

Living History.

NEWSLETTER March 2009.

Nature Notes

Spring has definitely sprung although, if the flowering date of daffodils is anything to judge by it is a least a week later than last year. Snowdrops were two weeks later in flowering.

A Mistle Thrush was seen on a crab apple in Yarpole on Saturday 10th February. The following day, 11th February, a Red Kite was seen. Siskins and a female Bullfinch were also spotted.

A Great Grey Shrike was seen and photographed on Bircher Common on 11th March (see photograph below). This is a scarce winter visitor about the size of a blackbird. 'The RSPB Guide to British Birds' gives the visiting population as less than 75 for the whole of Britain so this was a rare sighting! It feeds on large insects, small birds and small mammals.



Times Archive

In the last couple of *Newsletters* we have published some extracts from the Times Digital Archive. Readers may like to know that these can now be accessed free of charge by visiting the Hereford Libraries webpage at

<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/1566.asp> and clicking on the Times Digital Archive link. When asked for your library barcode enter your library card number.

Articles

The following articles, compiled are included with this edition of the *Newsletter*:
'The Lucton Three Lock Chest' & 'The Fishpool Valley Pumphouse' by Ian Mortimer
'Millicent Godding' Memories' from an interview by Pat Bloomer and Hazel Whitworth.
Transcribed and edited by Rhianon Turrell and Ian Mortimer

Yarpole Community Building Project

The development work at St Leonard's Church is well under way. The photograph below shows Ian Godding at work in the nave. Great care has been taken to protect the existing fabric of the church during the alterations.



2009 Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due for payment. It was agreed at the February Committee Meeting that there would need to be a slight increase in subscriptions to cover increased costs in producing the newsletter, the accompanying articles and the hire of the village hall meeting room. Subscriptions will be £6.50 for 2009. Country member's subscriptions remain unchanged at £12. Please send your payments to the Hon. Secretary - Ron Shaw at 3, Green Lane Crescent, Yarpole, Leominster HR6 0BQ or leave it at Yarpole Village Shop for his attention.

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Date of next meeting

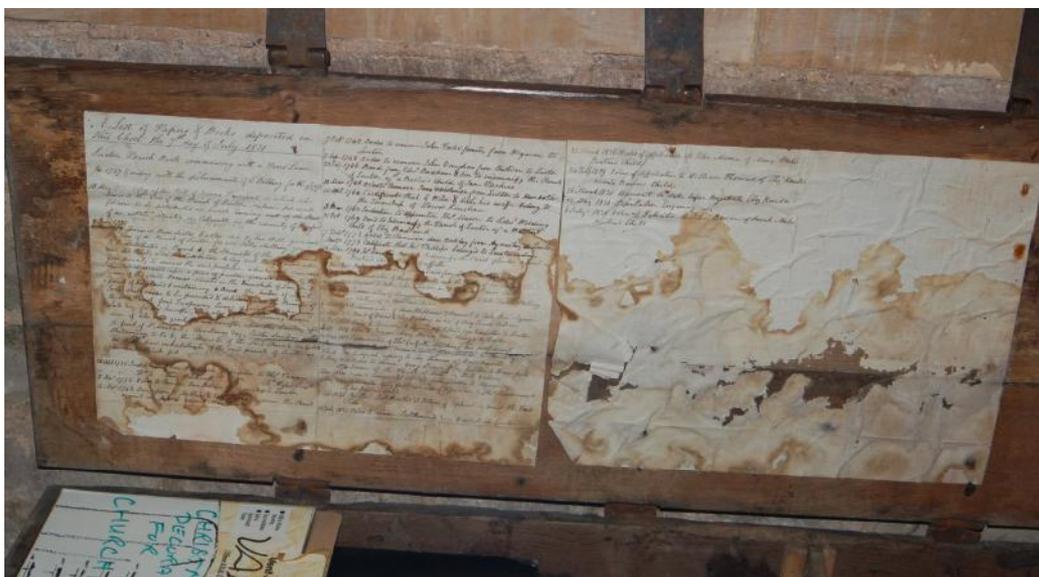
Tuesday 26th May at 8pm in the Committee room of the Village Hall.

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The Three Lock Parish Chest:



This is an oak framed panelled chest of the late 17th century which came from the Church of St. Laurence, Lucton, when it was deconsecrated in 1970. The front and lid have three panels with moulded styles and muntins (vertical framing pieces between the panels). There are two modern lock plates but the mechanisms have been removed. There are three strap hinges with hinged hasps for padlocks. The keys to the three padlocks would have been held separately by the priest and the two churchwardens. On the underside of the lid of the chest is attached a water-stained list of the documents which were deposited in the chest on the 7th July 1831:-



The list, in an abbreviated form, is reproduced overleaf
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List of Documents deposited on 7th day of July 1831

- Lucton Parish Book commencing with a Poor's Loan* for 1727 & ending with the disbursements of C Wilding for the year 1798 (* = 'Poor's Lewn' - the poor rate assessment
15 May 1727 Copy of the Will of Joanna Pierrepont in which she leaves to the Poor of the Parish of Lucton sixpence per week for ever to be distributed in bread etc..
- 8 Jan 1831 Francis Benedict a Cutler did by his Will give unto the Poor of the Parish of Lucton for ever Forty shillings yearly to be distributed in Bread by the Minister etc.
- 8 April 1735 Indenture of Dan Hitchcock Apprentice to Thomas Per----- and Ann Hitchcock and R Hoper Esquire
- 8 Nov 1735 Order to Remove Ann Beddoc from Aymestrey to Lucton
- 6 Mar 1742 Bond from 'H' the Parish against account Mary-----
- 7 Oct 1748 Order to remove John Ford & family from Wigmore to Lucton
- 3 Sep 1748 Order to remove John Vaughan from Shobden to Lucton
- 25 Feb 1756 Bond from Edwd 'B' to indemnify the Parish agst a Bastard Child of Jane 'P'.
- 31 Mar 1756 Order to Remove Ian Woodhouse from Lucton to Kimbolton
- 15 Apl 1760 Certificate that G Wild his wife belong to the Township of Lower Kinsham
- 3 Mar 1760 Indenture to Apprentice *Phil* Mason to Edwd Wilding.
- 31 Oct 1769 Bond to Indemnify the Parish of Lucton agst a Bastard Child of Eliz 'B'
- 7 Decr 1772 Order to Remove Ann Oakley from Aymestry to Lucton
- . Jany 1773 Certificate *Thil* Phillips belonged to Leintwardine
- 26 Mar 1791 Pat 'S's Bond to Indemnify the Parish against a Bastard Child of Ann 'G'
- . Nov 1801 Order for Removal of Mary Davis from Lucton to Aymestry
- 13 July 1812 Examination of Hannah 'S' as to the father of her Bastard Child
- 19 July 1813 Warrant to take John 'C' a/c Mary 'P's Child
- 25 Feb 1813 Examn of Margaret -----to take David 'W' as Father of a Bastard Child
- 9 Mar 1813 Examination of Ann 'W' (&) Warrant to take Ben 'S'
- 11 Mar 1813 Bond of David (&) John 'W' on acct of Mary 'J' Children
- 12 Nov 1816 Order to Remove B. Squire, Wife & Child from Kimbolton to Lucton
- 1 Feby 1817 Order to Remove Mary Morris from Dilwyn to Lucton
- 14 Mar 1817 Examination of Thomas Griffiths *touching* his settlement
- 3 Jun 1817 ----- Francis Cooke from Lucton to Pembridge
- 2 Feb 1818 Certificate relating to Eliz Thomas of Vowchurch
- 8 May 1818 Order to remove George Brown from Lucton to Brimfield
- . 1824 Terrier of the Parish of Lucton --- *Will Galliers*
- 1 Dec 1824 Order to remove *Jas Colerick* from Lucton to Aymestry
- 4 May 1825 Exam of Eliz 'K' and Order of Affiliation to Thomas 'B' of her Bastard Child
- 2 April 1825 The Revd Joseph Heath's 3 Notices of Appeal against The Poor Rate
- 13 uly 1825 Order to remove Joseph Hamond from Nar---h to Lucton
- 30 March 1826 Order of Affiliation to John 'M' of Mary 'W's Bastard Child
- 24 July 1829 Order of Affiliation to William 'T' of Eliz 'K's second Bastard Child
- 26 March 1831 Warrant to take before Magistrates Eliz 'K'
- 30 May 1831 **Population Enquiry**
- 6 July 1831 Order of Filiation to John 'B' of Sarah 'M's Bastard Child
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Millicent Godding's Memories Part 1

Millicent Godding was born in 1924 at Orleton. She has one sister Beryl who lives at Eye near the Cawley Hall. Her memories have been recorded and these are a selection from them. Another article will cover other aspects and will also feed into other more specific articles such as one about the shops in Yarpole.

Memories of schools and school days

"I went to school at Richards Castle. We were given permission to go to this Shropshire school as no girls were going to Orleton. Bigger girls could take us. It was about two and a half miles. They rang a bell before it was time, about 10 to 9 so if you were so far back you had to scurry. The big girls got hold of our arms and our feet hardly touched the ground."

Miss Bathurst was her first teacher then Miss Meredith and Mr Percival, the Headmaster. He lived at the school house. There were 2 playgrounds 1 for boys and 1 for girls with a block of toilets at the bottom. The boys would climb up and shout over or put things over.

The dentist used to come round regularly using the Infants room. If you had a tooth out you could spit over the fence after so they wanted to go to see the dentist. There was one more big room divided with a partition. One half was for the seniors, the other for the juniors but it didn't quite fill the space so they could look round or talk to someone in the other part.

"Each Christmas all the school children were given a Christmas party in Richards Castle Village Hall. They had a lovely sit down tea and played games. The finale was receiving a present from Father Christmas off the Christmas tree. This tree was on the stage, reaching the ceiling and beautifully decorated. I remember receiving a torch one year, which was wonderful to light us home at the end of the evening. We all walked the 2 miles home."

One day the sewing teacher said her stitching was too big. "I said to myself I wasn't going to unpick it so I went back to my place, came back again later and she said it was lovely!"

When the Attendance officer came round, they were sent out to play and thought if they were quiet the head would forget they were there and wouldn't call them back in, it was always a longer playtime when he came.

Some of the games they played were skipping, nuts in May, hopscotch, marbles, tag and Farmers in his den.

There was much less traffic and other things to think of and they used to go out all day with other children and take a picnic with no worries.

Later they had bikes and then they cycled to the Grammar at Leominster which was a ride of about 7 or 8 miles.



They lived on Orleton common on a smallholding called the Lyners of about 45 acres.

Millicent loading hay on a gambol 1935

They sometimes came down past the Maidenhead or the next crossroads which was a more open road so they could go down faster on their bikes. Their parents told them to walk down not ride but they rode down Bub's bank. Mrs Bub lived at the top. It was a steep climb to come back. They had to start at 8.0 to get to Leominster.

Several children rode their bikes to school and it was good fun on the slopes. In the winter there was always ice on one bit, you could take your feet off the pedals and slide on the ice.

She went to the Methodist Sunday school every Sunday because it was reasonably close. There was a brook running by the side of the Sunday school and before the teachers arrived from the top of the Goggin where they lived, they would catch tiddlers or they would hide in the woods and pretend they weren't there.

"If you took part in the anniversary service by learning a poem or singing a hymn, you were eligible for the outing. One year it would be the seaside, one year inland for those who couldn't travel. We went to Rhyl 2 or 3 times. All the food for children was provided. I can remember 7lb biscuit tins filled with sandwiches and there were drinks but parents had to find their own. We went to all the way to Malvern one year!

Every year we had a prize, generally a book, for attendance at Sunday School. Recently I found all mine dating back from the 1930s until I finished going to Sunday School.

It was fun decorating the chapel for the Harvest Festival. There were hooks on the back wall so you could drape autumn branches and vegetables on the hooks and decorate with berries etc then in the evening after the service, all the goods were sold by auction."

She trained as a teacher at Hereford from 1944-46, then went to work at Ross for a year & a term. Then a job came up at Orleton so she could move back home. Now living at 7, James Close, Yarpole, she started teaching at Cockgate school in December 1953. In September 1968 Eye and Cockgate schools closed and Luston school opened. The headteachers which she or her husband Michael remember at Cockgate

Living History March 2009 Millicent Godding's Memories

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are Mrs. Stallard (Bircher Common), Mrs. Lloyd, Mr. Lambert, Mrs. Passman, Mr. Walters, Mr. Snook (Supply Head). She also remembers a Mrs. Rubery who was a part time teacher who helped in the top class. Millicent worked there until she retired in 1983. She enjoyed her job. She had always wanted to do something with children but not big kids.

She walked to school at Cockgate until Margaret Mellings who had a car picked her up from the Bakehouse and took her the rest of the way.

Dorothy Davies who lived up Leys Lane (often pronounced Lyes) also taught.

When her first child was born her husband's mother looked after him. For the others she had official leave of 2 months either side of the birth. The first three children went to Cockgate. "They all went through my hands" as she put it. Her children were born at home and the midwife came. She went back to her mum for the first three. Ian, the fourth child was born at number 7 James Close and started school at Luston, walking there and back with mother at the age of four and a half years. Two of the nurses lived at number 7 James Close before them, one went to Kingsland. Selina Phillips lived in number 3 across from them. (The headteacher Mrs Lloyd lived in the council houses as well)

David, the eldest went to the Grammar school (now the Minster College) in Leominster, but by the time the others were that age Wigmore had been built so they went there on the bus which came to the top of Croft Lane. They walked up the lane to the main road to catch the bus.

Wartime memories

During the war she was at college and remembers blackouts. When the war finished several of the girls didn't have homes nearby so they came to the dance at Orleton village hall to celebrate.

"We had no evacuees at the farm but the house was full of paying guests. Some of them came out from Birmingham at the beginning of the war. There were 2 families with little children. Their husbands would come at weekends so we had private evacuees. We kept in touch for years but then lost contact. One son said could he come back and we saw him about 3 years ago; another appeared at the door one day.

Another family from near Twickenham came to stay regularly but we lost contact with them too.



Dad had a land girl. She had come years before as a paying guest so when she found she had a hard farm to work on she asked to come to work for Dad instead.

She was Mrs Gibbons, her daughter kept in contact. The father was in the forces and came back with a foreign lady so the marriage ended but we still keep in contact with the mother and daughter."

Mrs. Gibbons in her Land Army uniform

“Rationing didn’t effect us too much as we had our own butter, pigs and poultry, but with clothes you had to be pretty careful. Mum used to make all sorts for us; you had to make do and mend.

Mum made me a coat, pleated skirt, straps over and flat tam o’shanter and I was very proud of that. We always knitted – vests, crotchet round necks, knitted cardigans for the first 3 children, we passed things on and didn’t think about fashion - they wore what they were given.”

Other Services in the Village

Ray Holt’s bus from Orleton would pick everybody up to go to Ludlow with baskets of poultry. The bus went twice a week to Leominster and Ludlow, but when it was going to Ludlow it would come all round to collect people.

There was one doctor at Kingsland for the whole area. He was Dr Vaughan and had the surgery at his house, his son Geoffrey took over but went to New Zealand. He lived where Dr Snape lives in Orleton

There was a blacksmith at Orleton & Bircher. Dick Bennett, Pam Edwards’ father used to shoe the horses and lived opposite in Leys Lane. Margaret Mellings lived in the black and white farm house where the Smiths live now.

There was a police man at Orleton who lived in the house on the left as you go towards Orleton. Mr Bendall was the first one she remembers who scared you but put you right so you didn’t do wrong again. Mr Tipton was good fun, he used to come to W.I. parties. He was first up as team leader for games. The one from Orleton and the one from Kingsland used to meet with their bikes where the telephone box is at the bottom of Yarpole. They always had to take the forms for sheep dipping to the policeman. They would drop them off for Dad on the way to school in Leominster.

There was a good grocer’s at Orleton opposite The Boot who used to deliver miles around Clee hill and all around. He sold almost anything in food and animals feed, he had a big store place at the side. He’d go up figures so quickly when totalling the bill.”

Interviewed by Pat Bloomer and Hazel Whitworth

Transcribed and edited by Rhianon Turrell and Ian Mortimer February 2009

Parish History

Living history

The Pumphouse in the Fishpool Valley:

On the 8th August 1966, a Mr. Rex Wailes visited the pumphouse in the Fishpool Valley to carry out an inspection as part of a national Industrial Monuments Survey. Rex Wailes was an engineer and historian and an acknowledged authority on wind and water powered mill wheels.

His subsequent report, to which we now have access and on which this article is based, sheds light on the history of the pumphouse and resolves certain anomalies.

On inspection, he noted that on the upper sill of the spillway which fed water to the wheel there was a date stone which read "FPRJ. HC. 1791". We can wrestle with the interpretation of the initials but the date "1791" is of great significance; for it confirms the widely held presumption that the pumphouse was included in the 'Picturesque' landscape development of the Fishpool Valley as designed by Thomas Johnes in the style of Uvedale Price and Richard Payne Knight (see earlier Article - 'History of Croft 1746-1800').



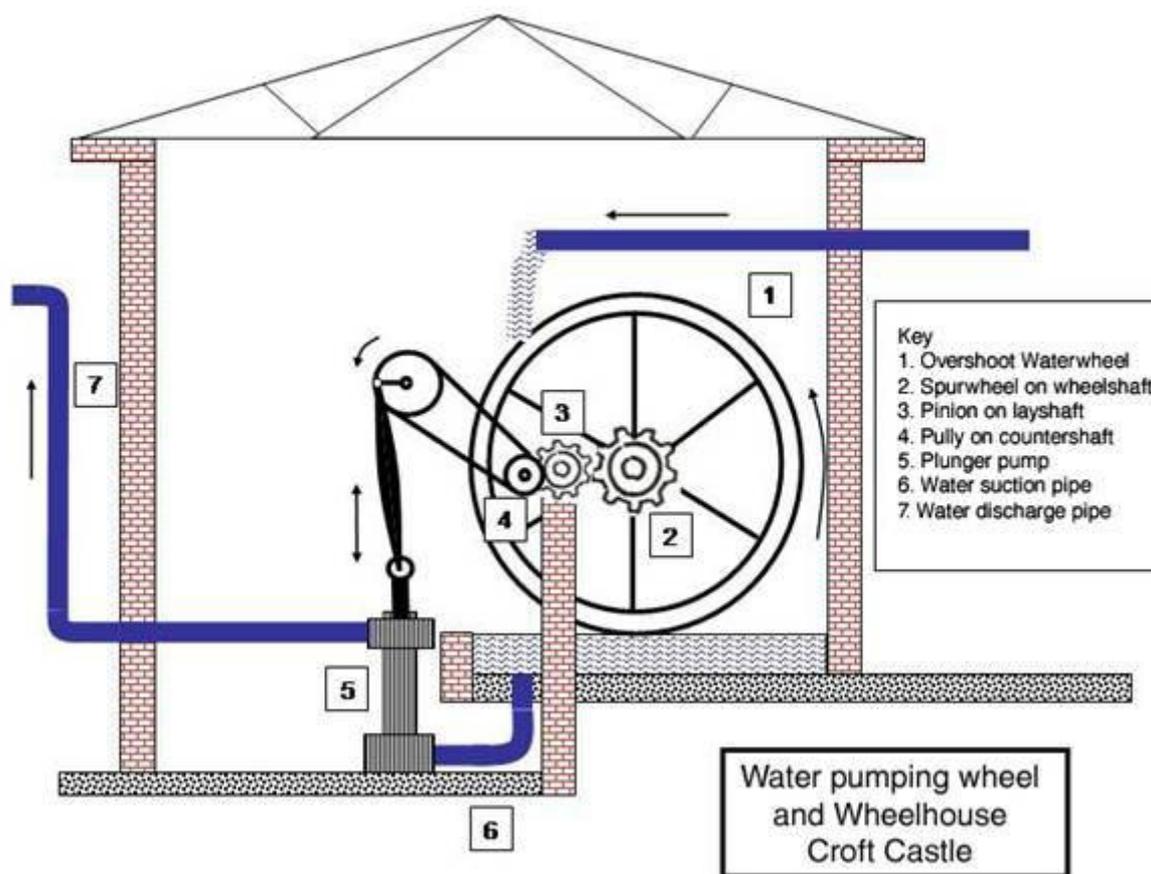
Inside the building Rex Wailes noted the presence of a beam which had notches, presumably for joists, showing that there had been, at one time, an intermediate floor and he was of the opinion that the pumphouse had originally been built as a corn mill and then, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, gutted and converted into a water pumping mill. This major reconstruction was carried out by William T. Kevill-Davis (see *'History of Croft 1800-1923'*).

His Report reads:-

"The water wheel is built like a steel pulley and is of steel and cast iron. It is overshot with a single row of six oval cast iron spokes, a cast iron hub and a cast iron wheelshaft, and is approximately 20' diameter by 18" wide with steel buckets. The arms have palms bolted to cross-pieces carrying an angle iron rim, and the shrouds are of steel 19" deep. The wheelshaft carries a cast iron spur wheel driving a cast iron pinion on a layshaft.

The layshaft carries a smaller spur wheel in a cast iron frame which drove a shrouded cast iron pinion on a countershaft, now displaced, with a large pulley on it now broken. From this pulley a belt drove up to a rotary single plunger pump with two inlet and two outlet valves, the suction being from a cask let into the rock below and delivery to a gravity tank near the green-houses up at the castle. The suction was between 12' and 15', but the head, against which the pump worked, is unknown.”

For those of us without a training in engineering, I asked my son (who has such a training) whether, based on this description, an illustration of the original mechanism could be drawn. This is the result:



Rex Wailes was of the opinion that this is an excellent example of the small water wheels used for pumping water supplies to domestic premises and is an extremely interesting adaptation of an old private corn mill. I am certain that he would have been keen to see it restored.

Compiled by Ian Mortimer from a report by Rex Wailes which was made available by Mrs Carolyn Compton of Croft Castle. (2009)