

## **Book 2**

**“Once upon a time”**

# **Wembury Memories**

**By Peter Lugar**

**The School**

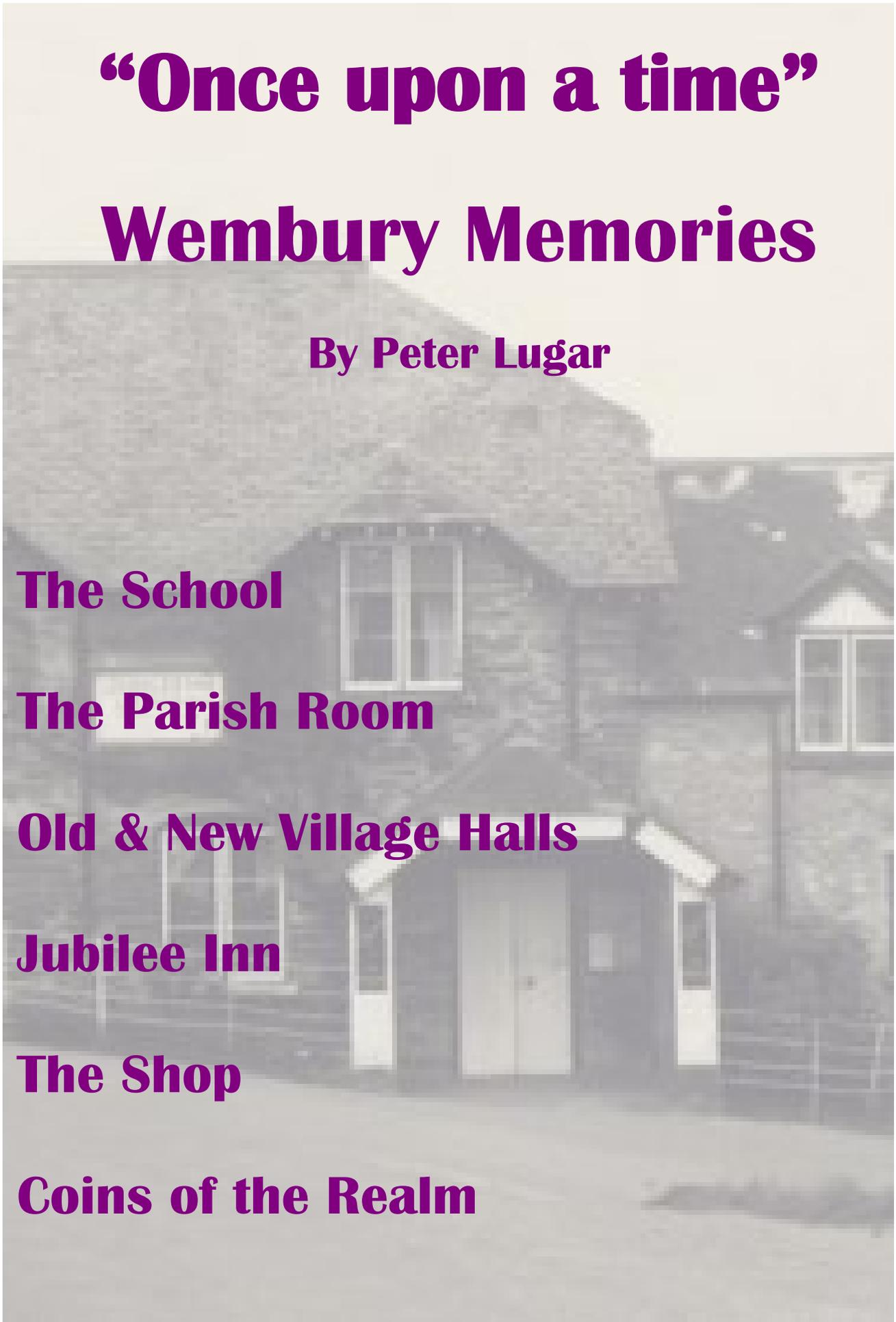
**The Parish Room**

**Old & New Village Halls**

**Jubilee Inn**

**The Shop**

**Coins of the Realm**



# WEMBURY MEMORIES

## Foreword

These books, which now number ten, started about five years ago when I decided that photographs which were scattered all over the house should be brought together in one place. I then decided that each photograph should have a little written account of the scene or event. After filling one quite large photograph album I decided that the system needed to be more flexible where pages could be added and the categories altered as the system expanded. The A4 clip folders and punched pockets proved to be absolutely ideal for this purpose. As more and more memories came flooding back the written work was beginning to far outstrip the photographic work. I also realised that there were now very few of us left in Wembury who had been born here and grew up in the village in the 1940s and 1950s and that really a record needed to be made of what life was like in those days just after the war when we were going through our 'austere period'.

Quite a lot of the photographs were in my parents' collection and I have accumulated a lot more. Some have been lent to me to copy by friends, some have come from the internet. I have augmented these with quite a lot of new photographs. The 'Memories' are now interspersed with 'Snippets of History' and in some places my own observations and ideas. I don't think that I would have attempted this project without my 'I Mac' computer which has proved to be a godsend, although I always had it in mind to write an account of what it was like to be an eight year old in Wembury right in the middle of the twentieth century.

**Peter Lugar**

**November 2005**

**“Once upon a time when the bird shit lime  
and the monkey chewed tobacco .....**”

**These books are dedicated to Elsie,  
and many others like her, who have  
gone before us in this place.**

**(The story of Elsie may be found in books 2 and 9)**

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## WEMBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Old Primary School or 'Board School' as it was referred to at the time, was built in 1874 at a cost of £934, and was able to accommodate up to 80 children, attached was a house to accommodate the Master. They comprised a pair of very nice stone buildings, but in the late 1940s were concrete rendered and painted white, presumably as a damp proofing measure.

In the 1889 trade directory the Master is recorded as being Mr James Harry.

In 1899, Mr William Scarr is recorded as schoolmaster with Mrs Scarr as schoolmistress.

In 1914 and 1926 Mrs Annie Dixon is recorded as schoolmistress

In 1928 Mrs Elizabeth Nicholas was headmistress with Miss Florence Axworthy as assistant, Mrs Nicholas lived in the house 'Willowhayes' just across the road which overlooks the school.

From 1948 up until the time that the new school was built in Knighton, children from Down Thomas and Heybrook Bay were sent to the new school that had been built at Hooe. This was because there was no room to accommodate them in the old village school. This did nothing to improve the "us and them" situation that existed (and still does to a certain extent) between the two halves of the Parish. Now, thankfully, all are once again gathered together in the new school, which was one of the stipulations laid down when the school was planned.

From 1947 Miss Wyn Maynard was the headmistress assisted by Miss Florence Axworthy, who later was to become Mrs Algate. Miss Maynard lived in a bungalow, 'Penvro' one of a group of three in splendid isolation (in those days) halfway down Church Road. When she retired in the late 1950s, Mr Ellison was appointed as headmaster.

By this time the school was severely overcrowded, the school house and Church Room had been pressed into use, and it was Mr Ellison who saw the transition from the old school to the new school. Even after the new school had been built, the population of the village had grown to such an extent that the old school had be re-opened, and brought back into use, until extra classrooms could be added to the new school.

The photograph below is of Mr and Mrs Dixon taken during the 1920s when Mrs Dixon was Schoolmistress, it is not known what Mr Dixon did for a living.



## FLORRIE AXWORTHY - 1949

In 1949 the children of Wembury School were all taken to Paignton Zoo as a special treat. This photograph, which was taken on the little train at the zoo, shows Florrie Axworthy on the left, and my mother, Beryl Lugar, on the right. Florrie, who was later to become Mrs 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 it is believed that 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 PRIMARY SCHOOL 1940s AND 1950s

The photograph below was taken in 1958, and shows the school from the road looking across the boy's playground towards the boy's cloakroom. This led into *'The Big Room'*, which is behind the window with the gothic articulation. This was the Juniors' classroom, presided over by the Headmistress, Miss Wyn Maynard. The other room *'The Little Room'*, the dormer window of which can be seen in the main roof above the cloakroom, also had a large window with gothic articulation which faced out onto the road. This room was for the Infants, and was presided over by Mrs Florrie Algate (née Axworthy).

My first memories of the school start in 1947, when I reached the age of five and walked to school, from Old Barton Farm each day, with my older brother.

One started one's school life off in *'The Little Room'*, which was for the infants and Standard 1. The room had a large window overlooking the road, and a dormer window high up in the roof looking out to the west. In the back corner of the room by the large window was a stuffed red squirrel in a glass case (I always wonder what eventually became of it). On the window sill at the appropriate time of the year there were tadpoles in large glass containers which we used to watch growing. Sometimes we grew beans or peas in a glass lamp chimney against blotting paper. Along the back wall were small blackboards upon which we were allowed a certain amount of 'free expression' during art periods. Above the blackboards was the alphabet running from the right to the left. At the front of the classroom was the entrance door, to the left of which was a black fireplace across the corner, and in front of which stood the large abacus upon which we learnt our tables. To the right of the door was the blackboard and in the corner on that side of the window, Miss Axworthy's cupboard. In front of the blackboard was her desk and chair, from where she maintained strict control over all she surveyed. Against the wall on the window side of the room was where one started one's progress through the school, and was usually referred as the 'babies' group. In the centre of the room, in front of Miss Axworthy's desk were small tables and chairs for the 'middle group' and on the side opposite the window, there were proper school desks, for Standard 1. One managed to work ones way into this group by the age of seven, after which one was then moved into the *'The Big Room'* to start at the bottom of the pile once again!



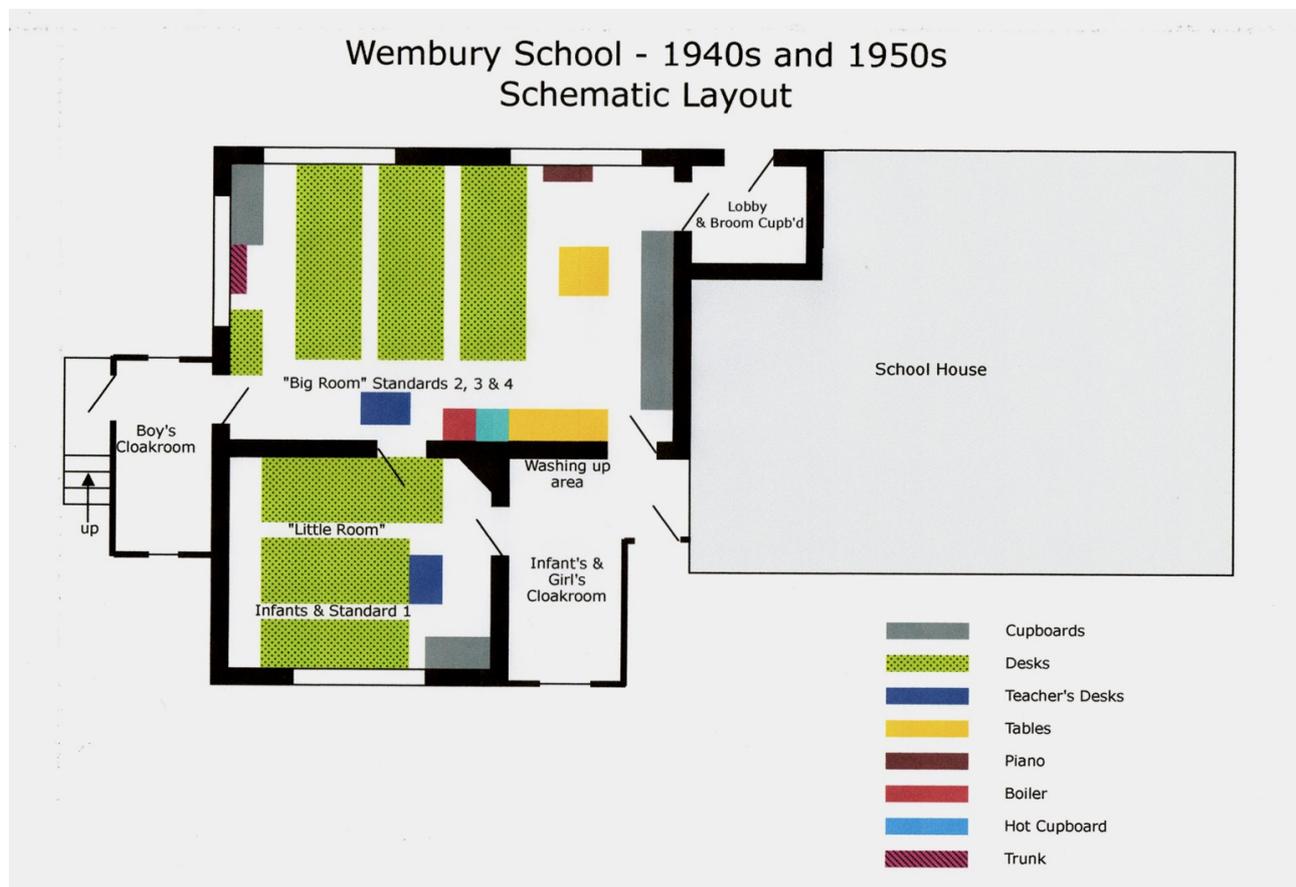
On Monday mornings in the little room, after registration, there was the serious business of collecting the school 'dinner' money and the National Savings money. The school 'dinners' came from Plympton each day at about playtime and were put into the hot cupboard in the Big Room until dinner time. For those who stayed

at school for dinner the cost was 6d (2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p) a day, so a whole week cost a half crown i.e., two shillings and sixpence (12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p). As for the National Savings, we were all encouraged to buy National Savings Stamps, which we stuck into special books which were redeemable at the Post Office when filled up.

The Stamps were 6d and 2/6d, (I don't know of anybody who had the 2/6d stamps), we all usually bought a 6d stamp each week and stuck it into our own book, each page held 10 stamps, and each book had 8 pages, and at 6d per stamp came to a grand total of £2 per book. It would take almost a school year to fill one book at 6d per week, but nonetheless we all felt that we were doing our bit for the country!

These monies were collected in and counted up and checked, one of us was always called out the front to help with the counting, everyone dreading being the one selected. When all was done and found to be correct, the money was put into two cocoa tins one marked 'Dinner Money' and one marked 'National Savings' and two of the older children were dispatched to the post office, each one carrying a tin, to pay the money in, and return with the savings stamps. These special monitors were paid 3d per week by Miss Axworthy out of her own pocket, as was the boy who cleaned the blackboard at the end of each day (I was given this awesome responsibility for one term).

At the age of eight one graduated into the 'the big room', with all its extra privileges, the main one being that you were allowed to talk to each other during lessons.



This room which was twice the size of the little room was for Standards 2, 3, and 4, taking one up to the age of ten when one then went on to secondary education. Entering the room from the infants' and girls' cloakroom, one found oneself in the clear space at the east end of the room where there was a wall of green painted cupboards and a glass fronted bookcase on the right. This bookcase contained, amongst other things, a full set of Arthur Mee's Children's Encyclopaedias, and also, curiously, a hand-grenade from the war, which had been made safe, and was brought out on various occasions, demonstrated, and passed around.

Immediately inside the door on the right, in a small alcove, was a glass case, telling the story of cotton from the cotton plant, going right through to cotton thread being made, with examples of each, at each stage.

In the centre of the space was a table with four chairs where the teachers usually had their dinner and were often joined by the dinner helpers. On the far side of the cupboards was a door, which gave access to a lobby which led out through to the girls' playground, but which was chiefly used as a storeroom. I remember the dustbin with the raffia being kept out there along with dustpans and brushes and all the other cleaning equipment. On the classroom side of this door, hung the hoops that were used for Physical Training (or 'drill' as it was called).

On the other side of the space was the piano, which was played with much gusto by Miss Maynard. Miss Axworthy also played, but had a special technique whereby her hands used to hover in mid air over the keys, after each chord, as if to give them extra emphasis. We children thought that this was highly amusing, and used to imitate her actions (when she wasn't looking, of course!).

The long wall on the north side behind the piano had two large windows between which were hung two large sepia photographs, one of the Houses of Parliament, and one of Windsor Castle. On the window sill at the far end of that wall sat the school radio, with its large speaker on top of an adjacent cupboard. This is where we used to listen to BBC Radio for Schools, which went out afternoons on the BBC Home Service. There was an aerial wire which went to the top of the flagpole in the playground. (I can't recall a flag ever being flown from the flagpole). In February 1952 we all had to sit with our arms folded and listen to the King's Funeral being broadcast live from St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The west wall of the room was mostly taken up by a huge window, from where, in the early and late part of the year, we used to see the most fantastic sunsets. In the corner to the left of the window was the door which went out to the boy's cloakroom and the boy's playground. Under the large window, in a huge trunk were all the costumes for the school plays, enough to fit out a whole travelling repertory company! On the right of the trunk was the cupboard upon which the radio speaker stood and in which was stored all manner of stationery supplies, a veritable goldmine, when the door was left unlocked! On the left of the trunk was a spare pair of desks in case there was ever an influx of extra pupils.

Working round to the south wall of the room there was the blackboard behind which the canes were stored, and alongside of which, the toilet paper was hung, for those who had to 'go'. I found this most embarrassing and used to wait until I got home (for the 'big' jobs, that is). Above the blackboard was a picture of Lands End. To the left of the blackboard was Miss Maynard's desk, upon which resided the large school Bible. Behind her desk was a door to the 'little room' which was only opened when she had to communicate with Miss Axworthy as a matter of urgency. Above the door was the school clock (and it was a proper one too!). To the left of Miss Maynard's desk was the dog basket where "Chinky", Miss Maynard's Staffordshire Bull Bitch, used spend most of the day. Next to this and behind railings was the coke fired boiler for the central heating, which the older boys had to keep stoked up during the day, refilling buckets from the coke store in the playground as necessary. The boiler was black and very shiny with polished brass thermometers and dials. Occasionally one could see the flames through the joins between the sections of boiler casing.

Next to the boiler was the hot cupboard for the school dinners that were delivered each day from



Plympton. This had a switch with a red light to indicate that it was on, and of course there were no shortage of eager eyes to see that this was so.

Next to the hot cupboard, and bringing us back to the entrance door was a large lino topped table where the school dinners used to be laid out with a chair for the tall container which held the gravy or custard. On the occasions when we had both, two chairs were needed!

Under the table was stored the oval seagrass mats which we used to take out on the playground for 'drill', and also the green wooden boxes which contained the library books. On the wall above the table hung a picture of Edith Cavell, whose story of selfless heroism was told to us, and held up as an example. Also there was a framed copy of John Galsworthy's poem about Wembury Church.

The desks were set out in three groups facing Miss Maynard's desk. Standard 2 in the group nearest the piano, Standard 3 in the centre group, and Standard 4 in the group nearest the big window at the west end.

All three groups used to work independently of each other, which actually worked quite well in practice. Although sometimes one found that if the arithmetic that one had been set was too boring, one could listen in to the Geography lesson going on in the next group. On the whole though, we learnt a lot and learnt it very well.

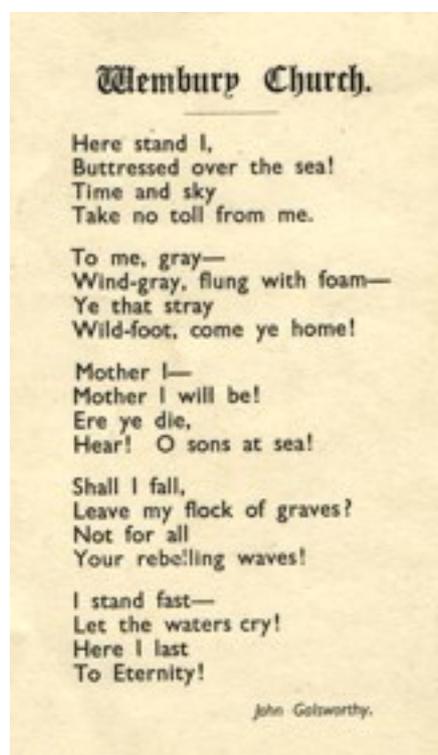
On one afternoon, about once a month, on a Wednesday, I think it was, all the girls used to go into the little room for sewing and all the boys came into the big room for handicrafts. I think that the boys had the better deal, as they were able to do modelling with plasticine; drawing and painting; all manner of things with cardboard, paper and glue; and the making of raffia table mats and fruit bowls.

The raffia was in all colours and was kept in a dustbin in the lobby which went out to the girls' playground. There were cardboard formers for the fruit bowls and table mats, and the raffia was woven around them. The technical bit came when one reached the edge of the former, and had to stitch all around the rim with raffia to stop the whole thing unravelling!

Meanwhile, each of the girls had a sewing bag made out of blue material, and which was like a big envelope. Along the top edge was a band of contrasting material with a floral design. Each girl on being given her sewing bag, had to neatly print her name on a strip of paper, and sew it very carefully onto the front of the bag. The bag would then contain her work and at the end of each session all they would be put away in Miss Axworthy's cupboard.

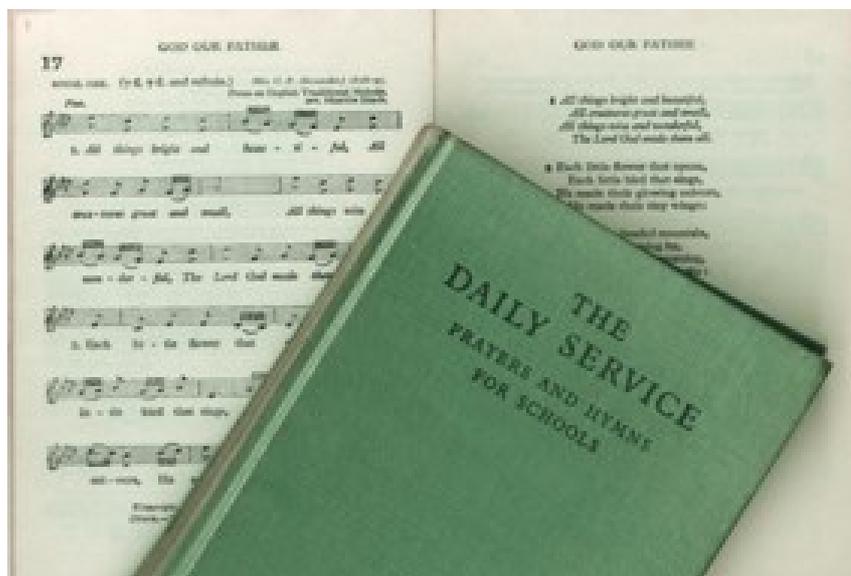
The items made were usually square or oblong, which had to be hemmed on all four sides, one started small, with a hanky, then progressed to a tray cloth, and I think ended up with an 'apron for mum', which was a large oblong, but with the addition of a couple of long tapes for tying around the waist. The cleverer ones were allowed have a go at embroidery, and sometimes, as a break from the constant 'hemming', there would be a combined effort in the making of clothes for a large doll. There were other times when the girls were able to do art and handicrafts as well

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings we usually had 'proper' school assembly with hymns and we used "The Daily Service" book, which was a special prayer and hymn book for schools. There was a set service for each day of the week but as we only had assembly on two days, we used all them quite randomly. The services were short and we sung a hymn at the beginning at another one at the end with Miss Maynard at the piano. Often we were allowed to choose the hymns and one of the favourites was No.17, "All things bright and beautiful" to the tune 'Royal Oak'. It was really quite appropriate, as the only thing mentioned in the words of that hymn that we didn't have in Wembury, was 'the purple headed mountain', everything else was there in great abundance. Another favourite, with the boys, was No.143, "When a knight won his spurs, in the stories



of old”, or No 141 “Stand up, stand up for Jesus”, and of course another that we all loved shouting was No.166, “Jerusalem”. At Christmas two of the favourites were No.s 7 and 8 in the Carol Section at the back of the book, “We three kings of Orient are” and the Sans Day carol, “Now the holly bears a berry” whenever I hear the latter it always takes me back to Wembury School.

On the other mornings we would start the day with the Lord’s Prayer. At ‘dinner’ time every day we sang the grace, “Thank you for the world so sweet, thank you for the food we eat, thank you for the birds that sing, thank you Lord, for everything - Amen” The cue for this was by one chord from Miss Maynard on the piano, upon which we all stood up. Grace ended, we then trooped outside to wash our hands in readiness for the whatever was awaiting us in the hot cupboard! At the end of lessons for the day we all stood and said the Lord’s Prayer before going home



Something which was highly popular, and which we all used to love, was the percussion band. This was usually part of a music lesson, and we all liked it because, I suppose, it was what one would call these days, ‘hands on’. One started off in the front row of the band on the triangle, and then graduated to the middle row to the bells, castanets, or tambourines, and of course the most senior ones found themselves in the back row on the drums or cymbals. Mine was a typical progression in that I started on the triangle, then went on to the castanets, and ended up on the drums. The music was on enormous sheets which used to hang on an easel at the front. It was pretty easy to follow as below each note was a picture of the instrument, or instruments, upon which it was to be played. Of course when we had percussion band periods, everybody in the room had to take part, such was the racket, that there was no way that any of the groups do anything else! For concerts in the village hall we had to learn the items off by heart, as we could not have a huge sheet of music between ourselves and our audience! With Miss Maynard accompanying us on the piano, we made quite an impressive noise!

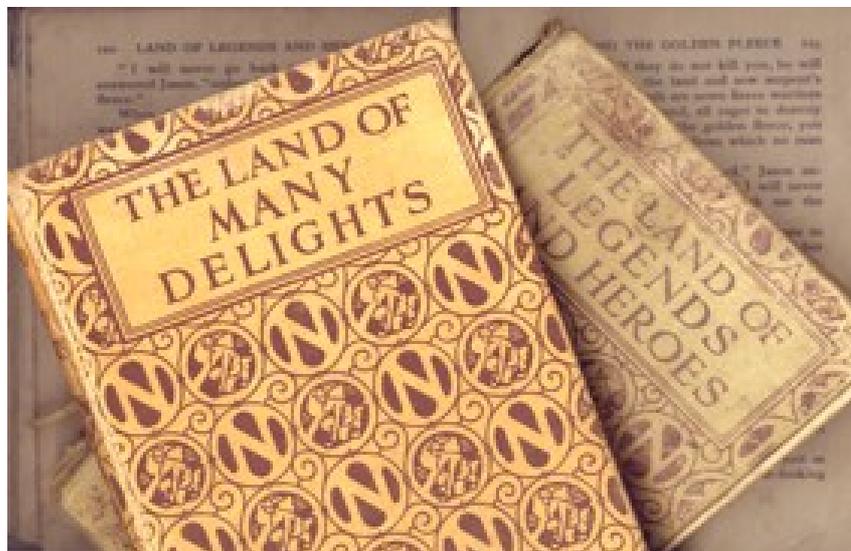
Another thing that we had in the school was a wind up gramophone. This was in absolutely pristine condition and was kept in Miss Axworthy’s cupboard. On some occasions we were allowed to have it out in the playground for country dancing. It had to be most strictly supervised, only the most senior pupils were allowed to wind it up and change the needles. The records were 10 inch or 12 inch, 78 rpm, and made of bakelite, as were all records in those days, and were of course, very prone to breaking. Usually the girls were considered to be the only ones capable of looking after this most valuable equipment, we boys were far too clumsy.

On Tuesday afternoons we had ‘library’ when the green wooden boxes of books containing ‘junior fiction’ and other children’s publications were brought out from under the table against the wall and opened up. We were then able to select a book for ourselves, which would then be entered up into the card index system. Later in the afternoon the rest of the boxes containing the books for the ‘grown ups’ were brought out and opened up as well. The school would then remain open until 7.00pm for the adults to come and borrow books. This was run by my mother for about 16 years, up until 1962. The books were brought out from Plympton and were changed at three monthly intervals.

We had plenty of reading books in the school, and had plenty of lessons in reading aloud, where Miss Maynard would, make each person in the class read a passage aloud. We would stop at any difficult words, learn how to pronounce them, learn how to spell them, and learn what they meant. Occasionally we had to make up our own sentences in which the word could be used. Of course whilst all this was going the other two classes in

the room were doing other subjects. Other times we would read to ourselves, and then write a précis of what we had read. Two of the very popular books, and well thumbed over the years were 'The Land of Legends and Heroes' and 'The Land of Many Delights'. They contained stories about the Knights of the Round Table, Aesop's Fables, Jason and the Golden Fleece, Tristan's Legends of Cornwall and Brittany. There were things by Robert Louis Stevenson, Lewis Carroll, Charles Kingsley, Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle, the Brothers Grimm, and many others, quite a lot of things from the continent, and all quite moralistic

Some days we would have nature rambles. Miss Axworthy usually took us on these. Mostly we went down to Langdon Woods and right out through to the duck ponds below Langdon Court, other times through to the water meadow at Ford going towards the beach. We would learn all about the different kinds of trees and see such wondrous things as dragon flies and pheasants, and plenty of rabbits and squirrels. Depending on the season we would collect frog spawn and watch it hatch out in a goldfish bowl on the classroom windowsill, or collect 'sticky buds' which were the buds of the chestnut trees, and put them in jam jars and watch them gradually open out. Sometimes it would be designated a 'picnic ramble' which meant that we went just after lunch, took a picnic tea and came back in the late afternoon.



Back at school on the following day we would have to write about all the things that we had seen, and draw pictures as well. We enjoyed these rambles most of all. Our picnics were carried in the now redundant gas mask haversacks, which also in those days of shortages, served as satchels as well! Sandwiches were usually in an 'OXO' tin, (for which one had to go on the waiting list at the village shop, in order to get one). Drink was in a convenient sized screw topped glass bottle and was usually the National Health orange juice, which was available freely, along with tins of dried milk, and bottles of cod liver oil to people with young children. Our house was the distribution point in the village for these National Health items, I can remember that there used to be boxes and boxes of it all stacked up under the stairs. Greaseproof paper and paper bags were the normal materials used for the wrapping of food! There were no such things as plastic bags or containers, or tinfoil, clingfilm, plastic bottles or drinks in cans.

Sometimes on fine days we would have 'Drill' I suppose it is what would now be called 'PE'. We would have to put on our black plimsoles, which were usually kept hanging on the sides of our desks from the seat bracket. For those children who could not afford their own plimsoles, there was a stock of them kept in the bottom of the largest of the green wall cupboards at the end of the room. Also in the cupboard were the balls, rubber rings, skipping ropes and all the other accoutrement associated with 'Drill'. We would each grab a hoop from the back of the door, and a seagrass mat from under the table, go out into the boys playground and spread ourselves out ready for 'Drill'. The two teachers used to take their respective classes for this, which entailed simple exercises on the mats; jumping and squatting; games in small groups which involved the throwing of rubber rings or balls; and skipping, sometimes with a hoop and sometimes with a skipping rope. The exercises had to be kept simple as they had to be within the capabilities of our two teachers neither of whom were exactly in the 'bloom of youth'. The plimsoles were the only concession towards gym kit that we had, the girls usually tucked their skirts, into their knickers.

There was no school playing field, which I suppose was unusual for a school in the middle of the countryside, therefore in games periods we were rather restricted in what we could play, in fact we only ever played rounders. The playground was not big enough for football, although the boys played it during most break periods. Cricket used to be played after a fashion, but when a cricket ball went through the dormer window of

the little room showering the infants in broken glass, it was stopped (I know, because I was one of those infants!). Rounders was played on summer afternoons, and once again the plimsoles were pressed into use. We used to chalk out the bases on the playground, and sort ourselves into two teams, we had fielders up in the garden of "Willowhayes" and out in the road, to quickly return any stray balls, Miss Maynard was the referee/umpire. There two kinds of bat, some were round like baseball bats, and some were flat like small cricket bats, there was a general preference for the round ones. The teams were always boys and girls mixed, we were quite ahead of the times in some things!

The infants' and girls' cloakroom was a later extension on to the school as was the boys' cloakroom on the west side. The infants' and girls' cloakroom also contained the sink for washing up the dinner dishes with a long plate rack over it and a floor standing electric boiler under the draining board, which was switched on first thing in the morning and which one of us would switch off when the steam started coming into the big room! This was ostensibly to provide hot water for the washing up, but was also used to make a pot of tea for the teachers, and also for Mrs Russell and Mrs Jude, the helpers, at each playtime and lunchtime.

The toilets and hand basins were all outside. One set for the boys and one set for the girls, in the corner of the respective playgrounds. Each toilet block was down a flight of steps and contained four lavatories and a urinal space (It would seem that we were into unisex toilets way back when they were built). Of course the urinal space in the girls block was not used for its designed purpose, but rather for the storage of desks. At the top of the flight of steps were two hand basins, with a little slate roof over, cold water only, and blocks of hard soap and a roller towel, where we were sent to wash our hands before school dinner, every day, regardless of the weather.

Taking into consideration that the school was built in 1874, whether the toilets and wash basins were a later addition or not, I do not know, but they certainly seemed to be of the same vintage as the rest of the building. Even if they were built early in the 1900s it would still mean that at that time, the facilities at the school were far superior than most of the pupils enjoyed in their own homes. Even in the 1940s and 1950s there were quite a lot of homes in the village without bathrooms, or indoor toilets, and quite a few without electricity.

The School House at that time was occupied by Mr and Mrs Woods (Bert and Muriel), she was a 'Drake' and cousin to Miss Eileen Drake and did not seem, to us children, to be endowed with much in the way of a sense of humour. She seemed to occupy most of her time telling children to "get away from the window", as the two downstairs windows at the front of the house gave directly onto the girls' playground. Bert on the other hand was a dear old boy and was popular with most people. They had a daughter called Maureen, who was much older than us and went to the Grammar School. They eventually, in the mid 1950s, moved into one of Fred Colliers new bungalows in Collier's Close. Maureen had by this time got married, or was about to get married, to Glynn Davies who was in the Army. The school house, on becoming vacant was taken over as part of the school and fitted out with a proper catering kitchen so that the school could now go self catering and dispense with the "meals on wheels" service. This proved very popular with the children. Mrs Cutchee was appointed as the school cook, and did a splendid job, and lived very conveniently, next door to the school.

Mrs Russell who lived in Ruskin Cottage was the School Caretaker and Dinner Lady, she also did playground supervision, and all the children adored her. She was assisted by Mrs Jude, who lived in a wooden dwelling in Ford Orchard, which had no electricity or any other mains services. She had a son at the school, called Graham who was a couple of years younger than me, and a much older son called John who worked for the people who were felling trees in Langdon Woods. One day when we were at school John had a very nasty accident in the woods where he was thrown from a tractor, and sustained serious head injuries when he got trapped under one of the back wheels. He managed to get himself up to Langdon Court (which of course was a hospital back then) before collapsing. The nurses there were able to help him, and call the ambulance from Plymouth. I seem to remember that he lost quite a few teeth as a result of the accident, but otherwise made a full recovery.

Regular visitors to the School were Mr Clarke the School Attendance Officer, and Nurse Mason the 'bug' nurse. He used to come quite regularly and check the School Register to see if there were any habitual absentees. We never seemed to have a problem with that sort of thing in Wembury School. She would also come about twice a term and check us all for head lice, which I always thought was most degrading, but once again there never seemed to be a problem, some children lived in houses without bathrooms, some without

any running water, especially those who lived in Roper's Field, and yet there never seemed to be a problem with cleanliness. We never seemed to get the 'tummy bugs' which go around' these days. Things like measles, chicken pox and mumps went through the school at various times and we all got it, but that was all.

Other not so welcome visitors were the Doctor and the Dentist who used to come on a regular basis to check us all out. We used to dread this, Miss Maynard would get out the box with all the brown envelopes in it which contained our medical and dental documents. The doctor or dentist used to set up their surgery in the Parish Room, and as our turn came we were dispatched off clutching our brown envelope. Some of the envelopes had red round stickers on and some orange, I never did, find out the significance of these. The one that was dreaded most was the dentist as he used to do fillings and extractions there and then, The drill was operated by a treadle which he had to pedal furiously to get it up to speed, before he could start. I was very lucky as I never had to have a filling or an extraction.

The doctor's visit wasn't quite so bad except that one had to go through the indignity of removing one's clothes. Once again as our turns came we were dispatched off to the Parish Room with our brown envelopes. When we got there, Nurse Mason, who for this occasion, wore her uniform and looked like the Edith Cavell picture in school. She would take the envelopes from us and invite us to go behind the green folding screen and take off our clothes. We were allowed to keep our underwear and socks on! Some of the boys didn't wear underpants, their mothers thought that such items were not necessary until support was needed later in life! Those boys were allowed to retain their trousers. Luckily these visits always took place in the spring or summer. One would have to wait on one of the wooden chairs until one's name was called (I particularly remember the prickliness of the coconut matting through my socks). When one got in with the doctor, Nurse Mason was there as well, which I thought was most embarrassing! He would do the eyesight test, covering each eye in turn whilst one read the letters off the board, look in ones ears, and then with a large lollipop stick would hold one's tongue down and look down one's throat. Then worst of all, off would come the pants and with the aid of the same stick, an inspection of the lower regions would take place. It was through one of these inspections that they found that I had a hernia, and had to go into to Greenbank Hospital in Plymouth to have it operated on, that was when I was 7 years old.

Other people who used to visit on an informal basis were: Reverend Tagg, the Vicar; Mrs Burrows, who ran the Sunday School, usually checking on absentees from the previous Sunday; and Minnie Baggott who was the village busybody, who usually came to complain that some of the children had been 'calling' after her again.

Sometimes the School Governors visited, Captain Ayre from Four Corners, or Mr Giles from Down Thomas. I know that they used to come for the Harvest Festival, which we had in school every year at the end of September. One year I had a part in the service, in that I had to read the 23rd Psalm. When the time came, Mr Giles noticed that I had no bible in front of me and went to great trouble to bring the school bible over, I was most indignant, as I had learnt it off by heart, and made a point of closing the bible before I started, and luckily I was word perfect! All of the children used to bring produce, which back then, most people grew in their back gardens, I know that we always took masses of apples from our orchard at Thorn. Mrs Jude used to bring the loveliest red apples from Ford Orchard, which were pink inside when one bit into them. I never knew what the variety was, and have never found any apple like it since. Nina Densum used to bring purple grapes, which her father grew in his greenhouse at Beach View Crescent, we all thought that a bit exotic! Afterwards all of the produce was given to Langdon Court which, at that time, was a children's convalescent home, and where it were most gratefully received.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, about once a year, there arrived at the school a number of cardboard boxes with the maple leaf of Canada proudly emblazoned on their sides, along with the legend "From the children of Canada to the children of Great Britain". The boxes contained tins of stewing steak, about two dozen in each box, each one also bearing the maple leaf logo and the legend. These would be distributed to all of the children in the school and it usually worked out that most children had two. Any left over were given to those considered to be worse off than the others so they would have three. In our family where there at least two of us at the village school at any one time, we would take home four tins. In Canada they had heard about the rationing in Britain, and must have thought that we children were pretty well on the bread line! It would seem that this system of 'food aid' (they would call it today) was devised where the tins would be sent by the children of Canada directly to the children of Great Britain, thereby keeping politics out of it. It was all very well

meaning of the children of Canada, and perhaps in the industrial Midlands and the North, and in the run down areas of our large cities, was well warranted, but in a place like Wembury where in spite of rationing we all managed to live quite well. It seemed a little as though we were getting something undeservedly. I am not sure as to how far the scheme went, I know that all of the primary schools in the area were included, but I don't ever recall anybody bringing tins home from Plymstock or Plympton Grammar School.

Every year, on the last day of term before Christmas, we had the school Christmas party, which was always great fun. There were no lessons to speak of on that day. Instead we all wore our best clothes, the girls, their party frocks, and it was a day given over to enjoying ourselves. In the morning the time was spent making coloured paper chains and other decorations and decorating the big room. Greenery which had been brought from Thorn or Wembury House was distributed over the tops of all the pictures, on the window sills, and around the windows as far up as we could reach. Little balls of cotton wool threaded on to lengths of cotton thread were pinned up to hang down in front of the windows to give the effect of snow falling. After school dinner we would move all the desks around the sides of the big room to make a big space in the middle, the chairs were brought in from the little room so that the infants could join in as well. The rest of the day was then given over to party games, 'In and out the windows', 'musical chairs', 'pass the parcel', 'Oranges and Lemons' etc. Later there would be lots of singing of carols and Christmas songs, followed by the Christmas tea, which the mothers had all been preparing in the little room. It had been all prearranged as to who would supply what, my mother usually provided clotted cream, and butterfly buns (the latter at the specific request of Miss Axworthy). Penny Barnett's father was a chef in the Royal Navy and he usually provided the most lovely iced buns fashioned as snowmen, we used to almost fight over them, there was only ever a dozen of them and in the end Miss Maynard found it easier to draw names out of a hat to decide as to who should have them! I managed to win one of them one year, and found on eating it that the eyes were made from cloves, and should not really have been eaten, and of course found them very bitter, I was reliably informed by one of the other children (notably one who hadn't won one of them) that I would die! There were such luxuries as tinned fruit and chocolate biscuits (which were all still very hard to come by). The day ended with the judging of the hat competition. We all had to make hats to wear at the party, I think that this prize was more for the ingenuity of the parents than anything else. My brother and I won it one year for our hats which were of crepe paper made into one, a Father Christmas and the other, a snowman, which my mother had spent hours on. We had to take them off as soon as we could, so that they didn't get damaged!

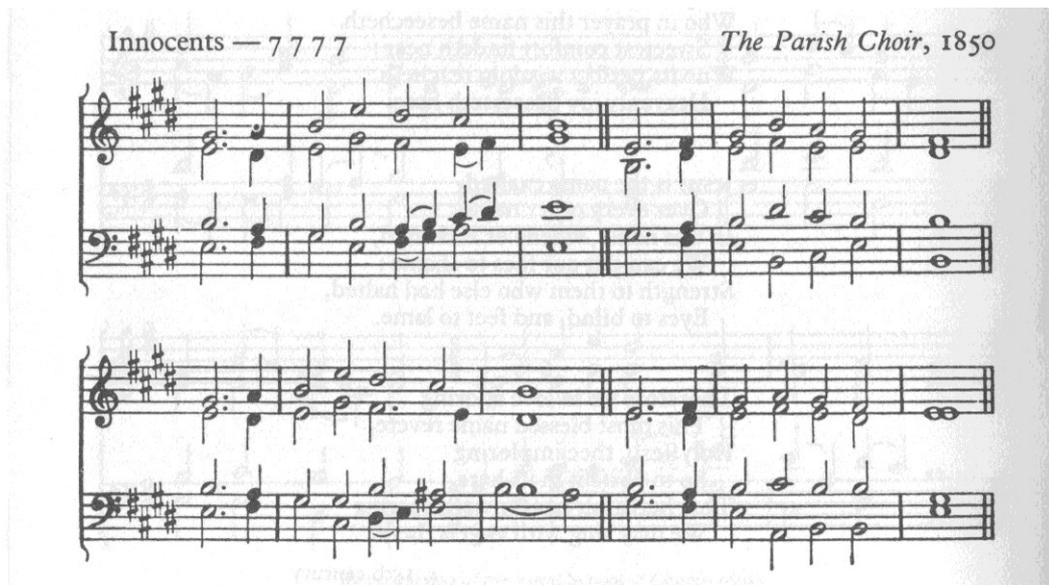
During my time in the 'little room' Miss Axworthy got married to Sam Algate. They had been 'going out' for a very long time, but I don't think that Miss Axworthy's parents approved. I think that she waited very patiently until she was free to do as she pleased. It seems amazing to us now that somebody would wait until they were nearly fifty before marrying, for fear of upsetting parents. I think that it was in 1950 that they got married. From the school we bought them a Westminster chiming mantle clock, as a wedding present. She was very pleased with it, and full demonstrations of its chiming capabilities were carried out in both classrooms! Regrettably her married bliss only lasted about twelve years as she died in 1962 just after she retired.

Another thing, which I suppose is a social statement, is that back in the early 1950s there were only two 'one parent' children in the school, and in both cases it was because the father had been killed in the war. Nearly all of the mothers were housewives, the few that had jobs organised their work so that they were there for when the children came home from school. Most children walked to school, the ones from Hollacombe used to get a lift down on the school bus that used to come to the village to take the older children to schools at Plympton and Plymstock. All the rest walked, some from up on the cliff some from Roper's Field and Church Road, some from Old Barton and Thorn. Some mothers did bring their children to school, and quite a lot more came to pick them up at the end of day, which was usually combined with a visit to the Post Office. In the summer we would often walk straight to the beach from school where our mothers would already be, having gone down earlier in the day with pre school children.

They were incredibly happy times, but this is not supposed to be a 'rose tinted' view of days gone by. There were plenty of hardships, there wasn't a lot to go round in that period just following the War. We were content with what we had, because we knew no different, apart from that, we were young and had no responsibilities. It was harder for our parents, as there were many things that had been unavailable to them since the beginning of the War, and the situation didn't fully recover until the 1960s. Most people wore 'hand me down' clothes, especially in large families. New toys were hard to come by, the train set that my older brother and I had, used to belong to Billy Creber at Thorn Cottage, but we never gave that a second thought. Quite a lot of trading in

toys ‘grown out of’ used go on amongst the parents. We were very lucky, as a family, as in the late 1940s we had a lot of toys made for us by the German prisoners of war, who worked on my Father’s farm, and lived in the farmhouse. We were also very lucky in our surroundings as there was always so much to do in the woods and fields, on the cliffs and on the beach, we could enjoy ourselves in these surroundings without having to wear special clothes, or have special equipment, as seems to be the case today with most leisure pursuits.

### WEMBURY SCHOOL - GRACE



Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat,  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you Lord, for everything.

Amen.

This is the grace, set to the hymn tune “Innocents”, that was sung each day before the break for dinner, usually with Miss Maynard on the piano.

## PRE-SCHOOL POETRY

When fresh five year olds first joined the school to start their educational climb through the 'Little Room' and then the 'Big Room' before being sent off the 'Big Schools', they were of course in the care of Miss Axworthy, who was later to become Mrs Algate.

This little group always sat under the big window at small desks turned sideways on, facing into the room, whereas everybody else faced forward towards the blackboard. Having been dropped off by their mums at the beginning of the day, this was probably the first time in their lives they didn't have a parent in close proximity. They of course felt quite intimidated by the surroundings, and also by the other children.

As an ice breaker, Miss Axworthy would ask if any of the new children knew a piece of poetry that they had been taught at home, and that they would like to recite to the class. Of course there were quite a lot of shrinking violets, but usually one two of the bolder types, who would instantly volunteer. On one such occasion, which must have been in 1940 or thereabouts, one of the volunteers was little Elsie Jolliffe. Her father, Reg, was a builder who, in the 1930s had built most of the bungalows in Church Road and Cross Park Road. They themselves lived in one of the bungalows at the top of Church Road (which is now No.56); later in the 1940s they moved into a new bungalow that he built at the bottom of Cross Park Road.

Elsie said that she knew this piece of poetry that her Uncle Stan had taught her. Stan Channing was Mrs Jolliffe's brother and lived up at Hollacombe with his Parents. Theirs was the next to the last bungalow as one comes towards Wembury proper. It is lower than the road level and from the road looks like an ordinary double fronted bungalow. As one moves round to the rear, because of the slope of the ground, the bungalow turns itself into a full two-storied house. I believe that Old Joe Channing built the house himself as he, like his son-in-law Reg Jolliffe, was also a builder.

Anyway Elsie quoted:

“Once upon a time, when the bird shit lime,  
and the monkey chewed tobacco.  
The pig ran past with a feather up his arse,  
to see which way the wind blew.  
The wind blew north, the wind blew south,  
the wind blew the feather from his arse to his mouth”.

This was followed by a silence which was broken by Miss Axworthy who said, “And who did you say taught you this little poem, Elsie”? “My Uncle Stan”, she replied, “Oh”, said Miss Axworthy, “I think I will have to have a word with your Uncle Stan”.

PS: Elsie died in January of 2006 aged 77, so the event described above must have taken place in about 1934 and not 1940 as stated. By the 1950s it had become village folklore and the little poem was well known and recited (out of the hearing of grown ups) by all of us children.

WEMBURY SCHOOL REPORTS 1953 AND 1954

I am very much indebted to Christopher Drew for letting me have copies of his school reports for 1953 and 1954, which are here reproduced.

Christopher's Mother was the Housekeeper at Wembury House, they lived in the staff flat. As well as Christopher there were three sisters Avril, the eldest, Carole who was Christopher's twin, and Sharon the youngest.

After they left Wembury House they lived for a while next door to us at Watergate Cottages (No.4), before moving away altogether to East Devon.

The class numbers are interesting. In 1953 there were ten in the class and Christopher was 4th, and in 1954 there were four in the class and he was 2nd. That means that Christopher was proportionally higher in the class where he was 4th rather than in the class where he was 2nd!

I can't really think what happened for the class number to drop from ten in 1953 to four in 1954, I know that there was a bit of an itinerant population in the village due to some fathers being Servicemen and service postings having an effect.

DEVON COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.  
Wembury Primary School  
SCHOLAR'S REPORT.

Name Christopher Drew Standard I A.  
No. in Class 10 Position 4<sup>th</sup> Term ending July 1953.

Subject	Marks possible	Marks obtained	Subject	Marks possible	Marks obtained
Scripture	V.	Good	History	V.	Good
English:			Mathematics	50	42
Reading	10	9	Science:		
Poetry	10	7	Nature Study		Good
Composition	20	16	Hygiene		
English: Literature	30	27	Handwork	V.	Good
Spelling	20	16	Drawing	V.	Good
Friendship	10	8	Needlework		
Geography		Good	TOTAL	150	123
Times absent	29 (out of 112)		Times late	0	

Remarks Very Good Progress.

signed M. Hayward  
Class Teacher  
on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1953 signed M. Hayward  
Head Teacher

DEVON COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.  
Wembury Primary School  
SCHOLAR'S REPORT.

Name Christopher Drew Standard III.  
No. in Class 4 Position 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ending July 1954

Subject	Marks possible	Marks obtained	Subject	Marks possible	Marks obtained
Scripture		Good	History	20	18
English:			Mathematics	100	51
Reading	10	8	Science:		
Poetry		Good	Nature Study		V. Good
Composition	20	17	Hygiene		
English: Literature	50	34	Handwork	V.	Good
Spelling	20	18	Drawing	10	9
Friendship	10	9	Needlework		
Geography	V.	Good	Physical Ability	50	39
Times absent	0 (out of 102)		Times late	0	
		TOTAL	330		235

Remarks Good Progress.  
Careless at times in Arithmetic

signed M. Hayward  
Class Teacher  
on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1954 signed M. Hayward  
Head Teacher

With some children their progress through the school was dictated by their birthday rather than by the school year, as ideally they should have a whole year in Standard 4 in order to be ready for the 11+, so this could have had some bearing on this discrepancy.

## WEMBURY SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM 1959

When Mr Ellison was appointed Headmaster in 1959 the school was able to have a football team. Up until then the only organised games had been rounders on the school playground, a game which was within the capabilities of two elderly female teachers.

About five years earlier a village playing had been provided on the field on the crest of the hill west of the Jubilee Inn (this now forms part of Barton Close and Mewstone Avenue). In 1955 the swings, roundabout and see-saw were provided, and in 1956 the new Village Hall was built in the corner of the field. The top part of the field was marked out as a football pitch, which I believe was used by the Wembury United Football Club. Mr Ellison on becoming Headmaster formed a school football team and they used the pitch as well.

The photograph below is of the first school football team formed in 1959.

Back row:	Edwin Gilbert	Stephen Jewell	Paul Adams	Clem Spencer	Barry Greep	David Fone
Front row:	Michael Harvey	Martin Smith	John Greig	Gareth Jones	Robin Brown	

West Wembury Farmhouse can be seen through the trees on the left, and the gable end of West Wembury Cottages on the right. The cottage in view was at that time occupied by Mrs Violet Toogood. The garage on the extreme right belonged to the bungalow "Osmia" which has since been converted into a large house. Mewstone Avenue sweeps around behind where the boys are and runs alongside the hedge on the left of the photograph. The boys are positioned just about in what is now, the back gardens of No.s 9 and 11 Barton Close.



WEMBURY SCHOOL PLAY 1952

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

<u>Back Row</u>	Margaret Jewell Henry Booth Michael Frood Graham Jude Diana Brimblecombe Christine Jones Joyce Short or Pat Tansey Peter Lugar	Buena Vista, Hollacombe Brake Ford Farm 7 Knighton Hill Ford Orchard Glenesk, Church Road Cross Park Road Wembury Road, Hollacombe 3 Watergate Cottages
<u>Middle Row</u>	June Dixon Jeanette Milden Penny Barnett Juliet Tagg Valerie Rushbrook David Haimes Andrew Yabsley Fred Stone Nina Densum	Ridgeway, Cliff Road 6 Uplands Cross Park Road The Vicarage, Thorn Marconi House, Church Road 4 Uplands Dormers, Browns Hill Lane Chalet, Hillcrest Alta Vista, Beach View Crescent
<u>Front Row</u>	Carol Drew, Christopher Drew Jimmy Everett Marjorie Jolliffe Christine Brown Rosie Frood Joyce Short or Pat Tansey Alan Rickard	Wembury House Wembury House Woody Bay, Church Road Cross Park Road 2 Uplands 7 Knighton Hill Wembury Road, Hollacombe Spriddlestone Lodge



WEMBURY SCHOOL INFANTS 1951/52

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

Back Row

Alan Rickard  
*Not known*  
Christine Brown  
Joyce Short  
Michael Frood  
Graham Jude

Spriddlestone Lodge  
2 Uplands  
Wembury Road, Hollacombe  
7 Knighton Hill  
Ford Orchard

Mrs Florrie Algate (Teacher)

Acacia Cottage, Knighton Hill

Middle Row

Christopher Drew  
Marjorie Jolliffe  
Pat Tansy  
Carole Drew  
Rodney Davis

Wembury House  
Cross Park Road  
Wembury Road, Hollacombe  
Wembury House  
Merton House, Browns Hill Lane

Front Row

Angela Smith,  
Sylvia Little  
Paula Mylett  
Ivy Gibson

Thelma, Church Road  
Trescan, Wembury Road  
Wembury Road, Hollacombe  
Wembury Road, Hollacombe

Nina Densum  
Dinah Clifton

Alta Vista, Beach View Crescent  
Knighton Farm

Sitting  
on Ground

Peter Spencer  
Peter Wild  
Thomas Lugar

3 Uplands  
Cliff Road  
3 Watergate Cottages



## WEMBURY SCHOOL JUNIORS 1951/52

### FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

<u>Back Row</u>	Jimmy Everett Brian Furzeland Peter Eames Brian Gibson  David Haimes  Miss Wyn Maynard (Headmistress)	Woody Bay, Church Road Pixies Acre, Hollacombe Trenear, Train Road Wembury Road, Hollacombe  4 Uplands  Penvro, Church Road
<u>Middle Row</u>	David Spreat Gerald Full Valerie Rushbrook Josephine Jolliffe Vivienne Davies Peter Lugar Roland Frood	1 Uplands Knighton Hill Marconi House, Church Road Cross Park Road Browns Hill Lane 3 Watergate Cottages 7 Knighton Hill
<u>Front Row,</u>	Rosemary Frood Ann Dally June Dixon, Juliet Tagg, <i>Not known</i> Penny Barnett	7 Knighton Hill Clovelly, Hollacombe Ridgeway, Cliff Road The Vicarage, Thorn  Cross Park Road
<u>The Dog</u>	"Chinky" (Miss Maynard's Staffordshire Bull bitch)	



## WEMBURY SCHOOL 1926 & 1928

The photograph below was taken in 1926, Mrs Annie Dixon was the Headmistress and is shown on the left. She was assisted by Miss Florence Axworthy, on the right.



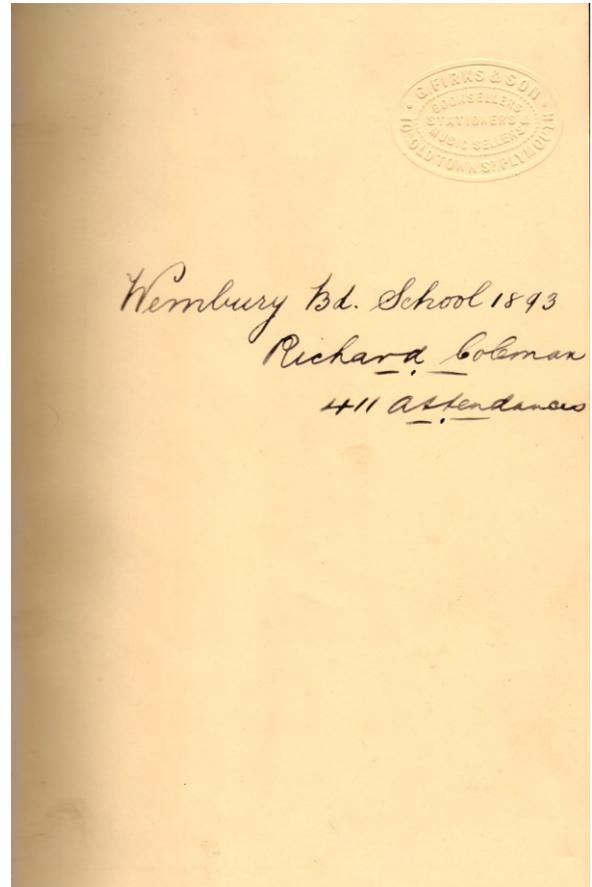
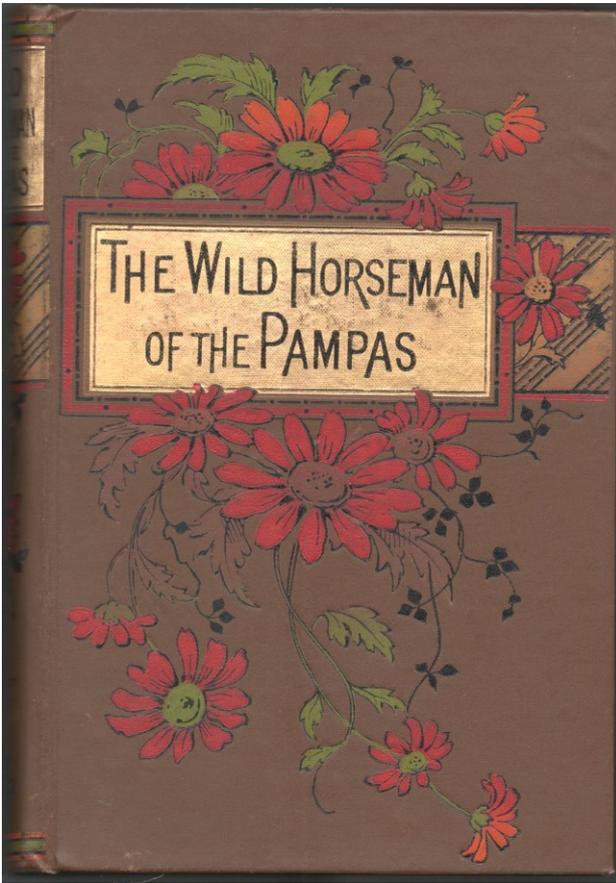
The Photograph below was taken two years later in 1928, by this time Mrs Elizabeth Nicholas was the Headmistress, shown on the right, assisted by Miss Florence Axworthy, shown on the left.



Children identified in the above photograph are: Peter Gill, George Body, Edwin Milden, John Fansome, Pearl Roberts, Lilian Beer, Violet Badcock, Dora Body, George Walke, Jimmy Wills, Jimmy Rowe, Albert Newton, Dennis Goodman, Ian McLaren, Charlie Ford, Raymond Brown, Willy Ford, Edna Sly, Iris Walke, Ivy Newton, Polly Newman, Violet Andrews, Elaine Nicholas, Alma Yatches, Arthur Yates, Frances Woodley, Clifford Walk, Winnie Walk, Titch Edgumbe, and Betty Brown.

## RICHARD COLEMAN – AWARD FOR GOOD ATTENDANCE

This book was presented to Richard Coleman in 1893, for good attendance at the Board School. Richard was born in 1885, so was only eight years old when he got this award for 411 attendances.



Richard's family were the Blacksmiths in Knighton and had been so for several generations. His Grandfather, John Coleman, an Ermington man, married Margaret Symons in 1836. The Symons family had been the Blacksmiths since before 1729.

ELLEN COLEMAN – PUPIL TEACHER AGREEMENT 1893

Below is a copy of the agreement of 11<sup>th</sup> March 1893, made between the Wembury School Board and John Symons Coleman, to engage his daughter Ellen as a Pupil Teacher. This was to be for a period of four years and for a salary of £5 per year, which would be increased by £1 on each subsequent year of the engagement.

11.3.93  
 ENGLAND AND WALES.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between the School Board of  
 Wembury hereinafter called the  
 Ellen Coleman hereinafter called the pupil-teacher, and John Symons Coleman  
 of Knighton, Wembury, Blacksmith hereinafter called the surety, the  
 father of the pupil teacher.

The Board, for themselves and their successors, covenant with the pupil-teacher, and with the surety, his executors and administrators and assigns, and the pupil-teacher and the surety for himself, his executors, administrators, and assigns, covenant with the Board and their successors, as follows:—

1. The pupil-teacher is engaged to serve under a certificated teacher during the usual school hours in keeping and teaching the  
 Wembury Board school of the said Board, but so that the said pupil-teacher shall not serve therein less than three or more than six hours upon any one day, nor more than 25 hours in any one week. Sunday is expressly excluded from this engagement.

2. This engagement shall begin on the first day of February 1893 and, subject to the proviso in paragraph 4, shall end on the last day of January 1897, but if the pupil-teacher shall, with the consent of the other parties hereto, enter a Training College as a Queen's Scholar before the last-mentioned date, or such later date as shall be fixed by an extension of the engagement under paragraph 4, this engagement shall thereupon end.

3. The Board shall pay to the pupil-teacher as wages the sum of Five Pounds per annum, and this sum shall be increased by one Pound in each subsequent year of the engagement.

4. Provided always, that (1) if the pupil-teacher fails to pass the examination prescribed by the Code for any year, this engagement shall, with the consent of the Board and the Education Department, be extended so as to end on the last day of January 1898, and (2) if the pupil-teacher defers the Queen's Scholarship Examination for a year in accordance with the Code, this engagement shall, with the consent of the Managers, be extended so as to end on the last day of the month in which such deferred examination takes place.

When this engagement is so extended, the course of study of the pupil-teacher in the remainder of the year succeeding that in respect of which the pupil-teacher failed shall be the same as in the last-mentioned year; and that year shall not be reckoned in calculating any payment to be made under paragraph 6 of this agreement.

W B & L (5037)—20732—3000-6-92  
 A. B. 7.

Unlike Miss Axworthy, Ellen went on to pastures new, eventually marrying and settling in St Neots, in Cornwall, where her husband Lewis Chalice, was Headmaster of the school

## THE OLD SCHOOL AND SCHOOL HOUSE 1995

The Photographs below were taken in March 1995. The school had been converted for residential use in the early 1970s, unfortunately with not a lot of thought or consideration for the building itself or the impact on the site. The large windows with the gothic articulation have gone, the one facing the road having been butchered beyond belief.



The old school house has fared better and doesn't look a much different than it did in the 1950s. It does look a bit odd, with the rendering just taken off the front at first floor level, but it does give some idea as to how the whole school looked in the late 1940s before the rendering was applied



## THE OLD SCHOOL 1998

This later photograph was taken in July 1998 from roughly the same place as the one of March 1995.

There has been a great improvement with stone walls and planting, to take away the starkness. Another window has been inserted, and the painting of the window frames doors, etc in a contrasting darker colour makes a tremendous difference.

Even the ghastly bow windows look better in a darker colour, in spite of the plastic weatherboarding between them!





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 Froot, and the girl in front is Penny Barnett, whose father was a Chef in the Royal Navy. Miss Maynard is on the extreme right of the photograph, and the dog is her Staffordshire Bull Bitch, “Chinky”, who came with her to school every day, and was greatly loved by us all.

## THE PARISH ROOM 1978

This photograph of the Parish Room was taken by Christopher Drew in 1978. It was originally a coloured slide which I have converted to a photograph, so any lack of clarity is attributable to me rather than Christopher!

The old place looks a little dilapidated but I suppose that it is not doing too badly having been in position for some seventy years when the photograph was taken.

It was taken not long after the extension had been added to the front containing the lavatories. Up until that time there had been no lavatories at all.

When the old school was in operation just down the road, users of the room would avail themselves of the facilities there, which were outdoors but without electricity. A torch was therefore an essential item when attending an evening event at the Parish Room!

People in the village were quite used to these spartan conditions as the old village hall that we all used for many years, was not only without lavatories, but also mains water as well.

For events in either of these places people got into the habit of “going before they came”.

Next to the parish room is one of the only few air raid shelters left in the village, there is another one in the driveway to Thorn next to the lodge and a couple more hidden in the undergrowth in Roper’s Field.



## THE PARISH ROOM

The photograph below was taken in March 1995

The old Parish Room, or Church Room, as it seems to be known these days, was originally the Parish Reading Room. It was provided by Squire Cory in the early 1900s, and the Vicar and the two Churchwardens comprised the management committee. Ostensibly to provide access to newspapers and periodicals for the villagers, it also contained a number of hard backed books for enlightenment purposes as well. During the First World War there were letter writing facilities provided for the service personnel stationed in the area. It gradually evolved that it was used for other sorts of gatherings, some church centred, and some secular, especially in the absence of a village hall. Its original purpose, as a reading room therefore became a secondary feature, and in time faded out completely.

When the estate split up in 1926, ownership of the room was vested in the Parish Church, and that is how it has remained ever since, with the Parish Church Council as the management committee.

I first remember the room in the late 1940s; the main part did not look a lot different than it does in the photograph. It has changed colour a few times, I remember it originally as being brown, with black window frames, doors, etc., it has also been green and cream at some time.

The rather ugly concrete extension is a more recent but necessary addition. There used to be a small central porch of corrugated iron, to match the main part of the building. The entrance door was on the right hand side of the porch. Along the edge of the road was a tall white pale boarded fence with a gate at each end, this was all removed in the late 1940s, for reasons of economics, I believe.

Inside, was divided into two parts. Two thirds forming the main room, and one-third the back room, there were interconnecting double doors between the two. Both rooms were open right up to the roof and they were completely lined in tongue and groove boarding, pitch pine, all unpainted and untreated. The floor in the main room was covered in brown coconut matting; there was an odd collection of chairs around the edge of the room, a couple of large tables, and a harmonium. Either side of the double doors were wall-mounted bookshelves, which contained some ancient bibles (dating from 1906) and hymnbooks for the Sunday school. In the back room there was a stone sink and a cold-water tap, a china cupboard, and a table for working.



There was also the St John Ambulance Cupboard. This was the domain of Mrs Toogood of 'The Cottage' West Wembury, who led the local brigade. There was a large diagram on the door showing how to bandage wounds, put arms in slings, splint broken limbs, give artificial respiration (this was before the days of 'mouth to mouth').

The Cubs and Scouts and Brownies used to keep some of their gear in this room as well, as there was no scout hut back then.

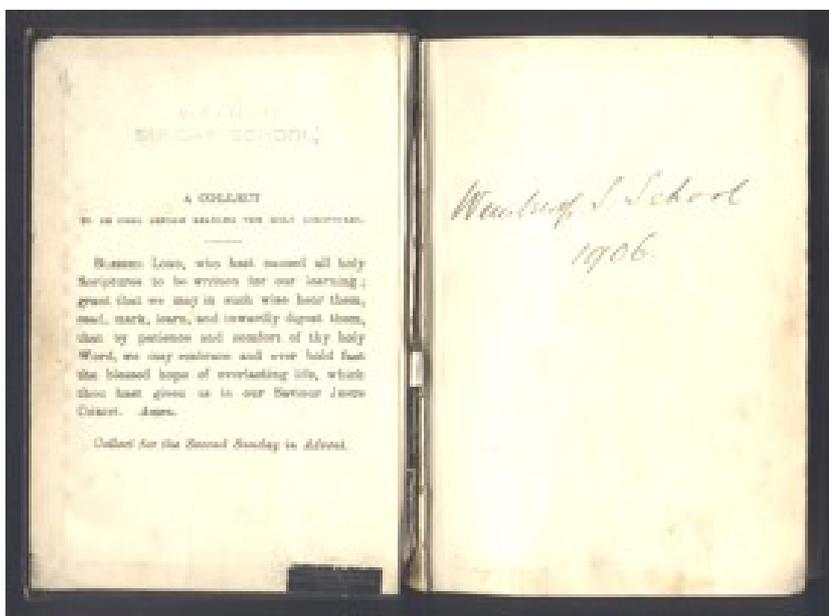
Hanging on the wall there were some tin helmets left over from the war, presumably used by the Home Guard. Apart from that the rest of this room was filled with junk.

The windows each comprised three panels, two vertical at the bottom occupying, two thirds of the space, these were fixed. At the top a horizontal panel, filled the remaining third, and opened inwards by means of a cord and pulley system. These either would not open properly or close fully, but whichever it was, it never seemed to coincide with the time of the year or the weather conditions outside!

Heating was by means of two small electric fires, there were no toilets, girls and ladies had to use the ones at the school which were outside, so there were no problems with access, but no electricity. A torch was therefore a very necessary item, for ladies, when attending an evening event at the Parish Room in the winter. For the gentlemen and boys, it was a whole lot easier, with plenty of places down the sides of the building for conducting their business.

When we were in the infants at Wembury School, the room was sometimes used by the school, mainly for singing. I have abiding memories of Miss Axworthy playing the harmonium and all of us children singing along. We also used it for poetry, reading, and sometimes rehearsals for the school play.

Other times it was used for Sunday school, Cubs, Scouts and Brownies, St John Ambulance, Mother's Union, and Choir Practice. Some people used to have their birthday parties there.



On Wednesdays during Lent, Mrs Burrows used to waylay us on our way home from school and 'persuade' us to come into the room for 'Stations of the Cross'. The 'Stations', which were a set of fourteen rather nice small paintings (reproductions of an Italian set, I think), were set up around the room, and we did two or three each week. On Good Friday they were removed to the church and set up there, where we were encouraged to go, during the morning, and do the whole lot in one go!

The mobile School Doctors and Dentists set up their surgery in the room when they came to the school on their routine visits. The dentist was the most dreaded one, as he would carry out fillings and extractions on the spot, with a mechanical drill operated by a treadle. The doctor wasn't quite as intimidating, although I always thought it most undignified having to take ones clothes off and sit there in one's underwear, waiting one's turn and feeling the prickly coconut matting through one's socks!

Most importantly, Whist Drives; the thing which most villages cannot survive without; took place, and still do.

The photograph below was taken May 2004, and shows recent improvements. The entrance has been ramped, and UPVC windows and doors fitted. The little window in the apex has been removed, but obviously some repainting work is still needed in that area.



**STOP PRESS!** At the end of 2007 it was decided to close the Parish Room as being no longer financially viable. See the separate article entitled “Parish Room Closure”. After a period of six years of standing empty and unloved it was decided that it should be demolished rather fall into a state of further dilapidation. So in May 2013 the demolition squad moved in and 100 years of social history was removed.



## PARISH ROOM – CLOSURE

At the latter end of 2007 it was decided, sadly, that the Parish Room (or Church Room as it now seems to be called) should close. A recent survey had found that there was much major work that would need to be carried out for the building to remain in use as a public facility. The Church, in whom the ownership had been vested since the death of Richard Cory, could no longer stand the drain on its limited resources. Maintenance costs, and main service costs had by this time far outstripped the income from hire so the decision was made to close and transfer activities (limited as they were) to the Village Hall. The Knighton Room at the Village Hall has proved to be a popular venue for the Thursday morning ‘Coffee Stop’ especially as there are much better facilities for parking.

The future of the building is very much in the balance at the moment (2010). Who actually owns it has to be sorted out, although it seems very clear to me that as the church has run and maintained it for nearly 100 years, it should be theirs by default. The site would make an ideal location for a Parish Office, and storage facility, as it is not possible to provide these things at the Church (this is just a thought of mine and should not be taken as any kind of official statement).

Below are a series of photographs of the Parish Room taken just after the closure, lest we forget!





## THE OLD VILLAGE HALL

The Hall had seen life previously as two First World War army huts at the Renney Camp. These were, in 1922, dismantled, rebuilt and joined together in the north east corner of the field opposite the Jubilee Inn. Access was via a flight of concrete steps just to the right of entrance to "Escalonia". These can still be made out through the undergrowth. The "Hut", as it was more popularly known, and the site upon which it stood was donated by Squire Richard Cory. The hut was originally designated "The Wembury Social Club" most of the villagers were members, it was not compulsory, each paid a nominal fee on a yearly basis to cover running expenses. The hut was without mains water or sanitation and that state of affairs continued right up to 1956 when the new village hall came into being. When the estate split up, after the death of Squire, Richard Cory, ownership was vested in a committee drawn from the village. As time went by the club evolved into the Village Hall, there was no membership and monies were raised by the usual means, i.e., whist drives, dances jumble sales etc.



The photograph above shows the hut viewed from what is now the school playing field and looking towards Traine. The back of Escalonia Cottage is on the extreme right, peeping through the gap between Escalonia and the hall is Watergate Cottages, the Jubilee Inn is out of the shot over to the left.

The photograph below, taken at about the same time shows the hut as seen from where the School now stands. The chemical toilet for the ladies can clearly be seen to the left of the back door. In later times this was rearranged so that the door opened directly into the toilet meaning that the ladies could use the facility without having to go outside. Note on the left of the photograph, the concrete telephone box which was replaced by the more familiar red box in about 1948. Watergate Cottages can be seen clearly whereas now they are obstructed by the more recent bungalows





This photograph shows the inside of the old village hall, as it was 1936, decorated for the Coronation of King George VI. It looks rather dilapidated considering that it only been in place for fourteen years. It was taken from the stage looking eastwards towards the entrance door, which at that time was in the end wall. Later in the decade this was blocked when an extension was added to the south side of the hall, which resulted in the loss of the two windows on the right of the photograph. This extension made a new entrance on the side of the hut, with a foyer and box office, the access into the hall itself was through what had been the far window. The other window was also made into a doorway into the other half of the extension, which became a much needed storage area for chairs and trestle tables.

The photograph below was taken at the village sports day sometime in the 1920s, The people shown are, on the left of the table Mr Tink and Mr Joe Axworthy, and on the right Maurice Sherwill and Hildred Drake. The hut certainly looks in need of a bit of care and attention.



In the 1930s Knighton and West Wembury consisted of about 30 cottages, the Jubilee Inn plus Knighton, Traine and West Wembury farms, the development of Church Road was still in its early stage. The population was very small and at that time most were employed within the village on farms or the large estates. There was no money available to spend on the hall, furnishings were begged, borrowed or made locally. Any repairs were done on a voluntary basis.

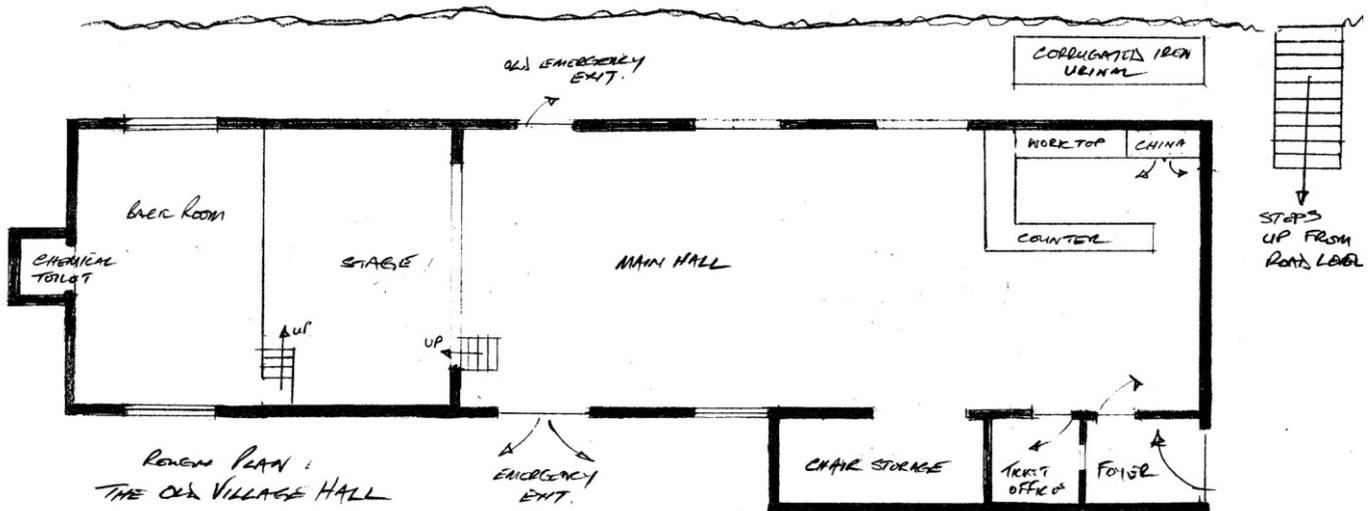
During the war the open roof was blocked off with lots of Royal Naval signal flags sewn together and tacked up to the roof trusses with the green enamel light shades hanging below. These flags were “obtained” by Paymaster Captain Ayre RN, who lived at “Four Corners”.

After the war some money was spent on the hall regardless of it only having a limited life, as the possibility of a new village hall seemed to be very far off. In this refurbishment, the naval signal flags that had been procured by Captain Ayre, were carefully taken down, unpicked from each other, shook out and neatly folded up, for return to the Navy. They were absolutely filthy on the side, which had been uppermost, and the two ladies who took on this task, my mother and Rosemary Bannaford, got absolutely grafted with dirt in the process. Rather ironically the Navy did not want the flags back, they had been ‘written off’ and so in the end they got thrown out! A proper ceiling was installed, and fluorescent lights fitted, which at that time were a bit of a novelty in Wembury. The difference was astounding! The corner at the east end of the hall, opposite the entrance, was made into a kitchen area enclosed behind an ‘L’ shaped counter with a tongue and groove boarded front. Along the wall by the window, which formed the back of this area, there was a worktop and large crockery cupboard, the counter and the worktop were topped with brown linoleum. There were huge brown enamel teapots, and white enamel jugs. In the corner was a large cupboard, which held the crockery. There was a baby belling cooker and a water boiler, there were large white enamel pans and buckets for the purposes of washing up and collection of slops, there was no mains water or drainage.

Any events requiring refreshments meant that water had to be fetched to the hall by bucket. This could be got from Mrs Jessie Thornton’s house, No.1 Knighton Villas, as she was the caretaker, or failing that from the ‘shoot’ down at Watergate, which was one of the old village water supplies, basically an iron pipe coming out of a concrete holding tank, where the water was gathered, and which had never been known to run dry.

The whole of the inside of the hall was given a coat of paint. The outer covering of felt on the roof was replaced with corrugated iron, and the external walls were clad in roofing felt to help preserve the weatherboarding.

Plan of the Old Village Hall



The stage was rather small, and by now had gained a proscenium arch, there was a passage down to one side to allow access to the room behind. In the early 1950s when the Amateur Dramatics Society was formed the stage was far too small for the production of 'proper plays' so it was extended to the full width of the hall. This meant that the only access to the room behind was by going up and over the stage. The fact that this cut off the Elsan toilet from the audience didn't seem to matter as in those days of spartan conditions at the hall most people were in the habit of "going before they came". The society put on three very good productions, "Rookery Nook" in March 1950, "Lord Richard in the Pantry" in October 1950, and "Quiet Week End" in April 1951. It was excellent in the way that it involved quite a lot of people in the village, of all ages, Maureen Woods who was still a schoolgirl, Barbara Snell and Doris Harvey who must have been in their 20s, Dear old Mrs Pitts who must have been over 60, My mother who was in her 30s, Miss Maynard who must have been in her 40s, to name but a few.



The photograph above shows the cast of "Lord Richard in the Pantry" in 1950. Sadly most are no longer with us (2010), apart from Doris Harvey on the far right, and behind her with the big hat, Barbara Snell. In the centre is the principal man, the Revd Kenneth Tagg playing Lord Richard, linking arms with my mother, Beryl Lugar, playing The Cook on his left, and Patsy Somerville, playing Sylvia Gayford, on his right.

Later in the 1950s, a billiard table was bought and put into the hall in front of the stage. It was thought this could make extra revenue for the hall by having it available for use when the hall was otherwise unoccupied. This meant however, that there could not be any more stage productions with the billiard table in place, and the cost to have it temporarily removed for any such event, was prohibitive. It was decided that the billiard table would be moved to the room behind the stage, but the room was not large enough so the stage would have to be demolished and rebuilt about ten feet further into the hall. This was duly done except that by the time the table was in the new position and the dividing wall rebuilt, the interest in rebuilding the stage seemed to have waned. I think that this was mainly because the repositioned stage would have blocked where the recently installed double emergency doors had been fitted, and these would have had to be moved as well, and so the stage was never rebuilt. What with this, and with the Vicar, Revd Kenneth Tagg, who was a leading light in the Dramatic Society, moving on to pastures new, the Society folded.

The hall had a smell all of it's own, slightly dusty, slightly musty. We had all sorts of events there, school concerts, Sunday school parties, youth club, dances, whist drives, church bazaars, and many other things. On one night of the week we had 'pictures' when the mobile cinema came, with a couple of 'Bell and Howell' projectors, proper sound, and on some occasions, a coloured feature! My mother used to be in the ticket office on picture nights, and we always assumed that she paid for us to go in, I never ever did check with her!

We did discover that the main switch for the electricity was just above the hatch inside the ticket office. When some events were in progress we used to creep in and quietly, slide the hatch open, get up on the ledge, reach up inside, and throw the switch, then get out as quickly as we could, before all Hell was let loose. The switch always made a very loud 'clunk' so people inside the hall knew it wasn't a genuine power failure. Eventually bolts were fitted to the inside of the ticket office hatch - spoilsports!

During the late 1940s and early 1950s my mother ran a weekly Youth Club in the hall. It was very popular and just about all of the young people in the village from the age of thirteen to twenty were members. They mostly made their own entertainment, as one had to in those days. They had dancing, which was very popular, Mervyn Pitts (who was one of them, back then) used to entertain on the piano, there were plenty of card games, draughts, chess etc. They used to organise their own outside activities, which usually entailed. Many bicycles leaving the village for an 'unknown' destination! Every September there was a coach trip to Dartmouth Regatta, and every January a visit to the Palace Theatre in Plymouth for the Pantomime. In late 1951 my mother had to give up the youth club and her membership of the Village Hall Committee due to a difficult pregnancy, which resulted in my youngest sister, Nichola.

Saturday night was whist drive night, which my mother hardly ever missed, I think that they started at about 7.30 pm and had a break at 8.30 pm. At the break, she would meet my father in the Jubilee for a drink, and then go back for the second half, he used to remain at the pub, and she would meet him again afterwards, and they would stay there till closing time. We children were left 'home alone', it didn't worry us one bit at the time, but it makes one wonder how it would go down in this day and age. The main whist drive prizes seemed to be tablecloths or tea towels, which she seemed to win on quite a regular basis.

The photograph below was taken on June 2nd 1953, Coronation Day, and shows the Lugar children dressed up in red, white and blue, from left to right, Nichola, Angela, Peter, and Thomas (Tiny). The Hall in the background looks awfully tatty; it didn't seem to be as bad as that at the time!



Tiny's face shows the marks from when he and Edward Milden collided with Jessie Thornton's gatepost on the previous day, whilst they were both riding on Edward's bike, Edward on the saddle and Tiny on the handlebars. This resulted in my mother having to spend most of that day at Freedom Fields Hospital casualty department with him. Bert Wood took them to the hospital in his car as my father was out in the fields somewhere, and couldn't be contacted.

We used to have the School Concerts in the hall, Miss Axworthy used to go down to Langdon Woods and cut great branches of Laurel which she would lash to the backs of chairs, and distribute them around the stage to make a forest scene for 'Little Red Riding Hood' or some other production. There would be poetry readings, each age group would also give a rendition of a newly learnt song, and of course, the pièce-de-résistance, the Percussion Band! Invariably the piano was so badly out of tune that the school piano would have to be brought up to the hall. We used to volunteer my father for this job with his tractor and trailer. He would arrive at the school with a trailer load of children, all willing helpers to lift the piano onto the trailer where it had to lay on its back. The children would pile back on, with our dog, 'Nipper' as well, and off we would go to the village hall. We had to go round the back of the hall into the field to off load the piano, as there was no way that we could get it up the steps. After the event the whole procedure was reversed, and the piano returned to the school

When I was confirmed in 1955 we had a 'bun fight' in the Hall following the service in the Church. This was on the evening of February 2nd, The Feast of The Presentation, and coincidentally the Feast of St Werburgh as well. This was the first time I had ever met a Bishop and he was most resplendent in his frock coat and gaiters. He was the Right Reverend Norman Clarke, Bishop of Plymouth, and he looked like a Saint who had just stepped out of a stained glass window.

There used to be the Annual Garden Show, at which there was always a huge number of entries, as just about everybody in the village grew their own vegetables. The Colemans at the Smithy always showed flowers and vegetables, Jimmy Milden down at Ford Cottage used to show the most magnificent rhubarb, it wasn't until many years later that we found that it was brought on by the contents of his earth closet! My mother used to enter the cookery categories and had quite a modest number of wins over the years. Sponges, fancy cakes and fruit cakes were usually her forte, but I do remember her doing a dessert dish with jelly and cream and plastic swans, which was very pretty, and very 1950s, but didn't stand up too well in the hall, which used to get very warm in the summer, with the sun beating down on the black roofing felt cladding.

The Elim Church used the hall on Sundays; Mr Arthur Selleck at Hollacombe was a leading light in this organisation. They had their own piano in the hall, which was kept locked, and only to be used by them. This was because it had been blessed, and set aside for the playing of sacred music only. On one occasion they had a marquee on the field behind the hall for about a week, and had revival meetings every evening, we children all thought this was marvellous, especially as when the marquee wasn't being used during the day, we had great fun playing in it, climbing on, and sliding down the roof slopes. We did attend a couple of the evening meetings but after the 'action' "Jesus loves you" type songs this wasn't such good fun, as the sermons were interminably long, and interspersed with people shouting 'Alleluia' in quite an involuntary manner, and at odd intervals.

The only heating in the hall was by three very battered electric fires, which hardly took the chill off. Two of them were quite modern with two bars and were screwed down to wooden boards for stabilisation purposes. The other was quite ancient with a single bar behind which there was a concave mirror, which served to project the heat outwards. The lower part of the casing was of pierced ornamental metalwork behind which was a red light bulb giving the allusion of heat, but which always remained an allusion!

Many years previously there had been a couple of pot bellied stoves. We used to be regaled with stories by the children of a previous generation about climbing up on the roof whilst an event was in progress, and buckets being put over the chimney pipes. These stoves had been got rid of as being a fire risk, and requiring too much work to keep going. The hall was very draughty, it was built up on concrete piers, and although the spaces between were blocked in all around the perimeter, the wind would still come up between the cracks in the floorboards. The windows also let in plenty of draught. For a long time there were no curtains, the black out screens from the war were put up on cinema nights. Eventually my mother, who was a member of the Village Hall committee made curtains for the hall.

There was no sanitation, a chemical lavatory had been added on to the back of the hall, for the benefit of the ladies, and later a corrugated iron urinal for the gentlemen was built outside, on the side the overlooking the road, anybody walking by on the road was left in no doubt as to what was going on.

The emergency exit, which was a single door on the north side of the hut, was considered, by the authorities, to be totally inadequate, which indeed it was. Not only was it inadequate to evacuate the hall successfully, but also that it led out onto a four foot wide bank with a ten foot drop down on to the road. New double doors fitted with 'push bar' opening arrangements were installed on the south side, opening directly into the field. The field belonged to Ed Smith and so if there was an event like a Fete or a Sports Day, Ed's permission had to be sought for its use. I don't know whether a fee was charged but there never seemed to be a problem. Back by the entrance to the hall the field fence would be taken down for ease of access, and the double emergency doors opened as well. The field is now the school field with the School occupying the north west corner. An area at the east end was fenced off and is where the Scout Hut was moved to when the old playing field was made into part of Mewstone Avenue, and the old Scout Hut was in the way of the new road. This part of the field was almost completely occupied by a bomb crater from the war, the sides of which, by the late 1940s, had grown over with grass and which we found was excellent for playing in. This was obviously filled in before the scout hut could be re-sited

When the new hall was built, it was generally believed that the old hall had to be demolished and the site returned to the original owners as the original owner had been the Squire, and the estate had now been broken up, the Village Hall Committee were in effect the owners, so the hall was sold. The Elim Church were the purchasers, and got a bargain, I think they got it for about £150. Within a few weeks of getting it they got mains water laid on, a thing that had been refused to the Village Hall Committee time and time again. The hall was reduced in length and a new entrance made at the west end with a sloped path in from the road. As time went by the roof was replaced, walls rebuilt, and new windows put in, and although the building that stands now is the same shape as the old hall although much shorter, I very much doubt if it contains any of the original materials!

In the photograph right, just to the right of the steps going up to Escalonia, there are the overgrown steps going up to the old village hall. The building that now exists on the site is exactly the same shape, although foreshortened at the other end. Of course the old hall had a corrugated iron roof and walls clad in black roofing felt, We always felt slightly ashamed of it, especially when people from Down Thomas came to anything, what with their posh Silver Jubilee Hall, with all mod cons!



The photograph below was taken in 2004, and shows the Old Village Hall as it is today as the Olive Tree Chapel. It was sold to the Elim Church in 1956 when the new Village Hall opened. Although basically the same proportions, it has been foreshortened on the left, by about one third. The entrance originally was at the right hand end of the building at the top of a flight of steps the entrance is now at the other end approached by a sloping path from the road. The corrugated iron roof has been replaced with tiles, and now that the outer walls have been rebuilt and windows renewed, it is doubtful if there is any of the original fabric remaining!



## WEMBURY SOCIAL CLUB REPORT - 1943

Below is a copy of report made in January 1943, before the "Hut" which had hitherto been known as the "Wembury Social Club" officially became the "Village Hall"

Wembury Social Club

Jan'y 1943

I have pleasure in presenting my fifth annual report as Hon. Secretary to the Wembury Social Club.

The past year has again been a very successful year financially & hope socially from the point of view of the members.

Owing to the continued calls of the various services we have, temporarily I hope lost the attendance of several well known regular attendants at our various entertainments, but nevertheless we have continued to stage our usual Saturday evening Dances, & in addition the Committee has arranged several Whist & Beetle Drives, Socials & Concerts & of course the Cinema Performance every Tuesday without exception.

Committee Meetings have been held regularly each month & have been splendidly attended, the average attendance being 12 monthly.

Owing to transport and other difficulties it has been impossible to provide a Dance Band for weekend Dances, but a splendid substitute has been the provision of a radiogram & amplifier etc.

During Warships Week held in Jan'y last year in Wembury, the committee made an entertainment for each night in a special effort to swell the total, the result being that £125 was invested on behalf of the Club.

Special efforts during the year have been made for War Charities such as a Dance in aid of the Red Cross & St John First Aid to Russia Fund, Wembury First Aid Point, culminating in a Special Dance in aid of the Prisoners of War Fund which resulted in a magnificent sum of £39 being raised. A Flag Day in aid of the Merchant Sailors under the auspices of the British Sailors Society was organised in August last & resulted in £3.9s.4d being sent to the Fund. During the latter part of the year National Savings Stamps have been given as prizes at various functions.

Membership for 1942 was practically the same as in 1941, but it would be gratifying & encouraging to the Committee if some of the existing members could persuade at least one non-member to join.

Every effort has been made & I hope will be continued to be made by the committee elected to provide recreation for old and young, which is so necessary for all in these trying times & also do as much as possible financially to help the

War Effort & at the same time keeping our main object in view - A New Social Hall for Wembury - & I hope that all members will agree that the Committee have succeeded as far as possible within their power.

J. Rushworth  
Hon. Secy.  
Wembury Social

Club.

LETTER OF 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1946

Below is a copy of a letter from Doctor Boucher dated 18<sup>th</sup> May 1946 with reference to the parlous state of the sanitation at the Village Hall. The Urinal was rebuilt in the early 1950s on exactly the same lines as before, so there was no change there, except that a roof was provided. A piped water supply was never laid on, water had to be fetched by bucket from either the 'shoot' at Watergate, or from Mrs Thornton's at No.1 Knighton Villas. We had to wait ten years for new hall, not two or three as Doctor Boucher envisaged.

18 May 1946  
From Dr. H. B. Boucher  
Southcross, Wembury, Devon.  
The Secretary.  
Village Hall, Knighton.  
SANITATION - VILLAGE HALL - KNIGHTON

The present sanitary condition of the Village Hall is very unsatisfactory. As it is unlikely that a new hall will be built for two or three years, I beg to request the Committee to give their urgent attention to this matter, and I propose to ask the Committee at their next meeting to adopt this report.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

There is a lot of rubbish lying around the hut, which ought to be cleared away. A dustbin should be provided into which all old tins and broken crockery should be put. Since the village hall pays rates the dustbin can be emptied by the refuse collectors of the Rural District Council.

WATER

I strongly recommend that a piped water supply be provided. It seems well worth while spending a little money on this, seeing that the hall will have to serve for a matter of years yet. It will be a great assistance for cleaning and washing up, to have an abundant supply of piped water.

LAVATORY ACCOMMODATION

For WOMEN. I understand an Elsan closet is provided at the end of the hut. I have not seen this but I presume it is satisfactory.

For MEN. There is virtually no accommodation at all. Some kind of accommodation appears to be very necessary in view of the games and other functions that are held in the hall. The corrugated-iron structure intended for a urinal is quite inadequate. Three of the posts supporting it have broken off at ground level and the whole structure is liable to fall into the road. The cement floor is unclean and cracked. I recommend that this structure be removed and replaced by a men's lavatory consisting of an Elsan closet in one compartment and a urinal adjoining, similar to the present one, but having a roof and draining into a bucket, which will have to be emptied after each function at the hall. A soakage pit would not be satisfactory in the present situation (which appears to be the only site available) owing to the elevated position immediately adjoining the road. Therefore some kind of bucket latrine or water carriage appears to be essential.

Hugh B. Boucher

LETTER OF 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1947

Below is a copy of a letter from Mr Fitzwalter of Crownhill, Plymouth, dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 1947, with reference to the provision of a Dance Band for the Saturday night dances at the Village Hall.

95 Old Woodlands Road,  
Crownhill,  
PLYMOUTH, Devon.  
25th April, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Having read a report in the South Devon Times that you have received a set-back in your village hall entertainments, I feel prompted to offer some assistance.

Apparently you have enjoyed a series of successful dances which are now threatened by the absence of a suitable band.

May I be allowed to offer the services of the "Meteor" Dance Orchestra (4 musicians) for your future entertainment. The band is lively and very experienced and I feel sure they would meet your requirements.

It would be appreciated if you could let me know the vacant dates together with the approximate fee you are prepared to pay as soon as possible, please.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

*L. G. Fitzwalter.*

The Secretary,  
Village Hall Committee,  
WESBURY,  
Nr. Plymouth.

LETTER OF 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1947

Below is a copy of a letter from the Eagle Sound Film Service, dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 1947, with reference to the Tuesday night film shows at the Village Hall.

**The EAGLE SOUND FILM SERVICE**

91, Old Town Street  
PLYMOUTH

S W Agents for  
Sound Services Ltd  
Merton Park Studios  
LONDON

Telephone Plymouth 4542  
Telegrams  
'Eagle Plymouth'  
OPERATORS OF MOBILE  
SOUND FILM EQUIPMENT

24th July 1947

Secretary,  
Village Hall Committee,  
WEMBURY.  
Devon.

Our Ref :- RDH/DE

Dear Sir (or Madam),

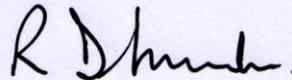
Re: Village Hall, Wembury

For some considerable time we have been running  
the film shows at the above hall at a financial loss.

We fully appreciate that this is in no way  
connected with hall facilities, but simply to other circumstances.

Would your committee care to assist to maintain  
the shows by making some concession off the rentals during the summer months.

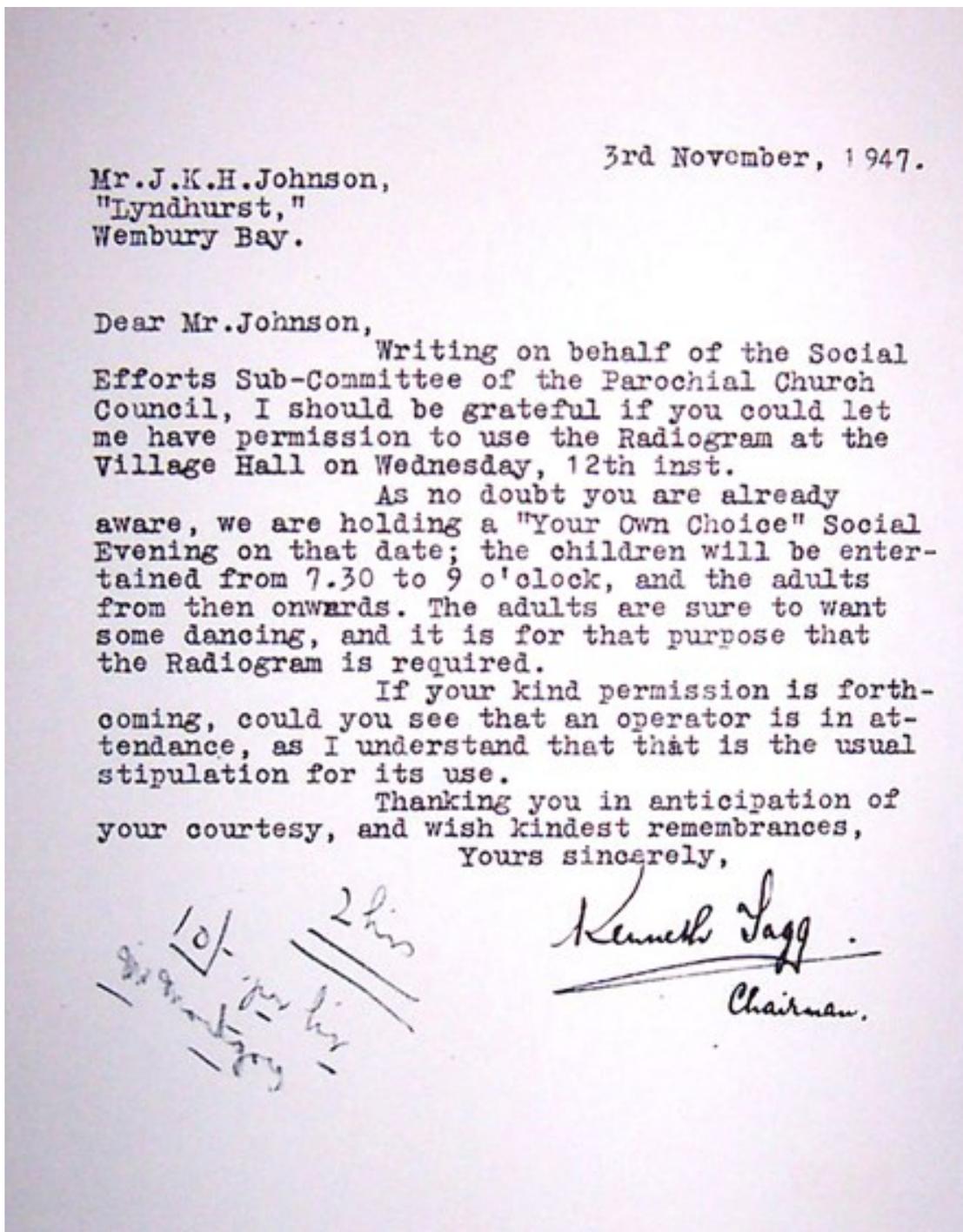
Yours faithfully



Managing Director  
THE EAGLE SOUND FILM  
SERVICE.

LETTER OF 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 1947

Below is a copy of a letter from the Vicar, the Revd Kenneth Tagg, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1947, regarding the use of the radiogram at the Village Hall.

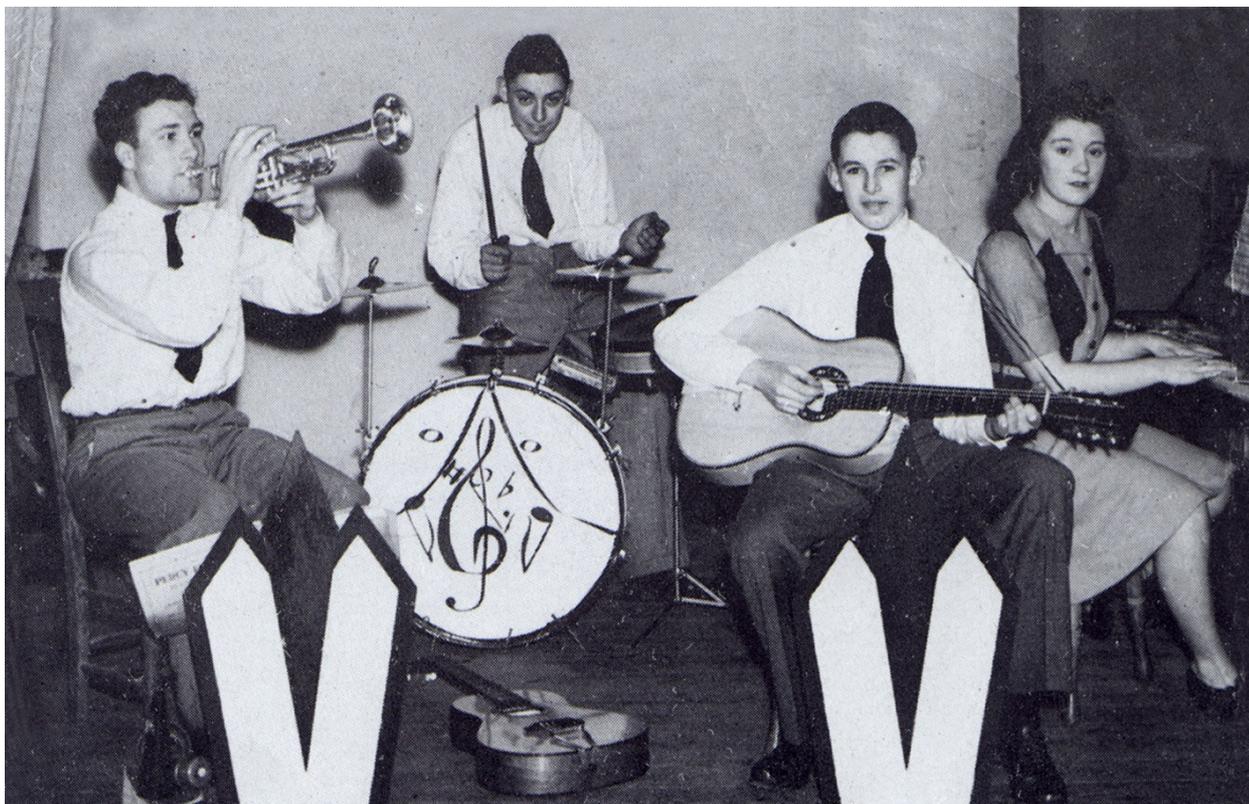


## WEMBURY DANCE BAND 1940s

The Wembury Dance Band was formed in the early 1940s by Clem Spencer. They played most Saturdays evenings for dances held in the old village hall.

It is believed that air raid warnings largely went unheeded - the band played on!

Also shown in the photograph are Terry Griffin, Fred O'Connor and Barbara Mitchell at the piano.



## OLD VILLAGE HALL - WEMBURY DRAMATIC SOCIETY

The Wembury Amateur Dramatic Society was formed in 1949 and they put on 3 very good farces in 1950 and 1951. The group encompassed all ages, ranging from Beatrice Pitts in her 70s to Maureen Woods who was about 15 years old. The village hall stage 15 feet wide, was dismantled in 1952 with the intention of it being repositioned further into the hall. This never came about, and combined with other factors, one being that the Vicar, one of the leading lights in the organisation, was moving on to pastures new, the society folded.

### ROOKERY NOOK - MARCH 1950

Names from left to right in the photograph

Mervyn Pitts	(Stage Crew)
Viv Thomas	(Stage Crew)
Jack Priest	(Kenneth Tagg, the Vicar)
Patsy Somerville	
Raymond Brown	
Beatrice Pitts	
Maureen Wood	
Joe McClorry	
Wyn Maynard	(Headmistress, Wembury School)
Samuel Rodgers	
Beryl Lugar	
Dennis Horwell	(Seated)
Barbara Snell	(Seated)



LETTER OF 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1945

Below is a copy of a letter dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 1945 with reference to the formation of a committee to discuss the provision of a War Memorial.

Puange,  
Knighton,  
WEMBURY,  
S.DEVON.  
4 / 8 / 45.

Dear Sir or Madam,

At a Parish Meeting called by the Chairman of the Wembury Parish Council on August 1st the following Resolution was passed.

That a committee be formed, representative of all sections and interests in the Parish to survey and examine suggestions for a War Memorial, and that this Committee report their recommendation to the Public within a given time.

Mr R. P. Giles was elected Chairman, with myself as Hon. Secretary.

It was agreed that the following Associations be asked to send one representative each to sit on this Committee, and that at a later date two members of the Community, of goodwill, but detached from those Associations, be also invited to join the Committee.

Wembury Village Hall.	Parish Council.
Parochial Church Council.	School Managers.
Silver Jubilee Hall.	Council Preservation
Nursing Association.	of Rural England.
Young Peoples Evening.	
Boy Scouts & Girl Guides.	
Methodist Church.	
British Legion.	
St. Johns Ambulance.	
Jubilee Darts Club.	
Mothers Union.	

Will you therefore kindly inform me if the Committee of "*Wembury*.....  
*Village Hall*....." will agree to select their representative and forward me his or her name and address at your earliest convenience.

Thanking your committee in anticipation of their co-operation, which the Chairman feels sure your Association will afford, in enabling this Parish to select a War Memorial in some way reflective of the cause for which the men and women of our nation have given their lives.

Yours faithfully,

A C HICKEY, Hon. Sec.

## PARISH WAR MEMORIALS

In October 1945, a committee was appointed for the raising of funds in order to provide War Memorials in the Parish.

### Wembury War Memorial

At a Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Wembury, on Wednesday, 17th October, 1945, it was decided that the Wembury War Memorial shall be Village Hall on the Knighton side of the Parish and a Playground at Down Thomas.

The meeting decided that the target to be aimed for shall be £1,000.

The Committee appointed to organise the raising of the funds needed is as follows:-

	<i>Representing</i>
Captain R. P. Giles (Chairman)	Silver Jubilee Hall, Down Thomas.
Captain L. C. E. Ayre, C.B.E., R.N. (Hon Treasurer)	Village Hall.
Mr J. H. K. Johnson (Hon Secretary)	Wembury Bay.
Captain P. G. E. Burrowes	Parochial Church Council.
Mrs Burrowes	Mother's Union.
Mrs Mitchell	Youth Club.
Mrs Watts	Methodist Church, Down Thomas.
Mr F. J. Cole	British Legion.
Mr G. S. Dilleigh	Parish Council.
Rev. K. Tagg	Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.
Mr G. H. Avery	Cottage Gardeners' Association.
Mr G. S. Thompson	Wembury Point.
Mrs G. S. Thompson	Wembury Point.
Mr P. R. Stebbing	Heybrook Bay.
Mrs Trott	Heybrook Bay.
Mr H. Lowe	Hollacombe.
Mrs H. Lowe	Hollacombe
Mr M. Dawes	Church Road.
Mrs M. Dawes	Church Road.
Mrs G. S. Dilleigh	Down Thomas, Bovisand, Andern, and Manorbourne Road.
Mr C. Young	The Cliffs, Wembury.
Mr G. G. Bramwells	Langdon.
Mr H. Wills	Wembury Bay.
Mrs H. Wills	Wembury Bay.

The committee, in the expectation that this appeal for subscriptions to the Wembury War Memorial Fund will commend itself to everyone in the Parish, has decided to hold a house-to-house collection. It is their earnest hope that all will support the Fund, so that we may establish a Memorial to the glory of God and in grateful remembrance of those who gave their lives for their King and Country in the late war and in honour of those others who also served and who have been spared.

Donations can be handed to the collectors or sent to the Honorary Treasurer at Four Corners, Wembury.

**R. P. GILES**

10th December, 1945.

Chairman, Wembury War Memorial Fund.

WAR MEMORIAL FUND AS AT MARCH 1946

In March 1946 the first list of donations for the War Memorial was published.

**Wembury War Memorial Fund**  
**First list of Donations (up to 8th March 1946)**

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Anonymous	1	0	0				
Mrs Rossiter (Watergate)	1	1	0	<i>Brought forward</i>	71	15	6
Mrs Battan		2	0	Mr & Mrs L G Dilleigh	20	0	0
Mrs Richards		2	6	P B H & A Dilleigh	1	1	0
Miss Carey-Elwes		5	0	Mr A Roberts (Walkerin)	1	0	0
Mr Morell		10	0	Mrs A Roberts (Walkerin)	1	0	0
Mrs Slade		3	0	Mr & Mrs Gummow (Rio Vista)		10	0
Mrs Harrop		2	6	Mrs Brown (Rio Vista)		10	0
Captain & Mrs Burrows (Church Road)	1	1	0	Mrs Burge (S Andern)	1	0	0
Miss E J Buckham (Cross Park Road)	2	2	0	Mr & Mrs Thornton-Brocklebank (Tosmark)	1	1	0
Mr McBean (Gabber)		10	0	Mr & Mrs Playne (Andern)		11	0
Mrs McBean (Gabber)		10	0	Mr & Mrs Lowe (Bethel)	3	3	0
Mr P Avery (Gabber)		5	0	Mr & Mrs Lovett (Fairfield)	3	3	0
Mrs P Avery (Gabber)		5	0	Mr & Mrs Williams (Westknapps)	3	3	0
Mr G Smith (Gabber)		2	6	Mrs Atwell (Higher Leyford)	2	2	0
Mrs Smith Senr (Gabber)		5	0	Mrs Stone (Fairfield)	1	1	0
Mr R Wills (Gabber)		2	6	Mr & Mrs Snell (Marlet)	1	0	0
Mr W Watts (Gabber)		5	0	Mr & Mrs Taylor (Dohar)	3	3	0
Mrs W Watts (Gabber)		5	0	Anonymous	1	0	0
Captain & Mrs L C E Ayre (Knighton)	10	10	0	Anonymous	1	0	0
Lt & Mrs L W R Covey-Crump (Knighton)	2	2	0	Mrs Coleman (Spriddlestone)		10	0
Miss Ayre (Knighton)	1	0	0	Mr & Mrs Laine (Bethel)		5	0
Miss L Philips (Hoe Gardens, Plymouth)	1	0	0	Mr & Mrs Richardson (Moorland View)		4	0
Miss H Philips (Hoe Gardens, Plymouth)	1	0	0	Mrs Rickard (Spriddlestone Lodge)		2	6
Mr & Mrs Johnson (Lyndhurst)	2	2	0	Mrs Spencer (Kitley View)		10	0
Mr & Mrs Wills (Mill Cafe)	2	0	0	Mrs Bligh (North Pixie)		10	0
Mr & Mrs Young (The Cliffs)	1	1	0	Mr Spittle (Vulcan House)		10	0
Mrs Heath (Church Road)		2	6	Mrs Mitchell (Rosemorran)		10	0
Mr & Mrs Dawes (Bay Cottage)	1	1	0	Mrs Fone (Pixie Well)		2	6
Mr & Mrs G S Thompson (Wembury Point)	1	1	0	Mr Brookyn (Riverston)		5	0
Mr & Mrs Andrewartha (Wembury Point)		10	0	Mrs Henshaw (Wembury Lodge)		2	6
Mrs Davey (Wembury Point)		10	0	Mrs Colthard (Buena Vista)		2	6
Mr & Mrs Nicholson (Wembury Point)		10	0	Mrs Harvey (The Brake)		5	0
Mr & Mrs Rossiter (Wembury Point)		7	6	Mrs Casley (The Brake)		2	6
Anonymous		6	0	Mrs Wrae (Newlyn)		5	0
Mrs Stansell (Tribbetts)		5	0	Mrs Gibson (Rose Cottage)		5	0
Mr & Mrs Fildes (Wembury Point)		5	0	Miss Dean (Springfield)		5	0
Mrs G Andrewartha (Wembury Point)		2	6	Mrs Fuzzeland (Pixie Well)		2	6
Mrs Copper (Wembury Point)		2	6	Anonymous		10	0
Mrs Spreat (Wembury Point)		2	6	Anonymous		5	0
Anonymous		2	6	Anonymous		5	0
Mrs Lancaster (Wembury Point)		2	6	Mr Gregory (Train Hill)		2	6
Mrs Smith (Wembury Point)		2	6	Mr Little (Train Hill)		10	0
Mr D A Trott (Heybrook)	1	1	0	Mrs Hannaford (Spirowell Farm)	2	2	0
Miss Chapman (Heybrook)		5	0	Mr Perry (Church Road)	1	0	0
Miss Brothers (Heybrook)		10	0	Mrs Howes (Tygwyn)	1	0	0
Miss Beavan (Heybrook)	2	2	0	Miss Ballard (Tygwyn)	1	0	0
Mr & Mrs McKechnie (Heybrook)	12	6		Mr & Mrs Woolf (The Stores)	1	0	0
Anonymous (Heybrook)	10	0		Mr & Mrs Rowland (Train Farm)	1	0	0
Mrs Beardsley (Heybrook)	10	0		Mrs Russell (Ruskin Cottage)		10	0
Mr & Mrs Stansell (Heybrook)	1	1	0	Mr Bickford (Church Road)		10	6
Mrs Hodson (Heybrook)	10	0		Mrs Fox (Ijora)		5	0
Mr & Mrs Trennaman (Heybrook)	2	0	0	Mrs Turner (Church Road)		5	0
Mr & Mrs G Avery (Down Thomas)	5	0	0	Mrs Waters (Church Road)		5	0
Diane Avery (Down Thomas)		2	0	Mrs Jolliffe (Church Road)		5	0
Mr & Mrs A Cole (Down Thomas)		5	0	Mrs Hendy (Knighton)		5	0
Mr & Mrs Hart (Down Thoms)	1	1	0	Mr & Mrs Smallridge (West Wembury)		5	0
Mr & Mrs F J Cole (Down Thomas)	1	0	0	Mr Davies		2	6
Sylvia & Shirley Toms (Down Thomas)		2	0	Mrs O'Connor		2	6
Mrs R G Hammett (Down Thomas)		2	6	Mrs Rogers (Cross Park Road)		2	6
Mrs Brown & Miss Hammett (Down Thomas)		3	0	Mrs Axworthy (Knighton)		2	6
Miss Meek		1	0	Mr & Miss Coleman (Knighton)		2	6
Mr & Mrs Wright		5	0	Mrs Beer (West Wembury)		2	6
Mr & Mrs S C Thornton		4	0	Mrs Gent		2	0
Mrs Le Brun		5	0	Mr Ellis		2	0
Mrs C Smith		2	0	Mrs Mumford (Knighton)		3	0
Mr & Mrs J Pursley (Court Barton)	5	0	0	Mrs J Hendy		2	0
Mr & Mrs Wilcocks (New Inn)	2	0	0	Mrs Harris (Knighton Villas)		2	0
Mr Wilcocks Junr (New Inn)		5	0	Mrs Norsworthy		1	0
Mr & Mrs White (P.O. Down Thomas)	2	2	0	Mr Webber		1	0
Mr & Mrs Newton (Garage, Down Thomas)	2	0	0	Mrs Elliott		1	0
Mr A Staddon (Staddon Court)	10	0	0	Mrs Flood		1	0
Mr & Mrs H Walke & Family (Down Thomas)	10	0	0	Mrs Keane (Knighton)		1	0
The Misses Norris (Staddon Court)	7	6		Mrs Thornton (Knighton Villas)		3	0
Mr & Mrs Knight (Manor Cottage)		5	0	Mrs Pitts & Family (Knighton Hill)		1	0
Mr G Sherril (Manor Farm)		10	0	Mrs Thomas (Knighton Hill)		2	0
Captain & Mrs R P Giles	5	0	0	Mrs Walke (Knighton Hill)		2	0
Mr & Mrs Wills		3	0	Anonymous		10	0
Kathleen & Phyllis Sowden		2	0	Eagle Oil Shipping Co.Ltd (per Mrs F Hartas)	26	5	0
				<i>Total</i>	162	3	6
<i>Carried Forward</i>	71	15	6				

The opening of the hall was not without controversy!

Western Evening Herald 28<sup>th</sup> July 1956

## HE SAYS HIS SON SHOULD OPEN HALL

### M.P. WILL HAND KEY TO WEMBURY BOY

**The announcement that Sir Henry Studholme, M.P. was to open the new Wembury Village Hall this afternoon raised a local criticism.**

Mr. A. J. Gilbert of West Wembury Farm claims that the opening of the hall by Sir Henry Studholme breaks the conditions under which residents in the district were persuaded to give money towards its building.

Some time ago Mr Gilbert says a statement was issued by the Wembury Village Hall Committee to the effect that each resident contributing a minimum of 5s to the fund for building the hall would be entitled to put the name of a child forward for entry in a competition.

Mr Gilbert says a notice issued by the committee stated that the child who won the competition would "have the honour of opening the new hall upon completion".

Mr Gilbert was one of the residents to contribute the necessary 5s, and his eight year old son Julian, was announced as the winner of the competition.

### BOUGHT PROGRAMME

When he bought a copy of the souvenir programme of the occasion he saw an announcement on the front page that the opening would be by Sir Henry Studholme.

On the inside page was a statement that Sir Henry would "hand the key to the child who would unlock the door".

In a letter to the secretary (Mr Leslie Jones), Mr Gilbert asked whether it would be in order to say that the public were persuaded to part with their money on condition that the winner of the competition would open the new hall.

He pointed out that the official programme stated that the opening would be by Sir Henry Studholme.

Mr Gilbert told the "Western Evening Herald" today that there was considerable indignation in the village about the matter.

He declared that some members of the committee were refusing to sell the souvenir programme.

Western Evening Herald 30<sup>th</sup> July 1956

## M.P. AND BOY OF 8 JOINTLY OPEN WEMBURY HALL

### CHILD WON HONOUR IN COMPETITION - RECEIVES MINIATURE SILVER KEY

**Wembury's new village hall, built at a cost of £4,200, was jointly opened on Saturday by Sir Henry Studholme M.P. for Tavistock, and eight year old Julian Gilbert. Julian unlocked the door and Sir Henry declared the hall open**

The fact that Wembury now has a hall which will compare to any village hall in the county is due primarily to the painstaking endeavours of the villagers themselves. Most of the building fund was raised during the war.

The funds raised were augmented by a further £300 raised by the War Memorial committee, but the government embargo on the building of such premises after the war meant that it was not until just over a year ago that the work on the new hall could start.

### "5s BRICKS"

Then the villagers, the National Council of Social Service, the Devon Education Committee, and local organisations took steps to complete the task.

Since further money was needed those responsible hit upon a scheme of selling 5s bricks towards the building fund. Each resident buying a brick was entitled to put forward the name of a child to enter a competition, and to the winner would fall the honour of opening the hall.

This accounted for Julian unlocking the door. A further £1,400 was received from the Ministry of Education, and at the time of the opening ceremony only £150 was owing on the building.

For his part in the proceedings Julian was presented with a miniature replica silver key of the hall by Sir Henry Studholme, who presented the silver key itself to six year old Susan Johnson, whose father Mr J. H. Johnson had been secretary of the fund for 10 years before moving to Bristol.

Following the blessing of the hall by the vicar the Rev G.N. Davidson, Sir Henry Studholme unveiled a coronation seat provided from surplus funds raised by the Coronation Committee, and presented to the people of Wembury

## OPENING OF THE NEW VILLAGE HALL

The photograph below shows the opening of the New Village Hall by Sir Henry Studholme on Saturday 28th July 1956. Sir Henry had received his Knighthood for services to Her Majesty the Queen only about three weeks earlier on the 3rd July.

There was great excitement on the day as this was the culmination of many years of fundraising that had begun in 1938. Of course the Second World War had got in the way of things, and it was decided after that conflict that the new hall be should designated a War Memorial. Not only to those who had fallen in that war but also to those who had fallen in the First World War.

The photograph shows the actual opening of the hall taking place. The speechmaking was over and the nominated child was trying to open the door with the solid silver key, which had been made by Sid Smith especially for the occasion. I believe that the child was Julian Gilbert who lived at West Wembury Farm. Unfortunately the silver key would not operate the lock, I think that there was some fear of it breaking off in the lock, and so they had to revert to using the ordinary steel key.

In the photograph can be made out, on the extreme left in the blue print dress, Mrs Beaty Spencer from Hollacombe, next to her in the white cardigan and black hairband, Mrs Russell from Ruskin Cottage, next to her with the spectacles and just her face showing, Miss Maynard the Headmistress of Wembury School. In front of her, the boy with the light coloured hair and wearing an open necked shirt is Ivor Carn, and the little boy beside him in red, is his younger brother Andrew. Further over to the right, the black haired gentleman in the grey suit and tie, Jack Webber from Cross Park Road, the gentleman next to him, the Vicar, the Revd Gerard Davidson, the boy with the blonde hair between them is myself. Next to the Vicar, Robert Giles from Princes Farm. Just about in the centre of the photograph the lady in the grey dress looking towards the hall, Mrs Hilda Loram from 'Sunnydale', West Wembury, whose son Donald was one of those who died in the war. The man in the grey suit with his back to the camera, Mr Ted Ball from Cross Park Road, who was Vice Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, the man in the trilby hat, facing him, Captain Ayre, President and Chairman of the Village Hall committee, and next to them also in a grey suit, Sir Henry Studholme. The gentleman in the foreground of the photograph just left of centre is Mr Alfred Bojanitz of Hollacombe, who was dressed as King Neptune.



## VILLAGE HALL OPENING – SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

### SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Official Opening

of the New

# WEMBURY VILLAGE HALL

by

SIR HENRY STUDHOLME, Bt., C.V.O., M.P.

at 2.30 p.m.

Saturday, 28th July, 1956

PRICE . SIXPENCE

The old Village Hall, an ex-Army hut of 1914-18 vintage, was presented to the village in 1922 by the late Mr. Cory, of Langdon Court, who also provided the site.

This wooden building passed through various vicissitudes until in 1938 a start was made to raise funds for the building of a new Hall.

During the 1939-45 War large numbers of Service personnel were entertained in the Hall. Dances, cinema shows, concerts, etc., were held regularly—even during the progress of air raids.

Most of the building fund was obtained during the period of the war. The fund further increased by £300 from the money raised by the War Memorial Committee.

When in 1955 Government grants towards the cost of building village halls became available it was decided to proceed at once with the erection of the new Hall.

A Hall costing £4,200 was planned and an application for a grant of £1,400 was made to the Ministry of Education. Through the good offices of the then Mr. H. G. Studholme, M.P., Mr. A. H. Popham, National Council of Social Service, and the Devon Education Committee this grant was obtained.

Meanwhile, the invested capital, which is in Government Stock, has suffered serious depreciation, and at the date of opening there is a deficit of approximately £150 on the cost of the building.

### Brief Description of the New Hall

**Architect:** Mr. W. ROSEVEARE, M. Inst. R.A.

**Main Contractor:** Messrs. W. COOPER & Son.

The building is a steel-framed structure of concrete block cavity walls on a solid brick and concrete base and is 65 feet long and 30 feet wide. The external walls are rendered in rough-cast down to floor level. The roof is of asbestos cement sheeting and fully ventilated. The main entrance leads to a vestibule with a kitchen on the left and ladies' and gentlemen's toilets on the right, while ahead lies the auditorium, having a permanent stage at the far end, with storage space below. The vestibule, kitchen, and toilets, which are fully equipped, have tiled floors and between the ceiling of this section and the roof is a storage space with access from the auditorium. The auditorium has a polished hardwood block floor and a suspended ceiling following the contour of the apex roof. On the left (facing the stage) is the emergency exit. The auditorium measures 38 feet by 30 feet and has a seating capacity of approximately 200. The stage is 13 feet deep and can be made the full width of the Hall by means of two movable stair extensions. The proscenium opening is 8 feet high and 17 feet 6 inches wide. The end wall at the back of the stage has been left unfinished, as it is hoped to provide a billiard room extension behind the stage at some future date. The building is adequately provided with windows and there is electric lighting by globes suspended from the ceiling. The interior of the building and porches have been decorated in a variety of attractive and cheerful colours.

## COMMITTEE OF THE WEMBURY VILLAGE HALL, 1956.

**President and Chairman:** Captain L. C. E. AYRE,  
C.B.E., R.N.

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. W. E. BALL.

**Hon. Secretary:** Mr. L. ADAMS JONES, M.A.

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mr. J. H. WEBBER.

**Mrs. BURROWES, Mr. BOJANITZ, Mrs. EVERITT,  
Rev. G. N. DAVIDSON, Mrs. JESSEP, Mr. J. EVERITT,  
Miss JONES, Mr. R. P. JESSEP, Mrs. ROWE,  
Mr. F. C. ROWLAND, Mrs. SPENCER, Mr. C. P.  
SOPPET, B.Sc.**

**Vice-Presidents:** Mrs. AYRE, Mr. J. K. H. JOHNSON.

**Caretaker:** Mr. P. P. J. CRAGO, Church Road, Wembury

### REGULAR VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES.

**Youth Club.**—Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. Bojanitz.  
Boys and girls under 16 years of age. Every Thursday.

**Tennis Club.**—Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Everitt.  
Senior Section age 16 and over. Junior Section 14  
and 15. Meetings throughout the summer at the hard  
court at Wembury House, which the Club is allowed  
to use by the kind permission of Sir Henry and Lady  
Studholme.

**Whist Drives or Dances** every Saturday night at  
7.30. The Whist Drives held on the third Saturday  
of each month are organised by the Wembury Football  
Club.

**News Letter.**—The Wembury News Letter and  
Programme Parade was first issued in May, 1955, under  
the direction of the Village Hall Management Com-  
mittee and edited by Mrs. Burrowes, of Wendy  
Cottage, Church Road, Wembury. The aim of this  
publication is to keep subscribers informed of details

of all activities taking place in the Village. The sub-  
scription is 2s. 6d. per 12 monthly issues. If you are  
not already a subscriber, why not send 2s. 6d. to the  
Editor and have your name added to the mailing list?

Wembury now has a public building with which  
the residents should be well satisfied and which is  
suitable for functions of all kinds.

The Management Committee is commencing its  
work in these new premises handicapped by a debt  
of approximately £150. In order of priority the Com-  
mittee aims to clear the debt as quickly as possible,  
cover working expenses and depreciation, and provide  
equipment in keeping with the new Hall. These  
objectives will be attained only if the Hall is used to  
capacity and if the residents give their full support.  
Please remember it is YOUR HALL. The Manage-  
ment Committee will organise functions, etc., for  
which a desire is expressed by residents and trusts  
that such functions will be well patronised.

The Hall is available for hire for much of each  
week at moderate charges and organisers of dances,  
whist drives, concerts, dramatic entertainments,  
whether in or out of Wembury, are invited to address  
enquiries to Mr. L. Adams Jones, Higher Howden,  
Beach View Crescent, Wembury, who will gladly give  
all information and help.

You may wish to have a children's party or a  
wedding reception—the new Village Hall is the ideal  
place. If you are the organiser of an outing from a  
place some distance away, why not consider a coach  
drive to Wembury, a bathe or ramble along the cliffs,  
and finish with tea and dance or whist drive in the  
Village Hall before returning home?

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**2.15 p.m.**—All present to assemble outside the Hall  
clear of the entrance. Fancy Dress Competitors  
line access to the entrance. Seats will be provided  
for older people.

**2.30 p.m.**—Sir Henry Studholme hands the key to the  
child who will unlock the door. The Chairman  
and Sir Henry, followed by the Committee, enter  
the Hall and take up position on the stage and the  
spectators gather in the auditorium. The Chair-  
man introduces Sir Henry, whose reply will be  
followed by a vote of thanks. Blessing of the Hall  
by the Rev. G. N. Davidson, Vicar of Wembury.  
The child who unlocked the door receives a mini-  
ature of the key used. Miss Susan Johnson, on  
behalf of Mr. J. K. H. Johnson, is presented with  
the silver key used at the unlocking of the door.  
Judging of the Fancy Dress Competitors of school  
age. Sir Henry Studholme unveils the Coronation  
Seat, which has been provided by the Coronation  
Committee from surplus funds and presented by  
them to the residents of Wembury.

**3.30 to 6.30.**—Programme of outdoor events, details of  
which are given on the opposite page.

**8.0 to 11.45.**—Grand Dance to music provided by  
A. Holloway's Rhythm Band. Spot waltz.  
Admission 3/- (lower age limit 16 years). Running  
Buffet. Competition. Bus Service see opposite  
page.

**BRICKS.**—Have you bought a Book of Bricks? If not  
get in touch with the Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. E.  
Ball.

## Outdoor Events

**3.30-6.30 p.m.**

Boys' and Girls' Races at 10-minute intervals. Entrance  
1d. per race. Prizes. Organiser, Miss Maynard.  
Skittles. Continuous. Prizes. Organiser, Mr. F. C.  
Rowland.

Putting. Continuous. Organiser, Mr. R. P. Jessep.

Lucky Dip. Continuous. Organiser, Mrs. Everitt.  
Everitt.

Treasure Hunt. Continuous. Prizes. Organiser, The  
Vicar.

Wheel. Continuous. Prizes. Organiser, Mr. A.  
Bojanitz.

Numerous Competitions.

**3.30-3.40 p.m.**—Comic Football Match. Organiser, Mr.  
Perrin.

**4.0-5.0 p.m.**—Teas will be served by the Ladies' Com-  
mittee. Choice of Snack Bar or Table Service.  
Ices and soft drinks.

Public address equipment kindly provided by  
Messrs. Moon and Sons (Pianos), Ltd.

**BUSES.**—The Western National Omnibus Co.,  
Ltd., is providing augmented services between Ply-  
mouth and Wembury throughout the afternoon and  
evening and has arranged a special service for dance  
patrons, leaving Wembury for Plymouth at midnight.  
Normal fares.

The Management Committee wishes to thank all  
friends and supporters who have given prizes, refresh-  
ments, etc., or have helped in other ways.

**CAR PARK.**—A free Car Park is available  
adjacent to the Hall, but the Committee cannot accept  
any responsibility for any loss or damage arising from  
its use.

## AND THE FUNDRAISING WENT ON

For a long time after the new Village Hall opened the fundraising went on. There was the loan of £150 for the amount still outstanding on the building of the hall. £150 doesn't sound a lot to us today (2006), but in 1956 £150 would completely furnish the average three bedroomed house.

There were also things like the new electric heaters that had to be paid for. Apart from two ancient electric fires that had done sterling service in the old hall there was no heating at all in the new hall when it first opened in 1956. New equipment was also needed as most of the furniture was in poor condition having been moved across from the old hall.

In the summer of 1957 a barbecue was organised to take place on Wembury Beach in aid of Village Hall funds. In the 1950s barbecues were special events, unlike today, where everybody has facilities at home in their back gardens. This event entailed the provision of four huge catering barbecue grills with the chefs to operate them. These were organised by Dennis Baskerville from the Post Office. The sausages and rolls were obtained through the Royal Navy at HMS Cambridge, and that is all there was, the burger had not yet made an appearance (except in the recently opened Wimpy Bar in Plymouth). The grills were set up on the grassed area between the bottom of the steps and the stream.

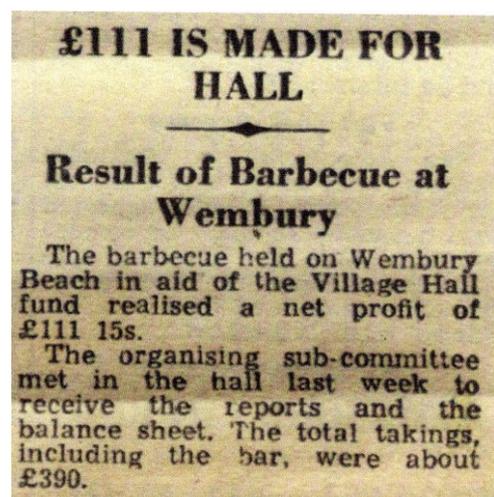
Electricity was brought from the church; the sailors from HMS Cambridge rigged it. There were strings of lights coming from the car park down the steps and along the back of the beach. A power supply was also laid on to the marquee for lighting. The band only needed lights to illuminate their music; there were no electronic keyboards or synthesisers in those days. The only keyboard belonged to the piano, which had been manhandled down the steps and into the marquee!

The marquee was put up on the field behind the beach in which there was a bar run by 'Popplestones' of Plymouth. This was open throughout the afternoon and into the evening for the dance. There were sideshows in the field and various things on the beach during the afternoon. There was something, which entailed a launch from RAF Mountbatten coming into the bay, and flashing different coloured lights towards the beach, I cannot remember what all that was about now.

Having never run such an event before nobody had any idea how many sausages or rolls would be needed. So they rather over estimated and at the end of the evening all of the helpers went home with a few links of sausages and a bag of rolls! It was a highly successful event and a net profit of £111.15s (£111.75) was made for Village Hall Funds, which today would equate to about £4,500.

Flushed by success, the following year (1958), a whole week of events was attempted, 'Wembury Week' it was called. Regrettably they rather over reached themselves, and made a net loss. There was just not a large enough attendance at most of the events to make them pay. The Barbecue was held in the field outside of the Village Hall (now Barton Close), but just did not have the same appeal as the beach. In the previous year, what helped greatly to boost the profits of the beach barbecue was that all the day-trippers from Plymouth, who used to come in droves out to Wembury Beach, joined in as well.

The newspaper cutting is from the South Devon times of 23rd August 1957.



## WEMBURY WAR MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

The photograph was taken in March 1995.

The main part of the hall was built in 1956. It was a very basic building of five bays. The easternmost one containing the stage; the three central ones, the main hall, with polished hardwood block floor; and the westernmost one, the entrance foyer, (with projection room or storeroom over), kitchen on the left and lavatories on the right. In the photograph this would be from where the roof level changes going back to the right of side of the blue door near the end.



The opening of the hall took place on Saturday 28th of July 1956, by Sir Henry Studholme, the actual opening ceremony was at 2.30 pm which was attended by a choir from Bremen. This was not too well received back then, with memories of the war still fresh in many people's minds, and the fact that the building was a War Memorial. This was in spite of the fact that we had German prisoners of war working on our farm at the end of the war, and they were quite well received in the village. The general feeling of magnanimity had yet to creep in. There followed a programme of outside events, teas were laid on in the hall, and in the evening there was a 'Grand Dance' Admission three shillings (15p).

The actual job of raising the money and getting the hall built seemed to take forever. The fund raising actually started in 1938. During the war large numbers of the service personnel billeted in the area were entertained in the hall, there were regular dances, concerts, and cinema shows. Some of these carried on through the air raids.

Most of the money was raised during the war, and after the war a further £300 was raised by the War Memorial Committee. Fund raising events were always going on, bazaars, whist drives, dances, jumble sales, etc. There was, at one time, in the square, a 'thermometer' showing how much money had been raised against the total amount needed, with a list of names of individuals and organisations who had given. I don't think that this was too popular in some quarters, tantamount to 'emotional blackmail' I think was said at the time.

Different sketches and plans of the proposed new building often appeared in the old hall (commonly known as 'the hut'), some quite grandiose, with committee rooms, and billiard rooms, and proper changing rooms for football teams etc.



In 1955, Government grants towards the cost of building village halls became available it was decided that building should commence. A hall costing £4,200 was planned and a grant application made for £1,400. This was successful, and the building of the new hall commenced. Meanwhile the invested capital suffered serious depreciation, so that by the time the hall was completed there was a deficit of £150 (not an inconsiderable sum in those days).

The moving of furniture from the old hall to the new, involved the use of tractors and trailers and most of the children of the village to load and unload!

The new hall was very smart and very clean, but lacked the cosiness, albeit rather tatty, of the old hall, but with familiarity, this did come. The first winter was horrendous, as there was no heating. The Village Hall committee borrowed four electric fires from the church, but these made little difference. Matters weren't helped by the fact that there were six enormous open vents up through the roof (three on each side), through which the prevailing winds would blast down into the hall! These were very soon boarded up. Six electric non-luminous heaters were fitted, these were suspended from the ceiling, three on each side. They were operable via a coin meter, so that anybody hiring the hall had to make sure that they had a good supply of shillings, if they wanted to keep warm!

In Coronation year (1953) the Coronation Committee raised enough money to provide a seat to be put in a public place. They decided that the seat should be sited outside of the new Village Hall when it was built. When the hall was completed the seat was duly bought and fitted with a brass plate suitably inscribed. It was put in the hall against the back wall, as a temporary measure, until a plinth had been made for it. We used to sit in it on cinema nights as it was more comfortable than the wooden chairs in the hall. A concrete plinth was made just outside, near the emergency doors, but the seat never was fitted to it. It seems that they were awaiting delivery of the special arrangements for securing the seat to the plinth. It remained in the back of the hall for a very long time and became a permanent fixture, so much so that nobody took any notice of it anymore. It didn't dawn on us until a few years later that the seat had gone, and nobody had realised. So obviously somebody got themselves a very nice garden seat! The plinth has now also gone, removed during landscaping work many years later. The people removing it probably wondered what it had been put there for.

In the late 1960s the room behind the stage was added on, and in the early 1970s an extension was built westwards to contain a new kitchen, new lavatories and entrance foyer. The old kitchen and lavatories area was then taken into the main hall (which accounts for the windows being slightly different in that bay). and the woodblock floor continued into that area (so well that one cannot see the join). It was about this time that the central heating system was installed. Later on, in the 1990s, another extension was built on to the east end containing "The Knighton Room" available for hire for smaller functions.

It is very pleasing to see that after many years there is now a memorial plaque in the hall stating that it is a War Memorial, and listing the names of those who died.

The photograph (right) was taken in about 1959 shows a Sub Committee of the Village Hall Committee gathered on the stage, which has been very tastefully decorated with Naval signal flags. I have no idea as to what the meeting was for, or what warranted it being photographed.

The New Village Hall had then only been open for three years and could be hired for an evening, for seven shillings and sixpence, which equates to 37½ pence in today's money.

The committee Members from left to right are:  
Standing: Not Known, Ted Ball, Beryl Lugar, Leslie Jones, Jack Webber.  
Sitting: Margaret Adams, Beaty Spencer

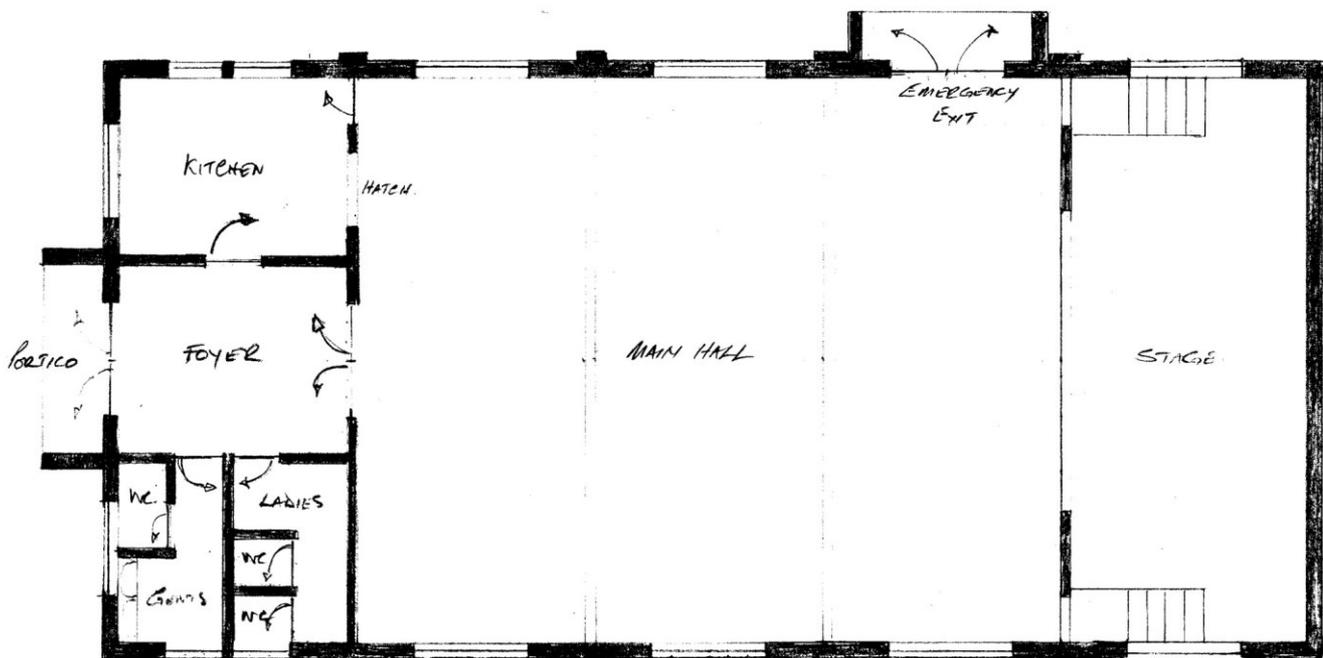


## PLAN OF THE NEW VILLAGE HALL

The plan below gives some idea of what the new village hall was like when it first opened in 1956.

It was absolute luxury having water on tap and proper lavatories. It was all very strange to us at first, the old hall had an atmosphere all of its own which was absent from the new hall, but we soon realised that it was our task to provide the atmosphere as those that had gone before us did in the old hall.

There were quite a lot of homely reminders though of the old hall, as there was no money to equip the new hall so all the familiar things had to be moved across, which was achieved with a couple of tractors and trailers and most of the village children. So we had the same old battered chairs that we were used to, and the old broken down baise topped whist drive tables, and even the old electric fires had to continue their duty, as there had been no heating system built in. The brown stage curtains from the old hall were fitted to the new proscenium, and actually didn't look as bad as we thought they would against the new lime green decoration. Why that wall was painted lime green when the rest of the main hall was done in pale pink and pale blue I have never been able to fathom out! There were no fittings for the stage, it was just a big empty space.



*ROUGH PLAN - NEW VILLAGE HALL - AS BUILT IN 1956.*

In the late 1960s the building was extended westwards to accommodate a new kitchen, new lavatories and entrance foyer. The space occupied by the existing facilities was taken into the main hall increasing its capacity by a third, thereby making the floor large enough for a badminton court to be marked out.

## THE NEW VILLAGE HALL

This photograph was taken in 2004, and shows the Village Hall as it is today.

The original hall, opened in 1956, extended from where the roof changes, back so far as where the rear extension containing the Knighton Room juts out. The west end terminated in a smart concrete portico, with circular openings in each side.

The hall once stood in glorious isolation in the corner of a green field. Since then it has been encroached upon by the Mewstone Avenue development and the school next door.

Since 1956 the hall has been extended in both directions. The kitchen and lavatories were moved into a westward extension enabling the original ones to be removed, thereby enlarging the main hall area by a third. This accounts for the slightly different windows at that end of the hall.

At the eastern end, behind the stage, a smaller function room with its own small kitchen, has been added on, plus more toilets and a storage area.



## VILLAGE HALL EVENTS - CHRISTMAS WHIST DRIVE AND RAFFLE 1958

This photograph is thought to have been taken in 1958 and shows the raffle prizes set out for the Grand Christmas Whist Drive and Raffle.

On the stage, from left to right, are, Christine Jones, Pat Jones and Jack Webber.

Seated at floor level are on the left, wearing glasses, Mervyn Pitts, and on the extreme right, Lawrence Stevens.



VILLAGE HALL EVENTS  
WEMBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - FIRST BIRTHDAY 1958

This photograph taken in April 1958 shows the members and some of their guests at the first birthday party of the institute in the Village Hall.

Back Row from the left:

1. .... (white hat)
2. Mr Peter Lugar
3. Mrs Nina Densum
4. Mrs Anne Hayes
5. Mrs Beryl Boyce
6. Mrs Mary Price
7. ....
8. Mrs Elsie Phillips
9. ....
10. ....
11. ....
12. Mrs Doreen Beavil
13. ....
14. ....

Middle Row:

1. Mrs Vello Holland
2. Mrs Ivy Rodgers
3. Mr Will Johnson
4. Mr Ernie Wills
5. ....
6. ....
7. Mrs Eliza Wills
8. ....
9. Mrs..... Nicholls
10. Mrs Eileen Johnson
11. Mrs Lena Baskerville
12. ....
13. ....
14. Mrs Harriet Maxted (Formerly Mrs Loads)
15. Mr Gerald Maxted

Front Row - President and Committee - From left to right:

Mrs Nellie Thomas, Mrs Hilda Ball, Mrs Marion Paltridge, Mrs Cora Jenkins (President), Mrs Marjorie Rowlands, Mrs Beryl Lugar, Mrs Christine Rose, Mrs Nancy Soppett



## VILLAGE HALL EVENTS – VICARAGE CHRISTENING PARTY 1973

Every year during the Revd Kenneth Gray's incumbency, A "Christening Party" was held in the garden of the Vicarage. This is when all of the children who had been christened over the previous year all got together with parents and pre school siblings for a tea party. It was always a well received and popular event.

In 1973, due to inclement weather, at short notice, the party had to be moved into the Village hall.

Recognisable in the photograph are:

Maureen Portwood (Nee Milden) holding her little girl,  
Jean Imm holding Nicholas (now Surgeon Commander Nick Imm RN)  
Jackie Gray (Nee Rowland) holding her little girl,  
Nina Carder holding Fiona,  
Jerry Riley (as she was then) crouching in front, holding Dominic (I think), and next to her  
Christine Booth holding Karen.



VILLAGE HALL EVENTS – ELIZABETHAN EVENING, FEBRUARY 1984



Presentations to 'Her Majesty'



'Her Majesty' receives greetings from her loyal subject, Miss Eileen Drake

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS – OLD TIME MUSIC HALL, APRIL 1984



'Bathing Belles'



'My old man said follow the van'

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS  
PLAYGROUP NATIVITY PLAY – DECEMBER 1985



VILLAGE HALL EVENTS  
OPENING OF THE 'KNIGHTON ROOM' – 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1996

In May 1996 the Knighton Room was opened. This was housed in an extension to the east end of the village hall and contained a room available for hire for smaller functions with its own small kitchen area, and toilets independent of those in the main hall. Also incorporated were much needed storage facilities for chairs, folding tables etc.



Recognisable in the above photograph are, Monica Pinkard (cutting the ribbon), Peggy Hart, Gloria Roberts, Barbara Tarsky, Peter Tolley, Alan Thompson, John Bennett, Mike Brown, Shelia Williams, Norma Oliver, Barbara Tarsky, Rita Memmott, Bill Hitchens, Doug Butler, Sally Butler.



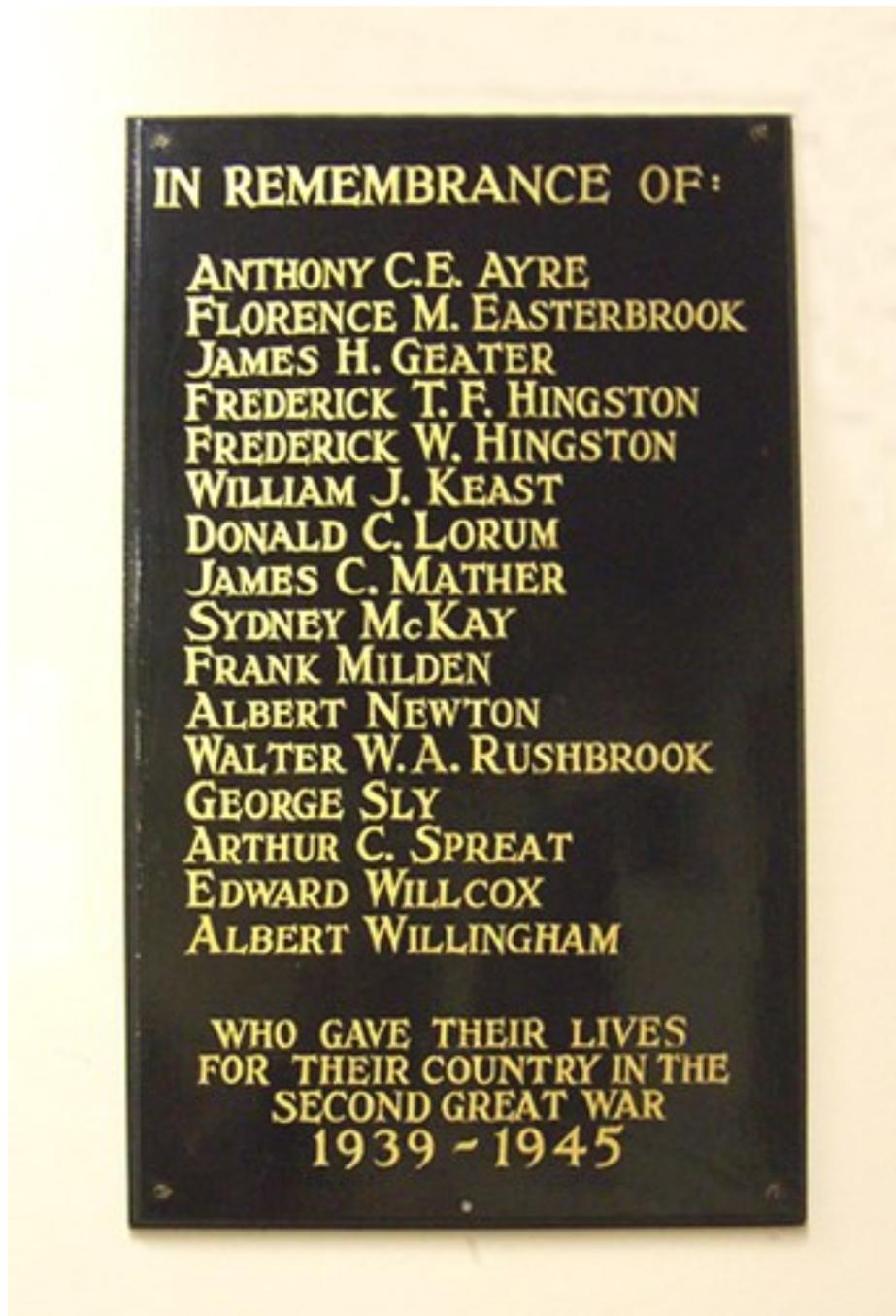
## WEMBURY VILLAGE HALL - WAR MEMORIAL TABLET

It is nice to see after all of these years that there is now a Memorial tablet in the hall listing the names of those who died in the Second World War and in whose memory the hall is dedicated.

I think it would have been a magnanimous gesture to include those who died in the First World War in the dedication as well, as I am sure that this was the original intention.

It would also be nice to say what exactly it is, that is in remembrance of all of these people.

I also think that the least thing that could have been done was to spell the names correctly. I knew Mrs LORAM very well and I think that she would have been most upset that her son's name had been spelt incorrectly, and that nothing has been done about it.



LETTER OF 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2005

Below is a copy of my letter to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, regarding the War Memorial Plaque in the hall. This letter became the catalyst in getting the new plaque made and placed in position for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the hall.

**Peter A Lugar**  
**6 Barton Close**  
**Wembury**  
**Plymouth**  
**Devon**  
**PL9 0LF**

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005

Mr Alan Thompson  
Chairman, Wembury Village Hall Committee  
47 Hawthorn Park Road  
Wembury  
PL9 0DA

*Dear Mr Thompson*

VILLAGE HALL WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE

I was very pleased to see that after so many years after it had been built as a War Memorial, there was a list of names put into the village Hall indicating to whom it was dedicated. The only thing is, when one has a good look at it, it is not very good, is it? Just a piece of black painted plywood with gold self-adhesive lettering, and screwed to the wall, definitely a 'DIY job'.

For a start it doesn't say exactly what it is that is dedicated to these people, and I don't think that Mrs Loram would have been too pleased to see her son's name wrongly spelt.

I think that we should also have the magnanimity to include those from the First World War as well. Members of the Walke and Giles families still live in the Parish, there are a few of us who still remember the Woodleys who lived in the gamekeeper's cottage in Wembury Wood, and I well remember Mr Blackmore who was the village postman in the 1940s, and who lived at Watergate Cottages, he lost two of his family in the First World War.

Of those named for the Second World War, we who went to school here in the 1940s remember them as being the fathers, or elder brothers (and in one case, a sister) of school friends. So the names are very real to us.

July 28<sup>th</sup> 2006 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hall being opened by Sir Henry Studholme, there are still a few of us around who were there, I still have my programme of events for the day.

To mark this great milestone, would it not be appropriate to have a proper memorial made to commemorate these people, and put into a position in the hall where it will not be encroached upon by other things.

I enclose a proposal and format of a new memorial which I would like you and your committee to consider at your next meeting

Yours sincerely

*Peter A Lugar*

[peter.lugar@lineone.net](mailto:peter.lugar@lineone.net)

THIS VILLAGE HALL  
OPENED ON THE 28TH JULY 1956  
IS DEDICATED TO THOSE FROM THIS PARISH  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY  
IN THE TWO GREAT WARS

1914 - 1918  
CHARLES L. BLACKMORE  
HERBERT L. BLACKMORE  
EDGAR GILES  
ARCHIBALD WALKE  
GEORGE WOODLEY

1939 - 1945  
ANTHONY C. E. AYRE  
FLORENCE M. L. EASTERBROOK  
JAMES H. GEATER  
FREDERICK T. F. HINGSTON  
FREDERICK W. HINGSTON  
WILLIAM J. KEAST  
DONALD C. LORAM  
JAMES S. MATHER  
SYDNEY McKAY  
FRANK MILDEN  
ALBERT NEWTON  
WALTER A. RUSHBROOK  
GEORGE SLY  
ARTHUR C. SPREAT  
EDWARD WILLCOX  
ALBERT WILLINGHAM

THEIR NAMES LIVE FOR EVERMORE

E MAIL OF 14 DECEMBER 2005

Below is a copy of the E Mail from the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee in reply to my letter of 2nd December 2005.

Fri, Dec 16, 2005 12:53 am

**From:** alan thompson <alanandmarg@athomps.freereserve.co.uk>  
**To:** <peter.lugar@lineone.net>  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 14, 2005 9:13 pm  
**Subject:** Village hall memorial plaque.

---

Dear Mr Lugar,

Thank you for your letter concerning Wembury War Memorial Village Hall memorial plaque. I found it most interesting. You seem very well informed on this subject and raised some valid points.

You must be aware that the plaque has been in existence for some years and has received no adverse comments until now regarding construction or content.

However your letter will be discussed at the next committee meeting on the 19th January .

Yours Sincerely

Alan Thompson

LETTER OF 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2006

Below is a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee informing me that they have decided to go ahead with the provision of a new War Memorial Plaque as I had suggested.

**WEMBURY WAR MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL**

Chairman Mr Martin Luck  
Secretary Mrs Norma Oliver  
Treasurer Mr Ken Fragell  
Life President Mr. Doug Butler  
Bookings Clerk Mrs Pam Coath  
Charity No. 280454

21 Southland Park Road  
Wembury  
Plymouth  
PL9 OHG

Tel.No. 01752 862489

27<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Mr Peter Lugar  
6 Barton Close  
Wembury  
Plymouth  
PL9 OLF

Dear 

**MEMORIAL PLAQUE**

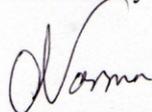
I write firstly to advise you that, after many years faithful service, Alan Thompson retired from his position as Trustee and Chairman at our AGM held yesterday, when a presentation was made to him. Our new Chairman of the Trustees is Martin Luck and we now have a new position of Vice Chairman filled by Colin Best.

Our AGM was followed by a Committee Meeting when I presented your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and mentioned my subsequent meeting with you. I am now pleased to advise you that a sub-Committee has been formed to look at the question of the Memorial Plaque and indeed all plaques within the Hall. It is felt that we should also consider having a Plaque to commemorate the Official Opening. These to be of high quality and to be in place in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hall. You will be pleased to learn that they can be funded from the Hall 'piggy bank'.

The sub-Committee will also be discussing some form of community celebration in the Hall during the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July.

The Trustees have asked me to thank you for your interest.

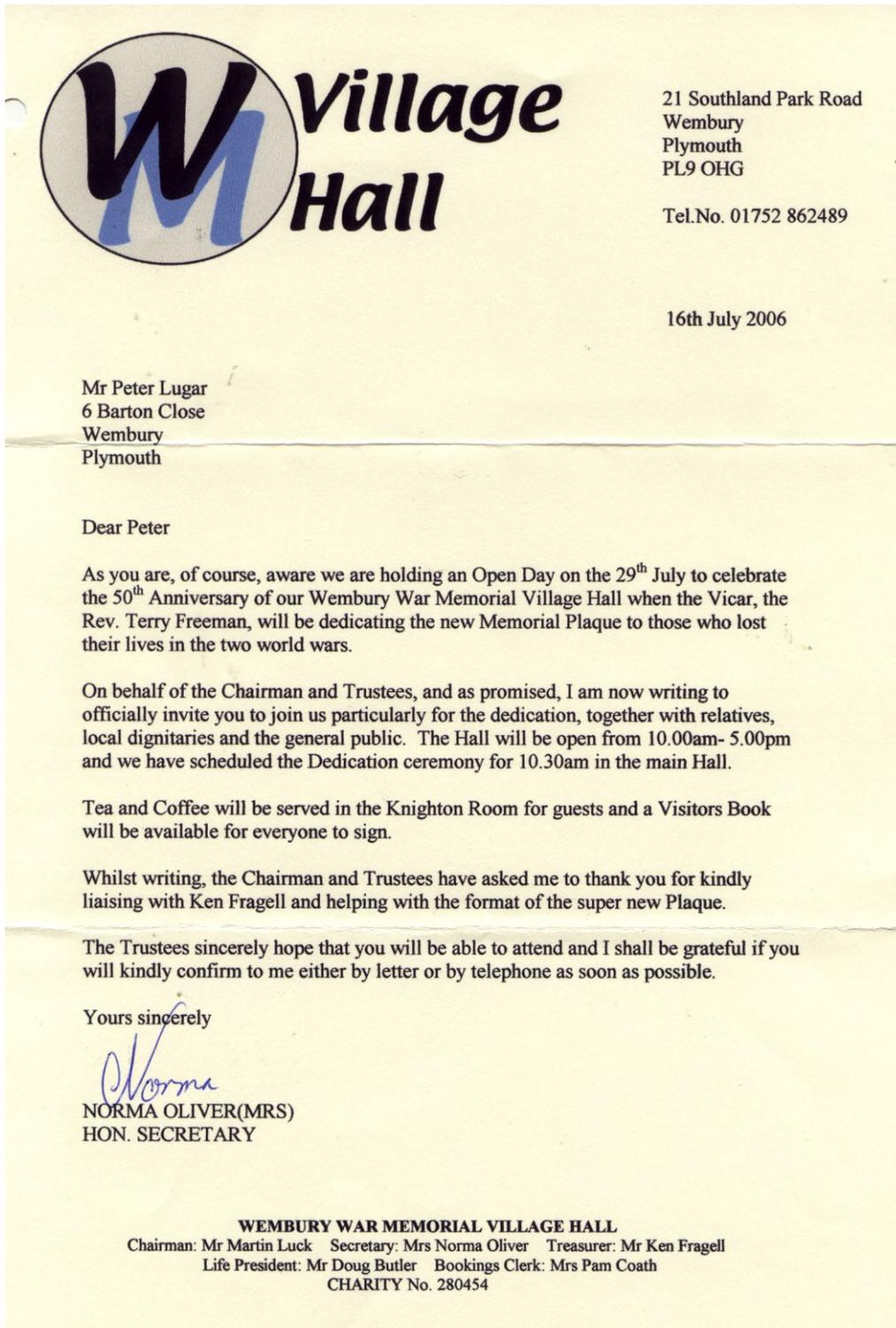
Yours sincerely



NORMA OLIVER(MRS)  
Hon Secretary

LETTER OF 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2006

Below is a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Village Hall Committee inviting me to the dedication of the new War Memorial Plaque on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July.



WEMBURY VILLAGE HALL – NEW WAR MEMORIAL TABLET

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2006 a new memorial plate was dedicated to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the hall.

A long overdue and fitting tribute to those from the Parish who had given their lives in both World Wars.



## WEMBURY VILLAGE HALL - NEW WAR MEMORIAL TABLET

The photograph below taken on Saturday 29th July 2006, shows the new War Memorial Plaque in situ in the hall on the day of its dedication, by the vicar, the Revd Terry Freeman, fifty years to the day after the hall was opened.

The hall was quite full for the occasion, it was pleasing to see that there were some relatives of those named on the plaque present. There were also several local worthies present, Parish Councillors, District Councillors and County Councillors, which included the Vice Chairman of Devon County Council, and the Chairman of South Hams District council.

There were also representatives of the organisations that use the hall, most of whom mounted displays and put on demonstrations. Refreshments were laid on by the two Parish Womens' Institutes.



## JUBILEE INN – 1900s TO THE 1960s

The photograph below was taken in the early 1900s



This next photograph was taken in 1927 for the sales catalogue for the sale of the Langdon Estate in 1927.



Richard Wallis Cory died in December of 1926, his only son and heir, George Wallis Cory, tragically died in

1907, aged 23, he was unmarried. On Richard's death therefore, the Cory dynasty in Wembury was brought to an end.

What a lovely tranquil scene each of the above photographs present. The horse and cart outside in each photograph, it makes one wonder whether it is the same horse and cart and owner in each photograph. No breathalyser in those days, and no traffic either. The pub looked exactly the same right up to the 1960s as the following photographs will testify.

The next two photographs are from the 1930s. The licensee was Alfred James Perring who had assumed the licence on the death of his father, also Alfred, in 1930. The first photograph was taken in the winter when the Virginia creeper had died back



In the second photograph the Virginia creeper is in great profusion almost blocking out the upstairs windows. The laurel bush to the right of the porch is also much fuller going up to roof level and encroaching across the roof of the porch, this would indicate the photograph was taken at a much later date.

The steps going up to the bottle store can clearly be seen and adjacent to them the gates going through to the barrel store and stable section which extended out over the area which is now part of the car park.

The area behind the gates was strictly private, anybody with a car had to park it wherever they could on the narrow roads. This was not too much of a problem as the number of cars in the village were very few and far between.

The Bass signs on each side of the porch were there right up to the mid 1960s when the pub was bought by Watneys. The Western National timetable is to the right of the doors. The porch was used as a shelter whilst waiting for the bus when it was raining, but one had to be quick and get up to the bus stop as soon as one heard the bus coming, or it would go right on by.

Electricity was brought to the village in 1927/28 and the poles for the electricity sub-station can be seen behind the left hand side of the roof just to the left of the chimney. In the late 1960s and early 1970s when the playing

field across the road, around the new Village Hall, was developed into Mewstone Avenue, the sub-station was moved across into the new development.



This last photograph was taken in the late 1940s, by now the licensee was Miss L G Perring (Lottie). Her brother, Alfred James, died in 1940 at the relatively early age of 53. The licence passed on to Lottie his youngest sister and she remained the licensee up until her retirement in 1963. She ran the pub with the assistant of her widowed sister, Mrs Annie Horwell, and a nephew Mr Ian McLaren.



## LICENSEES OF THE JUBILEE INN

Originally known as 'The Old Inn' from 1794 to 1803 the licensee is shown to be George Davis, in 1804 it changes to Thomas Davis. From 1806 to 1825 it is Edmund Avent.

We are told that in 1814 that Pollexfen & Charles Biggs Calmady (of Langdon Hall), purchased from Edmund Lockyer that part of the Wembury Estate known as West Wembury Farm including inter alia a public house lately called 'The Old Inn' now 'The Jubilee Inn'. The inn had been renamed in honour of the Golden Jubilee of King George III in 1810.

In 1827 the licensee is shown to be James Finley.

At the census in April 1841 George Cann, aged 55, is shown to be the Innkeeper, also living there his son, another George, and his daughter Mary, aged 15 (twins?). Also a lodger William Avery aged 72, a miner. (Weal Emily, the antimony mine in Wembury Woods was in operation at this time).

In 1850 it is shown to be Richard Gregory.

At the 1851 census the Innkeeper is shown to be Elizabeth Gregory aged 45, presumably Richard had died sometime in the preceding year. Also listed, a 'visitor', Mary Chaffe aged 23, two lodgers – William Witheric aged 26, an agricultural labourer, and Caroline, his wife. There was also a 'live in' house servant, Jane Ward aged 13.

In 1857 it is shown to be Henry Collier.

At the 1861 census it was still Henry Collier, aged 43, listed as the 'Victualler' also living there, his wife Ann, aged 40, and 4 children – Ann aged 20, Georgina aged 14, Henry aged 11, and Maria aged 5. Also baby Jasper Collier aged one (Henry's grandson?), there was also a lodger, John P Allen aged 42.

In 1870 Mrs Ann Collier (widow of Henry) is shown to be the licensee.

At the 1871 census Ann Collier is shown to be the Innkeeper. Also living there Annie F Reid aged 28, and her 4 children – Archibald aged 6, Mabel aged 5, Harry aged 3, and Lloyd aged one, and also Maria Collier aged 15 and Jasper Collier aged 11.

In 1881 Nicholas Coleman, Son-in Law of Ann Collier is the licensee. Georgina Collier married Nicholas of Spirewell Farm, whose family were the Blacksmiths in Knighton. It was Nicholas who had Rose Villa built next to the Smithy cottage (Vine Cottage).

In 1889 Nicholas Coleman, is still listed as the licensee.

In 1893 Alfred Perring another Son-in-Law of Ann Collier is the licensee. In 1881 Maria Collier married Alfred Perring who hailed from Yealmpton, he was a painter, and in the 1881 Census they are shown as living in a cottage at Knighton.

At the 1901 Census the Perring family living in the Jubilee Inn numbered twelve. They were: Alfred Perring, Innkeeper and Head of Family aged 46, Maria Perring, his wife aged 45, 6 daughters - Minnie aged 19, Ethel aged 18, Annie aged 16, Bessie aged 11, Alma aged 10, Lila aged 8 and Lottie aged 2. Also 3 sons - Alfred James aged 14, Henry aged 13 and Richard aged 6.

Alfred Perring remained as licensee up until his death in 1930 aged 76.

Alfred James Perring became Licensee on his father's death in 1930, he himself died in 1940 at the relatively early age of 53.

Lottie Gwendoline Perring, Alfred's youngest sibling, then became Licensee up until she retired in 1963, and sold the pub to Watneys.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE - LICENCE

Each year the Justices of the Peace would meet with all of the licensees of the public houses, and their sureties to grant the licences for the forthcoming year, upon payment of their dues.

Below is a facsimile of the meeting for this area which took place at the George Inn at Plympton in 1814.

*DEVON*

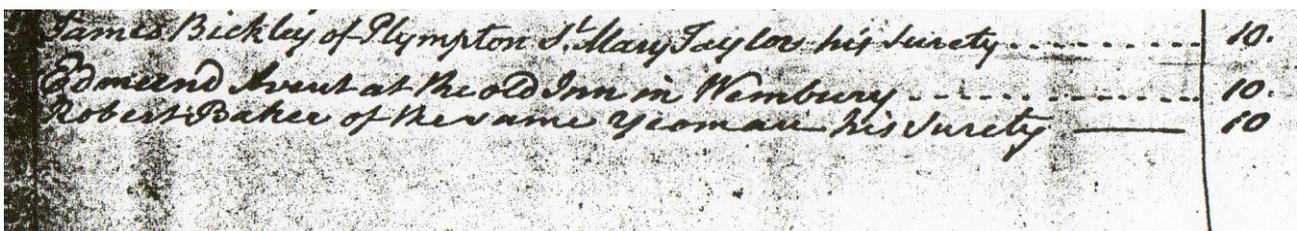
Be it remembered that at a general Meeting of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County of Devon acting within the Division of the Hundreds of Ermington and Plympton in the said County held at the George Inn in Ridgeway in and for the said Division the Sixteenth Day of September in the year of our Lord 1814, the under mentioned principal parties and their respective Sureties personally came before His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County assembled at the said General Meeting and severally acknowledged themselves to owe to our Sovereign Lord The King the sums inserted against their respective names of good and lawful Money of Great Britain to be made and levied of their Goods and Chattels Lands and Tenements respectively to the use of our said Lord, the King, his Heirs and Successors subject nevertheless to the Conditions hereinunder written.

The condition is such That whereas the undermentioned Principal Parties are licensed to keep common Inns and Alehouses for one year from the Tenth Day of October next in the several houses specified against their respective Names. If the said Parties licensed or any of them shall keep and maintain good Order and Rule and suffer no disorders nor unlawful Games to be used in their said respective Houses, nor in any Outhouses Yards Gardens or Backsides thereunto belonging during the said Term; Then the recognizance of such of them so performing this condition, and of his her or their respective Surety and Surities shall be void.

Then follows a list of public houses their licensees and sureties, No.6 on the list is:

Edmund Avent at the Jubilee Inn, in Wembury .....Ten Pounds  
His Surety Robert Baker of the same, Yeoman ..... Ten Pounds

Below is an extract from the same declaration made in 1806. The name being 'The Old Inn' as the name wasn't changed to 'The Jubilee' until 1810. The licensee is Edmund Avent and the Surety is Robert Baker as in 1814.



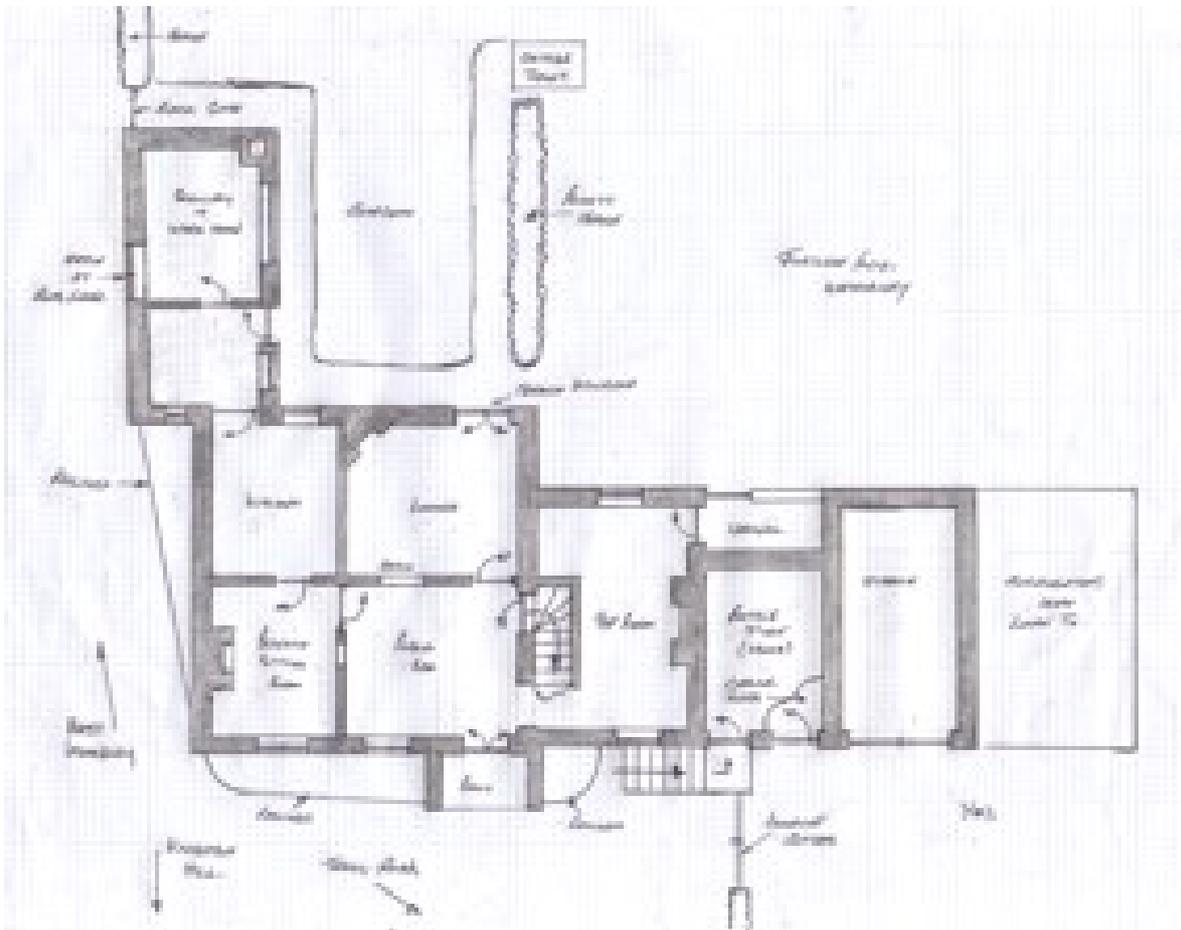
James Bickley of Plympton J. May Taylor his Surety	10.
Edmund Avent at the Old Inn in Wembury	10.
Robert Baker of the same Yeoman his Surety	10.

## THE JUBILEE INN IN THE 1950s

It very hard to try and imagine if you go into the pub today, as to how it was in the 1950s. The area which is now occupied by the public bar was previously four rooms, the public bar, the public lounge or 'saloon' bar, the private sitting room, and the kitchen. The area now occupied by the present lounge bar was part of the garden. It makes one realise how small it all was back then.

One entered the pub through the double doors in the porch, and found oneself in the public bar. This was merely a passage where one could stand and have a drink. The bar counter which was immediately on the left inside the double doors ran the length of the room. Miss Perring (Lottie) and her sister Mrs Horwell (Annie) would be in attendance behind the bar, which meant that they had two thirds of the space to themselves! The only concession to customer comfort was that on the barrels that were waiting to 'go on', which were stood in the customer area, there were cushions. At the end of this passage was the door leading into the 'Lounge'. This room was only ever opened on summer evenings if the number of customers warranted it, or Bank Holidays or at Christmas, or and on other great celebrations (the Coronation in 1953 springs to mind).

Immediately on the right inside the double doors was the door into the 'Tap Room', which is now occupied by the kitchen. This was where one could sit and play card or dominoes or have a game of darts. There was a long table topped with brown linoleum with a bench on each side, which occupied most of the centre of the room. Either side of the fireplace was a wooden settle, and on the right of the fireplace, another smaller lino topped table. The settle to the left of the fireplace was canted away from the wall to allow access to the door out to the gent's urinal. The dartboard was in the alcove at the far end of the room, which was formed by the staircase. The floor was flagstoned and the room was painted in pale pink gloss paint, walls and furniture! In the fireplace the fire basket had been bricked in on each side so that there was only a small space in which to light a fire. Miss Perring would light the fire but would not add any more to it, if we wanted to be warm in the tap room we had to take a log or a lump or two of coal with us to the pub to keep the fire going! The door



behind the settle on the left of the fire place led outside to the urinal, which was basically a black painted

wall with a drain trough in front. It was lit by a single 60 watt light bulb on the end of a long flex with no shade. There were no hand washing facilities. There was a roof, but the back wall, through which there was a gate into the back garden, was only about five feet high, so if the weather was coming from the west, as it invariably was, it would drive straight in!

The Public Bar was decorated in pale blue and cream gloss paint, the blue being used on the walls, and the cream on the doors, windows and woodwork. The bar counter was mahogany topped, which Miss Perring (in an isolated fit of modernisation), had covered in red formica in the late 1950s. The bar front was tongue and groove boarded, broken at intervals by pilasters, and dark stained. The back wall behind the bar, apart from the door through into the private sitting room, was completely occupied by shelves going right up to the ceiling, with turned supports at regular intervals, and mirrored panels in the back. The top shelf had a centre section which projected outwards in a semicircle, and upon which was displayed the trophy whenever Wembury United won the league cup. The second row of shelves was filled with china barrels, each about 18 inches high, in creamware, which at one time contained, according to the various labels, such things as Madeira, Sherry, Port, and other fortified wines. The next two shelves contained glasses and bottles of spirit, the lower one of the two being much wider to provide a working area. Underneath this were the barrels, which were 'on'; there were usually four of them. There were no optics, the spirits were measured out into pewter hand measures, and there were no pumps either, the beer was drawn off directly from the barrels, usually into an enamel jug, and then decanted into glasses. On the floor, under each barrel tap there was a white enamel basin to catch the drips. In the side wall was a hatch, which was opened when the lounge was in use, to serve those therein. There was also a 'Bass' advertising mirror on this wall. Under the bar the bottled beers were all kept, and there was also a stone sink for the washing of glasses (cold water only). The floor was stone flagged on the customers' side of the bar, but on the inside was covered in coconut matting. Miss Perring and Mrs Horwell also had chairs with cushions on their side of the bar, plus an electric fire in the winter.

The Lounge, which, as stated earlier, was only opened on special days, was a Victorian time capsule. The walls were papered with a typically large patterned wallpaper; I seem to remember a lot of gold colour and huge white flowers. There was a fireplace across the corner of the room and on an adjacent wall a piano with a fretted front. The centre of the room was mostly taken up by a huge round mahogany table on a single pedestal base and around which there must have been ten or maybe a dozen balloon backed chairs. There was a heavily patterned carpet square, which covered most of the floor. Above the table was a huge circular lamp shade about three feet in diameter and about two feet deep, with a heavy fringe, this was a pinky red colour and directed a pool of light down onto the table, and filled the rest of the room with a warm glow. Patrons had to sit around the table like the Knights of King Arthur, and drink their drinks. This room had French windows, which led out into the garden, but through which one had to negotiate about four sets of curtains. The only lavatory available for the ladies was the outdoor privy at the bottom of the garden, via the French windows! Any lady wishing to use the facility would first have to ask Miss Perring to switch on the light, and then have to fight their way through the curtains! This wasn't normally a problem as most times outside of Bank Holidays and Christmas, the pub was mainly an all male enclave. There were very few women ever went to the pub, maybe a few on a Saturday night if there was a whist drive or a dance at the village hall.

Generally, in those days women did not go into pubs, certainly not alone, and if they did, they went into the lounge bar. They would never be seen with a pint glass in their hands, and most certainly would never have drunk from a bottle (for that matter, neither would any gentlemen). If a lady had a light ale or a stout, it was usually served in a half pint tulip shaped glass with a stem. In the Jubilee everything was served in tumblers, pints, half pints, and smaller ones for spirits. I do not recall wine ever being served in the pub, although it could be bought as 'off sales' to be drunk at home.

The Private Sitting Room and Kitchen were strictly off limits to the customers, but we were quite familiar with them, as when we were children we were often tasked with having to take the milk up to the pub on days when my father was unable to drop it off himself. We had to take it around to the back door, via the back gate, which was round the side of the pub. We were taken into the kitchen where we would have to pour it from the carrying can into a jug. We would then be taken through to the sitting room to say hello to Mrs Horwell, and sometimes their nephew Ian (McLaren) who also lived with them. Sometimes Mr Fox from Church Road was there as well, which was always a bit of a mystery to me, until much later on when I discovered that he was married to Lila, another sister of Miss Perring and Mrs Horwell. Ian's mother, who had died in 1925 at only

42 years of age, was Ethel, another sister, and Minnie Brown who ran the Post Office at Watergate for many years was yet another sister!

Like the Lounge Bar, the Private Sitting Room, was another Victorian time capsule. There was a heavily patterned wallpaper predominantly burgundy in colour, with hydrangeas. There was a white painted fireplace surround with a black leaded grate, and with all manner of ornaments on the mantelpiece, and a heavily framed mirror above. There were several large pictures on the walls mostly sepia prints of former members of the Perring family. There was a round table in the corner by the window with chairs around, all in mahogany, at least I think that the table was of mahogany, as top was always covered in a red chenille cloth, and very often a tablecloth as well depending on the time of the time of the day. The pedestal, which could be seen, certainly gave the impression that it was mahogany! Against the wall, which backed onto the public bar, was a piano, the top of which was covered in yet another collection of ornaments. In the wall next to the piano was a small hatch where one could observe all that was going on in the public bar. Above the hatch was a very nice modern oil painting of the pub, which always sticks in my mind because of the predominant red of the telephone box in the right foreground of the picture. The fireplace was flanked by a pair of overstuffed armchairs, laden with cushions and antimacassars. The alcoves on each side of the fireplace contained cabinets full of treasures and even more on top. On the floor there was a heavily patterned carpet. All in all an air of cluttered cosiness prevailed.

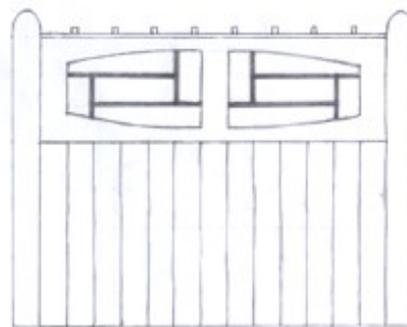
The kitchen had a grey electric cooker, a 'G.E.C' very much like the one that we had at home. I think that there must have been a black leaded stove previously, as there was evidence of a stove pipe having at one time gone through the wall to share the same chimney as the lounge bar fireplace. There was a stone sink with a wooden draining board, and down one side of the room, a large scrub topped kitchen table. On the outer wall there shelves going right up to the ceiling, which contained a variety of cooking utensils and china, and a lot of other, miscellaneous items as well. The lower portion was curtained but offered glimpses of larger articles such as Wellington boots and buckets. The floor was covered in a patterned linoleum, which had taken up the contours of the flagstones beneath; on top this was a coconut matting runner, which ran the length of the room. Just off the lobby inside the back door was the wash house, which I think at one time, doubled as a scullery there was a washing boiler in the corner with its own chimney. I think that this room had also been used as a storeroom or cellar for the pub as high up in the outer wall was a pair of small doors which were at road level outside and would have been ideal for bringing in crates or small barrels.



Around the front of the pub, on each side of the porch was a 'Bass' advertising sign in gold leafed writing behind black glass, with of course, the red triangle in the centre. In the porch itself, to the right of the doors, was the Western National bus timetable, I seem to remember that the bit for Wembury was very small and in the bottom left hand corner. There were no fitted stone benches as there are now. To the right of the porch and going up past the tap room window was the steps up to the bottle store. This was in the lean to section on

the side of the pub. At the extreme right of the steps at ground level, were the double gates to the yard. They were painted white, with a fret pattern in black in the top section. This pattern was repeated in the fascia panels of the porch, the back gate, and the huge 'JUBILEE INN' sign on the side of the pub which also proudly advertised as being on sale, Ales, Stouts, Porters, Wines and Spirits!

The area behind the double gates, which is now part of the car park, was strictly private and off limits. Under the bottle store was the barrel store where the barrels, when empty, were rolled down to and stored, ready for the next visit of the drayman.



JUBILEE INN - YARD GATE.

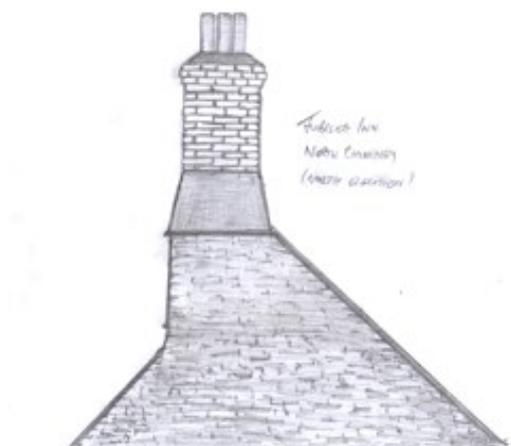
Next to the barrel store was the old stable, which was mainly used for storage. We used to be allowed in there to get the ladder, which we used to borrow on odd occasions for jobs at home. It was a most interesting room, the old stable fittings were still in place, and there were all sorts of redundant fittings from the pub stored in there as well, the most memorable of which were the old leaded glass bar shutters for the public bar, covered in dust, but one was still able to see quite clearly the words 'Jubilee Inn' picked out in red glass. The sashes that they originally ran in were still in place at each end of the public bar, but the centre pillar had been removed, and was probably languishing in the stable as well.



Next to the stable was an extension to the lean to, in corrugated iron, and painted black, I think that this was used as a chicken house, there always seemed to be a few of them scratching around in the yard. There were always geese around as well, especially in the orchard, where they were used as a deterrent against small boys who would try and steal the apples. The Jubilee orchard was known to be one of the best in the parish. As well as the loveliest apples there were also pears and plums, but these were in the far corner at the bottom and took much

stealth and cunning to reach! The main part of the building on the left dates from the 19th century, Everything to the right of the porch was part of the original 'Ale House' which became the 'Jubilee Inn' in 1810, in honour of the Golden Jubilee of King George III.

The north gable of the old part once sported a very attractive old chimney, which unfortunately was removed in the so called 'refurbishments' of the 1960s when the gable was demolished and the roof 'hipped' to match that of the main part. At the same time the old steps going up to the bottle store were removed, as was the whole of the lean to section. Ironically twenty years later it was necessary to extend the building out over part of that area again to provide new cellar space.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE JUBILEE INN

This photograph was taken in the early 1950s (Kenneth Tagg's incumbency ended in 1954). Recognisable in the photograph are Harold Willcocks on the extreme left with smart suit and paisley tie. He ran a smallholding from "Greenbank" at the top of Church Road. Next to him is Dennis Horwell, son of Mrs Annie Horwell who can just be seen in the picture on the extreme right. She was the sister of Miss Lottie Perring, the licensee. Next to Dennis with his right hand on the bar, is Lew Thomas (of pasty fame), just over his left shoulder is Beryl Lugar and Henry can be made out just behind her. Over on the right of the group, wearing the trilby hat, is Bill Mildern from Ford (who we children used to call Dan Beetle). Other faces are familiar but names cannot be put to them.

Miss Perring had a Carol Service in the pub most years, and also a Harvest Thanksgiving Service as well. The harmonium used to be brought up from the Parish Room on these occasions to be played by the Church Organist, Mr Jack Gilbert. Stories used to abound that as the evening wore on pints of beer managed to get 'spilled' into the harmonium.

The double doors are the entrance doors to the pub, as they are today, but unglazed. The doorway with the "2" went through to the Tap Room where one could play darts, cards and dominoes. (this room is now the kitchen).

The whole of the public bar as we know it today in the Odd Wheel, constituted 4 rooms of the downstairs of the pub in the Jubilee days, the public bar, the lounge, the private sitting room, and the kitchen.



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN THE JUBILEE INN

This photograph was taken either in the late 1940s or early 1950s (Kenneth Tagg's incumbency ended in 1954). Recognisable in the photograph are Muriel and Bert Woods, Harold and Mrs Willcocks, Douglas and Alice Butler, and Patsy Somerville, Olive Harvey and Don and Dianna McDonald.

Promoted by the Vicar, Revd Kenneth Tagg, Miss Perring had a Carol Service in the pub most years. On this particular occasion the lounge was opened up, this only happened on high days and holidays!



## FROM THE JUBILEE TO THE ODD WHEEL

After The Jubilee was sold to Watneys in 1963 it underwent a major transformation, which entailed it being shut down for 6 months. On the outside there were many changes,

The right hand section, which was part of the original Ale House renamed the Jubilee Inn in 1810, in honour of King George III's Golden Jubilee, lost its lovely old chimney and was given a hipped roof to match the main part of the building. The main part was much later, being added on in the 19th Century.

A dummy matching chimney was added to the right side of the main roof to match up with the one on the left. There was a chimney on the back of the main roof, which was removed. The lean to extension on the right side containing the old stable, bottle store, and barrel store was demolished. The window, to the right of the entrance, which was the 'Tap Room' was moved into line with the window above, this then became the cellar, and in a later reorganisaton, the kitchen. So there it stood, shorn of its outbuildings, looking very isolated.



The lean to section, with its flight of steps, with the old cellar and bottle store (upstairs!), the barrel store (downstairs), and the old stable, was demolished. In front of the pub, directly opposite the lean-to section, there was a lovely little walled garden, oval in shape, with a large apple tree in the centre. This was also swept away, replaced with tarmac, a sacrifice to the motorcar god.

Internally the alterations had been a lot more drastic. The Tap Room had gone, this was now the cellar. All of the downstairs of the main part had been knocked into one large room and was the Public Bar; with plaster covered RSJs crossing the ceiling in both directions presumably holding up the rest of the building. The walls had been panelled in plain sheets of plywood with a light oak veneer, round the sides were bankette seating covered in red leathercloth. The floor was tiled in Marley tiles in a chequered pattern predominantly red in colour, there were red upholstered chairs with arms, to match the other seating, and small round tables with formica tops. A stone fireplace had been built into where Miss Perrings sitting room fireplace used to be. All of this was lit by four long fluorescent tube fittings. The bar was topped in formica to match the tables, and fronted with the same panelling as the walls. Behind the bar it was a riot of glass and tinted mirrors. A very 1960s pub interior, not a scrap of its 19<sup>th</sup> century character remained.

At the back of the building a huge single storied extension had been built covering most of what had been Miss Perring's garden. This was the new Lounge Bar. Décor and furnishings wise it was not a lot different from

the Public Bar except that the wood panelling etc., was in a dark oak finish, and of course there was a fitted carpet on the floor. Behind the bar, the access between the Bar and the Lounge was where the French windows had been previously. Miss Perring's old washhouse and scullery had been made into the new toilets.

The Photograph above should be compared with the one below taken in the 1960 to see how much character was lost in the so-called improvements.



The Photograph, I regret, out of focus, taken by me, clearly shows the steps outside going up to the bottle store and the double gates to the other ancillary buildings covering what is now the car park. It is also possible to make out the long Jubilee Inn sign supported by two large wooden posts and spanning the outbuilding to the left of the pub. Also below the sign can be seen the small pair of doors at road level which, were at one time used for bringing crates or even small barrels into what was once a storage area. Just past this was the back gate, which was the only access to the back of the pub.

In the late 1960s Howard Elwell became the licensee, assisted by his wife, Kay. It was shortly after their arrival that the name of the pub was changed to 'The Odd Wheel' and there was much local resentment when this happened. It had been called the 'Jubilee Inn' since the Golden Jubilee of King George III in 1810, and it was said that the name was changed because Watneys who owned the pub at that time already had a pub called the Jubilee, this is nonsense, all breweries have instances where they have more than one pub with the same name, but they are usually in different towns or villages so there is no problem. The name was actually changed at the whim of the Elwells.

Howard only had one arm, his left one, he lost his right one in a childhood accident. Unfortunately he didn't seem to be over endowed in the sense of humour department, so nights in the pub never got to anywhere near riotous proportions. People would be asked to leave if he thought that their behaviour was inappropriate. Kay was quite sweet but was definitely a Lounge Bar Landlady. She a great fondness for cats and they abounded both, in live and in figurine form, where they adorned the Lounge Bar. The only food available was sandwiches, which were made to order in the upstairs (and only) kitchen, or pasties that were delivered daily and languished in a glass fronted heater on the bar in the Public Bar.

Some of the youngsters could be quite cruel and would ask for a pasty to take away just to see Howard struggle with his one arm to get the pasty from the heater into a paper bag on the counter.

The photograph below shows the pub in 1995, the curved piece of wall in the foreground is a vestige of the wall, very much reduced in height, that enclosed the walled garden



When the Elwells retired in the early 1980s Ron and Nicky Norris became the licensees, they had both been Air Stewards with British Airways. They intended to expand the catering side of the business, but to do that a catering kitchen was needed. To allow for this the small extension on the right was added to be the cellar and the existing cellar to the right of the entrance was to become the new kitchen. The lounge bar was completely refurbished and an access into the kitchen and cellar area was made through the wall behind the bar. I think it was at this time that the money ran out and the envisaged refurbishment of the public bar never came to fruition. Instead a local jobbing builder cum handyman did what he could on an ad hoc basis.

Later Alan and Nada Gordon became licensees and stayed until they had to close the pub in December of 2009 for financial reasons. So after 200 years as 'The Jubilee' and 'The Odd Wheel' and countless years prior to that as the 'Knighton Ale House' in 2010 the pub stands closed and empty. What will the future bring?

## NO PLASTIC

It would be hard today to envisage a world where there was very little plastic and no polythene, but that was how it was in the 1940s and early 1950s.

Some toys were made of plastic, I remember especially the 'Bayco' building sets which were actually 'Bakelite' hence their name. Having worked out the plan of the building, one would insert small steel rods in to a green bakelite base to make the shape of the building and red and white Bakelite brick, window, and door, sections were slid down between the rods to make the building. There were differing lengths of rods depending upon whether the building was to be single or two storied. One was really restricted in the variety of building shapes by the roof sections which were all in one piece and of green bakelite. The roofs were 'hipped' as one would see on a pair of 'between the wars' semis. The larger the set the greater the number of roofs shapes, of course the purchase price was proportional to the size of the set! (Bakelite was named after its inventor L H Baekeland who was Belgian born, but invented and developed his product in the United States).

There were quite a lot of small toys made of plastic but they were very brittle, and probably today would be considered too hazardous for young children. Very few household items were made of plastic, kitchen canisters, cruet sets, and egg cups come to mind. We had a device for putting a jam or marmalade jar in so that it could be brought to the table without having to decant it into a dish, it was green with a conical lid. Funny old days! these days nobody thinks twice about bringing a jam jar to the table! There were plastic plates and cups and saucers, but these were not very popular, as they scratched very easily, and were brittle, although not as brittle as china which back then, was still quite hard to come by, and usually only available in white.

The first polythene item I ever came across was a washing up bowl that my mother bought sometime in the early 1950s. We were very intrigued by its pliability. I remember it was a muddy pale yellow colour, it wasn't until later that the manufacturing process improved sufficiently to allow a range of colours to be made. It was much later again before the bright colours and the trendy ones that are available today were possible. Up until then all such items used in the kitchen were either of vitreous enamel or galvanised iron. The heavier duty items being of the latter i.e. buckets, baths, washing boilers.

There were no formica or other laminate working surfaces. These were of wood and kept scrubbed, or if one was really well off it was possible to buy a table with a white vitreous enamel top. The first formica topped table I saw was in the kitchen at Wembury House in about 1954. They had the big kitchen table covered in a pink and white gingham patterned formica, and very smart it looked too. Most formicas or laminates in those early days were of bright and usually quite gaudy colours, not the subtle tones that one sees today, or the wood and stone simulations.

Polythene bags started to appear in the early 1950s. If one received anything in a polythene bag, it had to be opened very carefully so that the bag could be used again. People used to wash them out and hang them out on the line to dry, so that they could be reused. All of the shops used paper for wrapping, and paper bags and carrier bags. Carrier bags usually had string handles which were attached to a couple of cardboard strengthening pieces on each side. There was no polystyrene packing, electrical items had cut cardboard formers which fitted around appliances to hold them securely in cartons. Brown corrugated paper was used a lot, as was very fine wood shavings, which we used to call 'wood wool' but which the Americans called 'excelsior', this was used mainly for the packing of china. When one came home from shopping in Plymouth, all the paper bags were carefully flattened out and folded so that they could be used again. The same with any parcels that came by post, these had to be carefully unwrapped so that the brown paper and string could be reused. 'Jiffy bags' were a long way off in the future!

At the butchers, meat would be wrapped in greaseproof paper and then newspaper, and handed like that to the customer, it was the same at the fishmongers. In the shop at Wembury, vegetables such as potatoes, carrots, onions etc., were, once weighed, tipped straight into one's shopping bag. Small items such as dried peas would be put into a paper bag, but greens, such as runner or broad beans cabbages, etc., would just be wrapped in some newspaper.

Clotted cream came in waxed cardboard tubs with cardboard lids. Single and double cream came in miniature milk bottles. Things such as yoghurt, fromage fraise, creme fraiche, and cottage cheese were totally unheard of. I don't think they appeared on the scene until the 1970s with the advent of the large supermarkets. All lemonades, mineral waters, cordials, and sauces came in proper glass bottles. Drinks in cans were totally unheard of. There was no such thing as soft margarine or any of the other spreads. Milk of course came in glass bottles and could only be bought from the milkman, it was not stocked in the shop. Other than that one bought it directly from a farm. My father supplied milk, directly from the farm, to Miss Perring at the Jubilee Inn for many years. Sometimes one of us children would have to take it up to her in the special carrying container. We would have to go in via the back gate which was on the Knighton Road side of the pub, and into the kitchen, and decant it into a large jug. We would often be rewarded with a small bar of Cadburys chocolate for our efforts.

Ready sliced bread did not make an appearance until the 1950s, up until then a loaf of bread would be wrapped in a piece of tissue paper and put into a brown paper bag. The bread vans used to deliver to the door, and in every van there was a broom handle with a long nail through one end of it. If the loaf that one desired was beyond the reach of the van man, he would spike it with the nail and drag it to within reach. This piece of equipment was standard on all bread vans and nobody gave it a second thought!

As soon as sliced bread appeared, a way of wrapping it had to be devised in order to keep it together, and to keep it fresh. Waxed paper was used, this had the brand name of the bread on it, and the loaf once wrapped, was sealed in by the application of heat to the joins in the waxed paper, to weld them together. In the summer the paper was saved and reused to wrap ones picnic sandwiches in for the beach.

There were no plastic boxes for taking food to the beach in, tin boxes especially for the purpose could be bought, but we usually waited for an 'OXO' tin to become available at the shop. OXO cubes in those days came in tins of, I think 144, and were sold individually for one penny each. If one spoke nicely to Vic Smith at the shop he would put your name down for a tin when it became available, there was usually a waiting list!

All brushes and brooms were of wood, with proper bristles, and dustpans were of metal. Laundry baskets were real baskets, curtain tracks were of a cheap alloy type of brass with fittings of the same material. Telephones were black bakelite, although the first telephone that I remember at Old Barton Farm was mainly of wood, with bakelite fittings, and was the old spindle type which many years later people made into table lamps. Electrical cable was rubber covered, some of the older stuff in use was lead covered, Twin flex for table lamps was rubber covered which in turn was covered with a woven silk fabric in maroon or gold, light switches and plug sockets were of porcelain with brass or bakelite covers. All sockets were round pinned 5 or 15 amp, there were also 3 amp sockets but these were usually used in lighting circuits. There was, for a short time 13 amp round pinned plugs, which I think were a trial for the fused plugs which were to come. In these the fuse was actually the positive pin which had to be screwed in. If the fuse blew one had to go to the nearest electrical shop and buy a new pin. It was in the early 1950s that the 13 amp square pin plugs came in to be made standard throughout the country.

Guttering and drain pipes were of either cast or galvanised iron, and of course window frames were mainly of wood although there were quite a few metal ones around. In the garden, wheelbarrows were either of wood or of thin galvanised steel sheet, hose pipes were usually of rubber. Plant pots were of terracotta, large planters sometimes of stone or lead, Watering cans were galvanised, seed trays were of wood. People made their own nets for runner beans, or to keep the birds away from fruit trees. I remember my mother making nets not only for domestic use, but also for the war effort, when the making of nets for camouflage was equally as important as knitting socks for soldiers. Radios and the early television sets were encased in wood with the component chassis mounted on wooden bearers inside. These items were very often a piece of furniture in their own right. The list is quite endless, plastic and polythene nowadays we take completely for granted. It is sometimes quite hard to think how we managed in those 'olden days'!

## WEMBURY POST OFFICE & SHOP 1961

This photograph was taken from a coloured slide that I took in 1961, regrettably some of the clarity has been lost.

The shop, at this time was owned by Dennis and Lena Baskerville. Dennis had brought the Post Office back downstairs and had extended the shop into the old kitchen, to accommodate it.

The post office counter used to go across in front of the upstairs window with the teller standing with his back to the window. The older people didn't like it very much having to climb the stairs to conduct Post Office business, and were all rather relieved when it was brought back down again.

The red and gold post office sign was another of Dennis Baskerville's innovations as was the replacing of the old corrugated iron porch with the brick and concrete one. The Craven 'A' cigarette sign beside the door ("does not affect your throat" it proclaimed!) had gone by this time but the two on the front wall advertising Lyons Coffee and Brooke Bond Tea are still there. The stamp machine in the porch was another new innovation.



## WEMBURY POST OFFICE & SHOP

The village Post Office has been sited here since 1926 when it moved from Watergate. The building was previously a farm building (a calf house, I think), part of West Wembury Farm, and was converted for use as a shop with living accommodation by Mrs McMenemy. The post office and shop occupied the building up as far as the left hand side of the shop window, everything to the left was living accommodation. The entrance was immediately around the corner on the right (where there is now a small window), from this a simply constructed green corrugated iron shelter stuck out for some four or five feet. Displayed in the shelter were the bus stop sign and timetable, and the Parish Council notice board, to the left of the shop door was an enamelled sign advertising Craven 'A' Cigarettes "Does not affect your throat" so the slogan read. Just above the post box and to the right, was an enamelled advertising sign for Lyon's Coffee, and to the right, one for Brooke Bond Tea, above these, fixed to two brackets coming out from under the guttering, there was a long narrow sign in green and yellow enamel advertising the Western National Bus Company.



Inside the shop, the post office counter was on the right as one came through the door. From right hand edge of the doorway and occupying the whole wall back to the corner were full length glass fronted cabinets, these mainly contained cosmetic items, toilet soap and other things of a personal nature, for ladies, which we children, especially boys, were not supposed to know about! Directly ahead, as one came through the door, the main counter went the full width of the shop from the shop window on the left, to the back wall on the right. Behind the counter were shelves going right up to the ceiling, the bottom ones being much wider providing a work top at counter height, upon which there was a bacon slicer, scales, an ancient brass National Cash Register, plus two or three old biscuit tins without lids containing a conglomeration of paper work, balls of string, scissors and all sorts of other 'come-in-handly' items. On the far right by the door going through to the kitchen there was an ancient fridge (an Electrolux on four legs like the one that we had at home), the door of which always seemed to be open, and the fridge itself long overdue for a defrost. In front of the counter were sacks containing dry goods such as dog biscuits, and dried peas, and others containing potatoes and other vegetables. On the back wall, adjacent to the door going through to the kitchen, there was another door going out to the corrugated iron lean to at the back, where the paraffin was stored and the filling of jerry cans took place. The battery charging arrangements were also out there as a service was provided for the not inconsiderable number of people without electricity, so that they could have the batteries and accumulators for their household radios recharged. Some people used to walk across the fields from Langdon with their accumulators to get them recharged. Outside at the bottom of the back garden was an old abandoned bus which served as extra storage space.

The shop stands in what was locally known as 'The Square' although officially it had no such title. It was called that as it was really the only open area in the village where people could meet up, and also where there

was room to park a coach. Therefore it was always always the setting off point for the various coach trips that took place. Also with the Post Office and the only shop in the village being there, it was very much the hub of the village.

I first remember the shop in the late 1940s, when it was run by Mr and Mrs Woolf, they emigrated to New Zealand in about 1949 and Vic and Lil Smith moved in. They had two daughters Pat and Christine, who were older than us. Pat was the eldest and she was 'Akela' to the First Wembury Cubs, Christine, as I remember, was a bit of a tearaway, and hung around mostly with girls of her own age, Josephine Jolliffe and Judy Booth are two that spring to mind.

Vic Smith had the post office counter moved upstairs, which relieved the cramped conditions downstairs to a certain extent, but much of the room gained was taken up by the stairs that had to be put in. Many of the old people were not too happy with having to climb the stairs to conduct Post Office business. Also upstairs with the post office were stationery, postcards, birthday cards, sweets, china and glass, and such things as wicks and mantles for oil lamps, covers for jam jars for the many jam makers!, and many other miscellaneous items. Apart from cleaning products, the downstairs was given over to food.

Vic also used to run a taxi service, usually taking people in to Friary or North Road Stations in Plymouth. The Wembury bus used to pass Friary Station at St Jude's and terminated next to the Union Street railway arch by Millbay Station, the entrance of which was opposite the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. Millbay ceased operating as a passenger terminus after it was bomb damaged in 1941.

Vic had a freezer and also managed to get ice cream on the odd occasion (this was still supposedly on ration at the time). I think that he actually made it himself as there was always a plentiful supply of milk in the village. We would hear about it at school during the day and of course used to rush to the shop as soon as school was over to get in the queue. He only did wafers, at 3d a time, and we would all get our ice cream and try to make it last as long as we could without it melting and running away! He also used to make his own ice lollies which he sold to us for 1d (one penny) each.

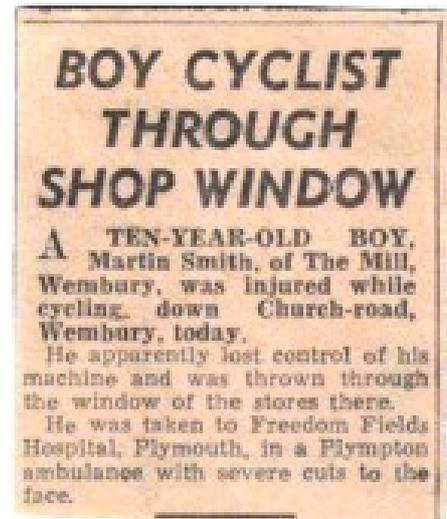
There was no self-service back then, and if the shop was full one could have quite a long wait before being served. Of course during this long waiting period everybody used the time to discuss latest happenings in the village, and so the shop became the clearing house of all the local gossip.

Vic and Lil got divorced in the mid 1950s it was quite a messy business as some of their quarrels use to spill over into the shop where there was, of course, no shortage of 'messengers' to spread the word! After their divorce, which made it into the "News of the World" the shop was sold, and Vic moved to Yealmpton with his new wife whilst Lil and Christine emigrated to Australia. Pat had got married by this time and was living in Tanganyika (as it was then).

Dennis and Lena Baskerville then took the shop over. I think that he had previously had a bakery business in Devonport. The post office counter was brought back downstairs and the stairs removed. By rearrangement of the living accommodation, the shop was extended into the old kitchen and the post office counter sited at that end. The long counter was positioned along the back wall opposite the shop window and it was joined by a refrigerated display counter, and a frozen food counter, Mr Birdseye had arrived!

Dennis was a very talented musician, and in their sitting room they had a grand piano, I thought that this was amazing, as apart from the one in Wembury House, where one would expect it, this was the only other I had seen in a private house. Years later when they retired from the shop, Dennis became organist at the church. He also set about the garden, which, in the photograph would have been to the right of the shop in the area now occupied by the first two bungalows. It was surrounded by a dry stone wall and came out as far as where the broken white lines are shown going around the corner, in the photograph. At the far end of the garden (going towards West Wembury Cottages) there was a huge yew tree (which used to foul the overhead telephone lines). Next to the tree was a hut that in the Smith's time, Christine used a 'den' with her contemporaries. The hut was demolished but the yew tree remained to be finally swept away when the bungalows were built. Dennis fashioned the most beautiful garden, but they never seemed to sit in it and enjoy it. It seemed that when it wasn't being worked on, it was just a work of art to be admired from over the wall.

One day in 1959 Martin Smith who lived at the Mill, and who was 10 years old, was cycling to school, which of course in those days was the old school at Ford Road. As he came down the hill and turned left to go into Ford Road he found himself confronted by the milk churn lorry, which was doing its rounds of the farms. To avoid it he turned a sharp right, lost control of the bike, and was catapulted through the window the left of the shop window, which in those days was the kitchen. Nobody was more surprised the Baskervilles who were having breakfast at the time. Broken glass was scattered everywhere but Martin was pretty well unscathed in spite of being head and shoulders through the window. His injuries were sustained when the driver of the churn lorry decided to help by pulling Martin back through the window. In doing this Martin was badly cut under his right jaw by a piece of protruding glass, and carries the scar to this day (2008).



I do not know who followed the Baskervilles but I know that the Branney's were there in the mid 1970s and then later the Chick's took it on.

The photograph below was taken in May 2004. The shop window has been reduced in size and a dormer window has appeared in the roof since the 1995 photograph.

A proper pillar-box now stands there like a sentry, presumably the old wall box had become inadequate for the amount of mail now being posted. The main shop building has now been made into a hair and beauty parlour, which is obviously more important now than food and provisions were in the old days! The Post Office and general shop are now in the extension at the back.



## COINS OF THE REALM

The photograph below shows the coins of the realm that were in circulation in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The coins in the photograph are actual size.

In the early 1950s Decimal Coinage was sometimes talked about, but as history later proves, did not actually come to pass until about twenty years afterwards. We had this wonderful system called 'Dinarus' but which we knew much better as known as 'Pounds, Shillings and Pence'. There were twelve Pennies to the Shilling, and twenty Shillings to the Pound.

It was a system that was quintessentially English in that it was unweildly, and unusual, but we were all used to it, and loved it. It would be very hard for a child in school today to have to learn it, but it didn't seem to faze us back then. This coupled with the Imperial weights and measures, probably made us better at arithmetic by having to work in denominations other than ten. The pounds, shillings and pence system was also used in many of the countries of the Commonwealth, a throwback to the days of the Empire (in fact the Empire was still very much a going concern in the early 1950s). It had the great advantage in that the pound was equally divisible by great many more numbers than in the Decimal System, i.e., it was divisible by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5,6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 20, 30, 40, 60, 80, 120,150,160,240,480 and 960. When farthings were still legal tender the pound could be divided into 960 equal parts. This of course dropped to 480 when farthings were demonetised in the late 1950s.



Although I suppose that it was inevitable, that we had to come in line with the rest of Europe and our friends across the Atlantic. It was still a very sad day in February 1971 when we gave up our lovely good old handfuls of British money in favour of the piddling new copper coins smaller than the Farthing and Half penny that we had dispensed with years earlier. Plus the jargon that we lost at the same time, 'Bobs' and 'Tanners', 'Thrupenny bits' and 'Ha'pennies'. No more 'two and eleven' or 'five and eleven', or 'fifteen bob' or 'twelve and six', etc., etc. No more Dinarus, instead just 100 'Pee' to the pound.

The coins in circulation in the early 1950s were:

The Penny - these were of a copper alloy, and there were 240 of them to the Pound. They were just under an inch and a quarter in diameter. There were 12 of them to the Shilling, and a shilling's worth in ones pocket made one feel quite rich! The Shilling, of course later became the 5 pence piece. Pennies had Britannia on the reverse or 'tails' side, and the lighthouse is the Eddystone Lighthouse, which appeared with Britannia on all pennies except for those between 1894 and 1937. We were each given one of these to take to church on a Sunday to put into the collection bag, as were, I think, most other children in the village! Many years ago there was an attempt to "Breach the Beach with Pennies". The idea was to invite people to lay pennies edge to edge across the beach and the money so collected would go towards the provision of the treble bell in the church tower. I can't remember how successful it was, but to cover 100 yards would have needed 2,950 pennies, which would have been £12-5s-10d (£12.27).

The Halfpenny - or Ha'penny, as it was more popularly known, was also of a copper alloy. Obviously there were 2 of these to the Penny (480 to the Pound). They were exactly one inch in diameter, this was a handy thing for a small boy to know when things had to be measured! They had a ship (The Golden Hind) on the tails side, Those minted before George VI had Britannia. This coin was just about the same size as the present two pence piece, but one would need nearly 10 of them (9.6) to make up the same value

The Farthing - this name was derived from 'Fourth thing' as there were four of them to one penny (960 to the Pound) these were also of a copper alloy. They had a wren on the tails side, and as with the ha'pennies, those minted before George VI had Britannia. They went out of circulation at the end of the decade, the last ones were minted in 1956. I can remember using farthings to buy sweets in Wembury Shop, and I used to get one as a tip every Saturday from Miss Perring of the Jubilee Inn, when I helped Dennis Little with the milk at weekends. This coin was about the same size as the present one penny coin, but, as with the ha'penny, one would need nearly 10 of them (9.6) to make up the same value.

The Threepenny Piece - or 'thrupenny bit' as it was more popularly known, (80 to the Pound), was a twelve sided coin in brass nickel, just under seven eighths of an inch across the flats. Four of them were the same value of the present 5 pence piece. It was a comparatively new coin having been first circulated in 1937, and was eventually to replace the silver three penny pieces. All of the George VI ones had the plant 'thrift' on the tails side, the Elizabeth II ones had a portcullis. They were normally given as 'treats' for running errands, or could be earned for extra duties at school, I got one every week for a whole term at Wembury School for cleaning the blackboard at the end of each day (Miss Axworthy paid this out of her own pocket). They were often given by parents for spending money when one went to the beach, and usually covered the cost of an ice cream. At the Jubilee Inn a thrupenny bit would buy a packet of Smith's Crisps (with the salt in a twist of blue greaseproof paper!).

There were still silver three penny pieces in circulation but they were, from my memory, mostly used for special birthday treats, or putting into Christmas Puddings! The last ones were minted in 1944.

The Sixpence - more popularly known as the 'Tanner' (40 to the Pound), was originally made of silver, but later of cupro nickel. They were slightly smaller than the farthing, but a lot larger than the present 5 pence piece. Two of them would be the same value as the present 5 pence piece, however the purchasing power, in the early 1950s was more like the present one pound coin (2004). The George VI ones just had his monogram on the tails side, whereas the Elizabeth II ones had the symbols of the four countries of the British Isles, the Rose of England, the Thistle of Scotland, the Shamrock of Ireland and the Leek of Wales. They were the 'special treat' coins. They were awarded to one for being 'very good', or as prizes for achievement, or special birthday treats. With one of these one could buy an ice cream and a packet of crisps, or a quarter pound (113 gr) of sweets! Most of us bought a National Savings Stamp at Wembury School each week for sixpence, which

we stuck into special books, which when full were worth £2, and for which we received a Certificate which was stuck into yet another book which was kept at home, I never did find out what eventually happened to all of those certificates which my siblings and I managed to collect!

The Shilling - which was popularly known as the 'Bob', (20 to the Pound), never seemed to be in great abundance. I rather think that people used to hang on to them for use in electricity meters. I can remember that when the overhead heaters were put into the new village hall, people hiring the hall had to have a good supply of shillings to keep the meter fed during the event. Quite often an appeal would go out during an evening, requesting people to come forward with any shillings that they might have! They were slightly smaller in diameter than the ha'penny at about fifteen sixteenths of an inch. There were two sorts, English and Scottish, each with their own distinctive design on the tails side. The George VI English ones had the King's Crown surmounted by a lion passant guardant, whereas the George VI Scottish ones had a Scottish Crown surmounted by a lion sejant, rampant, affronty, bearing a sword in its dexter (right) paw and a sceptre in its sinister (left) one, to the right side, the Thistle of Scotland and the left the Cross Saltire of Scotland. The Elizabeth II Shillings were much simpler in design, the English ones having a shield bearing the three lions of England statant guardant, surmounted by the Queen's Crown, and the Scottish ones a shield with the Scottish lion rampant within a bordure double tressure, flory, counter flory, surmounted by the Queen's Crown. As children these coins were out of our league! all of our transactions just required the use of sixpences, three penny pieces, and the copper coins. Anything of greater value than these were only used when one had to go on a shopping errand for ones mother. Shillings came into their own once a year, during the Easter Holidays, when the Scouts and Cubs used to have 'Bob a Job' week. It was all official and we used to take ourselves around the village to carry out odd jobs for people for a shilling a time, we had to wear our Scout or Cub uniform to make it all official. I did a whole afternoon of gardening at New Barton Farm for three shillings, which, at the time, was a princely sum! I was also given the job of weeding the drive of dandelions at the Old Vicarage, for the Misses Cary-Elwesses, they said that they would give me a shilling for every 50 that I dug up. When I got to 200 they made me stop, I think that they thought that it could end up being an expensive afternoon! I can't remember what exactly the proceeds of all our efforts went to.

The Two Shilling Piece - or Florin, was popularly called the 'Two Bob Bit' (10 to the pound). Queen Victoria gave Royal Assent for the first ones to be minted in 1849. The first ones bore the inscription 'One Tenth of a Pound' but this was later changed to 'Two Shillings'. This was the first step on the road to decimalisation, it would be a further 119 years before we went the full way to achieve this, on Monday 15th February, 1971. The florins of the 1950s, bore on the tails side, a circular design incorporating, the national emblems of the British Isles, i.e., the Thistle, the Rose, the Shamrock and the Leek. The earlier George VI ones had a design incorporating the Rose, the Thistle and the Shamrock with the King's Monogram, surmounted by the King's Crown

The Half Crown - Usually called by its proper name, although sometimes it was referred to as 'Two and a Tanner' (8 to the Pound). They were worth Two shillings and sixpence and they were really lovely chunky coins in fact, quite my favourite coin! Both the George VI ones and the Elizabeth II ones had the royal Arms on their tails side, but slightly differing in design. Half Crowns were given to older children as pocket money, and to other children on very special occasions and very often as the first prize in competitions (the second prize was usually one shilling and sixpence, and the third prize, a shilling). I won a half crown, one year, as first prize in the sandcastle building competition on Wembury Beach. They were given by visiting elderly relatives, often accompanied by great protestations from one's parents, which one would secretly hope was only a token gesture, and that the gift would eventually be accepted! At Wembury School, a half crown would buy school dinners for a whole week. At the Jubilee Inn, a half crown would buy a packet of cigarettes and 2 pints of beer. In todays money a half crown equates to just under 13 pence.

Many years earlier there was a 'Crown' coin in circulation which was worth five shillings (4 to the Pound). These had been out of circulation for some years, and occasionally one was brought into school for us to look at, and to wonder at, as to a child they seemed quite enormous. In 1953 a special Crown was minted in honour of the Queen's Coronation, the 'Heads' side bearing a representation of the Queen mounted on a horse, and the 'Tails' side, the shields and emblems of the British Isles with the Queen's Crown at the centre. Around the edge it was inscribed "Faith and truth I bear unto you". The coins were marked with the face value of five shillings and were legal tender, I don't think that many of them were ever spent, they were mostly put away in drawers for posterity. The next crown to be minted was the Churchill Commemorative Crown in 1965, in

honour of Sir Winston Churchill who died that year. This was the first time that a head other than that of the Monarch, appeared on a Coin of the Realm.

Apart from the coinage or 'specie' the other form of currency in use were banknotes, these were in denominations of ten shillings (10/-), one pound (£1) and five pounds (£5). Ten shilling notes were predominantly brown in colour, and were quite common. One pound notes, were predominantly green, and I remember had a picture of the Bank of England on them, these were less common. I remember there being some in circulation that were a bluish mauve colour, I think that these were a wartime minting. The five pound notes, however, were a very rare sight indeed, and were almost works of art in their own right! They were much larger than the other notes and had to be folded in quarters to fit into the average wallet. They were crisp white, and beautifully inscribed in black copperplate writing. One felt rich just holding one. Anybody lucky enough to get one usually took it around to show their friends before banking it!

For most day-to-day shopping transactions a pocket full of coins usually sufficed. One could come away from the village shop absolutely laden having spent about seven or eight shillings! For the same amount spent in the Jubilee Inn of an evening one would be nursing quite a hangover the following day!



ONE POUND NOTES OF THE 1940s AND 1950s - (OBVERSE)



ONE POUND NOTES OF THE 1940s AND 1950s - (REVERSE)



TEN SHILLING NOTE OF THE 1940s AND 1950s - (OBVERSE)



TEN SHILLING NOTE OF THE 1940s AND 1950s - (REVERSE)



A ONE POUND NOTE AND A TEN SHILLING NOTE OF THE 1960s



ONE POUND NOTES OF THE 1970s AND 1980s - (REVERSE)

SAME NOTE, SUBTLE DIFFERENCES IN SHADING



ONE POUND NOTES OF THE 1970s AND 1980s - (OBVERSE)

SAME NOTE, DIFFERENT CHIEF CASHIERS



ONE POUND NOTES OF THE 1970s AND 1980s - (REVERSE)

SAME NOTE, SUBTLE DIFFERENCES IN SHADING



FIVE POUND NOTE OF 1947

