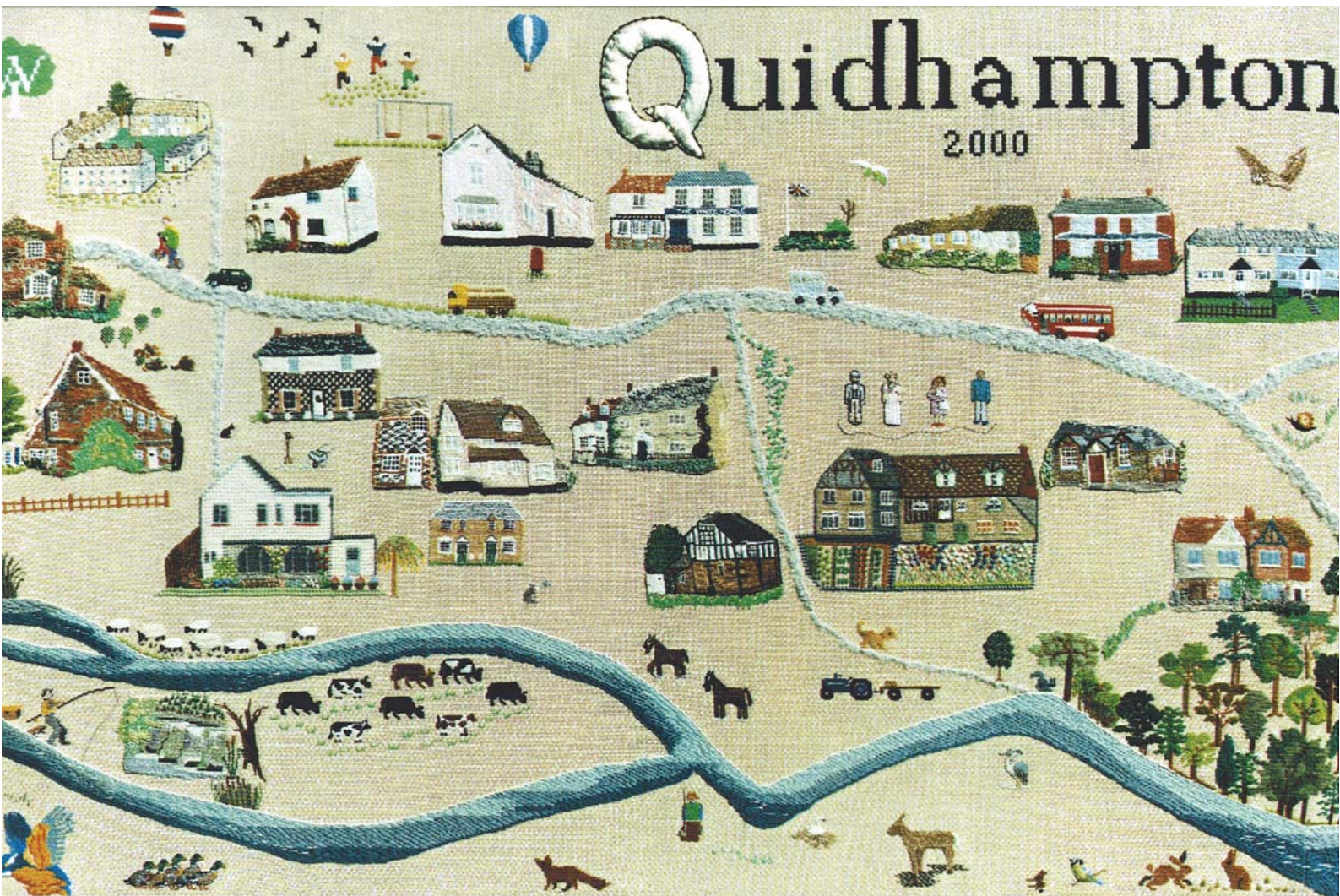


# Quidhampton

2000



# **The Quidhampton Story**

In memory of Stan Cousins the Author of this work 1919 - 2002.

First printed in 1994.

Second print in 2006 to incorporate minor changes to text and layout.

The cover is a print of the tapestry made for the village in 2000 by the ladies of Quidhampton Women's Institute.  
The original hangs in the Village Hall.

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## **Introduction.**

Quidhampton is one of many settlements with similar names which were established in the river valleys following the arrival of the Saxon invaders after the overthrowing of the Britons at Old Sarum in 552 A.D.

There were two early occasions in our village history which pointed to the fact that we did not live in isolation. Our close proximity to the Royal town of Wilton with its great Abbey, founded in about the ninth century, could well have encouraged these two milestones in our Parish history.

Firstly, in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century King Henry I, the second son of William the Conqueror, was King of England. He married a former Nun from Wilton Abbey. Edith Matilda, who was a daughter of King Malcolm 3<sup>rd</sup> of Scotland, but she died rather early in life. King Henry then married Adele, or Adelia of Louvain, now in Belgium. She is thought to have been afflicted with leprosy and encouraged the King to give her some land on which to build a Lazar (or Leprosy) hospice.

In about 1124 such a place was built in the Parish. The remains are still visible within the Wilton Park now. It was situated near the Parish road from our village to the neighbouring hamlet of Fugglestone. Alelicia was buried in the graveyard of the hospice and a historian of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century recalls that her grave was still identifiable then. In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century older inhabitants often recalled the fact that an English Queen was buried there.

The second important occasion was in 1194. Richard 1<sup>st</sup> was now King and he required the Knights and Nobles to be ever ready for war. He requested that the Archbishop of Canterbury select places where friendly jousting tournaments might be held to encourage the handling of personal fighting weapons. During that year one such tournament was held in our Parish.

The old Roman road running from Badbury in Dorset to Old Sarum crosses the plateau in Upper Bemerton and it was here that the tournament was held. To help us recall this occasion a road on the former Bemerton Park Estate was named 'Tournament'. Our Parish must have seen the comings and goings of Knights and their followers who attended in great numbers, especially to please their King.

The site chosen for the tournament must have had its approach roads considered by the planners, and our Parish must have been well connected. Our road to the west went straight from the west end of the village to Kingsbury Square in Wilton, there being no enclosed Wilton Park then. Later, in about 1544, the Herbert family are said to have been given the Abbey lands. It was then that the road to Wilton was diverted to come between the two rivers near Fugglestone church. This building has a main door facing south suggesting that the road was on this side of the church. There are old remains of a former Rectory in this position also. The roadway was later diverted to approach the church just to the east of the present Garden Centre. A pair of gates in the current Wilton Park wall, on the bend, indicate this. In about 1790 a Turnpike road between Salisbury and Warminster was constructed and this, together with some land ownership changes, caused Wilton Estates to expand their land holdings to the north at this point. Fugglestone Farmhouse together with several buildings were removed from the old site of the Fugglestone hamlet and by 1826 a new Park wall had been built diverting our Parish road up to the Turnpike road where a Toll House once existed.

To the east our Parish road led to Bemerton where it met up with the Roman road near St Andrews church. In addition the village had access, on an old Saxon way, across the marshes to Netherhampton. These marshes existed in conjunction with the Wylde and Nadder rivers. The Saxon way led from the present Locks Lane down to the rivers where a ford allowed cattle and livestock to cross. There was also a footbridge for pedestrians. Once across the rivers there was a hard surface track which eventually came out beside the Netherhampton church.

After crossing the bridge villagers could also reach Gypsy Lane, on the present 'Broken Bridges' footpath in Bemerton, and get across to West Harnham quite easily. On reaching Gypsy lane one crossed the Roman Road which at one point connected to a Saxon way leading back to Netherhampton. In the 1920's these footpaths were still in use.

The footbridge at the end of Locks Lane became unusable but in 1909 an Army Engineer, a friend of the Rector of Bemerton, drew up plans for a new bridge. As it was a Parish Right of Way in those days the Rector led a committee to discuss the replacement, but eventually due to the cost estimate, and the existence of the existing road to Netherhampton built in around 1826, it was never built. The plans are still preserved in the County Records Office.

### **Our Origins.**

The name 'Quidhampton' has seen many alterations to its spelling. Originally known as Cweadham Tun, then Queddham Ton, and later to Quidhamptone before becoming Quidhampton. The current name appears on legal papers going back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Older historians say the name means "home town where dung was available". This is probably due to amount of farms in the area at the time. A later opinion was that it could also have meant "home town where resin was found" on account of the abundance of so many trees from which resin could be drained.

Quidhampton was settled on the rising ground to the north of the flood plain of the Nadder and Wylve rivers. Its boundary in the south at water level affords some meadow grazing for livestock. It extended northwards towards the downs about 1 ½ miles. At its highest point it was approx 400 feet above river level. Years ago this area was all open downland and on its highest ridge overlooked the Avon valley and Old Sarum. Gradually this downland, which was grazed by thousands of sheep, became enclosed and cultivated. Half of the area is now covered by hundreds of houses and is known as Upper Bemerton.

For many centuries Quidhampton was part of a Parish which stretched from Berdonsball in the west to Bemerton, with its common boundary with Fisherton Anger, in the east. Many times over the years parts of the Parish have been attached to other areas, and Fugglestone for instance was attached to Wilton until 1828 when it came back to Bemerton.

Of course we have to consider both the ecclesiastical parish setup of earlier years and the civil parishes which followed. Quite often dates are misleading as there was a time when the church held all of the sway and laws were often enforced by an Abbot or Abbess in her manor, or by the Bishop in his town, as was often the case in Salisbury.

### **Trade, Crafts and Labour.**

During the period from the 13<sup>th</sup> until the 16<sup>th</sup> Century our village population was small. The presence of great flocks of sheep on the Downs, and the fact that a Mill existed in the village, tells us that quite a lot of labour was required for the growing cloth industry.

Many inhabitants were weavers who were assisted by wool pickers, carders, fullers and spinners etc. Finally, before the cloth was sold, washers finished the products and made them more presentable. Government inspectors called Aulnagers then checked the finished goods for quality.

Because it was easier for them, the Master Weavers belonged to capitalist controlled syndicates who handled and sold the finished cloth to both the home market and abroad.

In close proximity to Salisbury, our weavers no doubt passed their goods to the great wool merchants in town. These merchants built large houses in the town, some of which still remain. The name of one such merchant, a Mr Swayne, was shown as owning land in Quidhampton as late as 1830.

The land was divided between the manor of Bemerton and the manor of Burdensball, although we are told that the Prior of St Deny's, Southampton and the Prior of Ivychurch held land in Quidhampton also. The Chantry chapel of Robert Hungerford is a focal point in Salisbury Cathedral, and the Prior of Ivychurch (Clarendon Estate) received the land from him. The Hospice Charity of St Giles also held land in Quidhampton as late as 1838. A map used in a sale of that year is reproduced on page 31.

Employment on the land is never secure, and land prices are often volatile. The recession of the early 1990's is testament to how values can and have fluctuated over time. 700 acres of land around our village cost £27,000 in 1812 but in 1892 the same acreage was valued at only £7,000. At the time labourer wages fell drastically causing much poverty in our village.

In 1901 it was recorded that farm labourers received about 14 shillings (70 pence) a week, plus beer to the value of 2 shillings, a house with a garden, also valued at 2 shillings. Overtime, when available, was 4 pence an hour. In the summer a further 2 shillings a week was paid to cover working from first to last light.

### **Our Farms.**

To the west of the village, in the current Wilton Park area, was Park Dairy. This is now Daye House and was a farmhouse until converted by the Reverend Dacres Olivier when he retired from being Priest in Charge at Wilton in 1912. This dairy had very little land, some in the old deer park was used and some meadow behind the fourteen hatches provided grazing for a few cows. The Dairy closed and the milk business moved to some buildings near the Quidhampton Mill. The new site was then under the control of the Lower Bemerton Farm.

The next farm up the village was Quidhampton Farm, (in 1994 this was the building known as Old Dairy). Its farmyard occupied a site on which the houses of Wyllye Close are now situated. Its land area from

1851 to 1950 covered some 260 acres, some of which were on the north side of the railway line near Cookes Chalk pit. Many were also on the fields between the village and the current A36 main road.

Most of the land was acquired by Pembroke Park at various times, starting after the closing of the Wilton Abbey. The tenant farmers produced milk, eggs and there was even a large orchard running along the lower edge of the village bordering the Wylye river. The Williams ran the farm in about 1830, but it went out of business under a Henry Rogers in 1870. Other tenants arrived; Edmund Small, the Levers, Fishers, Cox's and Roses until shortly before the war in 1939.

This farm employed 11 labourers during the 1800's, and also provided a milk delivery service through the village, and later on to the Upper Bemerton estate. By 1910 most of its labour became part-time and the amount of animals kept declined, although egg production continued.

Further eastwards up the village we had Balls Farm (this is now the Old Farmhouse). Renting 70 acres, with about 20 cows and using 6 labourers, it was run by John Hales as a Bailiff in 1845. Down the nearby lane was an expanse of meadow for grazing and a well established orchard where fruit was grown for the trade. He too rented ground in the meadow down Locks Lane where as recently as 1925 the cows crossed the ford at the bottom to reach the other meadows. From 1860, until the turn of the century, Witts and Garlands were there and later still a Mr Spearing, who, with his sister, provided a milk delivery round in Salisbury until about 1930 when a Captain Turner, a retired Army officer took the place over. The milk farming ended and apart from egg production the place was run as a Moot & Mount Club connected with tree preservation and timber felling.

A few yards further on was Hoopers Farm, run in 1845 by David Dykes. He rented 30 acres and had one labourer. After him came a Charles Pinchin and he stayed until 1900. It then seems that farming ceased, as all through the 1920's until the war the Stokes family

occupied the rear of the house (by 1994 it was known as Melrose Cottage), the front house is now Trinity Cottage.

One hundred yards further we find Locks Lane. On the North West corner was a farmyard with a large barn and a paddock to the rear. This was part of a very old farm which had been in the ownership of the St Giles Hospital at the western end of our Parish towards Fugglestone. As indicated previously, during the formation of the Leper Hospital, some land was given to it from this farm to help maintain it. This farm nevertheless retained land down to the river and the two houses on the eastern side of the lane and all the land up to the corner of Lower Road, which had been part of the farm for some 700 years. It was still owned by St Giles Hospital in 1928 as shown in the map reproduced on page 31.

The two houses on the east side of Locks Lane have a rebuilding date of 1677 shown on the records. They were also rebuilt again by the Rogers family in 1927 as shown in the photograph on page 32. A bit of a legend surrounds this property. The grandfather of Stan Cousins (the original author of this booklet), was born in this house in 1843 and knew the place as Hospital Farm. The census of 1851 shows this to be correct. A tunnel under No2 was said to be connected to the Hospital 500 yards away for use as an escape route. In the cellar in 1928 was a distinctive bricked up alcove...

In 1900 an Edith Marshall wrote a novel based on this place and many have accepted her story as being true. Subsequent articles in magazines have followed her line.

The next farm in our village was situated at the extreme northern corner overlooking the valley towards Old Sarum, built on the ridge now known as Devizes Road. During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century this farm managed acres of downland to the north of the village until the Commons Enclosure Acts brought the land into the ownership of Lord Pembroke, along with the agricultural land sale of the old Manor of Bemerton in 1838. For two centuries it had been called Cowslip Farm.

The building of the Bemerton Lower Farm in 1840 only took charge of the farming land that had been worked for many years by the manor Farm at Bemerton and whilst within our Parish is outside of our village boundary. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century this farm held over 300 acres and employed 12 labourers but after the Manor Farm closed this increased to 1000 acres under Silas Taunton and, later, Edward Taunton. They employed 40 labourers and 6 boys, many of who lived in Quidhampton. Thomas Cook and his son Reginald followed the Taunton family in 1925 and their empire, like Taunton's, also included the acreage of the Netherhampton Farm, so there was always a demand for labourers. As indicated earlier, as land values fluctuated during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century it was well known that much rent was owed by tenant farmers to the Pembroke Park Estate. Fugglestone Farm, with the Woodcock family in occupation, had gradually fallen to 600 acres with 21 men and 3 boys but still provided a few jobs for Quidhampton.

The coming of the railway from Warminster to Salisbury was also to bring work to our village. Work begun in 1842 to build the track but due to lack of money and workers stopping work occasionally much delay was encountered. Trains only began to run in 1856. However, three years later more work was available as a new line from Salisbury to Yeovil was built. Many villagers who worked on the railways stayed with these Companies to do regular work.

During the First World War many cabinet makers and metal workers found employment with the War Department. The new Royal Flying Corps bases on Salisbury Plain required many of these craftsmen and, as the petrol engines had to be maintained many men from the village learnt the new trades. When hostilities ceased lorries and cars began to appear as people became relatively more affluent.

During 1920 one such cabinet maker, Bertram (Bert) Lock, who married Violet Blake, moved into the village, first to Nadder Lane and then to the 'Grange'. They were still there in 1994. Mrs Lock and her sister May (Mrs Prewett) were possibly the last surviving pupils of the School in the Park. It is after Bert that the lane gained its name. Bert

ran a business from a large corrugated barn to the rear of the property until his death. Subsequently a bungalow was built on the site in 2002, the new owners being Bill and Fiona West. Bill is well known around Salisbury as a world class weight lifter.

During the 1920's and 30's many of the ladies of the village were able to supplement their earnings from a unique form of casual work - knitting. The shop, next to the Close Gate in Salisbury, was one of four owned by the Stonehenge Woollen Industry and customers could choose jumpers and sweaters from a wide variety of patterns and colours. The firm had a house in Churchfields and 'Barrington House' and here a Miss Georgina Primmer from Quidhampton and a Miss Hansett operated a system whereby any women who wished to, was given a pattern and some wool and sent off to produce the goods for the customer. It was invariably a rush order to be complete in 2 or 3 days. Occasionally neighbours would work together. It was quite usual to pass through the village in those days and see everyone knitting, often whilst holding a conversation over the garden fence.

### **Carpet Making.**

Gradually Master Weavers found it increasingly difficult to operate in our area as rich wool merchants cornered the market and transferred the clothing to work to the industrial north. Many weavers transferred to the Carpet Factory in Wilton.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Wilton had a number of small carpet making firms but by 1820 most had closed down as the work became concentrated on one firm in Burdensball. The Company of Blackmore & Lapworth employed 150 women, 20 men and 30 boys in 1851. This increased to a total of 200 women ten years later and records that a large number of those came from our village. This form of employment continued for many years.

The history of the Wilton Carpet Factory is, of course, a story in itself. Several times it faced closure and on at least one occasion was saved only by the intervention of Lord Pembroke.

### **Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights, Wainwrights and Undertakers.**

With many farms needing repair work and large numbers of cart horses working, there was always a need for these craftsmen.

Records show that the Young family of Blacksmiths and Farriers filled such a need. They lived in various places in the village but the head of the family, Alfred, lived in a cottage where No1 Alexandra Cottages is today. He had a forge built in the garden of what is now 'Almeric' but in 1877 he was able to build a house in front of the forge and lived here too.

His son, Alfred John, also became a Blacksmith and Farrier and he lived in 'Belle Vue' Cottage (now Elm Cottage - beside the Village Hall) in about 1890. This is at the bottom of Foothill – sometimes known as Tinkerpit where a Tinkers Pit existed. Alfred John extended this property and built a larger forge. He in turn had a son, William John, who also followed his family into the Blacksmiths trade. In 1919 he is shown as living in part of the 'Poplars', then occupied by the Penney family, but he soon moved to No2 Bell Villas where he lived with his family until 1928. He then moved to his new house built on a large plot which included a forge at Foothill. This became the name of the house. His forge remained in business, later adding an undertakers shop to the forge for another family member when James Tabor became elderly.

A Blacksmith was employed by the Tabor family, whose yard was between the Old School and Bell Villas. They occupied several houses at different times; 'Oak Cottage', No 2 Bell Villas, and were licensees for over forty years of the Bell Inn next door. When the school closed in 1880 John Tabor moved into the house and the classrooms were used as a Carpenters Shop. They were able to construct a complete haywain

for Charles Rose, a farmer, from here in 1930. Miss Evelyn Tabor was well remembered in the Village Hall life up to the turn of the Century.

Another Blacksmith, Elisha Hinwood, had a forge directly opposite the top of Locks Lane. This forge closed in 1871 but the house there was lived in by several families, including the Stokes. Old Folks bungalows now occupy the site.

### **Cordwainers and Shoemakers.**

An important trade in the village was that of Shoemaker. Such a tradesman was John Lucas whose entry in the 1851 census shows him employing one man. He lived three houses from the present 'Wylie Cottage'. This could have been 'Oak Cottage' if the Old Schoolhouse yard was still in use. By 1861 he had moved into 'Wylie Cottage'. He was 70 years old at this point.

The Holly family were Cordwainers. John, the licensee of the White Horse Inn, and Henry Holly were declared as such in the 1851 census.

In 1861 we see a John Goodfellow in the property now called 'Millington Cottage'. At one time he lived in 'Almeric' but by 1861 a George Ware lived there. He was a shoemaker. Another Shoemaker was James Waif who lived in the rear part of Hoopers Farm, now known as 'Melrose'.

During the 1920's it was possible to buy leather soles cut to size along with various pieces of rubber for heels and many family men began to repair their own families footwear. Men had learnt this skill whilst in the Forces during the Great War. At one time we had an ex-Regimental Cobbler, a Timothy Smith, who, on leaving the Army, set himself up in an ex-Army hut in a field where Hampton Court now is. He repaired shoes and boots and, in the summer, lived on site. During the winter months he lodged in No 6 Nadder Lane. When he stopped working that was the end of Shoemaking in the village.

## **The Chalk Industry in our Parish.**

The disused pits on the downs surrounding our Parish show that chalk has been dug by our ancestors for years.

The farming community has known that chalk, or its by-product lime, will 'sweeten' the ground and that most of our roads and byways since Roman times were made of flint and rammed chalk.

Many of our village dwellings had been made using the 'Cob' method. This is where crushed chalk is mixed with short straw and poured into shuttering to form the walls. This was used for both cottages and garden walls.

Early in 1862 the Cooke family built a chalk processing factory in Warminster Road, Burdensball and all the chalk needed to supply this factory was dug out of pit in the village at a site on the north side of the railway. Chalk was hauled by contract, a Wilton haulier and a local coal merchant called Penny had the contract for years. Horses and carts carried chalk all day between the two sites. It was a Thomas Axford from the village who excavated the chalk in the pit, sometimes using explosives.

In 1903 a competitor came on the scene. The Rogers family had been in the chalk business at Fareham, Hampshire during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. They had their workings on Portsdown Hill and exported the product in their own ships from Fareham Quay. In 1866 they came to Harnham and by 1867 they had acquired a 21 year lease from the Earl of Radnor on a site at Harnham Hill.

For a while they lived in a house on Wilton Road but later they brought the Watersmeet Farm in East Harnham. They used horses initially to turn the mill but later Rogers brought a Crossley gas engine and as a result he became an agent for the makers in the district. One such engine was eventually brought to power the organ in the Cathedral.

In 1903 Lord Radnor cancelled his lease with Rogers whose company then acquired 17 acres of land on the north side of the railway alongside Pennine Road in Quidhampton. Thus began a long association with the village. Many men were employed at the site and factory and huge quantities of chalk were extracted and processed. The Rogers became the owners of the first motor car in Quidhampton. It was a Humber and was driven by Mr Jewell, who, at one time had been the 2<sup>nd</sup> man on the firms steam powered Foden lorry. This lorry carried about 3 tons on each trip, but for longer distances Rogers used the Salisbury haulage firm of E J Watts. Much chalk, in various forms, was exported from Avonmouth Docks and the 8 ton truck of Walter Thornton regularly made the round trip. In the 1920's the author made frequent trips as a passenger of Mr Thornton to visit relatives in Bristol.

Both the Rogers and Cooke family brought much property in the village and the Rogers' built several new houses between the war years to house his favoured staff. The head of the Cooke family rode around Quidhampton every Monday to collect his rents. The author lived at one such property No 1 Temperance Cottages. He was 20 years old in 1920 when they moved in and they were paying 6 shillings and 3 pence rent including rates (approximately 32 pence). Edgar Cooke always stayed long enough to drink a cup of tea.

Rogers' eldest son Bertie was known as a perfect English gentleman. He rode everywhere on his bicycle. He was the Organist and Choirmaster at Fugglestone church for many years.

In time, when the older generation of the two families died, the children joined the companies together. The Fugglestone factory closed and the pits and factory at Quidhampton enlarged. Eventually the whole business was absorbed into the English China Clay Company (now known just as ECC) and, following the withdrawal of the Great Western railway line to Salisbury, two sidings were built to serve the remnants of the Quidhampton chalk industry.

## **The Mill at Quidhampton.**

The Water Mill at Quidhampton was mentioned in documents as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. It is recorded as having been owned by the Wilton Abbey but was usually rented out to others. In about 1600, and for many years afterwards, it was the only Fulling Mill operating in the district and even Wilton Weavers had to bring their products here for treatment. It was situated about 150 yards south of the village green towards Netherhampton and water to run it was diverted from the Wylde river about 300 yards upstream.

In 1820 this diversion came within the boundary of the new Park but a set of sluices helped form a Mill Pond and another sluice controlled the supply of water to the Mill. The Mill was built within a barn partly constructed of brick and timber weather board about 50 feet long by 25 feet wide running east to west. The water ran past the Mill in two channels, the first carried water to the wheel which was 10 feet in diameter with fins 6 feet long by 3 feet wide. The second channel was controlled by a hatch which raised or lowered the level, and thereby the pressure, of the water in the wheel channel hence the speed of the wheel could be controlled.

Along the length of the barn, on the upper floor, was a driving shaft attached to the hub of the wheel by a leather belt and from this shaft any number of belts could be run down to any type of machinery on the floor below.

At one time the Mill was owned by the Hussey family. Onetime Mayor of Salisbury, a block of Alms houses in Castle Street recalls the family's generosity. The mill was mainly used for 'fulling' Worsted Cloths which were produced in cottages in the village and surrounding area. In 1830 the mill was owned by the Naish family who also owned the Felt Mill in Wilton.

It was said that one machine in the mill replaced 20 labourers, and this at the time of the Workers Revolt. On 30 November 1830 a mob of

angry workers attacked machinery. Much damage was carried out and in December at Salisbury Court one labourer, John Ford, aged 17, was sentenced to death for his part in the Riot. This sentence was commuted to Transportation and later to Imprisonment. About eight others were involved with attacking the Wilton Mill and all were held for a time on the Prison Hulk 'York' in Gosport.

For about 20 years during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century the mill was owned by John Barnham but it was never used again for the Cloth trade. The mill became part of the Taunton family farming empire before the turn of the century and was used to cut chaff and crush animal feeds. After a petrol engine was fitted it was able to pump water to farms and fields towards Red Buildings.

In the 1920's the Dairyman was a Mr Males. The Author recalls watching him use the Water Mill to wash his equipment. The fins of the wheel were replaced from time to time by James Tabor the village Carpenter.

When the Netherhampton Lane was widened the mill was demolished. It had been in the control of the local farmers T & RT Cook since 1925.

### **The Parish Poor.**

Following the Tudor period, the position of the poor caused many problems, and in 1601 a law was passed placing their responsibility on to the Churchwardens of the Parish. They were empowered to raise taxes from the rich within their boundaries. Some of the cash raised from tithes could also be used to benefit the poor.

Churchwardens were also required to provide housing for the poor and our Parish followed this to the letter. Here in Quidhampton a site was chosen. Now known as Rogers Close it was formerly a large garden with a large thatched cottage in the north western corner (later called Oak Cottage). Next to this cottage on its western side was a passage

way to three cottages called Workhouse Yard. These stood in the garden of Wylde Cottage.

In 1834 Parishes were instructed to combine and form Unions of several Parishes and larger centrally positioned buildings were to house the poor. Our Parish became part of the Wilton Union and a large building (in 1994 a Furniture Store) was erected at Burdensball, beyond Fugglestone. There was also a medical ward built to act as a Maternity Hospital for unmarried mothers from the Union area. Because the building was in South Newton Parish all new babies were taken to that church to be baptised. Records show that almost every week a group of mothers from the Union would be attending the church.

With the setting up of a large Union the cottages in Workhouse Yard fell into disuse and were demolished. Oak Cottage however was let to tenants with its very large garden. It was occupied by the Tabor family, village Undertakers, for years before being demolished in the 1950's.

Prior to 1834 the Ecclesiastical Parish bore the brunt of many things. They retained the services of an Undertaker to bury the dead who had no known relatives. In our village as late as 1925 the coffins of the poor were taken to the church on a 4 wheeled bier. This was a waist high rubber tyred flatbed cart that was pushed by four men. It was usually kept in the Tabors yard.

In 1677 all persons buried had to be placed in a woollen shroud. The Priest would record this, placing a 'P' in the register against the names of the poor. The church would pay for these Paupers shrouds. Additionally, in 1783 a tax was levied on Baptisms and Burials. Again the church would pay this tax if the individual was a Pauper.

Churchwardens had a great deal of power. They could demand that Master Craftsmen take on a poor boy as an Apprentice. This Act in 1601 made legalised slaves of many a boy from a poor family. Few of them learnt a sensible trade. Many boys ran away from these employers and were punished as was John Tabor in June 1825. He was

sentenced to 3 months in the ‘House of Correction’ in Devizes for absconding from his Master, Rhoda Wiles, a Wheelwright of Netherhampton. Was this the John Tabor who later became the licensee of the Bell Inn who died in the Old Schoolhouse?

Gradually Civil Authorities began to replace the Churchwardens and Local Magistrates were appointed as Parish Overseers assisted by Constables of the Hundred or of the Parish. Poor people found to be destitute away from their own Parish could be brought before a Magistrate and ordered to return to their Parish. They were given a Passport to enable them to pass through neighbouring Parishes and to receive the normal assistance which was fixed by an annual poor rate at the Petty Sessions Court.

The Allowance for the Poor in 1817 was fixed as:

A Labourer. A Gallon Loaf of Bread and six pence per day;  
A Woman. A Gallon Loaf of Bread and four pence per day;  
Child over 12. A Gallon Loaf of Bread and four pence per day;  
Child under 12. A Gallon Loaf of Bread and two pence per day;  
Child under 8. A Gallon Loaf of Bread only.

A term ‘Guardians of the Poor’ came into use at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Lady Pembroke had a gift scheme which was operated by the Rector Canon Warre. The Parish also began a Soup Kitchen to help the poor in December 1892. Soup was prepared in bulk and could be bought for a penny a quart (2 pints).

### **The 1601 Poor Law.**

The list of Apprentices paid for by the Churchwardens under the scheme in Quidhampton:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Masters</b>	<b>Craft</b>	<b>Name of Apprentice</b>
1676	John Elliot	Broadweaver	Cornellius Kerbie
1694	Jim Smith	Weaver	William Patience

1694	Thomas Smith Jnr	Weaver	Robert Smith
1711	Lawrence Martin	Broadweaver	John Reynolds
1722	William Doutey	Broadweaver	James Vincent
1743	John Windle	Clothier	
1747	John Cusons	Weaver	Thomas Cutler
1748	James Hayter	Carpet Weaver	Alexander Goodfellow
1754	John Cusons	Weaver	Sarah Cusens
1763	Richard Haskell	Weaver	Mary Castleman
1770	Sarah Cosens	Carpet Weaver	Humphrey Fleming
1771	Sarah Cosens	Carpet Weaver	Henry Dutfield
1776	Walter Whindle	Carpet Weaver	Thomas Bacon

During the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century there was a Blanket Fund in operation in the village. A stock of blankets was held in the Tithe Barn at the rear of the Rectory in Bemerton. When the winter arrived any parishioner could apply for a blanket for each bed. At the end of winter all the blankets had to be returned. They were washed by the Parish ladies with water from huge boilers lit in the Rectors Yard. They were then dried and mothballed until the next winter.

### **Inns and Alehouses.**

#### **‘The White Horse’.**

For centuries it has been mandatory to apply and pay for a licence to sell alcohol. This has helped in researching this aspect of the village. It is also possible to examine the trades and occupation of the licensees outside of brewing. History shows that running an Inn was not sufficient income, in itself, for a family to live on.

In 1808 a Licence to Brew cost £2.10.1 3/4d although there were no applications from Quidhampton until 13<sup>th</sup> July 1810. James Holly and widow Mary Newman were bound over to the sum of £10 each to keep good order at the ‘Weavers Arms’ Fisherton Anger. James Holly was also learning the brewing trade then.

In 1811 Philip Tabor, a Victualler, and Charles Hibbert obtained a licence. It's thought that Tabor is part of our story of 'The White Horse'.

Our friend James Holly joined the Rifle Corps in 1812 and by 1813 Philip Tabor was the only licensee in the village. By 1814 another licensee by the name of Isaac Bennett was approved.

In 1816 our man Holly was appointed Constable of the Hundred of Branch and Dole. As was our District name. a few months later as a Cordwainer (Shoemaker) James Holly again got a licence, as did Philip Tabor. Holly's Tap has now got a name: 'White Horse'.

In 1819 a licence to brew and sell beer cost £10 per annum. Coupled to the fact that most licensees were also Maltster or Brewer meant that every gallon of beer he brewed had to be recorded so that the visiting Revenue Officer could levy the appropriate tax. The Licensing Magistrates met annually and in this year they met at the Black Horse Inn at New Sarum. One applicant was James Holly of the White Horse Inn. His trade was shown as Cordwainer (Shoemaker). In 1823 Holly was still the licensee but by now the fee was £30 and applications had to be supported by a surety of £20 plus a named Guarantor. In this case a Josiah Penny.

Moving on to 1824 and a William Burroughs made an application for the licence, supported by Edward Beare, who gave his occupation as 'Victualler'. Perhaps Burroughs worked for Beare as two weeks later Burroughs gave up the licence which then passed to a Caroline Burroughs. For some reason on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1825 Caroline was summoned to face the Magistrates and she was ordered to guarantee another £30 and her sponsor, Edward Beare, another £20 as surety that she 'kept good rule' in the White Horse Tap. She stayed as licensee until 30 October that year. In September, when renewal applications were made, we find that Mary Holly was granted a licence with Alexander Goodfellow, a Weaver as Guarantor.

It appears the Caroline Burroughs obtained a licence again in 1827 because in February 1828 she was again summoned to appear before the Magistrates. She was now known as a Maltster and was charged and convicted for failing to record that she made 363 bushels of malt. She was fined £93.15.6d, that being double the duty, but after mitigation this was reduced to £46.17.9d plus costs, a total of £49.14.9d. In addition she was charged as a Brewer for brewing a quantity of beer and not declaring it. She was convicted and fined £3.18.1 1/4d plus £1.19.0 costs after mitigation. The convictions also cost her her licence. In 1828 Mary Holly with Alexander Goodfellow as Guarantor again obtained approval.

In 1829 a Harry Adams is shown as licensee, but this is suddenly transferred to Isaac Templeman. He was also subsequently charged, on 5<sup>th</sup> August, for selling spirits without a licence. In 1830 a George Pierce comes for two years but in 1832 Richard Loader takes over. In 1833 Mary Holly is back again with a Edward James Keene as Guarantor. He is shown as a 'Victualler' and became licensee himself in 1837.

From 1839 to 1846 we have Thomas Holley as licensee, sometimes with an assistant Edward Holly, but in 1846 James Holly takes over, followed in 1847 by Edward.

The years pass, but in 1851 Edward is still there. He is shown as a Brewer with Hester Nash as a Housekeeper and a Harriet Kelly as a Chambermaid. 10 years later Edward is still there but in the intervening years he has married Hester, who now has a son aged 6. Edward stays another 7 – 8 years.

By 1871 Samuel Rogers is now licensee, with daughter Alice as a Barmaid. We note that Edward Holly now lives next door in 'Albion House', and is still registered as a Brewer. 10 years on and Samuel is still the licensee but next door now lives Charles Holly, a Brewer, and a Company called Albion Brewery. The Author recalls his father telling him that they brewed beer in both 'Albion House' and the 'White

Horse'. It is recorded that in 1885 Charles Holly is licensee of both the 'White Horse' and the 'Bell Inn' just down the street. Later in 1885, Thomas Everett and George Howells, a Maltster, together ran 'The White Horse'. Mr Joseph Cousins recalls Cider being made on the premises and sold for 3d a pint.

'The White Horse' had always stabled horses and on race days it was always full. Many members of the racing fraternity stayed here. The employment of a Chambermaid shows that the Inn was frequently occupied by travellers.

Further data on licensees includes:

1898/9 John Williams

1903 John Nash

1905 Walter Harris arrived on the scene and stayed until 1934. The Authors father recalled planting a tree for him in the back garden. It was still there in 1994.

In Walter Harris' days Gibbs Mew became the suppliers. Walter, or Jack as he was known, occupied Hospital Farm and also stabled horses and cows there. He later built a large house to the west of 'Albion House' (subsequently demolished, it's replacement 'Goodwins' was also demolished in December 2005) and moved in on his retirement.

Walter Harris also owned 'Oak Cottage'. This was pulled down and the site is now 'Rogers Close'. When Harris retired Bertram Besant became the licensee.

In 1852/3 Slaters Directory lists the three Alehouses in the village. A Henry Lake was licensed as a beer retailer but it is not possible to connect a building with him.

## **‘The Green Man’ and ‘The Bell’.**

Many licences in the early 1800’s only refer to a ‘Tap’ without any name of the premises. In 1811 two men applied for licences, one of these was Charles Hibbert who it is believed ran the ‘Tap’ which later became known as the ‘Green Man’. This alehouse was known to have existed down a passage between ‘Oak Cottage’ and ‘Wylde Cottage’. You may remember that this is where the Paupers dwellings called ‘Workhouse Yard’ were situated.

In 1813 only Philip Tabor was licensed but in 1814 Isaac Bennett was listed, as previously mentioned. Could he have run the ‘Green Man’?

At the time that the workhouses were discontinued the ‘Green Man’ appears to also have closed. However a new ‘Tap’ was licensed only a few yards away on the main road next to ‘Wylde Cottage’. In March 1836 a John Bell was licensed. He stayed for three years. It is perhaps no coincidence that in 1841 when John Clift, aged 20, became the licensee the ‘Tap’ name was shown as ‘The Bell’.

In 1846 the licensee George Dyer was charged and fined £5 for permitting an unlawful game to be played i.e. Dice. A few days later he was charged again “that on a Sunday he sold Ale whilst a church service was taking place”- this was against the law.

A summary list of licensees follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1847	Samuel North	
1848	James Willshire	
1851	Lavinia Abrahams	Aged 20
1852	Maurice Abrahams	
1861	John Tabor	Aged 48. Carpenter and Wheelwright
1867	John Tabor	
1871	Charles Tabor	Aged 48. Carpenter
1881	Charles Tabor	

1885	Charles Holly	Also Landlord of the White Horse
1889	Frank Lucas	
1891	Frank Noble	Rate Collector and Coal Merchant
1893/9	Stephen Coombs	
1903	John Samuel Holloway	Property now called the 'Bells'

### **Parish Allotments.**

A meeting was held in June 1881 to consider renting a piece of land and using it as allotments. A committee was formed with the Reverend Canon Warre as President and Edward Taunton of Bemerton Farm as Treasurer.

A plot of land in the fork between Lower Road to Bemerton and Skew Road was rented. This measured 2 ½ acres and was first divided into 40 plots of 10 rods. Later this was changed to 16 plots of 20 rods and 8 of 10 rods. In May 1892 the ground was prepared and divided up. A collection was made for a pump to be installed and raised £2.10s. The rent was set as 1 shilling (5 pence) per rod per year.

For many, a day on the allotment was both enjoyable and worthwhile. Sometimes whole families worked together and picnicking was common. Gradually demand for plots declined. Vandalism and petty theft slowly demoralised the plot holders. The last plot worked was by Cyril Weeks in 1990.

### **Swimming, Bathing and Paddling.**

For many years this was a popular pastime. To avoid annoying anglers, certain areas were selected. Paddling was always allowed at the first bridge on the Wylde river down the Netherhampton Lane. This was known as 'Paddling Bridge'. Bathing was permitted at the junction of the Wylde and Nadder rivers. To obtain access most villagers crossed the Orchard behind the Old Farmhouse. The Salisbury end of the village used Locks Lane or went via Lower Road and the Withered.

When Captain Turner took over the Old Farmhouse he objected and the bathing spot was moved downstream to a point nearer Locks Lane. Near here was a spot for the children to paddle. In the summer this was a popular pastime. Not surprisingly perhaps, as not many houses had bathrooms then, so it was an easy way of keeping clean. Early closing day in the shops was Wednesday when the shop staff would descend on the river in good weather. At Bemerton Recreation Ground there was a similar bathing spot which had a changing shelter. This area was also packed with swimmers in the summer.

### **Fugglestone and Bemerton Parish Schools.**

Bemerton School was opened in 1846 and rebuilt in 1848. A Treasury Grant was made in 1857 and by 1859 there was room for 60 – 70 children in two rooms.

There was a Certified Teacher and a Pupil Teacher at the time and the school became part of the National School Society in 1870. It was improved in 1871 and received £1123 as a result of collections from the public and a further Treasury Grant of £226. As a result the number of pupils rose from 129 in 1870 to 195 in 1891.

In 1902 an extra room was added and numbers increased to 253 but then fell back to 223 by 1910.

In 1915 the Parish Room was used as a temporary classroom and by 1921 there were 252 pupils. In 1927 the school came under the control of the Salisbury City Council Education Department and by 1933 all the senior pupils were sent to the Fisherton Anger Council School. In 1944 it became a State aided School under the Education Act.

### **Wilton Park School.**

This school was founded in about 1856 by Mrs Sidney Herbert. It was to be a Church of England School and two years later had about 30

girls as pupils. The girls mostly came from worker families associated with Wilton Park, as the school was located within the walled Park, but at times pupils came from Quidhampton. The school closed in 1921.

### **Quidhampton Village School.**

This school was started in February 1858. It is believed (without proof) that the building was a Baptist Chapel which had been built in 1835 but had closed due to lack of support in the early 1850's.

The school was able to accommodate between 60 – 70 pupils (boys and girls), a Certified Teacher was assisted by a Pupil Teacher. The school consisted of two classrooms one at 28' 6" x 8' 3" and the other at 16' 4" x 13'. It was recorded that some alterations would be made to improve the school but with the growth of Bemerton and Wilton, and Netherhampton also offering a school service, the Quidhampton one closed in the 1880's.

In 1895 a meeting was held in the Mission Hall to discuss the proposal to open a school in the building for children under 5. It was suggested that parents paid 2d per day to fund a teacher. Canon Warre led the meeting but no definite plans were made.

### **Soldiers of the Parish.**

After the Tudors, supported by Welsh landowners, had gained control of the English Crown, their supporters, who included William Herbert, became Knights. Their further assistance gave the Tudors the power to remove the Religious Establishments such as Abbeys and Monasteries from their lands. In return the Knights were given the Abbey land and Earldoms to go with it.

The Herbert family descendants became Earls of Pembroke. They were required to provide a safe house for Royalty when in the area, and a certain number of armed men for the use of the King. At its peak, the Armoury in Wilton House had equipment for 600 men. Gradually the

King formed his own Guards Regiments and private, wealthy, persons formed Battalions and had them placed under command of Officers of those Regiments of the King.

These Battalions were often known by the names of their founders such as 'Strodes Own' or Battereau's Own', etc. Many men joined in search of adventure. In 1794 a French General Napoleon became a threat to Britain and each Parish had to supply a quota of men for military training. Lots were drawn under the watchful eye of the Tythingman, but if your name was drawn you could pay another to be a substitute. William Grant of Quidhampton was drawn but paid Stephen Tabor to go for him.

Later these Battalions became part of the Regular Army and were retitled with names of the Shires. The Wiltshire Regiment had many local men on long-term engagements but when they deployed to South Africa in 1900, during the Boer War, illness and casualties forced the authorities to ask volunteers to go on 1 year tours of duty. 5 men volunteered from the Wilton Company including Joseph Cousins of our village. On their return they were feted at Wilton. A plaque is still displayed in the Mayor's Parlour to record this.

Volunteer Rifle Companies were formed and this Parish was attached to a Wilton Company. The Company Depot was the house with steps in Russell Lane, backing on to the Old Chapel. Records show in 1812 that James Holly, Charles Holly and Charles Kingston from this village had joined. A Richard and William Couzens of Bemerton joined, as did Joseph Abrahams and William Adams from Fugglestone. The Rifle Volunteers became the Territorial Army in 1908 and the Wilton Company became part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Wiltshires. A Division of this Battalion was subsequently formed, a 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion then came into being.

In the Great War (1914 – 18) the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion was sent to India under the command of Lord Radnor and the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion went to Gallipoli and then on to Mesopotamia to fight the Turks.

Several other Battalions were formed for duty on the Western Front. In many of these you will find the names of men from this village. The Shergold family were well represented in the Royal Marines. In our 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion we see the name of Joseph Cousins again.

When the war ended, in common with most towns and parishes, people's thoughts turned to erecting plaques and memorials to remember the dead. Our Parish followed suit by raising money for this purpose. Colonel Rawlence of Bemerton led a committee of ex-servicemen and by 1921 a fair sum of money had been raised.

We did not then follow the usual pattern as the committee had received many different ideas as to what the money should be spent on. Eventually they decided to erect a Lych Gate at St John's church (Lower Bemerton), being the main Parish church, on which would be inscribed the names of all those who had died.

On the other side of the road a field was to be purchased to be used as a Recreation Ground, and shelters were to be provided (as subsequently used by the swimmers), a shelter near the gateway would have a commemorative plaque fixed to it.

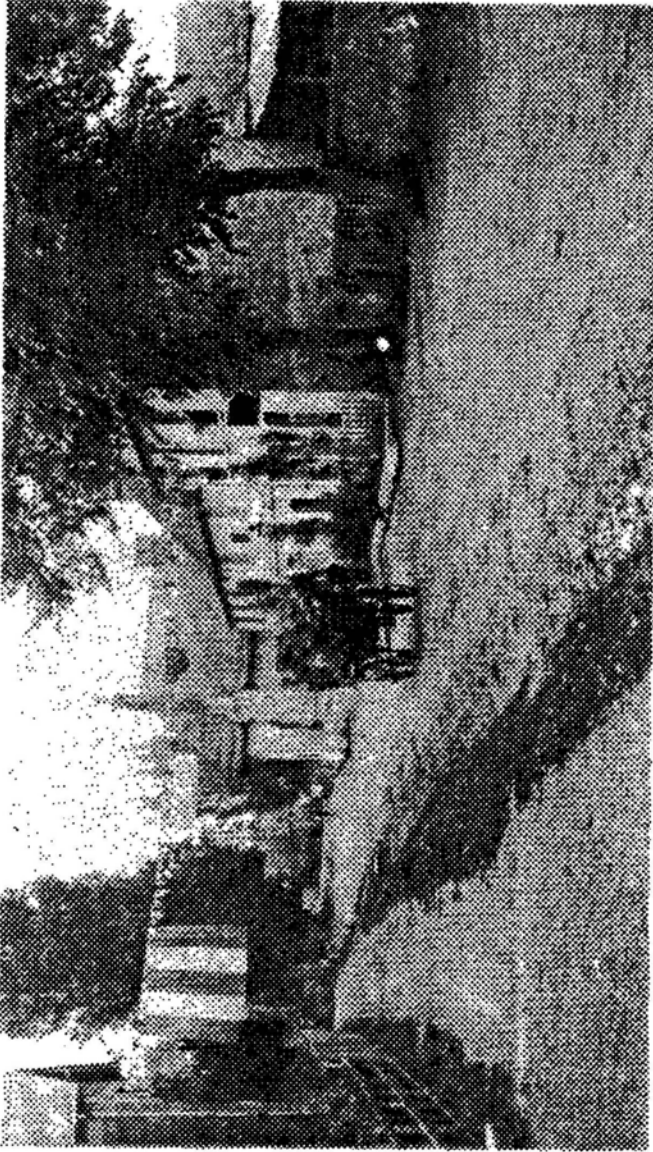
A sum of money was also given to the Village Hall for improvements. Finally a sum of money was given to the Fugglestone part of the Parish to provide a shelter and some children's rides in what was known as the Hop Ground.

The Bemerton Recreation Ground is still going strong although, under various Acts its control passed to Salisbury District Council in 1974.

In 1935 the Territorial Army Depot transferred to a new Drill Hall on the corner of Canadian Avenue and Wilton Road.

The Second World War again took men and women away from this Parish to fight. The names of the thirteen who died are also shown on the Lych Gate, alongside the forty-one who died in the Great War.

That is not the end of the story however. During the Second World War many functions were again passed to the Parishes, but this time when our village ended up with a sum of money, all returning men and women from the Forces were given a cash sum to help them re-adjust back into civilian life.



This photo, taken at the time Of Queen Victoria's 60 years on the throne 1897, shows the entrance to Tabor's yard on the right, Bell Villa No2, then "The Bell Inn", "Wylve Cottage", then the former "Oak Cottage" which protrudes on to the roadway.

City or Municipal Borough of *Wilton*

Municipal Ward of

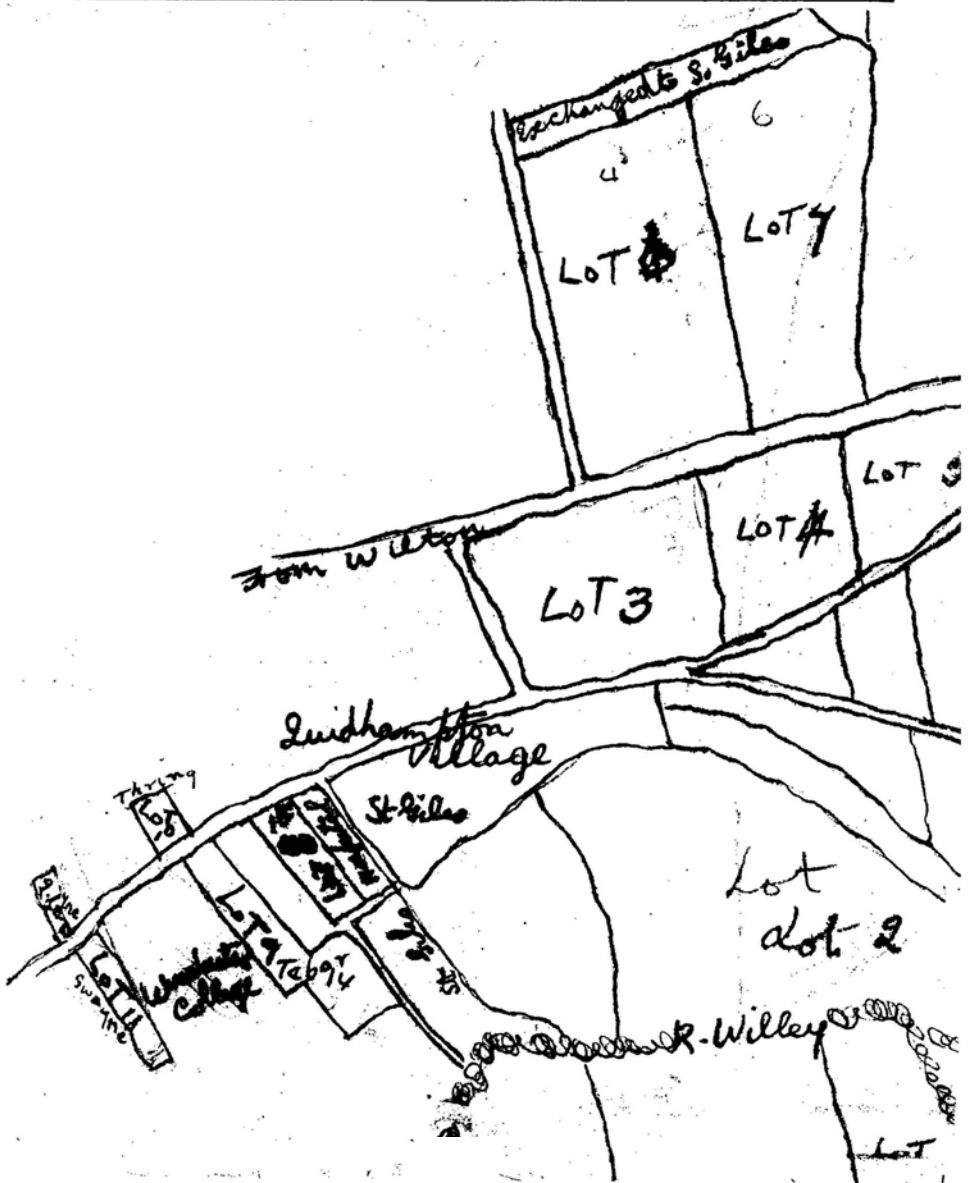
Parliamentary Borough of

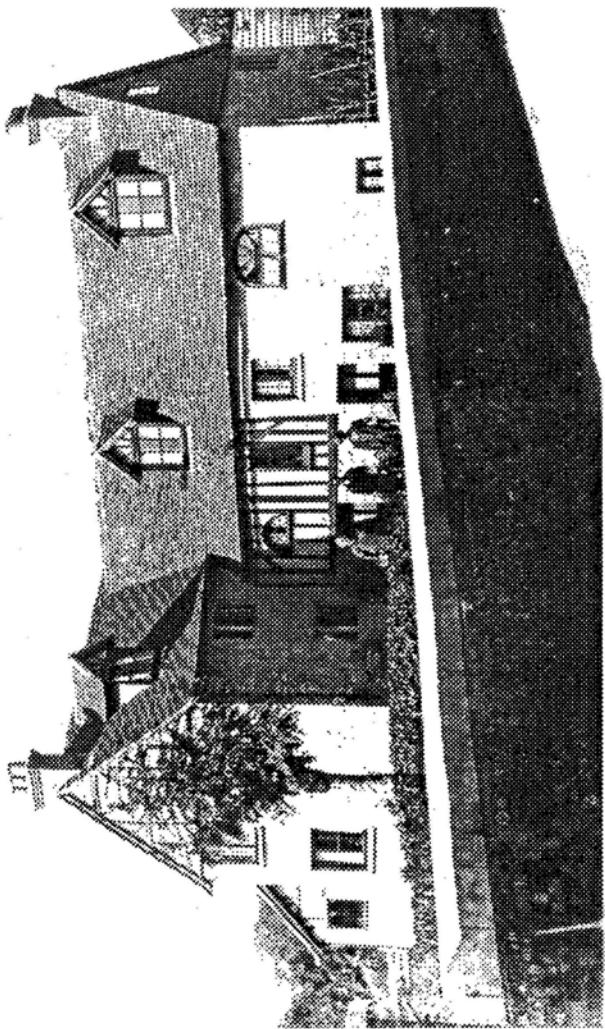
City or Municipal Borough of *Wilton*

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.S.) or Building (U.S.)	NAME and Surname of Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE	
						Male	Female
82	<i>White Horse Lane</i>	1	<i>Samuel Rogers</i>	Head	Wid	67	04
			<i>Alice</i>	Serv	Wid	44	04
			<i>Sam Boarding</i>	Visitor	Wid	44	04
			<i>Alfred Burgess</i>	Boarder	Wid	44	04
83		1	<i>George Richard</i>	Head	Mar	62	04
			<i>Frances</i>	Wife	Mar	52	04
84	<i>Hospital Farm</i>	1	<i>Henry Andrew</i>	Head	Mar	46	04
			<i>Mary J</i>	Wife	Mar	46	04
			<i>Sarah A</i>	Serv	Mar	46	04
			<i>William J</i>	Serv	Mar	46	04
85	<i>do</i>	1	<i>Henry G</i>	Serv	Mar	47	04
			<i>William</i>	Head	Mar	47	04
			<i>Mary</i>	Wife	Mar	47	04
			<i>Samuel</i>	Serv	Mar	47	04
			<i>John</i>	Serv	Mar	47	04

Photocopy of Census Return of 1871. This shows "Hospital Farm" the building now called "The Grange".

Photocopy of map used at Land Sale at White Hart Hotel Salisbury, 1838. This was when lands of the Manor of Bemerton were sold.







*Above is a picture of Fugglestone Church published with permission of the Avon Advertiser. It shows a southerly view, and the headstone in the foreground is that of Charles Tabor, Licensee of "The Bell Inn", Quidhampton until 1885.*

*On the facing page is a view from the east of "The Grange Cottages". Taken in 1927 at the time of their modernisation. They were owned by Mr Rodgers then, but were afterwards bought by the tenants.*

# Parish Nurse Fund

## Parish Nurse Fund, for the Year ending Easter, 1916.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
To Offertries—Bemerton ...	9	1	6
Fugglestone & Quidhampton ...	0	14	0
	9	15	6
Board of Guardians ...	...	...	4 4 0
Mr. Taunton ...	...	...	1 0 0
Mr. Canning ...	...	...	3 0 0
Mr. Chubb ...	...	...	1 1 0
Mrs. Dubourg ...	...	...	1 0 0
Mr. Farebrother ...	...	...	1 1 0
Major Fisher ...	...	...	1 0 0
Miss Harding (the late) ...	...	...	1 0 0
Mrs. Harding ...	...	...	0 2 6
Mrs. Harper ...	...	...	0 5 0
Mr. Hoffe ...	...	...	1 1 0
Mrs. Harris ...	...	...	0 5 0
Mrs. Hall (the late) ...	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Andrews ...	...	...	0 2 0
Miss Lipscomb ...	...	...	2 0 0
Miss Maple ...	...	...	0 8 0
Mr. Percy ...	...	...	0 10 0
Mrs. Pomeroy (the late) ...	...	...	0 13 0
Mr. Rogers ...	...	...	1 1 0
Mr. Squarey ...	...	...	3 0 0
Miss Spearing ...	...	...	0 5 0
Mrs. Canning ...	...	...	0 5 0
Miss Watts ...	...	...	1 1 0
Mrs. Welsh ...	...	...	0 10 0
The Rector ...	...	...	2 0 0
Per Mrs. Manfield ...	...	...	4 16 3
Special Donations—			
Per Miss Bury ...	0	2	0
Miss Clutterbuck ...	1	3	2
Miss Hoffe ...	0	13	8
Miss Lipscomb ...	0	14	1
Miss Nafell ...	0	13	0
Miss Oliver ...	0	19	6
Mrs. Squarey ...	0	14	3
Miss Stockmar ...	0	14	9
Miss Watts ...	1	8	7
Mrs. White ...	1	5	6
Miss White ...	1	7	8
Mrs. Winterton ...	1	10	0
Miss S. Warre ...	0	17	6
Mr. Canning ...	2	0	0
The Rector ...	1	0	0
	15	3	8
	£56	14	11

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance from 1915 (adverse) ...	0	3	7
By Nurse's Salary and expenses ...	45	13	9
Balance in hand ...	10	17	7

LANCASTER, PRINTER, SALISBURY

(Signed) FRANCIS WARRE, Rector.

£56 14 11

Photocopy of Inventory of Goods of John Cussins, of my Family Tree. He died in 1684, aged 23. A single man, it seems a Carpenter.

An Inventory of the Goods of John Cussins ~~deceased~~  
 late of Guildhampton in the Parish of Hingston  
 in the County of Wilts. by the Goods taken and  
 appraised the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1684 by vs whose  
 names are here under written ~ ~ ~

From one rowtow & lattice two rowtow	}	4	8	0
flaigions one little bell mottel with one		0	14	0
fluyng van one fluyr van one wayne	}	0	0	0
of rongs one brass warming van		0	0	0

From one flint bed one feather bolster one	}	1	8	0
old wayne of blankets one old wayne		0	0	0
of sheets one old coverlet one Sunday	}	0	0	0
bed stoads		0	0	0

From one side table board	0	4	0
---------------------------	---	---	---

From one cofin	0	3	6
----------------	---	---	---

From one payle one wondle	0	2	6
---------------------------	---	---	---

From one old stool	0	1	0
--------------------	---	---	---

From one old tubb	0	2	0
-------------------	---	---	---

From two old joynt stools	0	2	0
---------------------------	---	---	---

From one leade of wood valued att	0	0	0
-----------------------------------	---	---	---

From debts due from severall persons the	27	0	0
--	----	---	---

Greatest w <sup>t</sup> of silver	29	17	0
-----------------------------------	----	----	---

## **Medical Treatment during the period 1920 – 1940.**

Most families paid sixpence a week to the Salisbury Infirmary Hospital Fund. This was collected by voluntary collectors who called every week at the home in the village. During the period covered Mrs Taylor, who lived in Rose Cottage, was our collector. The contribution was meant to cover any stay in hospital by a family member.

The Doctor's surgery in Wilton was in West Street, and the senior Doctor was a Mr Stratton. Families also paid sixpence a week to the Practice to cover the family for medicines. You could take your own bottle or pay a sixpenny deposit.

Anybody requiring the services of a nurse to change bandages etc would call on the Parish Nurse. Our nurse was initially Nurse Mitchell. When she retired Nurse Harper took over. They both lived in Bemerton and rode bicycles around the Parish. As can be seen from the balance sheet reproduced on page 34, finance was provided for this service. It was customary however to contribute a little cash to cover the costs of bandages and dressings.

It was also customary, for firms in particular, to make donations to the Infirmary. Even Workers Unions donated funds raised by members. Socials, Dances and Flower Shows were often run as fundraisers.

## **Parish Churches and Religions.**

The original Parish church was said to be the one erected at Fugglestone, or Foulstone, in the latter part of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. It had its own vicarage, which was adjacent to the church, the site of which is now within the Park wall corner.

The church remains where it was first built although it has been rebuilt several times. It is noted for its early 17<sup>th</sup> Century pews to which doors are fitted so that, when seated, the congregation cannot see the people

sitting in front of them. The church has a gallery which had been added in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and although there is a separate Chancel, the gallery had a separate harmonium which was blown by pedals by the organist. The Choir also occupied the gallery, which Mr Cousins recalls singing with in 1926. Bertie Rogers ran Choir practice every week. There were members from 7 to 70 years covering all voice ranges.

The church had a peel of three bells, and the ropes were in the back row of the gallery. One of the Churchwardens usually did the ringing.

The church records go back to the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century, and are well preserved at the County Records Office in Trowbridge. Between 1568 and 1633 all entries were recorded together with those of Bemerton. Separation only began in 1654. There is still an associated old parchment in the archives with George Herbert's signature on.

In the 1920's about 30 people from Quidhampton would regularly attend services in St Peter's, Fugglestone. Although usually there were a few less during the winter evenings. The services were conducted alternately by the Rector and the Curate. Sometimes Mr Hankey, who was a Police Court Missionary, would act as relief. He was a lay Preacher but could not take communion or give a blessing.

Records show that a Sunday School was started in 1818, and that it had 14 pupils. By 1846 it had become two schools with a Master and two Mistresses who were paid £9 per annum.

In Quidhampton itself a Sunday School was set up in the Village Hall in November 1892. At first only boys between 13 and 15 were encouraged to attend. Church services did not start in this hall until 1900, although the place had existed since 1852. Gradually a few villages attended but at times there were no services due to lack of support. In the 1920's efforts were made to increase participation by encouraging those from St Peter's and members of the Theological College from Salisbury Close to attend. There were nevertheless never

more than 20. In 1927 an Alter was added in a recess in the hall. This had a sliding door for security.

Centuries ago you had to register a building if it was being used for religious services. Our village had several such places registered. A John Tring was registered in 1716 for Non – Conformist services in, what is thought to be ‘Haviland Cottage’. In 1807 the Methodists registered a house, followed by the Independents in 1813. A Mr Goodfellow also registered for services in ‘Almeric’. In all 10 different houses have been registered. The Authors grandfather recalled services actually taking place in ‘Haviland Cottage’. Today there are three dwellings on this site. In 1891 the Cousin’s family occupied the whole building. It was only two dwellings until 1933 when the third came into being. Before that final separation the eastern end of the building, which had many rooms, was used for worship. The Author recalls a marquee being erected in a Paddock to the side of the building for hymn singing and kneeling on a penitence form to have ones sins forgiven. At the age of 9 he had no concept of sin, but liked to sing hymns.

The Paddock eventually became Hampton Court in 1994.

A Mr Kelly was the main Evangelist accompanied by a veiled woman, Sister Greta. If the weather was bad the hymns were sang inside ‘Haviland Cottage’. This was also where these two usually lodged.

The Author found it quite strange that his grandfather, who was born in the ‘Grange’ in 1834, and his father, who was born in No 1 Nadder Lane and himself who was born in Temperance Cottage in 1919, should find themselves all having sung hymns in ‘Haviland Cottage’.

In 1835 a Baptist Chapel was built to hold 50 people somewhere in our village. By 1851 attendance had waned and it could not continue. The Author believes that it was built on the site that became the School. He recalls being in the building when it was Tabors Carpentry shop and noting how ornate the roof supports were. It was eventually turned into a dwelling in 1994.

They also held weekly 'Band of Hope' meetings in the Village Hall. Attendees paid a penny, unless there was a magic lantern show on 'The Evils of Drink' when they paid two pence. Mr Hankey of the Church of England Temperance Society ran it. Hymns were sung and pledges made not to touch alcohol.

In Bemerton we are told that the building of the church here was undertaken 100 years after Fugglestone. The fact that it was built astride the old Roman Road to Old Sarum suggests that other land had already been taken for agricultural use. It was apparently frequently neglected. Writers of the time refer to George Herbert, Rector from 1630 until 1633, spending his three years there refurbishing the church and Rectory. Another writer claims that John Norris who came on the scene in 1692 again helped to restore the place, although another says that Norris is more worth remembering for his writings of the time. There is a plaque on the wall of the Old Rectory dedicated to Herbert.

The church there has always been called St Andrews and with a small graveyard it has not had much use since the larger St Johns church was built a few hundred yards towards Quidhampton. Many villagers used this larger church for services, and all marriages and burials took place there. All baptisms between 1900 and 1940 took place in St Andrews church however.

St Johns was built in 1861 on land given by the Marquis of Aylesbury together with a large area for burials. This was extended over the years. The church has a nice carillon of eight bells, although these are not rung with any frequency these days.

Bemerton Park Estate came about as Salisbury expanded and by 1932 a Church Hall, St Michael's was built in Roman Road. This is now the St John's Ambulance Centre. Some of the village boys went there each Sunday. Services were conducted by the Reverend Whittaker, who was the Curate at the time. He stayed for about five years before taking charge of Iwerne Minster, a church in Dorset.

Bible study groups also existed in many places. On Sunday afternoons one could go to the Labour Hall in Wilton Road, Beulah Hall in Skew Bridge Road (in 1994 a builders store), or to the home of Dr Holmes in Bemerton Manor. There was always a Christian welcome.

Most members of the Free Church went to Wilton. Catholics, who were scarce in Quidhampton, went into Salisbury.

### **Parish Activities.**

Most parishes around Salisbury organised their Flower Shows and Fetes but our parish had a reputation for being the most notable.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Bemerton Flower Show had always been held in the field at the back of St Johns church. A copy of a page from the Rector's notebook of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1892 demonstrates how well organised everything was. Preparations were made to receive and feed 500 parishioners for tea. 410 tickets were sold before the day but many more people turned up on the day of the fete.

Two marquees were erected, one to hold 200 the other to hold 100. The notebook shows the preparations needed:

#### Foodstuffs:

- 300 assorted cakes;
- 250 buns;
- 150 Jersey buns;
- 150 sponge cakes;
- 48 hot cakes, to be cut into eight pieces each;
- 18 gallons of bread;
- 17 lbs of butter, 10 lbs a gift from Mr Percy, a farmer.  
7 lbs a gift from Mr Taunton, a farmer;
- 12 gallons of milk i.e. 96 pints, a gift from Mr Taunton;
- 3 lbs of loose tea;
- 48 lbs of sugar.

At the end of the tea, 70 lbs of cake, 3 gallons of bread, and some butter was left uneaten, 120 also had tea in the Rectory, extra cakes and buns being made, but the milk and butter were included in the above totals. All of the left over food was given to the children, about 100 being fed.

Crockery Hired:

300 plates, cups, saucers and spoons;

3 tea urns;

2 dozen large plates;

30 sugar basins;

2 dozen jugs.

A review was held to identify any faults so that next year any mistakes could be avoided. The only fault was that only one marquee to hold 200 people needed to be ordered.

### **Quidhampton Flower Show and Fete.**

Many years before the Great War began, Quidhampton arranged its own Fetes, and visitors from miles away turned up. It was noted that the attraction was mainly due to the large number of steam engines at the fete.

Most Fair and Showmen hauled their large riding machines with these steam driven monsters. A newspaper of the day tells us that 18 of these engines were assembled on one particular day.

Gradually our fetes became less and less attractive. They were held in a field behind the present day 'Coolins'. One of the best features of them was the Lantern Tattoo. Our village owned about 100 collapsible lanterns, with coloured glass panels. These were assembled, with lit candles inside, and held on a 3' long cane. The coloured lights lit up the field after dark and about 100 children would march around a pre-arranged course. Adults waited, unseen, at each corner of the course to give instructions. The whole thing was rehearsed, and often involved most of the village.

During the 1920's the event became less well patronised and was eventually held in the field that is now Coronation Square. The field had a Granary on staddle stones, about 100' long. This was an excellent wet weather venue and the Author recalls sitting in there drinking tea on one such occasion. The Rector Mr Alderson was usually the leading figure for the day.

Quidhampton later joined with Bemerton to arrange fete days and these took place behind St John's church. The Flower Show was the main attraction but many local gardeners lost heart as larger exhibitors came onto the scene having grown there exhibits under glass. On such exhibitor was The Old Manor who employed professional staff. The average allotment holder found it difficult to compete.

During the 1930's The Southern Counties Agricultural Society held their annual show on the same field.

### **Life in the Village before 1940.**

Good husbandry was essential to maintain a reasonable quality of life on small incomes. Every piece of garden was worked by the owners. Most had a few hens; Rhode Island Reds for laying nice eggs, and later for the table. White Leghorns were also good layers but had less meat on them. Plymouth Rocks and Light Sussex were frequently kept, and in most cases, villages put clutches under broody hens to produce an ample supply of chicks for the future. Cock birds were a necessity to keep the supply of fertile eggs running. All surplus eggs were sold, either in the village or at Salisbury market.

Fruit was grown whenever possible, even in the smaller gardens. On the farms was done methodically. Quidhampton Farm had a large orchard stretching along the back of the farm (now Wyllye Close)

alongside the river bank Russetts, Bittersweets and Beauty of Bath were the favoured types of apples grown there.

The best kept orchard was down the lane behind 'The Old Farmhouse'. Here were grown the best eaters, along with a column of cooking apples and one for Cider making. Most of these were sold to the trade but Mrs Spearing, who ran the farm in the 1920's was happy to sell the fallers for jam making at 2 pence a bucket.

On the Old Hospital land running behind 'The Grange' and up as far as the back of 'Rose Cottage' was also a well kept orchard. This was the property of Jack Harris, licensee of the 'The White Horse' during the 1920's. There were fruit trees everywhere in smaller numbers; 'Almeric', 'Oak Cottage', 'The Poplars' and 'Albion' the adjoining garden of the licensee all had fruit trees.

When talking of taking the surplus to market, things could not have been made easier. A horse drawn carrier, Mr Reed of Wilton, carried on, despite the dawning of the petrol engine age. There were many horse drawn carriers still around but Mr Reed was the last on the Wilton run. He passed through the village at about 8 o'clock each morning. He would take anything to town for you, including livestock, and you could travel on benches in the back for a small charge. He would park in St Thomas' Square all day and make his way back again at about 4 o'clock, when he would drop off anything you had purchased in town.

### **Fresh Water Supply.**

Before the installation of piped water, the village relied on springs, wells and pumps. Throughout the village there were five pumps which had been installed by the Parish, and later the Council.

Villagers would take buckets to and fro quite often. The site of the pumps were effectively village gatherings, as one invariably had to wait in a queue. It was a little social occasion, especially for the women

who did not go out to work. It was a kind of ritual making the trip to the pump, and elderly folk who lived alone would have their water fetched for them. It was invariably the young boy's job in the house to keep the buckets filled, especially in the winter when the pumps would freeze up by teatime. One often had to light paper around the pump in the mornings to defrost it.

A few houses had their pumps in their backyards, and a few had their own wells. Places such as the Pub and the Farmyards needed their own supply. It wasn't until 1923/4 that piped water came into the village, and even then some landlords hesitated to have it fitted.

Nobody allowed rain water to run to waste. Most houses had water butts which were used for the family washing and laundry. In the summer it was used on the gardens of course.

There were no bathrooms inside houses prior to 1924. Most dwellings had wash-houses at the back complete with a large copper and wood burning grate. Some kitchen ranges had a water boiler fitted but this was quite rare. In summer the men usually preferred to use the river to wash in. There was an excellent fresh water spring that served the houses to the south of the road up by Rose Cottage. It was known as the best in Quidhampton.

### **Quidhampton 1920 – 1940.**

With so many rivers and braids, it was interesting to see so much wild life including Sticklebacks, Tom Thumbs, Minnows and freshwater Crayfish. Dace were widespread as were frogs and tadpoles, in season. Larger fish like Pike, Trout, Grayling, Chubb and Roach were plentiful. The fishing rights were held by the Wilton Park estate who employed a Water Bailiff, and the Bemerton Fishing Club. The Bailiff would remove the coarse fish from the river and would place Pike traps near the 14 hatch bridge. These traps were made by Bill Young the village Blacksmith. They were made from wire mesh, with a broad entrance that progressively narrowed so that no escape was possible. It was not

unusual for the Pike trapped to be hung from the Bailiffs bicycle handlebars and the tails to be dragging along the ground, some 3' long.

Foxes, Rabbits and Deer were often seen in the meadows. Often if you approached the Paddling Bridge on the Netherhampton Lane quietly you could see a family of Otters playing on the river banks. Sometimes Beagle hounds were brought to the meadows, accompanied by about a dozen men, to hunt for the Otters. They carried 6' poles to prod the river banks and rallied the hounds using horns as Fox hunters do.

Villagers could wander the meadows at will. It was not uncommon to see Lord Pembroke out with his gun. As long as one touched one's forelock and gave a greeting he was content. He would discuss the surroundings and liked to know that you found the natural surroundings worth preserving.

The Pembroke's also held shooting and fishing parties in the meadows. Their guests were often foreign dignitaries, one regular visitor was the ex Queen of Spain. Groups of men would be engaged to close off stretches of river with long nets. Another net would be dragged down the river and the eventual catch would be landed on the bank, to the delight of the onlookers. The coarse fish would be placed in tanks of water and the trout etc would be returned. It was a good day out. Long tables of food and drink were laid out, and after the guests and workers had eaten, whatever remained was given to the village boys, who had spent their time fetching and carrying.

### **Outdoor Games in the Village.**

Football has always been a feature of village life and in the 1920's Quidhampton had its own team 'The Albions'. They played in various places. Initially behind the 'Coolins', as now, then alongside the Netherhampton Lane. Later they moved to the sloping field behind 'Foots Hill', later still to Pennine Road near the Whitening Factory north of the railway line.

In 1935/6 we had an interesting football team in our area. The Colonia Leather Works in Salisbury was German owned and amongst its staff had several German Nationals. Teams would line up and National Anthems were played. Several of the players gave the Nazi salute.

Cricket was also played behind the 'Coolins'. The pitch was protected from animals by a compound that was removed before a match. Many good teams came to play here, as our team was well known, many of our players came from the Civil servants who worked in Southern Command Headquarters. This was then on the site of the large roundabout at St Paul's. Service teams from the camps also came to play here.

There was a local Derby between the ladies teams from Wilton and Bemerton. The great personality from the ladies teams was a Miss Price, daughter of a Pork Butcher from Summerlock Bridge, Fisherton Anger. She was also an Infant teacher at Netherhampton School and very popular at that. She was an Amazon of a lady and had the reputation at being better at Cricket than most men. In those days you had to be special to get such a reputation.

### **Village Shops until 1940.**

Scrutiny of the Hearth Tax records tell us that only 27 people paid this tax in our Parish indicating that it was unlikely that any shops existed in our village during those early days.

When we think of shops we are inclined to think of what passes for a shop these days. Usually, years ago, it would more likely be a master craftsman selling off his surplus articles only, directly from his workshop. Most cottages would have made their own bread and even owning one cow was enough to turn some milk into butter and cheese quite easily. As discussed earlier, poultry was readily available and as late as 1880 houses like 'Alexandra Cottages' had custom built pigsties.

The old Census returns do give us an indication of the whereabouts of our earliest shops. The first comparable place was an establishment built around a bakery in 1851. James Good appears as a Baker – Grocer and his shop was one of two dwellings now occupied by ‘Lindisfarne’ and ‘Atherley’. His was the western most part of the building, although the family often occupied both buildings. The place was soon taken over by the Crebo family and it remained trading until 1908. The buildings were double fronted, two stories, with brick built lean-to’s at the rear. The ovens were contained in a separate brick building also at the rear. Several families followed the Crebo’s but by 1925 the ovens were still there, and were a nice attraction for small boys to play in.

‘Coldingham’ which was opposite the old school, given its large framed window was apparently a custom built shop from around the 1850’s. A Bakery existed here for a few years with John Andrews its first Baker in 1855. Incidentally, his widow Maria was still living there in 1895 but bread making had ceased long before that. Reginald fry ran the shop until 1907 when William Rowe took it over. In 1910 Alfred Canning and his family came in. He sold sugar, rice, lentils, and haricot beans all lined up in large open topped sacks. Orders were weighed out in front of the customers and put in paper bags.

Butter came in 56 lbs blocks and he used butter pats to divide it. Cheese was in a 56 lbs truckle and he used a wire to cut it into portions, after giving you a taster first. There were also medicines on sale here including Carters Liver pills, Aspirin, Camphorated oil for chest colds, Iodine as an antiseptic, Castor oil as a laxative and Cod Liver oil for those ill with Tuberculosis. He also sold matches, candles, paraffin for lamps, boot polish, soda crystals, tobacco, cigarettes and soap.

When Mr Cannings gave up the shop it was turned into a dwelling. The Jackson’s and the Murch family were still remembered, and even though the shop was closed you could still buy ice cream from the side door.

When Mrs Light moved in she named it 'Provident House' and this remained for years. Mrs Light had previously run a small shop from a house next to 'Rose Cottage' further up the village. She re-opened the shop in her new home. Her daughter was still living in the village in 1990 but the shop in 'Provident House' closed around 1940.

In the Carpenters Shop of the Tabor family (the Old School) in about 1880 Arthur Tabor, then aged about 22, opened a shop in a shed in the yard. He called himself a General Dealer. He sold timber and off-cuts, paints, glass, rope, old cooking pans and pot menders. Gradually the business went over to his Uncle James, who later took over the Old School House and lived there for many years.

Nearer the turn of the Century a Lampard family moved into 'The Poplars' and John Lampard ran a small grocery shop from what is now the garage, behind the double gates. This house was occupied in turn by the Randalls and later Mr Penny a coal merchant, who shared the house with William Young and his wife and daughter for some two years. Mr Penny stabled his horses in the outhouses next door in 'Sylvaine' (now 'Melrose Cottage').

The Penny family moved out into No 2 'Victory Cottages' (now 'Millington Cottages') and a small shop opened there. The horses and coal etc; being stored in sheds between this house and the land now occupied by the 'Coolins'. This shop closed in about 1938.

If a child only had a few pence to spend Mrs Harris of 'The White Horse' would sell crisps, chocolate bars and soft drinks from the back door.

Boys from the top end of the village would often run errands to Lower Road, Bemerton or Skew Bridge where there was a small shop. A Mrs Inkpen sold all sorts of things, including hot faggots and peas on certain days. Boys at the other end of the village went into Wilton and on return would buy tomatoes and cucumbers from the 'Bothy' gardens. You could also get a wreath or spray of flowers for a few pence. Today

this is the Garden Centre but after the hamlet of Fugglestone had been moved away and the wall built, it was known as the 'Bothy' gardens. Perhaps this (Scottish) name came about because the Head Gardener and all of his assistants came from Scotland in about 1850. One could buy a fresh cucumber for five pence or accept a yesterday's one for three pence. The wall had lean-to glass houses all along the inside facing south and trays of vegetables were sent to market from here.

Many Bakery horse drawn vans called regularly and once a week Jack Wootten of the International Stores in Wilton called. He would collect your order and two days later your groceries would be delivered by horse drawn van. The bill would be pinned to the parcel. When he called for the following weeks order you paid him for the previous delivery. If you were not at home he would lock the goods in your food cupboard, and would even make his own note of what you were running low of and would deliver that on the next run automatically.

Mail was delivered in the early days from the Wilton Post Office. It may be noted that the lower numbers of dwellings in terraces like Temperance and Alexandra are nearest Wilton. This was the practice years ago, but by 1910 our mail was being delivered from the Salisbury Post Office.

Daily newspapers were delivered by Barbers, Printers and Newsagents of Devizes. Frank Penny, who lived at No 2 Temperance Cottages, together with his son, would push a barrow up to Salisbury Railway Station, and under the auspices of the wholesalers Deacon & Jay would load his barrow and start delivering in Churchfields and Bemerton. He would reach his home at about 10.30 am when he transferred to a bicycle and continue his rounds in Netherhampton and West Harnham. It was a great shock on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 1937 when Frank fell off his bike in the snow in West Harham and died before reaching hospital. His daughter Rose lived on for many years in 'The Alders' in the village.

## **Railways and Travel.**

Throughout the Centuries Quidhampton has been fortunate, if villagers needed to travel, there were numerous connections afforded by the Roman Road junctions in our vicinity.

The wagon routes from Frome and places in the Nadder Valley passed mainly through our village and our woollen and cloth industries whether concentrated in groups or individual cottage industries required regular supplies of Madder Woad, Mordant (Alum) and Teasels which were all imported from overseas via Southampton. In 1444 we are told that 500 tons of Woad alone came to Salisbury for distribution in our area. This would have been via wagons that would also have carried passengers. Woad and Madder were plants that grew in southern Europe in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and from which coloured dyes were made for use in the cloth trade.

For Centuries traffic from the West Country used the Shaftsbury Drove on the Race Plain but we still had traffic from the Frome and Bath direction passing here.

England was beginning to build Turnpike Roads and in 1760 an application was made to Parliament to construct one through Wilton to Mere and the West. Shortly before 1780 we saw traffic using, what is now the A36. Another shorter Turnpike Road (now part of the A30) was built from Fovant that brought traffic off the Shaftsbury Road.

Stage-coaches and wagons passed by in considerable numbers between Salisbury and Wilton, but things were changing. In 1825 the first passenger carrying railway opened between Stockton and Darlington and we were about to see great changes in our travelling habits.

Most of the control of horse drawn road traffic was in the hands of William Chaplin of London. He owned some 2000 horses and 600 vehicles across southern England, and he could see the future coming. He joined with others and by 1839 a railway was running between Nine

Elms, London and Southampton. It was called the South Western Railway. This meant that in future Stage-coaches would only provide a service to the nearest point on the railway, and Salisbury began to lose much trade as a result. Here Wilts, Somerset and & Dorset Railway were planning a line between Westbury and Fisherton. This would pass through our Parish.

The South Western (by now the London & South Western) began a line from Bishopstoke to Milford (Salisbury) and by 1847 trains were running and coach services terminated here also. The planned railway to Westbury had problems. Sometimes the Contractors ran out of money, sometimes the Railway owners ran out. In 1846 the Labourers went on strike and again around 1852 when they marauded around Quidhampton with nothing to do.

Lord Pembroke had joined with a protest group to oppose the building of the railway in the first place. He, as an employer, along with his farming friends, knew that they paid very low wages when compared to other places and decided that a railway would give workers the opportunity to find better paid work elsewhere. Wealthy folk didn't much like that idea.

The railway came, of course, even though Pembroke paid fifty pounds into the protest funds, and villagers were afraid of the striking labourers in 1846. In 1852 Lord Pembroke gave a plot of land to the villagers so that a Reading Room might be built to encourage these labourers off the streets.

The Railway, now part of the Great Western Railway, passed on its way to Fisherton and trains began using it in 1856. It was a Broad Gauge railway, that was a seven feet and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch track, but at Salisbury a railway was being built with a standard gauge of four feet eight  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Coach services filled the gap between Fisherton and Milford from 1856 and 1859 when, following the building of a tunnel, trains ran from London to Fisherton and, with a section built through our Parish,

yet again, one could travel from Gillingham to London without a change.

The two different gauges issue was annoying the Government, and of course the passengers, who, when they reached Salisbury from Warminster and wanted to go to Southampton, had to change trains. Over all of the Great Western Railway the tracks were gradually changed and here in Quidhampton, on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1874, the old Broad Gauge had been removed and the standard gauge put in use. Later, when the Companies liaised better, trains began operating between from Bristol to Portsmouth.

In 1923 many of the railways, except a few of the smaller Companies, amalgamated to form four main line groups. Our Warminster branch remained under Great Western, but the London & South Western became part of a new Southern Railway.

During the 1920's, recently designed newer locomotives began to appear in 'classes' with nameplates on, and village boys, including Mr Cousins, began to learn all about King Arthur as an express class of locomotives carried the names of all the Kings, Queens and Knights of the fables.

On the Great Western Line the locomotives had names of Courts, Granges and occasionally a gleaming Castle Class would flash by. Boys may grow up but they would never forget the names of these railway engines.

Returning to William Chaplin, in 1847 when the first train ran from Romsey to Milford (Salisbury), he gave coal to people who lived near the track, such as in West Grinstead. Shortly thereafter he was elected to parliament as the Salisbury representative. He was re-elected as MP again six years later. In 1847 he had become chairman of the Railway Company and started negotiations with Great Western to give authority to run trains right down to Plymouth.

What came of his 2000 horses and 600 carts? Well, his firm became agents to the railway and all goods brought by train were distributed in villages and towns by his company. His name was still appearing on wagons up until about 1947.

## **Village Houses with History.**

### **‘The Grange’.**

Many authors have described this building in the last Century. One saw it as originally one large dwelling owned by the Woodville family. Another saw it as the remains of a monastery building and yet another thought that it might have been an Old Manor House.

What we see today is the result of rebuilding which took place in 1677, according to a stone tablet on No 2 Cottage. The origins of the place are described earlier in this booklet. It is most likely that after the death of Queen Adelia there was no need for St Giles Hospital to retain occupation of such a large building and they could well have rented the place out whilst retaining ownership of it and the farm on the opposite side of Locks Lane.

The dwellings are a little different from each other and together make an ‘L’ shape. Each has two stories with an attic and No 2 has a cellar. Renovation has taken place on a number of occasions, firstly in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and again in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The main walls are dressed limestone with some timber framing to the second stories. Some windows are of the mullion type and the roof is tiled with brick chimney stacks. Inside there are chamfered beams and the front doors are of oak panelling. The conservatory and large garage adjoining No2 were added by Alan Duffield in 2001/2 when he lived there. He now lives in the house he built next to ‘Rose Cottage’, called ‘Boyeswood’. He lived himself in ‘Rose Cottage’ at the time and used some of the plot to build the new house on.

It seems that during 1838 at a sale at the White Horse Hotel in Salisbury, an exchange of ground caused the St Giles Hospital to give up ownership of these cottages as they appear to have passed firstly to the Bemerton Farm owners, then in 1925 to the new farmer Thomas Cook. Although the building was still called Hospital Farm in 1871, as can be seen from the census reproduced on page 30. Thomas Cook disposed of the building to the Rogers family of the Whitening Factory, and after some reconditioning in 1927 to incorporate some modern facilities, sold them on to the sitting tenants.

The Weeks family occupied No1 for some 40 years and Bertram Lock and his wife were in No2 for 60 years.

### **‘Almeric’.**

This house was built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Originally it was completely detached, standing in and surrounded by its own land area of about one acre. Built of brick, in the Flemish Bond style, with a tiled roof and ridge tile, and a brick gable end chimney stack. It has two stories with a five window front aspect. It was once one of the nicest houses in the village. Its occupants were invariably of the Artisan class which is well documented. In about 1850 a Blacksmith, Alfred Young, built a Forge in the garden and later, in 1877, he built a house (now called ‘The Old Bakery’) between the forge and the road. The new house faces east whereas ‘Almeric’ faces south. Throughout the 1920-40 period George Waters, a Painter and Decorator, lived in ‘Almeric’ and his daughter Margaret still lives there.

### **‘Haswell Cottage’.**

This house was built mainly of flint, with a thatched roof. The thatch was slightly scalloped above the upstairs windows to let in more light. It seems to have been built at about the same time as ‘Quidhampton Farmhouse’ and ‘Haviland Cottages’, as the designs are very similar. In about 1925 the thatch was removed from ‘Haswell Cottage’. The east end wall with its chimney was also taken down to ground level.

Bricks were then used to rebuild the wall giving extra height to the building by adding about 15 courses of brickwork. Later a new kitchen was added to the eastern rear corner.

### **‘Sylvaine’.**

Built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century, with a rear extension added in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. It is of Flemish Bond brick with a tiled roof and brick gable end. The rear extension is of limestone and flint. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century it was known as Hoopers Farm and in 1851 a David Dykes, aged 39, was shown as the Bailiff, so the farm must have been owned by someone else. There was about one acre of land with the house and about a further 30 acres were rented. In 1861 a Charles Pinchin lived there. He was still there 30 years later.

Eventually the property was acquired by a Mr Spearing, who also owned ‘Bulls Farm’ next door to the west (now the ‘Old Farmhouse’). ‘Sylvaine’ was occupied for many years by the Stokes family. During the latter part of the 1920’s Mr Spearing died and Thomas Cook the local farmer brought the two farms. Later the Stokes’ moved out to Netherhampton. By 1994 the name ‘Sylvaine’ had disappeared. The front of the house became ‘Trinity Cottage’ and the rear extension is now ‘Melrose’.

### **‘The Poplars’.**

Another nice property in its day. Built early in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century of bonded brick with a tiled roof. This house, with its large front door, has four windows to its front and French style windows to the rear. It once stood in an acre or more of land, with an attractive wall sheltering the garden on the eastern side. Another house was built there later on.

Around the war period of 1914 the Randell family lived here and the place in Locks Lane now called ‘The Folly’ was called ‘Randells Field’. When the Randell’s left in 1919 the coal merchant Mr Penny moved in and stabled his horses in ‘Hoopers Farm’, which had ceased

being a farm by then. Mrs Penny ran a little shop out of the shed to the side of the property, just as her predecessor but one the Lampards had done towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The Penny family then moved to 'Victory Cottage' (now 'Millington Cottage') and shortly afterwards the Fishmonger Nelmes moved from 'The Old Forge' to 'The Poplars'. This house proved to be too big for them and for two years they shared with William Young and his wife and daughter. William was the grandson of Alfred who built 'The Old Forge'.

'The Poplars' obviously took its name from the trees which bordered the village street at that point. There are no records as to when it took its name, but the trees were planted in about 1870. That being said, the name does not appear in any census from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. In 1889 John Topp was shown as living in 'Poplar Villa' however.

### **'Elm Cottage'.**

Always regarded as a substantial dwelling, made of brick, facing east. This building was originally named 'Belle Vue'. 'Elm Cottage' seems to have been extended to the south as the construction differs from the main house. In 1871 (as 'Belle Vue') it was occupied by Charles Rogers with his wife and two children. They had a house servant and a children's nurse. Charles' was an Artist of Design who worked at the Wilton Carpet factory.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Alfred John Young lived there. His Forge was opposite at the foot of Tinkerpit Hill. It was his son William who built the red brick house 'Foots Hill' in the late 1920's in the field opposite. Later on the Mitchell family lived in 'Elm Cottage' for many years.

### **'Rose Cottage'.**

A brick built cottage built on two levels. Always regarded as a nice place and occupied in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by the retired publican Herbert Rogers and three other relatives. Rogers was also a Tax Collector.

For most of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Taylor family lived here. Mrs Taylor was quite public spirited and a Volunteer Collector of the Infirmary League subscriptions. The bedrooms were at road level with the other rooms at the lower, garden level.

### **Houses now Demolished.**

Let's start at the Mill, i.e. the corner of the village road and the Netherhampton Lane. There were two cottages with that name. They were situated between the 'Bone Mill House' and the cowsheds which have now also disappeared themselves. Immediately next to them was the 'Toll Gate House'. This was a brick built place some 30 foot long by 18 foot wide. Two windows faced the street with the front door in the middle. Inside there was a long dark passageway which led to a room on the left and one on the right. Both were about 18 foot square. A stairway led to two small rooms in the roof which had windows looking out to the farmyards behind.

This building was occupied by John Oakford in 1861, the Gatekeeper, as this was the Parish Turnpike. In the 1871 census Albert Barham lived there but toll collection had finished by then. Incidentally, John Barham was the owner of the Mill at the time. Can we assume that they were related?

Coming up through the village, next to the farm were two dwellings. One was the Bakers Shop and the other on the corner of Nadder Lane was also occupied by a Baker, the Crebo family were there for many years. These buildings were pulled down and replaced by 'Atherley' and 'Lindisfarne'. The original buildings were surrounded on the west and south side by a cob wall, with a thatched top. During the late 1890's some repairs were being made to the wall when a hoard of 'Spade Guineas' were found. The Guinea was a gold coin in circulation during the reign of William IV and got its name because the shield on it looked like a garden spade.

At the bottom of Nadder Lane, until about 1927, there was a cottage below 'The Nook'. It was No6 Nadder Lane, built of cob walls with a thatched roof. It had one large room and a small kitchen downstairs and one large and one small bedroom upstairs. In 1925 Mr Wiggins, a widower lived here. He later married a widow Polly Lanham. Mr Cousins attended the wedding as a boy of six as his mother was a witness.

Mr Wiggins bought standing fruit and would take village boys to camp to pick the fruit. He rented orchards as far away as Fareham. He would never accept the paper money that was coming into circulation at the time. He only dealt in gold coinage 'Sovereigns'. He died shortly after his marriage and Polly soon followed. The house was pulled down and the plot, including the garden, became part of 'The Nook' which the Cousins family moved into in 1936.

Continuing up the street to 'Rogers Close', which as described earlier, was built on the land of the old 'Oak Cottage'. This building stood in the northwest corner of the plot about 10 feet from the present 'Wyllye Cottage'. It was built with a timber frame and a thatched roof with a mix of brick, ashlar and limestone walls. It was quite a large place in an 'L' shape facing south to catch the sun. It must have been an attractive dwelling when first built in about 1600.

The Parish workhouses were behind 'Wyllye Cottage' and it's thought that 'Oak Cottage' was also used for that purpose also. In 1834 when the new workhouse was built in Burdensball (Fugglestone) it seems that 'Oak Cottage' was still used for that purpose for a few more years as the 1851 census still referred to 'Workhouse Square'. A photo of the village street shown on page 29 shows 'Oak Cottage' which protrudes into the street. Shortly after 1815 it seems that the Tabor family acquired 'Oak Cottage' and lived there for many years. In 1914 it was occupied by a family called Harris and was later bought by Jack Harris (no connection) the licensee of 'The White Horse'. He rented it to various tenants' right up until it was pulled down to make way for 'Rogers Close'.

The piece of land between 'The Grange' and the Village Hall had 3 bungalows built on it 'Hastings', 'Leylands' and 'The Nook'(another one) on the north side of the road. Only the latter can still be described as a bungalow however. The building running north/south which comprises 'Melbourne' and 'Wellington' was there in 1900, as was a building between this and the Hall that had a thatched roof. It was demolished in 1914. Next to it was a thatched cottage occupied by George Blake's family. Its roof was replaced with galvanised sheeting. The whole place was demolished in 1925. Finally, nearer 'The Grange' was a small brick house facing east that again protruded into the street. The Humphries, Huggetts and finally the Harrisons lived here in turn. It was pulled down in 1926. The foundations were visible when Peter Dawson excavated the base for the garage at 'Leylands' in September 2005.

Opposite these houses was a line of dwellings (now the site of Albion Bungalows). The one opposite Locks Lane which was attached to the Forge, which closed around 1880, was used by the Jewells and later Reginald Stokes' family. Next, (going east) was a double fronted house occupied by the Cousins family (the Authors family tree) and later by Robert Gurd and George East. The next two houses were for many years occupied by the Blake's, the Jewells and the Sangsters. Lastly was the Grants cottage paired to another with more of the Cousins family installed.

### **'Edgam Place'.**

These houses were built in 1934. There were originally two strips of land running from the street up to the field at the back. One strip, which bordered 'Victory Cottages', (now 'Millington Cottage'), had a terrace of three cob cottages with thatched roofs. The second strip ran alongside the lane and at the top was also a thatched cottage. This burnt down in 1920. Also on this plot, halfway up the lane, was a bungalow built out of a railway carriage. The carriage was converted into three bedrooms and raised off the ground on piles about eight feet

high with a veranda on the same level. At ground level was a timber framed structure of asbestos and insulating board which made up three further rooms. The site had been occupied by the Barney family until 1927. They had been horse traders. Several families came after that but the site was finally cleared in 1933 for the building of 'Edgam Place'.

### **Politics.**

Looking back at the records, as exist, one can conclude that during the time the Abbeys were controlling the Manors folk, whether rich or poor, were treated alike in the law. As we moved into the Tudor period it became obvious that the wealthier sections of the community began asserting their strength, lawfully or unlawfully. This was even encouraged by the Tudors after 1485.

We can see from the dealings between Owen and Jasper Tudor and Sir William Herbert, whose descendants became the Earl of Pembroke, how this was manifest. Many wealthy people of Welsh descent supported the Tudor Kings as they plundered Abbey lands and were rewarded with large estates. The situation had worsened by the time of Henry VIII and even when Queens took the throne it didn't change much.

In 1603 began the Stuart dynasty, of Scottish descent. Things did not improve and the poor were treated even worse. Democracy had not yet been established. The Civil War came about and Pembroke supported Parliament, as did Salisbury, but the Kings men remained in small groups in villages.

Things did improve a bit with the arrival of William and Mary in 1689. There is an account of a John Cousins of Quidhampton, a Marine on board 'Mary' in 1693. The vessel, a yacht, had been the gift of the people of Amsterdam to the Royal couple was in Carlisle Bay, Barbados. John Cousins felt he was rich enough to leave a Will. This was registered in the Consistory Court of Canterbury and is now

preserved in London. I don't suppose many were as lucky as John however.

The poor still suffered, even throughout the reign of the Georges this remained so. Parliament was filled with Knights of the Shires, elected only by their wealthy friends. In 1795 Henry Penruddocke Wyndham became MP for Salisbury. Even though Toll Roads were established Knights of the Shires had voted themselves a concession not to have to pay these dues.

The promises of more democracy made by the Whigs (Liberals) came to nought. Boys still worked on the land at the age of eight and pregnant women pulled tubs of coal in the pits together with young boys. The Tories began to collect support and were considered left wing at the time. The Revolution in France had warned that things were changing, but it took until 1832 before things started to happen.

People with property and an income of £10 a year could now vote, in our Parish that was only about 20 people. In 1840 a law was passed to prevent women and boys working in the pits, but they continued to work the land. Women up to 70 years old were recorded as Agricultural Labourers in our village. At the Carpet Factory wool picking was still performed by girls under ten. No wonder lots died of Tuberculosis.

Whilst this was going on the landed gentry were making Grand Tours of Europe and Dowager ladies of aristocratic families were losing thousands of pounds on the gambling tables of Monte Carlo.

Quidhampton was in the South Wilts constituency when members were elected to Westminster at this time. Any male in a town in 1868 paying £5 could vote. This increased the vote but not from the villages.

In 1888 Rural District Councils were established and in 1894 a similar council was formed called Parish Councils. At first there was not much political persuasion to attract voters but gradually you could see that the

Councils were being made up of Conservative types in our villages. That was so for about 40 years. At one time Quidhampton Parish Council almost demanded that Netherhampton join us as a combined Parish.

At about this time Liberals were in power nationally but were becoming weaker as they moved to the left. The Conservatives were moving to the right. In the 1878 election the males of the village, who had been given the vote by now, gave their support to the Conservatives. Between 1892 and 1906 the Conservatives held power, especially in Salisbury.

During Queen Victoria's reign we had 10 Liberal Prime Ministers and 9 Conservative but neither made much progress towards democracy for the masses. 1912 saw the start of demand for votes for women, this was granted in 1918.

During the 1920's the political life of our village seemed to explode. Conservatives were in the majority, followed by the Liberals. In 1924 the Labour party came into being with very left wing views. No1 Temperance Cottage was the Conservative Centre, No7 the Liberal Committee Room and No6 Alexander Cottages the Socialists. All the respective families were great friends and politics did not spoil that. The Morrison's were popular followed by D Spencer-Robertson for the Conservatives. The Masterson's upheld Liberalism with the Hancock's and Lemons trying to win for Labour. Later the Liberals left the field.

### **The Two Rivers.**

The river Nadder runs around the south side of Wilton and the Wylye, with its several braids, comes through the town and borders the hamlet of Fugglestone.

The two rivers first combine in the Wilton Park area about three hundred yards downstream from the Palladium Bridge. Another branch

of the Wylye, after entering the meadows area rejoins the main river near the Strainer Bridge.

Over the last Century the combined rivers have always been called the Nadder as it moves toward the Avon. Two hundred years ago however the two together were known as the 'Wylye'. This was described in an Act of Parliament which dealt with a planned canal in 1664. The canal was to run from Christchurch to Salisbury and two fifty ton barges did actually arrive in Salisbury on the Avon. The act referred to an extension along the 'Wylye' to Wilton. The Act was repeated in 1677 but work never started.

Bordering the river Nadder, downstream from the village, was the 'Withy Bed'. This was the village name for about eleven acres of marshland that had an earlier name of 'Boyes Meade'. The place was covered in snowdrops each February.

The area was not covered in 'Withy' trees but Alder which was coppiced regularly. The wood produced was similar to Hickory in that it had great strength and was ideal for use as broom and brush handles and for garden tools.

Not surprisingly we see a house at the eastern end of the village called 'The Alders'.

### **Parish Ghosts.**

It was always accepted that a veiled lady sometimes appeared on the road to Wilton. The triangular shaped corner of Wilton Park was always an attraction to the village boys who would jump over the wall, despite threats from their Mothers that "the veiled lady will get you" or "you'll catch a fever" referring to the fact that a Leprosy Hospital had once stood there. Villagers would hurry past the wall opposite the old Police Station (the house on the right hand side by the traffic lights) especially in the winter.

During the nights it was essential to have a watchman on duty to tend the oil lamps. He would traditionally have a brassier burning well. One said that he once looked up and saw the lady smiling at him before disappearing. The Cousins family spoke of a similar event back in 1850 when another watchman had the same vision.

In Locks Lane the site of 'The Grange' must have been in someone's ownership before King Henry I allowed his wife Adele to give it to St Giles Hospital. There were references to a monk which former villagers had claimed to have seen. Edith Marshall, an Author, wrote in 1900 that a small colony of monks had been turned off their land by Henry I. She must have researched this from somewhere, although her book 'Under Salisbury Spire' was fiction in the form of a novel.

### **The Village Hall.**

Sometimes known as The Mission Hall or Church Hall, The Parish Hall and later still the Church Rooms. Built in 1852/3, as depicted on a stone embedded into the rear wall, on land given by Lord Pembroke. It was initially a Reading Room provided for the Labourers building the railway. They lived in temporary camps and had little to occupy themselves with when not at work.

There has been controversy about the ownership of this place since it was built. Whenever monies were required to maintain the place it was said that the villagers owned it. The place was initially built using Public Subscriptions. In 1895 the Parish Council thought that they owned it but proof was given that the land was still part of Wilton Park Estate and that the Church was the tenant. The land was conveyed to the vicar in 1925. Currently the Village Hall Committee pay £5 per annum as a peppercorn rent to Salisbury Dioceses Council. The Land Registry has confirmed that the land belongs to the Church.

## Epilogue.

Stan Cousin's story ends in 1939 – with some minor updating to clarify some points up to 1994.

The two years, between 1937 and 1939, were noticeable due to our closeness to Headquarters Southern Command and the local Air Force Stations of the bursts of activity in preparation for war. The Reserve Petrol Depot with its rail connection on the north side of the railway is now well established. Surveyors were seen busy in our fields to the rear of 'The White Horse'. Towards the end of 1938 and into 1939 we have seen the Billeting Officers at all the houses checking on living space for evacuees and troops.

All civilians here have been acquainted with respirators and some Civil Defence Units have already formed. Our village has always had its share of former servicemen, many of these were placed on the Reserve Forces Lists and in late 1939 we saw all these men called back to their Depots. At the same time several members of the Parish who were in the Territorial Army (including Mr Cousins and his sister Ivy) were embodied into Army Units.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939 war was declared and our village was to see great changes and would never be the same again.

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Special thanks go to the staff at the Local Studies Section, Salisbury Library and the County Records Office, Trowbridge.

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