

Why 224?

You might well ask!

Your committee spent much more time that it could afford trying to come up with a title for the newsletter that was appropriate and short. We wanted something that reflected in a distinctive manner the Deddington area.

We were still getting nowhere, and were getting uncomfortably close to going to press with our first issue, when I remembered the nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey drawings for the first edition of the one-inch maps. I had come on these during my researches into a history of the Barfords at the new British Library at St Pancras. The drawing for the area, from Aynho to the Swerford gate on the turnpike, north of the Buckingham to Burford Turnpike (now more prosaically known as the B4031) was carried out in 1814 in pencil, ink and with detail added in red and blue.

This particular drawing, which incorporates the northern part of Deddington, as well as Hempton, Clifton and the Barfords carried the unique number 224, and the Oxfordshire sheet that made use of it was eventually published in 1833.

The drawing is reproduced on pages 2-3 from a print made in the 1940s, when reprographic techniques were not as good as they are now, but for conservation reasons the British Library does not allow the original to be copied.

I hope you like the title—I'm sorry it proved too difficult for anyone to guess and win the Society's prize bottle of bubbly!

Incidentally, if you have any illustrative material, maps or photos, that you think would be of interest to other members do please let me know. I can scan them very quickly and keep them for use in future issues of 224.

Colin Cohen, Editor of 224

From the Chair

It is ironic that in a society devoted to studying the past we should spend so much time contemplating the future. The reason for that is the need constantly to plan ahead, to ensure a steady flow of speakers and activities. This year, as you will see from the society's programme, is largely taken care of, and we are already developing plans for 2001. It would be good, if foolish, to imagine that our members are happy with what we are providing, but what would make your committee happy in return would be suggestions from the membership that we can work on and take forward. What topics would *you* like to see covered?

A sister organisation, the Deddington Parish Naturalists, headed by Walter Meagher, is seeking our help. The group is carrying out a survey of habitats, and is offering volunteers 'fresh air, a chance to do botany and local history, and the pleasure of contributing to a valuable publication'. The group has been looking closely at hedgerows and wooded sites in the area, and is now turning its attentions to lanes and tracks. The aim is to produce a comprehensive database, the first of its kind, of woody taxa and herbaceous flora. Not only is the work enjoyable and valuable, the research accompanying it will inevitably overlap with and contribute towards this society's historical interests. Anyone who thinks that they might be interested in lending a hand should contact Walter on 01869 338202.

Congratulations to Colin Cohen on his production of our second newsletter. He has secured much fascinating material to fill its pages. We are most grateful to Mr Audrey, a member, for letting us see the architectural history of Clifton Mill which he commissioned, which we hope to publish. Do please keep the contributions coming in.

Exploring our past:

local history workshop

Last autumn about a dozen of us gathered in Deddington Primary School to take part in this course, run by Chris Day. The students came from Middle Aston and Barford St Michael, as well as from Clifton, Hempton, and Deddington.

The main purpose of the course was to study 16th- and 17th-century wills and inventories of possessions, mainly for Deddington, and Chris photocopied and brought us numerous examples. These, though, were written in 'Secretary Hand', the writing used for documents in those days, and Chris was very patient in teaching us to read them. We were eventually given homework to take and transcribe two wills on our own, and we felt a great sense of achievement when we were able (more or less) to do this. The goods of anyone with an estate valued at

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Speakers for 2000

Our programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

March 8: David Eddershaw
Flora Thompson's Oxfordshire

April 12: Sally Stradling
The Franklins of Deddington

May 9: Caroline Davidson
A woman's work is never done

June 14: John Steane
Chastleton, below stairs

Meetings take place at the Windmill Centre in Deddington at 7.30 on the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise indicated.

Poetry and prunes

Our Christmas meeting in the school hall became more of a soiree as we gathered in the cozy glow created by candle light and mulled wine!

A flurry of festive feeding included nibbles of eighteenth century hard cheese paté and slices of Tudor prune tart, recipes plucked from a wonderfully historic cookery book, which seemed to require rose water on every page.

Moira's quiz had us trying to remember when we last received mail upon Christmas morning, and, even more perplexing, how many animal legs are contained in the 'Twelve days of Christmas' song?

A rendering of the alternative twelve days—those needed to use up all the turkey, rounded off a very pleasant run of seasonal prose. Christmases down the ages related by Pepys, Pickwick and Parson Woodford alongside those of Cider with Rosie and Miss Read were read to us from the shadows.

Thanks to all those members who volunteered to read and those who contributed suitably seasonal refreshment.

Sue Shattock

Prune tart

To make a Tarte of Prunes: Take and wash them, then boil them with faire water, cut in halfe a peny loaf of white bread, and take them out and strain them with Claret wine, season it with sinamon, Ginger and Sugar, and a little Rosewater, make the paste as fine as you can, and dry it, and fill it, and let it drie in the oven, take it out and cast on it Biskets and Carawaies.

12 oz (350 g) prunes
4 oz (100 g) fresh white breadcrumbs
1/2 pt (275 ml) red wine
1 tsp (5 ml) cinnamon
1 tsp (5 ml) ground ginger
4 oz (100 g) sugar
1 tbsl (15 ml) rosewater

For the pastry:

3 oz (75 g) butter
4 oz (100 g) plain flour
1 tsp (5 ml) caster sugar
1 egg, beaten.

October meeting report

On 13 October we were fortunate to hear Trevor Rowley, noted archaeologist, landscape historian, and authority on medieval castles speak on the subject of castles. After outlining the variety of castle types and sizes, he noted that in this country defences before the Norman Conquest tended to be public, ie fortified towns, whereas after 1066 they were more for the protection of the new elite, i.e. castles as we now think of them. The range of castles in England and Wales is extraordinary, from the huge and impressive such as Windsor or the great Border castles down to the small motte and bailey structures to be found everywhere. We are now all knowledgeable initiates, but for the uninitiated a motte is an earth mound, and a bailey is a tower placed on top of it: Deddington Castle is an example of a motte and bailey type.

Trevor has carried out excavations at Middleton Stoney, where there was also a motte and bailey (on top of Roman remains!), and he illustrated some of his points with slides taken during the dig there. He also discussed the Deddington site, noting that Deddington was the chief manor in this region of Odo of Bayeaux, warrior bishop and half-brother of the Conqueror. Trevor made the interesting suggestion that the unusually large outer bailey (the embanked enclosure) might have been the marshalling ground for Odo's troops in this area. All of which perhaps makes it more likely that Odo himself visited Deddington on occasion. We await the discovery of the piece of walling inscribed 'Odo erat hic'!

Finally, Trevor suggested that a new survey of the site was overdue and might prove instructive. This would employ surveying techniques only, and need not involve any digging or disturbance of the fabric. He generously offered to carry out the survey, with the History Society's assistance. We shall need to approach the Parish Council and English Heritage to ask for the necessary permissions, and the whole exercise will need to be thoroughly planned well in advance, but the idea of a professional survey is exciting. Fur-



Sheet 224 of the Ordnance Survey Drawn and published map. For more details see 'Why

ther news of this will follow whenever we have it.

Some members took advantage of the occasion to order copies at a discount of Trevor's recent books *Anglo-Norman England* and *The Normans*.

Chris Day

Continued from page 1

more than £5 had to be valued before probate was granted. Many of these probate inventories survive and are now in the County Archives. They list each room in a house with the contents thereof and their values, giving us a good idea of the size and layout of houses and of people's possessions in those days. We looked at, among others, the inventories of the parish priest in 1627, of John Fardon the clockmaker, of a shoemaker, of two mercers—one mercer in 1684 had 67 different items in his shop—and of John Edmunds (see pages three and four).

Chris also gave us a list of the trades (34) in Deddington in 1623, a copy of the Protestation Returns of 1642 (everyone was required to swear a protestation in support of Parliament), giving the names of 308 male inhabitants of the parish, of whom only eight refused to swear, and a copy of the Hearth Tax Returns of 1665 listing 89 householders. So we have amassed a considerable collec-



ings made in 1814. The drawings show the field boundaries as they were just after Enclosure, but was left off the 224?' on p1. By permission and copyright of the British Library [OSD 224, Maps 176 f45]. Reproduction forbidden.

tion of 'old Deddingtonians'. We learned also from 16th-century wills about the guilds and chantries here in medieval times.

We made two visits. Firstly we went to Northamptonshire Record Office, where we were given a guided tour behind the scenes before being allowed to study documents relating to land and property in our area which had been held by the Cartwrights of Aynho.

Our second visit was to Christ Church College in Oxford, where Chris showed us round the college and cathedral before taking us to the college archives, where archivist Judith Curthoys produced for us various old maps and documents of property which had belonged to the Christ Church manor. We hope sometime to be able to visit the archives of the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, owners of the third of the manorial estates that controlled most of Deddington.

A most enjoyable and informative course, which I think whetted the appetite of all of us for further research. We intend as a group to carry on transcribing the wills and inventories. Anyone who would like to join us in this fascinating work will be most welcome and should contact Chris Day on 01869 337204.

Buffy Heywood

The Wills and Inventories Group

Buffy Heywood mentioned in the previous article that a group is to be set up to transcribe and publish Deddington Wills and Inventories. Below is a transcription of one such will with its associated inventory. Also reproduced overleaf are scraps of both the will and the inventory.

John Edmunds, clerk: Will, 1627

In the name of god. Amen, the 5 day of November: 1627. I John Edmunds of Dadington in the county of Oxon clarke, being whole in body and of perfect memorie thanks be given to god, do make and ordaine this my last will & testament

I[tem] in primis I give & bequeath my soule to allmighty god my maker & redeemer trusting to be saved by the only merittes of my lord and savior Jesus Christ, my worldly goods I thus bestow,

[crossed out]: item I give to the church of Dadington

item I give to the poor of dadington 4^s

item I give to my wife Jone Edmunds all the rest of my goods unbequeathed as well moveable as unmoveable, my funerall expences discharged & my debts paid, whom I make my sole & only executrix of this my last will & testament.

The overseers of this my last will and testament I ordaine to be William (?)Eurs & Hugh Davis to whom I give j^s a peece, to see this my laste will and testament truly performed.

In witness wherof I have sett too my hand and seale dated the day and yeer first above written 1627

[signed] *John Edmunds*

Memorandum that the raser in the eighth and ninth lines were rased out by the appointment of the tes-

tator in the presence of

[signed]

*John Welshman
William Forbesse*

Probate 29 June 1630

John Edmunds, clerk: Inventory, 1630

A true note and inventory of all the goods and chattelles as well moveable as unmoveable of John Edmunds clerk late vicar of Dadington in the county of Oxon deceased as it was valued and appressed the one and twentieth day of June 1630, by John Duncombe esq, Thomas Appletree the elder gent, John Welshman, and Hercules Arys yomen

In primis in his lodginge chamber one little table seaven joynd stooles, & two waynscott chayre vij^s vj^d
Item a livery cupboard and a presse

x^s
Item a joynd bedsted with a fetherbed, a counterpayne a greene say valens with knobbes, five greene say curteynes and three cushions v^{li}

Item a glasse cupbord, certeyne old pictures and two little boxes iij^s

Item one payre of little yron dogges a fire shovell, a payre of tonges, and a payre of bellowes Ij^s vj^d

Item all his wearinge apparell iii^{li} vj^s viij^d

Item his mony in his purse l^s

Item foure payre of flaxen sheetes and an od sheet xl^s

Item a diaper table cloth and a diaper towell ix ^s	two towelles x ^s	Item a linnen wheele and a roundinge block xij ^d
Item a diaper cupbord cloth and nineteene diaper napkins xx ^s	Item a great joynd chest two coffers, a chayre a little truncke and an old cupbord xx ^s	Item in the buttry five barrells, two spittes and other lumber xij ^s
Item a flaxen table cloth iij ^s iij ^d	Item all his bookes iij ^{li}	Item in the woodhouse for the fire certeyne payles and other lumber xxv ^s
Item six flaxen pillowebers x ^s	Item his bowe and arrowes xij ^s	Item in the kitchin strawe and other lumber x ^s
Summa xvi ^{li} iij ^s	Summa xj ^{li} xj ^s	Item due to him upon spe[c]ialties xx ^{li}
In the middle chamber	Item in the hall all the brasse xl ^s	Summa xxviiij ^{li} iijij ^s viij ^d
An old chest, a deske a saddle and bridle, and other lumber x ^s	Item all the pewter iij ^{li}	Summa totalis lv ^{li} xvij ^s viij ^d
In the study chamber an old joynd bedsted with fetherbed, two boulsters, two pillowes two old blankettes, and a coverlett iij ^{li} x ^s	Item a payre of andyrons, a payre of tonges a fire shovell and a payre of bellowes v ^s	[signed] Jo Duncombe Thomas Appletree John Welshman
Item of course sheetes eyght payre and an odd sheete xl ^s	Item a safe with a cupbord, glasse cupbord and a shell[?f] to set barrells on vi ^s viij ^d	
Item eyghteene course napkins and	Item two little tables and the benches v ^s	Probate 29 June 1630

ad velle inuocable et inuocabile in summa
 apparet dist[?] et in velle paid who I make
 my self & only executor of his my last will &
 testament. by order of his my last will and
 testament I ordaine to William Curro & Hugh
 Canit to be my executors & a power to sell by my
 last will & testament truly & lawfully
 without words of purchase for my
 & sole use & day & year, since above written
 1627.

John & Duncombe

True note and inventory of all the goods
 and chattels appertaining to the
 of John Edmunds late vicar of Deddington
 in the County of Oxon deceased as it was valued
 and appraised by and in presence of
 1630, by John Duncombe off[?] & Thomas Appletree
 Holders gent, John Welshman, and
 Any women.

found in his bed chamber one little table
 bounde furred stoules two magnifick chayres
 from a lincory & my bowe and a cross



If undelivered please return to: Deddington & District History Society, c/o 37 Gaveston Gardens, Deddington OX15 0NX. 224 is the newsletter of the Deddington & District History Society, published three times a year and distributed free to members. The Society meets on the second Wednesday of the month during the season, normally at the Windmill Centre in Deddington. Membership £7/12 pa single/couples, or £2 per meeting at the door. Editorial address: 1 South Newington Road, Barford St Michael, OX15 0RJ. e-mail: c.cohen@printernet.co.uk