

SUPPLEMENT  
TO  
MARSHALL'S DEDDINGTON.

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# HISTORY OF DEDDINGTON.

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As this publication is less exhaustive than those by the same author on Woodstock, Wootton, Ilfley, Sandford St. Martin, and Church Enstone, a correspondent, several of whose local histories have appeared in our columns, has contributed the following notices of persons and matters that appear to have escaped Mr. Marshall, and at starting we notice an erroneous date in page 39 twice repeated. It was in 1822, not 1802, that Vicar Faulkner died and was succeeded by the Rev. Richard Greaves; the present writer (born in 1810) well recollects the Rev. John Faulkner in the reading desk facing north with a clerk's seat below and a pulpit above, the whole forming a regular *three-decker*.

Mr. Greaves soon made a great name by preaching the opinions called Evangelical, so that Deddington Church was filled Sunday after Sunday with people who admired Calvinistic doctrine from all the surrounding villages, but the celebrity of Mr. Greaves was eclipsed by that of the curate he engaged, the Rev. John Hughes, who had previously been at Foleshill near Coventry. Though Deddington is 17 miles from Oxford, undergraduates would occasionally come on Sunday mornings to hear Greaves or Hughes. The son and biographer of the latter states that the now newly-made Cardinal, John Henry Newman, was among those excursionizing undergrads at least once. Mr. Hughes had the misfortune to be left a widower with six young children, the oldest under nine years of age, while he was Curate of Deddington, where we believe he effected many useful reforms. Shortly after this crushing bereavement he became Incumbent of Aberystwith and Vicar of Llanbadarn Fawr, and eventually Archdeacon



of Cardigan, and he died in 1860, to the last an attached member and servant of the National Church. Not so his superior, the Rev. Richard Greaves, who soon after he resigned Deddington forsook the Church wherein he had been baptized and ordained, and joined those who are said to hold Unitarian doctrine.

During the vicariate of Greaves a person who had unexpectedly received an accession of fortune by the death of a distant relative at Deddington added a new clock, with more than one face, to the tower of the church. Useful as this adjunct is, it has a heavy pendulum swinging in a case depending from the upper floor in the ringing loft, and preventing any one of the ringers seeing all his coadjutors; moreover this ringing chamber is much too close to the bells to be pleasant. The peal is a "maiden" one, that is to say, all the bells emerged from the founder's casting pit in perfect unison without any artificial tuning. The organ was placed in the church during the vicariate of the Rev. W. C. Risley. The addition to the north side of the churchyard was consecrated in October, 1874; this was much needed, and makes the position of the church in the graveyard appear much more central. Besides the Parish Church there are places of worship connected with the United Methodists' Free Church at Deddington proper, and at Clifton, one for the Congregationalists or Independents, and a recently-erected building for the Primitives. Hempton has or had also a Dissenting Chapel, as well as the unconsecrated and undedicated Anglican one. The Independents have secured a better site than the old one for a new erection.

Deddington has no help to its rates from railway or canal; including that at Clifton there are two water corn mills and a disused paper mill. Axletrees, malt, bricks, and drain tiles are the only manufactures. A large windmill for grinding corn was pulled down about forty years ago. The Aynho and Barford road running east to west through the parish and town, and the Adderbury and Oxford road passing from north to south, have both been *disturnpiked*, though the toll-house on the latter remains, and is now the property of Christ Church College. Before the passing of the Union Chargeability Act injuries were inflicted on



Deddington and its hamlets by the owners of neighbouring undivided or close parishes ejecting their poor and enforcing them into Deddington, to the great enhancement of the Deddingtonian poor-rates, the crowding of the churchyard, the laying extra burdens on the clergy and offertory funds. Brackley suffered in the same way from similar injustice, which was justly denounced in glowing language from the pulpit by Archdeacon Thicknesse in 1870, albeit he had a Duke, an Earl, and several Squires who had fallen into the temptation of saving their own rates at the cost of the rural towns among the congregation before him. As far back as the year ended at Lady Day, 1803, the rates were for Deddington proper £1040 odd, Clifton £424, Hempton £264, all at two shillings in the pound on the then rateable value. Bladon and South Newington were the only parishes in Wootton Hundred that experienced anything like such heavy local taxation, the general run being at the period from three to four shillings in the pound.

Deddington and Great Barford were enclosed under one and the same Act of Parliament and the same pair of Commissioners, namely Robert Weston, of Ayulio, and John Davis, of Bloxham, whose award is dated October 5th, 1803. The Act recites that the Dean and Canons of Windsor held the inappropriate Rectory of Deddington, and that in right thereof they had three yard-lands in the open field, *and all tithes whatsoever, small as well as great*, except of fifteen acres. Power was given to the Commissioners to alter as well as define boundaries between the parishes, and to enlarge and widen water courses. The Act recognises and defines some singular usages as to copyholders and their estates, whether they happen to die before or upon St. Mathias's Day (old style) before 12 o'clock, or after that hour and day. Oldfield Bowles, the highly gifted and accomplished Squire of North Aston, was appointed auditor of the receipts and expenditure of the Commissioners, both of whom were extensively employed in inclosure times. Mr. Davis once had twenty-six inclosures in hand at once, and he was an excellent practical farmer. Mr. Weston was Steward to William Ralph Cartwright, Esq., M.P. for Northamptonshire.



At this period the Apletree family continued to reside in Deddington as they had done for many generations—we find one of them alluded to in a suocing entry in the North Aston Register of marriages "*as a very great man in Deddington.*" At some time one Richard Apletree created a rent charge of 6s. 8d. yearly on two acres of meadow towards the maintenance of the north aisle of the church. In 1818 William Apletree, with four other surviving feoffees, enfeoffed five other leading inhabitants, so as to constitute a full body of trustees of the public charities in the parish, which were exhaustively reported upon by the Charity Enquiry Commissioners of 1822, of whose labours one result was the erection of the row of almshouses a short distance south of the church, for four poor men and as many poor women.

When the Poor Law Unions were formed it was at first hoped that Deddington would be a centre, but as a sufficiency of parishes could not be found without going into Northamptonshire, and Mr. Cartwright was strongly opposed to such a step, the idea was abandoned, and Deddington was tacked on to Woodstock, to which place applicants for relief have to take a walk ten miles each way if required to appear before the Guardians assembled in their Board-room, and if this is not *crucelly* I cannot define the word.

Deddington and its two hamlets were at first treated as three separate poor-law parishes, the former returning two guardians, the two other one each; but as a trial at Nisi Prius shortly afterwards revealed that the parish is all one, four guardians are now chosen yearly for the whole area. An attempt to dismember parts of the Woodstock and Bicester Unions, and so to constitute a Deddington Union in 1858, was supported by the parishes of Deddington and Over Worton, but opposed so strongly by all the other places interested, that the project fell through; the ratepayers who had paid for the erection of one workhouse were unwilling to pay for another.

The state of the footpaths in Deddington is far from satisfactory.

For many years the Petty Sessions for the district were held in a diminutive room of the King's Arms



Inn, a space of most inadequate dimensions. Afterwards these meetings were transferred to the upper room of the Town Hall, but this arrangement was unsatisfactory, as it was necessary to eject the public whenever the magistrates had to deliberate on any point in private. This inconvenience is obviated now, as the magistrates have a retiring room at the Police Station, erected at the expense of the County, in New Street. The Town Hall still serves many public purposes, and its upper room is used as a reading chamber, well supplied with books and newspapers. The lower portion has thrice been converted into polling hustings at contested County elections in 1837, 1852 and 1862.

Property must have been in more hands than at present at the great election of 1754, as we find fifty-one freeholders polled for Wenman and Dashwood, and twenty-three for Parker and Turner. Among the former we find Samuel Apletree, William Cartwright, of Aynho, and John Hinchman, or Henchman, the Vicar. In 1826, when the next contest came about, the polling freeholders were only sixty-nine, in 1831 sixty-four, in 1837, after the extension of the franchise, the voting power of the parish reached 204, and in 1862, 85. Two elections of County Coroners have been held at Deddington, both uncontested.

Deddington has possessed many and still possesses some Friendly Societies, and, in conjunction with Heyford and Steeple Aston, it has a prosperous Benefit Building Society. It has a rifle corps with a shooting range and butts. Its once pleasant gatherings called flower shows have passed away. Its large town pool is covered over, though, we presume, available as a subterranean tank in case of fire, and there is an efficient engine in the parish.

An energetic Vicar, in the prime of life, a skilful medical practitioner, three legal firms, a factory for patent axletrees, a large building establishment, and plenty of good shops ameliorate the condition of this railroadless town whose ox-roasting and hiring fair in October is abolished, but whose November fair for hospitality, leather gaiters, horses, and *pudding pies* is well kept up.



What the once-a-year delicacies called pudding pies are was fully explained in "Notes and Queries" a few years ago by the late Charles Faulkner, Esq., son of the Vicar of that surname. Mr. Marshall has informed his readers that the right of presentation to the vicarage was occasionally demised with the lease of the estate belonging to the Dean and Canons of Windsor. Ecton's Liber Valorum, 1763, p. 357, confirms this statement, as it describes William Hunt, Esq., as so possessed of the patronage in 1751 *as Lessee to Windsor College*. Mr. Hunt had also freehold property at Deddington, but resided at Basingstoke in Hampshire. Ecton states the yearly value of the discharged vicarage to be £48, and the yearly tenths £1 10s. 11½d. In the Liber Ecclesiasticus, 1835, the yearly value is called £133, with a Glebe House fit for residence. The Rev. John Hugh Burgess, now Vicar of Blewbury, formerly of Burford, was once curate-in-charge of Deddington, as was at another time the Rev. George Venables, of Great Yarmouth, a frequent contributor to the newspaper called *Church Bells* whose articles always well repay perusal.

To revert to our own Church bells at Deddington, their weight is:—

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Treble . . . . .	7	0	8
Second . . . . .	7	1	25
Third . . . . .	9	0	16
Fourth . . . . .	10	1	27
Fifth . . . . .	12	3	7
Tenor . . . . .	17	0	18

They were cast in 1790 by Mears, of Whitechapel, London.



itself dates from the seventeenth century, but has been much altered at various times.

The upper part of New Street is now known as High Street. On the west side of it is the Gothic Congregational Chapel built in 1881 to the designs of a London architect named John Sulman.<sup>1</sup> On the east side is the former Police Station and Magistrates' Court. In 1854 a house was converted into a lock-up under the direction of J. C. Buckler, the county architect, and a Magistrates' Room was added to the designs of W. Wilkinson in 1874.<sup>2</sup> The building is now used as a County Library.

From High Street, Hudson Street, the Horse Fair, and the passage known as The Tchure lead to the Market Place. Hudson Street commemorates William Hudson, a prosperous grocer to whom the town owes the clock in the church tower. On the north side of Hudson Street is a small building erected by Charles Duffel Faulkner, F.S.A. (d. 1871), as a private museum.<sup>3</sup> Its contents have been dispersed, but a number of geological specimens and architectural fragments remain built into an adjoining wall.

The Market Place is a roughly rectangular area now partially grassed over. In it there once stood the Market Cross mentioned in medieval and later documents. Near the centre is the Town Hall, a small and unpretentious structure built of brick. In 1611 it was found that a "Town house", with certain shops or stalls "under and adjoining to the same", had been built with the proceeds of the town charities, and that the rents received from the stalls were devoted to charitable purposes.<sup>4</sup> The original building was rebuilt in 1806, the cost being shared by the three lords of

<sup>1</sup> *Banbury Guardian*, 4 August 1881.

<sup>2</sup> County Records, QSE 13.

<sup>3</sup> See obituary in *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, 2nd. ser. v, p. 307, and M. V. Turner, *The Story of Deddington* (1935), pp. 49-50.

<sup>4</sup> *Further Report of the Charity Commissioners* (1825), p. 335.

the manor, the foffees of the charity lands, and the parish, each of whom probably contributed one third, as they did when the hall was repaired in 1832.<sup>1</sup> At this period the upper room was used for vestry meetings and as a court house. It also served as a polling station for county elections, and from 1858 as a Reading Room and Library. Originally it stood on open arches beneath which were three stalls used by butchers on market days, but in 1858 these were bricked up in order to form a shelter for the parish fire engine, hitherto kept in the church.<sup>2</sup>

The south-east part of the Market Place was formerly occupied by the Town Pool or "Cook Stoolle Pond", whose pollution by offal and other rubbish was a long-standing cause of complaint. Proposals to fill it in were defeated in 1845 and again in 1854, but it was finally done away with in 1861. It was in this pond that those condemned to sit in the "cucking-stool" were dishonourably dipped. The practice had already been allowed to fall into disuse in the sixteenth century, but another archaic custom survived in Deddington long enough to be noted by Dr Plot in his *Natural History of Oxfordshire* (1677). This was running at the Quintain, an equestrian sport which was by then "only in request at Mariages", the post being "set up in the way for young men to ride at as they carry home the Bride, he that breaks the board being counted the *best man*".<sup>3</sup>

Immediately to the north of the church is the house which at various times has been known as the Old Parsonage, Great House, or Rectorial Farmhouse, and which now goes by the name of Castle House. It is in fact the rectorial mansion, which passed into the possession of the Dean and Canons of Windsor on the appropriation of the

<sup>1</sup> Vestry Minutes, 29 August 1832. In 1806 W. R. Cartwright contributed £52 10s.

<sup>2</sup> Risley's Diary, October 1858.

<sup>3</sup> *Natural History of Oxfordshire* (1677), pp. 200-1.



Reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught, and boys were put out to apprenticeship.<sup>1</sup> This Charity School continued throughout the eighteenth century, but it was on too small a scale to satisfy the needs of the parish, and in 1814 the Deddington National School Society was founded "for the education of the poor in the principles of the established church". Some £300 were subscribed, and in 1816 the committee was able to report that the Schools now contained 141 boys and 94 girls from Deddington and the neighbouring villages.<sup>2</sup> But the subscribers dwindled, and as the Society's income dropped, so did the number of pupils. By 1848 it had fallen to 80, although the population of the parish had increased by nearly 400.<sup>3</sup> A fresh appeal was therefore made in 1850, a site was presented by Mr W. C. Cartwright, and new and better buildings were erected with the aid of a Government grant of £300 and £50 from the National Society. They were designed by William Hambley, architect, of London, and completed in 1854.<sup>4</sup>

The north aisle of Hempton Chapel (1850-1) was built and formerly used as a school-room for the hamlet, and a school was built at Clifton in 1870. A large Secondary School was built by the County Council on the Hempton Road in 1951.

<sup>1</sup> *Bishop Secker's Visitation Returns* (Oxon. Record Soc.), p. 54.

<sup>2</sup> Printed report in parish chest.

<sup>3</sup> J. Brogden, *A Letter relating to the Restoration of the National Schools of the Parish of Deddington* (1850), p. 16.

<sup>4</sup> *Deddington National School Buildings* (printed report 1854); *North Oxfordshire Monthly Times*, 5 March 1850; Minute-Book of the Deddington National School Committee in the parish chest; Bodleian, MS. Oxford Diocesan Papers, c. 1794.

## CHARITIES

IN 1611 it was found by an inquisition under a commission of charitable uses that the rent from certain lands and tenements in Over Worton, Bloxham, and Deddington had, since time immemorial, been used towards the payment of fifteenths levied on the parish of Deddington, and that the rent of the house known as The Hermitage was employed towards the relief of the poor. It was also found that with these revenues certain of the inhabitants had built a Town House, with shops and stalls "under and adjoining the same", "to the end that the same, together with the... profits thereof, might be for ever employed and bestowed for and towards the payment of fifteenths, and the relief and maintenance of the poor of the said parish". In addition there were various small benefactions intended for the benefit of the poor. The commissioners, by their decree dated 10 April 1612, appointed twelve feoffees to hold and administer these endowments, and empowered them to nominate others from time to time to ensure that their number did not fall below six. The property in the hands of the feoffees in 1825 is set out in detail in the Charity Commissioners' Report of that year.<sup>1</sup> The clear income at this period amounted to about £140 a year. Prior to 1818 most of this was applied to the relief of the poor-rate, but in that year new feoffees were appointed, who, considering that their predecessors had made improper use of the

<sup>1</sup> *Further Report of the Charity Commissioners* (1825), pp. 334-9.



revenues at their disposal, decided to build some almshouses for the benefit of poor parishioners. Almshouses were accordingly erected in Church Street for four poor men and four poor women chosen by the feoffees, and on their completion in 1822 rules were drawn up for their management.<sup>1</sup>

The maintenance of the Town Hall and Almshouses and occasional contributions to the relief of the poor did not, however, fully account for the feoffees' income, and their failure to have their accounts audited by the Justices, or to disclose them to the Charity Commissioners, put the worst construction on their conduct. In 1851 the Commissioners, supported by local agitation, referred the whole matter to the Attorney-General, with the result that in 1856 a new Scheme was drawn up by the Court of Chancery. New trustees were appointed in place of the old feoffees, the vicar and churchwardens being *ex-officio* members. The upkeep of the Almshouses remained the trustees' chief responsibility, but half the surplus income was to be applied for the benefit of the recently erected National School, and half applied for the purchase of coals for the benefit of the poor.<sup>2</sup> This (with some minor variation) is the scheme that remains in force at the present day.

By the will of Richard Cartwright (d. 1637) a rent charge of £1 6s. 4d. was laid on a farm in Deddington in order to provide bread for the poor.<sup>3</sup> This rent charge is still in force. The money is paid to a baker, who supplies bread which is distributed by the vicar.

A Coal Charity supported by voluntary contributions existed in the 1830s, and continued until about 1901. In the winter of 1849-50 over 180 families in Deddington and

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 338.

<sup>2</sup> Charity Commission, 1849: *Second Report of the Commissioners* (1851), pp. 4-5.

<sup>3</sup> *Further Report of the Charity Commissioners* (1825), p. 339.

40 in Clifton were supplied with coal at 1s. per cwt. through this charity.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *North Oxfordshire Monthly Times*, 6 August 1850.