

# WEMBURY



## Then & Now



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# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Almshouses 1920s and 2009

These six charming little houses, with a chapel at their centre, were built by Sir John Hele in about 1590. They were endowed in 1639 by Sir Warwick Hele, his son, to provide accommodation for the poor of the Parish in perpetuity. They are still administered by the charity that he set up,

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Barton Brake Development 2015 & 2016

The top photograph shows the entrance to the site during build, and the in lower one, the completed houses in the course of being occupied.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Barton Brake Development 2015 & 2016

The top photograph shows the north/south range in the very early stages of construction, and the in lower one, the now completed houses are in the course of being occupied.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Barton Brake Development 2015 & 2016

The top photograph shows No's 1 to 9 in the course of construction, and the in lower one, the completed houses ready for occupation.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Barton Brake Development 2015 & 2016

The top photograph shows No's 33 to 40 in the course of construction, and the in lower one, the completed houses ready for occupation.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Bay Cottage - 1909 and 1996

Bay Cottage was built in 1832, it was not a part of the Langdon Estate and was always occupied by 'persons of independent means'. It operated as a guest house from the 1950s until the mid 2000s.

It was, for a short time, used as the Vicarage until the Church Commissioners bought Wembury Cottage, at Thorn, which then became the Vicarage.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Beach View Crescent – “Windy Ridge” 1961 & 1970s

The top photograph, taken on a nice winter's day in 1961, shows the bungalow, as originally built by Frank Dawe in the late 1940s, Whilst the building was in progress, Frank and his Wife, Lillian, and two children, Ronald and Ruth, lived in a converted bus on the site!

The lower photograph, taken on a nice summer's day in the of the 1970s, shows the bungalow, still totally unchanged. On this occasion, Mrs Dawe is holding an “afternoon teas” event to raise money for Church funds, with the usual bring and buy stall and raffle etc.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Beach View Crescent – “Windy Ridge” 2005 and 2018

The top photograph shows the bungalow, built originally in the late 1940s by Frank Dawe, although having lost a chimney and its brown pebble dashing, and also gained an extension to the front, is still easily recognisable from earlier photographs.

In 2018 it was given a complete modernisation, losing the remaining chimney in the process, but gaining an upper floor with observation balcony and views out to sea. The original bungalow remains as the core of the new building. The front extension has been enlarged to provide enlarged room on the ground floor with bi-fold doors onto a patio, and also to support the new work above.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Beachview Crescent - Views from “Alta Vista” – 1959 & 1979

These two photographs were taken from the dormer window of ‘Alta Vista’ in Beachview Crescent, and gives another instance where drastic changes took place over a period of 20 years

The development started off in the late 1950s was known as “Mewbury Mount”, (a play on “Mewstone” and “Wembury” I believe), but with the encroachment of Southland Park Road from the east, the two developments eventually joined together and took the name of the larger part.

In the 1959 (top) photograph, the roof of Ron Greep’s recently built bungalow, overlooking the old quarry, can be seen over towards the right, and on the far left “Homer Boro” the dormer bungalow, recently completed for Mrs Elliot.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Bottom of Church Road 1900s & 2005

More than 100 years separates these two photographs. The scene has not changed a lot except that the horse and cart has now given way to the motor car. The chimney at Bay Cottage is clearly visible over the old stable roof in both pictures. In the lower one the road has now got a tarmac finish, complete with yellow lines, and also the addition of electric and telegraph poles

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Bottom of Church Road 1930s & 2019

In the top photograph of the 1930s, the church tower and the Mewstone are clearly visible. In the bottom photograph of 2019, the church tower and Mewstone are completely hidden due to the hedges having grown uncontrollably, an example of the abject neglect on the part of the National Trust in the whole area.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Bottom of Church Road 1920s & 2019

All we know about the top photograph, with the splendid car outside of Bay Cottage, is that the Chauffeur was called “Pete”. Bay Cottage was owned by Commodore Croham at that time, and his wife was the daughter of the Squire, Richard Cory. It is thought that the car was actually Richard Cory’s, on a visit to his daughter.

The bottom photograph of 2019 shows a car, more like what we are used to seeing these days, parked in about the same position.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## BOVISAND LODGE FROM THE NORTH – 1900s & 2019

It was not possible in 2019 to photograph the house from exactly the same position as in the early 1900s, but it is easily recognisable from the early photograph. The house has lost its Virginia Creeper, which is not too bad a thing!

The windows, to the right of the portico, look as though they have been blocked, but were only ever painted on originally (*trompe-l'oeil*), and the arcaded verandah with its elegant canopy has gone from the west side.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

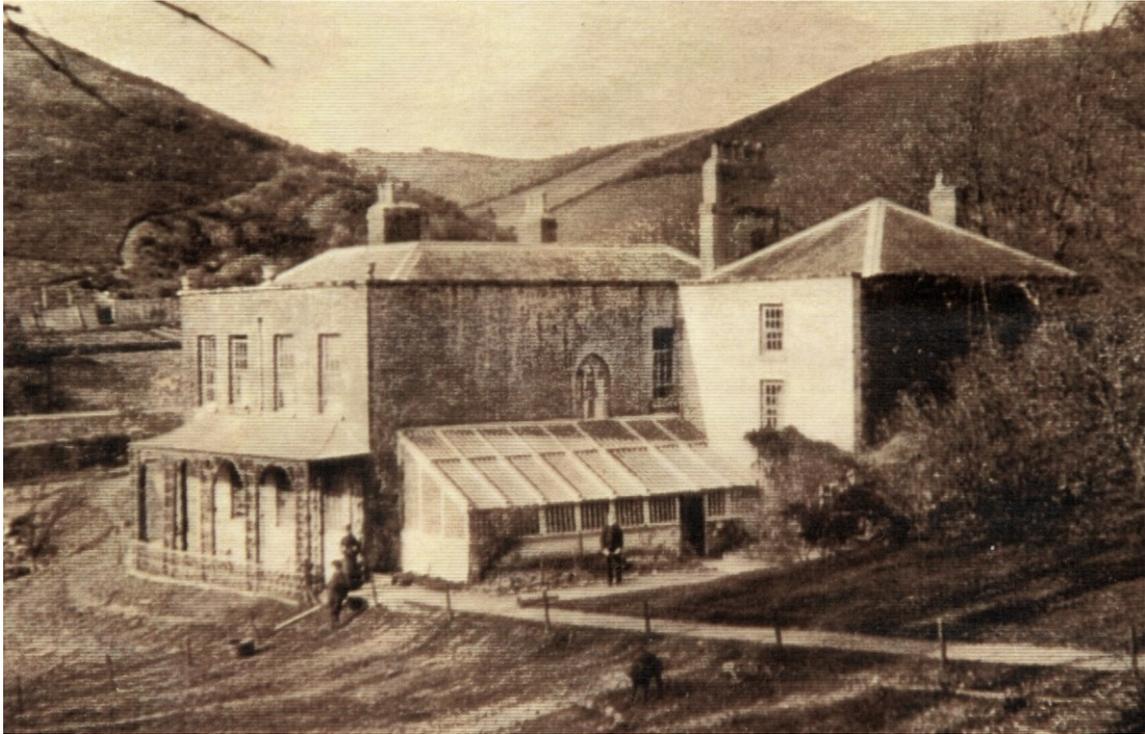


## BOVISAND LODGE & PLYMOUTH SOUND – 1900s & 2019

I regret that I was not able to achieve the right height in order to get the view exactly as in the early photograph.

The house now has a new life as the centre of an up-market holiday estate. The open valley has much more vegetation and the centre area going towards Plymouth Sound is occupied by the holiday cabins. Like many other of these big old houses, the Lodge, in recent years, has had to earn its own living!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



BOVISAND LODGE – 1900s & 2019

This pairing shows the west side of the house. The arcaded verandah with its elegant canopy has long gone and I don't think that there are any plans to reinstate it. The rather large south facing conservatory has also gone.

The newer buildings to the right of the 2019 photograph are of the swimming pool complex associated with the holiday accommodation.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Brownhill Lane – “Channel View” 2009 and 2018

The top photograph shows the original “Channel View”, the last of the “shacks” in Brownhill Lane from before the Second World War. Originally built as a holiday or weekend retreat, it was pressed into full time occupation during the war, due to the shortage of housing in the area, as a result of the bombing of Plymouth.

It was vacated in 2009 and shortly afterwards demolished to make way for the much more substantial dwelling shown in the lower photograph

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Church Road – “Trenona” 2005 and 2020

The top photograph shows the bungalow very much as it had looked since being built in the early 1930s. the hipped roof and bay windows being typical of that period.

In 2019 it was given a complete upgrade and brought into the 21st Century with the original bungalow remaining as the core of the new building. It was extended towards the back, the hipped roof was removed and replaced with a pitched roof and gables. Dormer windows were inserted into the south side, facing towards the sea. The bay windows at the front were removed, giving a plainer less fussy elevation, and new double glazed units fitted throughout.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Church Road – “Earlville” 2005 and 2020

The top photograph shows the bungalow, although now without chimneys, looking very much as it had since being built in the early 1930s. the hipped roof and bay windows being typical of that period.

In 2019 it was given a complete upgrade and brought into the 21st Century with the original bungalow remaining as the core of the new building. The hipped roof was removed and replaced with a pitched roof and gables. The lean-to extension on the right side was also given a pitched roof, which does much to improve the overall look of the house. The new roof, with velux windows, in the newly created bedrooms, has been extended down to the full width of the house which is a great improvement. The only slight criticism is that it would have been nice to have given the garage a pitched roof, to balance with the extension.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Church Road – “Fernham” 2005 and 2020

The top photograph shows the bungalow, looking very much as it had, since being built in the early 1930s. The hipped roof and bay windows being typical of that period.

In 2019 it was given a complete refurbishment and modernisation. The hipped roof remains, but the gables over the bay windows have been removed. The roof has been extended downwards to provide an unbroken span to cover both bay windows. The front door has been moved around to the side, which probably indicates alterations to the internal layout. The rather dated rendering has been covered with “New England” style weather boarding which gives it a much tidier look.

Sadly though, as happens with lot of these modernisations, the front garden has been sacrificed to the “motor car god”.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Church Road – “Longmead” 1997 and 2009

The top photograph from 1997 shows “Longmead” which was the last of the “shacks” on church Road. This one survived until the owner, Mrs Christine Rose, died in 1997. There were three huts altogether, another one behind the one shown, another one to the right of it, which can just be made out behind the trees, and the lean-to section which linked them all together.

The lower photograph of 2009 shows the Dormer bungalow that was built on the site. A nice house but it rather overwhelms the site and looks as though it has been shoe-horned in.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



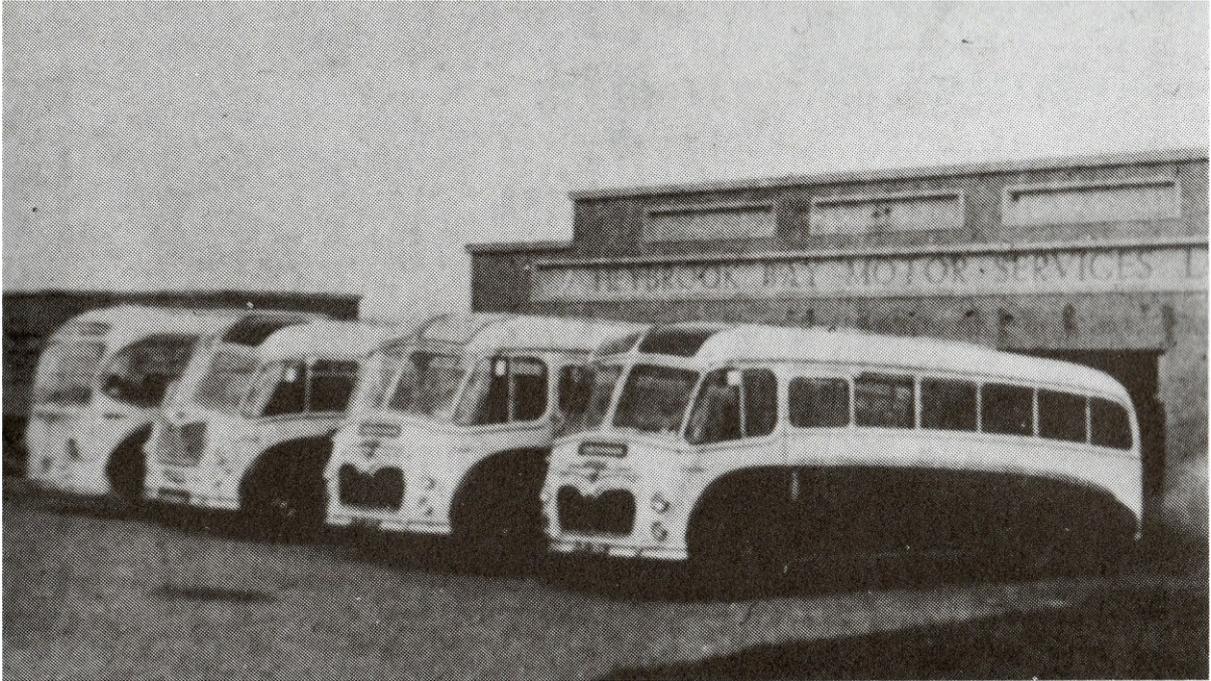
Church Road – “Longlands” 1930s and 2009

These two photographs were taken from the driveway of “Longlands” looking north towards Beach View Crescent, the upper one, in the 1930s, and the lower one, in 2009.

In the upper one, the house on the horizon is still there, but much altered, and now known as No.16 Beach View Crescent. It has been blocked from view by other developments that have taken place.

In the lower photograph, the wooden hut “Seaview”, which stood for about 50 years has now been replaced by the more substantial structure with the mansard roof, but still has the name “Seaview”, the house behind is “Sea Mist”, No.22 Beach View Crescent, which was built in the mid 1950s

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Down Thomas Garage 1950s - Coles Cottages 2015

The photograph of the 1950s shows the garage of the “Heybrook Bay Motor Services”, an ex wartime aircraft hangar which Tom Hart had erected on the site in 1945. Ranged in front are the ‘fleet’ of four busses, by the time the garage closed in 1959 the fleet had grown to twelve.

In the 1990s the site was sold, the garage complex demolished, and the site redeveloped as “Coles Cottages”.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Down Thomas, Renny Road, East – 1900s & 2009

The scene is practically unchanged in both photographs in spite of the intervening 100 years. The Methodist chapel on the left is now a private house.

In the lower photograph, the bringing of electricity to the village in 1928 is evidenced by the electricity pole and street light, the cottages have lost their thatch, and are now slate roofed, and in the distance, can be glimpsed the Silver Jubilee Hall which was built in 1938.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Down Thomas – 1900s & 2009

The two photographs were taken from about the same place. The site of the ruinous building in the top picture is now occupied by the car park of the Mussel Inn, the gable of which is visible in the top left of both pictures. Of course, in the 1900s it was the 'New Inn'.

The chimney on the extreme right of the top picture is the same one as in the lower picture sporting a television aerial (second one in).

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Down Thomas - Cottage in Renny Road – 1920s & 2020

The top photograph dates from the 1920s, When it is compared with the bottom photograph of 100 years later it's amazing what little change there has been, especially when one considers the amount of changes that have taken place elsewhere in the Parish.

In later years the cottage acquired the usual UPVC windows and doors, and also shutters which don't do it any favours at all, and are not really necessary on the north (LH) side of the building anyway.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Down Thomas, Renny Road, West– 1900s & 2009

The scene is practically unchanged in the 100 years between the two photographs, apart from the nearest cottage having a different window arrangement upstairs, and the addition of a glass porch to the front. The trees have grown up mostly blocking the far cottages from view, and of course, in the early 1900s there would have been no need for a 'SLOW' to be painted on the road!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Down Thomas – The New Inn 1900s / The Mussell Inn 2007

Originally called 'The New Inn', it was established much later than the Inn at Knighton which was then colloquially referred to as 'The 'Old Inn' to differentiate between the two. In 1810, the one at Knighton was named 'The Jubilee Inn' in honour of the Golden Jubilee of King George III, which effectively removed any confusion!

In 1850 the Victualler of the New Inn was one John Taylor who had local competition as there was a beerhouse at Gabber. In the 1950s it was renamed as 'The Mussell Inn'.

After mixed fortunes of late, it has now re-opened and hopefully restored to its position at the centre of the community.

## THE NEW INN – DOWN THOMAS – C1900



This is a computer enhanced, and coloured version, of part of the earlier photograph dating from the early 1900s.

The pub sign shows the licensee as being "A Hurrell, - Miss Amelia Hurrell was the licensee from 1902-1910 she was the sister of the two previous "Hurrell" licensees.

Servington Hurrell is listed as licensee in 1889, and Thomas Hurrell, in 1893 (Servington Hurrell died in 1892).

Frank Wells was licensee in 1914, he was son-in-law to Servington Hurrell. His son was the father of the Wells family that I knew in Down Thomas as a child, and was actually named Servington Francis Edward Wells, but went by his second name of Francis (or Frank).

## MUSSELL INN – DOWN THOMAS

### HMS CAMBRIDGE – ROYAL STUDENT



This photograph was taken in 1972, and a copy of it hung in the Mussell Inn throughout the 1970s and 80s.

It shows His Royal Highness Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales in HMS Cambridge, at Wembury Point, in 1972 when he was carrying out training as a young Sub Lieutenant.

It is known that he made 'forays' to some of the local drinking establishments during that period. All usually done very quietly with one or two friends, and of course the Protection Officer in discreet attendance.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Down Thomas – 1900s & 2009

In the top picture the second cottage from the right was occupied by the Avery family who were boot and shoemakers as is evidenced by the sign hanging at the end of the linhay.

In the lower picture, the linhay has been extended to the full height of the terrace, the cottages have been rendered. And given porches, and of course, the ubiquitous UPVC windows!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

## MATHIAS DARTON AVERY – BOOT AND SHOE MAKER OF DOWN THOMAS



In November 1862 Mathias Darton Avery, son of Thomas Avery of Down Thomas was apprenticed to Edmund Gill of York Street in Plymouth “*Boot and Shoe Maker to learn his art and with him after the manner of an Apprentice to serve from the date hereof for and during unto the full end and term of SEVEN YEARS.*” We know that Mathias successfully completed the apprenticeship as he set up in business in Down Thomas as a Shoe Maker, which he eventually passed onto his son William Henry Darton Avery.

Reading the Indenture, the apprenticeship was certainly something not to be taken lightly, especially where it states that: -

*“the said Mathias Darton Avery, shall, and will well and faithfully serve the said Edmund Gill for and during the said Term, and that he, the said Mathias Darton Avery, shall not at any time during the said Term spoil, destroy, waste, embezzle, spend, lend, or improperly make away with any of the stock, monies, or property of the said Edmund Gill.”*

It further states that: -

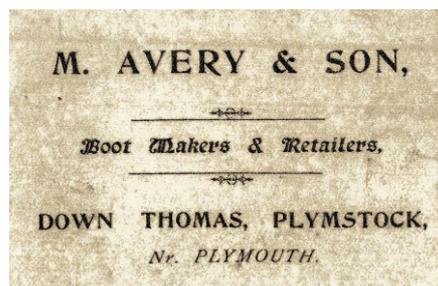
*“he shall not haunt Taverns, Inns or Alehouses, or play at Cards Dice or other Tables, or any unlawful games or contract Matrimony, or from the service or employ of his Master absent himself without his consent first obtained, but shall from time to time, and at all times during the said term, conduct himself with all Diligence, Honesty, Sobriety and Temperance.”*



Mathias’s father, Thomas had to pay Edmund Gill the sum of £15, which he was allowed to pay in three yearly instalments of £5 from the commencement of the apprenticeship. This was no mean amount for a labourer in 1862, and was probably equivalent to six months pay

The top photograph is a family group and thought to date from the First World War as two of the young men are in uniform. It is assumed that they survived, as there are no ‘Averys’ listed on the War Memorial.

The bottom photograph was taken in 2009 from about the same position, the outside light occupying the place of the Shoemaker’s sign in the earlier picture.



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Wedding at Down Thomas – 1930s

The top photograph is of an Avery family wedding believed to have taken place in the late 1930s.

There is very little information on the back of the photograph, except to say, “Outside the old homestead” and another note to say “Outside of Emily’s Mother’s”, which would be the cottage on the left from where the Avery family ran their shoe and boot making business for many years.

At the back of the picture is Paige’s farmhouse. All of this is easily recognisable in the lower photograph of October 2016

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

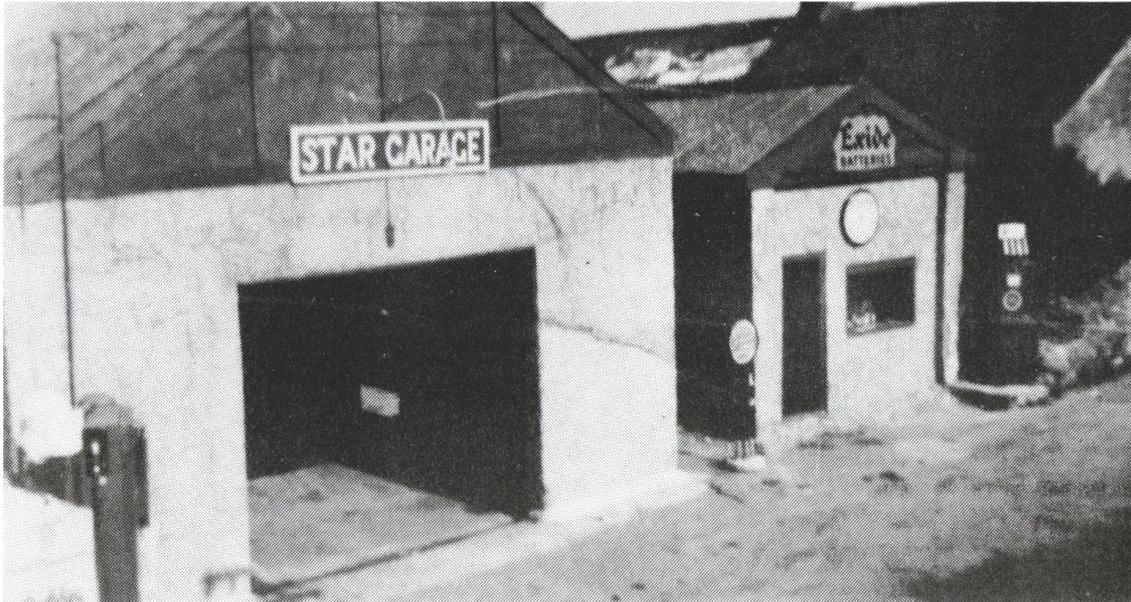


Down Thomas, The Star Garage – 1950 & 2007

The photograph of 1950 was taken when the garage was being run by John and Arthur Newton. There is Vauxhall car in the doorway and a 3 wheeled Morgan between the two buildings.

The 2007 photograph shows the garage having closed and been neglected for many years, shortly to be converted to residential use.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Down Thomas, Star Garage – 1952 & 2017

The top photograph was taken in 1952 shows the garage after it had been refurbished. It later passed to Mr John Benney, son in law to Cissie Wright (née Labron) who was at one time a Star Motors' conductress.

The lower photograph of 2017 shows the old garage, now quite unrecognisable, still in the process of being converted to residential use. The smaller workshop to the right of the garage has been removed.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



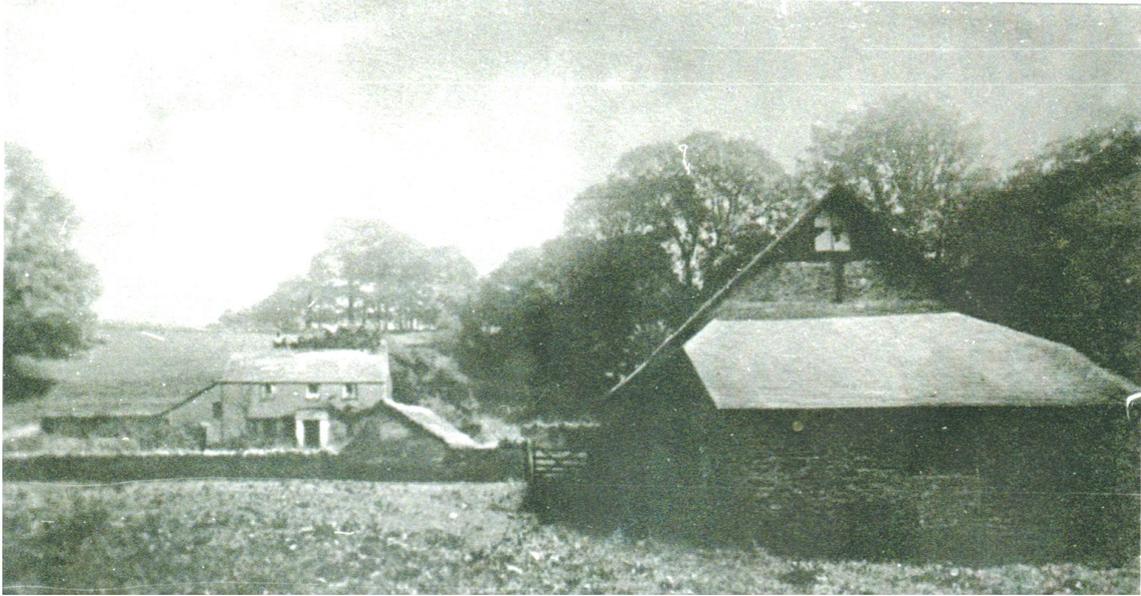
The Very First Bus in 1922 and 'First Bus' 2012

The top photograph shows the very first bus to operate a service from Wembury to Plymouth in 1922. Bill Newton bought the 14 seater, 22,4 h.p. Ford, with a £20 loan from his Mother-in-Law. The service ran on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, four trips each way.

The Lower photograph shows the No. 48 "First Bus" service operating on almost the same route on a daily basis. N.B. Since 2017 the service has been operated by "Stagecoach".

STOP PRESS: Now, in 2020, the service is being operated by Plymouth Citybus.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



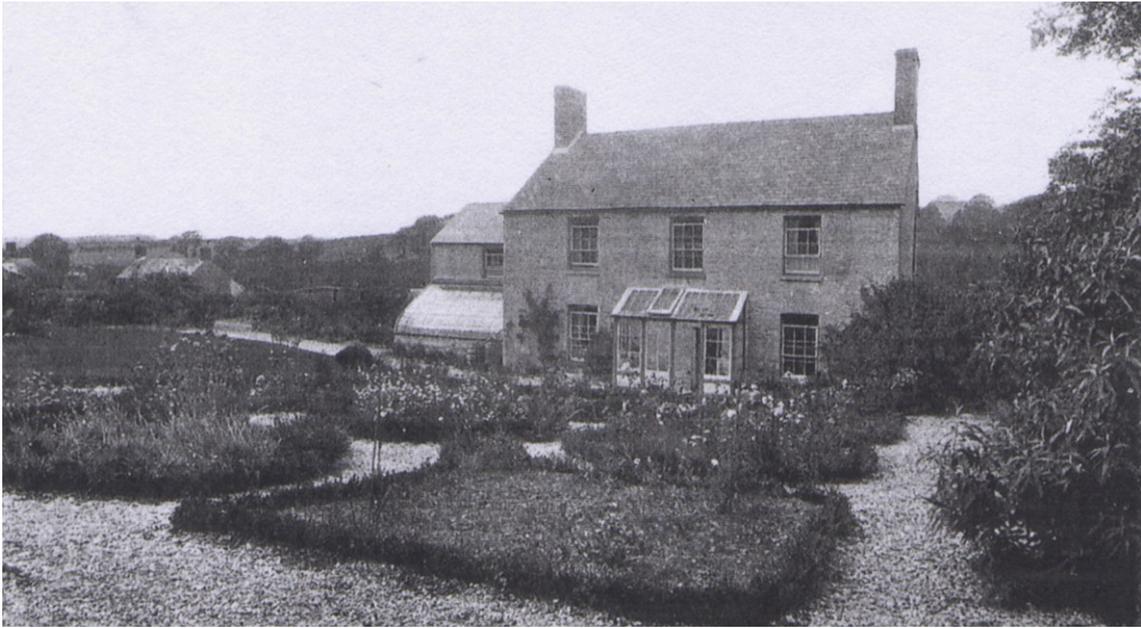
## Ford Farm – 1927 & 2009

The top photograph was taken in 1927 when the farm was part of the Langdon Estate. At that time it was a sub tenancy of Spirewell Farm, which was tenanted by Thomas Ernest Reid.

Now completely shorn of all of its farmland, the buildings have been converted to residential use and sold off separately.

When we were children, Harry Booth was the farmer, and his two younger children, Judy and Henry were in our age group, we used to have great fun with them on “voyages of discovery” into the woods. It always seemed to be a necessity that we light a fire on many of these occasions, Judy always seemed to have a ready supply of matches! Often we would sneak over to Langdon Court to play around in the duckponds area, or the old quarry, trying each time to escape detection by the Matron (Langdon Court was a Childrens’ Convalescent Home back then).

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Villa / Four Corners 1927 & 2009

The top photograph was taken in 1927 when the house was offered for sale as part of the Langdon Estate following the death of Richard Cory 1926. Dating from the late Georgian period, it was built as a Dower House to Langdon Court for Pollexfen, the widow of Admiral Charles Calmady, after his death in 1807

The house, known at that time as “Knighton Villa”. Later in the century, was occupied by the Misses Gertrude and Laura Calmady, spinster daughters of Charles Biggs Calmady.

Standing in just over an acre of ground, it made £170 at the sale. The house is easily recognisable in the bottom photograph which was taken in 2009.

In the 1940s and 50s the house was known as “Four Corners”, and so it has remained ever since. It is thought that this change of name took place sometime in the 1930s. Quite a fitting name for a very neat and compact Georgian house. In 1926 a Colonel Rundle is listed as a private resident living in Knighton in “The Cottage”, so it could be that the house has changed its name a couple of times.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Gabber Farm 1930s & 2007

The top photograph from the 1930s shows the front of the farmhouse as it looked with original slate hung front.

My Father, Henry Lugar took ownership of the farm in 1933, He lived there in bachelorhood until he married my mother in April of 1936. They were married in Plymstock Church, she being a Plymstock girl, and he having grown up in Oreston.

On moving into the farmhouse she had to ease him out of his bachelor ways, one of the main ones being that the bulldog was banished to a basket in the kitchen instead of being allowed to spend the night on his bed!

She (the dog) was not too pleased with this new arrangement!

The first two of their five children were born whilst they were at Gabber, that is myself and my older brother, Jim.

In 1945 they moved to Old Barton Farm on the Knighton side of Wembury, a much bigger farm, as the farmland at Thorn was a part of it as well.

My father confided to me much later that he secretly regretted the move, as he was the happiest he had ever been at Gabber.

In the lower photograph of 2007 it can clearly be seen to be the same house, but without the slate hung front. which I think is rather a pity.



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Gabber Farm 1930s & 2007

The top photograph from the late 1930s shows my mother, Beryl Lugar, outside the front of the farmhouse with a couple of the terriers.

Clearly shown is the lean-to or “linhay” on the side of the farmhouse which contained, towards the back, the dairy, and in the front part, the wash house which is evidenced by the large single chimney for the boiling copper.

The copper could also be adapted for use to scald the milk for making the clotted cream.

Note the milking pails, enamel jug and cream scalding pan, all outside drying in the sun! A practice that I think would be very much frowned on these days!

In the lower photograph taken in 2007, from roughly the same position, it can clearly be seen that the house has lost its slate hung frontage.

Also the linhay has gone, and has been replaced by a full height extension to the farmhouse, with a front porch.

The down pipe for the guttering is in the same position as in the earlier photograph.



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Gabber Farm 1930s & 2007

The top photograph was taken by my mother, Beryl Lugar and shows my father, Henry trying to get Judy, the Bulldog, to pose on the old granite trough, without a lot of success!

The lower photograph taken in 2007, from a bit further back, shows that the granite trough is gone. The only real reference point now is the chimney with the two pots, which is the same as in the older photograph.

As can be seen, most of the cottages on Gabber Hill have been extended to provide the facilities required for modern day living.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Gabber Farm 1930s and 2007

The photograph from the 1930s shows Thomas Lane feeding calves at Gabber, just to the north side of the farmhouse, with the cottages on Gabber Hill visible to the left.

The 2007 photograph from the same position shows the same buttress with the same stains, though faded, and the corrugated iron lean-to removed. The cottages on Gabber hill are still there but mostly obscured by trees.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Hawthorn Drive Shops - 1986 & 2009

These were a pair of quite handy shops! The Spar Shop for groceries and the Mewstone Stores, a bit of "All Sorts" Hardware, and D.I.Y, Handicrafts and woools, tools and toys, stationery and probably a few other things as well! Such a pity that after such a good start both had to close through lack of footfall. It seems that the local people still preferred to drag everything home from Plymstock or Plymouth rather than support their local businesses

By 2009 the erstwhile Spar Shop had become a private residence and the Mewstone Stores now a Hairdressers and beauty Parlour which is fine as there are plenty of the "Blue Rinse" brigade around to support it!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

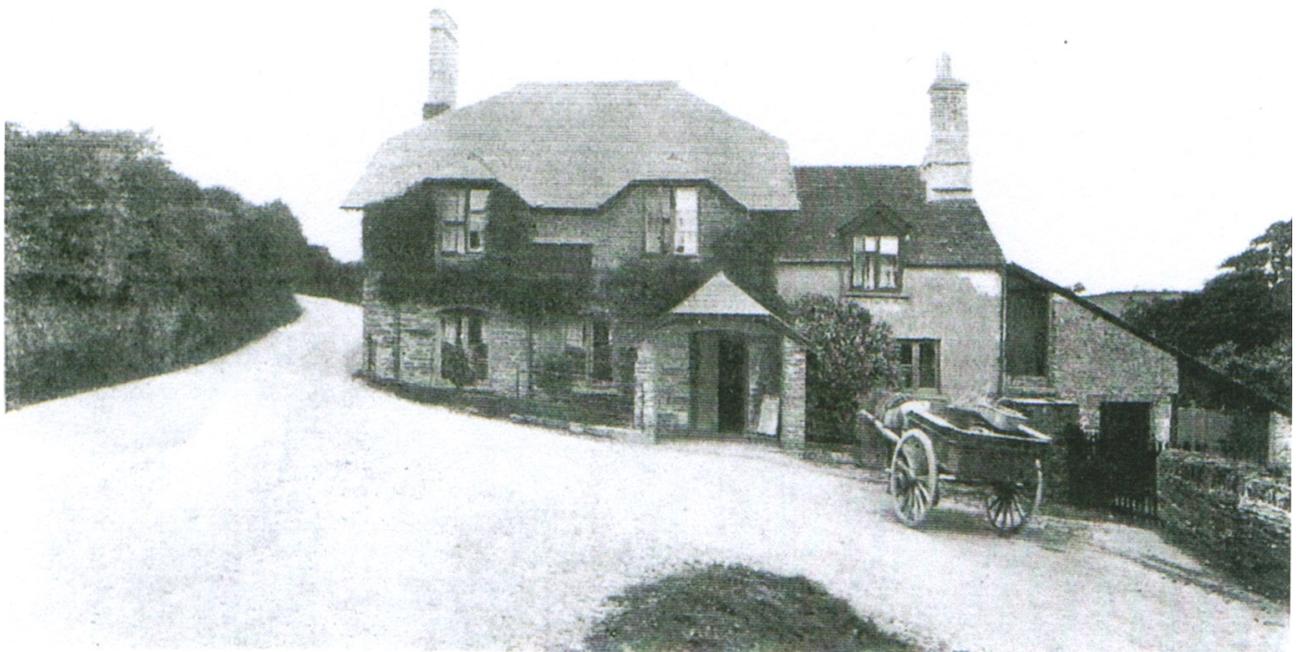


Higher Old Horn Meadow 1960 / Seaview Drive 2010

These photographs show just one place where some of the most drastic changes have taken place in the Knighton/West Wembury side of the Parish.

They were both taken from roughly the same position with an interval of fifty years between!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Jubilee Inn 1900s & 1927

In the top picture, taken in the early 1900s, the Publican was Alf Perring.

At the 1901 census there was Alf, his wife Maria, and 10 children living at the Pub. Alf married Maria in 1881 and had been the licensee since 1883. Maria was a daughter of the previous Publican, Henry Collier. Alf remained as Licensee until his death in 1930 at 76.

In the lower picture taken about 20 years later, not a lot has changed. It could even be the same horse and cart parked outside!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## The Jubilee Inn /Odd Wheel Inn 1930 & 2013

Colloquially known as “The Old Inn” or “Knighton Ale House”, in 1810 it was bought by the Manor of Langdon from the Manor of Wembury and properly named “The Jubilee Inn” in honour of King George III’s Golden Jubilee. There was much local resentment when new licensees, with no idea of the history of the place, renamed it “The Odd Wheel’ in the 1960s.

The top photograph is from the 1930s when the licensee was Alf Perring, he had been licensee since 1883 and remained so until his death in 1936.

The lower photograph was taken in 2013. The pub had been given a much needed major refurbishment in 2010 after being unoccupied for several months. Locals were very relieved when fresh people took it on. and it regained its place at the centre of the community.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Jubilee / Odd Wheel Inn – 1940s & 1970s

The top photograph is from the 1940s when the owner and licensee was Miss Lottie Perring, who was the youngest daughter of Alfred Perring who had been the licensee from 1893 to 1930. Miss Perring retired in 1962 and the pub was sold to Watney's Brewery. There was much resentment, amongst the locals in the late 1960s, when the name was changed to "The Odd Wheel", at the whim of the licensee at the time. The pub had been named "The Jubilee" since 1810 in honour of King George III's Golden Jubilee.

The pub was extensively altered in the late 19C, and the main part of the building dates from this time. Everything to the right of the entrance porch is part of the original building, "The Old Inn" as it was known colloqually.

The lower photograph shows it in its "new" guise as "The Odd Wheel", completely shorn of all of its outbuildings, to provide a car-park. Ironically, in the 1980s an extension had to be built on to the lower side to accommodate a new kitchen, in order to provide proper catering facilities.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Jubilee Inn /Odd Wheel Inn 1959 & 2004

The top photograph taken in 1959 shows the side of the pub with the original gate into the back garden and the sign, proudly proclaiming the name of the pub in royal blue and yellow lettering. The side panels also stated that "Wines & Spirits" and "Ales & Porters" were on sale. The shape of the two panels matched the fret panels in the top part of the gate. The pair of doors, at road level, gave access to the storeroom, which was actually at shoulder height inside of the building, and used for the off loading of crates.

The bottom photograph of 2004 shows it as it is now. In the 1960s refurbishment the old storeroom area became the lobby into the new lounge bar that was built onto the back of the pub, and also the toilets. The chimney between the windows was taken down and the materials re-used to build the dummy chimney at the north end of the building to match the one at the south.

## WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Jubilee Inn /Odd Wheel Inn 1930s & 2018

This pairing shows the rear of the pub as it was in the 1930s compared with how it looks today. In the 1960s refurbishment the huge single storied extension was added to accommodate the new lounge bar and toilets. In the old part of the building the bar, lounge, kitchen and private sitting room were all knocked together for the new public bar. The large chimney stack was removed and rebuilt as a dummy on the north side of the main roof to balance the one on the south side. Where the French windows are in the upper photograph is now the opening between the service areas behind the lounge and public bars. The lovely old chimney stack on the far left, which was part of the original ale house, was completely demolished down through the building, to provide more room inside.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill & Knighton Farm – Early 1990s

These are both “Then” photographs from the early 1990s and shows views across the field on the south side of Knighton Hill (Trout Meadow) where now stands the most inappropriately named development of “Langdon View”.

In the lower photograph, the old farm buildings behind the farmhouse are still standing, although it had ceased to be a working farm since the late 1970s. These were later swept away to become part of “Cory Court”, another inappropriately named development. Luckily the farmhouse survived and was given a very sympathetic renovation, which included reinstating windows in the original style, and removing the ghastly Barnstable tiles from the roof and replacing them with slates.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Farm 1980s and Cory Court 2013

Knighton Farm ceased operation in the late 1970s, and the buildings were left to deteriorate. In the 1990s the site and the adjacent field were sold off for redevelopment,

Luckily the farmhouse was not included in this deal, but the lovely old farm buildings, which could have been rescued, and the farmyard quadrangle were destroyed, and replaced by the rather nondescript development of Cory Court.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill - 1930s and 2004

The cottages were certainly far prettier before the addition of porches and the ghastly imitation shutters not to mention the ubiquitous UPVC windows.

The road, now with pavement, is more than double the width of what it was in the 1930s, and serves as a funnel through which traffic continuously pours.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill 1939 and 2009

The top photograph was taken in 1939 just after the start of the Second World War. The white patches were for the guidance of motorists driving with hooded headlights in the blackout.

The lower photograph of 2009 shows the road widened, with a pavement, and the top corners cut back to improve the lines of sight.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill 1939 and 2018

The top photograph was taken in 1939 and shows Knighton Hill as just a part of a country lane wending its way to the beach.

The lower photograph taken some 80 years later shows the road much widened, with pavement and road markings, and the field (Trout Meadow) on the south side in the process of being developed into a complex of 26 dwellings.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill 1920s and 2017

The top photograph was taken in the 1920s and shows Knighton Hill wending its way down through Knighton Village into West Wembury

The lower photograph taken about 90 years later shows the road much widened, the hedge on the south side removed and the field in the process of being developed into a complex of 26 dwellings.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill - 1900s and 2017

The top photograph was taken in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, certainly before the 1920s as there is no sign of electricity having arrived.

The lower photograph of 2017 shows the changes that have taken place in the ensuing 100 years. The road widened with white markings and a pavement, a concession to the motor car that now dominates most of our lives.

This last part of the original village to remain unaltered now undergoing drastic change with the development of 26 dwellings, sacrificing yet more of our precious “greenfield” area.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Knighton Hill Development 2016 & 2017

The top photograph taken in May 2016 shows Trout Meadow just before the development started. The lower photograph shows the site in September 2017. The houses on the lower part have been completed and most of them occupied. The development is now working its way up the hill.

With such a nice name as 'Trout Meadow' I don't know why the totally inappropriate name of 'Langdon View' was chosen for the development.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill from the Bottom - 1961 and 2009

Almost 50 years separates these two photographs, and clearly a lot of change has taken place. The road has been widened a couple of times and the cottages on the right that were set back, now find themselves on the edge of the road.

The Cory Court development now occupies the corner field along with the old farmyard. Just one of the many changes helping to transform the old village into just another bland part of suburbia.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill 1960 and 2017

The top photograph from the 1960s shows the cows coming out of the gate at the bottom of the hill on their way to the shippen at Knighton Farm for milking.

The bottom photograph of 2017, taken from the same position shows how the cows and their rather bucolic surroundings have given way to concrete, brick, glass, and tarmac in the 'imaginatively' named "Langdon View" development that now occupies the site.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



View from Trout Meadow – 1950s & 2019

The top photograph dates from the 1950s and shows the cottages on Knighton Hill going down on the right towards the lower part of Knighton and West Wembury. Over on the far left are the recently completed (1951) Cornish Unit council houses (Demolished in 1998).

In the lower photograph of 2019, taken from roughly the same position, the cottages on the right can just be made out behind the scaffolding, when that particular house is completed they will be hidden from view.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Knighton Hill Development 2010 & 2019

I really didn't think that they would be allowed to remove the Devon Hedge, and I am sure that the original plan allowed for it to remain but with gateways cut for access to the properties adjacent to the road. Obviously the rules can be interpreted differently according to who you are!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

## Knighton Hill – People – 1912 to 1960s



No.4 1912  
Jane & Emily Walke  
& Lydia Cawse



No.5 1920s  
Mrs Amy Walke & Iris



No.5 1950s  
James & Gertrude  
Bubear



No.4 1922  
Elizabeth & Edith Cawse



No.8 1960s  
George & Rosemary  
Bannaford

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

## Knighton People



The Drakes at Rose Villa – 1890s  
Back: James Drake, Mary Hutchings (Née Drake), Ann Thomas (Née Drake)  
Front: James Drake (Father), Flossie Hutchings (Gr Dau), Ann Drake (Mother)



John & Mary Coleman 1912



John Symons Blake Coleman 1892 and 1966



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Langdon Barton – 1927 & 1997

The Andrews family have been at Langdon Barton for over 100 years. It was part of the Langdon Estate when Lewis Andrews first went there as a tenant farmer. When the Langdon Estate was broken up in 1927 it was bought by his son, John, and is now in the ownership of his son, also John. At the time of the sale it was the largest farm in Wembury running to just over 230 acres, and made £5,650.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

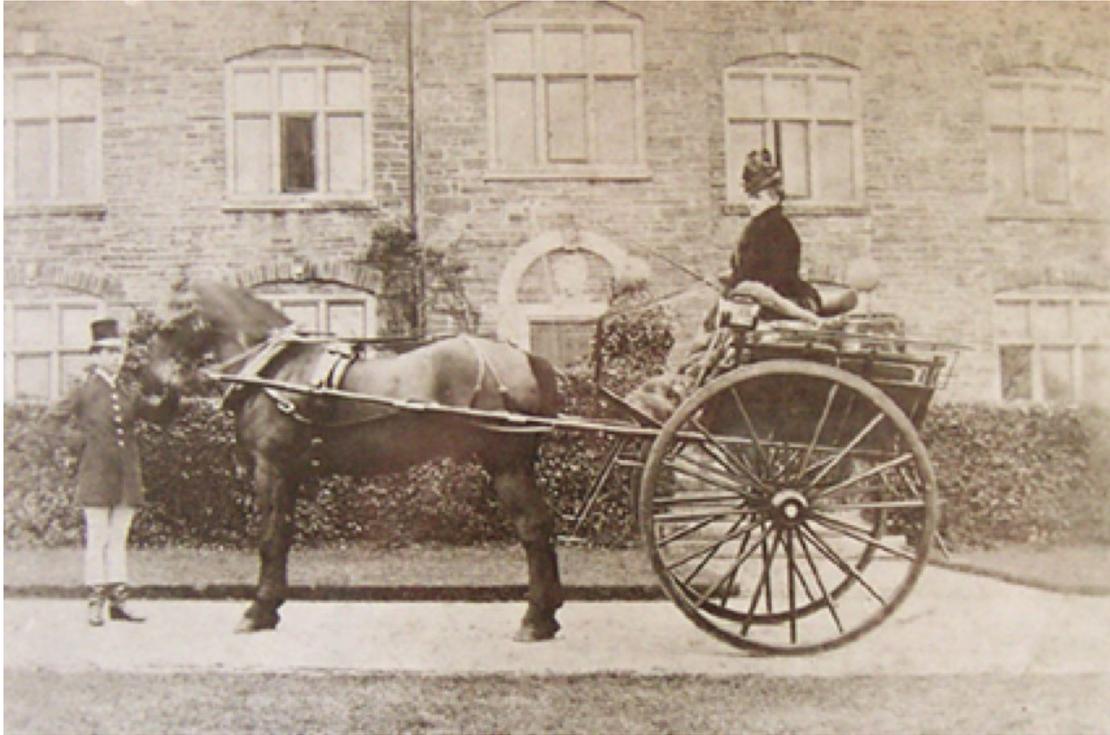


## Langdon Barton – 1927 & 2019

More than 20 years has passed since my previous pairings of Langdon Barton, of 1927 and 1997. Now, some 22 years later, it can be seen that there is very little difference between the two extremes, especially as the 2019 photograph was taken from just about the same position as the 1927 one. The house has gained an extra window upstairs and the telephone post is now gone, but replaced by an electricity post further to the left.

The old farm buildings on the extreme right have now been converted to residential use, and due to the present traffic conditions, it is no longer possible to have sheep wandering in the road!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Langdon Court – C1900 & 2007

This lovely Elizabethan Mansion was largely rebuilt in about 1570 for Vincent Calmady, in whose family it remained for 300 years. It was re-modelled in 1707 and extended in 1877 when the estate was bought by Richard Cory.

It has been a hotel since 1959, and has had more owners since then, than in the previous 400 years.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Langdon Court West Front – 1927 and 2020

The 1927 photograph was taken for the sales catalogue when the estate was broken up after the death of Richard Cory.

The lower photograph taken more than 90 years later show very little change at all, except maybe for the extra drain pipes for the en-suite bathrooms, that have been installed to serve the house's new purpose as a country hotel.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Langdon Court, North West Corner –1870s and 2015

After being in the possession of the Calmady family for 300 years, the house and the estate, extending to more than 2,000 acres, was bought by Richard Cory in 1876. The house, largely rebuilt in 1570 and remodelled in 1707, remained virtually unchanged until this time. In 1877, Richard Cory, intent on leaving his mark, had the tower, with castellations, (very much in vogue at the time), and the single storey service wing built on the north west corner thereby extending the west front of the house. The impressive arch was actually the servants' entrance and gave access only to the service areas

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

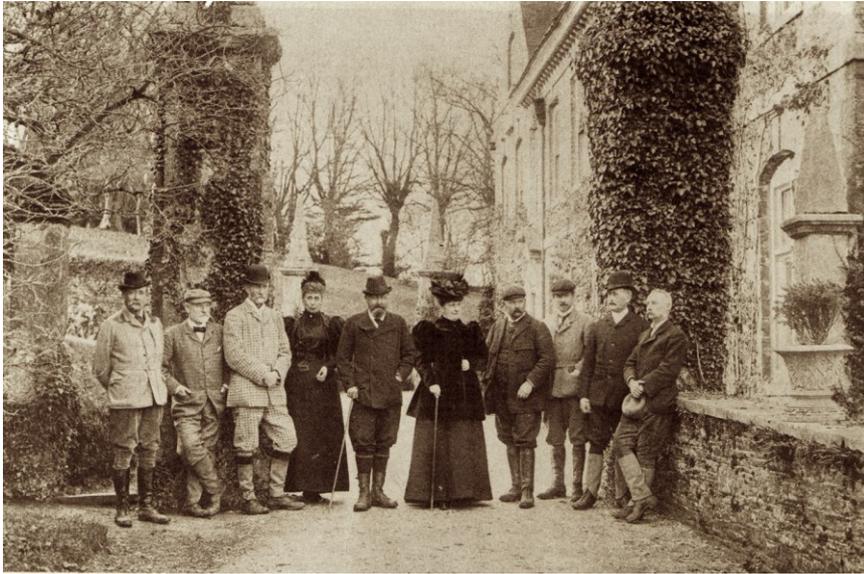


Langdon Court, South Front - 1880s & 2004

120 years have brought very little change to this view of the south front of the house. On the house itself the dormers have been changed from flat to pitched roofs, which is an improvement. The garden is less exuberant now in its planting. The yews, saplings in the top picture, are now fully mature, and have recently been very much reduced in height to improve the view of the house.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

Langdon Court People – 1890s - 1938



Shooting Party 1890s

In the centre,  
The Prince of Wales,  
(Later King Edward VII).

Richard Cory, is second from the right, among others present are: General Gore, Admiral Buller, Mrs Cory, Major Hackett-Thompson, General Way Tim Hawkes, Captain Montgomery

1890s  
Maids and Loaders

In readiness for the  
Royal shoot



1938

The hounds meet at Langdon.

At this time the house was under the ownership of Mrs Geraldine Kenyon-Slaney who is just visible on the far right of the photograph.



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

## Langdon Court People – 1880s – 1920s



### Inside Staff 1885

Unfortunately, we have only been able to put names to a few of the faces.  
From L to R

Louisa Drake – Under Nurse  
Mary Gillespie - Nurse  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dickenson – Laundry Maid  
\_\_\_\_\_ Walker – Maid to Mrs Cory  
Minnie \_\_\_\_\_ - Housemaid  
Not Known,  
Mrs Rose - The Cook,  
Mr Stentiford - The Butler,  
Jane Holder – Upper Housemaid  
Hannah Wyatt – Upper Housemaid  
William \_\_\_\_\_ - Footman

### Grooms & Coachmen 1890s

The only ones we are able to name are John Bryant, the groom on the left, and next to him, Mr Pattington, the Head Coachman. The two male cooks in the doorway are thought to be part of the Prince of Wales' retinue, brought to deal with his specific dietary requirements!



### Gardeners 1920s

The two men in the photograph are George Erscott and Jim Walke, They were just two of enormous team of outside staff employed to maintain the park, gardens, woods and ponds in tip-top condition. When the estate was broken up in the late 1920s, George went on to Wembury House, from where he eventually retired as Head Gardener, in the 1950s,

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Langdon – Laundry Cottage – 1927 AND 2007

Laundry Cottage, as its name suggests, was exactly that. It housed the laundry for Langdon Court up to the time that the estate was broken up in 1927. The top photograph dates from that time when it was included in the sales catalogue for the sale of the house and estate on the death of Richard Cory.

The bottom photograph was taken in 2012, from a slightly different angle, gives a more full on view, and is easily recognisable from the 1927 photograph.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Langdon Lodge – 1927 and 1986

The top photograph of Langdon Lodge dates from 1927 when it was taken for inclusion in the sales catalogue for the sale of the house and estate on the death of Squire Richard Cory.

The lower photograph was taken by Michael Arnold in 1986 as part of a series of photographs for inclusion in the local footpath guide. Not a lot has changed except for the chimney of the house gaining chimney pots and the corner pillar of the Langdon Court Gateway losing its finial.

It is the one remaining thatched cottage in Wembury. From the 1930s through to the 1970s it was owned by the Bramwell family, Mr Bramwell had a dental practice in Plymouth, and was our family dentist for many years.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Langdon Lodge – 1927 & 1995

This lovely 17C Cottage with its late Victorian extension to the back, shows absolutely no change in almost 90 years. The top photograph dates from 1927 when it was taken for inclusion in the sales catalogue for the sale of the house and estate on the death of Squire Richard Cory.

In Richard Cory's time it was occupied by Mr Pattington, the Head Coachman. The Pattingtons also provided lodgings for some of the younger grooms.

The lower photograph was taken in 1995.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



LANGDON LODGE – 1986 and 2019

The top photograph was taken by Michael Arnold in 1986 as part of a series of photographs for inclusion in the local footpath guide. Since the earlier photograph of 1927 not a lot has changed except for the chimney of the house gaining chimney pots and the corner pillar of the Langdon Court Gateway losing its finial.

The bottom photograph of June 2019 shows no change at all, except that the corner pillar of the Langdon Court gateway has regained its finial!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



LANGDON LODGE FROM THE EAST – 1960 & 2020

60 years separate these photographs, both taken approximately from the same position. In that period the hedges have been allowed to grow uncontrollably so that they now meet overhead, and form a virtual tunnel.

Very pretty in the summer with the dappled sunlight coming through, but not so good in the winter, when the road is running with water due to the gutters being clogged with dead leaves. Also the bank on the left side was not really intended to carry full sized trees, so it will just be a matter of time before “gravity” makes its presence felt!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



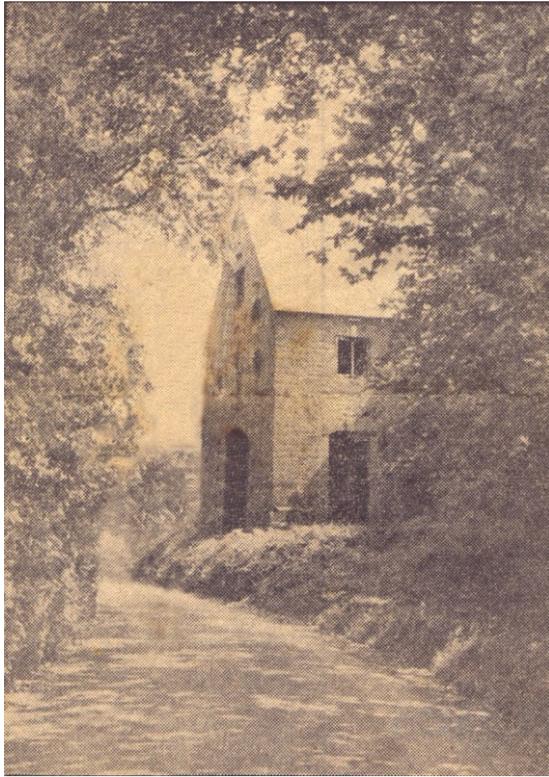
The Tithe Barn, Langdon – 1857 & 2006

The top picture is from a painting of June 1857 by Gertrude Calmady, youngest daughter of Charles Biggs Calmady, the Squire at the time. It shows the tithe barn as seen from the north, from within the grounds of Langdon Court. The painting title describes it as the “Old Josias” probably named after Josias Calmady who had it built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century

The lower photograph, taken from as near the same position as possible, shows that outwardly nothing much has changed in the intervening 150 years, although it has now been converted to residential use.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

## The Tithe Barn – Langdon – 1935, 1959 & 1995



The left-hand photograph, is a rather grainy newspaper photograph, from 1959 showing the Tithe Barn it in its previous role as a farm building, it's role as a Tithe Barn had ceased many years earlier.

The right-hand photograph, from roughly the same position, in 1995, shows it much the same but in its new role as a residential dwelling, evidenced by the newly glazed upper window.

The lower photograph, from 1935, shows the Down Thomas celebrations for the Silver Jubilee of King George V. There being no Village Hall in Down Thomas at the time, they decided to hold their celebrations at the Tithe Barn. Trestle tables were set up and all of the chairs from the Methodist Chapel were commandeered! By all accounts a very good time was had by all, with singing and dancing, and playing skittles for a prize of a pig! a bar supplying beer and cider was set up by the New Inn, there was port or sherry or soft drinks available for the ladies as well!



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



May & Escalonia - 1920s & 2013

The top photograph dates from the 1920s when the cottages were still part of the Langdon Estate and occupied by estate workers. Originally a single dwelling, it was split in two in the early 1920s. The split was not vertical, the central window downstairs is part of May Cottage, whereas the one above is part of Escalonia. the very thick chimney on the right indicates that it was once thatched.

The lower photograph taken about 90 years later shows them much the same but “spruced up” and being very well looked after.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Mill and Church - 1899 and 2008

Over 100 years separates these two photographs, but the changes are few. The Mill, Mill house and farm buildings below the church were all part of “Church Farm”. Since then the Mill has long lost its overshot wheel and is now a café, the farm buildings have been replaced by the Marine Study Centre, and the area to the left of the track, once the preserve of livestock, is now occupied by the public lavatories, an indication of the area’s present use as a place of leisure rather than work!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Mill Meadow 1896 & 2019

The top view, as seen from the garden at Bay Cottage, was painted by Charles Aldridge and dates from 1896.

The meadow, lush green, with the stream meandering through, is very much as I remember it as a child in the 1940s and 50s, with flag irises and watercress in abundance, and dragon flies, not as it is seen in the 2019 photograph, completely choked up with brambles and scrub due to the National Trust's neglect and incompetence.

The slope going up to the church should also be clear of vegetation, as shown in the painting, to give a clear view of "the old grey church on the windy hill" as John Galsworthy referred to it.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Mill - 1900 and 2006

The Mill ceased operation in 1900, William Beer was the last Miller. The overshot wheel remained in place until about 1915 when it was removed as scrap iron for the War Effort. The Mill actually formed part of what was originally "Church Farm" the mill cottage being the farmhouse and the farm buildings on the area now occupied by the Marine Study Centre, along with the other buildings on the south side of the cottage, which are now converted to retail use.

The Mill did not lie on any natural waterway, the water had to be channelled to it from a stream at the bottom of Church Road, about 400 yards away. In the late 1950s it was converted into a café and shop for the National Trust.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Mount Pleasant 1925 and 2013

This was originally a Gamekeeper's Cottage, where the tenant maintained a small farm as well. In addition he was Kennel Master to the squire, and also bred the pheasants, to be released later into the wild, ready for the shooting season.

The Kennels and the Pheasantry still stand near the house, but are now put to other uses,

In the 1970s, the then owners had the left-hand chimney removed, which was a pity, as it rather upset the pleasing balance of the house as viewed from the front.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

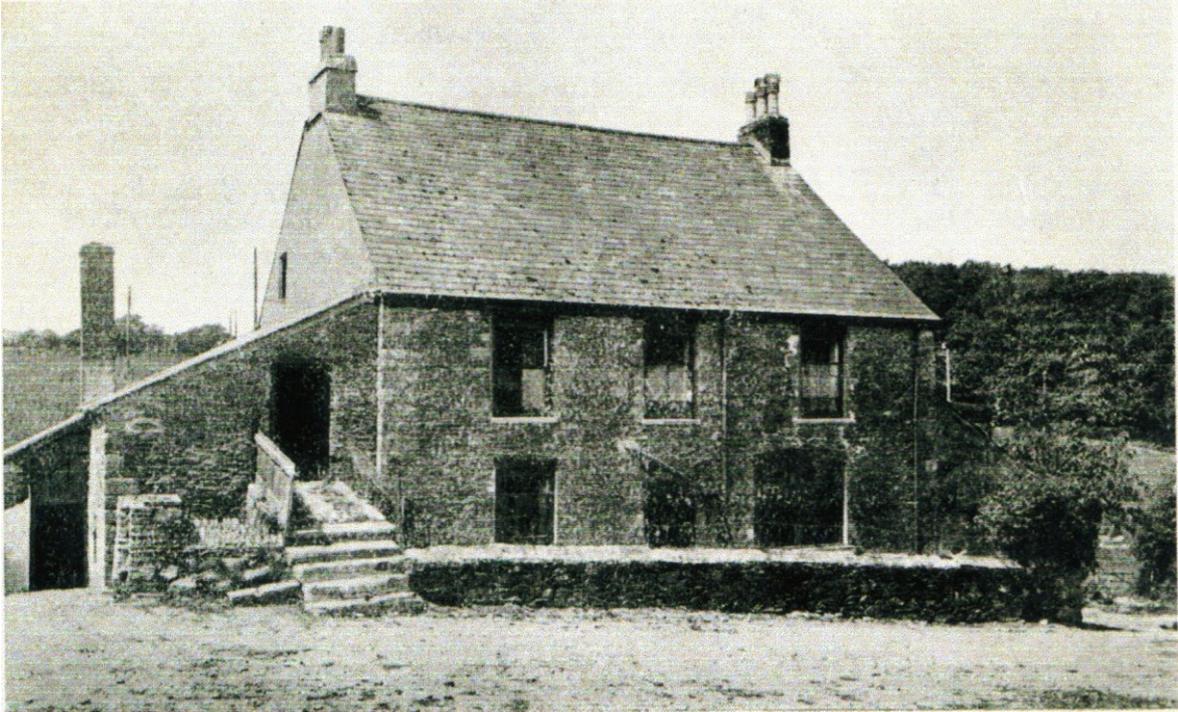


No.8 Hawthorn Drive 1986 & 2009

Out of all of the dwellings built in Hawthorn Drive in the 1970s, about 60 of them, I think. This is the only one that proclaims loudly and clearly that it is of that time!

In the early photograph it still has the original sliding aluminium windows from when it was built. It was found after a while that these were not very efficient as regards insulation and were later changed to UPVC units. It is also nice to see that the front door is now more in keeping with the style of the house, rather than the one in the earlier photograph, which looked like it had been hi-jacked from a 1950s semi.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Old Barton Farmhouse – 1938 & 2011

The top photograph is of the farmhouse as it was shown in the sale catalogue in 1938, it doesn't really do it justice as it was an attractive old house. The granite steps on the left went up to the lincay loft which went right over the boot room and the kitchen. The tall chimney on the left was for the big black range in the kitchen. The door on the extreme, left down a flight of cobbled steps, led into a small dairy and the kitchen.

The bottom photograph of 2011 shows the farmhouse as it is today, totally shorn of all its farmland and let by the National Trust as a private residence.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Old Horn Meadow 1940s and Church Road 2017

The top photograph dates from the 1940s and is on Jack Smallridge's field "Old Horn" on the south side of Church Road between Hillcrest and Beachview Crescent. It shows the 'workers' having a break during the harvest. In the photograph are Bert Wood, Mrs Waite, Bill Towill, Mrs Blanche Smallridge, Harry Smallridge and Olive Smallridge.

The roof of the bungalow on the right is that of "The Nook" and is the same roof shown in the 2017 photograph taken from roughly the same position. I couldn't get into the exact position as it would have meant going into the adjacent garden of the bungalow on the right.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Old Post Office 1961 & 2005

The upper photograph shows the old Post Office and Stores in 1961 when it was owned and run by Dennis Baskerville, and his wife Lena.

The lower photograph of 2005, a few owners later, shows it much reduced in size occupying the former annexe, the main part of the building having been converted into a Hairdressing Salon and Beauty Parlour.

In 2017 the Post Office moved once again into Knighton Stores, in Knighton Road. The former Post Office premises in The Square is now a Dog Grooming centre.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Old School, 1958 and 2004

The 'Board School' was built in 1874 at a cost of £934, and served the village well, right up to the 1960s, by which time the increase in population had rendered it inadequate. A new school was built and the old one converted to residential use. Regrettably it wasn't well done and many Victorian features were lost.

In 1949, the children of Down Thomas and Heybrook Bay were sent to the newly built school at Hooe, as it was no longer possible to accommodate them at the village school (Wembury and Hooe were both in the Plympton Rural District area at that time). This was a pity as we rather lost contact with our friends on the other side of the Parish, and the situation wasn't resolved until the new school, able to accommodate everybody in the parish, was built at Knighton, in the early 1960s.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Old Smithy – 1890s & 2020

More than 120 years separates these two photographs. In the lower picture taken in July 2020, I got as near as I could into the same position as in the upper picture, but was somewhat hampered by the amount of traffic that, these days, keeps surging through!

In the upper picture John Symons Coleman is shown on the left, and partially obscured behind his right shoulder, is his father, John Coleman.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Old Smithy – 1920s & 2017

Nearly 100 years separates these two photographs, and the transition from a village lane into a busy road, as can be seen from the 2017 photograph with 4 cars jostling for position in the 'narrows'.

The smithy cottage lost its thatch in the 1950s, and the bay tree was cut down in 2009 as it was having a detrimental effect on the building. The gable end of Rose Cottage clearly visible in the early photograph can just be seen peeping over the trees in the later one.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Old Smithy – 1920s & 2013

The Old Smithy had been run by the Coleman family for more than 200 years up to when it finally closed in the 1960s. Members of the family continued to live there up until 2005.

It is a Grade II Listed Building, and has since been sold, and been sympathetically refurbished by the new owners.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Old Forge – 1890s & 2011

The top photograph taken in the late 1890s Shows the old forge as a going concern with three generations of the Coleman family outside.

The lower photograph was taken from the same position in 2011, after the building had undergone a complete restoration/refurbishment, after many years of neglect.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Old Vicarage & Old Barton – 1920s & 2005

Not a lot of difference between the two photographs. The Vicarage was moved to a Large bungalow in Church Road in 1954. and this one, which had occupied by the Vicar since the 1880s but only been known as “The Vicarage” since 1923, was sold off by the Church Commissioners. It was previously known as “Wembury Cottage”

The farm buildings at Old Barton Farm have now been converted to residential use which is evidenced by the chimneys on the roof of the former Great Barn

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Parish Room 2008 and 2013

The Old Parish Room had stood on its site in Ford Road for 110 years before it was finally demolished in 2013.

Originally erected as a “Reading Room” by Squire Cory in 1903, for the enlightenment of the people of the Parish, it quickly became, in the absence of a Village Hall, a place for social gatherings as well. Back then when there were less than 40 houses in the whole of Knighton and West Wembury, it was about the right size for the purpose.

It was equipped with tables and chairs and some wall hanging bookcases which contained some of the classics, Shakespeare, Dickens, etc., as well as writers of the day such as Conan-Doyle. The national newspapers, once they had been read at Langdon Court, were brought and left for the people to read as well.

When Richard Cory died in 1926, the ownership was vested in the Trustees, who comprised the Vicar and the two Churchwardens, and as such became the responsibility of the Church. In the latter years the corrugated iron building, now over 100 years old, had become a drain on the Church’s finances, and when discovered that further repairs were not viable, the decision was made in 2008 to close it, and to consider the options. In 2013 it was decided to demolish it and sell off the site.

All of the functions hitherto catered for moved to the Village Hall which now with the “Knighton Room” was able to provide much better facilities and adequate car parking as well.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



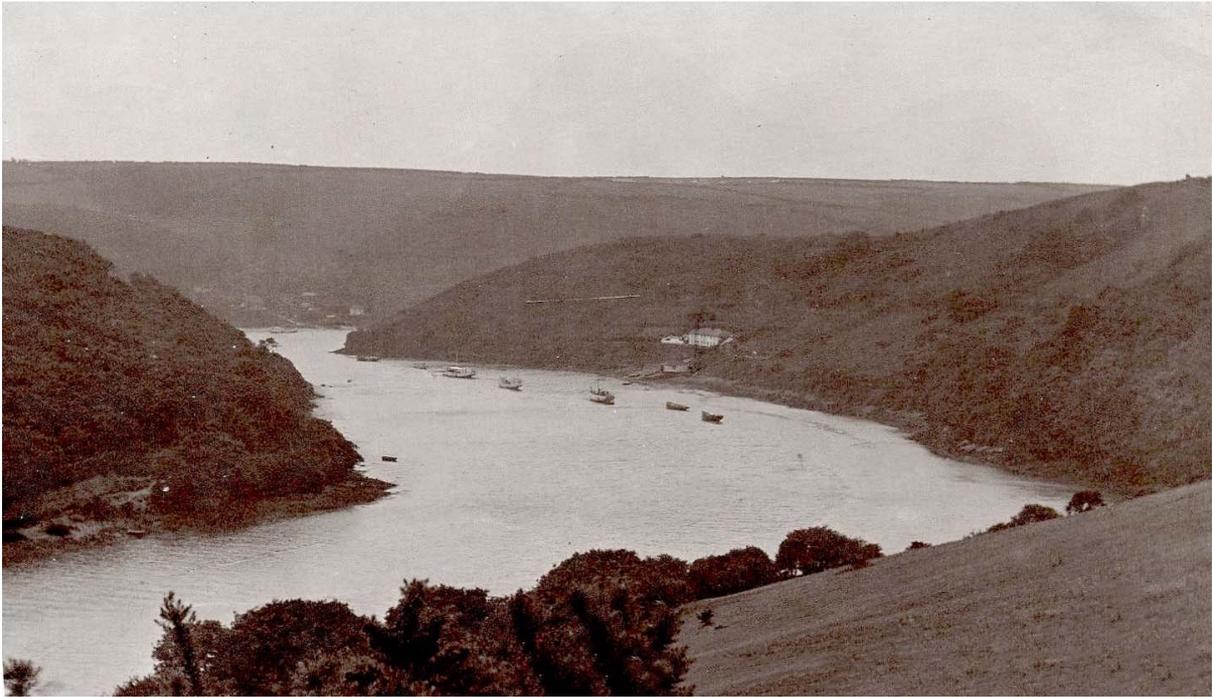
The Parish Room 2008

The Old Parish Room had stood on its site in Ford Road for 110 years before it was finally demolished in 2013. These are two of many photographs, that I took for the record, in 2008 just after it finally closed.

To many of us who were children in Wembury, in the 1940s and 1950s, it was the venue for such organisations as Sunday School, Cubs, Scouts, Brownies etc., Choir Practice, St John's Ambulance and Mothers' Union. It was also pressed into use sometimes as an extra classroom for the school. It was hired for birthday parties, it was used for the periodic medical and dental examination of the school children. I have memories of standing on the prickly coconut matting, which covered the floor, in my bare feet waiting for my turn to be seen! Back in those early days the inside was unpainted and there was no ceiling, that was a 1970s innovation!

During the Second World War it was used by the Wembury Home Guard Unit for their meetings.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The River Yealm – 1920s and 2009

The top photograph is believed to have been taken in the 1920s. It was taken looking downstream from Thorn, on the Wembury side, towards the bend, where it then goes around to the right and out to sea. On the left, at the bend, it goes into Newton Creek.

Further down on the right is the Coastguard Station and cottages, and further on again at the junction, can be seen a few of the cottages in Noss Mayo.

The bottom photograph, taken about 90 years later, from the same position, shows a lot of development on the Newton side, and a lot more mooring places established.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Rose Cottage  
1900s & 1978

The top photograph dates from the 1900s, and the cottage is still easily recognisable at the bottom of Knighton Hill, although it has long since lost its thatch.

It is one of the few cob cottages left in the village.

The little boy in the photograph is Jimmy Milden who I remember from the 1950s as an old age pensioner living at Ford Cottage. He and his wife were the last occupants there before it was, very sadly, allowed fall into ruin.

The lower photograph dates from 1978. by which time the thatch had been replaced by asbestos tiles laid lozenge wise. The upper parts on the south and west elevations had been clad in corrugated iron as a damp proofing measure, which can just be made out on the south side, painted blue. The black and white section was to warn oncoming drivers of high sided vehicles, after a couple of collisions and a few near misses!



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Rose Cottage 1900s & 2004

This cottage is still easily recognisable at the bottom of Knighton Hill, although it has long since lost its thatch. It is one of the few cob cottages left in the village. A very peaceful scene with the horse and cart in the lane and the occupants standing in the road.

Unlike today when the “narrows” as it is now known, funnels vehicular traffic through constantly all day.

The occupants are members of the Milden Family probably grand parents, or great grandparents, of those that I went to school with in the 1950s!

The lower photograph, taken in 2004 shows the cottage as it is now. The old thatched roof had a much steeper pitch than the new roof as it needed to be about seven feet thick at the ridge tapering to about two feet thick at the edges

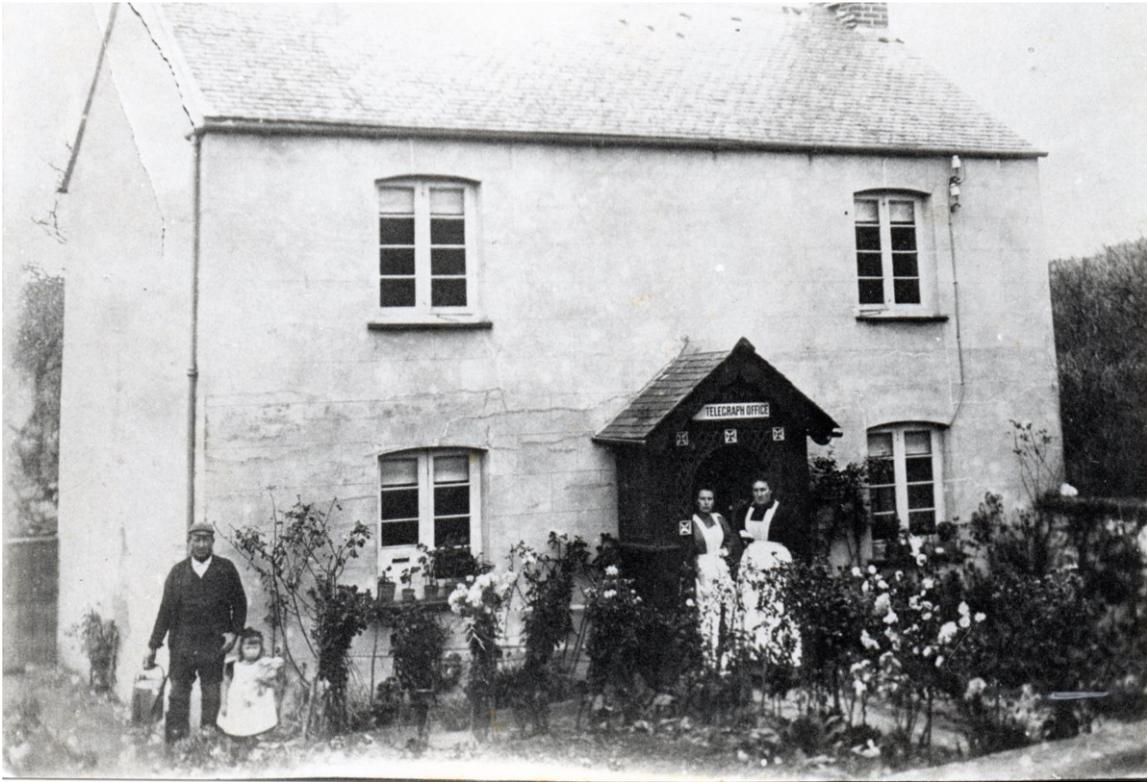
Recently it has been extended westwards and has been rendered and colourwashed pink, under a new slate roof.

The building opposite has also given up its thatch for something a lot more functional,

Tap Cottage can still be seen through the gap, but the field above is now occupied by the Cory Court development.



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Rose Villa – 1900s & 1995

Rose Villa was built by Nicholas Coleman in 1841. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Centuries it was occupied by James Drake and it was the Telegraph Office for the village.

James Drakes is on the left of the top photograph with his granddaughter, Flossie Hutchins. In the doorway are two of his daughters, Ann and Louisa.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Seacrofters 2009 & 2020

This is another example where a very ordinary 1930s bungalow has been much enlarged and now forms the core of a very smart modern house. The hipped roof, which was very much in vogue the 1930s, has been replaced with a gabled roof, which now encloses a substantial upper floor.

A side extension now covers the area hitherto occupied by the garage (which was built by Sam Rodgers in the 1950s to house his newly acquired car!). The garage has been re-sited around the back and the house has also been extended towards the back as well.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Seacrofters 2009 & 2020

This is another example where a very ordinary 1930s bungalow has been much enlarged and now forms the core of a very smart modern house. The hipped roof, which was very much in vogue in the 1930s, has been replaced with a gabled roof, which now encloses a substantial upper floor.

At the time of the lower photograph it was still a work in progress, and the extent of the original bungalow can be easily made out. There is an extension on the upper side which covers the area hitherto occupied by the garage. The garage has been re-sited around the back, and the house has also been extended towards the back as well.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



South Wembury/Thorn House, 1900s & 2019

The top photograph shows the house in the early 1900s as “South Wembury House”, In 1920 a later owner, Mr William Arkwright, renamed the house “Thorn”. After he died in 1925 Mrs Sebag-Montefiore bought the house and had it remodelled to very much how it looks in the 2019 photograph. She sold it in 1938 since when it has had 4 subsequent owners who have each, in their own way, put their stamp on it.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

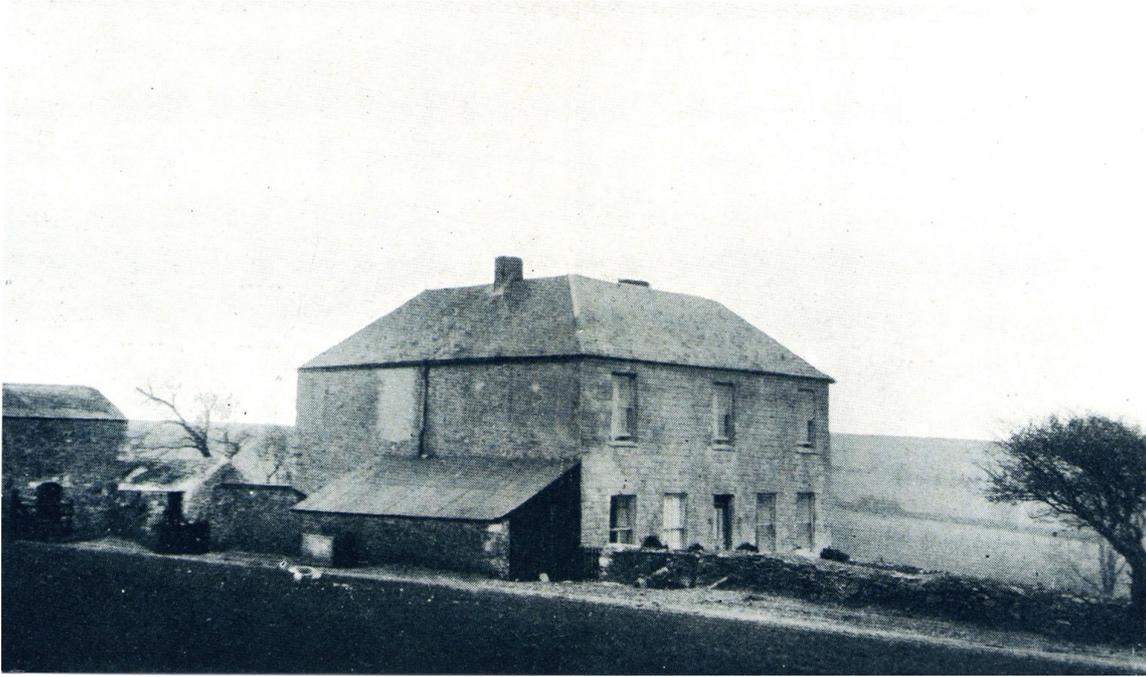


Spirewell Farm – 1926 & 2020

The top photograph was taken in 1926 when the farm was part of the Langdon Estate, and was occupied by Ernest Reid who bought it when the estate was broken up in 1927, on the death of Richard Cory.

It has had a few more owners since then, and ceased being a working farm when it last was sold in 1998. The farmhouse and farm buildings have all been converted into up-market holiday accommodation, and the farmland rented out.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Traine Farm – 1927 & 2008

The top photograph was taken in 1927 when the farm was part of the Langdon Estate and was occupied by Martin Bridgeman. In 1939 it was sold to Fred Rowland and is now in the ownership of his son, Robert.

It looks very much the same in the 2008 photograph. The linhay has been converted into holiday accommodation as have most of the farm buildings, which is now a major source of income.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Traine Road – 1950s & 2020

The top photograph was taken in the 1950s when it was a daily occurrence for animals to be herded through the lanes and streets of the village. Usually cows to and from milking twice daily, or sheep being taken to pastures anew. The few motorists back then would have to wait patiently until the operation was complete before they could proceed. I wonder how well that would go down these days!

It can be seen from the lower photograph that Traine Road has changed very little since that time. The entry on the left leads in to Train Farm. The entry on the right, now widened since the 1950s, leads in to Traine Down, the bungalow built for Mr and Mrs Rowland for their retirement from the farm in the 1970s, it is now occupied by one of their daughters.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Traine Road - “Trenear” – 2008 & 2016

The bungalow in the top photograph was built in the early 1930s. It was very basic and lacked many of the features that we take for granted these days. Although things like central heating and double glazing were fitted retrospectively, it was all a bit of a mish-mash. In the 1940s and 50s it belonged to the Eames family and was they who had it extended to the right, but it wasn't well done, as one had to go through another bedroom to access the new one in the extension. George Eames worked for the BBC in Plymouth and his wife, Nina, was a friend of my mother. Their two sons Tony and Peter were about the same ages as my older brother and myself. I believe there was a familial connection between Nina and Mary Hayley Bell, the wife of John Mills, a very well-known actor in the post war years. The Eamses moved away in the late 1950s, I think that George went to 'pastures new' with the BBC.

The bungalow has had a few more owners since then, but when it was sold in 2014 it was decided that the best course of action was to knock it down and build something entirely new. So, the new Trenear has risen on the site in the form of a very nice house, with first floor balcony, and views out to sea. Very much a “Des Res”!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Traine Road - "Zenith" – 2010 & 2016

The top photograph was taken in about 2010 after Zenith had been vacated by Jack Gulley who had lived there for as long as I could remember. It was really the last of the "Shacks" that were erected in Hollacombe before the Second World War primarily for weekend retreats, but which had to be pressed into full time service after the bombing in Plymouth had destroyed much of the housing there.

It can be seen from the lower photograph that a new "Zenith" has risen on the site like a Phoenix out of the ashes! What a very smart addition to the local landscape!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Uplands – Demolition - 1998

Both of these photographs of 1998 show the old council houses in the course of demolition. Not the most beautiful of houses, but they held many happy memories for the families that occupied them for the almost fifty years that they were in existence.

When they were built in 1951 they filled a great need for 6 families who had been living in totally inadequate conditions in the Parish, all with young children, and some without any mains services whatsoever.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Uplands / Upland Gardens - 1995 & 1997

The top photograph shows “Uplands” the old council houses that were built in 1951, just before work started to replace them with the new development of “Upland Gardens”. The houses had developed concrete cancer, they were badly insulated and had huge gardens that were mostly unused.

In 1997 work started to replace them with a new development of houses & bungalows, some 16 dwellings in all. The lower photograph shows work in progress on the bungalows fronting the new complex with the old houses, some still occupied, precariously perched on the excavated bank behind!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Upland Gardens - Building - 1997 & 2005

The top photograph of 1997 shows the old council houses that were built in 1951, teetering on the edge of the bank whilst the first phase of the site redevelopment was taking place. Two of them were still occupied at this time, No.2 by Roy and Doris Harvey who can be seen in the photograph enjoying a sit in the fresh air behind the security fence! No 5 was occupied by Mrs Dolly Carn. They eventually moved into the first newly completed bungalows of the first phase, which then allowed the old houses to be demolished, and the second phase of the rebuilding to take place.

The bottom photograph of 2005 shows a general view of the completed redevelopment from the road.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



View from Escalonia - 1930s & 2017

The top photograph dates from the early 1930s with a clear view of Knighton Farm and the cottages going to the top of Knighton Hill. The conglomeration of “shacks” in the mid ground formed Mr Folland’s Garage & Filling Station, which remained in place until just after the start of the Second World War. The redundant petrol pump was still there in the late 1940s, and was used by the children of Knighton as a climbing frame! All we know about the gentleman in the photograph is that he was called “Jim”.

The lower photograph taken in 2017 from about the same position, shows the first two pairs of “Semis” built in Wembury, (in 1933) and which were the first houses with integral bathrooms! The shop, which was originally two shops, a Butchers and a Grocers, were built on the site of Mr Folland’s Garage in the late 1960s.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Village Fête 1955

The top photograph was taken in 1955 at a Village Fête to raise money for the building of the New Village Hall. Refreshments were laid on in the marquee, supplied with electricity from the Old Village Hall in the field behind (Now the Olive Branch Chapel). The event taking place is the fancy dress competition, the only people I recognise in the picture are, on the left, the three Jones boys, Michael, and twins Gareth and David, and on the other side, third from the right, Ann Paltridge, wearing a kilt and sporran! This all took place in the corner of the old playing field, where the New Village Hall (built in 1958) now stands.

The lower photograph was taken almost 60 years later, in 2012, from roughly the same position, looking in the same direction!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Watergate Cottages, 1909 and 1995

These cottages were built in the 1860s by Ralph Dawson of Wembury House to house estate workers. Originally known as “Dawsons Buildings” they were later named “Watergate Cottages” as they were built on what was a part of Watergate Orchard.

The nearest cottage, No.6 was, in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, The Knighton Post Office, run by Mrs Minnie Brown, sister to Miss Lottie Perring at the Jubilee Inn.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Beach, 1900s and 2011

In the early photograph the children are thought to be on a Sunday School treat. In those days the beach was really only accessible to local people or those who had the stamina to walk to Wembury.

In the later photograph more than 100 years has passed and shows how times have changed with people having much more leisure time, and the availability of private means of transport to all.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Beach, 1900s and 1980s

The top photograph of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century shows a very tranquil scene of hens scratching and the little promontory, cultivated as a vegetable garden

The lower photograph transports us to the 1980s when the area once gleaned by the chickens is now the site of the public lavatories, and the little promontory used as a picnic area.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Wembury Beach Rocks & Church 1900s & 2005

The top photograph is believed to have been taken in the early years of the 20th Century.

The boys have obviously just enjoyed an afternoon swim, and from where they are positioned on the beach, the tide must be out. One of the boys is a Hendy from Staddiscombe, the family is still farming there.

The churchyard wall can clearly be seen, and with only five buttresses, puts it fairly and squarely in the first quarter of the century.

No development has yet taken place on the cliff above the church.

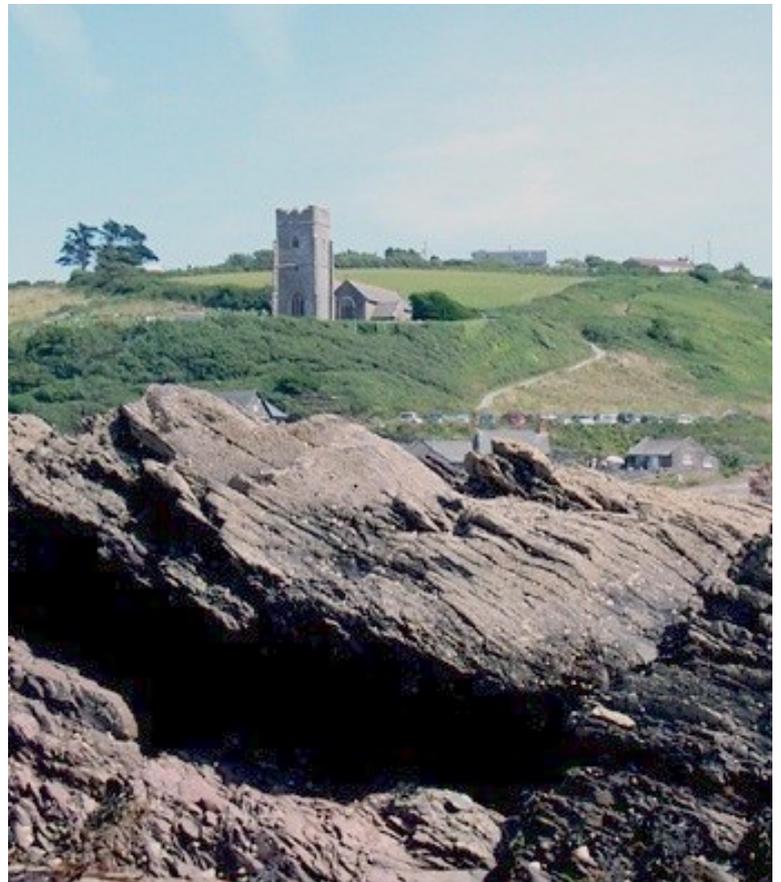
The lower photograph was taken in August 2005 from roughly the same position, about 100 years later.

The rocks are actually quite low, so the boys must have been quite small.

To get anywhere near the same shot the camera would have needed to have been almost at ground level.

At the church, the scrub has been allowed to grow unchecked so that now the churchyard wall is almost completely hidden from view, which is rather a pity.

Back in the 1940s and 50s the spaces between the buttresses were very popular with visitors as picnic areas, but now they are not accessible.



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Beach Visitors – 1930s Style!

This is a family photograph taken on a visit to Wembury.

There are only two cars in the car park, one of which was probably their mode of transport. The day would have been a Sunday, as back then, traditionally, that was the day that families went out as a whole group. Everyone is in their “Sunday best”, the only concession to casual wear being, that the younger gentlemen are not wearing ties! The older gentleman is carrying a raincoat and the lady is wearing a hat.

The year is estimated to be 1936, judging by the number of graves in the recently extended churchyard. The outbuildings below the church are largely intact, although the one on the right has lost its roof. Below, in the field, the fenced off area of the tennis court can just be made out.

Up on the brow of the hill there has been some development since the late 1920s, “Red Gables”, “Seascape” and “Cliff Cottage” are all clearly visible plus a couple of others. The house on the extreme right (only partially showing) was the one which received a direct bomb hit during the Second World War, and was destroyed. The ruins remained in place until the mid 1960s

The Mill Café is open for business, indicated by the open French windows at the front. The path is well trodden (and not fenced in, as today) which would indicate that the walk from Wembury Beach to Wembury Point was as popular then as it is now.

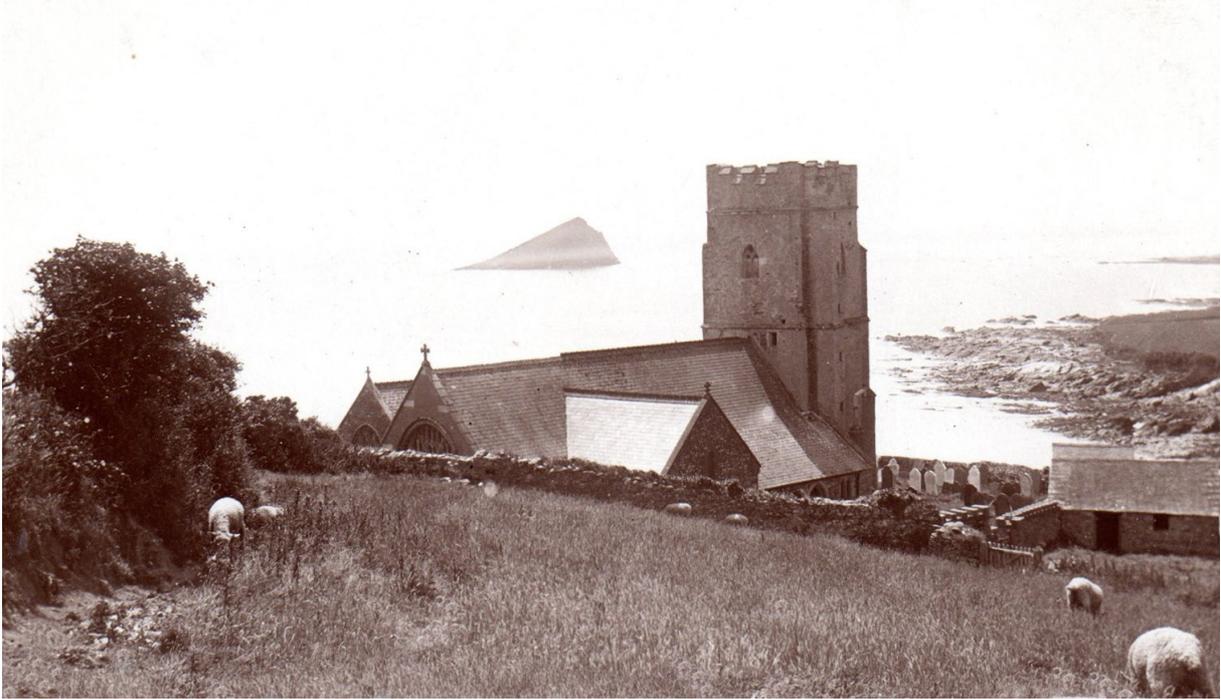
# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



St Werburgh's Church, 1868 and 2020

It is known that a place of worship has existed on the site since the year 870. A substantial stone building wasn't erected until after the Norman invasion. A fragment of that church still exists in the present building, which dates mainly from the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries. In the top photograph the track drops down to the north west, an indication that in general the worshippers walked to church in those days. In the lower photograph, concessions have had to be made for the motor car, and the access is now via a driveway on the left of the picture, The old stable to the right of the church was converted into a Sunday Schoolroom in the 1950s, but is now mainly used as a catering facility for events. Unfortunately, our "friends" in the National Trust, have allowed the sycamores and scrub to grow unchecked over the years, so that now there is very little to no view of the bay and Mewstone from the car park.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Church & Mewstone – 1920s and 2009

Ninety years separates the two scenes, In the upper one the meadow to the north of the church presents a pastoral scene where 'sheep may safely graze'.

In 1927 the churchyard was extended into this area to provide much needed burial space. Going by previous records, this was thought to be sufficient for the next 200 years. Ironically though, as the 2010 picture shows, it was filled to capacity within 70 years, due to the intensive residential development in the Parish in the post war years.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



St Werburgh's Church & Mewstone - 1930s and 2008

The scene is practically unchanged in both photographs, except that the churchyard extension opened in 1927, to the north of the church, and was thought at the time to be sufficient for the next 200 years, was actually filled to capacity within 70 years.

This was due to the massive residential development, and subsequent growth in population in the parish, in the post war years.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Wembury Church & Bay - 1930s & 2008

Not a lot has changed in the 70 years that separates the two pictures. In the top one from the 1930s, there is no sign of development at Wembury Point so presumably it was taken before the holiday camp was established there.

In those days when motor cars were very few and far between, it was a shorter route, and a lot easier, for people to walk home from church across the fields and footpaths to Knighton and West Wembury.

That sort of beneficial exercise has long been abandoned since the advent of the motor car!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



St Werburgh's Church Interior - 1910s and 2009

In the eighty or so years that separates the two photographs, there has not been a lot of change. In the upper picture the oil lamps for lighting the church, which were in use until 1952 are in place. In the lower picture the organ which was installed in the 1960s, can be seen over on the left. It dates from 1915 and was previously in the Lawrence Weston Methodist Church near Bristol.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



The Church and Tennis Court 1930s & 2017

The top photograph of the 1930s shows the church with the farm buildings below, in quite a ruinous condition, and below them, quite incongruously, a tennis court. The lower photograph of 2017 shows the church peeping over the scrub, which has been allowed to grow unchecked. The old farm buildings now replaced by the Marine Study Centre. The tennis court long gone, it's site now occupied by the public lavatories and yet more scrub. The boat park now occupies the foreground area.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Wembury House, 1909 & 2009

This charming late Georgian house was built by Thomas Lockyer in 1805 on the site of Sir John Hele's original huge Elizabethan mansion, which had fallen into a ruinous state.

Of very pleasing proportions, it has had many owners in its 200 year life. The present owner is Mr Tim Hanbury.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Wembury House, 1900s & 2009

This charming late Georgian house was built by Thomas Lockyer in 1805 on the site of Sir John Hele's original huge Elizabethan mansion, which had fallen into a ruinous state.

The top photograph of the west front was taken in the 1900s when it was in the ownership of Dr Robert Hogarth Clay

The bottom photograph from about the same position, was taken 2009. It has had many owners in its 200 year life. The present owner is Mr Tim Hanbury.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Wembury House - 1980s

These two photographs of the house were taken in the 1980s when it was still in the ownership of Sir Henry and Lady Studholme. In the lower one, taken from the top of "The Mount", at the west end of the west lawn, the Orangerie can be seen over to the left. I never knew of any oranges ever being grown in it, it was mostly used for the wintering of the less hardy plants, and the rearing of new plants.

The two great yew trees on the lawn, one in the centre of the picture, and one on the far right, once stood equidistant either side of the west entrance of the great Elizabethan house which formerly stood on the site, so one can imagine just how large that house must have been. In its time it was reputed to have been the most magnificent house in Devon.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



Wembury House - People 1890s

These two photographs of the 1890s were taken in the walled vegetable garden at Wembury House.

The upper one shows the gardeners and ground staff each posed bearing accoutrements associated with their job. In the lower one they are joined by the various maids employed within the house. Some of the men are clearly members of the Coleman family, as to whether they “moonlighted” at Wembury House when things were quiet at the forge, is rather open to conjecture!

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



## Wembury Point Lido 1930s & 2012

The top photograph taken in the late 1930s shows “Lido” which was part of the Holiday Complex at Wembury Point. It was all very basic, just a concrete walled structure blocking off an inlet between two rocky outcrops. The deep end was about 8 feet. The bottom of the pool was the natural slope of the beach and retained its sand and shingle. It was mostly still intact when we were children in the 1940s and 1950s. The remains of the boards on the nearside of the pool (out of view) were there but had long given up their springboards to the elements. It was requisitioned during the War as part of the Naval Camp and had been allowed to deteriorate since.

The lower photograph taken May 2012 shows the site as it is today.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW

## WEMBURY SCHOOL PEOPLE - 1949 & 1952

### Florrie Axworthy 1949



Florrie Axworthy, later to become Florrie Algate was the teacher of the infants at the village school.

She was a great disciplinarian, and in her classroom one could hear a pin drop, but she was an excellent teacher, and later we all appreciated her strictness, and the start she had given us in education.

Florrie started at the school in 1904, as a pupil, she carried on there as a pupil teacher, and went right through to her retirement in 1960. In 1950 she married Sam Algate, having had to wait until both of her parents had passed away, as they did not approve of her choice of partner. She even observed the correct period of mourning, of one year after her mother's death, before marrying Sam.

Regrettably her married happiness was cut short by her premature death on New Year's Day in 1962, very shortly after her retirement.

She lived with Sam in "Acacia" at the bottom of Knighton Hill.

### Wembury School Juniors 1952 with Miss Maynard & "Chinky"

I am in the centre of this photograph, my best friend David Haines is looking over my left shoulder, the girl on my right is Vivienne Davies who lived in Browns Hill Lane, on my left is Rowland Froom, who lived on Knighton Hill, and the girl in front is Penny Barnett, whose father was a Chef in the Royal Navy.

Miss Maynard, the Headmistress, is on the far right of the photograph, with "Chinky" her Staffordshire Bull Bitch, who came with her to school every day, and was greatly loved by us all.



# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



West Wembury Cottage - 1952 and 2020

At one time, part of West Wembury Farm, this cottage was occupied by the Senior Farm Foreman. After Langdon Barton Farm, West Wembury Farm was the second largest in Wembury,

Thomas & Elizabeth Drake with their eight children were well known occupants from the 1900s to the 1920s.

In the top photograph of 1952, the cows being taken back to pasture after milking, once a familiar sight in many parts of Wembury.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



West Wembury Cottage - 1957 and 1995

This rather nice Victorian cottage, was at one time, part of West Wembury Farm, and was once occupied by the Senior Farm Foreman. Thomas & Elizabeth Drake with their eight children were well known occupants from the 1900s to the 1920s.

In 1957, the time of the top photograph, the cottage was in the ownership of Robert Moon, of Moon & Sons, Pianos Ltd, a well-known Plymouth Company, and one of the first to venture into the sale of television sets in the city, in the 1950s. The large pole with the cross arms harks back to the days when the telephone service was carried on overhead lines throughout Wembury.

# WEMBURY – THEN AND NOW



West Wembury Cottages, 1900s and 2006

Easily recognisable although they have changed considerably. The nearest ones were demolished and rebuilt in 1910, the left hand one of the new pair was named "Coronation Cottage" in honour of the Coronation Year of King Edward VII. The far pair have also been changed, mainly by having the upper windows extended upwards and made into dormers.