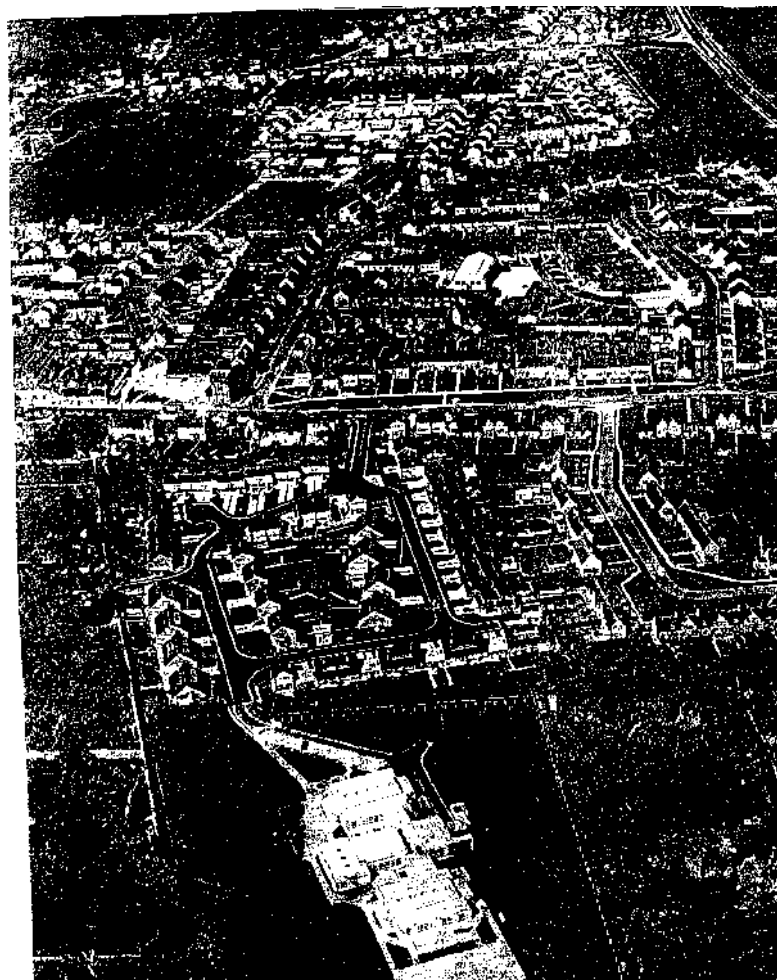


GOOD HISTORY

**Journal
of the
Eynsham Junior
History Group**



**Number 14
Summer 2003**

GOOD HISTORY

The Journal of the Eynsham Junior History Group

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Acknowledgements: Thanks to the Primary School Staff for their support, to Mrs Jane Batey for technical assistance and to Mr D. Richards for proof reading, Professor Marker for her help with the Group and to all those who have provided us with information and support, not forgetting parents!

Front Cover: Aerial view of Eynsham with the Primary School in the foreground.

Members of the Group who have taken part in the research and discussion which has been used for this edition — Sophie Caldicott, William Cross, Alan Hughes, Luke Maskell, Matthew Marks, Mary Moore, Sean Moore, David Richardson, Olivia Stratford, Thomas Sutherland, Natalie Taylor, Ryan Weeden
Best wishes to those moving up to Bartholomew School.

EDITORIAL

'Here today and gone tomorrow' is a common phrase, but we have thought of it in a slightly different way. What trades/businesses/industries has Eynsham housed in its history? How many of them have been long lasting? How many were here briefly and if so, what circumstances caused them to disappear? Why did they come here in the first place? To answer these questions we have used documents, oral history, questionnaires and our observational skills. Our thanks must go to all the firms who have kindly answered our questionnaires, the people who have dug into their memories and those who have previously put their research into *The Eynsham Record* for us to use.

We have also explored a few individual interests.

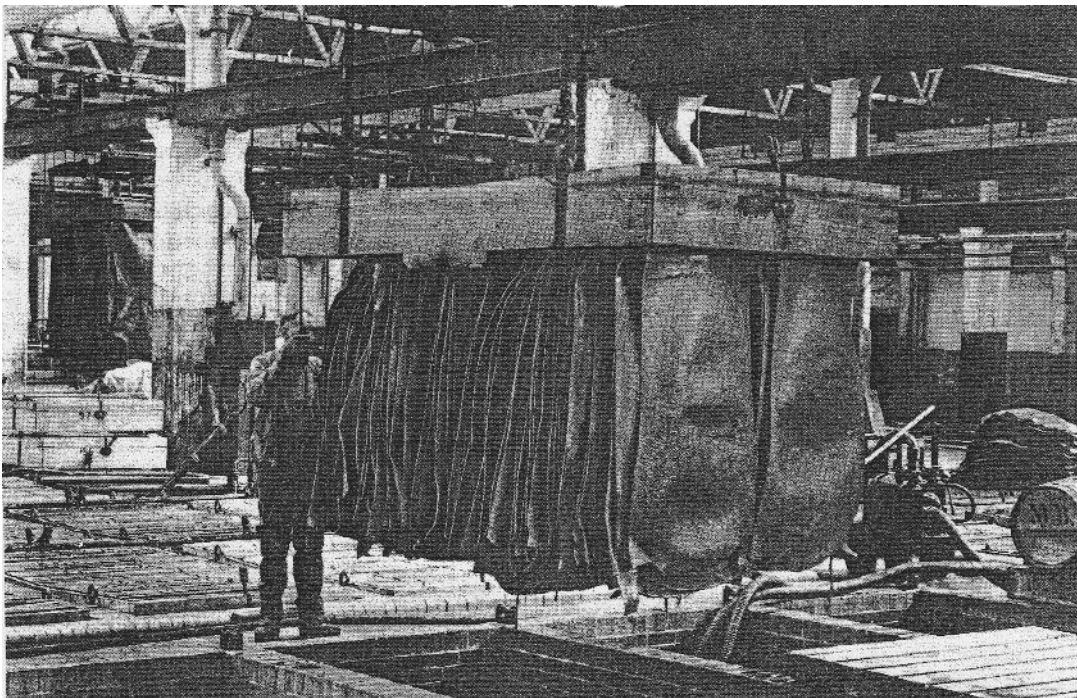
Pamela Richards, Editor

Sheepskin Tanning - research by William Cross

Off Queen Street is Tanners Lane and it is known that there were lime pits in the area. We thought about the tanning that went on and particularly looked at sheepskin tanning.

The process is as follows. Sheep go to the abattoir for slaughter. The skins are collected and centrally dressed, usually by salting to preserve the skin. Woolskin selections are bought by tanneries.

Tannery capacity in the United Kingdom has fallen virtually to the point of terminus. We have one comprehensive tannery left in the U.K. In practice, most sheep skins are woolmongered, where the wool skins through the action of lime and sulphides shed their wool and are turned into leather pelts mainly for clothing and for footwear.



Sole leather in the course of tanning

Many wool-on sheepskins are imported because the wool or leather character required can only be met from overseas breeds. For example the merino fine dense wool from South Africa, lustrous clean wool skins from Australia and United States. The buying cycle also dictates that U.K. tanners need outside supplies during the winter period. Woolskin selection is a skill in its own right and sheepskin sources are perforce a worldwide commodity item in much the same way as wool.

Brickmaking by Sean Moore

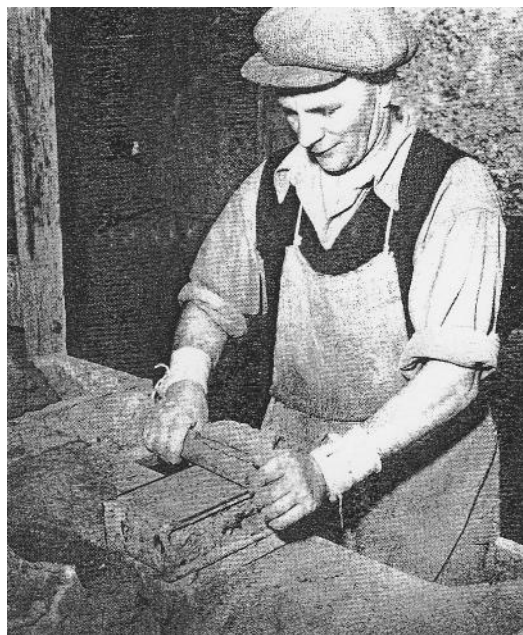
About the time of the 1851 census, which we have been looking at, the Revd. W.S. Bricknell, the Vicar of Eynsham, decided to start a brickworks when the right sort of clay was found in fields along side the Chilbrook. We did find brickmakers mentioned in the census but most of them were living in Freeland. We don't think the Revd. Bricknell made a fortune from his brickworks as they do not seem to have lasted long. A few Eynsham bricks were found in a garden in Abbey St. two years ago.

Around 1850, there were five steps needed to make bricks, winning or mining the clay, preparation of the clay, moulding, drying and burning.

At this time the clay had to be dug out of the soil with hand shovels. It was dug out in the autumn and was chosen by colour and texture. Over the winter it was left out to get soft and ready to work.

Then in the spring the clay could be worked by hand. The clay had to be ground to a powder and put through a sieve to get out the stones or put into a soaking pit where it was mixed with water to get it ready for moulding. It was kneaded, like bread, with hands and feet until it was all mixed together. This was called tempering or pugging and was the hardest work of all. In Eynsham they may have been lucky enough to have a horse driven pug mill. From the soaking pit it was taken to the moulding table.

The assistant brick moulder was called the 'clot' moulder and picked up a lump of clay and gave it to the brickmoulder. His was a very important job. He might stand at the moulding table up to twelve to fourteen hours a day and with his helpers make 3500 to 5000 bricks in a day. He took the clot of clay, rolled it in sand and 'dashed' it into the sanded mould. The clay had to be pressed into the mould with his hands and any extra clay removed from the top of the mould with a 'strike', which was a flat stick that had been soaking in water. The extra clay then went back to be used again. Sand was used to prevent the clay from sticking to the mould.



Surplus clay being removed from the mould

Single, double, four or six brick moulds were used. A child could carry the single mould to the drying area. The moulds were usually made out of beech wood with a thin layer of iron to prevent wear. The brick slid easily out of the mould because of the sand and these bricks were called 'sand struck bricks'.

An 'off-bearer' would carry to mould from the moulding table to the drying area and place it on a level bed of sand, and then take the moulds back to be re-sanded and start again. The moulded bricks were stacked to dry in the air and the sun. The drying time was about two weeks, with the bricks being turned and straightened to get a smooth surface. The bricks would be under a roof or covered with straw to protect them from the rain or very hot sun.

To fire the bricks a kiln had to be built. Sometimes already fired bricks were used, with mud put on the walls to contain the heat, at other times the raw bricks were stacked so that they could form their own kiln. This was called a clamp kiln. Wood and coal was used as fuel. As the bricks still contained some water the fires were kept low to start with getting hotter at the end of the process. It took about a week for the bricks to cool down.

It is believed that some Eynsham bricks were used in the building of Exeter College in Oxford.

[For more details of *Bricknell's Bricks* see Dr. Atkins' article in *Eynsham Record No 9*, page 46.]

The Mills of Eynsham – research by Matthew Marks, the Editor & Mr George Basson

In 1682 George Hagar, a London Dyer, obtained a patent and set up a paper mill at Eynsham to make white paper for printed books. However, he was not successful and a creditor took over, valuing the mill at over £1,500. In 1686 Thomas Meales and his son Thomas took over the mill and continued making white paper, supplying it for Bibles in Oxford. When Thomas, the son, died in 1723 the site included a corn mill and two others, one called the New Mill, both well stocked with rags. There were separate moulding and drying houses.

Extract of the Inventory attached to the will of Thomas Meales dated 1723
[Oxon Arch. Ref. No 208.385.46/2/7]

<i>Item in the Corn Mill 9 bushells of wheat. 8 bushells of barley</i>	<i>£2. 07. 00d</i>
<i>Item in the first mill 8 tons of Linen rags with other lumber</i>	<i>80. 00. 00</i>
<i>Item in the raghouse one ton of rags with other utensils</i>	<i>10. 00. 00</i>
<i>Item in the new mill 12 tons of rags with other utensil</i>	<i>121. 07. 00</i>
<i>Item in the old stable 2 tons of rags</i>	<i>6. 05. 00</i>
<i>Item in the workhouse 6 moulds, 150 felts, 1 cauldron of coals</i>	<i>7. 05. 00</i>
<i>Item in the sizing-house 2 sizing tubs one brass basin with other small things</i>	<i>1. 06. 00</i>
<i>Item in the Soll 80 reams of paper 200 of sizing-pieces</i>	<i>24. 06. 00</i>
<i>Item in the drying-loft, 40 reams of Paper, 200 of sizing-pieces 400 of rags with other lumber</i>	<i>10. 01. 00</i>

Twenty years later the mill was in the hands of Jervis Key. It seemed that he was not a good employer. From *Jackson's Oxford Journal* we learn of several occasions on which apprentices 'absconded'. On Thursday, May 14th 1754 one Charles Pamplin ran away. He tried again in July 1757 with another apprentice John Collier. These apprentices were between the ages of 16-17. Thomas Mathews had run off in December 1755 and in June 1756 William Collins ran off two months or so after the mill had burnt down.

At the end of 1757 the mills were advertised 'to be let' but this changed to being 'for sale' by the beginning of 1758. It appears that the mills were taken over by papermakers Joseph Ryder and Anthony Boxall, but their partnership was dissolved in 1765.

A few years later there seems to have been more trouble associated with the mills. First we have an item in the *Journal* dated 3rd February 1768 that Sarah Franklin is trying to get news of her husband James who had left the parish some years before but had been left a legacy. On 31st October 1769 James Franklin's name is linked with those of Stephen Smith and another labourer who had left Eynsham leaving their families chargeable on the parish. On 18th May 1771 there was a report of the paper mill being broken into and some machinery stolen. Later there was a theft of lead. John Rusher, the Parish Constable, was asking for information.

By 1785 the mills were in the hands of Stephen Faichen who was probably the son of William Faichen, papermaker, of Wolvercote. When he died in 1804 he was described as 'an eminent paper maker'.

In 1804, the mills were bought by John Swann of Wolvercote for his brother James. He pioneered mechanised paper-making by installing a Fourdrinier machine at Eynsham Mill (1807). This was a machine invented by the brothers Henry and Sealy Fourdrinier which could produce paper in an endless web instead of sheet by sheet, and a machine which could manufacture paper in varying widths and of course so much faster than by hand. James Swann was a friend of William Cobbett, the writer, and supplied the paper for the *Political Register*. Cobbett visited James at the mill and at The Gables where he is said to have planted 'Cobbett's tree'. The Swamis were supplying paper to the Clarendon Press in 1805 and also produced 'tarred paper' which was popular for a while as roofing material known as J.C.Loudon Material which was used by the Swamis to roof Eynsham Mill before 1811 and probably later at the Gables. Henry Swann seemed to have taken over from James (died 1846) but by 1848 Henry was bankrupt but took partners to continue the business. In 1856 Thomas Routledge was a partner of John Swami and they pioneered the production of paper from esparto grass. He left Eynsham c. 1862 but Routledge & Co. continued producing paper from raw fibres until 1871.

In 1872 the mill was held by the Wakefield family until the Eynsham Paper Mills Co. was formed in 1889.

Extract from the Prospectus

Share Capital: 5000 Shares of £5. each £25, 000 fully paid up

Directors: Viscount Valentia, Bletchington Park, Oxon. Chairman Charles

Tital Hawkins, JP., Summertown, Oxford

Edmund Augustine Bevers, Broad St. Oxford.

John William Messenger, 9 Fyfield Road, Oxford

Stephen Castelhowe Wakefield, Eynsham, Managing Director.

The company to be formed for the purposes of taking over as a going concernand carrying on the old established and well-known paper making business of Messrs R.

& S.C. Wakefield which has been carried on for the last 16 years... ..to convert the business into a Joint Stock Company an area of about 7 acres with roads etc. absolutely freehold only outgoing £12. per annum to the Lord of the Manor of Eynsham some part of motive power from two powerful turbine wheels driven by the R. Evenlode, all under control of the mill at this point. The machinery—steam engines, turbine wheels, steam boilers esparto & rag boilers, bleaching & beating engines, cutting & reeling machines, pulp machines, rag duster, esparto duster etc. & a superior modern paper making machine & drying cylinders etc. capable to turning out about 25 tons of paper weekly Situate within 1.1/4 miles of Eynsham station and Eynsham wharf Mr S.C. Wakefield to act as Managing Director for 10 years certain. He will apply for at least 200 shares in the company.

However, from *Jacksons' Oxford Journal* dated November 28th we note *The strange disappearance of Mr S.C. Wakefield of Eynsham is causing much excitement in the county. No trace whatsoever obtained since he was seen on the morning of the 13th November. He went for the mid-day train to Oxford saying he would be back the next day!* On December 26th it was noted that Eynsham Paper Mill had collapsed with a deficit of £12,000 although 12 months before it had had a good dividend! It was also noted that workers who had lost their jobs were able to have a beef dinner for Christmas through the generosity of Mr E.J. Gibson & Councillor Blake.

From the running away of apprentices to the disappearance of Stephen Wakefield the Paper Mill seems to have had a rather chequered history. More of that history was given to us in 1997 after a chance meeting with a Mr George Basson in Eynsham library. He was researching his family's history. He recounts:-

"My Great Great Grandfather John Basson, born in 1818, who with his wife Louisa nee James and their nine children: Sarah, Joseph, Louisa, Ann, John, William, Mary, Elizabeth and Eliza, lived in Elm Cottages, Pug Lane. John Basson, senior, worked along with William Bond of Acre End Street and James Bond of Newland Street as papermakers at the Eynsham Paper Mill. He was followed into the mill by my Great Grandfather William whose second wife, Annie, also worked at the mill as a paper sorter. Their daughter Fanny also worked at the mill as a paper finisher."

In 1881 over 100 people were employed in the mill but there was great poverty when the mill closed. As we noted above this was when Stephen Wakefield disappeared. Some more light is apparently thrown on this disappearance by an entry in 'Diary of an Oxon-Farmer' dated December 14th 1891. *'Mr Wakefield, Eynsham: absconded with lots of money and his governess – left behind wife and four children!'*

Like many of those who lost their jobs Mr Basson's great grandfather became a Paper Maker Journeyman. This entitled him to seek work at mills all over the country. The Basson family eventually moved to St. Neots in Huntingdon in May 1892 to work in the paper mill there. Another Eynsham family who moved were the Coppocks. Charles Coppock had worked alongside William Basson at Eynsham Mill. Life at the mill was not always easy and William lost both a son and a brother in accidents at the mill.

Some of the family were still working in the mill when Mr Basson came to Eynsham to do his research. Mr Basson's forefathers had been Huguenots who came to England from France to escape religious persecution and brought their papermaking skills with them.

[Sources: The Victoria County History, Jacksons' Oxford Journal, Documents in the Local Studies Centre, Oxford and Parish Records]

The Sugar Beet Factory

The site around Eynsham's wharf stream has been an area of much activity over the years. By the late 18th century the wharf contained several warehouses and a public house. Goods such as coal and agricultural produce would be transported to and from the area by river.

In 1927 a sugar beet factory was established on the site. It was only there for a few years. In the early 1930s it was listed in the Directory as 'Sugar Beet & Crop Driers Ltd., sugar manufacturers'. The telephone number was 23. An uncle of Mr Martin Harris, Mr Reg. Bloyce, came to work there as an engineer. He came from Colchester. Mr Harris says his father remembers a very tall chimney.

The sugar or sucrose in beet had been found in the 18th century by a German chemist called Marggraf. He did experiments to make his method perfect. In 1924 his ideas were taken up by an Italian called De Vecchis. In 1925 the British Government gave a grant for research to be done at the Oxford Institute and then in 1926 a research station was set up in Eynsham. The research did not confirm all De Vecchis' results but it seemed worth going on and a method of mass drying was developed. This was taken up by 'Messrs Sugar Beet & Crop Driers Ltd' who developed the process commercially. A small drier was set up and in 1926-27 about 1,000 tons of fresh beet was treated. The factory was built and completed in November 1927. Unfortunately, it was a severe winter and frost got into the beet crop and at first things did not go well. They made improvements in the factory in 1928-29 but there were still problems. Electricity had to be taken from a local supply as there was no time to install a generating plant. The factory was finally knocked down in the early 1930s.

Extract from the Oxford Times 29th June 1925

"A demonstration of how the new De Vecchis method of drying sugar beet is expected to revolutionise sugar production in this country was given to a gathering of pressmen at Eynsham Sugar Beet Factory by Dr. B.J. Owen."

Later Dr. Owen was apparently put in jail and convicted of fraud.

[Thanks to Mr Martin Harris for his contribution to this article. Other information taken from papers in the Local Studies Centre, Oxford]

An Interview with Mrs Rosy Peachy conducted by Sophie Caldicott, Natalie Taylor and Thomas Sutherland.

Where did you work?	<i>I worked at Neuman's Dress Making</i>
What did you make?	<i>I made first class dresses, 'haute couture' for the London West End shops. They were all hand finished</i>
How much money did you earn in a week?	<i>The equivalent of £1.30</i>
How old were you when you started work?	<i>19 years</i>

Did your work run in the family?	<i>Yes, my mother, sister and brother also worked there</i>
How long approximately did you work there?	<i>15-20 years</i>
Did you like your work?	<i>Yes</i>
How many hours a day did you work?	<i>4 hours</i>
What part of the making did you do?	<i>I did hand sewing.</i>

Trades we have come across from the research of others.

We noted the article on The Retreat Bakery by Ann Seal (E.R.16) and Whitlock's Bakery by Jean Buttrick (E.R.4) and learned that in 1965 there were three bakeries in operation.

We learned of a number of breweries. Two were mentioned in *Eynsham, Tit-Bits from Its History*, compiled by Nora Reynolds and Marjorie Stayt [undated]. One was sited in Phipps' Yard and the other at St. Michaels. Gibbons & Co. advertised their pale ale and porter in 1887. We had previously discovered that during the 2nd World War the Sobranie Tobacco Company occupied St. Michael's site.

The Blake family manufactured soft drinks in Eynsham for some 85 years and their history has been explored in *Eynsham Record No 5*. The site that was Grangemill Garage was previously a flock mill and before that a flour *mill*.

More recently Goodhead Publishing Ltd came and went from Witney Road.



The mock-Tudor garage in High Street has now been replaced by two houses.



From *Some Odd Notes about Eynsham* by Miss Monica Sutton, who was a member of the senior Eynsham History Group, we learn that in the early 14th century Eynsham had a famous tanner called Adam and that there were some 200 tanning pits by 1831. She also mentions the ropemakers whom we looked at in our last journal and she reminds us of the blacksmiths, woolstaplers, millers, brewers, and hurdle makers.

Eynsham's Trades and Industries

In February we handed out the following letter and questionnaire to many of the businesses of Eynsham.

To whom it may concern.

The Eynsham Primary School Junior History Group are this term doing a study of industries and trades connected with Eynsham. To help us to learn about the present day companies that are located in Eynsham we wonder if you could find the time to answer our Questionnaire.

The results of our research will be published in our own journal *Good History*. This coming issue will be Number 14. Last year we presented a copy to the Queen on her Golden Jubilee. It was graciously acknowledged. We are the only Primary School Group doing this kind of research and all our work is recognised by the Oxford Local Studies Centre.

We do hope you will be able to help us.

Matthew Marks,
Secretary,
Eynsham Primary School Junior History Group

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EYNSHAM COMPANIES

- 1. What is the name of your company? i
- 2. What is the address of your company?.....

- 3. Has your company always been on this site? If no, from where did you re-locate?.....
- 4. When was your company first established?

- 5. What product does your company make?

- 6. Where does your product go when it leaves you?
- 7. What is your output?.....

- 5. What is the hardest part of the work?.....

- 9. How many employees do you have?
- 10 Do most of them live in Eynsham?

A good number of them replied for which we are very grateful. We now have a snap shot of the business side of Eynsham at the beginning of the 21st century.

Thank you for your cooperation Eynsham Junior History Group

Results of Eynsham Companies' Questionnaire

Name & Address

Information

Abbey Properties.
9 High St.

The company was established in 1983 as an estate agent. It moved to its present premises from 1 Abbey St.
The hardest part of the work is telling people that someone else is getting the house they want to buy. There are 13 employees with only 1 living in Eynsham.

Baskerville & Sanders.
1 Abbey St.

The factory has always been at this site. The office & administration used to be in Witney but moved to Eynsham May 2001. The company was first established in 1991. It makes photo frames & mirrors. It supplies the retail trade all over the UK. There is also an export trade. It is difficult and frustrating when there seems a lack of space when we receive deliveries and there is no loading areas for the big vehicles. There are 5 employees, none currently living in Eynsham.

Established in 1993 it has always been on the present site. They manage digital data for publishers & printers and also do reproduction (i.e. scanning). Their largest customer is in Oxford & the rest within a 20 mile radius. Their turnover is approx, £1,500,000 p.a. The hardest part of the work is meeting deadlines and keeping up with new technology. They have 28 employees, 2 of whom live in Eynsham.

James Burn Binders

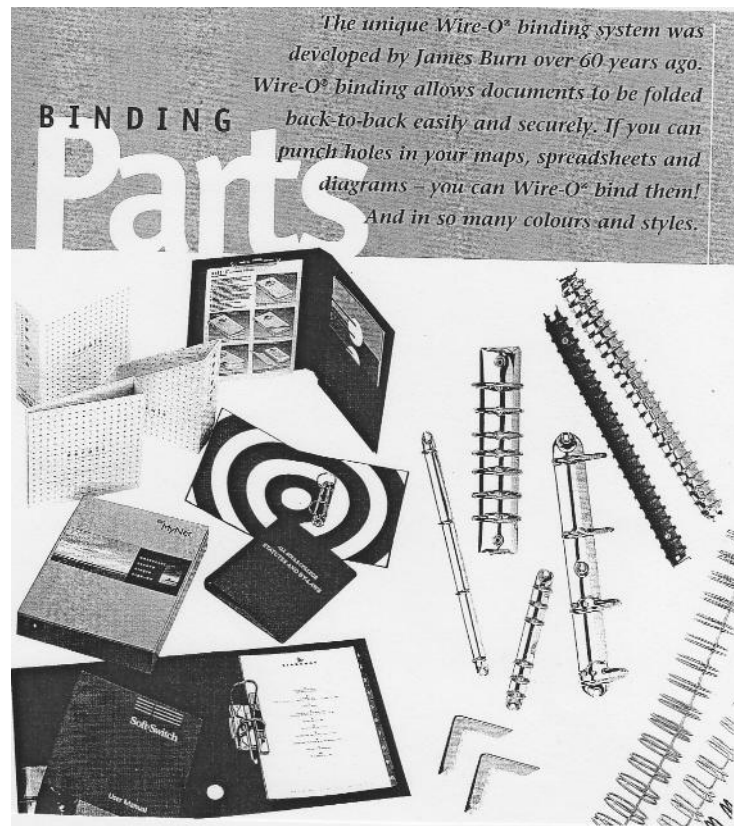


Established here in 1975 making Wire-O Binding & Binders. These are generally for use in the UK but have made binders for use in aircraft & submarines. The bound products/calendars will be in use all over the world. The output is at least one million items each year. The hardest part of the work is punching the paper and not making mistakes. There are 38 employees, 14 of whom live in Eynsham

This company's history actually dates back to 1781, when Thomas Burn established a case bookbinding business in London. Thomas Burn's reputation grew with his company which became one of the largest and finest binderies of its time.

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries the company continued to flourish under the management of Thomas Burn and later James Burn - the company's namesake.

In 1932 James Burn became involved with loose-leaf bookbinding and introduced a spiral binding system to the British market. Shortly after this James Burn began manufacturing Wire-o wires and binding machinery. There are now operations in more than eighty countries



Chancellors.	They are estate agents whose company was established in 1807. The Eynsham branch is in Mill St. The hardest part of the work is people management. There are 5 employees not all of whom live in Eynsham.
Comquest. 1 Abbey St.	The company started at 18 Queens Lane in 1998. It sells computer equipment & network installation all over the UK and abroad. The hardest work is keeping up to date with new computers and technology. There are 6 employees none of whom live in Eynsham.
Darnells Ltd Oakfield Industrial Estate	This company was established in 1947 and moved to the present site from Littlemead Business Park, Ferry Hinksey Road, Oxford. It is a heating, plumbing & air-conditioning company with 15 employees who mostly do not live in Eynsham.
Gas Appliance Services (Oxford) 12 Witney Road	Established in 1995 this company has always traded from the present site. It is a service industry, installing & repairing gas central heating & appliances. The hardest part of the work is repairing ever more complex gas appliances. A sole trader living in Eynsham.
Richard Gibbons 20 Old Witney Rd.	General builders who have always been on the same site since the company was established in 1992. They provide building advice and labour. The hardest part of the work is getting sub-contractors to a job when they are needed. There are 3 employees and up to 10 sub-contractors. Most of whom live in Eynsham.
Green's Funeral Directors 221 High St.	They have always been on the same site but there is now a branch in Witney. The company was established in 1866. They direct funerals and arrange for memorials. They deal with families on a daily basis. The hardest part of the work is dealing with the stress, trauma, anxiety and great sadness in people's lives, but being able to assist, direct and comfort families is important to us. There is 1 employee and 5 family partners. Everyone lives in Eynsham.

P. Hayes & Son
Pleasant View,
The Green,
Leaffield.

The company was established in 1964 at 'Torrsway', Back Lane, Eynsham. It renovates and upgrades buildings. Working 10 hours a day 6 days a week, the hardest part of the work is keeping everybody happy. There is one employee who lives in Eynsham.

Information Press Ltd
Southfield Road

Established in 1989, they have always been on the same site. The company prints scientific & medical journals, sending them worldwide. The output is approx. 230,000 journal copies & commercial printing per month. The hardest part of the work is accepting electronic files from all parts of the world. There are 80 employees, 19 of whom live in Eynsham.

Linde Gas UK
Stanton Harcourt Rd.

This was originally founded as a German company in the 1930s. The new site was opened in 1998. The production is of helium liquid which goes on to Oxford Instruments OMT. The hardest part of the work is temperature control. Helium has to be at -267 C. There are 8 employees, none of whom live in Eynsham but 5 live in West Oxon. This company produced the helium gas for Richard Branson's balloon.

Oakfield Instruments Ltd
Oakfield Industrial Estate

The company was first established in 1980 and has always been on the present site. The company makes medical equipment, which is mainly supplied to hospitals. The output is one million and the manufacturing is the hardest part. There are 13 employees who mostly do not live in Eynsham.

Oxford Magnet Technology
Wharf Road

The firm moved from the Osney Mead Industrial Estate in Botley, Oxford. The company was established in 1980 from Oxford Instruments but is now a joint venture with Siemens. They make MR scanners, whole body magnetic resonance imaging based on a superconducting magnet. Our products are sent world wide, with 50% going to the USA, 15% to Japan and Asia, 30% to Europe and 5% to the rest of the world.

We produce 800 scanners each year with £120 million turnover giving a £10-13 million profit. The hardest work is maintaining the yield and quality due to forces produced in magnets. We also have to keep ahead of competitors for quality and cost.

There are 735 employees who work in 3 shifts. About 10% of them live in Eynsham.

John George Pimm & Sons
Church St/Abbey St.

The company has been in Eynsham since the end of the 19th century but came from Stanton Harcourt originally where it was started as a family business c. 1710. It makes various building products which are used for restoration in various types of buildings both residential & commercial. The hardest part of the work is obtaining craftsmen. There are about 15 employees who mostly living in the surrounding villages.

3D Aluminium Plas Ltd
Oakfields Industrial Estate

The company which was established in 1972 moved to its present site from Barnard Gate. It makes Aluminium & UPVC Double Glazing Products (Windows, Doors & Curtain Walling). It mainly goes to schools in London, Oxfordshire, Bucks, Berks, Surrey, Essex, Sussex, Kent & Cambridgeshire. The output is approx. £7,000,000 per annum. The hardest part of the work is putting together large aluminium screens (large windows). There are 40 employees who are mostly living outside of Eynsham.

A. Timms

Was trading in Eynsham from 1974 from 2 Acre End St. as Builders and Hobbies Supplies. Had as many as 4 employees from time to time who all lived in Eynsham. The hardest part was satisfying the demands of the public at large.

Travel Counsellors
19 Acre End St.

The company was first established in 1994 and re-located to the present address from Aston, Oxon. It is a travel agency sending people all round the world, and getting their flight or ferry

tickets and arranging holidays. The hardest part is convincing people it is still safe travel even when there are things like the Iraq crisis. One employee who lives in Eynsham.

Samsung Telecom (UK) Ltd

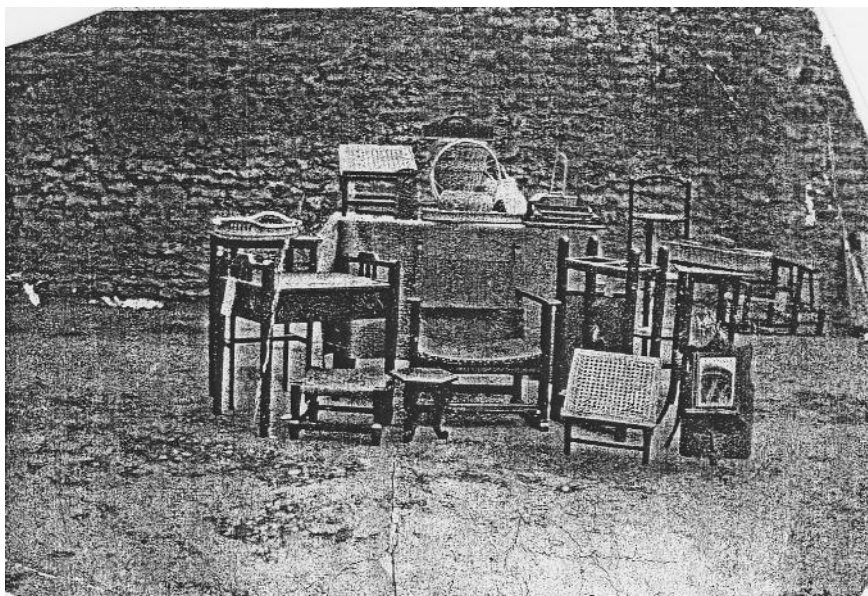
This company was on the site for 4 years, training telecom engineers and giving technical support to telecom engineers. The products go out to dealers who install telephone systems in hospitals, businesses etc. The hardest part is setting up the training courses. There are 12 employees none of whom live in Eynsham. The company is leaving Eynsham because the lease expires and the rent is going up so they are moving to London & Manchester.

**W.S.Surplus Supplies Ltd
Mill Street**

The company, established in 1956 has always been on the same site. It doesn't manufacture, but assembles and retails new & second hand office furniture & storage systems. There are 15 employees who mostly do not live in Eynsham.

A Craftsman of Eynsham

Talking to Mr Cecil Bustin I learned of his passion for woodworking. He found this photograph of items of furniture he had made as a boy. Later in life he assisted at the woodwork classes at Bartholomew School. His granddaughter Julie was a pupil at the Primary School. He celebrated his 91st birthday on 1st June this year.



A Letter from Her Majesty the Queen

Good History No 12, which we produced last summer, was written in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee and we sent her a copy. In January we received this acknowledgement.



SANDRINGHAM HOUSE

2nd January, 2003.

Dear Miss Hammond,

The Queen would like me to thank you and all the members of the Eynsham Junior History Group for sending a copy of the Golden Jubilee Edition of *Good History*. The comparative approach taken, setting the Victorian Age alongside the reign of Her Majesty, was a most interesting one and covered a fascinating range of topics. The Queen much appreciated your thought in celebrating her Golden Jubilee in this way. I am sorry not to have been able to write earlier at the end of a memorable year in which Her Majesty has been very touched at the loyalty and support she has received. The Queen would wish me to congratulate all those involved in the Golden Jubilee Edition's production and to extend her renewed thanks and warm good wishes to you all.

*Yours sincerely,
Christopher Geidt*

Christopher Geidt
Assistant Private Secretary to The Queen

Miss Rosy Hammond.

Some personal research by Thomas Sutherland

I have been trying to find out about my family history and came across this photograph of my great grandfather which must have been taken during World War II. His name was Gilbert Vernon Parsley.

I also look out for interesting things at car boot sales and found this old photograph of a steam engine.

A Walk in the Woods



For the second time Thomas Sutherland did the 8 mile walk through part of Wychwood to help raise funds for Oxfordshire Carers' Forum. This year he was joined by Mary Moore and just for good measure he took along Mr & Mrs Richards.

During the walk it was interesting to note various aspects of the old royal forest in which King Henry II, who held his Council in Eynsham in 1186, would have hunted.

Altogether Forum walkers raised over £800. Well done, for their part, Mary and Thomas.

The Old Age Pensions Act, 1908 to 1924

We learned of the workers who lost their jobs after the collapse of the paper mill. There was no state benefit or pension at that time. However, things got a little better at the beginning of the 20th century with the introduction of a Pensions Act and the Blind Persons Act, which became law in 1920. This is a copy of a notice of a grant of a Pension, which was given to the Group to hold in its archives.

THE OLD AGE PENSIONS ACTS, 1908 TO 1924. THE BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

Notice of Decision of [Sub-] Committee allowing Claim.

District Oxford Station Banford
No. in Pension Officer's Register 2561
Name of Claimant Mary Ann Selman

To the above-named Claimant.

You are hereby informed that by their decision dated the 14th day of March, the Pension [Sub-] Committee have allowed your claim to a pension, and that you are (~~is~~ will be) entitled to a pension at the weekly rate of Ten shillings, payment in respect of which will be made as from Friday, the 30th day of January 1925 inclusive.

The pension will be payable at the Post Office at Banford by pension orders, the issue of which is a matter for the Pension Officer.

The pension will continue so long only as you fulfil the statutory conditions and are not subject to any disqualification.

This decision is subject to appeal by the Pension Officer or any person aggrieved. If an appeal is made by any person other than yourself or a person appealing on your behalf you will be informed of the fact.

Should you desire to appeal against this decision you must send notice of appeal to the Minister of Health not later than seven days after the receipt of this notice, and at the same time send to me notification that you have so appealed. A form of notice of appeal and a form of notification may be obtained on application to me.

(Signature of Clerk of [Sub-] Committee.)

(Address of Clerk of [Sub-] Committee.)

Date Feb 2 1925

* Strike out "[Sub-]" in the case of a Local Pension Committee.

Farewell to Mr Keates

In *Eynsham Record No 5*, the Eynsham Primary School Junior History Group had its first piece of research printed. This came about because Mr Keates, the Headteacher had allowed Mrs Richards to go into school on one afternoon a week and work with eight children on a special part of Eynsham history, namely the coming of the railway to Eynsham in 1861. Since then there have been many members of the Group and many changes to fit in with new curriculum requirements etc. It was in 1995 that the group decided it was time to produce its own journal. This idea was welcomed by Mr Keates and he has been a great supporter of our efforts, proving on many occasions his skill with the photocopier.

Reflecting on his coming departure a small group of present members produced the following sentences of appreciation.

On behalf of the Eynsham Junior History Group we would like to thank Mr Keates for his generous support over the years.

He has been here for 19 years and it has been the best 19 years of the school.

Over these years Mr Keates has helped many of the children of the school for which all the children are grateful.

He is always nice to everyone.

He has won for the school the prestigious community award from the Training & Enterprise Council on the 21st March 2001.

Alan Hughes, Matthew Marks, Mary Moore, Olivia Stratford and Thomas Sutherland.