

## Deddington House (the Manor)

Deddington Manor stands towards the south-west end of New Street. The street, now the main road from Banbury to Oxford, was laid out at the same time as the Market Place, which is a little way to the east, both being created as part of a scheme of c1200 to turn Deddington into a market town. New Street contains an assortment of cottages and larger houses in stone and brick, the oldest house dating from 1325 but the majority from the 17th to 19th centuries. The stone used is local golden coloured ironstone, and the brick probably came from the local brickworks that stood just south of Deddington from the early 19th to the early 20th century. It was in this street in the latter half of the 18th century that Deddington House was built, almost certainly by Bartholomew Churchill.

The Churchill family (no connection with Blenheim!) lived in Deddington for three centuries,

mainly farmers, but also following a variety of trades and professions. Bartholomew was a hop dealer, tallow chandler, grocer and brandy merchant. He died in 1780 and his obituary in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* stated 'By unwearied application and diligence he acquired a handsome fortune, with credit and reputation'. He was married but had no children, and his business passed to his nephew, also Bartholomew, who inserted the following advertisement in the *Journal* in July 1780:

TO BE LETT, and Entered upon immediately, at an easy Rent,—A genteel Sashed HOUSE, in Deddington, in the County of Oxford; consisting of four good Rooms on the ground floor, a Store-Room, four Bed-Chambers, and several good Garrets; a Garden, Coach-House, Stable, Pigeon-House well stocked, and other very convenient Out-Offices, in good repair, and fit for a small Family: All ready furnished except for one Parlour and one Bed-Chamber. A Quantity of well-brewed Beer in the Cellar may also be had, and a Close of about two Acres near the Premises. Enquire of Mr Bartholomew Churchill, at Deddington; or of Messrs. Loveday and Clay, Oilmen, Smithfield-Bars, London.

The house must have stood out from the rest of the street as it was, and still is, the only house built of ashlar stone, and with its sash windows and Cotswold slate roofs behind parapet walls presented an imposing if somewhat austere appearance. In typical Georgian fashion the garret windows are well concealed behind both the parapets and the first floor pitched roofs, which are constructed in sections to the front and rear of the central attic block and surrounded by lead valley gutters. The exception is to the south, where the external wall rises straight up and the attic room has a delightful semi-circular window overlooking the grounds. This wall and the rear (west) elevation are also built of Hornton ashlar

## From the Chair

As members will recall, the December edition of 224 was a bumper one. I would like to thank Colin Cohen for finding and reproducing the maps that were such an impressive feature of it. I am delighted that in this edition we are able to publish research by one of our members, Buffy Heywood, who has used the Risley diaries (familiar to us through her extracts in the *Deddington News*) in conjunction with other sources to compile a history of Deddington Manor.

I hope that Buffy's work will encourage others to come forward with material for publication. Perhaps we could get the ball rolling with a 'Notes and Queries' section. Here's one to start us off, with the Jubilee in mind: how many shops were there in Deddington, Clifton, Hempton and the Barfords in 1952? What and where were they, and who ran them? Does anyone know? Answers, please, to Colin Cohen, for publication in the next issue of 224. His contact details are on the back page.

Finally, a reminder that we shall not have a conventional meeting in April, because of the trip to the Hook Norton Brewery and Museum (see also the back page).

We shall be back at the Windmill Centre as usual on Wednesday 8 May.

Chris Day

## Programme for the spring and summer of 2002

Our programme for the rest of the year is:

13 March—David Mander of the Bletchley Park Trust on 'Enigma' and the Government Code & Cypher School

10 & 16 April—visits to Hook Norton Brewery [see back page for details if you have booked]

9 May—talk on Wroxton Abbey

11 June—summer outing to Wroxton Abbey

Meetings are *normally* at the Windmill Centre, at 7.30

## Why 224?

For the curious: 224, 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.

stone, all set in very fine lime mortar. There is a 3-window bay to the sitting room and bedroom above to the west (again with its own pitched roof over the bay and attic windows behind), and the outlook on this side is over rolling farmland.

Following the younger Bartholomew's death the house remained in the ownership of the Churchill family. His brother Samuel, a wealthy solicitor lived opposite in Leadenporch House until his death in 1808, when Samuel's son (also Samuel and also a solicitor), was residing in Deddington House with his wife and four children. Considerable enlargement had taken place by then, as can be seen from the following description given in *The Churchill Chronicles* by Major General T B L. Churchill:

'Deddington House contained an Entrance Hall, a Breakfast Parlour, a Dining Room, a Drawing Room, a Servants' Hall, two Kitchens, 11 Bedrooms, a Conservatory, a Water Closet, a Laundry, a Brewhouse, a 4-stall Stable and a Hunter's Box. Outside there was a kitchen garden, surrounded by walls and well stocked with fruit trees, running altogether to 3 acres 1 rood and 15 perches. A pew in the church was attached to the house.'

The photograph shows the street (east) frontage of the house as it is today, the main change to this elevation from the early 19th century is the recessed wing on the south side and the addition of the porch. The coursed-rubble wing on the north was presumably made as an addition in the early 19th century,

*The east front of Deddington Manor on New Street today*



although it seems likely that something was there before—perhaps the store room, etc and kitchen quarters of which no mention is made in the 1780 advertisement—as the coach house, stable and yard are further to the north.

Bedrooms appear to have been built over a refurbished kitchen area, and this almost certainly became the nursery wing as it was later in the century. There was a back door near the tall arch at the end of the ashlar stone main block (a boot scraper is still there), the door at the north end being inserted in 1970 when one ground floor room and the whole of the nursery wing above were converted into a self-contained flat. As can be seen from the photograph, the whole construction is quite different from the south wing, which is also of Hornton stone but square-coursed rubble instead of ashlar and lead-framed casement windows instead of sash. However ashlar stone was used both along the high parapet and as lintels, window sills and corner stones, which helps to tie in the two forms of construction. On the rear (west) elevation of this wing there are in fact sash windows, a large one to the kitchen and smaller ones to the bedrooms above. It is unclear if these were original or perhaps put in later.

There is a small cellar under the northern front room of this wing, and a larger one under the inner hall and dining room of the main block. This latter one contains a (locked!) wine cellar lined with bins, and there are also wooden struts to support beer barrels—brewing used to

take place here in the mid 19th century.

Samuel Churchill remained in occupation until 1827. He had, however, squandered his inheritance and a great deal more besides, and finally had to surrender to the Commissioners in Bankruptcy. His debts, after taking into account his assets (including Deddington House), amounted to the then colossal sum of £77,000. The house remained in the hands of the Bankruptcy Commissioners and was rented out. It was in May 1836 that the Rev Cotton Risley took possession of Deddington House, firstly as lessee and later as owner. During his time at Deddington Risley assiduously kept diaries, most of which have survived and are in the Bodleian Library in Oxford. It is from these that the following information has been taken.

Risley was instituted vicar of Deddington in July 1836, and he—and later his sons—remained in the house until the beginning of the 20th century. In October 1838 he also took possession of the farm next door (Park Farm) and in June 1839 he attended the sale in Banbury of Samuel Churchill's property, buying Deddington House and the farm for £8,920.

The next big expansion of the premises took place soon after, though at first it took the form of buying up adjoining land and laying out the pleasure grounds. That entailed the purchase of some 12 acres, including paddocks and spinneys, and the demolition of at least one cottage. Risley then asked Mr Cartwright of Aynhoe Park if he would allow his gardener to come and suggest some ideas for laying out the grounds. They included rose beds, paths, herbaceous borders and an orchard as well as an avenue of lime trees, 7 either side of the lawns to the south of the house (there is a similar avenue at Aynhoe Park). Risley now had a 12 foot high wall of Hornton stone built that stretched south from the house along the Street and then curved to the west before proceeding south alongside the limes and behind the row of 11 cottages fronting the road. His privacy was now complete! The photograph, taken in the 1930s, shows part of the wall and one side



*The the garden side of Rev Cotton Risley's 12 foot wall, stretching south from the house.*

of the avenue of lime trees.

Risley's first addition to the house itself was in 1839 and was a larder leading off the scullery measuring approximately 10 foot square with stone-flagged floor and black slate shelving. It was built on the north-east corner of the house, so is admirably placed to keep cool. During 1840 Risley was busy organising the refurbishing of the buildings in the stable yard. He also had men at work in the entrance hall laying a new oak floor which is still there today. The oak front door was hung two years later.

At the end of October 1841 Risley employed Henry Underwood, the Oxford ecclesiastical architect, to plan the addition of two new rooms and the replacement of the existing main staircase with a new one. These rooms, comprising a library on the ground floor with bedroom above, faced west and north of the bay to the drawing room and main bedroom. Work must have commenced in November, for by the 1st December the floor joists were being put in for the new bedroom and a cart load of Hornton stone was being fetched from Banbury. The new roof was erected on 9th-10th, and on 11th the team went to Banbury again for a further load of Hornton stone for the parapet wall and some coping for the garden wall. The builders of the new rooms were Franklins, local builders who became well known for their work on churches and Oxford colleges. They made the pulpit and lectern in Deddington Church, but examples

of their work can be found as far afield as Hobart in Tasmania. The masons were also a local firm, Hopcrafts, whose descendants were in the village well over a hundred years later (there is a Hopcrafts Lane) and who owned the local brickworks for the whole of the latter half of the 19th century.

The addition was built to match exactly the previous construction, with ashlar stone to the west and square-coursed rubble to the north elevation, and on looking at the house now it would be almost impossible to know that it was not all built at the same time.

The new oak staircase was being prepared at Franklin's yard, and took some time when compared with the building work. Risley called to look at the preparations

first on 3rd December and then again on 17th March, when it looked well and handsome, the installation was completed at the end of April and included a Venetian window half way up on the bend of the flight. The staircase was made from a Chesterton oak which Risley had bought some years before and had had sawn up in his saw-pit, and all the woodwork in the new rooms, including doors, windows and floors, was made from this oak. Grimsley of Oxford installed two marble fireplaces.

The work in the house now being completed for the moment, the masons were employed in building a sunk fence (or ha-ha) dividing the front lawn from the paddock. There was a walled kitchen garden to the north-west, the wall being brick on the kitchen garden side and stone facing the pleasure grounds. A further plot of land to the north of the stable yard and adjoining the farmyard was bought at this time and incorporated into the kitchen garden, and another length of stone wall was built separating the kitchen garden from the Street.

*Buffy Heywood*

I am grateful to Mrs. Primrose Buckle (nee Roberts) for the information she has given me about their time here and for allowing me to use copies of her old photographs.

*To be concluded in the next issue of 224*

*The nineteenth-century rear addition is on the left of the photo*





# The death of King George VI

I was a student in London at the time, and was on my way to Charing Cross Station to catch a train to Greenwich to work as a student practitioner in a health centre. I was sitting upstairs by the window, of a 73 bus, going around Trafalgar Square, when I became aware of the boards of the newspaper vendors, and heard their cries 'The king is dead'.—it was a grey, cold, day, and the silence and grief on the bus was as heavy and suffocating as the weather.

Later in the day we decided to pay our respects, and express our grief, by visiting the Lying in State in Westminster Hall. After supper, in the evening hours, armed with hot-water bottles, snacks and warm clothing we set off from Queen Alexandra's house, next to the Royal Albert Hall [?] and made our way to Parliament Square. The end of the queue was halfway across Westminster Bridge heading east [the Thames here flows north, Ed]. We then had to walk, and wait, and along the Embankment, past St Thomas' Hospital and Lambeth Palace, back over Lambeth Bridge and

along the other side of the river to the Victoria Tower and Parliament Square. Then wait to enter Westminster Hall. There, amidst the crowds of people we were able to pause in profound silence before the catafalque, which was surrounded by the large candles, and the guard of honour with their heads bowed, and gave thanks for the life of a beloved king.

Emerging into the world outside, with tear-stained faces, we made haste to return to Queen Alexandra's house before dawn and in time for breakfast. It was a long, hard, night, but one filled with emotions and memories that have not faded with time.

On 14 February, the day of the funeral, we set out once more in the early hours before daylight, fortified with blankets, hot-water bottles and flasks of hot tea, to stake out spaces along the route of the procession, just inside Hyde Park near the Wellington Gates. We waited and waited, until at long last we heard the sounds of muffled drums, and the playing of the Dead March from Saul, and the gun carriage came into view, hauled by hand by sailors of the Royal Navy. They were followed on foot by the Royal

Princes (Edward Duke of Windsor, Henry Duke of Gloucester, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Charles Duke of Cornwall) and Heads of State. Behind them came the royal ladies, swathed in black veils, riding in a carriage. Again it is the eerie silence that lingers longest in my memory.

*Ethelwyn M McDermid*

## A chronology for 1952-53

*6 February 1952:* King George VI dies peacefully in his sleep.

*8 February:* Princess Elizabeth is proclaimed Queen on her return from Kenya

*14 February:* Funeral takes place. It is attended by the Duke of Windsor and Queen Mary—the King was the third of her sons to die. Our contributor was one of 300,000 people who paid their respects.

*2 June 1953:* Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

*We very much hope to publish members' memories of the Coronation in the June issue of 224. The editor would be most grateful for any member's reminiscences [you don't have to have been there!] at the address below.*

## Hook Norton Brewery visits

Those who booked places for Wednesday 10 April should meet at the brewery at 7.15 pm. The tour will start at 7.30. Those going on Tuesday 16 April should arrive at 9.45 am for a 10.00 tour. The cost is £6.95, to include beer samples and a free glass (empty, I think!). We will have paid the cost in advance and would be grateful if you could make out your cheques to the Deddington & District History Society.

The Hook Norton Brewery has brewed beer for the past 150 years, during which time it has remained in family ownership. The brewery was founded by John Harris in 1849 and rebuilt in 1899. Much impressive Victorian machinery remains, all of it in use: this is a working brewery, not a museum, although there is now a museum and visitors' centre attached. Those with access to the internet might care to look at the brewery's website: [www.hook-norton-brewery.co.uk](http://www.hook-norton-brewery.co.uk)



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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 £2 per meeting at the door.

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