



DEDDINGTON CHURCH.

This Print is Respectfully Dedicated to the Benefactors & Subscribers to the Deddington National Schools, established July 16th 1814, the profits arising from the sale of it will be appropriated by their humble Serv't. C. Faulkner.

From the Chair

This issue of 224 is truly impressive, thanks to scholarly articles by Norman Stone and Colin Cohen on recent discoveries, an early lithograph of Deddington parish church and a very rare 'War book' from the Barfords, giving the lie to the view that there is nothing left to discover.

With snow still on the ground, our thoughts turn with enthusiasm to the summer. We are planning another series of visits and socials, and Moira Byast has offered to lead another of her famous historical walks. We will give members full details as soon as we have finalised the arrangements.

Chris Day

An old print rediscovered

The image of Deddington Parish Church [above] dates from the early years of the nineteenth century. Drawn by Nathaniel Whittock, Oxford, and printed by D Redman, London, it was published by Charles Faulkner, a Deddingtonian of independent means. Although Whittock was credited as having drawn and engraved it, the 11 x 14 inch image is in fact a lithograph. It was rediscovered in 2004 by John Vaughan of Castle Antiques in Clifton, among some previously overlooked odds-and-ends. Under the title is the inscription 'This print is Respectfully Dedicated to the Benefactors & Subscribers to the Deddington National Schools, established July 16th 1814 (to whose funds the profits arising from the sale of it will be appropriated) by their humble Serv't. C. Faulkner'.

Engravings on stone

The Oxford Dictionary of Art defines lithography as 'A method of printing from a design drawn on the surface of a stone or other suitable material ... The process is based on the

antipathy of grease and water. The artist draws his design with a greasy ink or crayon on the stone [or metal plate], which is then treated with certain chemical solutions so the image is fixed. Water is then applied. The moisture is readily ac-

cepted by the remainder of the porous surface ... The surface is now rolled with a greasy ink which adheres only to the drawing, the rest of the surface, being damp repelling it.'

Early lithographs were often known as engravings on stone. The process was invented by Aloys Senefelder, a Bavarian dramatist and printer, around 1798. An English translation of his 1818 book was published in 1819 under the title *A Complete Course of Lithography*. Nathaniel Whittock was Lithographic printer and engraver to the University of Oxford at about this time. One of his business cards states 'stones lent and instruction given in lithographic drawing', which suggests that keen amateurs in England were able to learn about and use this revolutionary process almost before the world's major artists had cottoned on. From then it took another 150 years or so for lithography to replace Gutenberg and Caxton's letterpress as the

dominant printing process.

Dating the print

We can say with some certainty that Whittock's lithograph of Deddington Church was produced after 1814 when the Deddington National School was established, and before 1865 when the Georgian porch shown in the print was replaced by the present porch.

Can we be more precise? There is no clock on Whittock's church tower, which would make it pre-1833, when the present clock, by Taylor of Oxford, was installed by Deddingtonian clockmaker Thomas Fardon, whose name is on it. Whittock moved his Oxford business to London in 1828, where he traded as Whittock and Goodman, of 14 Paternoster Row. My conclusion is that the new process of lithography was used by Whittock in his portrayal of Deddington Parish Church some time between 1814 and 1828. This would make it contemporary with Joseph Skelton's

steel engraving 'Rectorial Farmhouse and Church of Deddington', published in *Skelton's engraved illustrations of the principal antiquities of Oxfordshire, from original drawings by F MacKenzie. Accompanied with descriptive and historical notes*, 1823. Whittock's print is clearly earlier than a similar view by Deddingtonian Joseph Wilkins, as illustrated in Sir Hugh Colvin's *A History of Deddington, Oxfordshire* (SPCK, 1963).

Fundraising

The print was first published as a school fund-raiser. It was republished at the end 2004 by J Guthrie and J Vaughan of Clifton, as a fundraiser for school and church. Framed prints cost £33, of which £10 goes to Deddington School and £5 to the parish church. Enquiries to J Guthrie on 01869 338229.

Norman Stone

A shorter version of this article appeared in the February 2005 issue of *The Deddington News*.

The 1942 Barford census and 'War Books'—a unique record? Part 1

As anyone who has done any family or local history research will know there has been a census taken every ten years since 1801 (they only become useful for personal names from 1841) with the exception of 1941—well, there was a war on.

Unless, that is, you are researching Barford St John or St Michael. The census returns up to 1901 (later ones are still 'closed' for 100 years) are widely available in microform in libraries, on CDs transcribed by family history societies and, in the case of 1901, on line.

This article treats the subject of the census. I shall return to the Barford War Books in a later article after a brief description. These War Books seem to be a considerable rarity: the National Register of Archives¹ only records copies for Lechlade (in the Gloucester Record Office) and for Plymouth (in the Devon local studies collection). Locally there are Invasion Committee War Books for the parishes of Kirtlington and Spelsbury², and Access to Archives (A2A)³ only produces a handful more. When one considers that Executive War Committees in every county instructed that each parish produce two cop-

ies of a War Book it is astonishing that so few survive.

The only text on the subject I have been able to find is by Ian Angus, vice-chairman of the Lymington Society; since completing his article he has circulated all Record Offices in the south west of England with consolidated lists of the results of his War Book studies, the area he covered⁴. For the purposes of this first article I shall only say that the Barford War Books look rather like school exercise books and were filled in by the person designated by the War Committee. They detailed all strategic information about a community—who had phones, cars, vans or first aid skills. There were some ten first aiders in the Barfords⁵. Home Guard membership was detailed, and perhaps most significantly the able-bodied had to be distinguished from the rest.

The Barfords' LDC chairman was A J Woolgrove of Mead Farm and they chose Barford House as their HQ⁶ as it had a telephone.

In order to complete the War Book⁷ each local [in most cases parish] defence committee had to have some formal way of making its assessment, bearing in mind this work

was being carried out while there were still invasion scares, and at a time when many rural communities were already struggling to accommodate evacuees from the cities.

The control of the LDCs was through a series of County Council committees, first set up under pre-War legislation, initially under the Air Raid Precautions Act of 1937. The County Emergency Committee for Civil Defence was set up following Home Office circular 57 of 1939, requiring them to appoint an ARP Controller and an Emergency Committee with executive powers in case of war. Sub-controllers (ours was in Banbury) took on their responsibilities on 31 August 1939; just three days later war was declared. They were also to be responsible for evacuation plans.

From 1941, at the request of the military authorities, the County Defence Committee took over the responsibilities; it included the previous members, but added the Area commander, the Home Guard zone commander and the Chief constable. They controlled the LDCs, which later became Invasion Committees: its Chair was Lord Macclesfield and the County controller was Major F G Scott.

LOCAL DEFENCE COMMITTEE

At the request of the Military Authorities and with the approval of the Regional Commissioner a Defence Committee has been formed for

to act as the link between the Military and the Civil Community in the event of invasion and to secure that the requirements of the Military Authorities are complied with and that the life of the community is maintained, should this area become isolated.

The Committee has been constituted as follows:

Local Organisation and Chairman	P. J. Woodman
Military Representation - Security Officer	R. A. F. Camp
Home Guard	C. T. E. McLeish
ARP	M. T. Holden
Spandish Police	Sgt. I. T. W.
Def. Food Controller	M. A. B. Hudson
Def. Organisation	M. J. Sherry

The Defence Committee will be the sole authority to whom the community can turn for help and guidance in the event of the area being cut off as the result of enemy action.

The public can co-operate by helping the Committee with the preliminary plans and preparations they are asked to make to meet such an emergency.

October, 1941.

CHAIRMAN OF DEFENCE COMMITTEE

A partly-completed poster, roughly A3 in size, announcing the Local Defence Committee for the Barfords

It seems clear from a part of a circular from the County controller that an aim of the census exercise was as much to identify the old and infirm so they could be forced to stay at home in the event of an invasion and not clog up the roads for the military as to identify the able-bodied:

'Group IV Those who owing to age and infirmity, would be expected to adopt a purely passive role, namely to take shelter and "stay put", to obey orders, and so far as possible avoid becoming casualties.' ...

'Those entrusted with the duty of

making the survey should be discreet in their approach to members of the general public, and while those approached should be encouraged to furnish the particulars necessary to complete the form, no pressure should be brought to bear on any person who objects to furnish [sic] the necessary particulars, but a note to the effect should be made on the back of the form, and the necessary information obtained, if possible, from another source.'⁸ For those of you that read it, there is a certain similarity to the *Preparing for emergencies* booklet that the Government produced last sum-

mer; in the case of the Barfords only one form has a note on the reverse, so presumably the information was freely given.

Dating the Barford census

It is still not quite clear *exactly* when the door-to-door census took place. Evidence is available from the data on the forms (most notably people's ages): for instance on sheet 532 Pamela Jackson [née Mitford] of Rignell, who was born on 25 November 1907 was 34, so it was between 25 November 1941 and 24 November 1942. Other sheets indicate that it was between 28 May and 24 November 1942, while one County Council memo indicates that it was after 19 August.

Perhaps the oddest aspect of the census is that in the whole *country* only those for Barford may survive; the Barford census and War Books, like at least one other set of War books came to the County record office by way of the Diocesan records and not the County Council indicating that it is a village copy initially kept in the Parish chest. However, in minutes of a meeting on 2 November 1944⁹ the Controller reported that the Regional Commissioner considered that the Local Invasion Committees were no longer necessary:

'With regard to the War Books prepared prepared by each Local Invasion Committee it had been arranged that the complete sets for their respective Areas in the possession of the Area Invasion Committees should be deposited at the County Hall for preservation amongst the County records; the second copy hitherto held by Local Invasion Committees should be deposited for safe custody with the local authority (Borough, Urban, or Rural or Parish council) or in cases where this was not practicable would be forwarded for deposit in the County muniment rooms at the County Hall.'

'Steps are being taken to secure that a copy of every War Book issued, which gives the fullest details of local arrangements and organisation for each individual township and parish, is *deposited for safe custody in the County archives* [my italics].'

Their final meeting [the 93rd] was held on 6 September 1945 when they recommended that they

