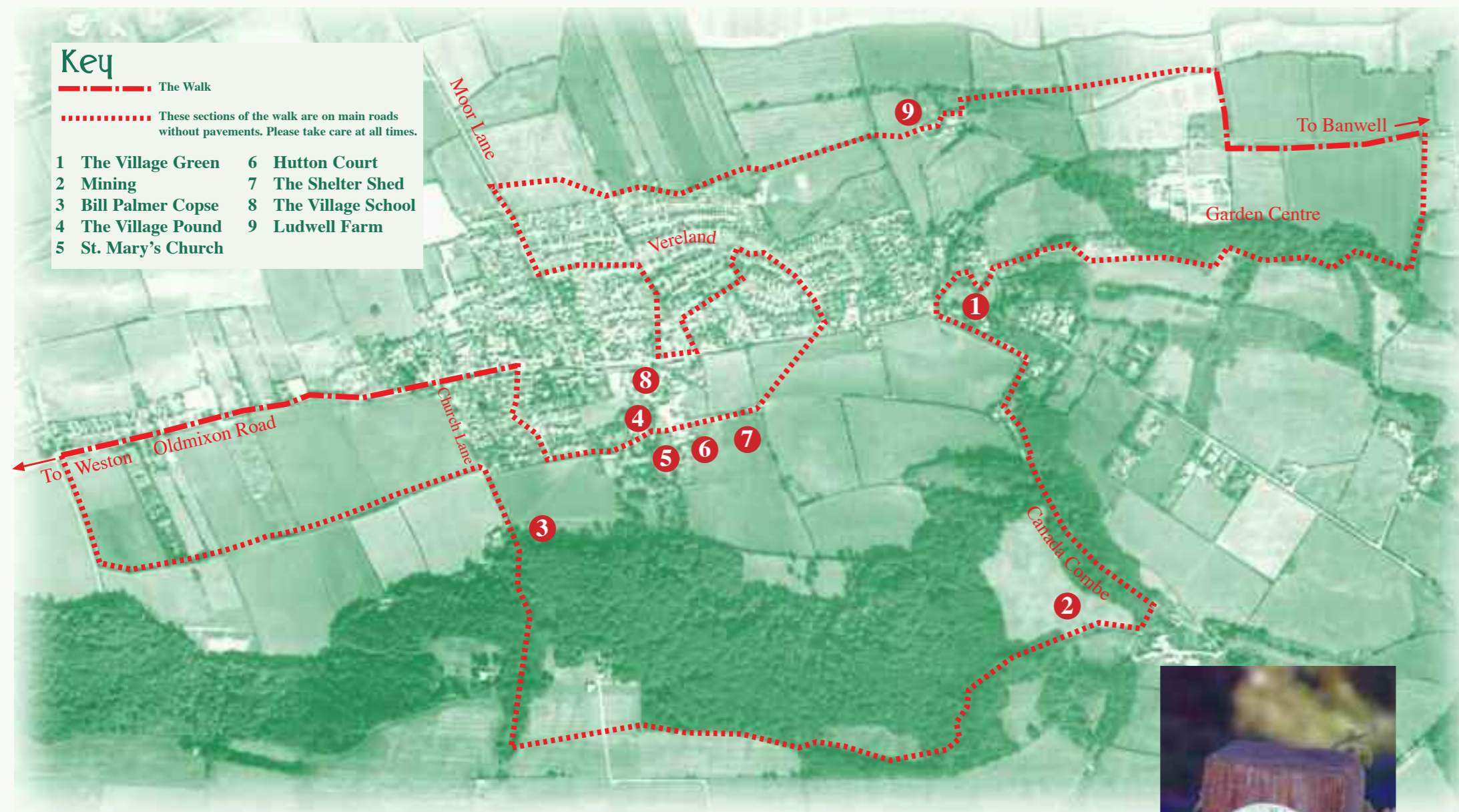
Other Animals – Yellow spider, Garden snail, Banded snail. Added in 1997 – Grey squirrel, Field mouse, Fox droppings, report of Badgers.



## Key

- The Walk
- These sections of the walk are on main roads without pavements. Please take care at all times.

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 The Village Green | 6 Hutton Court       |
| 2 Mining            | 7 The Shelter Shed   |
| 3 Bill Palmer Copse | 8 The Village School |
| 4 The Village Pound | 9 Ludwell Farm       |
| 5 St. Mary's Church |                      |



The Hutton Millennium Walk

Hutton 1902 a village of orchards

