

224

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEDDINGTON & DISTRICT
HISTORY SOCIETY ISSN 1479-5884, issue 9, December 2001

From the chair

This issue of 224 is largely devoted to maps. We have taken maps, dating from 1808 to 2000, to show how valuable they are as a historical source. We have also included some suggestions for further work, in an attempt to galvanise members into research on their parish, their village, their street, or their house. It's endlessly fascinating, and great fun. Honest! Just let me know if you'd like some help on getting started.

The regular monthly meetings are well under way again. This month (December) we have another of our renowned Christmas socials, at which we hope to see a great many of our members and friends. My New Year's resolution is to get myself sufficiently organised to ar-

range our speakers for at least a year in advance, so that we can provide you with a full programme when we start each September. One of these days... An event that I can let you know of well in advance is the invitation by the Friends of Woodstock Museum to visit Woodstock on the evening of Wednesday 10 July for a guided tour of the town. Details will follow closer to the date. We hope to arrange more such events, and will, of course, keep you informed.

Given the mild weather that persists as I write this, it seems incredible that Christmas is so close. But it is, so on behalf of the History Society committee I send best wishes to our members for the season and for

2002. Mention of 2002 reminds me of the Jubilee, and that we would like to fill one of our issues next year with reminiscences of where you were (if you were, of course) in 1952 or 1953, what you were doing, what you and your family thought of the succession (a woman on the throne?), what life was like where you then lived, etc. Please start jotting down your memories, then send them in to Moira Byast (01869 338637). As a taster we will include in the next issue a contribution by Ethelwyn M McDermid (who used to live in the area, but now lives in British Columbia) and who has vivid memories of the death of the King.

Chris Day

Mapping changing Deddington

The earliest detailed map for the parish is the enclosure map of 1808. Deddington can consider itself unlucky not to have any earlier maps, because institutional landowners (eg Christ Church, Oxford, and the Dean and Chapter of St George's Chapel, Windsor) were prominent here, and they often have surveys and maps of the 17th and 18th centuries. We can, though, trace in detail changes depicted on 19th- and 20th-century maps.

A map was compiled to accompany

the enclosure of the parish in 1808, when landowners surrendered their intermingled arable strips in the great open fields, receiving in return coherent blocks of land. That rearrangement into a regular pattern of rectangular fields still characterises the parish today. It can be seen on the ground, and it is clearly discernible on the Millennium Map Group's map of Deddington fields.

The originals of the 1808 enclosure award and map are part of the Deddington parish records now

housed at the County Record Office in Oxford and the Bodleian Library, where they may be inspected. The map reproduced here in 224 is from a volume recently donated to the Bodleian Library by its Friends organisation. The volume is entitled *Survey of the Dutchy Manor of Deddington in the County of Oxford belonging to William Ralph Cartwright, Esq.* The Duchy manor was one of three in Deddington, and was so called because it had formerly belonged to the Duchy of Lancaster. The Cartwrights acquired it in

Members' special colour offer

Any member of the Society who would like a copy of this special issue with the maps printed in colour can do so for £1.50 by ordering a copy from a member of the committee at the next meetings or by phone to Moira Byast on 01869 338637 by 10 January 2002.

Why 224?

For the curious the title of this newsletter, is taken from the sheet number used by the draughtsmen of the Ordnance Survey in the early years of the 19th century to identify the individual drawings made by the surveyors for the first edition one inch maps. For more information see 224 March 2000.

Programme

We are still working on the full programme for this season, and further details will be published in the next issue of 224, but our next meeting is:

9 January: Martin Greenwood
The Edwardian North Oxfordshire Village.

Meetings are normally at the Windmill Centre, at 7.30 on the second Wednesday of the month.

1624. The Survey is a copy made for William Cartwright, showing his parts of the award, and it is evidently a stray from the Cartwright estate archives, now in the Northamptonshire Record Office. When this volume was removed, why, and by whom is not known, and perhaps one had better not enquire too closely. Suffice it to say that it appeared in a Shrewsbury bookseller's catalogue in 1984 and was bought by the Friends of the Bodleian. So at least it is back in the right part of the world.

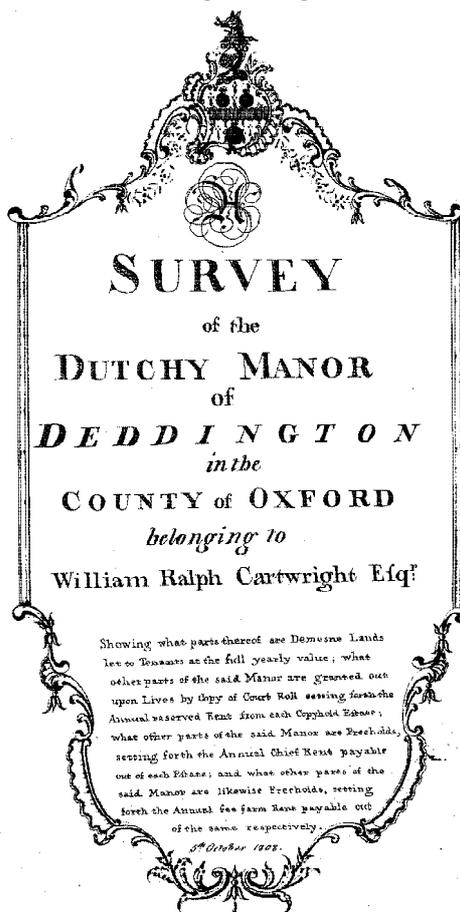
The Cartwright map has more detail than that in the County Record Office, and it gives us our first detailed plan of the village centre, showing the layout of streets, houses and plots, and some other topographical features of interest. The numbers on the map refer to the accompanying table which tells us who was the occupier, and what rents were payable. For example, look at the house at the top of the map numbered 92. Consulting the survey, we learn that it was 'A messuage [house] in Earl's Lane, late Matthews, and odd lands late Fenemores', occupied in 1808 by Thomas Fidkin. It was a freehold property paying only a chief rent to the manor of 1s 6d a year. All the numbered properties have similar information. We have a copy of the survey, and anyone who is interested in one of the numbered properties is welcome to consult it. There are similar surveys and maps for Clifton, Hempton and individual fields.

You will have realised that the house just mentioned is described as being in Earl's Lane, though its present address is Horse Fair. As can be seen, properties in Horse Fair originally ran all the way back to Earl's Lane. There were only three buildings fronting onto the south side of Earl's Lane itself, and none at all on the north. It was during the 19th and 20th centuries that plots of land were sold off for the building of houses (and the school and health centre) that now dominate the lane. Several houses around the Market Place and along New Street have long, narrow plots running back from them. Those presumably mark the original burgage plots laid out c1200 as part of the scheme to turn Deddington into a market town. Of

particular interest is the plot fronting No 106, at the south-west corner of the block of buildings in the middle of the Market Place (that strange little no-man's land fronting Steve Miller's and Foodies), called the market cross. No cross is depicted, but presumably the medieval market cross stood there and was remembered still into the 19th century. Note also the pond (which formerly had a ducking stool!) in the south-east corner of the Market Place. The pond's existence is well known, but how many of us knew that there was also a pond in New Street, opposite the end of Hudson Street?

Street names in 1808 were mostly the same as today, though there are interesting differences. St Thomas Street is listed as Satin Lane. There was no High Street, the entire road being called New Street.

It is fascinating, and great fun, to



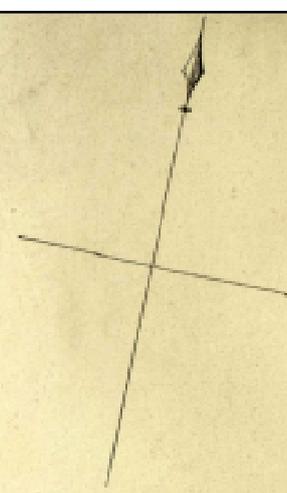
The much-reduced manuscript title page of the Duchy map shows the care lavished on the volume, which was probably drawn a couple of years after enclosure, as does the lettering used in the 25 inch Ordnance Survey on the next spread which, in common with all maps of the period, was cut by hand in the copper printing plate, rather than typeset.

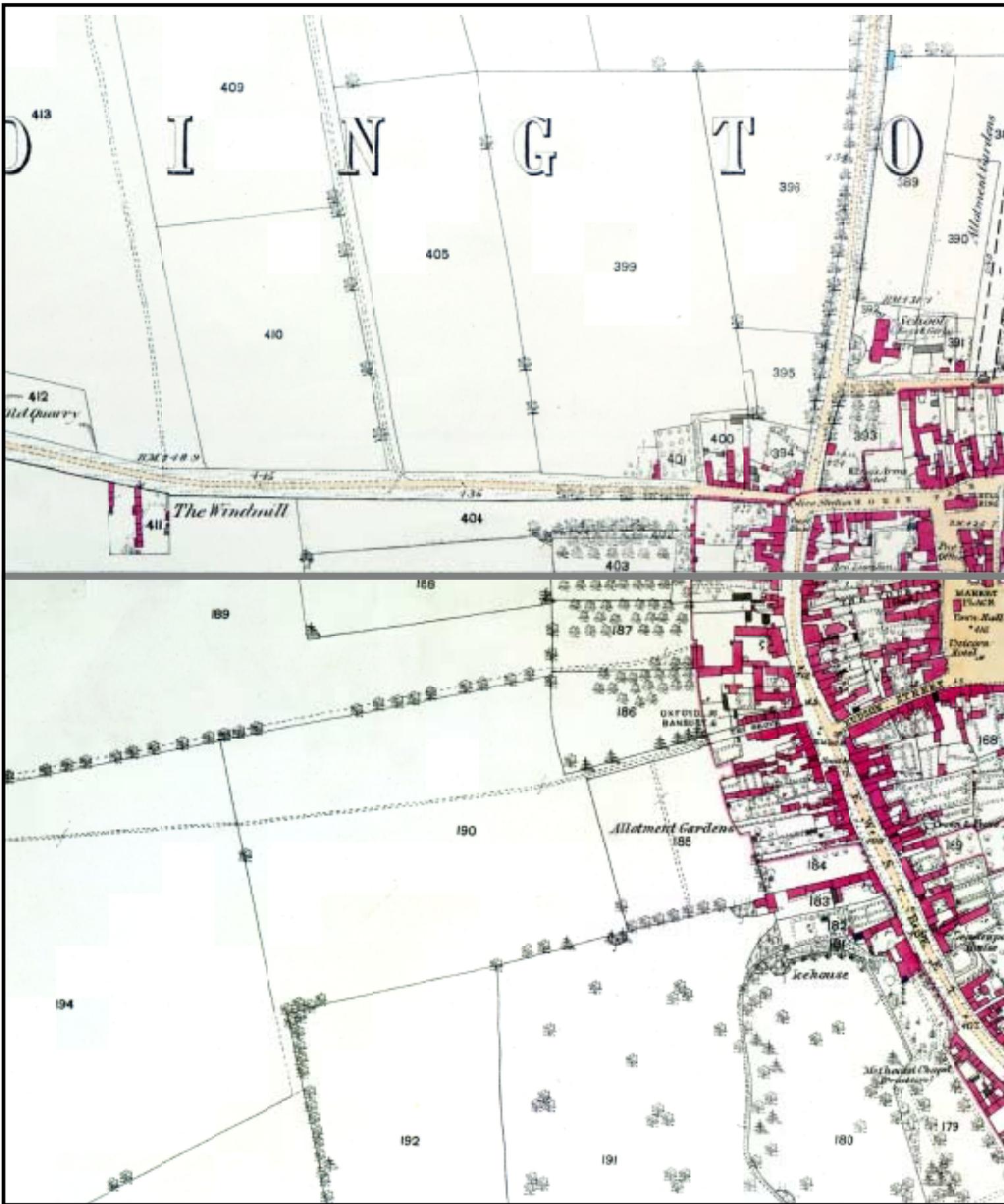
pore over the 1808 map seeing what was in existence then and what has changed since. It is an exercise that takes on a whole new dimension if you compare that map to the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map. The OS was set up during the Napoleonic Wars, when invasion was threatened and the government realised that it had no reliable maps of the coast and only a vague idea of how to defend the country. After the war the survey was continued, working its way northwards. A series of 1 inch to the mile maps appeared first which, while very useful (England was on the eve of the railway age), inevitably lacks detail contained in the original drawings. In addition there was often a long delay between the survey and publication: part of the Deddington 1 inch sheet was surveyed in 1814, but was not published until 1830. For detail we need the immensely impressive maps depicting the country at a scale of 25 inches to the mile. They show every building, out-house, fence, etc. Farms, works, institutions, pubs, and larger houses are named and the maps cost 2s 6d in black, or 4s 6d hand coloured, with pink indicating a building of brick or stone. Since a set of 25 inch maps for Deddington would cover most living room floors, the monochrome 6 inch maps, which show most of the detail in, obviously, reduced scale, are more practicable. The 25 inch and 6 maps inch for this area were published in 1881—about a year after the survey.

It is hard to know where to start with the 1881 maps. Comparing them with the map for 1808, you will see that the school has appeared in Earl's Lane. Plot No 92 on the 1808 map still extends from Horse Fair to Earl's Lane, but the building up of the lane has begun. Both pools have disappeared, but note the well towards the south end of the Market Place, opposite the Unicorn. Presumably this was a public supply. Almost at random, starting at the north, we find by 1881 a police station and a gas works. The Tchure is misspelled Tour, something that the OS got wrong until 1974, showing that this name has always caused trouble. The castle is described as a cricket ground: the pavilion in the south-

Continued on page 4

PLAN of DEDDINGTON TOWN.





Previous page: *The Duchy Map of Deddington town centre reduced in scale from 25 inches to the mile to about 20 inches to the mile.*

Above: *Extracts from Oxfordshire sheets X, 13 and XVI, 1 of the 1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey, reproduced at approximately 16.5 inches to the mile. Both maps are reproduced by courtesy of the Bodleian Library.*

west corner of the ground was presumably used during cricket matches, but the great thatched building also hosted dances and entertainments for the county set. The point is that the castle site was much more restricted in those days, not yet the amenity for the general pub-



lic that it was to become. Note, for instance that the entrance to the castle is by 1881 guarded by the Castle Lodge, built to house the cricket club's professional.

The street plan in 1881 is similar to

1808, though there has been an amount of infilling. Note that The Stile has acquired cottages since 1808. Satin Lane has acquired more cottages. Deddington House's modest grounds have grown to park-like proportions.

By combining the 1881 map with other sources such as census returns, trade directories, and surveys we can identify the families living in many houses in the parish. If you live in a pre-1881 house, why not have a go? First of all, we need vol-



unteers to transcribe the 1881 census, a day's work for a couple of people. That will provide a resource for everyone in the society, especially if we put it onto a database. I don't anticipate being killed in the rush, but surely there are two or three people who could spare a day? Guidance will be offered!

A systematic plotting of changes would require us to include the updated OS maps of 1922 and 1974, but given the constraints of space here I shall pass straight to the map prepared by the Millennium Map Group to depict the parish 2000. This map (for which Peter Terry was the cartographer) is in some ways comparable to the great OS 25 inch survey of 1881 in its painstaking detail and accuracy. Evidently, the greatest development has been west of the crossroads. Whereas the map of 1881 shows only the windmill, the Millennium Map records the growth of housing during the 20th century. Less dramatic but just as significant in its own way has been infilling within the old village. For instance the gardens on the south side of the Tchure have acquired quite a density of housing. The eastern edge of the village, towards the old gas works, has acquired new housing, as has Earl's Lane. High Street is so named on the Millennium Map.

Readers will have their own ideas as to what changes over the past 200 years deserve special mention. You



The changing face of Deddington, and of mapping technology. From top left: one of the many aerial photographs used for the Deddington Map Group's Millennium Map and a detail from the finished map (with the Tchure inset); a bird's eye view by Joseph Wilkins, probably mid-19th century, and showing a scene little changed from the Deddington Duchy map of 1808. We are grateful for permission to reproduce the Millennium Map which is available from the Group's stall at the monthly market, the Library and from Hayward White.

are invited to write in to 224, [see foot of page 8] pointing out what strikes you as significant. I have concentrated on the centre of Deddington itself, but have a look at Clifton, Hempton, the Barfords as well, and let us know what you find. We shall collect all the suggestions for further reference. Fascinating as an exercise such as this is, we have to bear in mind that maps provide us only with very detailed snap-

shots. They show us what has changed, but not the process of change. Nor do they tell us precisely when any individual change happened. For that we must turn to other sources. If we can identify what members consider the most important changes, then we can set about collecting the evidence that will help to explain when and why those changes occurred.

**Report of the Commission
on the Employment of
Children and Women in
Agriculture, 1867** (House of
Commons Papers, 1868-69,
vol 13, p 341)

This Report forms part of the vast series of parliamentary enquiries that were some of the greatest achievements of 19th-century government. The published minutes of evidence taken by the committees are known as 'Blue Books'. Before anyone gets too excited, I should add that the name derives from the colour of their covers! We are all familiar from school days with the enquiries that led to the Factory Acts and to the provision of universal compulsory education. Less well known are the enquiries into conditions in agriculture.

In 1843 a commission enquired into the employment of women and children in agriculture. The evidence compiled is a priceless historical source, telling us much about living and working conditions at that time. Unfortunately for us, this area was not included, but I have before me as I write this some extracts relating to Dorset. The enquiry took the form of a series of questions and answers put mainly to professional men and employers. That was one weakness of the 1843 commission, of course, and it was a highly significant one. Farm workers were talked about, they were not much consulted. The underlying concerns of the authorities are revealed by the amount of discussion of morality, occasioned especially by the unsupervised mixing of men, women and children at harvest time: 'I have had opportunities, in my professional practice, of knowing that immoralities take place at harvest time from the opportunities offered by the way in which men and women are employed together', said Mr Edward Spooner, a Blandford surgeon. There was also concern at the amount of alcohol taken by women and girls: 'Have they any advantages besides the wages you mention?' 'In haymaking they have at least three pints of liquor, either ale or cider.' The authorities were (quite rightly) worried especially by the dangers of the

gang system, in which gangs of male and female labourers moved around the countryside carrying out contract work. The gangs were often brutally controlled, and child abuse was by no means unknown.

In 1867 Parliament revisited the issue, and this time our area was reported on. Or, at least, Deddington, Hempton, and East Adderbury were. Not, unfortunately, Clifton, the Barfords, or Bloxham. I have transcribed the evidence, which was compiled by Assistant Commissioner George Culley. What follows below is verbatim from the Report. I will conclude with a brief commentary.

p 341. **Deddington.** Population 2,024. Acreage 3,990. Cultivation chiefly arable.

Rev J Turner says, 'The cottages are owned by landlords and only a few by tradesmen. The garden accommodation is very meagre, but there are allotments which the cottagers rent. Rents of cottages vary from 1s. 6d to 2s 6d a week.'

The following is from the Assistant Commissioner's notes on this parish:

Deddington with its hamlets is an open parish into which labourers have been driven from surrounding close parishes; there are about 240 cottages belonging to about 50 owners, the three largest estates, approaching 300a each, not being represented by any cottages; several of the cottages in Deddington proper are very bad; in Grove Lane, commonly called Hell Lane, are seven or eight houses with no back door, a sink in front of the cottages, and one watercloset for the lot; the whole place has a horrid stench. Rent of these cottages 1s 2d a week; they belong to small tenement holders. The inspector of nuisances certainly does not do his duty.

William Wheeler, farm labourer:

'Himself, his wife, and three sons, eldest 16, in one very small bedroom. For this cottage, with two rooms and no back door, Wheeler pays 1s 3d a week. The next cottage to this is equally bad, and is inhabited by a man, his wife, and three children. One watercloset serves both cottages. Wheeler's eldest son,

16, can read a little.'

Evidence of the inspector of police:

'In the parishes of Deddington, Dunstew, North Aston, and adjoining parishes, women are employed on farms at 8d a day for eight hours work, between 8 am and 5 pm, with an hour for dinner. Boys are chiefly employed to drive ploughs. They begin to go to work at 7 years of age. Their hours of work begin at 6 am. Boys under nine are paid 1s a week; at nine they are generally raised to 2s a week. Cottage accommodation in some parishes is very limited.'

p 351 **Hempton** (a chapelry). Population 229.

The following evidence is extracted from a circular returned by the Rev P R Egerton:

'The hours of work here for men are from 7 am to 5 pm, with one hour's rest; for women from 8 am to 5 pm, with an hour's rest.

Hempton is a very poor uncared for place just a mile distant from Deddington, with no gentlefolk at all living in it, a few farmers not very well to do, and a miserable set of cottagers who cannot live with anything like comfort on their earnings, and in time of sickness with little or no help except what I myself am able to give them.

I consider that the cottage accommodation is very unsatisfactory, looking at it as a whole. Many of the cottages are in miserable repair, indeed some months ago one or two seemed likely to fall, but I believe some repairs have been done since. It would certainly seem difficult for a family to grow up really respectable in most of them, but perhaps if there were some who cared for the poor living among them and looking after them, things might be better in spite of this. I myself live here at Bloxham, three miles off, and can hardly ever get over to them except on a Sunday, so what I can do for them is but little. The people are badly off and are very thankful for the little that the children can earn, but as a rule I think they keep them at school as well as can be expected, and there are hardly any who are not either at school or work. My own opinion about field work for girls or women is that it is bad and

demoralizing, and that girls had better be out at service and the women at home, but I don't know what to say about *legislation* on the subject.'

p 350 **Adderbury East**. Population 895. Acreage 1,900.

Mr William Chamberlain, occupier and guardian says, 'The cottages are not very good. Some have small gardens, others none at all. There are about 25a allotments let at about £5 an acre. Many of the labourers obtain land for growing potatoes on the farms they work upon, some at no rent, others at a nominal rent. There is an endowed school for boys and adults, at which the curate assists; a girls' and infants' schools supported by voluntary attendance of children.

The following evidence was given to the Assistant Commissioner by Mr Chamberlain:

'I have a carter, 24 years of age, and an under carter, 18, hired by the year. They live in the house of my farm bailiff, and I pay him 8s a week for their board, and they receive respectively £10 and £6 wages at Michaelmas. Doubtless they are bound to fulfil their contract except in case of sickness, when most farmers would remove them to their own [*ie* the labourers'] homes. I believe we are not compelled to support them during sickness, A man and his wife and four children would cost in the house [*ie* work-house] an average of 3s 4d [each] per week; for the family £1. Out of the house this man would be earning, say, 12s I pay my men 11s a week, but 10s is the average wage of the district. Women just now work from 8 till 4, and are paid 7d for seven hours' work. My shepherd, with his wife, who works out, earns an average of 19s a week. He has 12s a week, 3d a lamb, and 3s a score for shearing. I let six cottages with one farm, three of them attached to the farm. A farm of 500 or 600a ought

to have five or six cottages attached to it.'

It is clear from the above that in 1867 labourers *were* interviewed, and some of the reports are clearly verbatim, which means that we have the rare privilege of hearing such people speaking with their own voices. That is not the case with William Wheeler, above, whose evidence seems to be paraphrased. But in other places the words seem authentic, and can be moving. Thus, Mrs Huckens of Combe: 'My husband is a farm labourer. He has 10s a week if they make all time; sometimes he loses a day or two from wet and they take it off. I have two children, one 6 the other 3. I can't say what my husband gets in piece-work; in harvest, if I help him with a little boy, we can cut and tie an acre a day, and we got 9s an acre last harvest. The crop was light, the rabbits had eat so much, you see, sir, or we would have got 10s. We pay 1s 4d a week rent. We have no allotment ground; if we could get an allotment it would help a great deal. I never was at school. I went to field work about twelve. My husband tries to teach me to read. My children should be sent to school to twelve; I wish I had been. I have been hard at work gloving, I haven't earned 5d. They begin learning to glove at eight.'

Mrs Huckens' comments make clear how important allotments were to the cottage economy. But it is worth bearing in mind the commitment in time and effort: after a long day in the fields a man might have to walk some miles to get home, eat, and then walk out to his allotment, where he would spend two or three more hours. Housing for many people was appalling by modern standards. Hemptonians guffawing at the insulting description of Grove, alias Hell, Lane will have been pulled up short by the blunt account of Hempton's 'miserable set of cottagers'. Few of us have

a rosy, soft-focus view of the past any more, but material such as this has the power to bring us face to face with the harsh reality of life for many of our ancestors.

One cause of our parish's problems was the way in which landowners in neighbouring 'close' parishes (*ie* where one or two people owned all the land and controlled the numbers living there) used the more 'open' Deddington as a sink, employing its surplus labour at peak times and turning it off when not required. The owners of Deddington's cottages were not, by and large, wealthy landowners who might be prevailed upon to carry out repairs and install rudimentary services. Many cottage owners were little better off than their tenants. Typically, they might live in one cottage while renting out one or two others, and they shared the poor living conditions of their tenants.

The Report gives us evidence of wages at that time. Mr Chamberlain's rather defensive comments are particularly interesting. This is a large topic to which we can perhaps return in a future issue of 224. As to morality, that was still a concern, as the evidence of Rev Egerton makes clear. But in this later report there were some notably tolerant attitudes, and I will conclude with a letter sent to Mr Culley by C Mostyn Owen, Chief Constable of Oxfordshire:

'My dear Sir, In reply to yours, there are many statute or hiring fairs in this county, and I cannot see any objection to them. Farm servants must have their recreations as well as their betters, and those who attend such fairs are generally well conducted and as sober as persons of the country working class are when they can get beer. Girls will get sweethearts and occasionally have bastard children in spite of all Acts of Parliament.'

Chris Day

If undelivered please return to: The 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 £8/14 pa single/couples, or £3 per meeting at the door.

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