

The History  
of  
Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall



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The building now known as Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall, was originally built as a “Floor-Malting” Malthouse and was part of a much larger complex which included a well, pump-house, granary and a cottage.

### The Malting Process

Malt is the name given to grain, which has been artificially germinated, and then the germination process arrested at a critical point by kiln drying. The most common grain to be malted is barley as this is used extensively in the production of beer, though it is also used in the food industry and in the production of whiskey.

Malting is first recorded in England as early as the eleventh century, however at this stage it was probably carried out in barns and dried in ovens. By the beginning of the sixteenth century most malting was being carried out in purpose built buildings using the floor malting process. As the name suggests, floor malting is where the grain is spread out on a floor to germinate and this method of malting continued until the twentieth century. Inevitably, as a successful industry, the government imposed a tax on malt from 1644 with particularly rigorous enforcement between 1827 and 1880 when the tax was finally repealed. Although a pneumatic system of malting had been introduced in 1878, it was not until the repeal of the malt tax that the new system could be successfully implemented whereupon it rapidly replaced the old floor malting method.

Malting was a seasonal process, generally between the months of October and May. The threshed and winnowed grain would have been stored in a granary and some additional cleaning or dressing of the grain would have been carried out prior to malting. The first stage after cleaning was soaking the grain in water, called steeping. This was carried out in large cisterns, normally rectangular in shape, constructed of stone or brick and made water tight with lead, cement or tiles. Steeping normally took two to three days at an ideal water temperature of 12½°C. After 1820 it became common practice to change the water several times during the steeping and the barley rested for around eight hours at each change.

At the completion of the steeping, the grain had to be shoveled by hand out of the cistern and into a “couching frame”. Couching consisted of resting the steeped grain for a period in heaps large enough to enable the grain to gain some heat. Until the repeal of the malt tax, couching was obligatory and the duration strictly controlled by the legislation. In 1827 the duration of the couching was reduced from thirty six to twenty four hours. The tax had also imposed strict controls on the design and dimensions of the cistern so it was not until after the repeal that cisterns began to be constructed in cast iron with hopper bottoms, making them self emptying.

After couching, the grain was spread out by hand onto the growing floor to a depth of between four and eight inches. Over time, the duration of the growing stage has gradually reduced. In the sixteenth century the grain was left to germinate for more than three weeks, but by the latter half of the nineteenth century, this had been reduced to just two weeks. During the growing stage, the grain has to be turned

regularly to prevent the growing rootlets from matting together. This was carried out using a special flat bladed fork as can be seen in the following photograph.



Photo courtesy of BenRiachs Distillery Company Ltd.

*Turning the grain on the growing floor*

When the growing stage was complete, the “green” malt was heaped up and allowed to wither for twelve hours before moving it into the drying kiln. It is the kilning of the green malt that finally arrests the germination of the grain. The drying process reduced the moisture content to around three percent, which is necessary for safe storage and also produces an ideal grain for the brewing process.

### **Malting in Chidham**

One early reference to malting in Chidham appears in the Manorial records for Chidham Manor in 1772:-

Court Baron – 9th April

*At this court the Homage upon their oaths presented that John Matthews who holds of the Lords of the said Manor by copy of the Court Roll, according to the custom of the said Manor, three parts of four of a Malthouse and Outbarns and twenty acres of land and five acres upon Hambrook called Sheppards, since the last court hath cut down, grubbed up and carried away several oak trees on that part of his said copyhold estate which lieth in Weston common field and grubbed up and destroyed the hedgerow without the Lords licence for so doing and that the said John Matthews being in the court before the said Homage*

*confessed the same by means whereof the said John Matthews hath forfeited his said copyhold estate to the Lords of the Manor aforesaid according to the custom of the said Manor.*

There is no reference as to who owned the other part of the Malthouse. John Matthews farm was located on the western side of the parish (the old hamlet of Weston) with his cottage at the end of the now defunct "Kittys Lane". Wherever the Matthews Malthouse was, it clearly is not the building we now know as the Village Hall. The Matthews Malthouse certainly survived until at least 1825 as at a Court Baron held on 2nd November of that year saw George Mitchell present that he was the devisee of the same three parts of a Malthouse, barn etc. in the will of the late John Matthews. This however, is the last mention of the Matthews Malthouse and it is possible that it was not practical to bring this Malthouse into compliance with the new strict controls introduced in the Malt Tax in 1827.

Contrary to the statement made in Doreen Stewart's booklet "Some Aspects of the History of Chidham and Nutbourne", our Malthouse is not shown on the Enclosure map of Chidham, dated 1812. What is shown is "Arched Cottage" (now known as "Christmas Cottage") and also two farm buildings immediately to the south of the cottage. These are referred to as a barn, yard and hovel.

Prior to the enclosure acts in England, a portion of the land was categorized as either "common" or "waste". Common land was held under a form of collective control where single plots were divided among groups, generally participating or employed peasants, under the control of the Lord. This facilitated common grazing and crop rotation. Waste was the only land not officially owned by any individual or group and was often cultivated by landless peasants. Numerous enclosure acts came into force creating legal property rights to land that was once considered common and maps were drawn up to show exactly who owned what.

The 1812 Enclosure map of Chidham shows all the various plots of land and property with details as to who owned each parcel of land. From this map it is clear that Thomas Bennett of Bosham owned a large tract of land south of Main Road stretching from Chidham Lane to Cot Lane and as far south as the School. This also included the land on which our Village Hall now stands, although the actual plot at the corner consisting of 9 acres, 1 rood and 8 perches had been exchanged with Joseph Postlethwaite. Postlethwaite owned much of the land south of Bennett's and as far south as Steels Lane with the exception of a plot at the corner of Steels Lane and Chidham Lane, which had belonged to Thomas Bennett. This plot also consisted of 9 acres 1 rood and 10 perches, so it is clear that Thomas Bennett exchanged his plot with that of Joseph Postlethwaite for convenience at the time of the enclosure.

### **The Bennett's of Bosham**

Thomas Bennett owned a considerable amount of land and property in the area, principally in Bosham. He is probably the Thomas Bennett who was baptised at Boxgrove on 27th January 1754, the son of Thomas and Ann Bennett. He married Avis Horwood at Bosham on 11th November 1777 and they had five children. Anne,

baptised at Bosham on 21st May 1778, Avis on 21st April 1785, Thomas on 23rd January 1787, Mary on 15th May 1788 and Robert on 29th September 1790.

Thomas Bennett died and was buried at Bosham on 9th April 1827. In his will he details his extensive land and property:-

*I hereby give and devise all that my messuage or tenement farm and lands containing sixty acres, more or less, called Priors Lees situate in the parish of Westbourne in the said county. All that my farm and lands called Hambrooks containing one hundred and twenty acres, more or less, situate in the parish of Chidham in the said county. Also all those Tithes which I lately purchased of the trustees of the late Richard Bennett Esquire arising of and from certain lands in Bosham aforesaid belonging to Webber Smith Esquire. Also the lands which I lately purchased of Rev. Henley situate in the parish of Bosham aforesaid also the several messuages or tenements lands and premises situate at Bosham aforesaid containing forty eight acres more or less which I lately purchased of and from Messrs Diggars, Pearce and Fuller and Sir Thomas Miller as also all and singular the Tithes arising from the said last mentioned lands. Also the farm and lands situate at Bosham aforesaid containing forty acres more or less which I lately purchased of and from Mr George Combes as likewise the Tithes arising as well from the said last mentioned estate as also of and from a certain farm at Bosham aforesaid called Broadbridge and also all my lands and premises situate in the parish of Funtington in the said county containing sixteen acres more or less.*

In the will Thomas leaves much of his land and particularly that in Chidham, to his grandson Thomas Bennett, the son of his daughter Avis, when he attained the age of twenty-five years. Avis Bennett had married Edward Bennett (another line of the Bennett's who had been in Bosham since at least the mid seventeenth century) on 10th October 1805 at Bosham church. They had eight children, the abovementioned Thomas being the eldest, baptised at Bosham on 26th April 1807. Avis died at the age of just thirty-six and was buried at Bosham on 8th May 1821.

The grandson Thomas Bennett married Eliza Farndell at Apuldram on 12th November 1829 and he inherited the land on which our Village Hall now stands on his twenty fifth birthday in 1832. This Thomas Bennett died at the young age of 30 and was buried at Bosham on 9th June 1837. In his will he leaves all of his estate in trust to his wife Eliza, his father Edward Bennett and his father in law, Stephen Farndell, for his children. Edward Bennett and Stephen Farndell pre-deceased Eliza and so the estate is subsequently held solely by Eliza. In her husband's will she can have the benefit of the estate for the rest of her life if she remains his widow and on her death or re-marriage then the estate passes to his children if they have attained the age of twenty one years, or their guardians if they are under twenty one years.

At a Court Baron held on 18th January 1838, it was recorded that no one came to claim the land of Thomas Bennett deceased. It was at the Court Baron held on 20th September that year that Eliza, Edward and Stephen came forward to claim his estate. Thomas Bennett's will was proved at the Chichester on 9th January 1839.

## The 1841 Census

The decennial census returns began in 1801 but, with just a few rare exceptions, it was not until 1841 than any personal information was recorded. The 1841 census recorded names, ages (rounded up in 5 year steps for ages over 15), occupation and a yes/no answer if they were born in the same county as that where the census was being taken. From 1851 onwards the census recorded the head of household plus the relationship to the head of everyone else in the house on census night. It also recorded the place of birth (usually the parish). Below is an entry in the 1841 census for Chidham for John Laws, who is strangely vague about his age, it being recorded as “above 30” and he also fails to state whether he was born in Sussex. He gives his occupation as Maltster.

	Dorothy do	55		
	Elizabeth do	20		
	Fanny do	15		
	George do	18	Ag Lab	
	Thomas do	9		
1B	John Laws	above 30	Maltster	
TOTAL in Page 13	13	14	11	107

*Image Courtesy of The National Archives*

*The 1841 Census – Chidham*

The crucial piece of evidence in this entry is the “1B” in the first column. This column was for the census enumerator to record the number of uninhabited houses or buildings. 1B would refer to one building and 1U for one uninhabited house. The original instructions for the enumerators were that they should record non-residential buildings (excluding farm buildings such as barns etc). The entry to be recorded alongside the nearest residential property. Such buildings are effectively commercial or industrial and this was the only such building recorded in the parish. There is no doubt that this has to be our Malthouse and John Laws must be living at “Arched Cottage”. John Laws does not appear on any later census return for Chidham or the surrounding parishes.

## The Chidham Tithe Map

The first explicit mention of our Malthouse appears on the Chidham Tithe Map of 1846. Tithes were a payment in kind (such as crops, wool or milk) comprising an agreed proportion of the yearly profits from farming and made by parishioners for the support of their parish church and its clergy. In theory, tithes were payable on all things arising from the ground such as grain, wood, vegetables etc. (predial tithes), also all things nourished by the ground such as the young of cattle or sheep and animal produce such as milk, eggs and wool (mixed tithes). The produce of

man's labour, especially the profits from mills and fishing were also subject and termed personal tithes.

Tithes were also divided into "Great" and "Small" tithes. Corn, grain, hay and wood were considered great tithes and all other predial and personal tithes were classed as small tithes. It was common for great tithes to be payable to the rector and the small tithes to the vicar of the parish. During the dissolution of the monasteries, much church land passed into lay ownership and these tithes became the personal property of the new owners.

By 1836 payment in kind was becoming impractical and so the "Tithe Commutation Act" sought to replace the system with monetary payments. A commission was set up to produce maps of the land in every parish to determine exactly who owned what so that the commuted payment could be calculated for each landowner. The map for Chidham was drawn up in 1846 and each and every parcel of land and property was marked and given a number. Following the drawing up of the map an associated list of apportionments were drawn up to detail the owner, occupier(s), size and description and the rent due for each. The Tithe Apportionment for Chidham is dated 1848. Payment of Tithe Rents was finally abolished in 1935.



*Image courtesy of The West Sussex Record Office*

*The Chidham Malthouse as shown on the 1846 Tithe Map*

In the above image, our Malthouse is itemised as number 120 on the plan and the building shown in red is "Arched Cottage". The buildings marked 119 on the plan are the Barn, Yard and Hovel mentioned together with the cottage on the 1812 Enclosure Map. As can be seen from the plan, our Malthouse was part of a larger

group of buildings which extended in an 'L' shape over what is now the car park. The longer arm adjoining the plot 119 was the granary and this part of the complex was still standing until the 1920's. The postcard below shows "Arched Cottage" and in the background the granary can clearly be seen.

The photograph was probably taken circa 1910. This postcard had not been sent but the reverse has the words:-

*"This is from father and our cottage"*



*Photo courtesy of The Author*

The Tithe Apportionment describes plot 120 as Malthouse, Cottage & Garden and states that it is owned by Eliza Bennett but occupied by John Wyatt and co-occupier Richard Wrapson. In addition to the Malthouse and Cottage, Eliza is recorded as being the owner of several plots of land in Chidham (much of the land of her late husband's grandfather). It is almost certain that it was Thomas Bennett who built the Malthouse and Granary, probably after he inherited the land from his grandfather in 1832. If so, this gives us a build date of probably between 1833 and 1836. If the Matthews Malthouse at Weston had become redundant after the 1827 Malt Tax changes, then Thomas Bennett may have seized the opportunity to build a new Malthouse on his newly acquired land.

The image below shows (highlighted) Eliza's land either side of the Turnpike Road (now Main Road). In addition to the land shown, Eliza owned more land north of the railway line, on the east side of Drift Lane (plots 51 to 63) as well as their main farm consisting of 250 acres at Broadbridge, Bosham.





Image courtesy of The West Sussex Record Office

Land in the ownership of Eliza Bennett

The Tithe Apportionment gives the following details for Eliza's land:-

Owner	Occupier(s)	Number on Plan	Description	State of cultivation	Payable to Vicar	
Eliza Bennett	Eliza Bennett	51	The Seventeen Acres	Arable	15/4d	
		52	Ten Acres	Arable	9/2d	
		53	Seven Acres	Arable	7/4d	
		54	Cuckoo's Corner	Copse		
		62	Little Common	Arable	5/2d	
		63	Great Common	Arable	9/1d	
		88	Croft behind Fays	Arable	2/6d	
		89	Field behind Fays	Arable	4/9d	
		93	Cottage & Garden Farm Buildings & Yards			1/11d
		115	Nine Acres	Arable	10/9d	
		116	Eleven Acres	Arable	14/1d	
		117	Malthouse Field	Arable	10/2d	
		118	Barn Croft	Arable	4/-	
119	Barn Hovel & Yard			6d		
		123	Hampstead Field	Arable	7/10d	
Eliza Bennett	John Wyatt & Richard Wrapson	120	Malthouse Cottage & Garden			

Richard Wrapson was living in Chidham and is recorded in the 1841 census as being aged 50 (rounded to 5 years) and an agricultural labourer, born in Sussex. In the 1851 census he is still living in Chidham giving his age as 64 and being born in

Walderton. His baptism is recorded in the parish registers for St. Mary's Church, Stoughton on 1st April 1787, the son of John and Elizabeth Rapson.

### The Wyatt's of Nutbourne

It is possible that John Laws had been working for Thomas Bennett but by 1848 the Tithe Apportionment shows that Eliza Bennett was now leasing the Malthouse to John Wyatt and Wyatt was employing Richard Wrapson to help run the malting.

According to the 1851 census, John Wyatt was a farmer of 430 acres, employing 25 labourers, in Nutbourne. He was born at Goring in 1800.

16	Martha J. do	Dancer		2		do do
	John Wyatt	<del>Farmer</del>	<del>Mar</del>	51	Farmer of 430 Acres employing 25	Lab do Goring
	Elizabeth do	<del>Wife</del>	<del>Mar</del>	46		do Chidham
	John do	Son	21	23	Son of John	do Westbourne
	Francis do	do	16	16	Son of Merchant	do do
	Walter do	do	11	11	Schooler	do do
	Bertha do	Dancer		8	do	do do
				Total of Persons...	11	9

Image courtesy of The National Archives

The 1851 Census – Chidham

There is no record of John's baptism in Goring or indeed in Sussex. He married Elizabeth Wyatt at St. Mary's Church, Chidham on 21st July 1826. She was the daughter of George Duke Wyatt (another branch of the Wyatt's from Chidham). Their first born, John Wyatt, was baptised at Westbourne on 14th October 1827 and the entry record his father as a gentleman. The other children recorded on the census were son Francis William, baptised at Westbourne on 19th September 1834, Walter baptised at Westbourne on 23rd November 1838 and Bertha Elizabeth, baptised at Westbourne on 3rd July 1842.

By the 1861 census, John Wyatt is recorded as a corn merchant and farmer of 700 acres, employing 30 men and 4 boys. His eldest son, John Wyatt the younger, had married Mary Duke, (daughter of Henry Duke) in 1853 at Westhampnett but Mary died in 1859. They had three children, Marion, baptised at Westbourne on 3rd March 1854, Lucy Constance, baptised at Westbourne on 11th June 1855 and John Alexander, baptised at Westbourne on 11th April 1858.

### The Duke's of Earnley

The Duke's were originally from Lyminster with one branch of the family moving to nearby Angmering. It was at Angmering that Henry Duke was baptised on 28th June 1797, the son of Thomas and Sarah Duke. Henry was the first of five children born to Thomas and Sarah. The Wyatt's of Chidham were also related to this family, the abovementioned George Duke Wyatt being the first-born child of George Wyatt and Ann Duke of Lyminster, (married at Littlehampton on 27th July 1773). Henry Duke married Julia Hobgen at Sidlesham on 5th May 1825 and had eight children including the abovementioned Mary Duke, who was baptised at Earnley on 17th July 1828.

## The Title Deeds

The title deeds for the Village Hall consist of an abstract and a conveyance dated 1927, a conveyance dated 1932, an abstract dated 1936 and a conveyance dated 1966. They give a detailed account of the purchase history since 1860.

The two abstracts begin with an indenture dated 7th April 1875 and both refer to an earlier indenture dated 12th December 1860 between John Wyatt the younger and Henry Duke, since deceased (in 1875). Henry Duke, (the younger John Wyatt's father in law) had owned a 1500 acre farm at Earnley in Sussex. It is clear from the 1860 indenture that John Wyatt the younger had borrowed £275 with interest thereupon at £5% per annum from Henry Duke. The payment, with interest, to be made by 12th June 1861 and if in default, then Henry Duke, his heirs or his assigns, to have the right to sell the Malthouse, Granary and Cottage.

The abstract then recites a further indenture dated 25th March 1869, again between John Wyatt the younger and Henry Duke, *wherein the said premises were charged with a further payment of £225 plus £5% per annum as well as the said payment of £275 plus interest thereon and that payment of £225 plus interest to be paid on the 29th September next.* Again, if in default of payment, Henry Duke had the right and power to sell the premises. The abstract goes on to state that Henry Duke made and published his last will and testament dated 14th July 1871 wherein he appointed his wife Julia Duke, Frederick Mellersh of Godalming, John Wyatt the younger and James Lainson Gauntlett of Chichester executrix and executors of his will and whereby he gave and devised all his estates to his wife, Mellersh, Wyatt and Gauntlett as trustees. The abstract then refers to a codicil to Henry Duke's will which he added on 22nd July 1872 whereby he revoked the appointment of John Wyatt the younger as executor and trustee. Henry Duke died on 24th August 1872 leaving an estate valued at £60,000 with land in Birdham, Sidlesham and East Wittering as well as the farm in Earnley.

From the Tithe Apportionments it is clear that John Wyatt Snr. had been renting the Malthouse complex from Eliza Bennett for some years and from the abstract of the title deeds we can see that at some stage his son John Wyatt Jnr. had taken over. The title deeds go on to state that John Wyatt the younger had purchased the premises from the devisees of Thomas Bennett. It is therefore likely that John Wyatt Jnr. borrowed money from Henry Duke in order to purchase the premises after the death of Eliza Bennett in February 1860.

Under her husband's will Thomas Bennett's estate passed to his children after the death of Eliza. Thomas and Eliza had just three children before his untimely death, Richard Edwin Bennett, (baptised at Bosham on 24th April 1831, buried 26th November 1831), Emma Fardell Bennett, (baptised at Bosham on 20th February 1835) and Laura Rosina Bennett, (baptised at Bosham on 20th September 1836). His surviving two daughters had both married by the time of their mother's death but they were the surviving devisees of Thomas' will.

By 1869, Wyatt is again borrowing money from Henry Duke and clearly the first loan was still outstanding. Shortly before Henry's death relations between Wyatt

and his father in law were obviously not amicable. As mentioned in the abstract, Wyatt had been dis-inherited and removed as an executor. The codicil reads:-

*I Henry Duke of Earnley in the County of Sussex do declare this to be a codicil to my will which bears the date the fourteenth day of July one thousand eight hundred and seventy one. Whereas by my said will I have appointed my son in law John Wyatt the Younger to be one of the Trustees and Executors thereof and I given him a legacy of one hundred and five pounds for his trouble in acting as such Trustee and Executor. Now I hereby revoke the appointment of the said John Wyatt as such Trustee and Executor and also the said legacy of one hundred and five pounds given him as aforesaid. And I also revoke the bequest to the said John Wyatt the annual produce of the trust fund which in my said will is called the secondly thereby settled trust monies.*

On the death of Henry Duke and in default of payment from John Wyatt Jnr. title of the Malthouse, Cottage and Granary passed to his widow Julia Duke. Whether Julia allowed Wyatt to continue at the Malthouse is unclear, however John Wyatt Jnr. died just two years later in 1874 and his father, John Snr. in 1876. The 1871 census for Chidham records George Sparshott as a Maltster living with his wife Catherine and their children John and Susan at "Arched Cottage". George's son also gives his occupation as Maltster. George was baptised at Aldingbourne on 3rd May 1818, the son of John and Elizabeth Spershott.

36	Arched Cottage	1	Charles Fogden	nephew	mar	38	Maltster	2 <sup>d</sup> Huntingdon
			George Sparshott	Head	mar	52	Maltster's wife	2 <sup>d</sup> Aldingbourne
			Catherine	Wife	mar	52	Maltster's wife	2 <sup>d</sup> Aldingbourne
			John	Son	unm	20	Maltster	2 <sup>d</sup> Tongmore
			Susan	Daughter	unm	14	House maid	2 <sup>d</sup> Huntingdon
37		1	Stephen Hackell	Head	mar	74	Market Gardener	2 <sup>d</sup> Chidham

Image courtesy of The National Archives

The 1871 Census – Chidham

The abstract of the title deeds began with a conveyance on 7th April 1875. With John Wyatt Jnr. now deceased and the title in the hands of Julia Duke, she sold the premises to Frederick Sutton of Southsea for the sum of £975. The sale included all the land and property shown as item 120 on the associated Tithe Map.

### The Sutton Brothers

The abovementioned Frederick Sutton was a retired army captain. He was born in Newark upon Trent in on 26th February 1817 and joined the 15th Hussars on 24th April 1835 as a Cornet (by purchase). On 13th May 1836 he purchased a Lieutenantancy in the same regiment and then on 8th February 1839 he exchanged this Lieutenantancy with 11th Light Dragoons. On 3rd June 1842 he purchased a Captaincy in that regiment and subsequently retired on 28th December 1843, moving to 12 Clarence Terrace, Southsea. Among his children were two brothers, Algernon Charles and Herbert Arthur, who were both born in Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk in 1852 and 1853 respectively. The 1871 census records both Algernon and Herbert as lodging at the same address in Biggleswade. Both give their occupation as brewery pupils.

From the title deeds it is clear that Frederick Sutton bought the Malthouse, Cottage and Granary for his two sons and the census in 1881 records Algernon and Herbert as living at Hamstead House (now the Bosham Inn). The two brothers are both single and living with them are two servants, Mary and Lilian Chapman. They now record their occupation as Maltsters employing one man and one boy.

26	Prospect Cottages	1	James Cristford	Head	mar.	55	Sarm Bailiff	Lussey Westfield
			Jane Cristford	Wife	mar.	60	Scullery	do. Angmering
27	Hamstead Ho.	1	Algernon E. Sutton	Head	unm.	29	Malthouse & granary 1 man 1 boy	do. Bury & Edmondes
			Herbert A. Sutton	Brother	unm.	28	do	do
			Mary Chapman	Servant	unm.	33	Housemaid	Hampshire Romsey
			Lilian E. Chapman	Servant	unm.	22	Cook. daut	do
28	Griff Lane	1	William Palmer	Head	mar.	45	Shepherd	Lussey Bavant
			Mary H. Palmer	Wife	mar.	44	Shepherd's wife	Lussey Westhampton
			Carrie P. Palmer	Son	unm.	14	Ag. Lab.	do. Sathered

Image courtesy of The National Archives

The 1881 Census – Chidham

In April 1872, Algernon and Herbert bought the “Prince of Wales” brewery in Havant from the Portsmouth brewer Henry Denton Davey (Davey & Long) and his son Henry Thomas Davey and they ran the brewery until 1880 when they sold it to Arthur Chaplin Nance, another brewer from Portsmouth. It finally closed in July 1922 after it was acquired, along with forty-three public houses, by The Portsmouth United Brewery.

The 1881 census for Chidham also records Richard Payne as Maltster, living at “Arched Cottage”, with his wife Isabella and their children Albert, Richard, Thomas and Kate. This is clearly the “one man” employed by the Sutton’s. The Payne’s had been in Chidham for at least the past four years as their last child, Kate, was born in Chidham. The other children having been born in Dorset, Surrey and Hampshire. Richard Payne was born on 31st December 1834 and was baptised at Christchurch on 11th February 1835.

32	Arched Cottage	1	Richard Payne	Head	mar.	47	Scholar	Lussey Westbourne
			Isabella	Wife	mar.	28	Washer	Hampshire Christchurch
			Albert B.H.	Son	unm.	22	Training on MMS Vincent	do. (Bible) (Cott. Castle)
			Richard	Son	unm.	16	M. Gardener	Hampshire Romsey
			Alice	Daughter	-	9	Scholar	Lussey Bavant
			Thomas W.	Son	-	10	do	do. (Bible) (Cott. Castle)
			Kate	Daughter	-	4	do	Lussey Chidham
33	Chidham Cottage	1	Henry Westford	Head	mar.	44	Market Gardener	Lussey Chidham

Image courtesy of The National Archives

The 1881 Census – Chidham

The 1891 census records the occupants of “New Road Cottage, Malthouse”. The road now known as Chidham Lane between the School and Main Road was called “New Road” temporarily before being named “Malthouse Lane”. The road was subsequently re-named Chidham Lane when it was properly joined to the rest of the lane to the south.

38	New Road Cottage	1	James Smith	Head	M	38	Algernon Sutton	Lussey Westbourne
			William J. Harris	Head	M	40	do	Lussey Westbourne
			Elizabeth	Wife	M	29	do	Lussey Westbourne
			Ellen R.	Daughter	M	6	do	Lussey Westbourne
			Archibald W.	Son	M	29	do	Lussey Westbourne
			George Phillips	Boarder	M	49	do	Lussey Westbourne
			William Phipps	Boarder	M	32	do	Lussey Westbourne
39	Old Lane	1	Harriet Bailey	Head	M	40	do	Lussey Westbourne
			Ellen J. Bailey	Wife	M	30	do	Lussey Westbourne

Image courtesy of The National Archives

The 1891 Census – Chidham

The Sutton brothers were now letting the cottage to a Groom by the name of William Harris with his wife and two children and also two Maltsters, George Phillips and William Stapley, who are boarders. Phillips and Stapley give the place of birth as Chiddingfold and Edinburgh respectively.

Algernon Sutton married Winifred Alice Fell at Withyham on 20th October 1886. They had five children, their first-born Campbell Percy Sutton was privately baptised (at home in Chidham) on 27th June 1890 but died the same day. Frederick Nassau and Fergus Algernon were baptised at Winifred's home parish of Withyham on 3rd June 1888 and 27th September 1891 respectively and Irene Winifred and Oliver Manners were baptised at St. Mary's Chidham on 20th November 1892 and 26th April 1896.

The father, Frederick Sutton died on 2nd June 1900 at Southsea and in his will he leaves considerable legacies to his wife and children. His estate included property in Hove as well as investment stocks and annuities. The probate valuation of his estate was £52,775. His will was dated 1887 but his wife Georgina died in 1898 and so in accordance with his will, his wife's legacy was divided amongst his surviving children.

The following year the census records Algernon still living at Hamstead House, but he now gives his occupation as "living on own means".

Household No.	Address	Name	Sex	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
111	Hamstead House	Algernon C. Sutton	Head	48	Living on own means	Suffolk, Bury St Edmunds
		Winifred Alice Sutton	Wife	44		Wiltshire, Tidworth
		Campbell Percy Sutton	Son	9		Sussex, Chiddingfold
		Frederick Nassau Sutton	Son	8		Do Do
		Fergus Algernon Sutton	Son	5		Do Do
		Irene Winifred Sutton	Daughter	5		Do Do
		Oliver Manners Sutton	Son	5		Do Do
		George Phillips	Boarder	34	Cook (Domestic)	Do Do
		William Stapley	Boarder	32	Housemaid (Domestic)	Do Do

The 1901 Census – Chidham

Image courtesy of The National Archives

Living at "Arched Cottage" is now the Maltster Lambert Lloyd with his wife Bertha and three children. Lambert Lloyd was baptised at Horsham on 24th October 1847, the son of Charles and Elizabeth Lloyd.

Household No.	Address	Name	Sex	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
116	Arched Cottage	Lambert Lloyd	Head	53	Maltster	Wiltshire, Tidworth
		Bertha Lloyd	Wife	44		Do Do
		Frederick Lloyd	Son	12		Do Do
		Oliver Lloyd	Son	10		Do Do
		Another child	Son	7		Do Do

The 1901 Census – Chidham

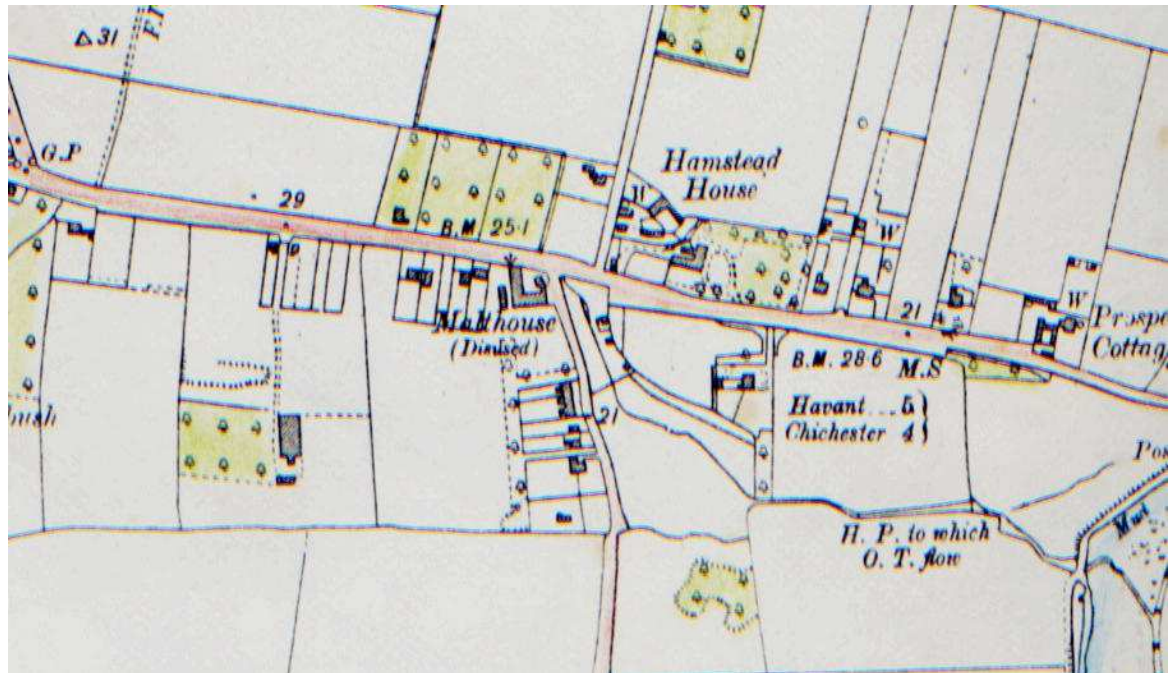
Image courtesy of The National Archives

The 1901 census also shows that Algernon's brother Herbert had married and had moved to Kelham Hall in Nottinghamshire; a major estate, which had been in the Sutton-Manners branch of the family for generations. Herbert is recorded as "Trustee in Charge" on the census. Regrettably for Herbert, the Sutton-Manners family ran into serious financial difficulties and had to sell Kelham Hall just two years later. Herbert and his family are not recorded anywhere on the 1911 census.

By 1911 Algernon and his family had retired to Tonbridge Wells, with Algernon giving his occupation as "Gentleman" in the 1911 census. An Ordinance Survey map

of circa 1908 shows the Malthouse as “Disused”. With the growth of the big breweries, small village malthouses had become largely obsolete as malting had become a large-scale industrial process. The map also shows that the Barn, Yard and Hovel, which was formerly numbered 119 on the Tithe map, had now been demolished.

A portion of the OS map is reproduced below:-



*Image courtesy of Chidham W.I.*

*Extract from OS Map circa 1908*

The abstract of the title deeds details the sale of the Malthouse, Cottage and Granary on 28th October 1916 to Walter George Collins of “The Homestead”, Southbourne, Gentleman, for the sum of £400. This was a considerable drop in value from the £975 paid by Frederick Sutton in 1875, but with the demise of malting in the village and it being the middle of the First World War, it is hardly surprising that the value had depreciated so much.



Photo courtesy of Philip McDougall

The Malthouse in the latter years of the Sutton's ownership

## Walter George Collins

In the 1911 census we find Walter George Collins and his family living at "Fernleigh" in South Leigh, Emsworth. He gives his occupation as "Gentleman - Private Means", born in Portsmouth in 1860.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	Walter George Collins	Head	81	M	41	Single				Gentleman Private Means					Head Portsmouth
2	Sarah Ann Collins	Wife	26	F	31	Single				Clerk	402	528			Wife Portsmouth
3	Sarah Ann Collins	Wife	89	F	31	7	5	2							Wife Portsmouth
4	Philip Collins	Wife	19	F											Wife Portsmouth
5	Philip Collins	Wife	4	F											Wife Portsmouth

Image courtesy of The National Archives

The 1911 Census - Chidham

From the 1901 census we find that Walter was a "Boot Dealer - Shop Keeper (Employer)" living at "Denville", Warblington.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
211	Denville														
	Walter G. Collins	Head	40	M	41					Boot Dealer - Shop Keeper	Employer				Head, Portsmouth
	Sarah A. Collins	Wife	38	F	41										Wife
	Walter H. Collins	Son	9	M	12					Shop Assistant	Worker				Bo
	Leonard H. Collins	Son	12	M	12										Bo
	Edna Collins	Daughter	9	F	9										Bo
	John Schuster	Head	46	M	46					Cartman	Worker				Bo
	Ann A. Schuster	Wife	42	F	31										Bo

Image courtesy of The National Archives

The 1901 Census - Warblington

Walter had married Sarah Ann Whaylen at Portsmouth in 1879 and they had five children, two of whom had died by 1911. It is not clear exactly what Walter was using the Malthouse and Granary for, but it is clear that he had retired by the time he purchased the premises in 1916. The abstract of the title deeds show that Walter



sold the premises to Westbourne Rural District Council on 20th January 1921 for the sum of £750. Walter's death is recorded in 1940, in Portsmouth.

### **Westbourne Rural District Council**

Until 1933, Westbourne Rural District Council was the local authority for the parish and the title deeds state that the purchase by Westbourne RDC was "*by virtue of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890*".

The 1890 Act started the provision of social housing by allowing London's local councils to clear away slums and build houses, mostly for single working men. In 1900 the Act was extended to councils outside London and by the outbreak of WWI roughly 24,000 houses had been built. The 1919 Housing Act made it a legal requirement for all local authorities to provide council housing.

Although our Malthouse was not classed as a slum it was clearly a redundant building and was purchased as such by Westbourne RDC. It is clear however, that they did nothing with the building. It is believed that at some time it was being used as a builders yard before Chidham Women's Institute began renting the premises from Westbourne RDC for their meeting venue in 1925.

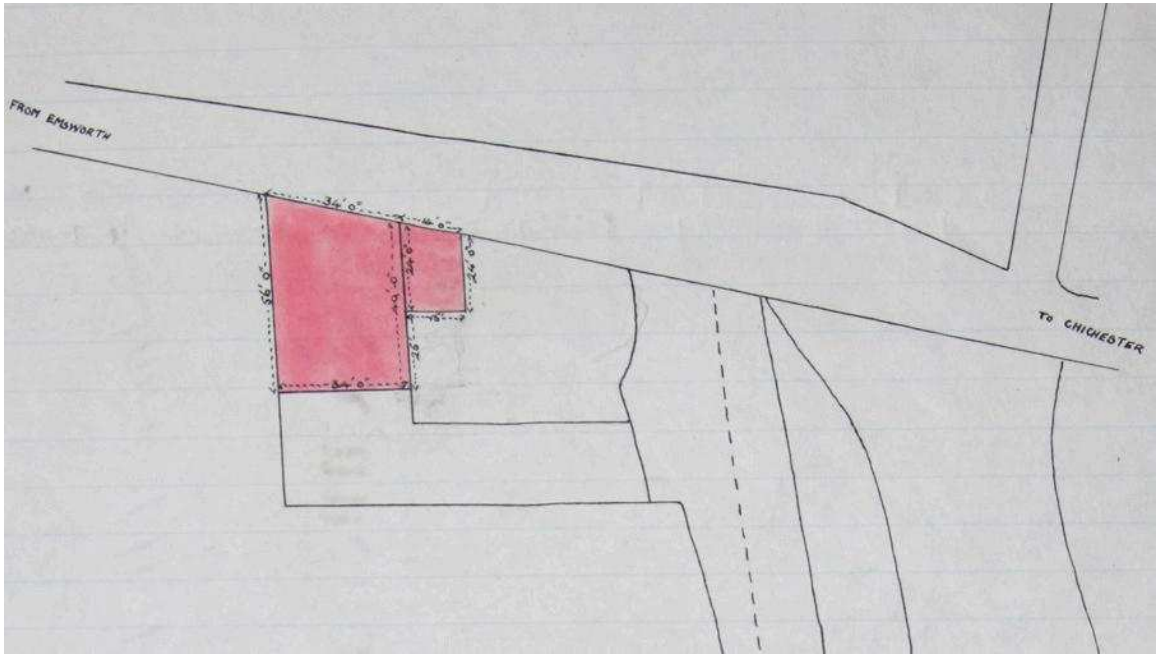
The title deeds show that Westbourne RDC sold the premises to Alfred Gardner and John William Spicer, both market gardeners of Chidham, for the sum of £610. The sale was approved by the Minister of Health in a letter dated 13th May 1927 and the sale was completed on 9th June. This purchase was arranged with Major Sydney William Phipson Beale of Cobnor as on 21st June the Malthouse was sold to Major Beale for £345. (Major Beale's wife was the first president of Chidham W.I.)

### **Chidham W.I.**

Major Beale had agreed to purchase the Malthouse on behalf of the W.I. to secure the building for their meeting venue and to better look after the building. The W.I. agreed in turn to repay Major Beale the purchase price as soon as they could raise the funds to do so. They duly accomplished this within two years. Spicer and Gardner subsequently sold "Arched Cottage" to George Own Hackett, a market gardener from Chidham, on 28th February 1930 for the sum of £225.

Having taken over ownership of the premises, the W.I. were finding it hard to maintain the building and so with the help of Major Beale, a committee of Trustees were set up to manage the building and secure it for the first time as a Village Hall. The title was conveyed to Lloyds Bank as trustees on 18th June 1932 and the conveyance document included what was essentially a constitution for the managing committee.

By 1936 it had been realised that the conveyance of 1927 to Major Beale had not included what is now the car park, nor the access to the rear of the building. The actual curtilage can be seen in the plan below:-



Images courtesy of Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall Committee

*Plan of sale in 1927 Conveyance*

A subsequent conveyance of 9th June 1936 between George Owen Hackett and Lloyds Bank as Trustees acknowledged the mistake in the previous conveyance and the land to the south, together with the access to the east side was sold to the Trustees for the sum of £80. The additional land is detailed on the plan below:-

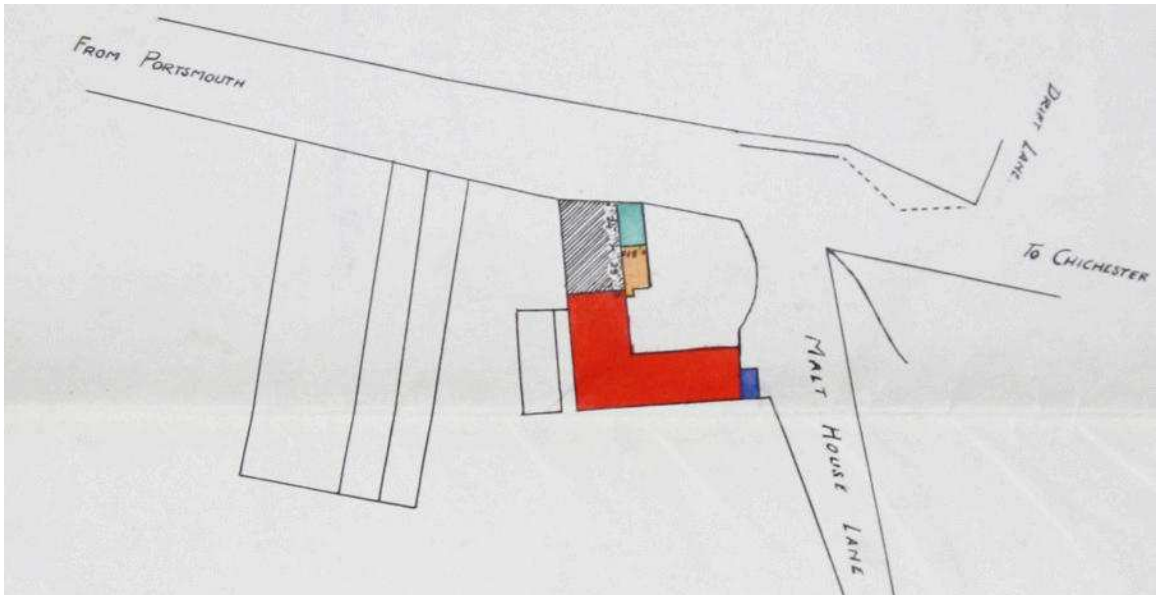


Image courtesy of Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall Committee

*Plan of sale in 1936 Conveyance*

The W.I. has continued to meet at the Village Hall for over eighty years. One wartime photograph shows the W.I. jam making and is reproduced below:-



*Photo courtesy of Chidham W.I.*

*W.I. Jam Making in the Village Hall*

### **The Building**

As we know, the present Village Hall was part of a larger complex. It is of flint and brick construction with only the upper half of the replacement rear wall being of cavity construction. The substantial beams that span the floor and upper levels are of pine.

The granary was undoubtedly the building that stood on what is now the car park and can be seen in the photograph on page 8. The title deeds mention the pump house, as being adjoining on the southeast, but exactly where this stood is not known. The maps consistently show that the present building originally extended further to the south adjoining the granary. In addition to the well and pump house, there must also have been a room for the steeping cistern, but again, the precise location is not known. The 1927 conveyance appears to show the granary but by 1936 this has disappeared, probably demolished shortly after 1927 along with the pump house, leaving just the building standing today and the cottage.

Recent building work on the Village Hall revealed the brickwork on the inside of the north east corner (see below):-



*Photo courtesy of The Author*

*The east wall as exposed during building work in 2015*

In the photograph above of the east wall, we can see that at the far right there is a level line of flintwork, topped with regular courses of brickwork. Further left the flintwork was obviously broken out to install the window during the 1950 refurbishment. To the far left, however, the wall is very irregular from the ceiling down to floor level. The wall at far right is undoubtedly original build but the remainder of the wall strongly suggests that this is not one single phase of construction even allowing for the later knocking through for the window.

The front (north) wall is stranger still with a variety of brickwork bonds using a variety of brick sizes and most confusing of all, a large patch of flintwork high up. Again this points to more than one phase of construction and it suggests that the front wall may have been re-built at some stage. There was also the possibility that the front wall be originally have been square to the side walls and later re-positioned. This would fit with the rough and irregular brickwork in the corner, however, examination of the footings (such as they are) do not reveal any indication of any re-alignment. Furthermore, examination of the floor joists above show that they are rebated into the first main cross beam at an angle. There is no evidence for any alteration to the jointing of the floor joists to the cross beam and hence it is very unlikely that the front wall has been re-aligned in any way.

The photograph below shows the north wall with the curious patch of flintwork. The front windows had been reduced in height and the partial infill of the window can be seen, bricked up with half bricks laid face on.



*Photo courtesy of The Author*

*The north wall as exposed during building work in 2015*

Our Malthouse was fairly typical of a small village malting and shows many similarities to the Maltings at Farnham as can be seen in the photograph below:-



*Photo courtesy of The Maltings, Farnham*

*The Maltings, Farnham (now a Theatre, Hall and Craft Centre)*

### The 1950 Renovation

The minute books of the Village Hall Management Committee provide a complete record since the formation of the committee in 1932. Charles Goodger was first chairman of the committee and stood for a total of 25 years. A major renovation was carried out with work commencing in November 1949. The total cost of the work was £2850, which had been raised by the committee and by a number of generous donations.



*Photo courtesy of Albert Jones*

*Rebuilding the back wall (left to right - Jack Helyer, Stan Sparshott, George Rustell & Bob Jones)*

The architect in charge of the work was Mr Stanley J Roth and his plans included the re-building of the back wall, addition of the dormer windows upstairs, widening of the stage and the removal of the main cross beam in front of the stage. The first floor fire exit was added with the external staircase to ground level. The current internal staircase to the first floor and toilets were also put in during this work, replacing the old WC to the rear of the kitchen.

An article in the Chichester Observer for 4th November 1950 reads:-

***Village Hall Improvements***

*Two people are still hard at work putting the finishing touches to the Chidham Village Hall, which has undergone a lot of alteration and improvement in the last six months. Every evening lately Mr. H. L. Baxendale, Chairman and Mr. C. J. Anstice have been working on the stage fittings, as everything had to be completed by November 1, in time for a children's concert to be organized by Mrs. Ayling. All the stage wiring had to be renewed, to comply with fire regulations, curtains have had to be fireproofed and as the alterations have meant 3ft more on the width of the stage, and extra depth the curtain tracking and backcloth runners have had to be altered. Eventually it is planned that the two doors at the back of the stage be linked by a balcony, thus enabling actors, etc. to pass across the back of the stage (outside the hall) and it will also provide an emergency exit.*

A similar article appeared in the Hampshire Telegraph on the same day:-

***Chidham Hall Improvements***

*Although the builders finished their part of the work of altering and improving Chidham Village Hall some time ago, the finishing touches are still going on, and the work is mainly being carried out by parishioners. Attractive green and white curtains, with matching pelmets, have been made up by Mrs. Simpson and her mother, as their contribution to the War Memorial fund, and have now been hung by Mr. C. J. Anstice. The alterations have added three feet to the width of the stage and a little more depth, and so the curtain tracking has had to be lengthened and backcloth arrangements altered. The whole stage wiring, though in good condition, had to be renewed to comply with fire regulations, and all the curtains fireproofed. In time it is planned that the two doors at the back of the stage shall be linked by a balcony on the south wall, which will enable people to pass behind the stage, and also serve as an emergency exit. Those who have not been to the hall for some time will miss one of the old beams that ran right across it. Projection of films and slides now has to be made from the balcony, because of the position of the staircase, and so the beam had to go to allow an uninterrupted view.*

The re-opening of the Village Hall was carried out with much pomp and celebration by the Duke of Richmond & Gordon as can be seen in the following photographs from the archives of Chidham Womens Institute:-



*Photo courtesy of Chidham W.I.*

Hugo Baxendale

Charles Anstice

Duke of Richmond  
and Gordon

Charles Goodger

Stanley Roth



*Photo courtesy of Chidham W.I.*

Lizanne Reynolds

Frances Baldwin

Jean Evans

Rev. Evans

Duke of Richmond  
and Gordon





*Photo courtesy of Chidham W.I.*

Duke of Richmond and Gordon    Lizanne Reynolds    Mrs Reynolds    Mark Reynolds    Mr Simpson    Rev. Evans



*Photo courtesy of Chidham W.I.*

Gladys Malloy    Jean Evans    Elsie Tyrell    Dorothy Twine    Peggy Druce    Gill Weeks

A further article appeared in the Chichester Observer on 16th December 1950:-

### ***Village Hall Reopened***

*The Vicar had to rush from Miss King's wedding to be at the Village Hall in time for the official opening ceremony after the alteration. He and Mrs. Evans were introduced at the door to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, who performed the opening ceremony and unveiled the memorial tablet in the entrance lobby. Mr. S. J. Roth, architect for the alterations, was also introduced to the Duke, as were Mr. C Goodger (Chairman), Mr. C. J. Anstice (Secretary) and Mrs. Baldwin (President, W.I.) by Mr. H. L. Baxendale, Chairman of the Parish Council.*

*The plaque was first dedicated by the Vicar, and the Duke then unveiled it. He said there was no doubt that village life played a great part in the life of the whole country, and that to village life a hall was essential. He congratulated Chidham on its very fine hall, the most attractive hall he had seen. From its size he could see it had been a big job to complete the alterations, which were a magnificent success.*

*Seven men from Chidham fell in World War II – R.C. Bowden, H.J. Hayes, H.L.E. Reynolds, S.W. Lockyer, E.A.P. Hillard, T. Swatton and L. J. Simpson. Of their relatives only Col. Reynolds widow and son and daughter (Miss E.A. Reynolds and Mr. Mark Reynolds) and Mr. Robert Simpson were able to be present at the ceremony.*

*The opening ceremony was followed immediately by the Christmas fair in the hall, proceeds of which go to the hall funds. Very attractive stalls had been arranged and the hall delightfully decorated by Mr. C. J. Anstice and helpers. Trade was brisk and some useful, as well as attractive goods were displayed. About £100 was cleared during the afternoon leaving approximately £400 of the loan for the alterations to be paid off. It is hoped that the sum will be cleared during the coming year.*

### **The 1966 Conveyance**

The final document comprising the title deeds is a conveyance dated 16th June 1966 between Lloyds Bank (Trustees) and Southern Electricity Board. The Trustees sold the land in the southwest corner of the car park to Southern Electricity for £150 for the installation of an electricity sub station. The conveyance also gives the contractor, their servants or workmen, right of access to the sub station at all times of the day, with or without vehicles, for the purpose of repair or inspection of the installation. They also had the right to lay ducting for transmission line cables across the car park, with the proviso that they make good any damage to the car park etc. The conveyance also imposes the condition that Southern Electricity maintains a 5' 6" fence and gates to the substation.

### The Village Hall in recent years

The great storm of 1987 caused considerable damage to the roof of the former drying kiln and chairman at that time, Cliff Archer, succeeded in getting the whole section of roof re-slatted by the Hall's insurers.



*Photo Courtesy of Chidham W.I.*

*Storm damage in 1987*

The removal of the main cross beam in front of the stage in 1950 proved to be ill advised and steel beams had to be added in the 1990's around the front of the stage and extending out across the ceiling to provide structural support for the then sagging roof.

In 1994 the Village Hall became a registered charity and in 1996, at the request of Lloyds Bank who no longer wished to be trustees, the title was passed to the official custodian of the Charity Commission and the individual serving committee members all became joint trustees on behalf of the charity.

By the beginning of the 21st century, the Village Hall was in need of another refurbishment. The Chidham & Hambrook Parish Plan of 2005 had led to a proposal to build a new Village Centre and the Parish Council formed a "New Village Centre Feasibility Group" to further this aim. The group included representatives from the

Village Hall Committee, The Church, Parish Council and Hambrook District Residents Association. A proposal was put forward to build the new centre on the site of St. Wilfrid's Church Hall. This would be a joint venture with the PCC, and the new building would include a chapel with the PCC having certain reserved rights of use. The project would be funded jointly by the sale of the existing Village Hall and a major grant from "Big Lottery"; the estimated cost was £1.4 Million. In 2007 a grant application was made to "Big Lottery" but this was not successful and so the Village Hall Management Committee decided to embark on a major fund raising campaign to renovate the existing Hall.

At the time of writing, this refurbishment is still in progress. New tables and chairs have been purchased; disabled access has been provided by a ramp to the ground floor; a new semi-commercial kitchen installed; a new patio to the rear with new windows and doors. The old dormer windows upstairs have been replaced and the toilets are currently being completely re-built. The Film Society has also managed to obtain grants for a professional motorised screen, new projector and sound system. Plans are already underway for the construction of an extension to provide a disabled access lift to the first floor and the final phase will be provision of a new floor upstairs, refurbishment of the stage and general re-decoration.

Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall continues to provide a very practical and useful venue, with lots of character, for community groups, parties, meetings etc. and is well supported by such groups as the W.I, the Art Group, Parish Council, Film Society, Yoga Class, Pilates Class, Dance Classes to name but a few. With continuous progress being made with the current refurbishment, it is hoped that Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall will continue in this role for many years to come.

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