

224 is the newsletter of the Deddington & District History Society. During our season we meet at 7.30 on the second Wednesday of the month, normally at Deddington's Windmill Centre. Membership is £10/18 pa singles/couples or £2.50 at the door for visitors, who are equally welcome. The editor actively encourages contributions to be sent to 1 South Newington Road, Barford St Michael OX15 0RJ. Email cohen@nehoc.co.uk

From the Chair

I find it hard to believe, but it really does seem that the upcoming season will be our tenth! When we first set up the Society there was little way of knowing if there would be any interest at all beyond the initial enthusiasm that is the entire lifespan of some such ventures. Our relatively long life is thanks to our hard-working committee, to our many speakers, and to members who faithfully attend the meetings and, indeed, profess to look forward to them!

You will see that in this issue of 224 we have an article from *The Oxford Times* about the Deddington Country Fair of 1938 (obviously well before the word 'fair' had been replaced by the preposterous 'fayre'). In May a package arrived from Mr Cecil Kerridge containing postcards, photographs and cuttings, sent to the Society for safe-keeping. Mr Kerridge, now living in Woodbridge (Suffolk), grew up in Horsefair Cottage. His father managed Hall's Coaches: we really must reproduce the photograph of what seems to be the entire fleet, drawn up as if for inspection before going out to battle. Mr Kerridge's letter hinted at many aspects of life here in the 1930s, including the existence of two gangs known as the uptowners and the downtowners, the dividing line being New Street. We are grateful to Mr Kerridge, and I hope that it will be possible to learn much more from him. Incidentally, does anyone know what happened to the proposal for the Coronation Hall in Market Place mooted in 1938? Presumably the war intervened, followed by exhaustion?

You may remember that we are in the middle of a long process of photographing and digitising Deddington Primary School records, an unusually complete set going back to 1870. We intend to make available to the school a complete set of copies that can be used for teaching purposes without the need to use, and potentially damage, the originals. Maestro Colin Cohen and his beautiful assistants have made a good start with this ambitious piece of magic; we will keep you informed with progress reports and interested with occasional titbits until the grand unveiling.

The committee has decided that this year we need to increase subscriptions slightly, simply to meet increased costs. Subs (under the masthead above) are still less than £1 per event for members.

Chris Day, *Chairman*

Programme

Meetings organiser, Jill Adams, has got us off to a flying start to the year and we can even give you a taster of the beginning of next year's season as well.

Our programme for 2007-08, and for the start of 2008-09, is:

2007

September 12th: Carl Boardman, 'Life on the inside'

October 10th: Hugh Hinde, 'Duelling'

November 14th: Barry Davis, 'History of the Christmas card'

December 12th: We recreate a 'typical' Christmas of 1942

2008

January 9th: Martin Way, 'The Golden age of coaching'

February 13th: George Hook, 'Button making'

March 12th: Rob Parkinson, 'Oxfordshire Village Surveys'

April 9th: Andy Norton, 'The Archaeology of Oxford Castle'

May 14th: Deborah Hayter, 'Avon Dassett'

June 11th: Evening visit and picnic at Burton Dassett Country Park

September 10th: Florence Cross, 'History of the use of straw'

October 8th: Tony Yelloly, 'History of the Quakers in this area'

November 12th: Dr Joanne Bailey, 'Marriage in Georgian England'

As Chris Day mentions on page 1 we were sent a cutting of *The Oxford Times* for 4 August 1938 We reprint it below, with photos that we were sent, and wonder what became of the money, the plans, or the site for the future village hall. We admire their stamina, for planning and surviving a 12-hour fete!

From the *Deddington News* we also know that the fair saw the introduction of 'a new and delicious Biscuit, the "Daintie", on sale for the first time since 1066, when taken by William the Conqueror' at a 1d each with free 'tasters'.

Many of the names will be familiar to us today. However, your non-Deddington editor has to plead ignorance to many of them, but would welcome enlightenment!

Deddington's big country fair

Gala day with many unusual attractions

Deddington was en fete on Saturday, when a notable country fair, presenting many unusual attractions, was held in fine weather in the beautiful grounds of Deddington Manor, lent by Major R G Roberts.

The fete was in aid of funds for the Deddington Coronation Hall, to be built on the site of two existing cottages in Deddington Market Place.

The hall is to serve as a parish hall for dances, theatrical entertainments, meetings and lectures and a model and plans were on view in the grounds.

A comprehensive committee, with the Rev Maurice Frost as chairman, and Mr G Deeley and Mr G M Hodges as hon secretary and hon treasurer respectively, produced much entertainment differing from the stereotyped, and a large attendance appreciated their efforts.

Costumes

The stallholders, waitresses and many of the helpers at the side-

Tom Hertridge

DON'T FORGET



DEDDINGTON COUNTRY FAIR

SATURDAY, 2 p.m. — 12 p.m.

Admission 1/-, Children 6d., R.A.C. Car Park 1/.

Simple Simon met a Pieman
Going to the Fair.

All the girls and all the boys
Seemed to be going there.

Said Simple Simon to the Pieman
"To Deddington I'll go!"

Said the Pieman unto Simon
"Yes, don't you miss the show!"

Pipers of the Guards will tootle,
Comic clowns will fool and fuddle,

Maypole children twist their twirls,
Tea be served by lovely girls,

"Cries of London," maids at stalls,
Country lads in overalls,

Give this charming Country Fair
A gay and coloured old-world-air.

Morris dancers there will dance,
Kilted Highland Flingers prance,

And, in the gardens of the Manor,
Oh wonder, Simon! for a tanner
Raffle tickets will be sold

For prizes worth their weight in gold,
A portrait painted for the winner,
A pig to take home for your dinner.

200 prizes there will be
Displayed beneath a Chinese tree,

And competitions by the score
With prizes you can battle for:

A gorgeous fancy-dress parade
For the best costumed man and maid.

Then Beer, a Buffet, Tea or Ice
"Deddington Dainties" (cakes with spice)

An avenue with shading trees,
Beneath them you can sit at ease.

There'll be a Dance Tent (Prewers' Band),
A Cedar lit like Fairy Land
And Fireworks soaring up the sky,
Will bang a final gay goodbye.

To Deddington!! —the Pieman spake—

"My pies, my friends and you I'll take."

(Signed)—ENVOY.

shows wore old English dress, and the women were especially attractive in high-waisted print and muslin dresses with straw bonnets, or lace and dainty caps.

Some of the men wore smocks, and there were a number in Georgian and early Victorian dress.

One of the features of the afternoon was a procession of characters representing "London cries" and there was also a fancy dress parade of more up to date character.

Each of the processions was led by the pipers of the Scots Guards, who also gave their own marches, a sword dance and a pipers' dance, under Pipe-Major Macdonald.

Morris dancing

The old English character of the fair was enhanced by Morris dancers—all Deddington men, who performed their intricate measures under their captain, Mr G Deeley, to the accompaniment of a concertina.

Another performance in keeping with the character of the fair was a picturesque Maypole dance by the Farnborough dancers.

In the evening the avenue and a huge Chinese tree were illuminated, and the proceedings closed with a fireworks display, and dancing in an illuminated marquee.

'Tombola'

There was a very large entry for the 'tombola' for which there were over 200 prizes—the numbers being drawn from a large drum, before a large crowd, in the early evening.

The first prize was a portrait in oils by the famous Dutch artist, Mr Van Oss, who has made his home in Deddington in recent years.

The portrait was won by Mrs F Reed, of Deddington, the second prize went to a Fulham entry, and the third was won by Mr T Jones, of New-street, Deddington.



A post card of the Deddington country fair, and the pipers referred to in the article. Do any members recognise participants, or know of other photos?



The proceedings started with the firing of maroons and the hoisting of Deddington's new flag by the chairman of the fair committee.

Stalls and stall holders were:—Deddington dainties, Mr S Berry; golliwog [*sic*], Mrs Albert Wheeler, Mrs Jennings, Mrs Hawtin; produce, the Misses Turner, Miss Franklin, Miss Paintin; mystery, Mrs Douglas Hopcraft, Mrs W J French, Miss M French, Mrs Walton; sweets, Mrs Boone, Miss Smith, Miss Lord; pottery, Miss Wright, Mrs Van Oss, Mrs Start; toys and doll's house, Miss Helen Loveday, Mrs Garrett; tea buffet, Mrs Fowler, Miss Hiron; teas, Mrs R G Roberts, Miss Smith, and nearly 50 helpers.

Characters in the London Cries parade were:—Mrs Douglas Hopcraft (Peas), Mrs M French (Oranges and Lemons), Mrs Goundrey (Primroses), Miss Turner (Matches), Mrs Van Oss (Milk-seller), Miss Chloe Otto (Carrots and turnips), Mrs Malcolmson (Lavender), Miss Helen Loveday (Strawberries), Miss Haslam (Toys), Miss Paintin (Flowers), Mrs and Master Walker (Gingerbread), Mrs and Miss Evleyn Impey (Songs), Mrs Jennings and sons (Fresh Mackerel), Mrs Goodhart and Master Goodhart (Cherries).

The fancy dress parade was judged by Mrs Shaw and Miss Monica Bradford, and the awards were:—

Children.—1 Miss Mon Deeley (Zulu Girl); 2 Master Don Davidson (Troubadour); 3 Master A M West (Don Bradman).

Adults.—1 Mrs W Castle (Old English Lady); 2 Mrs Paynton; 3 Mrs McCutcheon.

Groups.—Mrs W Gardner (Driving Post Chaise and Passengers*); 2 Mr and Mrs A Wheeler (Darby and Joan).

*The Gardners were long carriers to Banbury, for instance leaving *The Bear* on Monday, Thursday and Saturday for the Barfords. *We would be interested to learn more about anyone mentioned in the article.* Ed

Research: using the Cartwright archive

Members will be aware that the archives of the Cartwrights of Aynho was saved with the help of local donations and a huge Heritage lottery grant. Without the grant the archive was probably destined for an American library, so it is good news that it remains in the careful hands of the Northamptonshire Record Office. It is invaluable for local and family historians as many of its records relate to land owned by the Cartwrights in Deddington, Hempton, Clifton, Bloxham and other villages in the area.

For some years I have been researching owner-occupiers and tenants of Worton Grounds Farm, Nether Worton for a farm history project. It was purchased in 1854 by John Painter of Aynho. I was personally interested in the Painters as later generations became family friends of my parents and grandparents. John Painter's great granddaughter Jean Blythe still lives nearby, so the connection continues. Jean's brother Jack used to live in Deddington at the Little House on the Clifton road and their parents

farmed Castle Farm. The research into their family tree went well until the questions arose as to which farm in Aynho John Painter came from in 1854 and where did the family come from before farming there. The family tree extends back well into the early eighteenth century but there were gaps in the family's movements. This was quite common as many farmers were tenants and moved from farm to farm to increase the acreage and improve their incomes as the family grew.

I thought that John Painter had to be a tenant of the Cartwrights; the census returns were helpful with family details, but only gave the acreage, not the name of the farm. I knew that John was born in Radstone near Brackley in 1809 and that his parents were farmers named Joseph and Mary. By looking at the archives in NRO I hoped that I would find John as a tenant and be able to identify his farm along with the rent he was paying. I was not disappointed! In the archive were the Agreements and Leases between the Cartwrights and their tenants and although there was not a surviving Agreement for John Painter; I was lucky enough to find one which was for a new lease in 1855. This was between John Bennett of Adderbury and William C Cartwright of Upper Aynho Grounds (now privately owned) but in the opening paragraph it stated 'that farm called the Upper Aynho Grounds situate and partly in the parish of Aynho in the county of Northampton and partly in the parish of Souldern in the county of Oxford containing by estimation three hundred and forty acres, one rood and seven perches or thereabouts now in the occupation of John Painter of Aynho.'

Very satisfying! But I thought if I looked in surviving rental accounts I might find when John first came to Aynho from Radstone. The rental records are incomplete, but I was

delighted to discover that John's father Joseph had brought his family from Radstone via a short spell in Helmdon sometime in the mid-1820s to Aynho. There was a document in which Joseph Painter 'agrees to pay £50 a year more for his farm from 11th October 1825, £10 more for G's farm (Grounds Farm now Lower Grounds Farm) and £10 more for UPG farm making in the whole £500 exclusive of Tithe for Souldern to be paid by the tenant. NB some allowance to be for any particular damage done by the game.' It would appear that Joseph was farming both Upper and Lower Aynho farms at that time. There were accounts relating to Joseph Painter as tenant until his death in 1838 and the tenancy was continued on by his son.

The archives had given me the answers to the initial questions for the farm history project and extra information to help create a more detailed family tree. Other records such as maps from the archive and wills in the Record Office filled in more gaps. Bundles of correspondence and Land Tax Assessments, which I have yet to read, are also listed, but I am hopeful of finding further references to the Painters.

Reading through the catalogue you have to stay very focused on the matter in hand. It is very easy to become distracted with many local items of interest. The time just flies by but anyone who wishes to do some local research, the Cartwright archive is a fantastic resource and the fact that it remains nearby in Northampton is wonderful.

Jill Adams

