

Romsey Local History Society ***[LTVAS Group]***



Croylands, Old Salisbury Lane
(see article on Arthur Green, page 19)

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Figure 1: Crampmoor Farm 2002 (see first article)

CONTENTS

Title	Author	Page
Farming Ampfield 1941	Phoebe Merrick	3
Archaeology News	Mary Harris	18
Hampshire Historians: Phyllis & Arthur Green	Mary Harris	19
Richard Sharp of Romsey, c1665-1705: his early years	Ronnie Munday	23
The Widening of Church Street	Barbara Burbridge	30

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Farming Ampfield 1941

by Phoebe Merrick

Introduction

The wartime government was very concerned about the proportion of food imported to the British Isles and the amount of shipping that this would require. It therefore decided to put considerable resources into increasing the amount of food produced at home. At the small-scale level, there were various campaigns to encourage individuals to grow food in their gardens, keep allotments, or raise animals such as pigs, hens and rabbits. Much land owned by the railways was also cultivated, both at stations and along tracksides.

This small-scale production, repeated many times across the country, increased the amount of food available, particularly to individual families. The main impetus, however, was to improve the productivity of British agriculture. During the inter-war period farming was in a very depressed state, with land poorly managed and with widespread neglect, often due to the farmer's lack of capital.

The *Romsey Advertiser*, and doubtless every other rural local newspaper, was full of exhortations from the County about how to improve farming practice and with reminders about when fertilisers should be ordered ready for application and other guidance. A major step was taken in 1941 when a national survey was made of all farms in Britain, in theory those with more than 5 acres of land.

First of all, farmers had to fill in forms (C 51/SSY and C 47/SSY) giving detailed descriptions of their holdings with details of the extent of their crop growing and livestock. They were also required to say what rent they paid if tenants, how many workers were employed, and what mechanical aids were available. Subsequently, most of them were sent a supplementary form headed 'Agricultural Return 4th June 1941'. These forms will be referred to below as 'Returns'.

Following the issue and return of these forms, most of the farms were surveyed by local farmers or men associated with agriculture on behalf of their county War Agricultural Executive Committee (W.E.A.C.). The survey included making assessment of the type of land and making judgements about the competence of each farmer. Their findings were recorded on form B496/E.1. Information from this source will be referred to as 'Survey'. As can be imagined, this caused a great deal of resentment, leading in one case in Hampshire to a stand-off with the Police in which the farmer was fatally shot.

The survey was conducted on a parish by parish basis, each parish being given a number within the county series, and each farm within the parish also numbered. For example, Ampfield parish was number 255 and Pucknall farm

was number 3, or 255/3. The survey has been compared with the Domesday Survey for its comprehensive overview of English agriculture. In the case of Ampfield, just under one half of the parish was used for agriculture, 1217 acres out of a total of 2459 acres.

Farms were classed as A, B, or C. A meant that the farmer was doing as well as could be expected given the nature of his holding. B meant that with a bit of help, improvement could be made, and C meant that, if the farmer did not improve, his or her holding could be turned over to someone else to cultivate. When the assessors classified a farm as B or C, they had to give some reason which might include the age of the farmer or lack of capital, but other reasons came into play, where the farmer was either ignorant of farming practice or only giving the farm part of his or her attention.

The results of the Farm Survey are held in The National Archives (TNA), and recently I bought copies of all the forms that relate to the parish of Ampfield. In all, forms for 23 properties exist, though one or two of them seem somewhat incomplete. They give a picture of agriculture within the parish that I will describe below. Before I do so, I should comment that the picture is somewhat confusing as some holdings are mentioned in one document but not in another and not all the boxes that need to be have been completed. Details of the farms are shown in Table 1. (The tables will be found at the end of this article.) The addresses are confusing, but this presumably arises from a difference between civil administration and postal arrangements. The spelling of farm names used on the forms has been retained. I am grateful to Barbara Burbridge who was able to give me some details about Ampfield.

I hope to review all the returns for the parishes in southern Test valley. Ampfield has been a trial run, being one of the smaller parishes, but large enough to have diversity. It is obvious that the project is feasible, once I can find a way of funding it. Buying the images of the returns for Ampfield parish from The National Archives cost about £183.

Farms and Personnel in Ampfield

As shown in Table 2, there is some duplication as the relatives working on the farm are supposed to be counted in the totals of full and part-time workers and then listed separately, but clearly this did not always happen, as in the case of Mr Beattie on Hiltonbury (*sic*) Farm whose return refers to help from a relative, but listed no full-time or part-time workers.

Amongst other problems is confusion at Pucknall Farm where Mr Sherwood stated that the farm consisted of 325 acres, but, later on, 88 acres rented from Sir George Cooper of Hursley Park are shown and the rest disregarded. Further uncertainty is introduced as 88 acres is also the number of acres rented by

Walter Street (255/4), which may be a coincidence. Furthermore, three returns do not show any acreage, and the 5 acres threshold was not adhered to as four holdings are apparently less than 5 acres.

Despite the limitations in the data, it is possible to draw some generalised conclusions. Farmers who held more than 50 acres needed additional help, primarily full-time. Below this, some cope on their own, but those with more than 10 acres tend to have help, often part-time. In the case of the very small farmers with below 8 acres, their employment of paid help is much less likely and the contribution of relatives more likely. To what extent this depends on the type of farming remains to be seen. Almost the only question not asked of farmers, that would have been useful, is how much contract labour they hired – it is always possible that some of the part-time work shown in the table is in fact undertaken by contractors.

Farming was predominantly a male occupation although the Ampfield list shows two women, one of whom was a tenant farmer (Mrs Leslie) and the other (Mrs Taylor) had a home with a piece of land attached. It is very difficult to tell who was the farmer at Green Lane Farm. Mr Redding is shown as living in Green Lane Place, but elsewhere, Mrs Redding is shown as the farmer at Green Lane Farm. Before the war Mrs Redding had clearly had some sort of riding stables. There are a few women employees, some of whom are relatives, but again very few. However, Mr Kimber of Gosport Farm was employing a land girl, one Miss Hide, by the end of 1940.¹



Figure 2: The White Horse Inn, 1950

In the same way as people remember the shops that have existed for many years and forget the many that come and go, there is a folk memory of farms that pass down from generation to generation. The only clear evidence of this occurs at Lower Farm, where the current farmer, Dennis Read, was a tenant of his father, F.W. Read. Table 3 compares the size of farms with the length of occupation by the farmers.

¹ *Romsey Advertiser* Dec 6 1940 p1.

At the beginning of the 20th century David Faber, owner of Strong's Brewery in Romsey, had lived at Ampfield House and owned the Ampfield estate. Following his death, the estate was broken up in the early 1930s and most of the farms were bought by individual farmers, some of whom were existing tenants. It is possible that Mr Sherwood at Pucknall Farm had been there for at least 32 years, but that may not be the case. Mr Bruton at the White Horse had been there for 32 years, but his field was an appendage of the inn, probably originally acquired to provide hay many years before his tenure. Mr Bowton and Mrs Leslie had both acquired their holdings in the mid-1920s. It is probable that Mrs Leslie was a widow who had inherited the farm from a deceased husband. Fourteen of the farmers, such as the Reads of Lower Farm, only acquired their holdings in the early 1930s, with preponderance in 1932 and 1933. Finally, there were five who took up their farms either when war was imminent or had already broken out, and one (Mrs Taylor) who did not reply to that question.

Nine of the 23 farms were held by tenants, although in the case of Mr Sherwood, only partially so. Sir George Cooper, Bt, of Hursley, owned four of the holdings. No other landlord owned more than one.



The overall impression of farming in Ampfield is that it was predominantly small-scale and undertaken by owner-occupiers. This is typical of much economic activity at the time – think of retail as an example – and it is not apparent how profitable the individual farms were.

Figure 3: Thorneycroft in Knapp Lane 1979.
(Photo by Pat Sillence)

The Nature of the Farms

The men who surveyed the farms were required to describe the terrain because it was recognised that some land was more suited to agriculture than other. The details are shown in Table 4 below, but it should be noted that only 12, half, of Ampfield's farms were surveyed in this way. The survey took several months to complete, so farms were surveyed at different times in the year. Normally the surveyors worked in pairs. The smaller holdings were not surveyed since they were barely more than oversized gardens, albeit put to some commercial use.

The basic result of the survey is shown in Table 5. The survey forms list what amenities were available to the farmer and the condition of his or her fields. The

Surveyors rated the state of the farms. These varied from Mr Sherwood with his large farm, Pucknall, who scored an A down to Mr Street at Hawstead Farm and Mr Lloyd Jones at Home Farm who were each classified as B-. No one was rated as C, so the farmers were getting by, albeit with varying levels of competence.

Ignorance of modern, or any, farming methods seems to have been the biggest problem faced by some farmers, with shortage of capital handicapping others. On the question of the use of artificial fertilisers, then being much promoted, most of those surveyed were not judged to be making optimum use of them, although some were held to be using them adequately.

On the whole, the farms were considered to be at least reasonably well laid out, the exceptions being those of Mrs Leslie at Lower Ratlake Farm and Mr Callen's land at Crampmoor. Where they existed, the farmhouses were deemed to be 'good', although such cottages as were part of the farm varied in condition from good to bad.²

The survey looked at access to road and rail, the former being 'good' and the latter being 'fair' in most cases, although the state of farms' own roads, where they existed, led much to be desired. Fences and ditches seemed to be poor in most cases and most field drainage was 'fair'.

Most water to buildings came from wells, although some by pipe but from where is not apparent. I don't think mains water was available in the parish but it might have been in places. Fields on the whole were watered from streams and one or two suffered from seasonal shortages of water.

No mains electricity was available. At Green Lane Farm, the Reddings had a private electricity supply which they used for domestic purposes only. There was a private supply at Philpott's Farm. The name of this farm has now gone, although it was of some age and was described as being 'close to the main road' which was Ampfield Hill.³

On the whole the farms were free from pests, both animal and plant, and derelict fields were few and far between.

Mechanical aids are listed in Table 5 and it is interesting to see how few of the farmers were using mechanical aids. Mr Sherwood at Pucknall Farm answered

² *Romsey Advertiser*, Nov 21 1941 p3. The *Romsey Advertiser* reported on a court case where Kimber, the landlord, needed to get a tenant out of a farm cottage. Knapp Cottage was occupied by Randolph Austin, and Kimber wanted the cottage for an employee.

³ William Page, ed, *A History of the County of Hampshire* 3, p.417. These books are usually known as 'the VCH' or the '*Victoria County History*'.

with a positive 'none' in all the boxes asking about their availability, and Mr Kimber, with the second largest holding, also claimed to have no tractors. Work was presumably undertaken by horse drawn implements or by contractors hired for specific tasks.

All this strengthens the impression of a largely 'peasant' economy in which the practitioners made a living, but cannot be deemed to be getting the best out of their holdings, a view enhanced by the paucity of mechanical aids available.

Arable Farming

The survey went into detail about arable and pastoral farming, requiring detailed replies from the farmers. Obviously, some farms were more concerned with arable farming and others with pastoral. Dealing first with the arable activities, Table 6 shows the amount of land dedicated to particular crops.

The total acreage accounted for is about 100 acres less than the amount of land claimed by farmers on their returns. The difference is likely to arise primarily from the exclusion of the smallest holdings, and there may have been rounding of figures that would produce inconsistencies. On the farms that were surveyed about 114 acres were classified as 'rough grazing' and therefore of little use.

The Hampshire Basin is not suited to the production of wheat, and this is reflected in the acreage devoted to it in Ampfield. The land is more suited to market gardening or animal husbandry. Only five farmers were growing wheat and two of them (Sherwood and Kimber) accounted for two-thirds of the parish's output.

Two men were growing vegetables. They were Mr Martin, a greengrocer with a shop in Southampton, and Blake who was a builder, also based in the Southampton area. On 10½ acres Martin was growing a selection of vegetables and some flowers, from which he doubtless stocked his shop. He listed Brussels sprouts; cabbage, Savoys, kale and sprouting broccoli; cauliflower or broccoli (heading); carrots; parsnips; turnip and swedes (not for fodder); beetroot; beans, broad; beans, runner and French; peas, green, for market; lettuce; tomatoes, growing in the open; and other flowers, not under glass. No one was growing under glass.

Blake devoted 3 acres to growing cabbage, Savoys, kale and sprouting broccoli; carrots; and broad beans. He also claimed to have 10 tons of hay and 6 of straw, which raises the question whether he was using horses in his building business, or whether the hay and straw were produced solely for sale. The presence of straw suggests corn growing, unless he had bought it from someone else.

As part of the farm survey, grass land that had been ploughed up and its current use was recorded. 'Yes' means that the ploughing up took place under the direction of the W.A.E.C., and this was the case in all farms where it had taken place in Ampfield. Ten farmers had been classed in the B category under the survey, and five of these were required to plough up permanent grassland. Since all but one of Ampfield's farms were in the B range, this seems inevitable, but there is no concentration at any part of this classification range. Details are shown in Table 7.

Animals or Pastoral Farming

The farmers of Ampfield who grew crops were primarily growing foodstuff for animals, so it is now appropriate to see what livestock was being farmed in the parish. The form subdivided animal husbandry into six groups, namely cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, goats, and horses.

Cattle were present on nine of the farms. These were predominantly cows and also heifers in milk after bearing their first calves, with other heifers being reared. Four farms had their own bulls, while Mr Kimber had two bulls. A few cattle were being reared for slaughter, but this was not the main thrust of cattle farming as revealed by this return. The number and distribution of cattle are shown in Table 8.

After only two years incumbency, Mr Cyril Hunt of Knapp Farm instructed the auctioneers Knapman, Son & Bament to sell the live and dead farming stock, which was said to comprise "21 head of dairy cattle, viz 13 choice dairy cows, 11 choice home bred in-calf heifers, 1 cart horse, and the assortment of implements and machinery, which includes "Fordson" tractor, recently re-conditioned and in good running order."⁴ There is no mention of the poultry, of which he had had 64 when he completed his farm return. It is interesting to note that what was put up for sale is somewhat different from the livestock recorded in his return. Either his return understated the number of his animals or he had expanded his operation between the completion of the return and the sale. It is not clear whether he rented or owned the farm, which consisted of 52½ acres.⁵ He was assisted by his son, Eric, and it is possible that Eric was conscripted, since the farm was of a size that did not need two men working full time to manage it, and that his father gave up in consequence – but that is speculation. What Mr Hunt senior did next is not, of course, made clear.⁶ Mr Kimber was

⁴ *Romsey Advertiser*, June 20 1941, p2.

⁵ In 1939, which must have been very soon after he started farming at Knapp Farm, his 20 year old son, Eric, had been prosecuted for wounding a 68-year-old neighbour who had, without permission, taken a ride on their horse.

⁶ The Hunts cannot have been entirely popular as neighbours, for soon after they took over Knapp Farm, Mr Hunt senior was fined 10/- for allowing cattle to stray upon the highway. *Romsey Advertiser*, July 28 1939 p1

also shown as farming Knapp Farm, so possibly the Hunts were his sub-tenants or he took over their farm when they quit.

Only Mr Wilkins at Upper Ratlake Farm kept sheep and he had but 12 of them whereas five farms had 19 goats between them. Somewhat to my surprise, pigs were found on only five farms with a total of 90 pigs. Of these, 50 were owned by Mr Morris of 'Sunnyside' and were between 2 and 3 months old.

The keeping of poultry was more widespread and it is worth showing the details of these. There were no turkeys. Table 9 shows the farms on which poultry were kept. Of the 23 farms included in the returns, poultry is to be found on 16 of them. In terms of numbers, they seem to range from what would produce eggs and birds for the family, with perhaps a few to sell locally, up to serious commercial undertakings.

Finally, amongst livestock is the occurrence of horses.⁷ Tractors and a tractor-substitute were present on seven farms but ten farms had horses. Table 10 shows the details. Thus tractors were available on seven farms and horses on ten, with three farms having both.

By putting the information together, it is possible to make an assessment of the financial status of the farmers that had neither horse nor tractor. Looking at the twelve farms that apparently had neither, Bruton had a few acres of meadow, Lloyd Jones was a poultry keeper, Blake was growing crops for which a plough and other equipment would have been necessary, Read was a poultry farmer, as was Dowell. Based on the return, Earle cannot have been deriving an income from farming and his holding was one that was not externally assessed. Baker's only apparent farming was the keeping of 175 hens. Either he had another source of income or he must have been very poor, but as he only had about an acre of land, his poultry keeping looks like providing him with a secondary income. His was one of the holdings not surveyed. Morris was primarily a pig farmer, and Mrs Taylor grew a few vegetables and kept a modest number of hens on a little more than an acre of land.

Thus those farms that needed power to pull farm implements seem to have had either horses or tractors while the others did not have a demonstrable need.

⁷ One of the problems of keeping animals is that sometimes they stray, and Edward Wilkins of Upper Ratlake Farm was fined 10/- for allowing two cart horses to 'stray upon the highway at Ampfield'. *Romsey Advertiser*, Sep 29 1939 p1; and Oct 13 1939, p8.

Conclusions

With two notable exceptions, farming in Ampfield was small-scale. To put them in perspective, in June 1942 the W.E.A.C. advertised that it could hire out combine harvesters to farmers with at least 150 acres to harvest.⁸ Throughout the whole of Ampfield, there were only 232.75 acres of land on which grain was being grown that could have used combine harvesters.

Presumably most of the practitioners made enough from their efforts to keep going, but one or two were clearly farming as a side-line to augment other income. There is considerable diversity of farming, ranging through a variety of crops – both for animal and for human consumption and a wide spectrum of animal husbandry, but most of it small-scale enough to be managed by the farmer, with fairly minimal help.

The stereotypes of family continuity, with large farmhouses and several employees, is largely unmet in this parish. It is interesting that even where several of the farms were owned by one landlord, Sir George Cooper of Hursley, he still found it more satisfactory to rent them out as small units, rather than to consolidate them into one or two large holdings. This is probably a result of the terrain which did not lend itself to large-scale arable farming, and at this date, the large animal farms currently found across England did not exist.



Figure 4: Ampfield village shop in the interwar period

Note: If anyone wishes to add or correct anything I have said, please email me at phoebe.merrick2@ntlworld.com.

⁸ *Romsey Advertiser* June 26 1942 p2.

The Tables

Page

Table 1: List of farms in Ampfield, catalogued by TNA as MAF 255/	12
Table 2: Size of and their workforces in Ampfield 1941	13
Table 3: Size of farms and length of occupation by farmers thereof	13-14
Table 4: Nature of Farms	14-15
Table 5: Mechanical Aids owned by the farmers	15
Table 6: Acreage of Crops and Grass	16
Table 7: Fields converted from permanent grassland	16
Table 8: Number of Cattle	17
Table 9: Poultry in Ampfield	17
Table 10: Horses and Tractors held by Ampfield farmers	17

Number	Farmer	Owner	Acres (1211 in all)	Length of occupation yrs
255/1	G. Bruton, White Horse, Ampfield		6	32
None	J. Bowton, Ampfield			15.75
255/2	Mrs I. Leslie, Lower Ratlake Farm, Hursley	Sir George Cooper Bt. Hursley Park,	68.75	14
255/3	H. A. Sherwood, Pucknall Farm	Sir George Cooper Bt. Hursley Park,	325 (88 as tenant)	43 a for 9 yrs 20 a for 32 yrs 25 a for 4 months
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley	Sir George Cooper Bt. Hursley Park,	88	6
255/5	E. Wilkins, Upper Ratlake Farm, Hursley	Sir George Cooper Bt. Hursley Park,	120	9
255/7	B. Lloyd-Jones, Home Farm, Ampfield	owner	30	9
255/7	B. Lloyd-Jones, Home Farm, Ampfield		0	8
255/8	G. A. Beattie, Hiltonbury Farm, Chandlersford		0	8
255/10	A. C. Martin, (pt Lower Farm) Greengrocer, Freemantle, Southampton	owner	12	4
255/13	E.C. Hunt, Knapp Farm, Ampfield	Owner?	52.5	2
255/14	Geo. R. Blake, Philpotts Farm, Ampfield (also Spencers & Adanac, Southampton)	Barker Mill	97	8
255/16	F. Callen, Bridge Cottage, Crampmoor	Pt Rigler, Romsey TH; pt Lawes, Crampmoor; pt Chivers & Son, Bulford	18	2.75
255/17	L. Barter, Green Lane Farm, Crampmoor		54	3
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	J. C. Harris, Gosport House, Ampfield	265.5	2
255/19	M. G. Douglas Redding, Esq., Green Lane Place, Ampfield (or Mrs Redding)	owner	8.25	9
255/20	D. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield	F. W. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield	28	8
255/30	L. A. Dowell, "Weldo", Green Lane, Ampfield		2.5	4
255/31	D. H. Earle, Earles Mead, Ampfield		7.25	7
255/32	B. W. Baker, The Moorings, Ampfield		1+	8
255/34	W. Morris, Sunnyside, Ampfield		2	2
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield	K. W. Smith, Avenue House, Southampton	30	1
255/45	Mrs M. K. Taylor, Ampfield		1.25	nk

Table 1: List of farms in Ampfield, catalogued by the TNA as MAF 255/

Number	Farmer	Acres	Full-time farmer	Full-time workers		Part time Workers		Family	
				M	F	M	F	M	F
255/3	H. A. Sherwood, Pucknall Farm	325	yes	7				1	1
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	265.5	yes	2	1				
255/5	E. Wilkins, Upper Ratlake Farm, Hursley	120	yes	2					
255/14	Geo. R. Blake, Philpotts Farm, Ampfield (also Spencers & Adanac, Southampton)	97	Spare time	2					
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley	88	yes	2	1				
255/2	Mrs I. Leslie, Lower Ratlake Farm, Hursley	68.75	yes	2					
255/17	L. Barter, Green Lane Farm, Crampmoor	54	nk	1					
255/13	E.C. Hunt, Knapp Farm, Ampfield	52.5	nk	0					
255/7	B. Lloyd-Jones, Home Farm, Ampfield	30	Part time		3	1			
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield	30	yes	1		1			
255/20	D. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield	28	yes			1	2		
255/16	F. Callen, Bridge Cottage, Crampmoor	18	yes	0					
255/10	A. C. Martin, (pt Lower Farm) Greengrocer, Freemantle, Southampton	12	Part time	1					
255/19	M. G. Douglas Redding, Esq., Green Lane Place, Ampfield (or Mrs Redding)	8.25	Hobby farmer	1			1		
255/31	D. H. Earle, Earles Mead, Ampfield	7.25							
255/1	G. Bruton, White Horse, Ampfield	6							
255/30	L. A. Dowell, "Weldo", Green Lane, Ampfield	2.5							
255/34	W. Morris, Sunnyside, Ampfield	2				1			
255/45	Mrs M. K. Taylor, Ampfield	1.25							
255/8	G. A. Beattie, Hiltonbury Farm, Chandlersford	nk						1	
255/32	B. W. Baker, The Moorings, Ampfield	1+							
None	J. Bowton, Ampfield	nk							1
	Total				21	5	4	3	2

Table 2: Size of farms and their workforces in Ampfield 1941

Number	Farmer	Owner	Acres	Length of occupation yrs
255/3	H. A. Sherwood, Pucknall Farm	Sir George Cooper Bt. Hursley Park,	325 (88 as tenant)	43 a for 9 yrs 20 a for 32 yrs 25 a for 4 months
255/1	G. Bruton, White Horse, Ampfield		6	32
None	J. Bowton, Ampfield			15.75
255/2	Mrs I. Leslie, Lower Ratlake Farm, Hursley	Sir George Cooper Bt. Hursley Park,	68.75	14
255/5	E. Wilkins, Upper Ratlake Farm, Hursley	Sir George Cooper Bt. Hursley Park,	120	9
255/7	B. Lloyd-Jones, Home Farm, Ampfield	owner	30	9
255/19	M. G. Douglas Redding, Esq., Green Lane Place, Ampfield (or Mrs Redding)	owner	8.25	9
255/7	B. Lloyd-Jones, Home Farm, Ampfield		0	8
255/8	G. A. Beattie, Hiltonbury Farm, Chandlersford		0	8
255/14	Geo. R. Blake, Philpotts Farm, Ampfield (also Spencers & Adanac, Southampton)	Barker Mill	97	8
255/20	D. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield	F. W. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield	28	8
255/32	B. W. Baker, The Moorings, Ampfield		1+	8
255/31	D. H. Earle, Earles Mead, Ampfield		7.25	7
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley	Sir George Cooper Bt. Hursley Park,	88	6
255/10	A. C. Martin, (pt Lower Farm) Greengrocer, Freemantle, Southampton	owner	12	4
255/30	L. A. Dowell, "Weldo", Green Lane, Ampfield		2.5	4
255/17	L. Barter, Green Lane Farm, Crampmoor		54	3

255/16	F. Callen, Bridge Cottage, Crampmoor	Pt Rigler, Romsey TH; pt Lawes, Crampmoor; pt Chivers & Son, Bulford	18	2.75
255/13	E.C. Hunt, Knapp Farm, Ampfield	Owner?	52.5	2
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	J. C. Harris, Gosport House, Ampfield	265.5	2
255/34	W. Morris, Sunnyside, Ampfield		2	2
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield	K. W. Smith, Avenue House, Southampton	30	1
255/45	Mrs M. K. Taylor, Ampfield		1.25	nk

Table 3: Size of farms and length of occupation by farmers thereof

Number	Farmer	Condition of Farm	Classification	Comment
255/2	Mrs I. Leslie, Lower Rattlek Farm, Hursley	100% heavy	B	Combination of minor details
255/3	H. A. Sherwood, Pucknall Farm	100% heavy	A	
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley	90% medium 10% light	B-	Old age. Little knowledge of artificial fertilisers
255/5	E. Wilkins, Upper Rattlek Farm, Hursley	100 medium	B+	Ill health
255/7	B. Lloyd-Jones, Home Farm, Ampfield	50% heavy 50% medium	B-	Lack of general agricultural knowledge, occupation was poultry farming prior to commencement of war
255/10	A. C. Martin, (pt Lower Farm) Greengrocer, Freemantle, Southampton	100% heavy	B	Personal failings: Interests are divided between shop and land
255/14	Geo. R. Blake, Philpotts Farm, Ampfield	100% heavy	B	Personal failings: Ignorance of farming
255/16	F. Callen, Bridge Cottage, Crampmoor	100% heavy	B	Lack of capital suspected. This is a poor small holding with a stream passing through the middle. It had been derelict for some years before present tenant occupied it. He has made some improvement but some areas are not possible to reclaim without great expense. The water supply for all purposes is from a stream polluted by all the stock.
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	75% medium 25% light	B+	Personal failings: Two farms now grouped together. Knapp was a C and the whole is not yet up to A.
255/19	M. G. Douglas Redding, Esq., Green Lane Place, Ampfield (or Mrs Redding)	100% heavy	B	Personal failings: Lack of knowledge. Field previously used for grazing hacks.
255/20	D. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield	100% medium	B	Personal failings: No knowledge of arable farming
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield	75% light 35% peaty	B	Lack of capital
	No External Survey Available			
255/1	G. Bruton, White Horse, Ampfield			
255/8	G. A. Beattie, Hiltonbury Farm, Chandlersford			
255/32	B. W. Baker, The Moorings, Ampfield			
255/31	D. H. Earle, Earles Mead, Ampfield			

255/30	L. A. Dowell, "Weldo", Green Lane, Ampfield			
255/17	L. Barter, Green Lane Farm, Crampmoor			
255/13	E.C. Hunt, Knapp Farm, Ampfield			
255/34	W. Morris, Sunnyside, Ampfield			
255/45	Mrs M. K. Taylor, Ampfield			
None	J. Bowton, Ampfield			

Table 4: Nature of Farms

Number	Farmer	Oil or petrol engine	Electric Motors	Wheel tractors for field work
255/1	G. Bruton, White Horse, Ampfield			
None	J. Bowton, Ampfield	1: 3 h.p.		old car used as tractor: 1 13 h.p. Austin 13
255/2	Mrs I. Leslie, Lower Ratlake Farm, Hursley	3: 1.5 h.p.; 2.5 h.p.; 4 h.p.		1: 20 h.p. Fordson
255/3	H. A. Sherwood, Pucknall Farm			
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley	Petrol Amenco 2¼ h.p.		1 Fordson
255/5	E. Wilkins, Upper Ratlake Farm, Hursley			
255/7	B. Lloyd-Jones, Home Farm, Ampfield	1: 2 h.p.	1: 800 watts	
255/8	G. A. Beattie, Hiltonbury Farm, Chandlersford			1: 24 h.p. Fordson
255/10	A. C. Martin, (pt Lower Farm) Greengrocer, Freemantle, Southampton			1: 27 h.p. Fordson
255/13	E.C. Hunt, Knapp Farm, Ampfield			1 Fordson
255/14	Geo. R. Blake, Philpotts Farm, Ampfield			
255/16	F. Callen, Bridge Cottage, Crampmoor			
255/17	L. Barter, Green Lane Farm, Crampmoor			2 Fordson (pneumatic tyres)
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	1 car 10 h.p.	1 electric light engine	
255/19	M. G. Douglas Redding, Esq., Green Lane Place, Ampfield (or Mrs Redding)			
255/20	D. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield			
255/30	L. A. Dowell, "Weldo", Green Lane, Ampfield			
255/31	D. H. Earle, Earles Mead, Ampfield			
255/32	B. W. Baker, The Moorings, Ampfield			
255/34	W. Morris, Sunnyside, Ampfield			
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield			
255/45	Mrs M. K. Taylor, Ampfield			

Table 5: Mechanical Aids owned by the farmers

Crops and Grass	Acres
Wheat	75.50
Barley	25.00
Oats	88.00
Mixed Corn without Wheat in mixture	46.75
Peas, for stock feeding, not for human consumption	4.00
Potatoes, first earlies	1.25
Potatoes, main crop and second earlies	17.25
Turnips and swedes for fodder	3.50
Mangolds	22.50
Kale (for fodder)	11.00
Cabbage, Savoys, and Kohl Rabi, for fodder	3.25
Orchards, with crops, fallow, or grass below the trees	4.75
Vegetables for human consumption (excluding potatoes) Flowers and Crops under Glass	14.00
All Other Crops not specified elsewhere on this return or grown on patches of less than ¼ acre	2.25
Bare Fallow	25
Clover, Sainfoin, and Temporary Grasses for mowing this season	23.5
Permanent Grass for Mowing this season	295.25
Permanent Grass for Grazing (not for mowing this season), but excluding rough grazings	442.25
Total	1105.00

Table 6: Acreage of Crops and Grass

Number	Farmer	1940 Harvest	1941 Harvest	Survey Classification
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley		O.S. Field No. 532(ii) 3a Spring oats yes	B-
255/14	Geo. R. Blake, Philpotts Farm, Ampfield	O.S. Field No. 92 barley No 29 oats Pt 144 spring oats 30 roots 142 barley Pt 136 (i) roots 120 (i & ii at Nursling) wheat Yes	O.S. Field No. Pt 90 roots Pt 136(ii) roots 139 (Nursling) oats & peas Yes	B
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	O.S. Field No. 349 excluding strips on E and S side. Spring Oats yes	O.S. Field No. 239(iii) Wheat 276 Oats; 277 Oats yes	B+
255/20	D. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield		O.S. Field No. 1909 edition N. pt 129 wheat; pt 135 Spring oats; 231 A(i) Roots yes	B
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield	O.S. Field No. 211 S. pt (49. S.W. 1909 Ed) Spring oats yes	O.S. Field No. (XLIX S.W. 4 1909 Ed) S.E. pt 253 Spring oats; N. pt 253 Spring oats; 211 Permanent pasture mixture yes	B

Table 7: Fields converted from permanent grassland

Number	Farmer	Cows (all types)	Bulls
255/1	G. Bruton, White Horse, Ampfield	18	
255/3	H. A. Sherwood, Pucknall Farm	778	1
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley	28	1
255/5	E. Wilkins, Upper Ratlake Farm, Hursley	223	1
255/13	E.C. Hunt, Knapp Farm, Ampfield	7	
255/14	Geo. R. Blake, Philpotts Farm, Ampfield	10	
255/17	L. Barter, Green Lane Farm, Crampmoor	10	
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	69	2
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield	15	

Table 8: Number of Cattle

Number	Farmer	Fowls over 6 months old	Fowls under 6 months	Ducks	Geese	Total
255/1	G. Bruton, White Horse, Ampfield	45				45
255/2	Mrs I. Leslie, Lower Ratlake Farm, Hursley	90	85			175
255/3	H. A. Sherwood, Pucknall Farm	120		100		220
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley					80
255/5	E. Wilkins, Upper Ratlake Farm, Hursley	8				8
255/7	B. Lloyd-Jones, Home Farm, Ampfield	700	600			1300
255/13	E.C. Hunt, Knapp Farm, Ampfield	50	14			64
255/16	F. Callen, Bridge Cottage, Crampmoor	100	20		17	137
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	25				25
255/19	M. G. Douglas Redding, Esq., Green Lane Place, Ampfield (or Mrs Redding)	7				7
255/20	D. Read, Lower Farm, Ampfield	265	1250			1715
255/30	L. A. Dowell, "Welldo", Green Lane, Ampfield	80	40			120
255/31	D. H. Earle, Earles Mead, Ampfield	14	14			28
255/32	B. W. Baker, The Moorings, Ampfield	74	101			175
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield	15				15
255/45	Mrs M. K. Taylor, Ampfield	16	18			34

Table 9: Poultry in Ampfield

Number	Farmer	Total horses	Wheel tractors for field work
None	J. Bowton, Ampfield		1 (substitute)
255/2	Mrs I. Leslie, Lower Ratlake Farm, Hursley	1	1
255/3	H. A. Sherwood, Pucknall Farm	2	
255/4	Walter Street, Hawstead Farm, Hursley	3	1
255/5	E. Wilkins, Upper Ratlake Farm, Hursley	3	
255/8	G. A. Beattie, Hiltonbury Farm, Chandlersford		1
255/10	A. C. Martin, (pt Lower Farm) Greengrocer, Freemantle, Southampton		1
255/13	E.C. Hunt, Knapp Farm, Ampfield	1	1
255/16	F. Callen, Bridge Cottage, Crampmoor	3	
255/17	L. Barter, Green Lane Farm, Crampmoor	9	2
255/18	Basil Kimber, Gosport Farm, Ampfield	10	
255/19	M. G. Douglas Redding, Esq., Green Lane Place, Ampfield (or Mrs Redding)	4	
255/44	F. S. Davies, Redburn Farm, Ampfield	2	

Table 10: Horses and Tractors held by Ampfield farmers

Archaeology News

Iron Smelting dated to the 7th and 8th centuries AD

by Mary Harris

In the 1980s archaeological excavations were carried out in several places in the Newton Lane/ Narrow Lane area and behind some of the shops to the south of the Market Place and west of Bell Street. Over much of this area evidence of iron smelting came to light. This material was dated by associated pottery and stratigraphy to the Mid Saxon period. Evidence of iron smelting in England at this time is rare. In the 1980s dating by the carbon-14 method was extremely expensive and it was not used to date the smelting.

However, the cost of this sort of scientific analysis has reduced significantly and Romsey Local History Society decided to use some of the remainder of the funds left to us by Christopher Collier to fund some carbon-14 dates for smelting debris found in the excavation behind no 4 Market Place. With the advice and expertise of Frank Green charcoal was extracted from the excavation material. Gill Campbell, at Historic England AM Lab. Fort Cumberland, identified three of these as short-growth wood which would provide accurate dating.

The dates provided by SUERC, Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre, laboratories for these with a 95% probability are: 598-656, 604-665, and 667-774AD. This confirms the opinion of the excavators that this smelting took place in the 7th and 8th centuries. This is contemporary with the early development of the emporium or trading centre at Hamwic (the Northam and St Mary's areas of Southampton). Since Hamwic has provided substantial evidence of iron smithing but none of iron smelting it seems likely that the Romsey iron was sent to Hamwic to be made into iron tools etc. It is thought that Hamwic was developed by the West Saxon kings and that Romsey was a royal estate used to provide this raw material. According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle the significant kings in the late 7th century and early 8th were Cenwalh 648 to 674, Centwine 676-685, Caedwalla 685-688, and Ine 688-726.



Frank Green extracting charcoal from a lump of slag at Hampshire Cultural Trust store at Chilcomb House.

Photograph by Karen Anderson

Hampshire Historians Arthur and Phyllis Green

by Mary Harris

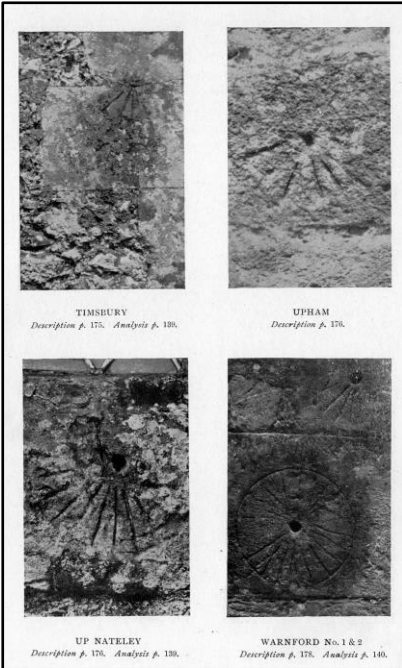
Arthur Green was born in 1866 in Bromsgrove, the eldest of three children of a prosperous grocer. He studied medicine in Edgbaston, Warwickshire in the 1890s, qualified as a surgeon and set up in medical practice in Ledbury, Herefordshire. He kept a large household in New Street, Ledbury, having a housekeeper/companion, a medical assistant, a cook, a parlourmaid and a pageboy as well as a chauffeur. In 1899 Arthur Green was active in promoting child vaccination but also suggested that providing poor children with good food would prevent much childhood illness. He was also active in promoting the temperance movement. From 1901 his household included a widow or



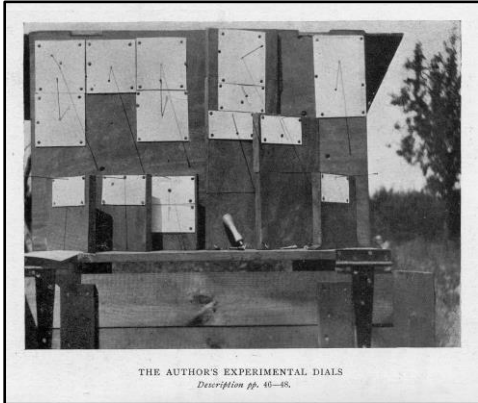
elderly spinster, Alice Julius. She came from the same area as Arthur Green and may have been a distant relative or family friend. During the First World War Arthur was too old for active service but extended his responsibilities for local medical care to fill the gaps left by those who did join up. He was voluntary medical officer to the hospital for the wounded in Ledbury.

In 1922 he moved to Croylands in Old Salisbury Lane, near Romsey (see cover picture). He was clearly already interested in ecclesiastical architecture and church mass dials in particular which he had studied in Herefordshire. He became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and once he had moved to Hampshire joined the Hampshire Field Club. He became one of the members relied on to give explanations of church architecture wherever the members went on their visits to towns and villages around the county.

In 1926 Arthur published a book '*Sundials, incised dials or mass clocks: a study of the time markers of medieval churches, chiefly in Hampshire*', not only recording in photographs and drawings all the examples that he could locate but discussing in detail how they worked and how they were used.



Arthur Green went beyond the simple task of taking photographs of mass dials and conducted experiments of how well they worked. He also described and analysed each dial he included in his book.



ANALYSIS OF DIALS 139

Timsbury. Aspect, due south.

The apparently vertical line possibly slopes to the east.

Hours . . .	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
Standard . . .	0°	15°	30°	45°	60°	75°	90°
Timsbury . . .			28°	49°		74°	90°

The dial is covered with lichen and perhaps there are other lines.

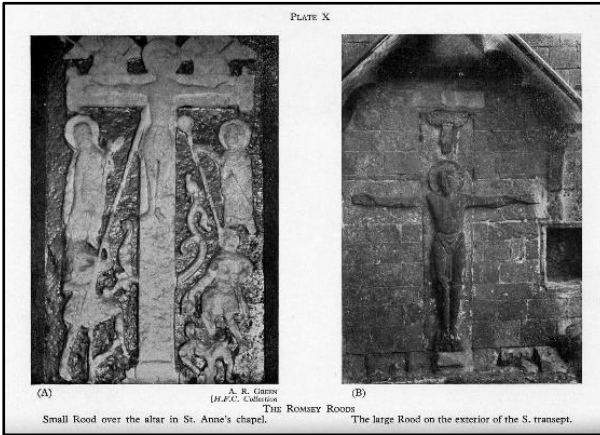
For illustration, see Plate XIV; for description, p. 175.

In 1933 his companion of over 30 years, Alice Julius, died. The following year Arthur married for the first time a lady who very much shared his interests, Phyllis Mary Hatton, then aged 52 years to Arthur's 68 years. They were married in Romsey Abbey in 1934 by Canon E. Firth. It was a quiet and private wedding, and the bride was described as wearing a wine coloured gown and carrying a bouquet of blue and white flowers.

Arthur had become active on the committee of the Hampshire Field Club and in 1935 he was responsible for directing a day's motor coach tour round churches of Hampshire having significant elements of Saxon architecture. In the same summer Arthur guided a party of the Literary and Philosophical Society visiting Embley Park round Wellow Church. He carried out similar guides to other societies like the Southampton Rambling Club when they visited Michelmersh in 1938.

Phyllis Green is frequently mentioned in Hampshire Field Club records, initially supporting Arthur with collecting and displaying the photograph collection. In 1935 the Hampshire Field Club had restarted the project to record Hampshire historic buildings in photographs. Arthur was honorary secretary of the Photographic Section and very much involved in taking photographs himself and in encouraging others to do so, as well as cataloguing and storing the photographs. By 1939 the photographic recording became a priority as it was feared that World War II bombing might well destroy many historic buildings. The National Buildings Record was founded under the aegis of the Government to co-ordinate the work of record making already accomplished or being undertaken by many bodies throughout the country including that of the Hampshire Field Club.

Initially, the HFC collection of prints was housed in Romsey Abbey. Canon W. H. B. Corban, the Vicar of Romsey, had placed a recess in the Abbey at the disposal of the Club and the Council had a cupboard constructed to contain the collection. This temporary home was in the massive wall of the Abbey and as it was fitted with a fireproof door it was considered as a reasonably safe place. However, in 1944, this was discovered to be damp and Sir Richard Luce came to the rescue, offering to store the photographs at his house, Chirk Lodge, in Romsey. During the war Arthur Green repeatedly called for more help with photographic recording. He acknowledged that in wartime getting photographic materials was a difficulty but he could supply special permits to purchase them. This was authorised by the government as part of the National Buildings Record. Arthur and Phyllis were responsible for several exhibitions of the collected photographs, in 1937 at University College in Southampton, in 1938 in Winchester Guildhall, and in May 1942 in Romsey.



As Arthur became older and less mobile, Phyllis is more credited with work, being recorded as joint secretary of Photographic Section with Arthur from 1947 to 1952.

In 1951, under their joint names, they published '*Saxon Architecture and Sculpture in Hampshire*'. Like the sundial book this is a very full catalogue

and description rather than detailed analysis, and the Greens were always ready to use and give credit to other people's work and opinions. Arthur Green published a number of articles in the HFC Proceedings and many of the later ones were jointly written by Arthur and Phyllis.

In 1939 Arthur and Phyllis visited South Africa, where Phyllis seems to have had relatives, travelling first class by steamer. In the 1940s they moved from Croylands to the Old Rectory at Stockbridge and in 1952 to Winn Road in Southampton where Arthur died in 1955 at the age of 89 years. Phyllis then moved to Winchester but only survived her husband by one year, dying in 1956 at the age of 73 years. The HFC proceedings for 1956 carried an obituary:

Dr and Mrs A R Green for many years took a leading part in the affairs of our Society. Their knowledge of Hampshire was widespread and deep, and their joint and special interests came to a learned fruition in the publication of their book on Anglo-Saxon Architecture in Hampshire. The Club will always remember the pioneer work done by the Greens in building up the photographic section and in cataloguing the really vast collection of photographs belonging to the Club and now at Tudor House, Southampton. Both were vigorous directors of Field Meetings and took a keen and critical interest in every aspect of local history and archaeology.

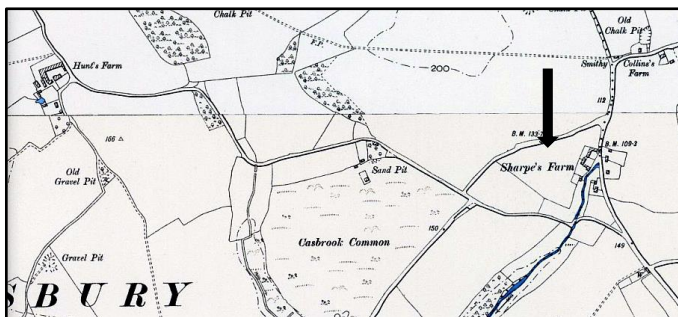
Much of the Hampshire Field Club photographic collection still survives although it has been divided between the Hampshire Record Office and Historic England (as successors of the National Buildings Record). The Broadlands Collection at the Hartley Library also holds 8 boxes and 2 index boxes of the Greens' papers, photographs and glass negatives.

Richard Sharp Mercer of Romsey c1665-1705:

by Ronnie Munday

From Countryside to Urban Dwelling

For many generations early members of the Sharp family lived and worked on the land in the countryside around Romsey. Then, in the later decades of the 17th century, one of them by the name of Richard Sharp, born c1665, made the move into the town life of Romsey. He became a respectable and prosperous tradesman as a mercer, and eventually married the daughter of Clement Warren, brother of Thomas Warren, the founder of the non-conformist church now known as the United Reformed Church.



*Extract (not to scale) from 6" Hampshire & IOW Sheet XLVIII.SE, published 1897
Sharp's Farm, arrowed, was in Timsbury with Braishfield due east.
Richard Sharp was born in Timsbury, perhaps even at the farm*

The First Richard Sharp of Romsey

Richard Sharp, the Romsey mercer, spawned a vast number of descendants who, over the following couple of centuries, were prominent in a variety of trades and professions, including mill-owners, clothiers, lawyers, bankers, etc. In 1696 he dictated the story of his own life to an unknown person, and this was unearthed by one of his present-day descendants, David Knapman.

David Knapman made contact with a family member living in Guernsey who provided access to a family archive of letters which included the life story of the first Richard Sharp. This biography appears in full as an Appendix in a book⁹ that David Knapman wrote about Richard's great grandson and namesake, who was quite a celebrity in the late 18th century and early 19th century. This later

⁹ *Conversation Sharp: the biography of a London Gentleman, Richard Sharp (1759–1835) in letters, prose and verse.* Knapman, David (2003). Dorchester: Dorset Press.

Richard Sharp was an English hat-maker, banker, merchant, poet, critic, Member of Parliament, and conversationalist. He was at various times known in London society as 'Hatter Sharp', 'Furrier Sharp', or most famously of all as 'Conversation Sharp'.

The life story of the first Richard Sharp, some extracts of which are reproduced below, together with some additional footnotes, is so interesting as it reveals what life was like for a young person growing up in the Romsey area during the years that followed the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 with echoes of the English Civil War still affecting people's lives - and how he became attracted to non-conformist religion. This non-conformist tradition flowed down to many of the descendants of the Sharp dynasty over the next two centuries. Richard makes reference to several local theologians, local places and the pursuits people were engaged in.

'An account of the Experiences of Mr. Richard Sharp, now of Southampton, just as he related it to me, the writer. 1 June 1696.'

"I was born at Timsbury, a village nere Romsey in Hampshire. My Parents were in mean circumstances, but I fere not religious, tho' my Mother taught me to read when I was about eight years old; from that time I began to work at my Fathers business as a Husbandman, but being averse to reading I quite forgot it. When abt 15 ys old I began to try to read again, in a marginable Bible that was given my Father; the historical I much delighted in & thereby learned to read, but still continued in saboth breaking; afterwards I bought a Bible & used to carry it with me to church as others did. We had a Mr. Goodaker¹⁰ for our Minister who was one of the best Clergymen I ever knew, sober in his conversation & as far as I have been able to judge, Calvinistic in his doctrine; his chief fault was he scarce ever wd reprove sin tho' committed in his presence and seldom engaged in good discourse. It was now times of persecution of Dissenters, and severall people of Romsey dissenters came to hear this Mr. Goodaker, and the difference I perceived between their conversation and mine was one of the first means of conviction of sin that I ever experienced. I betook myself to read in a book caled *The Great Assize* ¹¹& had thence great convictions & shed many tears, so I thought that I did & wd still repent of my sins and this supported me. Notwithstanding, I kept my old profane company;

¹⁰ Timothy Goodaker is recorded on the CCED database from 1663 as a curate at Baddesley, Timsbury, Chilworth and East Wellow, mostly simultaneously. He is recorded as a vicar from 1683 to 1714 for Chilworth and East Wellow. He died in 1714 (his will can be found in the Hampshire Records Office).

¹¹ This was a book by Samuel Smith a 17th century puritan pastor written in 1618 and also known as *The Day of Jubilee*.

afterwards by reading in a book concerning Sabbath breaking I wept considerably & could not persuade myself to go with my old associates at that time..... I was almost overtaken with drunkenness, which sin I always hated, & I comforted my mind by intending to repent of it.

"Thus I grew up to the age of 17 yrs. Then my whole designs & endeavours were that I might become a Man, and be equal to any of my fellows in any County, work or play as wrestling, cudgelling etc. This was my heart and life. I went into servis to my uncles, a profane family, in a Village or Parish called Littleton¹². Here I was derided for reading One night it thundered and many of the family fell to reading & I also; but the maid told me I read so much that I raised the weather. This derision frightened me from reading in their company almost ever after. Then I grew as profane as ever & two things tended particularly to harden me: first, a Parson or reader, that only used to read Homilys, did frequent our House & was very full of profane and lewed discourse; second. the people thereabout used to receive the Sacrament at Church were very wicked tho' they were generally called Holly folk, & they used after the Sacrament to go about from one house to another, and to a bush they called holy bush, tipping and snorting till they were many of them drunk that evening, thus till I was 19 yrs old.

"Then I went to my father's again, & had quite forgot my reading, but was a great proficient in wrestling & cudgellg. I studied oftimes in the week, while I was at my work, new sleights to foil & beat my opponents & on the Lord's day I have longd till the sermon was ended (I speak with shame) that I might go out to these exerces, & the pride of this was what I lived upon all the week. Yet I loved the most soul searching Parsons that I cd hear, & now and then had a thought of repenting & being more holy & receiving the Sacrament when old & this supported me..... Providence ordered it so that I heard a great commendation of a Minister named Mr Hardy¹³, who was a Dissenter, a serious Man whos preaching was much blessed by God; he so far conformed as to read a part of the Church servis. He was Minst of Badgley, which is a priviledged place & not under the Bishop's jurisdiction. Now I was abt 21 yrs old and pressed in through a great crowd to hear him; he read the psalm with a low & contemptable voice that I despised him in my heart but after he had been a little while in prayer he spoke so closely to my case that wrought great convictions in my mind & made

¹² Presumably, Littleton, the small hamlet just north of Winchester and about 11 miles from Tisbury. The only PCC will for the 1600s for Littleton is that of John Ffield, yeoman died 1653. He refers to a legacy of twenty shillings left to John Sharpe, the son of Edward Sharp. Presume this is the family Richard Sharpe lived with. Also Edmund Ffield, Alderman of Winchester, left a will dated 1686 which refers to his birth in Littleton and also leaves legacies to Edmund Sharp and his wife Alice (£5 apiece) and also 20 shillings apiece to the children of Edmund Sharp.

¹³ Samuel Hardy recorded as curate to North Baddesley between 1683 to 1686 according to CCED database.

me weep abundantly.Then I betook myself again to reading and learnt to read.

“Now the Duke of Monmouth landed in the west and the man that used to bear my father's arms¹⁴ having broke his leg, I bore them, and was unexpectedly drawn away with the Regiment down to the West. Once we were near an engagement with Monmouth's Soldiers but I having always endeavoured to harden myself in everything to become a Man had more thoughts of that then of fears of death upon me. So stupid was I. At the Devises I purchased Foxe's *Time and End of Time* ¹⁵& the reading of it gave me much pleasure. One of my companions bought Baxter's *Call to the Unconverted*¹⁶, so we exchanged bought books for a time & when I came to read his characters I thought it applicable to me & I was convinced of my misery, tho before I fancied it such a book was only for profane, wicked soldiers & I hoped I was better than they.

Sometimes I read so long till I was fain to go aside and weep by myself; I loved then to be talking of good discourse, yes - & to tell of my experience, and was much for freewill. I went then to live at Hawley with my sister¹⁷ who was married thither & once I remembr I was engaged in rich discourse and being checked I suddenly turned to talk of good things, of the Scriptures; and yet all this while I did not pray constantiy, nor did I forsake my old wicked company when I could get at them, tho' I thought it all, yet my convictions were not strong enough. So one Lord's day evening as I was pulling off my cloths between Mich & Xmas in moderate weather I was seized with an exceeding chill & by the time I was in bed I was colder than ever I felt myself before in my life, and also stupid in my

¹⁴ Presume he means weapons and not heraldic arms – is odd that as a dissenter he supported the Catholic royal cause of James II. The Monmouth Rebellion took place between June 11 and July 5th 1685.

¹⁵ Two discourses, the first about redemption of time, the second about consideration of our latter end by John Fox. Fox, John, fl. 1676.

¹⁶ The writing of the Rev. Richard Baxter (1615-1691) included *The Saints' Everlasting Rest and Call to the Unconverted*. Baxter became well known for his non-conformist views and retired from the Church of England following the Act of Conformity. A few weeks before the Monmouth Rebellion he appeared before Judge Jefferies charged with 'paraphrasing' the New Testament and Baxter, aged seventy and in poor health, was harangued as a blockhead' by Jefferies to such an extent that the jurors were obliged to find him guilty. Baxter escaped with his life but was heavily fined. His maternal grandfather was one of the Abney family, possibly related to the Abneys with whom Isaac Watts lived for many years. Dr Isaac Watts (born in 1674 in Southampton and died 1748) was a Congregationalist minister and famous Dissenter and was a friend of the first Richard Sharp.

¹⁷ He had two sisters, Elizabeth born c1655 and Alice born c1670. The latter was married to Thomas White in 1692 and so it is assumed this is a reference to the elder sister, Elizabeth, as it took place sometime before 1687 when he became 22.

mind. When I had recovered my thoughts I considered that I had prayed to God several times in affliction and I had been delivered, so I sayed the Lord's prayer and Creed, which were my usual prayers, then I considered that this did not reach my case, so I began to add something according to my condition, immediately after I fell into great confusion of whimsical fancies & still the cold chill continued on my body. I had many fiery darts from Satan hurrying threw my mind, violent, wicked, blasphemous, wicked thoughts that I never felt the Devill at work on my soul till then. This I suppose was the occasion why on a sudden afterwards I began to think over all the sins of my past life with incredible swiftness, especially of a stone which I once threw at my Mother which I had quite forgotten for many years. A thousand of my wicked actions came forcibly into my mind I began to try to balance them by reckoning up my good actions - my reading of good discourse, and what I had attained in knowledge of the scriptures. But on a sudden came into my thoughts the sentence of Mr Hardy that what a Man esteems highest is his God;was in a state of despair, my agonies were so great that I could not think of living, I thought of nothing but hell and damnation. For that which I had made my hope I found to be an Idoll & an abhorance in the sight of God, and that the god was none of mine. Then came in like a flash of lightening a temptation to destroy myself, though I had no consenting thought to it. I thought to call my brother or sister but I considered that they were but ignorant and I could hope for no help from them. I groned aloud & was still pinched with the cold thø I could not attend to that or scarce feel it while these things run over my mind.Then I broke into acclamations of thanks to god that he had preserved me & continued sometime in extemporary prayer, thø at that time I scarce knew that that there were any people against forms of prayer. I concluded my prayer with a full resignation of myself to God & resolved to be his. So I went to sleep. The next day I went to tell my brother- in-law my condition but he flouted me, but oh me thought I would have told it to any Man in the World & I remember from that night I left all my ill company & tho' I found myself very short in obedience yet I held my hold upon Xt [Christ]. My sister a little after died in a fit of raving, lightheaded, wicked talk, grining with here teeth, of which was a great means of humilyation, seriousness and watchfulness to me. Soon after my Brother-in-law died also but gave me no hope for his conversion before his death.

“Thus I grew to be 22 years old, then I came to live near the place of my father & delighted to hear Mr Goodaker preach when I could get opportunity. Afterwards upon the consideration of the serious and sober conversation of some of the people they called Dissenters I was willing to hear some of them preach, so I went with a person with whome I had some acquaintance to Romsey; as I was going I met my Father who asked me roughly whether I was going to the Malt House-----the meeting place. I answered I would tell him anon, for I was resolved to go. So I fell into conversation with a person before the

publick worship began but he talked so serious and so heavenly that me thought these were people that I wd have acquaintance and concern with. ... When Mr Warren¹⁸ the Minister was in prayer I was so filled with thoughts and repenting reflections how long I had lived without these means & at other times so longed for my other relations to be there too that my mind was but little attentive to much of the prayer, tho' while I did join in the prayer I seemed exceedingly fervent with my eyes flowing with tears all the time. Then Mr Robinson¹⁹ preached at Romsey once a fortnight. Oh I longed to here him, and that some of my relations shd here him too. I thought he preached most excelently on the nature of sin, and stiring me up to reformation & I sat awfully under his reproofs & dreaded his words almost as much as if he had been an angel, yet

“Mr Warren preached abt Heaven & its glorys but I thought it a ----- Sermon; he also preached many Services about the Offices of Xt & told us this was the substance of the acceptance of the Gospel, the only foundation of our acceptance and salvation. I attended diligently to him & A little before this I was driving the Horses in a Cart; they were so very unruly that I could not manage them, and in a violent pafsion I swore an Oath, One Lds day, as I was going to hear Mr Woods of Badsley²⁰, I was examining my self whther I had any true faith or indeed any grace; I was persuaded this was the effect of the influence of the holy Spirit. When in my days of sin it was my delight and my support in the work of the week to think of playing at cudgels on the Lord's day, now I enquired what was my delight & my support & what encouraged me in my labours? -I had learned much concerning the Offices of Xt from Mr Warren's sermons.but the temptations I mett with in leaving the Church & the things which led me to leave the Church of England were as follows -

1. My father & my relations were very averse to my going to Meetings & sometimes I was flouted by my companions, sometimes reprimanded by the Parson in whose Parish I lived. Once I learnt to sing Psalm tunes with a Lady's servant with much earnestness and delight but when she

¹⁸ If this is 1687 “Mr Warren” could refer to Thomas Warren, the founder of the Romsey Congregational Church, but it might also refer to John Warren, (his kinsman), former ‘intruder’ vicar of Romsey Abbey Church , who is also referred to in licences granted for Presbyterian worship in 1672 in Romsey and Broadlands in the Calendar of State Papers. Clement Warren the brother of the two dissenter ministers was the father of Christian Warren who married Richard Sharp in 1700.

¹⁹Probably Rev Nathaniel Robinson the first pastor of what became Above Bar Congregational Church, Southampton (1662-1696) from Roger Ottewill “A Splendid Prospect” Congregationalism in Edwardian Southampton 1901-1914”

²⁰ Probably Aaron Woodd (sic) of North Baddesley church 1691 according to CCED database

understood I went to Meetings she told me I shd not come there to learn tunes & carry them to Malhouses - to the Meetings.....

2. An acquaintance of mine was under convictions of mind & trouble for sin & he consulted the Parson who told him he shd set some time every day apart for prayer & that he shd go among merry company and divert himself from such meloncholly. This same Parson charged me for a Lyer. I openly defended myself and tho' he knew what he had said was false yet he had often reported it of me. Another Parson with whome I had some discourse but he was as ignorant as a child & unable to hold up an argument on any subject of Religeon. I therefore thought it was to little purpose to go to hear such a Man preach.
3. Another I observed went up into the pulpit to preach & he only read some pages out of Smith's *Great Assize* and I observed sometimes he took off from his book & then spoke nonsense & blundered misserably.
4. Now these things made me avoid hearing all such kind of Parsons, but Mr Goodacre I still heard when I had oppertunity to go nowhere else, till once a Man asked him to baptise a child in that way and manner he thought most comfortable to the Word of God & its institution; so he was - after some entreaty - prevaled on in a private house to do it, where he baptised the child without the use of the Cross & used but few of the Common Prayers; on the occasion afterwards, when it was publicly known, he was desired to do the same for others which he refused to do. This disgusted me against Mr Goodaker; though I hope he was a good man yet I could not be well reconciled to him because he appeared to think the uncerimonious way to be the true way and yet wd constantly practise the other.
5. When I came to live in Southampton I heard Dr Cuthebeck²¹ preach whose name was highly extolled. He preached on a Xmas Day on the Conception & Birth & the Purification of the souls of men to make them fit to receive Xt in the new birth as if he knew little of it - or else I did not understand him

Richard Sharp, in his later years, clearly disapproved of the wild days of his youth.

²¹ Probably refers to Dr Thomas Clutterbuck died c1700 and was at various times Rector of Nursling Church and St Mary's Church, Southampton. He became Archdeacon of Winchester in 1684.

The Widening of Church Street

by Barbara Burbridge

In 1876 the boundary of the Borough of Romsey Infra was extended and for the first time spread beyond the far east end of the Market Place. The old distinction between Romsey Infra (pontem) and Romsey Extra (pontem) as being inside or outside the bridge over the Holbrook was lost. The Borough now encompassed the whole of the urbanised part of the town.

One of the new responsibilities of the larger borough was that of setting up an Urban Sanitary Committee (USC) with a wide remit. Amongst other matters it took over the work of the Pavement Commission which had been introducing pavements to the streets of Romsey for over fifty years. (Mr Footner, solicitor, was awarded £100 compensation for losing his role as Clerk to the Pavement Commission, the office of clerk to the Urban Sanitary Committee having devolved upon Romsey Town Clerk.)

By this time the Pavement Commission had created much needed space for pavements by covering many of the open streams that edged several of the town centre streets and thus dispensing with a number of bridges.

One of the first issues that then confronted the new Committee was the stretch of Church Street between the Market Place and the turning into Church Place. This had been causing problems for a century or so. Under the auspices of the Southampton to Salisbury turnpike trust an abrupt corner from the Market Place had been rounded off to enable coaches using the 18th-century Salisbury and Stockbridge toll roads to enter Church Street comfortably. But the introduction of pavements had then created another problem. The advantage for pedestrians had turned into a disadvantage for carriages, especially those trying to go to and from the Abbey.

The average width, including pavements, was reckoned to be only 16 feet with one pinch-point being a mere 13 feet. The result was that wheeled vehicles could not pass one another. Since carriage owners from Romsey and the surrounding area were people of influence their protests carried considerable weight. So, the new Urban Sanitary Committee felt it necessary to address this problem as a priority.

A sub-committee was set up and on 25th February 1877 it was proposed, seconded and carried that the sub-committee should present a report on the subject at the next meeting on 15th March. One member of the sub-committee, Mr Councillor Godfrey, was requested to obtain and bring in details of the cost etc. of the proposed scheme.

Discussions and reviews of the forthcoming report went on to occupy time at meetings on 19th and 26th March and 9th and 16th April. At the 16th April meeting Councillor Godfrey was requested to report on the cost of widening the street up to the Market Inn (later Abbey Hotel and currently a kitchen shop) together with correspondence with Mr Strong as to the Market Inn itself.

On the 23rd day of April 1877 Mr Godfrey brought in this report which was adopted, and the Town Clerk was subsequently requested on 26 April 1877 to alter the report in one or two respects to put it into proper form for presentation to the Council at their Quarterly meeting on the 1st May 1877.

The final amended report to the full Council read as follows:

Copy of Special Report of the Sanitary Committee as to the widening of Church Street presented to the Town Council at the quarterly meeting of May 1st 1877

The question of widening Church Street has occupied the special attention of your Committee and they beg to lay before you the plans and the following particulars for your guidance and information:

They would suggest that the present is a most advantageous time for carrying out this improvement to the Borough owing to Mr Tuck's premises being at present empty and the favourable terms offered by Mr Newman owing to the present prospect of his being able to obtain other premises for carrying on his business.

The proposed scheme contemplates the demolition of Mr Tucks the Conroy's and Mr Newman's property giving a frontage of 140 feet by and average depth of 40ft Thus:

Mr Tuck's premises	Frontage 50 feet	Depth 10-25 feet
The Conroy's premises	Frontage 35 feet	Depth 19 feet
Mr Newman's premises	Frontage 56 feet	Depth 42 feet

The present width of Church Street including the pavements is an average of 16 feet.

It is proposed that the future width shall be 33 feet including pavements. Thus a four feet pavement on each side and a 25 feet roadway leaving as will be seen a good site for building.

The probable cost of the purchase after deducting the price of materials, costs of widening the street, sale of the land etc would be £1400.

The money to carry out this improvement is proposed to be borrowed for 30 years and it is calculated to be repaid by an average rate of 2s in the £1 per annum or ½d per quarter.

The properties on this east side were preferred by the committee. Besides being more available they were smaller and of inferior quality to those on the opposite side, thereby offering the cheaper option. Nevertheless, there were counter proposals of an aesthetic nature, particularly from the gentry. A vocal and influential group urged that the west rather than the east side of the street should be demolished. The land should then be left open and landscaped to provide an uninterrupted view of Romsey Abbey. An undated circular encouraged people to send subscriptions to cover the cost of purchasing the buildings concerned.

The Rt Hon. William Cowper Temple, MP, of Broadlands led the list of subscribers with his offer of £100. In the event, however, only about £350 was promised. This sum fell well short of the amount required, especially as there would undoubtedly be opposition from the owners of these more desirable properties. So, the enthusiasts needed money substantially in excess of the £1400 required for the purchase of the east side buildings. Furthermore, since there would be no rebuilding, there would be no long-term benefit for the Corporation which hoped to have a return from the new, though smaller, units to be built in the place of those demolished.

These considerations and the effect on the Borough's rates led the committee to come down heavily in favour of Church Street east being demolished and rebuilt on a smaller scale. The initial work, however, did not involve the Market Inn – there were too many complications relating to the split nature of the holding. The northern section was a freehold but a smaller southern section was leasehold granted by Winchester College, which, incidentally also owned The Swan Inn (now Conservative Working Men's Club) on the north-west corner of the Market Place.

The whole process took three years to complete as the 1880 date-stone above the resulting Ashley Terrace confirms. Conveyances were executed fairly quickly between the Corporation and the Tucks (as the Chollocombe heirs) and also Mr Newman the tailor (who was keen to move into his new Market Place premises) but there was delay over the bakery. Mr Dawkins the baker having died, his widow agreed to the sale but then she, too, died. Eventually, in early 1878, her heirs finally signed, and work could commence.

Incidentally, as the individual sales went through, there were discrepancies in the measurements as given in the report of the Urban Sanitary Committee to the Borough Council. In particular, the depth of Mr Newman's property increased from 42 feet to 52 feet – 'or thereabouts', as the legal documents cautiously stated.

Following demolition, it was decided to rebuild in two separate blocks. The Corporation retained the site of the old Chollocombe boot and shoe shop and had it rebuilt as fire engine station with large double doors at both ends and a parapet edge to the roofline. Reluctant to miss out on the chance of some financial return the Corporation did build a curved 'slit' of a building for sale against the wall of The Swan Inn. The value of its small size lay in the extensive cellars which extended outwards under the street to match the building line of the 18th century. These cellars presented a valuable asset until, in the early 20th century, the main streets were being updated with tarmac. Unfortunately, the tar machine broke the surface and tipped into the old cellar system which had to be filled in.

Meanwhile, the Dawkins bakery site and that of Mr Newman were developed on a more commercial basis. A terrace of four units each topped with a dormer window to the attic floor was named Ashley Terrace and was quickly giving the Corporation the hoped-for financial return. Then after several decades the town's hand or horse-drawn fire engine was replaced by steam machines that needed larger premises than the Church Street fire engine station. So, the Corporation released the building so that the shops could spread out of Ashley Terrace and the Corporation gain further financial benefit.

It was not until 1897, though, that the planned widening of Church Street could be completed by the rebuilding of the Market Inn. Although the Market Inn was immortalised in one of Romsey's earliest photographs, it only had a short life under that name. Until the mid-19th century it had had a long history as a hostelry known as The Falcon, the earliest document known to have referred to that name being dated 1665.

According to Charles Spence in his book *Hand-Book to Romsey Abbey*, published in 1862 and dedicated to the British Archaeological Society, the building bore evidence of being a fine but sadly mutilated *fine old English hall, the chestnut groinings of which, springing from corbel-heads beautifully carved and gilt, may yet be seen in a lumber-loft.*

Sadly, by the end of the century even this last surviving presence of a medieval building had been destroyed. The impressive double-gabled replacement inn that arose in its place was given the new name of *Abbey Hotel* in recognition of its proximity to the east end of Romsey Abbey. What it failed to recognise was that, before Henry VIII's dissolution of monasteries, the Abbey had been a Benedictine nunnery. For decades – much to the amusement of local historians – its inn sign showed the full-length image of a monk.

The only vestige of the very early history of this site rests in the right of way that still belongs to No 13 Church Street (once Moody's gunshop). An 1832

conveyance of this property - with reference to earlier deeds back to 1800 – contains a provision regarding access to the inn yard, *which said yard or backside extended from north to south 20 feet 3 inches, together with free liberty of ingress egress and regress to and for the said Harry Porter Curtis and his heirs at all reasonable times in the day into and from the said backside and yard called the Falcon yard with servants horses carts carriages for the carrying in and out of wood dung soil and other necessaries into and from the said backside or yard.*

Any earlier documentary evidence has been lost but the entry to the Abbey Hotel is considered to be the original entry to King John's House as part of its once much more extensive curtilage. It would certainly make sense of the public door into King John's House being on the south-west corner. It would also place the freehold section of *The Market Inn* within this curtilage.



The Abbey Hotel in its early days with two doors at the front

So, as the 20th century began, the entire stretch of Church Street between the Market Place and Church Place was finally widened sufficiently for two carriages or early motor cars to pass each other comfortably or for drivers to stop to let passengers alight at various shops without causing a hold-up behind them. The shops on both sides became popular, leaving the cultural dream of an open vista of the Abbey as a distant 'might-have-been'.

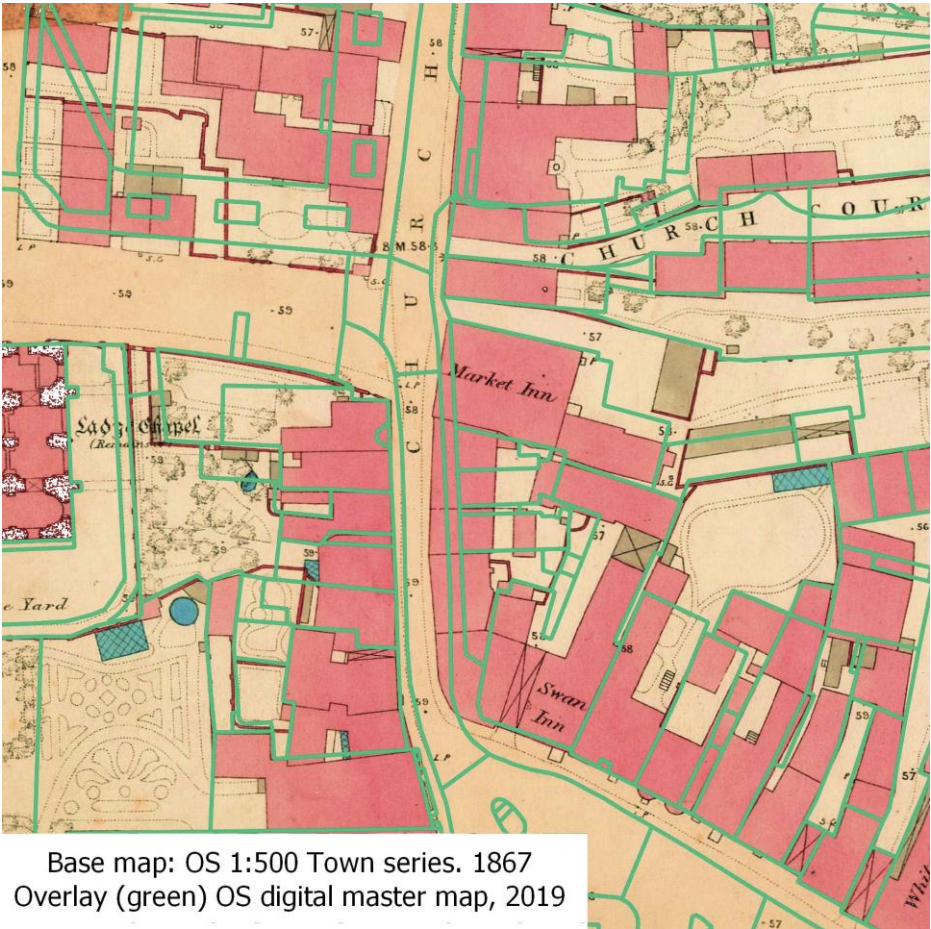


Two Views of Church Street from the same spot, looking south towards Market Place before and after road widening

Above: c1860s with only a narrow view of buildings in the Market Place

Below: Late 20th Century with much wider view of buildings in the Market Place





Before and After

A map of Church Street with OS 1867 overlaid with green outline showing how the east side buildings were rebuilt further back to allow for road widening in late 1870s.