NOTES

1. Images have been optimised throughout for online viewing.

2. Typographic errors in the printed edition, where identified, have been corrected in this digitised version.

3. Errors of fact or interpretation in the original which have since come to light are repeated but followed by an amendment in curly brackets {thus}

4. The pages are not available for printing “as is”, though you may copy/paste sections into another document.

5. Back numbers of the Eynsham Record are available in print for £1 plus p&p.

6. Contacts:
   (a) the Editor Brian Atkins, 8 Thornbury Road tel 01865 881677 email brian@fbatkins.free-online.co.uk
   (b) Fred Bennett, 68 Witney Road tel 01865 880659

7. The Record is now also available on CD, for higher resolution images and cross-file searching: please email online@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Note on abbreviations

Bodl      Bodleian Library, Oxford
Ox.Studies Oxfordshire Studies, Central Library, Westgate, Oxford
EHG      Eynsham History Group
E.R.      *The Eynsham Record*
Eyn.Cens. Eynsham census returns at 10 year intervals from 1841 to 1901, transcribed by members of the EHG.
Eyn. MIs Monumental Inscriptions at St Leonard's, recorded by the Oxfordshire Family History Society, 2002.
O.S.      Ordnance Survey
O.R.O.    Oxfordshire Record Office (formerly Oxfordshire Archives)
P.R.O.    Public Record Office
V.C.H. Oxon. *The Victoria History of the County of Oxford*
An early 19th century drawing of Eynsham's Baptist church, built in 1818. Although the artist signed the work in the bottom left-hand corner, the name is indecipherable on existing copies.

Thanks to Jean Andrews and the Baptist church for providing the illustration.
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebrating the Abbey Millennium</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Benedict's Fair</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen and Cooking for the Abbey</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>précis of a talk by Catherine Keevill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Medieval Wall Paintings</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Joan Weedon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railings</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mystery of the Eynsham Cross</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Doreen Hockedy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Ballad of Eynsham Abbey</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Joan Weedon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Oh, What a Lovely War&quot;</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by John Golby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEN &amp; THEN</td>
<td>20/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Lest We Forget&quot;</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Brian Atkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More on Eynsham Apples</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Brian Atkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartoon</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The 'Ensham Inclosures' Act, 1802</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Fred Wright</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What's in a Name?</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Brian Atkins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memories of Burden's Blacksmithy</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Steve Flynn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News from the Past</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advice from Aelfric</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eynsham: a Chronicle; book review</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by Don Chapman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDITORIAL

Last year was the millennial year of the founding of Eynsham Abbey in 1005. The many ways in which this event was celebrated are recalled below. There was particular praise for the EHG for its hosting of the OAHS all day meeting in the Village Hall on 7th May (see p.3)

An important new book by local historian Pamela Richards, published in December, is reviewed by Don Chapman (pp.40-42).

Regular readers might think that 'Then & Then' on the middle pages is an aberration, but it is deliberate this year. The surrounding articles should make it clear.

Sad to say, but the County Library Services have required us to remove our filing cabinet from the branch library in order to create more space. It houses some of our archival material, but was always available to be consulted by asking the librarian for the key. It is now with me, and still accessible by appointment (01865 881677), and I am here most of the time. The cabinet has a footprint of only 3 square feet, so it is difficult to understand how the library thinks it has benefitted from the loss of local archival material.

It was in 1989 that the Oxfordshire County Library and the EHG engaged in a collaborative, possibly unique, project of which all parties were proud.

It was known, somewhat grandly, as the Hugh Cooper Memorial Library, named after the EHG's founder and first President. It consisted of books and files on Eynsham's history, and was formally opened on 23 August 1989 by Bishop Eric Gordon, our second President. (see E.R. no.7, p.45). Fifteen years on, this proud collaborative project has foundered.

As usual, many thanks to all contributors to this journal.

Eileen Carlton, who died last year, was a keen local historian. She was especially interested in Victorian times, and did much unpublished research. She did, however, contribute to these pages an interesting article on Thomas Savings; Eynsham's police constable from 1863-71 (E.R. no.3, p.27-9), and Savings's photograph graced the front cover of that number. She and her husband, Pat who pre-deceased her and had also written for these pages, left the village for a short time, but returned to settle in their new house 'Oblong' in Acre End St. where they spent the rest of their days.
Celebrating the Abbey Millennium

In the Autumn of 2004 the EHG convened an informal meeting in the village hall for any interested parties to consider ways in which the village might celebrate in 2005 the millennium of the founding of Eynsham Abbey in 1005. The EHG stated the projects which it hoped to stage or host, and made it clear that any other proposals would have to be organised and funded by other organisations or individuals.

The various initiatives resulted in a successful mix of events and celebrations throughout the millennial year listed below.

Three evening talks on related themes in the Primary School hall

20 Jan Judith Curthoys "Eynsham Abbey Cartulary"
Although the cartulary has been transcribed and printed, the precious original is in the care of Christ Church College, and Judith Curthoys, the College's archivist, brought it along to show us. It was probably the first time for nearly 500 years that it has been seen in Eynsham.
17 Feb Catherine Keevill "Kitchen & Cooking for the Abbey"
Catherine is the wife of Graham Keevill who was in charge of the excavations of the site for some time in the 1990s A precis of her talk follows on page 6.

3 Mar. Eynsham Junior History Group "Aelfric the Teacher"
Aelfric was the abbey's first and most influential abbot. Scholar, writer, and preacher though he was, the children appropriately dealt with his role as one of the greatest teachers of his day.

25-27 Feb. Abbey Fishponds exhibition in Bartholomew Room; the Parish Council's proposals for managing the fishponds site.
In 2004, the Parish Council began a feasibility study for managing the fishponds site. A small working party (Verity Hughes, parish councillor, Brian Atkins, EHG, and Nick Mottram, the Wychwoods Project) was set up and a Lottery Grant of £5000 obtained. One of the principal aims was to be sustaining or improving the area as a wildlife and biodiverse site, and much of the year involved studies by expert groups and individuals who carried out surveys on plants, birds, bats, small mammals, and ponds. There was a landscape survey and Graham Keevill, leader of the abbey site excavations in the 1990s, was the consultant archaeologist. The recommendations and suggestions resulted in proposals which were put forward by the Parish Council for public consultation in the Bartholomew Room from 25 to 27 February. Overwhelmingly they were approved, and much of the Phase 1 work was carried out by groups of volunteers during 2005 and into the winter.

7 May "Oxfordshire Past 2005" Subject 'Eynsham Abbey'. All day meeting of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society in the Village Hall.
"The Eynsham History Group, this year's hosts of the annual review of archaeology in the county of Oxfordshire, should be very pleased with themselves with the outcome of the mini conference, and deservedly so. The venue was perfect, being within easy distance of the village centre, having ample free car-parking, a separate hall for local group displays and a well organised refreshments service. The very useful map included
with the handouts indicating suitable places for lunch was a nice touch that showed some thought went into ensuring that the attendees' needs were satisfied" Extracted from a review by Tony Blay in The Oxon Recorder Issue 23 Summer 2005

5-10 May Exhibition in the Bartholomew Room of Eynsham Abbey artefacts provided by Oxfordshire Museum Resources Centre. Members of the EHG invigilated throughout the six days. 332 visitors were recorded.

14-15 May Celebrations by the three Eynsham churches.

14 May In St Leonard's, A Celebration of a Thousand Years of Christian Music with joint choirs.

15 May Guided walk around the Eynsham Abbey Heritage Trail. Up to 10( participated, three of whom were dressed as Benedictine monks. The walk was followed by a service in St Leonard's.

2 July Eynsham Carnival. In the procession was Bigger's bread van, rescued and lovingly restored by John Pukaniuk. Later used as a Bible cart it featured in many Carnival processions, most memorably in 1955, the millennial year of Aelfric's birth, when it was hauled by the vicar, Stuart Blanch (later Archbishop of York) and the Baptist minister, dressed as Benedictine monks.

2-5 July Flower Festival in St Leonards themed to 'Eynsham Abbey - 1000 years' There was a competition to count all the 'monks'.

9 July In St Peter's Church (on the Abbey site), Sung Vespers & Celebration of the Feast of St Benedict, led by the Archbishop of Birmingham, Vincent Nichols.

23 July St Benedict's Fair (a medieval craft fair), themed to the Abbey.

8 January 2006. To mark the closure of the millennial year, a service was held in St Leonard's, the Abbot of the Burford Benedictine community giving the address. It was an appropriate ending to a memorable year.
EYNSHAM ABBEY MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

St Benedict’s Fair

Saturday 23rd July 2005
10am — 4pm
Market Square, Eynsham

Medieval Crafts & Food
Pottery
Basket Making
Jewellery
Candle Sticks
Soap
Spinning
Bee Keeping
Herbs & Plants
Flower Posies
Corn Dolls
Paintings

Pig Roast & Ale
Calligraphy
Illuminated Manuscripts
Stained Glass
Morris Dancing
Minstrels
Jesters
Bell Ringing & Hand Bells
Abbey Exhibition
Children's Activities
Art Competition
The Rule of St Benedict (6th century) created a taut, inclusive and individual directory of the spiritual as well as of the administrative life of a monastery. The kitchen and cooking arrangements were under the authority of the Cellarer. "Let him have charge of everything..." "Let him take the greatest care of the sick, of children, of guests, and of the poor..." "Let him give the brethren their appointed allowance of food" (Rule 31). "Therefore, let two cooked dishes suffice for all the brethren; and if any fruit or young vegetables are available, let a third be added. Let a good pound weight of bread suffice for the day" (Rule 39).

The kitchen would have been a large building, with fireplaces and ovens in the corners and an open hearth in the centre, similar to the surviving medieval kitchen at Stanton Harcourt Manor in Oxfordshire, where the smoke goes out through a central hole in the roof.

The staple diet for the monks would have been fish; salted herrings brought by pack-horse from the east coast, the Abbey's five well-stocked fishponds, and fisheries owned on the Thames would have given them a reliable source of food. The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit's excavations during 1989-'92 found the bones of more exotic animals, such as deer, geese, swans, and even spoonbill. These would usually be served up for important guests of the Abbot.

For the monks, however, there is the reminder that "let all abstain entirely from flesh of four-footed animals" (Rule 39). A lot of the monks' food would be fruit and vegetables, beans, cereals, 'spinnage', eggs, honey, all from the Abbey farm and kitchen garden; and made more tasty with herbs and spices brought to the kitchen by the Cellarer.

The monks would not normally drink water - it was not clean. Their usual drink was wine or beer, the latter made in the Abbey's own brewhouse; with the caution (in Rule 40), "Yet, let him always take care that neither surfeit nor drunkenness supervene, for wine maketh even the wise to fall away" (Ecclesiasticus 19.2).
CHURCH MEDIEVAL WALL PAINTINGS
by Joan Weedon

The following information on lost church medieval wall paintings, insofar as it refers to Eynsham, was printed in the 1990 edition of *Oxoniensia*, the journal of the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society. The article was by John Edwards who refers to two lists of which C.E.Keyser's List of 1883 is 'now regarded as definitive', and a List for pre-1972 by E.T.Long regarded as 'more detailed'.

**EYNSHAM**

In an article in *Oxoniensia* Long referred to wall-paintings discovered here the year before, which he dated to the late 13th century. Those in the sanctuary had a wide dado with a trellis pattern, fleur-de-lys being painted in each section of the trellis. On the north and south walls were three tiers of subjects. Those on the north wall dealt with the story of St Catherine (of Alexandria), notably the miraculous destruction of the wheel and her beheading. The paintings on the south wall probably depicted St Margaret (of Antioch), one scene showing her overcoming the dragon. Fragmentary subjects were on either side of the east window.

Long mentioned the accomplished drawing and delicacy of the colour-scheme which 'betray a master hand', probably that of a craftsman from the neighbouring monastery. Elaborate decorative designs were to be found in a canopied niche and in the 'lateral' windows.

The whole interior has since been repainted, apparently fairly recently, with the exception of the St Catherine painting, which is now not nearly so decipherable as when Long saw it. No trace of the other paintings now remains.

**KIDLINGTON**

Mrs M.E.Freeborn in 1892 wrote that '...the wall paintings were not ruined by the whitewash but were rediscovered on the north wall of the nave and consisted of the Seven Deadly Sins, executed by a famous monk of Eynsham Abbey, and consisted of indescribably accurate drawings of these sins which were not considered suitable for the notice of the Sunday School, whose benches were beneath them. They were therefore covered up again with colour wash ...'
References (see inside front cover for abbreviations)

3. E.T. Long, 'Mural Paintings in Eynsham Church', *Oxoniensia*, 2 (1936), 204-5.
   1924 transcription copy in ORO, MS d.d. Para. Kidlington c.9, item h.

N.B. At the time of the Parish Church Restoration, William Bainbridge received a promise from the painters working in the chancel that they would not paint over any wall painting which might be revealed. He was extremely disappointed to discover that in the event any remnant of wall-painting was quickly washed over.

When I upbraided the workman in charge he smilingly told me that, if necessary, the whitewash was removable!

---

**RAILINGS**

In the last number¹ I stated that iron railings had been mostly requisitioned and recycled into materials for the Second World War effort, and wondered why Eynsham appears to have largely or entirely escaped these predations.

The answer came from Joan Weedon.

Railings were *not* requisitioned; they were given up on a voluntary basis by their owners.

Editor
THE MYSTERY OF THE EYNSHAM CROSS

by Doreen Hockedy

There are three crosses in Eynsham which could be called 'The Eynsham Cross'. One is the Market Cross in Eynsham Market Square, a replica of the medieval (preaching?) cross erected by the monks of Eynsham Abbey. The second is a sarcelly cross, which appeared in a water-colour painting of the old Vicarage in Mill Street in 1824 by J.C.Buckler, and the third is a foliated cross, which was on the lid of a tombstone in a drawing by Buckler of the early 19th century. For ease of reference these will be called A, B and C respectively.

A. The badly decayed market cross was replaced in 1987. The foliage and other carving on this standing cross are quite different from the other two designs on the lids of tombs.¹

B. The sarcelly cross design was used as the basis for the golden pectoral cross given by the people of Eynsham to Stuart Blanch, a former vicar of Eynsham, when he became Bishop of Liverpool in 1966. Note the Liver Bird in the centre (Fig.2). This was in the form of a sarcelly cross with the points split and curled back into rounded balls. It was designed by Norman Buchanan, and the prototype was made in brass by his son Peter. William Bainbridge has called this 'The Eynsham Cross'.² Bishop Blanch returned in 1975 when he became Archbishop of York to receive a gold chain for the cross (Fig.8).

A similar design was used by the Revd Richard Kidd, a Baptist minister, in 1983 for the logo of the first edition of Roundabout Eynsham the monthly journal of the three village churches, originally edited by the Revd Peter Ridley, vicar of St Leonard's Church (Fig. 3). On the front page, Peter Ridley notes "The design...features an ancient cross, which was portrayed in a painting of the Vicarage in 1824. [The cross] is thought to date back to the medieval Benedictine Abbey".³ He has recently confirmed that it was based on a water-colour painting of a lid of a tomb in the garden of the old vicarage. In July 2005, while returning some items to the Oxfordshire Museum Resources Centre at Standlake used in an exhibition on 'The History of the Abbey, the Market and the Fair' which had been in St Leonard's Church as part of St Benedict's Fair, I was shown a lid of a tomb, which looked very similar to the one described in Buckler's painting, the design for the pectoral cross and the logo of the first Roundabout Eynsham. It had been donated in 1974 to the Oxfordshire County Museum at Woodstock by Revd J.W.G.Westwood, and later moved to Standlake, with other stones and artefacts.⁴ (Fig. 1)
Fig. 1 (left) Tomb lid from Eynsham's Mill St vicarage, now specimen OXCMS 1974.25.10 in the Standlake store (Photo copyright of Oxfordshire County Museum Resources Centre).

Fig. 2 Bishop Blanch's pectoral cross.

Fig. 3 The *Roundabout Eynsham* logo used from 1983 to 1994.
Fig.4 Buckler's 'Ancient Tombs at Ensham'

Fig.5 The *Roundabout* logo from 1995 to the present.

Fig.6 The design for the 2005 millennial badge.

Fig.7 The logo for the Eynsham Medical Group.

Fig.8 St Leonard's 1975; from l. to r., Revd 'Jack' Westwood, Bishop Eric Gordon, Archbishop Stuart Blanch, Revd Howard Crellin.
C. Another illustration by J.C. Buckler, captioned 'Ancient Tombs at Eynsham' depicts a medieval table tomb in St Leonard's churchyard (Fig. 4) which can still be seen today - it is B 080 in the list of Monumental Inscriptions made by the Oxfordshire Family History Society. What cannot be seen today, lying beside it, is a tomb lid bearing a foliated cross\(^5\), quite different from B. Foliated or leaf-like patterns were used in the Middle Ages in illuminated manuscripts, stained glass windows, on wooden chests, on stonework in churches and abbeys, and on tombs. In 1994 the Buckler drawing of the foliated cross was used by Grace Brown of Eynsham for a new logo for Roundabout first printed in the January 1995 edition and this is still in use\(^6\) (Fig. 5).

A badge for the millennium of the Abbey in 2005, was discussed in November 2004, at an informal meeting of representatives of the three churches and other interested people at the Baptist church in Eynsham. It was decided to use the current logo of Roundabout as the centre of the badge, and the Roundabout Committee agreed to fund it (Fig. 6). Dorothy Berry did the lettering and 500 silver oxidised badges were made by Thomas Fattorini of Birmingham to be sold at various events and in the three churches. Most have now been sold and the money raised given to the Friends of Eynsham Library for the library extension.

This design has also been used as the logo for the Eynsham Medical Centre notice board and patients' booklet since 1996 (Fig. 7), and has become a familiar feature of Eynsham life, symbolising continuity and a respect for the past.

So, why 'The Mystery ...' in the title to this article? This concerns the whereabouts of the Buckler water-colour once in the old Vicarage, and of the tomb lid in Buckler's drawing of the 'ancient tombs' in the churchyard.

References and sources (see inside front cover for abbreviations)
2. William Bainbridge 'Visible Remains of Eynsham Abbey', 1980, leaflet sold for the Church Restoration Appeal, back page
A BALLAD OF EYNSHAM ABBEY
by Joan Weedon

'But I must not think that, no - not I!'  
'Step in' said the monk to the pale, ice-cold man,  
His cell ceded warmth, though no timber burned,  
The monk's kindly drink seared the pedlar's throat,  
Gasped he, as it ran, 'Thank God you're still here!'  
Not for long' the monk sadly said,  
As he peered in the pedlar's pack,  
'King Hal sends his men and all will be gone,  
We weary of waiting, alack'.  
The pedlar delved and drew out such goods  
As hungry monks would buy,  
Thinking the while of empty halls,

'Twas winter again when the pedlar arrived,  
Not one monk heard his feet, cold and sore,  
None but the birds swarmed above, as he sought the old door.  
Where were the lights and the strong, long bass chant?  
And the Abbot's stabled horse?  
At the Abbey gate no scattering sheep,  
Nor the shepherd's blunt, vocal force.

Was it some fever had carried them off?  
The ale-house drinkers growled him the cost.  
'Tis the king killed our abbey, he gave it away,  
The lynch-pin of Eynsham is lost!'.  
The pedlar asked, 'Is it to better the place,  
Yon men, with their books and their prayers were tossed,  
To the right royal winds?'  
Now, the answer all knew, but never would say.  
The pedlar sighed, and his goods put away,  
'Tis for certain I'll never be back!'
"OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR": PATRIOTISM AND RECRUITMENT IN EYNSHAM, AUGUST -DECEMBER 1914.

by John Golby

A popular impression of events in the days immediately following Britain's declaration of war on Germany, late on the evening of 4 August 1914, is of cheering patriotic crowds and young men rushing to enlist to fight the Hun. A country-wide appeal for an additional 200,000 men to join the regular army and national reservists was answered and by the end of the month of August some 298,923 men had enlisted and this figure had risen to over three-quarters of a million by the end of September.¹

Who were these young men who enlisted so readily? Was this enthusiasm reflected throughout the country or was it most manifest in the major towns and among certain sections of the population, as has been suggested by writers such as Niall Ferguson? ² And, for the purposes of this article, how did the people of Eynsham react to the outbreak of hostilities and to the war on the continent?

There is little to suggest that in the days leading up to the outbreak of the war that the people of Eynsham and the surrounding countryside were caught up in the war fever. Despite the heightened international tension, the major event in Eynsham in the days immediately before the war started was a tea garden fête organised by Captain Oakeley and Mrs Oakeley in the grounds of their home at The Gables on 29 July in aid of the parish church organ and chamber fund. The Duke of Marlborough opened the fete with a short speech and the afternoon of various sports and entertainments during which music was provided by Taylor's String Band passed off successfully.³ (see 'Then ...' on p.20 )

It was not just in Eynsham that thoughts about a possible war were pushed into the background. The local press, for its part, did little to stress the imminence of a major European war. The issue of the Witney Gazette, which appeared on 1 August, the day that Germany declared war on Russia, had as its first item under the section 'Topics of the Hour' a short report, not on events in Europe, but on the actions of the British army in Ireland. A later item did touch on the threat of war but the paper's London correspondent reported that it "seemed by all signs to affect the ordinary Londoners very little."

Even during the first few weeks of the war although there was keen interest in following its course, there is little indication that the rush to volunteer had spread to the village of Eynsham. On the morning of Sunday 23 August, seventeen men who were in the National Reserve, the majority of whom had volunteered for home defence, paraded and were inspected in front of a large crowd in the village square.
by Colonel Lord Saye and Sele and Captain Oakeley (see '..and Then' on p21). Captain Oakeley was present in his roles of Commandant of the National Reserve in the Eynsham district and the official recruiting officer. Significantly in his address his lordship attempted to bring home to those in the crowded square the implications of and the severity of the war in Europe. He was surprised 'that many people in the country districts did not appear to realise the dangerous crisis through which this country was passing' and he added that 'a great sacrifice for a considerable period would be required to bring matters to a successful issue.' The speech concluded with an urgent appeal to all the able-bodied men in the crowd to volunteer. However, the appeal went almost unheeded and only 'two or three men' decided to step forward.

This was not the first "recruitment" meeting to be held in Eynsham. Three days earlier, but well over two weeks after the start of the war, a crowded meeting was held in the school. The meeting was chaired by the Vicar, the Reverend Nash Bricknell, and the speakers were the Mid-Oxfordshire M.P., A.St.G.Hammersley, and Captain Oakeley. The vicar in his opening address stressed that the presence of an M.P. did not mean this was a political meeting and political differences had to be swept aside in this present crisis. Then followed a speech by Hammersley in which he attempted to persuade the young men of the village to volunteer 'so that they might hereafter be able to look back on the fact that at least they had done their duty.' Captain Oakeley spoke briefly reminding the audience that he had fought for two and a half years in the Boer War before being invalided out of the army but he was prepared to do all in his might to assist in the war effort. He urged all the young men present to submit their names and be prepared to serve their country. As a result of the evening's work it was reported that half a dozen men came forward. The meeting was wound up with a vote of thanks to the speakers during the course of which the Reverend Ward, the vicar of Cassington, proudly announced that in a village of 296 people, three young men had volunteered in addition to the five villagers who were already in the army.

Similar recruitment meetings were held about this time in neighbouring towns and villages. A meeting at the Corn Exchange, Witney on Wednesday 26 August attracted a very large crowd so that there was "not even standing room". before the meeting started the audience was treated to a selection of patriotic music by the Witney Band and songs sung by Mr Lomas of Oxford. The meeting was addressed by a local J.P., Mr W. Smith, and Lord Valentia, chairman of the Territorial Force and M.P. for Oxford City. Both speeches concentrated on appealing to those who were young enough to volunteer for Kitchener's Army. Lord Valentia put forward a number of reasons why young men should enlist, one of which was,
...not only because it was their duty but because he believed it was a pleasure to do so. They would have a new experience and the satisfaction of knowing they were fighting in a holy cause, they would feel that they were responding to their country's call, and when they came back, as he hoped they all would, they would be received as heroes by their fellows.6

At the end of the meeting, so the *Witney Gazette* reported, 25 men came forward to enlist but of these five did not pass the local medical examination. The following day the remaining 20 were sent to Oxford but a further three failed a second medical and so 17 were accepted into the army.

A couple of weeks later on 9 September, Captain Oakeley, in his role of the district recruiting officer, held a meeting in Stanton Harcourt at which it was reported that six men volunteered.7 But this meeting took place over a month after the war had started. The battles of Mons, Le Cateau and Guise had already taken place and the meeting coincided with the first day of the battle of the Marne.

Certainly, the scenario of an instant and enthusiastic response to volunteer to join the British armed forces, needs to be revised, at least in respect of this part of the country. So why was the initial response to volunteer fairly lukewarm? It is clear from the many wartime reminiscences and the research undertaken that individuals volunteered for a wide variety of reasons amongst which were, patriotism, desire for adventure, peer-group pressure, and pressure from authority figures such as the speakers at the recruitment meetings in the neighbourhood. Another factor was an economic one.

One of the largest sections of the population to volunteer in these early months was, perhaps understandably, those men who were unemployed. But for many in this part of the country who were employed in agriculture, it was harvest time and one of the busiest times of the year. Although agriculture did not figure quite so prominently as the major occupation in Eynsham as it had in the middle of the 19th century, nevertheless it involved many in the village. Throughout the country as a whole some 28.2% of the pre-war labour force involved in agriculture enlisted before conscription was introduced early in 1916. This percentage was slightly less than those employed in industry, and markedly less than those involved in finance and commerce and the professions.8

These figures have led Ferguson to come to a number of conclusions concerning enlistment in the early months of the war. First, that 'white-collar workers were taller and fitter' and therefore more likely to pass the medical and, as we have seen although 25 men volunteered to enlist at the end of the Witney meeting, only 1 were finally deemed acceptable as being medically fit enough. Second, Ferguson contends that overall 'the middle classes were keener to fight' than many other
sections of the population. However, although agriculture figured large in the economy of the area, there were many men in the village whose occupational status fitted into that of finance, commerce and the professions and there is little evidence to show that men in these categories volunteered in the early weeks of the war.

This is not to say that the people of Eynsham were unpatriotic. Certainly men like Captain Oakeley worked assiduously in his role of recruiting officer. Also, other leading figures in the village formed committees to help in the war effort. The most prominent of these committees in the early stages of the war was that involved in setting up a fund for and giving aid to Belgium refugees. The details of the Belgian refugees arrival and stay in Eynsham is well documented in Pamela Richards's article in number 19 of *The Eynsham Record* (2002, pp.21-28).

As for the young men of the village, it is fair to state that they too were not unpatriotic, but perhaps it would be accurate to conclude that the young men were slower to respond to "rush to the colours" than in some other parts of the country. The *Witney Gazette* each week in 1914 published a Roll of Honour, recording the names of the men in the area who were in the armed forces or who had volunteered since the outbreak of the war. From a sluggish start in August and September, by 12 December the number of men from Eynsham amounted to 37, and two, George Hall and Harry Merry, had been awarded medals for distinguished conduct in the field. However, the final test of the patriotism of the men of Eynsham can best be observed by visiting the war memorial by the parish church and reading the names of the 50 villagers who died in the armed forces in the period 1914-1918.

References

4. This report is taken from *The Oxford Times*, 29 August. A report of the same event in the *Witney Gazette* of 29 August records this part of his lordship's speech as 'the people in the villages of the midlands hardly seem to realise what a serious work this country has undertaken ...'
9. Ferguson, p.199
THE LAST DAYS OF PEACE...
The garden fête at the Gables. An exhibition of Morris dancing by school girls under the direction of Mrs Trethewey.  
(Oxford Journal Illustrated, 5 August 1914)

... THE FIRST DAYS OF WAR
The inspection of the Eynsham Reserves in the Village Square.  
(Oxford Journal Illustrated, 2 September 1914)  
Both pictures are printed with the kind permission of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies.
NOTE: the images opposite
have been re-sized to reduce the overall size
of this .pdf file.

Back numbers of the Eynsham Record are available in print for £1 plus p&p.
Contact the Editor Brian Atkins, 8 Thornbury Road tel 01865 881677 email
brian@fbatkins.free-online.co.uk

or Fred Bennett, 68 Witney Road tel 01865 880659

The Record is now also available on CD, for higher resolution images and
cross-file searching: please email online@eynsham-pc.gov.uk
"LEST WE FORGET"

by Brian Atkins

After the end of the First World War, the Eynsham War Memorial, which had been subscribed for by the parishioners, was erected adjacent to St Leonard's Parish Church in the Square. It was unveiled and dedicated on Saturday 2nd April 1921.

A few days later an account of the event was published in the Oxford Times. This was a newspaper report typical of the period, so detailed and lengthy that you could as well have been there!

In short, the first part of the impressive ceremony took place in the church, where there were special seats for the mourners. Among the congregation were more than 50 members of the Eynsham and Stanton Harcourt Posts of the Comrades of the Great War; about 30 of the 1st Eynsham Troop of the Boy Scouts; and nine VADs, all named. The Vicar, the Revd W. Nash Bricknell, gave an address which is summarised in the newspaper, after which the assembly processed outside to the music of ”O, Rest in the Lord ” played on the church organ by Mr Owens.

Once outside, Mr James Francis Mason of Eynsham Hall gave an address, and the memorial was unveiled. The Vicar then read the names of the fallen, and three Scouts sounded the 'Last Post'. He then dedicated the memorial, and the Scouts sounded 'Reveille'. Wreaths were laid, the National Anthem was played, and a muffled peal of bells from the church concluded the ceremony.

The fifty men who gave their young lives for their country some 80 years ago deserve more of an obituary than simply a name carved in stone. There follows a list, with some very brief biographical details, some of which are certain, some speculative. It is tentative, provisional and obviously very incomplete.

Please, would any reader with family connections or with any other information about these men let me know. Together we may the better 'Remember Them'.

Sources (see inside front cover for abbreviations)

Oxford Times, 8/4/1921, p.4
Eyn.Cens. 1891, 1901
Harris, Martin J. Changing Faces of Eynsham, Books 1 and 2
Eyn. MIs
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission. www.cwgc.org
E.R.12, p.33
Gossett, Rene F. Captain
Son of Major Gossett of the Gables, which he sold to Major Oakeley in 1913 for £4,000. The Gables in 1901 was occupied by Arthur Blake, 49, farmer and his family.

Vincent, Basil Britton, 2nd Lt.
8th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, died Sunday 23 July 1916 Thiepval Memorial, Somme Pier & Face 5A & 5B

Ayres, William T.
possibly William Edward (Ted?), son of James, milkman & Ann, baptised privately 28/9/1891, birth date unknown.
or, William, son of Frederick, gardener, 38 and Elizabeth, 31, aged 6, Pug Lane, 1901 census fol. 31v

Barker, Philip

Bennett, Frank
b. 12/4/1895, bap.16/6/1895, son of Edward, sawyer & Mary, seamstress Mill St. aged 5, Edward 50 Mary 44 1901 census fol.14v.

Bennett, Joseph
b.3/7/1897, bap.22/22/8/1897, parents as above Mill St. aged 3 1901 census fol.14v.

Biggers, Harry
possibly Henry Augustus b.27/6/1895, bap. 2/8/85, son of William, office clerk & Harriett.

Brooks, George F.
possibly George Francis b.28/12/1883 bap.2/3/1884 son of Arthur (shepherd) & Fanny. Mill St aged 7, Arthur 44 Fanny 42. 1891 census fol. 3v.

Brooks, Christopher L.
possibly Mill St aged 3, son of George, 41, engine stoker & Ann, 39 1901 census fol.13, but transcribed as "Crinther"!

Brooks, Noble C.
Buckingham, Alexander W.
possibly Alexander N [as transcribed], Acre End St, aged 3 son of ...& Sarah
38 1901 census fol.10

Buckingham, Francis Edward
b.29/5/1897 bap. 19/9/1897 son of Thomas, farmer & Charlotte Elenor Elizabeth
L/Cpl Ox & Bucks L.I. 201373 d.28/4/1917
Thiepval Memorial, Somme, Pier & Face 10A & 10D
In 1901 census (fol.13v) aged 2, with parents (58) & (36) living in Leather
Mill works, Mill St.

Capel, Cecil Swiffen (or St. Swithin acc. to Parish records transcript)
b.15/7/1893 bap.17/9/1893 son of Thomas, lab.& Annie
Mill St. aged 7 with Thomas, 43, bricklayer's lab. & Annie, 43 1901 census fol 15v.
son of Thomas & the late Annie Capel of 142 Kingston Rd., Oxford
Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1 Somme, France, Grave IV.E.9

Clarke, Gilbert
possibly Gilbert, b.13/10/1893 bap.18/2/1894 son of Richard, mason, & Martha.
Acre End St. aged 7 with Richard, 45, bricklayer's journeyman & Martha, 47.
1901 census fol.7
or Gilbert Walter, b.28/2/1891 bap.10/5/1891 son of Walter, mason & Emily

Cox, Herbert J.

Dean[e], Robert
probably Robert b.14/2/1893 bap. 21/5/1893 son of George, lab. & Ellen.
In 1901 census, f.5v, he appears in Acre End St. as stepson pf James Douglas (32),
bricklayer's lab and Ellen (37), aged 8.

Douglas, Arthur

Druce, Hubert
b. 31/3/1895 bap. 16/5/1895 son of Ernest, farmer and Louisa.
In 1901 census, Hubert (6) in Newland St. with father Ernest (35), general lab.
Gunner 58471, No 7 Depot Royal Field Artillery. d. Monday 26/2/1917 age 23, son
of Mr E.W.Druce of High St Eynsham.
Buried St Leonard's, Grave 91 (GO 11)
Fidler, William A.
In the 1901 census, fol. 24v he is aged 2, living in Newland St with his father Frederick Green, 27, basket maker and mother, Emma Green and baby brother, Albert Green (2 months). Emma Mary Fidler and Frederick Green had married in St Leonard's on 5 August 1900, so William had been born out of wedlock and when his parents married he had retained his mother's maiden surname.

Gibbard, Reginald
b.12/5/1898, bap.3/6/1898, son of Adward (butcher and Fanny Mary. In 1901 census, fol.10v, he was aged 2, living in Abbey St. with Edward (35), butcher and Fanny M.(29)

Gibbons, Frederick John
b.2/9/1876, bap. 5/11/1876. son of John, farmer, and Sarah
On the lid of the font in St Leonard's church is a metal plate inscribed "In loving memory of Frederick John Gibbons who fell in action in France July 29 1916. Aged 39 years"

Grant, Frederick Harold
b.31/7/1896, bap.20/9/1896, son of Henry William, lab. and Ann. In 1901 census, fol.22v. Fred was 4 living in Chapel Yard with Henry (47), ag. lab. and Ann (45)

Green, Albert J.
poss. Albert Green, 2 months old, in 1901 census fol.24v, living in Newland St with father Frederick (27) basket maker and mother Emma (22) and brother William Fidler (2). For further details see FIDLER above and GREEN, Frederick below
or, more likely by virtue of age,
Albert S? Green, aged 7 in 1891 census, fol. 11 v, living in Acre End Street with father Albert, 46 basket maker and mother [name illegible in transcription], (44) and 4 older siblings incl. Frederick, (17), also basket maker.

Green, Frederick
See previous entry, also FIDLER
He died at the front in May 1916 , leaving a wife and 10 children (E.R. 12, p.33)

Green, Stanley Arthur
b. 31/l/1891, bap.8/3/1891 son of James, lab., and Mary Ann. In 1901 census fol. 10v, he was living in Abbey St, aged 10, with James (54), general lab. and Mary A.(45)
Hall, Frederick T.

Harper, Horatio
In 1901 census, fol.27v, he is aged 18, haybinder, unmarried, living in the Square with his grandparents, James (71) and Ann (69).

Harris, Elijah
In 1901 census, fol.40v, he is aged 19, an ag. lab. living at White House Farm, Barnard Gate with father Caleb (48), carter on farm, and mother Martha (49)

Harris, Joseph

Harris, Walter T.
? In 1901 census fol. 28, there is a Walter John, aged 9?

Harwood, Richard William
b. 1/3/1898 bap. 15/4/1898 son of Harry, baker and Georgina. In 1901 census, fol. 28v. he is aged 3, living in High St with Harry (29), bread works and jorneyman baker, Georgina 925), and her widowed mothet Jane Wilkins (62)

Hathaway, William

Hiorns, William
In 1901 census, fol.22, Newland St. aged 6, parents Frederick G. Hiorns (40), butcher and Elizabeth (31)

Holliday, Frederick Thomas
b.16/6/1887 bap.3/7/1887 son of Frederick, haytier, and Louisa

Holloway, Albert John
b.22/11/1890 bap.14/12/1890 son of Albert, lab.,and Sarah.
In 1891 census fol 9v John is 4 months old living in Swan St with Albert (39) and Sarah (34).
In 1901 census, fol.11, John A. is aged 10 living in Abbey St with Albert (48), brewer? and Sarah (46)
He died in 1918, aged 29, buried in St Leonard's (D039) inscription on grave headstone:
Gone but not forgotten by his mother"

**Holloway, Henry J. or T.**
Could be brother of the above, aged 2 in 1891 and 12 in 1901.

**James, John Thomas**
b. 18/1/1893, bap. 19/3/1893 son of George Frederick, thatcher, and Sarah.
Pte 1st Batt. Ox. & Bucks L.I., went with the Indian Expeditionary Force to the Persian Gulf at the outbreak of war as a volunteer, was reported as dying of wounds, aged 23, in February 1916 (E.R no 23, p.33).

**Jeffreys, George L.S.**
In 1891 census, fol. 11v George L. aged 6 was living in Acre End St with his father William Walker Jeffreys (54), boot and shoemaker and mother Emma (49)

**Kearse or Kearon, Herbert W.**

**Leach, Bert**
Possibly bap.23/3/1893, son of George, lab.and Mary Ann Leach
Pte 11620, 2nd Battn Ox.& Bucks L.I. d. Wednesday 20 October 1915 Chocques Military Cemetary, Pas de Calsis. Grave I.G.79

**Lindsay, Henry**

**Moulder, Samuel**
Samuel Moulder was aged 12 in 1891 census Fol.10v, living in Station Rd with his stepfather, Samuel George Jepson (40), blacksmith and his mother Sarah Jepson (43).

*Some undated notes from his daughter, Mrs I.M.Brown (nee Moulder)* My father died in WWI.
Previously lived in Queen St, between Gables and orchard. House had ledge under guttering to prevent boys throwing stones at swallows nesting there. Family Irving then lived there?. Had 2 Eynsham aunts, one of whom (Jepson) was HM of Infant's School.
Rowland, Percy
Youngest son of Albert and Anna Rowland of Home Farm. In 1915 Sgt, 8th Battn. East Surreey Regt married Emmie, 3rd daughter of J.G.Pimm of the Square. In the Infant School Log Book it was recorded that Emmie was given leave of absence because her husband was going to the front. Buried in St Leonard's with his parents. Grave A016 stone inscription: "Percy, youngest son of Albert and Anna Rowland who fell in the Great War July 1916 aged 32 years. He fought the good fight"

Russell, Ernest W.
b. 24/6/1878 son of Henry, lab.and Mary Maria In 1901 census (Fol.9) Henry, ag. lab. and Mary, both 54 lived in Acre End St with 5 younger children, but Ernest William would have been 21 and had left home and apparently the village. No mention of the family in 1891?

Rusher/Rusner, Edwin J. Suspect misspelling of Rusher

Sherwood, Caleb John
b.13/8/1879, bap.7/9/1879 son of George, mason and Julia

Styles, William

Wakeley, Thomas

Wood, Bertie Harold
bap. 29/6/1892 son of Henry, butcher, and Fanny Elizabeth. In 1901 census, fol.7v he was aged 8 living in Acre End St with Henry (39), butcher's journeyman and Fanny (38), household manager. A machine gunner, he was killed in 1917 and buried in Belgium. Info.from Martin J.Harris Changing Faces of Eynsham, book 2, p.60 where there is also his photograph and that of a 'Dead Man's Penny' given to his relatives.
MORE ON EYNSHAM APPLES
by Brian Atkins

A recent article about apples¹ makes extensive reference to Frederick William Wastie (and his son, 'young Fred') of Eynsham who bred many of Oxfordshire's apple varieties in the first half of the 20th century. In my earlier article on the subject ² I listed all of Wastie's varieties that are described in the encyclopaedic Book of Apples³, 14 in all. I was surprised and pleased to learn from Val Bourne's piece that all of these are still known. I've been in touch with Derek Tolman, co-proprietor with his wife Judy, of Bernwode Plants of Buckinghamshire ⁴.

Although none of Wastie's apples appear in their current fruit tree catalogue, Derek can grow to special order any of the cooking apples Eynsham Challenger, Eynsham Dumpling, and Oxford Yeoman, and the desert apples Jennifer Wastie, Oxford Beauty, Oxford Hoard, Oxford Sunrise, Peggy's Pride and Red Army. He would obtain the scion wood of the breed and graft it onto a suitable modern rootstock.

Derek has kindly sent me a list of 'missing' Wastie apples, no fewer than 35 of them! (these are also missing in the Book of Apples which presumably therefore lists only those which are still available, albeit from specialist sources). See Appendix. Unless any can be rediscovered, they are mainly of interest for their names.

Many of Wastie's choices of names refer to members of the family ⁵,6. High Sheriff Wastie was Francis of Rectory Farm, Cowley who held the post in 1770. Colonel Wastie was his son, another Francis who commanded the Oxford contingent of Yeomanry during the Napoleonic Wars. Fred was one or other of the apple breeders. Peggy was 'young Fred's' wife, and Jennifer their daughter. Place names are common, Oxford, Eynsham and Woodstock (Several of Wastie's varieties were crosses with the famed Blenheim Orange). But what or where was Eynsham Causeway?; and was there a Communist member of the family (Comrade Wastie and Oxford Comrade)?

That the majority of varieties were received by the National Fruit Trials or exhibited after the death of Frederick William in 1937 may suggest that 'young Fred' was the more prolific apple breeder, but it may well be that the son was presenting many varieties that his father had in fact raised. We are informed that "During the 1930s & 1940s, Fred Wastie like his father raised new varieties of apples and had four different ones at Wisley and in the National Fruit Trials at Faversham Kent" ⁶.
In 1881 Frederick William, aged 24, was still living in the family home, Myrtle House, Mill Street, with his widowed mother Mary (his father, James, having died in 1875) and his younger siblings. By 1891 he was married to Temperance and they lived in Queen Street with their four children, the eldest of whom was James F[rederick] aged 6 who would later also become an apple breeder, known as 'young Fred'. Father Frederick describes himself as a carpenter.

By 1901 the family was still in Queen Street and Frederick is a builder and nurseryman; it looks therefore as though his career as a breeder of apples began towards the end of the 19th century.

His mother, Mary, died in 1915 aged 89, his wife Temperance in 1928 aged 69, and Frederick himself in 1937 aged 80. They are all buried, as are many other Wasties, in St Leonard's churchyard.

Where were his orchards? I have written that they were "almost certainly to the west side of Queen Street, towards the northern end, an area now built over". Indeed early maps suggest a substantial orchard thereabouts. Val Bourne writes that "Wastie's orchards are thought to have stretched between Witney and Long Hanborough", but I don't know what evidence there is for this. Mrs Wastie writes on p.29 "Mr J.F.Wastie known affectionately as Fred ... climbed out of one of his apple trees in his orchard beside the bypass ..." and on p.31 "The orchard on the Hanborough Road is now built over and all that remains is the signboard with the road name Wastie's Orchard". There is evidence of what must have been a substantial orchard to the north of Wastie's garage off the A.40.

Derek Tolman, joint owner of Bernwode Plants, would like to hear from anyone who remembers the orchards which were at their peak in the 1940s. There must be someone who does!

References (see inside front cover for abbreviations)
4. Bernwode Plants, Kingswood Lane, Ludgershall, Bucks. HP18 9RB (Their catalogue for £2.50)
5. E.R.no.19, p.7 (Corrections to the earlier article on the family connections)
Appendix

Wastie Apples, bred and introduced but now missing.
Abbreviations W=Wastie, E=Exhibited, NFT=National Fruit Trials, D/=Discarded by, R= Received. (List kindly supplied by Derek Tolman of Bernwode Plants).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Origin/Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orange Newton</td>
<td>W originated 1963. D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Abundance</td>
<td>W Bred R 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August Dualtest</td>
<td>W grew it. Bred it? E 1943 by W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonel Wastie</td>
<td>Raised 1933, D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comrade Wastie</td>
<td>E 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyril's Pride</td>
<td>E 1947 Bred it?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispossessed Farmer</td>
<td>W Bred. D/ NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodstock</td>
<td>W Bred 1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eynsham Abbey</td>
<td>W Bred D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eynsham Beauty</td>
<td>W Bred E 1945 D/ NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eynsham Causeway</td>
<td>W Bred E 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eynsham Cross</td>
<td>W Bred D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eynsham Russet</td>
<td>W Bred D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred's Conquest</td>
<td>W Bred E 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred's Favourite</td>
<td>W Bred 1924 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred's Reward</td>
<td>W Bred 1924 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Glow</td>
<td>W Bred E 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Howard</td>
<td>W Bred R/NFT 1945 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Sheriff Wastie</td>
<td>W Bred 1929 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved King of the Pippins</td>
<td>W originated ca. 1937. D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer's Charm</td>
<td>W presumed bred. E 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidlington Orange</td>
<td>W probably grew it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Comrade</td>
<td>W Bred R 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Filler</td>
<td>W Bred E 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Friend</td>
<td>W Bred 1920 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Heft</td>
<td>W Bred E 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Hussar</td>
<td>W Bred 1930 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Pippin</td>
<td>W Bred R 1944 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Russet</td>
<td>W Bred E 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Surprise</td>
<td>W Bred E 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Wastie</td>
<td>W Bred R 1960 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy's Favourite</td>
<td>W Bred R 1944 D/NFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quince Aroma</td>
<td>W Bred? E 1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony's Wonder</td>
<td>W Exhibited 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodstock Seedling</td>
<td>Raised Woodstock, introduced by W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reproduced, with kind permission of Oxford Archaeology, from *Archaeological News* vol.8, no.2 p.47.
THE ENSHAM INCLOSURES ACT, 1802*
by Fred Wright

* Contemporary spellings

The Enclosures Acts determined the ownership of lands at the time and influenced the landscape development for the next 200 years. The Act for the parish of 'Ensham' was declared in 1802, but unfortunately the map has been lost. What remains, in the Oxfordshire Record Office, is the text in manuscript, very long, often repetitive and painstaking to transcribe! What follows is my transcription of a small part of the whole, and it deals only with the main public roads and drift-ways.

Notes in italics put the roads into a modern context where necessary.

A turnpike was a road along which tolls were collected. The Ensham tollhouse at the junction of Acre End Street and Witney Road is indicated on the sketch map.

A drift-way is a road over which cattle are driven.

Although most public roads were specified as having a width of about 40 feet, this was the whole width from hedge to hedge, with the carriage path much narrower.

James Wastie and Joseph Bowerman were the Surveyors of Roads.

1. **Turnpike Road.** One public carriage Road and Driftway of the breadth of ninety feet being the present turnpike road to Witney in the County of Oxford. [Oxford Road, High Street, Acre End Street, southern portion of Witney Road, Old Witney Road, approximately line of A.40 as far as Barnard Gate]

2. **Woodstock Road.** One other public carriage Road and Driftway of the breadth of 40 feet leading from the Pound Gate in Ensham as aforesaid into the Parish of Hanborough in the said County at John Bridge Gate and is called Woodstock Road [the road towards Bladon]

3. **Stanton Harcourt Road.** One other public carriage Road and Driftway of the like breadth of 40 feet leading from Cowlease lane over the South field to an ancient gateway at the Parish of Stanton Harcourt in the said County and called the Stanton Harcourt Road [the B44491]
Sketch map showing the roads as numbered in the text.

BG = Barnard Gate; FR = Freeland; SL = South Leigh.
Dashed lines denote the railway and the A40.
4. **Cuckoo Lane and Freeland Road.** One other public carriage Road and Driftway of the like breadth of 40 feet leading out of the turnpike from Ensham aforesaid along Cuckoo Lane by Freeland Grounds to Ensham Heath and continuing on the eastward side by the said heath to the gate at Prons House into the Parish of Handborough aforesaid and called the Cuckoo and Freeland Road. [the road to Freeland]

5. **Cassington Road.** One other public carriage Road and Driftway of the like breadth of 40 feet leading from and out of the end of a certain track in Ensham presently called Newland Street in an eastward direction into the road over Cassington Meadow and called the Cassington Road.

6. **South Leigh Road.** One other public carriage Road and Driftway of the like breadth of 40 feet branching out of the turnpike road near to Barnard Gate Farm in Ensham aforesaid and into the Parish of South Leigh in the said County and called the South Leigh Road [The turnpike road ran through Barnard Gate, and Barnard Gate Farm was in the middle of the hamlet. From there the road ran south and then west to South Leigh. Interestingly, of all the roads described here, except 9, this is the only one to maintain its original width, requiring passing places for modern traffic]

   N.B. This is not the Chilbridge Road and its continuation towards South Leigh which was a public bridle road but a *private* carriage road and drift-way.

7. **Barnard Gate and Kiln Road.** One other public carriage Road and Driftway of the like breadth of 40 feet leading from the turnpike and near to Barnard Gate Farm in a northerly direction and the said heath at Tilgarsley Kiln into the Parish of North Leigh in the said County and called the Barnard Gate and Kiln Road in the Parish of North Leigh. [the road running north from Barnard Gate to the modern A4095]

8. **Bowles Road.** One other public carriage Road and Driftway of the like breadth of 40 feet leading out of the last mentioned road at the top of Barnard Gate grounds and continuing by the same and Garthe's coppice to the end of Cuckoo Lane and called the Bowles road. [the short west-east stretch of road linking 4 and 7 above]

9. **Heath Middle Road.** And another public carriage Road and Driftway of the like breadth of 40 feet leading out by Cuckoo Lane and Freeland Road near Leval Coppice and extending across the heath into the Barnard Gate and Kiln Road and called the Heath Middle Road. [another road further to the north linking 4 and 7 above? It is unclear where this was; the map suggests possible places]
WHAT'S IN A NAME?
by Brian Atkins

Autograph hunters from all over the world come to Eynsham in search of a name.

He was writing about John Wilson, autograph collector and dealer, who never lived in the village but operated here from 1983 to December 1996 from 50 Acre End Street. At an earlier date this had been the premises of Henry Albert Howe, the village chemist, stationer, and postmaster. His first appearance in our census returns was in 1881 when he was married with 4 small children. By 1891 he had 5 children and his brother William Brice Howe, 52, was the publican at the Swan across the road. His last census appearance was in 1901, aged 55, chemist and postmaster, by which time he may have moved his business to the west where at some stage he operated from the larger premises, now Lloyd's the chemists.

By the time John Wilson moved his business into 50 Acre End Street (now the home of Mackintosh Solutions) it had been much altered, but John was able to make good use of a huge safe once part of the dispensary, in which he stored his collection of nearly 100,000 autographs. Chapman described this as "the largest selection of autographed documents in the British Isles, possibly the world". The photograph accompanying the article shows part of a large library of reference books. In support of the italicised statement above, visits by autograph collectors from Zurich and California, the latter unannounced, are given as examples.

How many of us knew that John Wilson and his treasures were in our midst? I certainly didn't.

There would have been security implications, I don't collect autographs, and John himself was often away at document auctions all over the world, although he did employ a full-time assistant.

John Wilson left Eynsham in December 1996, but is still very much in business; visit www.manuscripts.co.uk.

Thanks to Don Chapman on whose article, cited above, this piece is largely based.
BOYHOOD MEMORIES OF BURDEN'S BLACKSMITHY
by Steve Flynn

We lived at 24 Newlands Street during the War. I can still see Sawyers, the large shop opposite, which I remember mainly for its hardware and farm supplies. To the left (west) of that there was Burden's blacksmiths with Mr & Mrs Burden and their son, who was a crew member of a bomber and was later killed in a tragic accident on the ground at Chichester.

Syd Cross was the blacksmith, and a wonderful advert he was for his profession, a short thick-set man who was as tanned as hide leather. Many a day after school or during the school holidays I would spend in the smithey watching Syd perform his magic on red-hot pieces of metal for horse shoes, with the smell of burning horn as he would prepare the hoof for the fitting of the shoe.

I would supply the labour for producing the air for his forge - pumping the large bellows and watching the results of my labours as the fire went from almost out to white hot. After a while I could gauge the temperature of the coals throughout the spectrum of colours.

Syd also used to make and put the iron tyres on cart wheels. This was done at the rear where a centre hub post was sunk into the surface of the yard. To this was attached a dummy axle, and then the wooden wheel which could be rotated during the fitting of the red-hot tyre. It was then drenched with water to shrink it to the rim of the wheel.

Ah, those were the days! We had double British summertime and for a lad the daylight seemed almost endless.
1930

**Eynsham water supply:** An emergency meeting of the Eynsham Parish Council was held at the institute on Monday with Mr J.T.Trethewey in the chair to consider provisional arrangements for the supply of water to the village. It appears that recently the clerk of the council asked Mr John Burden, the attendant at the pumping station for certain information.

It is alleged Mr Burden refused to give the information and after the matter had been discussed by the council he was given a month's notice. On Saturday, before the notice had expired, Mr Burden refused to carry on with his duties and returned the keys of the pumping station to the council. In the meantime, Mr George Pimm has been giving his services free as attendant at the station.

The *Oxford Times* December 26 1930, reproduced on December 16 2005, under the heading '75 years ago'.

1956

**Apologies from workers:** Workers at the Pressed Steel Co. Ltd. on Monday expressed regret to busmen, fellow members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, at an incident at Eynsham on Thursday week, which led bus crews to refuse to take them home from the works. It is alleged that a bus driver and an inspector of the City of Oxford were struck during a fracas at Eynsham after factory workers had refused to leave an overcrowded works bus. In the evening there was an angry demonstration in the works bus park at Cowley when the workers from west Oxfordshire found there were no buses to take them home.

The *Oxford Times* February 17 1956, reproduced on February 10 2006, under the heading '50 years ago'.
Cautionary advice in bold from Eynsham's most famous man, to all contributors and editors of this journal!

Aelfric (c.955-c.1020)

Aelfric (pronounced 'alfritch') became a monk and then abbot at the new monastery of Cerne Abbas in Dorset, and was later appointed as the first abbot of Eynsham in Oxfordshire. He composed two books of eighty Homilies in Old English, a paraphrase of the first seven books of the Bible, and a book of Lives of the Saints. He also wrote a Latin grammar and Latin-English glossary, accompanied by a Latin Colloquium which gives a vivid picture of contemporary social conditions in England. The greatest vernacular prose writer of his time, he is often called Aelfric Grammaticus ('The Grammarian')

Aelfric spoke apocalyptically about the need to avoid copying errors. **Now I desire and beseech, in God's name, if anyone will transcribe this book, that he carefully correct it by the copy, lest we be blamed through careless writers. He does great evil who writes carelessly, unless he correct it. It is as though he turn true doctrine into false error. Therefore everyone should make straight that which he before bent crooked, if he will be guiltless at God's doom.**

In 1991 an appeal paid for the repair of the monument to Anne Bedwell, who died in 1728, aged 22. As Pamela Richards observes in *Eynsham: A Chronicle*, her record of the village down the centuries, it was a 'particularly important' act of generosity. 'St Leonard's does not have the kind of memorials that might be expected in a church of its age, in part because of the absence of a resident great family.'

Ten years after the death of the Bedwells' only daughter the Vicar, the Rev. John Goole, noted in his 1738 Visitation Returns the parish had 'no family of note', a phrase his successor, the Rev. Thomas Nash, was still echoing in his 1768 Returns thirty years later.

The absence of a squire or a lord of the manor has probably been no bad thing in defining the village's character. It was the friendliness of the place I noticed when I first spent a day here in the 1960s to compile a pen portrait for the *Oxford Times Drops in* series. Mrs Richards expresses it felicitously on the last page of her book. Describing the celebration in the Square which heralded the arrival of the year 2000, she writes 'The new century was given as warm a welcome as Eynsham usually gives newcomers.'

Of course, those 18th century clergymen were not rejoicing in the pleasure of tending a flock without interfering 'nobs'. They were tacitly lamenting the shortage of worshippers with deep pockets to swell their collection plates. And from a historian's point of view it is also a questionable blessing.

There are no estate records to cast light on the lives of the gentry or their servants, no divines chronicling in their diaries the joys of a fat living, no authors waxing poetical as Alexander Pope did at Stanton Harcourt, fewer revealing wills, and only the occasional noteworthy visitor.

To the 17th century antiquary, Anthony Wood, who had relations in Eynsham, we owe the only surviving drawing of the already ruined Abbey: to another, Thomas Hearne, writing half-a-century later, the unlikely story that it had 52 fish-ponds, one for each week of the year!

Sadly, the social reformer, William Cobbett, who visited the paper maker, James Swann, at his place of work, Eynsham Mill, and his home, The Gables, in the early 1800s, left no account for posterity, though hearsay has it he planted The Gables' magnificent false acacia. And the less said about Charles Dickens Junior's dismissal of us all in his 1887 *Dictionary of the Thames* as an 'uninteresting little town', the better!
Though one or two have tried, it is therefore not surprising that no-one before has succeeded in writing a history apart from the indefatigable compilers of the Victoria County History - and for their illuminating entry we had to wait until 1990. As Mrs Richards concedes, she would not have succeeded either without that, the late Bishop Eric Gordon's scholarly labour of love Eynsham Abbey, the host of historians, professional and amateur, who have contributed over the last 21 years to the Eynsham Record, and the eager beavers from the primary school she welded into the Eynsham Junior History Group.

Once she reaches the 19th century detailed maps, the Census, and the spread of newspapers, her task becomes easier. Even so, if the Eynsham History Group, which has generously sponsored the publication, had tape-recorded all the village elders it talked of some years ago, she would surely have been able to give us a more comprehensive account of Eynsham's older families - and a livelier one.

Mary Oakeley's memories of dealing with the Second World War evacuee invasion (pp.79-80) are not only an eloquent reminder of her forthright, public-spirited personality but a classic illustration of the point of oral history.

I looked in vain for the apple-breeder, F.W.Wastie, whose trees I suspect still grace my garden [see also pp29-31. of this number. Ed.]. Bevan Pimm deserved more than a passing mention as the last under-deacon of the Catholic Apostolic Church. And what of that delightful eccentric, Michael Mason, and his big game trophies at Eynsham Hall? Indeed, what of Eynsham Hall? What of the A40, which severed its umbilical cord with Eynsham? What of the village's council houses?

There are other omissions, as there are bound to be in a book of this length, but the elegant street map at the front defeats its purpose by not embracing the whole village, and modesty compels me to point out that it is Peter Way, not I, who should take credit for recalling my dear friend Oscar Mellor, and the Fantasy Press at Swinford.

But I am not carping. I am immensely grateful to Mrs Richards for telling me so much I never knew or had carelessly forgotten; to her husband, Donald Richards, for illustrating her text so becomingly with his charming drawings; and I am sure many, many residents and visitors will echo those sentiments.

If Eynsham, once more important than Oxford, has been content for the last thirteen or fourteen centuries to be a bit-player on the world stage, there is much to excite our interest, from the hippopotamus that expired on its sub-Saharan sands 120-130,000 years age to the celebrations to mark the millennium of Eynsham Abbey we all remember from a few months ago.
For example, Brother Edmund's glimpse of Paradise in 1106; John Daunter's printing of Shakespeare's first published play in 1594; the Roundhead General Waller's stopover at Wintle's Farm in 1644; the Baptist minister, who was managing director of the village gas-supply (a good source of sermons?); the Vicar who failed to make a fortune out of bricks - though he dropped several during a long incumbency; The Holt, just sold, whose Mill Street facade was the work of William Wilkinson, architect of the Randolph Hotel. From my viewpoint perhaps the most fragrant of all because for years I sat every Monday at the New Theatre behind a lady who smoked nothing else, the Second World War Balkan Sobranie Factory cigarette factory in High Street. There are many more.

Mrs Richards' chronicle is not just an engrossing read. It is a stimulus to all of us who care about Eynsham past and present to build on her good work, ransack our memories and our attics, burrow in the archives, and make our contributions to the record [and to the Record? Ed.].

Book review by Don Chapman.
EYNSHAM HISTORY GROUP

Founded 1959

The E.H.G. exists primarily to encourage studies in, and to promote knowledge of the history of the village and parish of Eynsham, Oxfordshire, by means of regular meetings (normally at least ten), with invited speakers, during the winter and spring; and occasional outings in the summer.

New members are welcome.

Please apply to the Secretary for details of meetings and subscriptions.

President: Dr F.B. Atkins, 8 Thornbury Road, Eynsham
Chairman: Mr M. Harris, 150 Westminster Way, Botley
Vice-Chairman: Mr D.S. Richards, 6 Abbey St., Eynsham
Secretary: Canon G.W. Hart, 2 Little Lane, Eynsham
Programme Secretary: Revd M.T. Farthing, 32 Falstaff Close, Eynsham
Outings Secretary: -post vacant-
Treasurer: Mrs P. Pimm, 65 Witney Rd, Eynsham
Editor: Dr F.B. Atkins, 8 Thornbury Rd, Eynsham
Publications Manager: Mr F.S. Bennett, 68 Witney Road, Eynsham
Librarian: Mrs E. Mason, 26 John Lopes Rd, Eynsham
Committee members: Mrs D. Hockedy, 22 Clover Place, Eynsham
Prof. M. Marker, 5 Wytham Close, Eynsham