



## A History of Wolverton and Ewhurst

Much of this edition of local history has been taken from my book 'Bogust, Bagganhyrst or Baughurst' which dealt with the Civil Parish of Baughurst. But since its publication in 2013, I have come across some new interesting facts and photographs of Wolverton and Ewhurst which warrant preserving for the future.

Some of the views of Wolverton are from the scrapbook held by Wendy Benjamin and from the Kingsclere web site.

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### References:

#### Extracts marked

- 'VCH' are from the Victorian County History of Hampshire;
- '36M 48, etc.' from the Hampshire Record Office, Winchester;
- '/1313, etc.' from Museum of Rural Life, University of Reading;
- 'Hartley' from the Hartley Collection, Univ. of Southampton

## **General Information**

### The Village Names (Toponymy)

The name Wolverton could originate from the 'tun' (farm/homestead) of a Saxon whose name contained the word for wolf which was very popular amongst Germanic tribes, he could have been Wulfhere, Wulfred or Wulfrun. In the Domesday Book the name appears as Ulvretune/Ulvritone, therefore the name could possibly derive from Uloeva + ton (see above).

Townsend means the end of the village (an enclosure or homestead), probably Baughurst, as it was once part of that village (movement of boundaries have taken place many times over the years). It extended from Pound Green up to the gates of Towns End Lodge, Wolverton Estate.

Foscot, on old maps this was called 'Fosse Cot' as it was a cottage/small farm house on the old Roman road Portway (fosse is a Roman road with a ditch on either side - from the old English word 'foss' meaning ditch).

Ewhurst was mentioned in a Royal charter dated 990 and reference was made to the springs in Yew Copse, it consists of 477 acres. This connection to nature is consistent with the origin of the name Ewhurst (Yew Wood), the second half of the name (hurst) has always meant a wood, a wooded hill or land covered with brushwood and thickets.

### Demography

[Note: Local figures are probably not precise due to inaccuracies by the census enumerator and boundary changes, so there may be some small differences in populations quoted from various sources.]

Census figures for 1801 indicate that for Wolverton there were 62 males, 82 females, 36 families and 34 houses; in Ewhurst there were 9 males, 4 females, 2 families and 2 houses. In 1831 for Wolverton there were 123 males and 106 females, 42 families living in 41 houses and in Ewhurst 15 males and 13 females (of whom 15 were servants), 3 families in 2 houses.

For Ewhurst, there were 32 people in 1871 and 33 in 1881; and for Wolverton 188 in 1861, 170 in 1871 and 157 in 1891.

Areas (quoted in the 1831 census) are Wolverton 1400 acres and Ewhurst 820 acres; however, these changed over the years as boundaries were altered e.g. the area of the village was stated as being 1450 acres in 1911. [For more information on Ewhurst see *Snippets*.]

### **Early History**

Roman occupation of this country lasted from 55 BC to 43 AD, locally they joined with the Atrebates tribe and established garrisons and cities - Winchester, Chichester and Silchester (chester is a corruption of 'castrum', latin for castle) - connecting them with a network of straight roads. One of these, Portway, runs from Silchester (Calleva Atrebatum - celtic for 'place in the woods' of the Atrebates tribe) through Tadley, Baughurst, Foscot Farm and Hannington to Old Sarum. A gold Roman coin was found by W Littlejohns in 1918 in the garden of Brown's Farm and many broken tiles and bricks were uncovered west of Povey's Farm, Stoney Heath, probably emanating from an old Roman villa next to Portway.

After the Romans, power rested with a few landowners with everybody else being virtual slaves and, following invasions by the Angles, Jutes and Saxons, tribalism returned with a chain of kingdoms. This area was part of Wessex (the land of the West Saxons) and in 643 AD the local 'king' was converted to Christianity and had Winchester Minster built; diocesan structures and networks of ministers was commenced. Around the year 750, there was one king of England, starting with Offa of Mercia and later by Alfred of Wessex. The country was subjected to raids by the Danes but peace was partially restored by Alfred the Great and completed in the reign of Canute in 1016. A legacy of these invasions is the name of many towns and villages which are made up of alien words.

Wolverton was a royal demesne manor, once held by Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) and, at some time, the manor was held by Uloeva from King Edward. At the time of the Domesday Survey, Alured (Alfred), the priest of William the Conqueror, held this manor. The area and population were recorded as 5 hides, land for 8 ploughs with 7 villagers and 17 smallholders with 5 ploughs. In mediaeval times our counties were divided for administrative purposes into hundreds (an area roughly containing 100 households - although there are other definitions) which had its own court, and tithings (roughly 10 households). Baughurst and Ramsdell were



in the Northern Division of the County Hundred of Evingar (the centre of which was around Hurstbourne Priors), but Wolverton and Ewhurst were in the Kingsclere Hundred - groupings that lasted well into the nineteenth century for local government purposes.

Parts of Wolverton have, historically, been associated with nearby parishes where ancient manors/estates overlapped current boundaries. English Kings owned a large estate called Freemantle Park from the twelfth century to the seventeenth, this was granted to John de Freemantle in 1357, to William Wareham (nephew of the Archbishop of Canterbury) and by 1625 to Richard Ayliff (see *Ewhurst* below). In order to ensure that the deer population of the estate was kept well stocked, 'Parkers' (Keepers of the Park) were appointed, these included Sir William Sandys in 1510 and Sir Humphrey Forster of Clere Woodcott (see below) in 1541. In 1608, the estate went from Sir William Kingsmill to Henry Kingsmill (see above, and *Snippets*, below). The Park was sequestered in the Civil War but afterwards was left to Charles Cottington who died in 1653 (Cottington Hill is between White Hill, Kingsclere and Freemantle Park). Richard Soper was the tenant in 1614, then soon after this the mansion was converted into a farmhouse and eventually came into the hands of the Hyde family (e.g. Thomas of Foxcote and William of Ibworth in 1810).

Another manor called Clere (from Axmansford and Wheathold towards Headley) was renamed Clere Woodcott in the time of Edward the Confessor (1042-1066) when the lordship was passed to the de Woodcotts. In 1272 Henry de Woodcott held two knight's fees in the manor, (a knight's fee or fief was a grant of sufficient land to enable him to provide a living in order to supply a force to fight for the King). Knowl was another estate in Wolverton which was held by the de Woodcotts; about 1280 it was called Sandleford de Knoll (when granted to the Priory just south of Newbury - now the site of St Gabriel's School). The estate's name was corrupted to Sandford and it was given by the king in 1540 to John Kingsmill (see above) and then it became part of Clere Woodcott. After the Dissolution, the manor was bought by William Forster and his son Humphrey who died in 1601, it later became part of the Wolverton Estate when it was purchased by Pole (see p.19) in 1795. [VCH]

#### Manorial Rolls and Charters

From 885 AD several estates (later called manors) were given to the Bishop of Winchester by King Alfred and his son, Edward; Baughurst was included in Hurstbourne Priors manor and Wolverton in the Kingsclere manor. Later, Baughurst was transferred to the Manor of Manydown.

After the Norman Conquest, the nobility was transferred to Normans and local power was in the hands of the King's Sheriffs who had the difficult job of collecting taxes as the records were insufficient, so a valuation of all properties was made creating the Domesday Book. Baughurst was not named in the Domesday Book as it was part of, and therefore included, in the report for the Manor of Hurstbourne Priors, however Wolverton, being in a different ancient manor, was mentioned. The main sources of information in the Middle Ages were the manorial rolls of the local Manor (the proceedings issued by the manorial court) and charters which recorded land grants (i.e. deeds), for an example see *Wolverton House*, below. These give the names of some of the people that carried on life in these villages many hundreds of years ago. It is also important to appreciate the value of the land to the owners and tenants, not only as farmland but for timber products and local flint or chalk for building material (chalk was also used for 'sweetening' acid soils). Indeed, early in the sixteenth century, John Fletcher of Foscot, husbandman, was convicted 'of going onto the land of William Appulton of Foscotefelde and carrying away 20 loads of chalk' - stealing on a large scale!

In 1829 there was a 'walking the bounds' when a Perambulation of the Manor Boundaries was conducted by Philip Williams, Steward of the Very Reverent Dean and Chapter. To do this he had representatives from all the parishes, including Richard Blunden for Wolverton, Ambrose Tailor, Charles Barlow and William Hedgecock for Baughurst. Every step of the walk was recorded, e.g. "... with land in Wolverton Parish on the left, to the corner of a garden of Brazenhead Farm. Then eastwards to a lane called Foscot ..." and "... a lane that leads from Baughurst to Ham Farm House, right into a watercourse, in the middle of the stream to a meadow of Sir Peter Pole (see p.19), then along a ditch on the south-west of the stream to the corner of a withy bed belonging to Ham Farm."

[36M48/2]

### Poor Laws

Poverty led to the introduction of the first Poor Law Act in 1563 which created Collectors of the Poor, two able persons (often the Churchwardens), to gather money from those who owned property in order to provide the poor with relief. These positions were nominated by the local Justices of the Peace, were unpaid and generally not welcomed by the nominees. The Act's purpose was to try to correct a growing begging problem by encouraging deserving paupers and discouraging vagrants. With a small population and the Collectors being local, they knew if someone merited relief or not. The value of landowner's property was used to set the poor rate, collections being made to meet the expected demand (see Appendix 1). Records were kept and reports made to the JPs. Collectors were superseded by Overseers of the Poor, appointed by the Parish Meeting, the Rector and local gentry (see Appendix 2). The Poor Law Act of 1597/8 ensured that each parish looked after its own poor and, with the Poor Relief Act in 1601, they levied a poor rate and supervised its distribution.

As many parish meetings found themselves paying relief money to itinerant workers, Laws of Settlement were introduced in 1662 and 1697 to prevent people from moving between parishes to work or take up residence and claim this relief. Therefore every person had to have a parish of legal settlement, for example, where they were born, in order to receive relief. Itinerant workers, unless they had means, had to have a settlement examination by the Churchwardens and Overseers of their own parish and, if acceptable, were issued a Settlement Certificate saying their own parish would accept them back if they needed poor relief. If someone required relief in another parish where they did not have legal settlement, they could be issued with a Removal Order sending them back to their legal parish. Children born out of wedlock were also a consideration as the parish did not want to bear the costs involved e.g.

- July, 1824, Mary Stephens a single woman with child who intruded into Kingsclere, and by law was chargeable to the parish, was examined by the Justices (H B Wither and John Harwood) and adjudged that Wolverton was the place of legal settlement. Therefore the Churchwardens and Overseer of the Poor of Kingsclere were required to remove her to their counterparts in Wolverton who are to provide for her. [19M76/PO5]

- March, 1794, on examination of Elizabeth Smith, taken in writing and on oath, William Smith of Ham Farm, Baughurst was fined £40 for a bastard child and voluntarily consented to become bound to indemnify the parish from all costs, damages and expenses on account of the birth. Signed William Holding (see page 6, etc.). [19M76/PO7]

There were further examples in Wolverton:

1714 - Settlement Certificate for John Ward, Tailor

1733 - Settlement Certificate for William May, Carpenter

1742 - Bastardy order for Elizabeth Cobb and William May

1748 - Settlement Certificate for John Long, his wife Mary and sons John and Abraham

1749 - Richard Blunden fined £1-2s and to pay Anne Harmsworth 2/6d per month.

and in 1752, an order for the maintenance of Anne Harmsworth's bastard son.

1765 - Settlement Certificate for Edward Jacob.

1766 - William Soper and his son, William, were fined £40 regarding Martha Hunt's bastard child.

### Enclosure

The taking over of land for various reasons had been in existence since the thirteenth century but the main actions were much later. In order to improve efficiency and raise agricultural output to meet the needs of an expanding population, something had to be done to the medieval open-field system where strips of land were cultivated by each villager using two, or three, course rotation of crops. Therefore, enclosure (or inclosure) of common land, which was that used by any villager, or unoccupied spaces took place in the eighteenth century in order to improve drainage, to capitalise on mechanisation and to institute new cropping and stocking policies.

This was achieved by the transference into private ownership by majority consent of landowners or Acts of Parliament. This land was inclosed (included) into the holdings of existing landowners

in proportion to the area they already held, therefore smallholders received something but tenants did not. Recipients of land had to pay a small fee for these grants, purely for administration costs. Although of no avail, there was a great outcry about these actions making it a political issue and resulted in many slogans and doggerel, for example:

'The law imprisons man or woman

Who steals the goose from off the common

But leaves the greater felon loose

Who steals the Common from the goose'

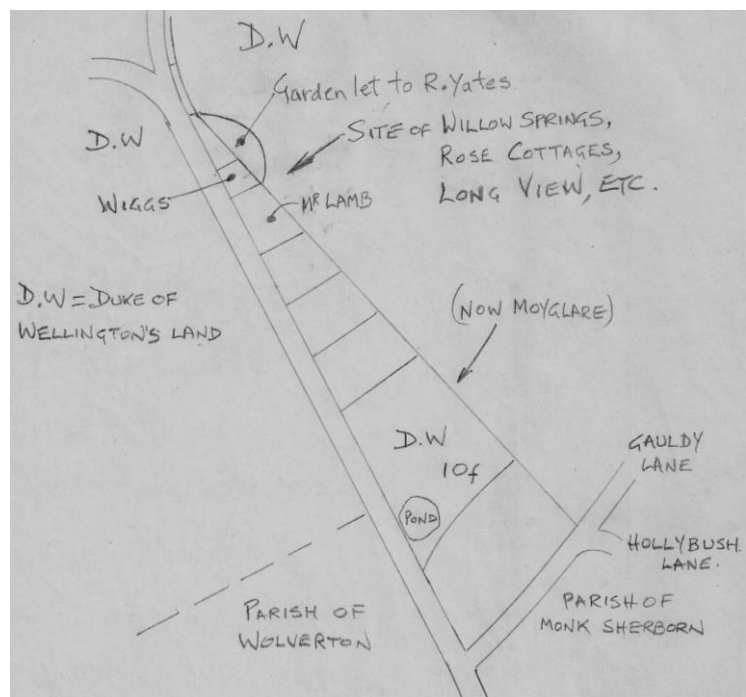
[“Common Lands of Hampshire”]

Enclosure by private Acts started in 1709 in Hampshire in order to create larger fields and bring more land into cultivation. The existence of open fields was changed with fences and hedges to delineate property ownership and to contain animals. This often meant that there was a change of ownership of the land, with ancient communal rights of cultivated strips and 'waste' land for grazing and coppicing being abolished. Due to pressure, Private Acts were changed in 1836 with a formal agreement if certain conditions were met. Later, when there was further public outcry over common land losses, commissioners were appointed to check all claims of previous use and make awards but, as these were large landowners themselves, this still meant common land virtually disappearing into large landowners' possession. The records of the main enclosures (1839 and 1856) give much information on who owned land, the enclosure awards for Wolverton are dated 1861. An example of an Act: “Inclosure Act, 5 George IV Cap 7 (1824), lands of the Lord(s) of Forest and Bailiwick or by Lords of the Manor of Inhurst and Pamber shall be deemed part and parcel of the said commons, waste lands and commonable woods hereby directed to be divided, allotted and inclosed and shall be divided, allotted and inclosed accordingly. To include stone or gravel pits (for the purpose of making and repairing the public and private roads within the said tithings) with convenient ways to and from the same. [Samuel Collett of Woolverton, country gentleman, shall be one of the two commissioners.]

Notice of the above to be affixed to the principal outer door of the parish church of Baughurst and Pamber. Also, an advert to be put in The Hampshire Chronicle.

Note. Richard Benyon de Beauvoir, Esq., is Lord of the Forest (Pamber) and of Hawkhurst Coppice (over 3 acres) in the tithing of Inhurst and is therefore entitled to soil, underwood and timber. Wither Bramston, Esq, Lord of Wyford alias Tadley claims commons and waste in Pamber. Sir Peter Pole, Bt. is Lord of the Manor of Inhurst (see also p.19). [76M86/41]

Also, George Lamb, who lived in Stratton Manor and was a Basingstoke lawyer, was awarded the land around Stoney Heath (then part of Wolverton) through an 1846 Inclosure Award, another in 1857 allotted one part (10<sup>o</sup>) to George Gundry and one (10<sup>p</sup>) to James Lamport. The Stonyheath Pond area of over 2 acres (10<sup>f</sup> on sketch, below, now Moyglare), was given by the Duke of Wellington to the Rt Hon Victoria Alexandrina Wellesley, aged 13, in January 1859. [/1373]



## Taxes

A Lay Tax was re-introduced in 1523 to raise money for the armed forces and the Lay Subsidy return for 1586 shows that Wolverton had one man, Hugh Gardner, paying £3-4s for land and six for goods - Thomas Gardner, elder, £15-15s, Thomas Gardner, younger, £3-3s, John Butler £5-5s, Robert Gedge £3-3s, Margaret Butler, widow, £3-3s and John Spencer £3-3s. Ewhurst had one man, Richard Ayliffe, paying for goods.

Another form of taxation was Hearth Taxes (1662-1688) this was a half-yearly payment of 1/- for each hearth of an inhabitant who paid church and poor rates with a house worth more than £1 a year. Introduced by Charles II in the severe financial circumstances following the Restoration, but records only survive for 1662-1666 and 1669-1674 (when the rate was 2/- on each hearth). The records do not give a complete picture as there were exemptions, with differing local interpretations of the criteria, and inevitable evasions. Exempted were paupers, poor people (inhabiting a house valued at less than £1), owners of industrial furnaces and kilns (but not bakeries or smithies) and those with an income of less than £100 pa. The number of hearths gives an idea of wealth or standing; having more than 7 hearths indicates gentry, 4 to 7 hearths mean wealthy craftsmen/tradesmen, merchants or yeomen, between 2 and 3 hearths belonged to ordinary craftsmen/yeomen and 1 hearth indicate labourers, poor craftsmen and husbandmen. At the beginning of this tax, they were collected by the Constable and passed on to the High Constable, but later it was handled by government appointed collectors.

In 1665 Ewhurst, Mister John Ayliffe had 8 hearths with Mister Richard Ayliffe and Margaret Spencer each having two (out of 5 people charged and 2 parishioners not being charged). Wolverton had Mister Sutton with 6 hearths plus John Spencer and Laurence Platt with 4 each), Walter Dicker and Widow Butler both had 2 and Henry May and John Poore had 1 each, 5 people were not charged.

Land Tax was a tax collected annually between 1692 and 1949, based on an individual's estates or land, the original purpose was to raise money for the war against France and payment of this tax established a right to vote before 1832 (see *Local Councils*, p.30). An Act of 1798 allowed property to be exonerated (i.e. freed from yearly tax) by payment of a lump sum. This process was also known as land tax redemption and an example of this was on the Wolverton estate of Sir Charles Pole in 1800. He was assessed as having to pay annual taxes of:

6 shillings for a messuage and 1 acre of land occupied by Thomas Penton,

£1-6-1d for a messuage and 15 acres of land occupied by Thomas Hide (who lived in Wolverton Farm),

10 shillings for 3 cottages and 10 acres occupied by Thomas Hide, Berry Brown, Richard Bew and the Overseers of Wolverton Parish,

6 shillings for a messuage called the Hare & Hounds and 1 acre occupied by Stephen Grigg,

£1-0-2¼d for 20 acres of land occupied by Thomas Waterman,

£1-0-2¼d for 10 acres occupied by John Standen and Thomas Hide.

The certificate of Redemption, signed by Charles Shaw Lefevre and Lovelace Bigg-Wither, cost him £191-7-1¼. The Duke of Wellington also redeemed his tax on the Ewhurst Estate in 1908 by paying £480 (four annual instalments of £120). [1313]

After the Napoleonic Wars, because hunger, poverty and associated problems were becoming increasingly important, Parliament acted to ensure the care of the poor plus the maintenance of roads, public health, etc. (Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834). A better organization than that done by parochial officials was needed and so responsible 'Unions' were set up. Local parishes were grouped to form the Kingsclere Poor Law Union in 1835 and its work was supervised by a Board of Guardians of the Poor. So started local government as we know it and the diminution of the church as a social force. These Guardians, including one for Baughurst, one for Wolverton and one for Ewhurst, were elected by the ratepayers (those who had property with an annual rateable value in excess of £25). Richard Brown of Brown's Farm was Baughurst's representative for the first meeting of the Board of Guardians (Governors) on June 5th 1835, the Rev Richard Pole (Deputy Chairman) represented Wolverton, George Whistler for Ewhurst and Andrew Twitchin (a Baughurst and Overton landowner) represented Kingsclere. [Richard Brown was the son of John Brown (1737-1801) and grandson of Richard Brown (1703 -

1779) of Brown's Farm.] Poverty and unemployment was rife after the wars and although these Unions did their best with building Workhouses (where the poor were housed and maintained in lieu of relief) and making efforts to control diseases, it was not enough. The poor rate halved and people did all they could to keep out of the workhouses, but many struggled and suffered. It took a great number of years to overcome the poverty and in the meantime numerous families emigrated. Recording of baptisms, marriages and deaths went national, the roads were governed by the General Highways Act, 1835 and the County Police Act, 1839, took over 'law and order'.

The workhouse for the Kingsclere Union was built in 1835/6, the first Master, on a temporary basis, was John Target, a retired soldier, his pay was 13/- per week and the inmates were 13 in number. The workhouse was enlarged in 1850, the inhabitants then ranged from 150 to 350. The Master and Matron in the 1850s were George & Mrs Isabella Gethin; Charles Ralph & Caroline Hall in 1865; Henry & Mrs Ellen Cox in 1875; George Henry & Mrs Emily Elwick in 1898 and in 1911 were George & Mary Storey. In 1930 the workhouse was re-named the Poor Law Institution and in 1948 became the Kingsclere Hospital, finally closing in 1957. William Holding was the Chairman of the Board of Governors at a salary of £50, rising from being the Clerk in 1836, he was also District Superintendent Registrar, lived at Beenham Court (now Cheam School) and had property in Wolverton (e.g. Sandford Estate), he was replaced by the last ever chairman, C R de la Salle.

### **The Agricultural Riots**

Rural poverty worsened after the Napoleonic War and a new Corn Law was enacted in 1816 to address the growing crisis by keeping up the price of corn by imposing a heavy duty on imports. However, this did not fully address the problems and provisions still came from overseas so reducing the requirement for home-produced goods. Unemployment increased with the return of war servicemen, the introduction of labour-saving machines and the effects of enclosures. Consequently, along with the failure of the Speenhamland System (giving insufficient poor relief); the consequences of high rents and tithes; a cold winter in 1829 and a poor harvest in 1830, there was social unrest. Therefore, the time was ripe for political activists, like William Cobbett and Richard Carlisle, to preach revolt, which contributed to uprisings within certain sections of agricultural workers.

Unrest started in Kent in 1830, flared up and spread with those most likely to revolt being young men doing menial work such as farm labouring and shepherding. These men were illiterate but were given a voice by some of their many sympathizers, and possibly leaders, amongst rural tradesmen, publicans and non-conformist preachers. The main forms of the riots were 'riotous assemblies', wages meeting and attacks on farmers and the law, spreading to Sussex and parts of Surrey with increasing fires, machine wrecking and threatening letters. These were often signed by Captain Swing, a mythical figure, and are thought to have been written by sympathizers and radical agitators. As a fictional leader, Swing soon achieved folk-hero status amongst the labourers and was often described as a sinister rider on horseback. [It is thought that the appellation came from 'captain' (the name for a leader of many groups) and 'swing' (the threshing machine that took away work from labourers who used to swing a flail).]

Incidents became more frequent and serious as they moved on into Berkshire, Hampshire and Wiltshire occasioned by burning farm buildings as well as ricks, breaking up threshing machines, demands of money (often wasted on beer in the nearest public house) and some personal violence.

In Hampshire considerable damage was done to property including those of a sacking manufacturer and a threshing machine maker in Fordingbridge with the Tasker iron foundry at Andover being destroyed. Local disturbances occurred at Newbury, Aldermaston, Brimpton, Wasing and Ewhurst. The Duke of Wellington being the Lord Lieutenant of the county was very much involved and on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1830, Sir Claudius Hunter, a magistrate of Basingstoke reported to the Duke, "*Your Grace perhaps would like to hear an authentic detail of which has passed in your county under my direction this day ... It was reported that meetings were assembling so I (Hunter) met Captain Astell at the Furze Bush Inn near Aldermaston (the Falcon) with 50 Granadiers 'in good quarter' and proceeded to the New Inn (now the Badgers Wood) at Baughurst where they met a party of 40*



*men well armed with heavy sticks who promised to depart, but 100 or more were hard at work levying money about Sherborne, Ewhurst and parts adjoining and destroying every thrashing machine in the neighbourhood. The rioters were last heard of being assembled at the White Lion Public House (now Hollybush Farm on the Baughurst to Ramsdell road) close to your Grace's gate at Ewhurst. We approached the White Lion, I rushed in, with the soldiers surrounding the house, and we completely got possession of about 80 with their implements of destruction and booty; one man had more than 14 pounds sterling about him in gold and silver. 20 men were released on the spot before we marched to Basingstoke with 57 of the worst rioters. The farmers are heartily glad that these people are taken and I trust an example will be made that may deter them from similar offences".*

[Extracts in italics from Hartley]

The Duke reported this to Viscount Melbourne, Secretary of State for Home Affairs, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November saying, *"My Lord, ....since my arrival at Stratfield Saye, I have received the report of a very successful affair in a very lawless part of the country between this and Kingsclere. It appears that a mob of about 300 or 400 persons did a good deal of mischief yesterday in the neighbourhood of Brimpton. They went this morning to Mr Chute's at the Vine and were returning towards Wolverton, an estate recently purchased by me from Sir Peter Pole. ....I hope that this affair will have entirely put an end to disturbance in this part of the county."*

Melbourne replied on 25<sup>th</sup> November urging the Duke to take personal command, *"due to the violence taking place, he is commanded by His Majesty to urge the Duke to take all possible measures to repress the tumult... the utmost diligence is required with both the gentry and yeomanry in strengthening the civil force. The Duke wrote to placate the Earl of Carnarvon at Highclere on 26<sup>th</sup> November saying the new Commission of the Peace for Hampshire is in preparation and will include names suggested by him. He went on to say, "the mob who had done so much damage around Aldermaston and Baughurst has been captured and the ringleaders imprisoned. I have heard of no action since Tuesday (23 November) and, the previous night when in Basingstoke, had heard of a patrol of Lancers in Kingsclere, but no disturbances. I have applied for a special commission to be sent to Winchester to try the 200 prisoners in various gaols and bridewells. This measure and the conviction and punishment of a few will secure the tranquility of this county"*.

There was another local incident, in a letter from the Duke of Wellington to the government on 11<sup>th</sup> April, he wrote that he had received a report from the Member of Parliament for Andover which included information from Lord Carnarvon saying, *'all was quiet at Kingsclere but that many of them who had left their work were then (on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April) unemployed and as the parish would not pay them, apprehensions were entertained that some disturbance was likely on Saturday next (16<sup>th</sup> April)'*. Wellington goes on to say that the neighbouring magistrates are attending to the district and the Andover Yeomanry Cavalry will be ready to assist them if necessary. It seems they were not needed.

The government appointed a Special Commission to try the prisoners taken where the most damage had been done, the first being at Winchester on 18<sup>th</sup> December for 285 men accused of extorting money, breaking machinery, for sending threatening letters, etc.

Many of these offences carried the death penalty and 101 were so sentenced although in the end, probably because of public petitions, only 6 were executed, 69 were transported, 68 imprisoned, 2 fined and 96 acquitted or bound over. The Commission then moved to Reading on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1831 where they were more compassionate and took account of the age and circumstances of these 'misguided' men, although they were most severe on tradesmen and those above the rank of labourer.

These sentences, although seeming severe by today's standards, were not particularly harsh as they followed the usual pattern of the time because there was a general belief that visible and extreme punishment would curb crime; in fact there were over two hundred crimes on the statute book for which a person could be hanged. The total of 19 executions in 34 counties for these outbreaks has to be compared with 1,404 in England and Wales in the same year for offences such as murder, arson, buggery, sodomy, burglary and housebreaking. Although 481 men were transported, many were pardoned within 4 years, although most couldn't afford the fare home and so settled where they were.

## **Wolverton:**

### **The Parish Church of St Catherine**

The church is dedicated to St Catherine, the Virgin Martyr of Alexandria, patron saint of education, who in 307AD was tortured on a wheel before decapitation giving rise to the association with a rotating firework. Her history impressed the Crusaders so that when they returned, many churches and colleges were built in her honour.

In 1291 the church was rated by Pope Nicholas' Taxation at £7-6-8, and in 1340 was endowed with a messuage, 60 acres of land, pasture, wood, rent and service worth 43/8d p.a.

St Catherine's was re-built in 1717 on the site of an earlier church of flint and wood dating from the 14th century (a church being first mentioned in 1286). It is a fine example of an early Georgian structure and the interior with a finely ribbed oak roof has the pulpits and sittings of finely carved Spanish oak. The church is of pure classic style, reconstructed by a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren, the walls were entirely encased with local hand-made brick and the original wooden roof retained; the chancel, west and transept windows contain stained glass.

The large tower, approximately 80 feet high, built in 1732 is a fine square building with very thick brick walls with parapets and white stone pilasters at the corners, it has 6 bells with a good rich tone and a fine ringing chamber. The 6 bells by Thomas Lester and T Pocock, London, date from 1752, the tenor and treble were recast and the bell frame strengthened by Mears & Stainbank in 1900. Further restoration was needed in 1950 and minor repairs were made in 1980 (by Taylor & Co, Bellfounders of Loughborough) and the last recast in 1997. The tower roof is recent and is the floor for the bellringers, prior to this there was a gallery for bellringers just below the tower window and a harmonium underneath. The current organ is simple but recently well restored, it was made by The Positive Organ Co. Ltd., London, NW.

On either side of the chancel arch are two oak pulpits, exactly alike, to mark a period when praying was not to be reckoned above preaching, nor preaching above praying. The sanctuary is very impressive, entirely panelled with dark oak, while over the altar a central panel contains a star, shaped of different shaded woods, giving an exquisite sense of reverence.



The church in the 1920s

In May 1728 there was an inventory of all goods belonging to Wolverton Church, there were eleven items which included: a communion table

two large silver cups  
two silver salvers  
one small silver cup  
an old chest  
a surplice  
a large Bible and Common Prayer Book  
five bells and appurtenances  
a font

signed John Tylor, Churchwarden.

Also, in 1728 the Parish Terryer (*sic*) of Church lands included:

the church yard 0.3.0 (acres, rods and perches)  
site of Parsonage 20.3.6  
Crabbs in two parts 6.0.0  
pightle adjoining church yard 2.0.5  
plus others totalling 92.2.4  
signed William Robbins, Rector and John Tyler, Churchwarden.

In 1871/2 the Rector, Richard Pole, carried out certain alterations marking an unfortunate period of church restoration, at a cost of £1,200 the gallery was removed and the tower arch opened. The character of all the windows was changed; they were circular-headed, but now are divided by the introduction of brick mullions in an attempt to give the effect of tracery, especially noticeable from outside. A beautiful white marble vase font was turned out and replaced by a modern Gothic one, this fell to pieces in 1920 and so the old font was put back. Some iron chancel gates were taken off their hinges and placed outside to make entrance gates for the churchyard. The side supports of these gates were left intact so that the gates could be replaced. The church is cruciform with small north and south transepts added during the rebuild. The arched braces of the original roof have been cut away and clumsy wooden corbels put in the place of the original timbers which would have reached the floor (which they do in Hartley Wespall, a similarly designed roof), probably to allow the pews to be installed. The box pews were very high and were cleverly reduced in height, their handsome panelled doors make a great feature with the old brass fittings for candles. A handsome stained-glass east window was added in memory of Jane Dorothea Reader by her family (William Reader lived in Ewhurst and Baughurst House in the 1820/30s). Hanging from the ceiling, in front of the chancel arch, is a very handsome old Dutch brass candelabra, probably the gift of Charles von Notten when he bought the manor in 1782, this was found hidden in the Rectory attic and then replaced in the church. [In the chancel is a monument to the memory of Amelia, daughter of the late Sir Peter Pole, Bart. -WHERE IS THIS?] An 1878 directory stated that a holy water shrine discovered in the old flint wall of the south transept has been placed in the porch and now holds the alms box (since removed). Also, it said, that the sittings are all free and capable of accommodating 140 persons, also a new harmonium has been supplied by the parishioners.

There are several plaques/tablets on the walls, the first is a copper/brass plate on the north wall at the rear of the nave inscribed,

“CHAPEL OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN.

Created to commemorate the connection between the parishes of Wolverton and Ewhurst joined in 1880, the church at Ewhurst being made redundant in July, 1972. [The reredos, altar and pews were brought from Ewhurst. Wolverton scrapbook.] This chapel was dedicated in June, 1974 by the Archdeacon of Basingstoke and the preacher was the Most Rev G O Simms, Primate of All Ireland. The pews, altar and painted panel came from Ewhurst.

H M Mc Clure, Rector. J H Walford & R C Amer, Churchwardens.”



Wolverton Church Altar

Next to this is a brass plate, "This tablet is placed here to record the completion (through three generations) of 100 years faithful service as Clerks of the Parish of Wolverton.

David Soper 1841-1855, William Soper 1855-1907, William Soper 1907-1945.

'Good and Faithful Service'."

An additional plate fixed to the bottom of the above says, "And Ada Florence Cooper (nee Soper) 1936-1981."

On the north wall opposite the porch entrance is a painting of the Royal Coat of Arms with V R (Victoria Regina) and the date 1846, these were generally hung in every church.

The next stone plaque on the north wall is "In loving memory of Hugh Selwyn Walford of The Old House, 1868-1945, and his wife Susan."

There is a brass plate in the north-east corner of the chancel, "The East Window is in memory of Jane Dorethea Reader, from her children, A D 1871."

In the south transept is a stone tablet surmounted with the family coat of arms with the motto 'Cura et industria' (Care and Industry), "To the memory of Walker Wallace 1817-1890, Diana his wife 1819-1891, their children Diana Gordon 1851-1928, Wallace James 1853-1939. For 70 years tenants of Wolverton Park. Also of Eliza, their youngest child 1858-1933, wife of Estill Mason."

On the south wall is a brass plate, "To the glory of God and in memory of Major Edwin James Tilleard Housden, MC, RA. Born in 1886 and died in 1935, who worshipped here three days before his fatal fall at the Royal Artillery Steeplechase, Farringdon, Hampshire. 'FORWARD'."

The earliest register is lost but the second and third record all entries from 1717 and baptisms, marriages and burials to 1812.

The church plate consists of a pair of silver chalices inscribed 'The gift of Jemmett Raymond Esq 1717', two silver patens of 1713 inscribed 'Ex dono Gab. Barnaby hujus ecclesiae Rectoris' (Gift of Gabriel Barnaby, Rector of this church) and a silver flagon of 1873, the gift of Rev Richard Pole.

Modern improvements that have been made to the church include the installation of a sound system and hearing loop, a kitchenette, a toilet, a car park next to the Rectory and, for the millennium, an outside floodlighting scheme was commissioned.

The churchyard contains many interesting graves including residents or owners of Wolverton Park, one headstone records where W J Walker (1853-1939) and his wife Diana Gordon (1851-1928) are buried. Another erected by the Dowager Countess Winterton is for the Rev Watson Buller Van Nottle Pole (1803-1900) son of Charles and grandson of Sir Charles Pole, his wife Matilda (1807-1887) who was the daughter of Sir Peter Pole. Another headstone provided by the Commonwealth Graves Commission records that Volunteer Stanley Pocock of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire (Whitchurch) Battalion, Home Guard, died on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1940 aged 35.



Present-day view from the church tower looking east towards Wolverton House





Looking North from the top of the church tower towards the spires of Ashford Hill, Brimpton and Midgham Churches



Looking SW from the top of the church tower showing Crabbs Hill, the Rectory and, on the skyline, White Hill, Cottingham's Hill and Hannington



Views of the old Rectory, c. 1930



– the original Tudor house on the right

The Wolverton Rectory, a large and pleasant sixteenth century house, once a farmhouse, with 14 bedrooms, stabling for 8 horses and a glebe of 84 acres, was improved in 1833 and 1841 at a cost of £750. The Rector, Richard Pole, obviously had use for another property in 1851 as he paid the Duke of Wellington £15 pa rent for a cottage, lately tenanted by James Smith. A new Rectory was built in the late 1920s (the School House was temporarily leased by Rev D L Board from June to November, 1929 whilst building was being completed). The old rectory was re-

named The Old House by the purchaser, H[ugh] S Walford, and when enlarging it, found the kitchen to be of an early Tudor period and some of the windows of Queen Anne style. It includes some grand old fireplaces, doors dating back to the time of Queen Elizabeth I and some splendid old oak beams; the lawn contained 4 lime trees, one being 76 ft high, planted in the reign of Charles II. When renovating the house, Walford asked the Duke of Wellington to widen Wolverton Lane and the Wessex Electric Light Co. to install electricity in the village, but as the houses in the village were 'few and far between' and only some people backed his request, including the Rev. Board for the new Rectory, it was refused. [1165]

[Mr Walford kennelled The Vine Hunt hounds at Sandford Farm but this was sold when he died (in the 1940s? - the new kennels were built at Hannington). Col. J H Walford was an Acting Master in 1949.]

This house on Rectory Lane is now in Kingsclere and there is conjecture that originally the main part of the village used to be near this building and extended along a very old road leading to a cross-road which is known as Sawyer's Grave, where a suicide is buried (this road is Pit Lane running from the A339, just north of Pit Hall Farm, through Sawyer's Grave to Plantation Farm and on to Kingsclere). One of these roads is an ancient Roman road and close to one of the old pilgrim roads which run over the hills above. The belief is that this population was wiped out entirely, like many other villages, by the Black Death, leaving the Rectory by itself.



### The Rectors

The advowson has always been in the hands of the Lord of the Manor.

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1324            | - Walter Tye   |
| Pre 6 June 1346 | - Thomas de Okeham (exchanged Wigton (York) with below)  |
| 4th July 1346   | - Geoffrey de Kedyngton (Presentation of Matthew Fitz Herbert, kt)   |
| ?               | - Hugh de Burgh  |
| 4th April 1352  | - Thomas de Eyndon, son of Theobald, clerk on death of last Rector.  |
| 17th Dec 1352   | - Robert de Shulyngton (died 1354 ?) was at St Dunstan, West London, exchanged with Geoffrey Kedyton, Rector of Wolverton? (Patron, the local lord, was Matthew Fitzherbert) |
| 14th Oct 1354   | - Nicholas Swayn (on the death of de Shulyngton - patron, Matthew Fitzherbert)   |
| 29th July 1363  | - John de Brewode (filling a vacancy. Patron Edward de Sancto Johanne, kt)   |

20th July 1365	- Hugh de Worston, on resignation of de Brewode (acolyte, in 1366 dispensation to be absent for study at an English University without obligation of residence or of advancing to orders beyond the subdeaconate in the one year, according to the constitution cum ex eo.)
6th May 1366	- John de Netherhavene (on de Worston's resignation).
1515	- William Spencer (Was he related to the family of Spencers living in the village? For example, John who paid the lay Subsidy Tax in 1586.)
1534	- William Hal
1543	- John Braban(d) [c.1575 Robert Heron]
1661	- William French, George Browne was patron.
1669	- Rev Holdip [KS]
1700	- Gabriel Barnaby
1719	- William Robbins, MA with Jemmett Raymond Esq as patron. Curate is Thomas Obourn MA, from 1746 (see Ewhurst)
1759	- John Craven, George Barlow was his curate who resided at Hannington (see below), Jemmett Raymond was patron.
1804	- Henry Worsley, DD who resided at Gatcombe (Isle of Wight) 1755- 1844 was the younger son of Sir Edward Worsley, Bt, and was educated at St Mary Hall, Oxford, (BA in 1777 and MA in 1791). He was ordained deacon of Gatcombe in 1778 and to the priesthood in 1779. He was granted the degrees of BD and DD by Oxford University in 1800. In 1801 created Rector of Gatcombe and in 1804 also of Wolverton and St Lawrence (Isle of Wight), holding all three benefices until his death. - his curates who lived at Wolverton Park, carried out all his duties. The curates were Henry Richard Van Notten Pole, Henry Pole (1810 -1820) and, in 1825 Richard Pole. Henry obtained his BA from Christchurch, Oxford in 1803, his MA in 1806, was ordained deacon in 1805 and licensed as Curate of Wolverton and ordained as priest in 1806. In 1814 he was Rector of Upper Swell in Gloucester, holding the living until his death in 1823, he was followed there by Rev Watson Buller Van Notten Pole from 1821 to 1881.
1844	- Richard Pole, MA of Balliol College, Oxford Curate Thomas S Langford, MA 1858 (probably of Ewhurst, see below). 1875, Curate George James Monnington (also of Ewhurst)
1880	- Robert Haynes Cave MA (born 1831), (Rectories of Wolverton and Ewhurst united in July, 1880).
1895	-Thomas Binfield Ludlow MA
1899	- Chichester Arthur Wellesley Reade LLD, DCL (born 1837)
1904	- Scott Boucher, MA of Trinity College, Cambridge
1917	- Edward Acton MA
1925	- Douglas Leonard Board MA
1953	.....do..... (of Ewhurst, Hannington &Wolverton)
1959	- St John Turner
1963	- Edward Stanley Ragg BA
1967	- Hugh Norman McClure MA
1980	- John Edward Franks (of Baughurst, Ramsdell, Ewhurst, Hannington & Wolverton)
1994	- Andrew Edward Barton PhD .....do.....
2008	- David Barlow .....do.....



### About the Rectors

On the petition of Edward de Sancto Johanne, Knight, in 1366 the Rector (John de Netherhavene) was allowed to keep the autumn crops due to the Bishop because of the ruinous condition of the buildings of the Rectory House. In 1700 on the 7<sup>th</sup> May there was a Presentation of the Churchwardens (William Tylor and William Bousome) at the Annual Visitation of the Rev Dr Thomas Clutterbuck, Arch Deacon of Winchester held in Basingstoke.

In William Robbins reply to the Bishop's Visitation in 1725, he reported that the area of Wolverton was 1,300 acres; the population was 126; there were 2 burials, 2 to 3 marriages and 3 to 4 baptisms on average per annum. There were no papists or dissenters.

During the incumbancy of Mr Robbins, a Presentment of the Churchwardens (Thomas Jacob and John Tylor) on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 1734 was made at the Metropolitan Visitation of the Most Reverend William, Lord Bishop of Canterbury in the Parish Church of Basingstoke.

The Rector, John Craven, in the 1765 Visitation reported to the Bishop that the population was 126 souls and the area of Wolverton was 1300 acres. He said that '5 sacraments were held per year, at the three Festivals, Trinity Sunday and ye Sunday before St Michael' (Easter, Whitsun, Christmas, the Sunday after Pentecost and Michaelmas, the 29<sup>th</sup> September). The living is £six score and the Curate is allowed £35 pa for very little duty performed, he resides in the parish of Hannington and is only an assistant to Wolverton. There were no dissenters in the parish. He also reported to the Bishop there was a loss of benefaction due to those for which it was intended and an abuse of charity for the last 19 years, but now had been properly applied (a possible reference to the conduct of William Robbins). He died in 1804 and George Barlow, the Curate, took over his duties for a short period he mentioned details of the George Brown Trust for the poor. [21M65]

In a return of Places of Worship in 1810, contrary to the above, it stated that Henry Pole was not licensed but had a salary of £50. The parish church was the only church in the parish and had a capacity for 170 persons. The population of Wolverton was stated as 190 in the church return in 1810. [21M65]

The Curate's report, the Rector being absent, in 1810 said the capacity of the church was 170 with a population of 190, in the 1851 report the number of seats was recorded as 170 free and 30 for children, the attendances being 57 plus 21 children (mornings) and 52 plus 12 children (afternoons).

A Parish Return of September 1812 stated that a List of Registers held in Wolverton were:

- Volume 3 commenced 1717 containing Marriages to the year 1755 and Baptisms & Burials to 1812.
- Marriage Register commenced 1761 ended 1812.

The three New Registers according to the last Act of Parliament commencing January 1813.

Signed Henry Pole, Curate and Robert Bunce, Churchwarden.

[21M65]

In September 1829 there was a sale 'of household furniture, forty dozen bottles of Port Wine and other miscellaneous effects of a gentleman leaving the Rectory, Wolverton'. This could have been the Rev Henry Worsley who lived in the Isle of Wight and his Curates lived at Wolverton House. There were 119 lots split into 25 sections, for example, kitchen, dining room, china and glass, cellars (wine and beer), attics, nursery, etc. Apart from the amount of Port Wine (did he over order - mistaking forty with forty dozen?) other interesting items included 12 beer jugs, Wedgewood candle sticks, excellent turning lathe, two 4-wheel chaises, pony chaise and mahogany bidet. [10M57/SP750]

In 1814, Ann Blagrove of Calcot received a grant of £5 on her marriage to the Rev Henry Pole, and on 26/11/1831 Richard Pole married Elizabeth Anne Elmhurst at St Stephen's, Baughurst. The witnesses were: Sir Peter Pole MP, Jane D Reader (wife of William of Ewhurst House), Richard Elmhurst, Sarah Elmhurst, Edward Pole (Captain, 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers), Louisa Pole and Barbara Elmhurst.



Robert Cave, born in 1831 in Barbados, had a large household, in the 1881 census as well as a wife and seven children he had a clergyman's wife (possibly his sister, also born in Barbados), her daughter and three maids (one was a local girl, Martha Miles).

Chichester Arthur Wellesley Reade (Rector in 1899) was the Great-grandson of Elizabeth, daughter of Richard, the elder brother of the First Duke of Wellington. His grandfather was Sir Chichester Fortescue, a Rear Admiral, and his father was the Rev. George Harrison Reade.

The Rev D L Board at a fete in 1951 wearing the clothes of the Rector who opened the new church in 1717.



#### Parish Clerks and Sextons

David Soper from 1841 to 1855

William Soper from 1855 to 1907, the Post Master and shopkeeper

William Soper from 1907 to 1945

Ada Cooper (nee Soper) from 1936 to 1981

#### **Non-conformism**

An application was made in 1791 to establish a Towns End Baptist Church 'by protestant dissenters as they have appointed the dwelling house and premises of Thomas Mayers in Baughurst (at Loveday's Farm, Towns End - now Little Brook Farm) as a place for the exercise of the worship of Almighty God and desire the same to be entered in the Bishop's Court and a certificate granted to us. Witness our hands this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1791, Thomas Mayers, Thomas Park, John Kimber, John Tyler (owned Chapel House and Buller's Farm), Letitia May, Elizabeth May and William May (granted 20<sup>th</sup> July)'. [21M65]

However, it was not until 1866 that a Tabernacle was built at a cost of over £300 (also called Baughurst Chapel in 1877), attached to the building was a stable and coach house, 'rendered necessary by the population being so scattered' - the local preacher was William Brown a farmer. On the first anniversary, a Bazaar & Public Service was held at Ewhurst Park and the Sunday School had their 'treat', with Mr Brown preaching, in a field lent by George Ford (the landlord of the George & Dragon), the Baptist minister at Baughurst in 1872 was the Rev W Skelt. Other services (1905) were held by Messrs Braggs and Lewis of Reading.

The Primitive Methodists of Townsend held their meetings in a house, 'not used exclusively, which had 30 free seats with 10 standing, attendances were 40 (morning) and the Local Preacher was George Jacob'. [He was a Baughurst local preacher from 1851 until around 1900.]

Another application, addressed to the Bishop in 1828, stated, 'I, William Edwards of Minton, Wesleyan Minister of Winchester certify that the house belonging to Mary Tibble, Wolverton Common is intended for use as a place of religious worship by an Assembly or Congregation of Protestants ... and hereby request a certificate thereof, 27<sup>th</sup> June'. (Agreed on 28/6/1828.)

[21M65]

[Note. William and Mary Tibble gave birth to a son John in 1812. John Tibble married Ann Gamester in 1796 at Wolverton and Charlotte Tibble was baptised in 1784 and later married P Holloway. The house is now called 'Tibbles'.]

Wolverton Common Primitive Methodist Chapel (or Kingsclere Common PMC as it originally was called) was started on a site acquired in 1864 on the corner of Chapel Lane, a chapel was built in 1867 but was closed in 1981 due to severe dry rot making the building unsafe. It was sold the following year. The Directories for Wolverton in 1875 and 1911 confirmed that the Primitive Methodists had a chapel at Wolverton End.

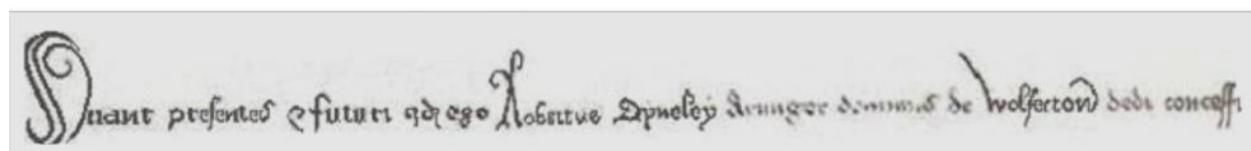
(The report of the Rector of Wolverton in 1851, states that there are no non-conformists in Wolverton. Was this an admission of negligence to admit such a thing!)

### **Wolverton House and Manor**

In the reign of Henry II the house was a royal residence and the deer park supplied venison for the King and in 1165, Eleanor of Aquitaine, his Queen, lived there at the Royal Residence whilst the King was in Normandy - her expenses for one year there were entered in the Pipe Rolls as amounting to £18. 'Fair Rosamund', a favourite of King Henry, is said to have visited nearby Freemantle Farm (see above). In 1215, Isabella, Queen of England, was granted the manor and in 1228 King John granted this manor to Peter FitzHerbert and it was held by the family. In 1280 the King queries the right of Reginald FitzPeter to the manor, he replies that Henry III granted him free warren to hunt, etc. in all the demesne lands in the hundred of Clere, he died in 1286. [Free Warren was a royal licence permitting the holder to keep and breed game.] John FitzGerald dies in 1307, Joan de Vinonia, wife of Reginald, dies in 1313 and in 1314 Herbert FitzJohn has the licence to enfeof this manor, [licence to hold land in exchange for a pledge of service.] in 1316 he paid the King £25. In 1320 the manor went to Matthew FitzHerbert, son of Herbert, and in 1324 he paid 20 Marks for a licence to enfeof Walter Tye, parson of the church. In 1356 Matthew's wife, Margaret, took over the manor and advowson on the death of her husband. She died a year later, John de Houxe succeeded until he died in 1361 and then Thomas de Wollop until he died in 1362. Sir Edward de Sancto Johanne in 1363/6 exercised the advowson until 1356 when it passed through the female line into the Dyneley family, for example, William gave his son, Robert, a life interest in the estate (plus lands in Baughurst and Kingsclere) in 1456. In 1457, the manor and the lands in Baughurst called Payneslond and Hamlond were granted to William, son of Robert, deceased, and his son, Robert and his male heirs. Witnesses, etc. included William Warbiton, William Brocas and Michael Skillyng.

[31M57]

The following is the opening line of a fifteenth century charter regarding Richard Dyneley and the ownership of the Manor of Wolverton, its advowson and lands in Baughurst called Penyesland and Hameland.



Sciunt presenti et future quod ego Robertus Dyneley Armiger dommus de  
Wolverton dedi consessi et hoc presenti carta ...

[Be it known now and in the future that I, Robert Dyneley, Armiger (a man entitled to heraldic arms or upper gentry), Lord of Wolverton, grant and present with this legal document ...] [44M69]

In 1502 the last male of the family died, and again the manor and Foscott passed via Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas & Frances Dyneley and wife of George Barrett, into the Barrett Family.

Edward Barrett had the manors of Wolverton and Foxcote in 1593, became Lord Newburgh of Fife in 1627 and sold the manor in 1639 on a 999 year lease to Sir Nicholas Raynton - the deed being witnessed by Sir James Bedingfield, a noted Loyalist and in 1644 Chaloner Chute (Speaker of the House of Commons who bought The Vyne in 1653) and Robert Briscoe were involved.

In 1653 George Browne, of Spelmonden in Kent, bought Wolverton Manor (in addition to Buckland Court in Surrey), from the executors of Lord Newburgh (died 1644), the indenture dated 28/11/1653 between George Browne of Kent of the first part and Thomas Foley of the other part, etc, states that 'he has all that the mannor or Lordship of Wolverton, all rights, rectory advowson, right of age and for disposition of church at Wolverton (plus parts in Baughurst, Kingsclere, Bramley, Hannington, etc.)'. The family had made their fortune from gun manufacture and were mentioned several times in Samuel Pepys diaries.

An indenture dated 30/11/1669 between George Browne, Elizabeth, his wife and Sir Robert Worsley, Knight and Bart, settled on Sir George Browne (the son) on his marriage, all messuages, lands together with all buildings, forges and Ironworks. [5M52/T7]

So on 3rd January, 1670, Sir George Browne married Jane, daughter of Sir Henry Worsley of Appuldurcombe House on the Isle of Wight and moved into Wolverton. A year later they had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Sir Jemmet Raymond, but died before her 18th birthday. The inscription on a magnificent marble memorial in Kintbury Church, Berkshire says, 'Sir Jemmett Raymond of Barton Court, Berkshire, son of Sir Jonathon Raymond was born in 1662. He married Elizabeth, sole daughter and heiress of Sir George Browne of Woolverton in the county of Hants. But she died on 19th July, 1688 aged only 17, on the birth of their only son, Jemmett Raymond, Esq, - Sir Jemmett remarried'.

Sir George Browne, as the local Justice of the Peace, arrested James Potter, a Quaker, in 1682 [see *James Potter, Quaker* by Ken Smallbone] he was also High Sheriff of Hampshire in 1683/4.

So, succession passed from George Browne, the elder, to his son, to his granddaughter and then to his great grandson as indicated on an indenture dated 22/11/1709, between Jemmott Raymond (Henwick, Thatcham), son and heir of Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Browne, late of Wolverton, Knight, and John Smith and George Wheeler (witnesses W Barnsley and Daniel Dicke). [5M52/T7]

Jemmet Raymond was the occupant of Wolverton House before 1752, also in 1759 as shown on Isaac Taylor's map. In 1772 Dame Elizabeth Worsley, wife of Sir William Meux, and Sir Jemmett's second cousin, inherited the Manor and two years later it passed to her son Edward Meux-Worsley of Gatcombe House.

In 1782, Charles Von Notten, a London merchant born in Amsterdam, bought the manor with its Georgian mansion house from Edward Meux-Worsley of Gatcombe House. He had a large sum of money (c.£10,000 in trust and an annuity) given on his intended marriage to Millicent Pole [R/D47/1]; and by royal license he took the surname and arms of Pole in 1787 after his marriage to the eldest daughter of Charles Pole of Holcroft in Lancashire in 1769 (she died in 1818). He was created a Baronet in 1791, was Sheriff of Hampshire (1791-2), died in 1813 and was succeeded by his son, Sir Peter Pole. He was a Justice of the Peace in 1820 and MP for Yarmouth from 1819 to 1826. Peter (1801-1887), the son of the second Baronet succeeded to the title and married the Hon Louisa Perry, daughter of the Earl of Limerick in 1825. In 1830 there was an Act passed for renewing, granting and confirming the powers and authorities regarding his manors, etc. in Wolverton and Streatfield Sea (Stratfield Saye) to Sir Peter Pole (the second) given by the will of Sir Peter Pole (the first). Included was the Manor; Advowson; Mansion House; Wolverton Farm of 315 acres (Mr Hayward, tenant); Plantation Farm 386 acres (William Bunce, Tenant); Ham Farm of 80 acres (William Brown, tenant); Night Croft Field of 3½ acres (? Tyler, tenant); Brick Kiln and Yard of 2 acres (Edward Jacobs, tenant); Copse Field of 4 acres; house, Blacksmith's Shop and 1 acre close of Meadow (Mary Penton, tenant); Hare & Hounds and 1 acre (Mr May, tenant); Closes of Land (John Waterman, tenant) plus inclosure land of Inhurst and Ham (31 acres), wastes and lanes (30 acres) and land at Stratfield Saye (169 acres). [76M86]

Another son of Sir Charles was the Rev Henry Pole who married Ann Blaggrave, daughter of John of Calcot, Reading in 1814. They were given in trust £2643 invested in stocks/property.

Yet another son of Charles was the Rev Watson Buller Van Notten whose grave is in Wolverton churchyard.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington had been voted £600,000 by Parliament and over the ensuing century, his estate was built up by purchasing farms and property. It was actually bought by a body of trustees appointed by parliament as part of the nation's reward for his military services - it is still vested in trustees, the Duke paying an annual rent of a flag presented to the Sovereign on the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo.

A major acquisition in 1831/2 was of the Wolverton/Ewhurst Estates from Sir Peter Pole, which included several thousands of acres in Baughurst. This was auctioned at Garraway's Coffee House, Cornhill on 27th November, 1828' (see Appendix 3). The conveyance of the estate was dated 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1831 and was from Charles, Abraham and Henry Pole to the Right Honourable Charles Manner Sutton (Speaker of the House of Commons), Rt Hon Charles, Earl Grey (First Lord Commissioner of H M Treasury), Rt Hon John Charles Spencer, Lord Viscount Althorp (Chancellor of H M Exchequer), Rt Hon William Wellesley, Lord Maryborough (lately William Wellesley-Pole, the Duke's brother who inherited from a distant relation named Pole, and so added 'Pole' to his name) and The Hon & Rev Gerald Valerian Wellesley, DD (the Duke's nephew). The purchasers were Parliamentary Trustees appointed for the investment of certain sums of money in the purchase of estates to be settled to the use of the Most Noble Arthur, Duke of Wellington. [1539/1]

On 20<sup>th</sup> January, 1832 the Duke wrote to the Trustees requesting the issue of a warrant for £150,460 (to be paid by selling out of the Consolidated Fund) to buy the Wolverton Estate. This figure was only a part payment, the final cost was to be £178,868 when agreement on reductions, due to the state of certain parts, was made. The cost was broken down as:-

Wolverton Park	£52,500
Timber	15,500
Freehold	38,200 (settled)
Timber	14,000 (settled)
Copyhold of inheritance	1,600
Timber Growing	1,200
Copyhold for Lives	140
Leasehold for 1000 years	65
Ewhurst Freehold	25,000
Timber on Estate	21,500
Copyhold for Lives	3,000
Leasehold for 21 years	62
Furniture, fixtures, underwood, deer, ploughing, etc.	5,900

Regarding the last item, the count of the deer in Wolverton Park in June, 1829 was 103 head excluding fawns (65 bucks and 38 does). 12 bucks were scheduled to be killed that year and probably every year, at 6 years of age or older.

William Ruddle of Kingsclere and Joseph Brooks of Wolverton were among those who identified the parts of the estate and whether Freehold or Copyhold. [/504]

There were three lodges on the estate occupied by estate workers. The first was Spicer's Lodge on Crabb's Hill, Middle Lodge and Town's End (or Coachman's) Lodge - see pictures below). In 1918, Henry Chesterman lived at 'The Lodge, WolvertonPark' - which one was this?



Robert Chiffince (b. 1848) and wife, Clara - he was the Butler at Wolverton House. In 1891 they lived at Spicer's Pond Lodge (see pictures p.24/5) with their 4 daughters. In 1901 they also had their grandson, Edward, aged 8. In 1903 their daughter, Charlotte (Lottie) Annie (b.1880) married Robert Soper, son of William. [In the register Robert Chiffince was styled a 'Publican', and in Kelly's Directory for 1905, he was at the Hare & Hounds.]

Due to crippling death duties, all the local land held by the Dukes was gradually sold, mostly in 1943, but some, for example, Park House (Kingsclere) and the stables had been auctioned in 1925.

In 1841 an inventory of the house's contents was made so that Blackall Simonds of Reading could lease the property for 3 years at an annual rent of £320. [1574]

[It is interesting to note that Simonds (1784-1875) was the eldest son of William Blackall Simonds a Reading Maltster who married Elizabeth May, ward of Thomas May of Brimpton who founded the Basingstoke Brewery. Blackall turned his father's business into a brewery in Reading and when he retired in 1845 it was taken over by his brothers, Henry and George, and later became H & G Simonds Ltd which lasted until 1978. Thomas' sons James and Charles tenanted the Hare & Hounds around the 1820s and 1830s. A descendent who lived at Audrey's Wood, Basingstoke around 1900 became Viscount Gavin Simonds, Lord High Chacellor from 1951- 54.]

A relatively modern description says that Wolverton House, set in a park of 284 acres, is late Georgian, rendered and having a porch with two pairs of unfluted, Ionic columns, a balustrade and an eleven feet long ice-house with a vaulted roof. It is also suggested that there is an underground passage connecting the house to St Catherine's Church.

In 1940, the army took over the house and it became the Head Quarters of the AA. Towards the end of the war, a Canadian Army hospital with a hutted camp was built to the north of the house where the old gardens used to be. In 1911 the area of the park was stated as 150 acres.

In 1944, in order to cover death duties, the Duke's Trustees sold the whole of the Wolverton and Ewhurst Estate amounting to over 5000 acres (see Appendix 4 for a list of his tenants), Mrs Herman Andrea of Moundsmere House, Preston Candover, purchased the Park and her son and sister lived in the house. In 1954, Sir John Blunt purchased the house and park and in 1959 Major Hohler of Long Crendon Manor, Buckinghamshire, became the owner and farmed it until his death. It was then owned by his daughter Isobelle Jacqueline Laline Astell (who was



baptised Isabelle Hohler), who married the 24<sup>th</sup> Earl of Erroll, son of Sir Rupert Iain Kay Moncreiffe of that Ilk, 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet in 1982. In 2001, the estate was again up for sale.

The occupiers of Wolverton House include:

1759 Jemmett Raymond (from the map of Isaac Taylor, 1759)

1782 Charles Van Notten (Pole)

1813 Sir Peter Pole

1836 William Stevens

1839 George Rawlins

1841 Blackall Simonds

1848 Rt Hon Lord Paget

1855 Hugh Vaughan (in 1851 he paid the Duke £230 rent for the house)

1859 Sir Joshua Walm(e)sley

1867 Jasper Wilson Johns

1869 - 1939 Wallace J Walker (1817-1890), a Merchant from Liverpool, his wife Diana (1819-1891) and their daughter, Diana, who with her brother, Wallace J (1853-1939), ran the house.

1891 - Catherine Mary, widow of General Edward Haldane, died. She was described as 'late of Wolverton House'. There were several tenants towards the end of the century.

1940 - 1945 War Department

1962 Major Hohler

1996 Jacqueline J Hohler

1999 Mr & Mrs Oleson

In the 18th century, water was pumped by a horse-driven lead and wood pump but during the war-time occupation, the War Department drilled a borehole near the lake and built the water tower near Parkside Cottages, however, villagers had to rely on wells until mains water, and electricity, were installed in the 1950s?



The Vyne Hunt at Wolverton House (c.1930s, see reference to Vine Hunt p. 16)



Wolverton House from the south.



Two more views of the house and lake. In the early part of the 20th century anyone could fish there – for perch and carp and skate on it in the winter when it froze.



Spicer's Lodge on Crabb's Hill, 1920



Another view of Crabb's Hill and the Lodge, c.1930



Middle Lodge with Mr George Weston, Gamekeeper, and his wife Fanny outside door, 1905  
[This lodge is 150m off the road near the old Hare & Hounds pub. Weston was still Gamekeeper in 1909.]





The park gates of the estate and Lodge in Town's End, c. 1930

[These gates were originally the entrance to the courtyard at the back of the house and were thought to have come from Freemantle Park. Wolverton scrapbook.]



Another picture of Town's End Lodge, c. 1910.

Often called the Coachman's Lodge as Harry Gusman, Coachman, was there in 1891 and from c.1900 to 1915 it was the home of William Henry West, Coachman to the House. In 1918, Alfred and Roseanna Mortlock lived there.



The park gates being dismantled



Nos. 1 & 2 Parkside Cottages (now opposite Wolverton Plants) with, nearest, Mary May, wife of George. wife of the estate Cattleman (later to become the Bailiff). Next door is Elizabeth Owen, wife of Frank, the estate Gardener, c.1910.

### **The 'Sir George Browne Trust'**

When Sir George Browne died, his Last Will and Testament, dated 11th April 1685, left fifteen acres of land (14 in Whites Directory of 1859) and four houses to a trust, for the poor, which bears his name. He bequeathed 'an estate called Bewshons in the said parish, value £6-10-0 pa to Sir Adam Brown, Sir William Meux and Sir James Worsley and their heirs in trust, to the only use of the poor of the said parish. And the Minister, Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said parish for the time being are empowered by the said will to receive and distribute the profits'. The rent from the land between 1859 and 1911 provided from £17 to £25 pa which was distributed in clothing and fuel to the poor. This legacy has helped parishioners of St Catherine's Church for over 300 years and still continues to do so. The four houses, formerly almshouses, next to the Village Hall, were called 'The Poores' or 'Poors Cottages' (see picture below, possibly named after a John Poore, an occupant who was listed in the 1665 Hearth Tax return, or, because it was customary when someone left land or property for the benefit of the poor to call it 'Poors Piece', 'Poors Cottage', etc.). The 1881 census showed that they were occupied by Alfred, an agricultural labourer born in 1818, and Lucy Blunden; John May, a shepherd born in 1831; Bridget Lawrence, a pauper born in 1789 and another unnamed pauper; in 1891 Alfred and John were still there with Henry Blunden. They were always used as intended until they were sold in the 1980's and are now one house called 'Cricket Cottage'. The original terms of the will gave one third of its interest to the Rector to encourage him to teach children of the parish the Church Catechism, this provision has now lapsed.

The Tithe Commutation documents of 1839/40 show that 'Browns Charity' owned a property called Nutley Hill, arable and meadow of 11acres and 22 perches, the occupier was Charles Hesleden (of Plantation Farm).



Two views of The Poores, c.1910, now Cricket Cottage (see p.30)

Residents there included:

Henry Blunden, Sawyer; Alfred Blunden, Labourer; John May, Shepherd (1891): Joanne Edwards; Letitia Knight and two children; John and Mary Ann May (1901 & 1911). John Knight, John May, Charles and Thurza Brown (1918).



Proposals to fill the posts of trustees were taken by the Parish Council when it was formed in 1894 (see *The Parish Council*, p.30).

Copies of the accounts sent to the Charity Commission show that in 1901 the income was £24-9-4d which included receipts of £2-12-0 from J May for the rent of a cottage and of £1 from W J Walker (of Wolverton House) for Ludlow Hill Field. Typical of the expenditure at this time was: fire insurance for cottages 8/-, Poor Rate 12/- up to £1-2-0, Coal for distribution (2½ tons) £3-10-0 to £4-12-0, Cash distributed by the Rector at Christmas £15-5-0 and a new cottage range £1-16-0. The balance in hand was £38-6-11d, it was signed by W J Walker, Treasurer.

In 1935 some of the land was sold to Hampshire County Council for £2-4-6d. During this year there was a large expenditure on re-thatching three cottages, viz £7-2-0 to A F West, Thatcher, £13-15-0 to H Appleton for 5½ tons of straw and 14/3d for thatching rods. Tithes paid to the Rector were £4-5-0 as well as £3-17-3 to the Tithe Redemption Committee.

The Treasurer in 1939 was H Shatford?, when the balance of the Trust was invested in Consols giving a dividend of 18/8d. The next year, W J Walker gave the Trustees a legacy of £250 which was spent on War Loans 'for the general purposes of the charity' although £100 worth was sold to redeem the tithe.

At the end of the war, the Trust had a healthy balance of £107-15-2 and by 1949, when the Treasurer was S T Goodall, the cottage rents were £5 pa and the total income £41-4-0d. Expenditure, including rates of £6-18-3 and fence repairs of £20, was £40-8-0. [35M84]

The funds are used today to give pensioners, *inter alia*, coach trips to the seaside, canal boat trips, meals out and gifts at Christmas (in the 1960/70s these were wrapped by Col. and Elizabeth Don).

The Trust was registered with the Charities Commissioners as the 'Sir George Brown Trust' on 17th Aug 1965 - somehow, both the above titles, losing the 'e' at the end of Browne. The

rules of operation are defined in a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 27th July 1965, which says that the rent from the property and land, together with interest from investments, are to be used by the Trustees "for the benefit of such poor persons resident in the area of the ancient parish of Wolverton in the supply of articles in kind or in grants of money". [The definition of 'ancient' is unclear.]

In 1967 the Trustees, the Rector and four prominent villagers, agreed to a reorganisation of the Trust, the result being that there should be one ex-officio member who shall always be the Rector of St Catherine's who will be chairman, two members appointed by the Baughurst Parish Council and another two who live or work in, or near, the parish of Wolverton.

### **Local Councils**

Before 1832 the right to vote was only given to major landowners (those paying Land Tax); applications to vote in 1832 include those from W Reader (Baughurst House), John Hawkins (Plantation Farm, Ewhurst Farm and Oak House) (Letitia Goddard Dicker was his aunt), Andrew Twitchin (of North Oakley and Malthouse Farm) and William Frankum (a baker of Reading. However, in the Reform Act of 1832, the representation of people was improved and there were 65 seats in parliament given to the counties. Electoral Registration gave the vote to those having property with an annual value (for tax purposes) of 40 shillings for freehold property and of £10 for copyholders, this made 1 million people eligible to vote.

A second Reform Act of 1867 reduced these values and gave some workers the vote, and the electorate doubled. The third Act (1884) reduced the amounts further and further gave the vote to occupiers of land or tenements with a yearly value of £10, those eligible being listed by the Overseers. This gave the vote to most agricultural workers and the electorate rose to more than 4 million.

Suffrage to all men over the age of 21 came in 1918, this was extended to women in 1928.

The Local Government Act of 1894 established Rural District and Parish Councils after a stormy passage through Parliament. Kingsclere Rural District Council was formed in 1894, with Whitchurch's in 1907, both holding their meetings in their local workhouses. Mainly due to the decline of rural poverty and the introduction of the Old Age Pension in 1920, the post of Overseer was abolished in 1925. The Board of Guardians of the Poor of Kingsclere was wound up on March 25th, 1930, but this meant no loss of expertise as many parish representatives served on the District Council. Public Health was a problem and the District Surveyor of Highways also had the role of Inspector of Nuisances so, as well as looking at the state of our roads, he checked on the state of local privies. Some cottages were reported as having none and some had no door and many were in a poor condition. His remedy was to serve an order on the owners to put things right - he also used orders to rectify obnoxious pig sties or chicken runs and to ensure unkempt children did not wander the streets.

In 1939 the Rev. Board took over as District Councillor from Col. Johnson Smith and in 1946 Councillor Gilbert May was the representative of the Rural District Council, being Chairman from 1963 to 1966.

In 1929 the County Council was charged with reviewing District boundaries and a result of this was the merging of Kingsclere and Whitchurch Councils in 1932. Further amalgamation was necessary in 1971 and a decision had to be made whether to join Andover or Basingstoke, after much acrimony the latter prevailed and, on April 1st 1974, the Rural District Council became part of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

### **The Parish Council**

Following the requirement of the 1894 Act for Local Government, the first meeting was held in the school on 4th December.

1894 - John H Shatford acted as provisional chairman until Wallace J Walker of Wolverton Park was elected for the year. Apologies were received from the Rev. W Ludlow, Rector, and G W Jones was the only candidate for District Councillor (also newly formed). Five committee members were proposed for the Sir George Browne parish charity - G H Jones, James Kew, Mr Lawrence, F Owen, W J Walker along with the Rector, T B Ludlow, as a Trustee.

1895 – C E Westcombe appointed clerk (see also *Ewhurst*, p. 66).

1896 – rates set at 1/- in the £.

1898 – rates set at 1/6d in the £ for buildings, etc. and 9d for agricultural land. W J Walker and G W Jones of Wolverton Farm appointed Overseers of the Poor (see App. 2).

1899 – at a public meeting on 23rd March, which the Clerk had asked Kingsclere Rural District Council to convene, consideration was discussed on the advisability of applying for a light railway from Basingstoke to Newbury.

1900 – at the Annual Parish Meeting, Dr Reade and Miss A Gates (Schoolmistress) were speakers.

1931 – members of the Council included W J Walker as Chairman, Rev Board, W Watson, H Parkinson and W Newman. In February, a review of parishes was put forward by Kingsclere R D C; the meeting was not in favour of amalgamation with Kingsclere Parish Council but thought it should be combined with Ewhurst and Hannington to which should be added Kites Hill and Wolverton Common.

- in March, it was proposed that R H Garrett be re-appointed Clerk at £1 per annum. W J Walker and F G Owen re-appointed Trustees of the Sir G Browne charity. On the question of housing, the meeting suggested there was no demand for additional houses (see 1933).

1932 – the last meeting was held on 30th March, after which it amalgamated with Baughurst.

Interesting items from the amalgamated council are:

1932 – the council refuses an offer by the District council to collect indestructible refuse (it was cheaper and easier for householders to dispose of it themselves).

1933 – six council houses built in Wolverton Common, the council recommended tenants out of eight applications. Those chosen were Charles Attwood, Leonard Attwood, Sydney Butler, John Farmer, William Hedges and Walter Knight.

1946 – elections this year were the last carried out at a special or an Annual Meeting, however, in 1949 there was a proposal to object to this new method of electing members of rural areas by poll as it was expensive, unnecessary and complicated. Members elected for Wolverton were Gilbert May, Pit Hall Farm; Ted Saunders, Lower Farm, Ramsdell (in 1939 at Ham Farm) and Thomas Smith, Pit Hall Farm lorry driver.

1959 – W E D (Bill) Smith appointed Clerk, he was the District Surveyor of Kingsclere and Whitchurch R D C and something of a character. He even made the national press when the council asked him to write a letter of complaint regarding the quality of their work to the District Council, i.e. to himself. Quite acrimonious correspondence passed between the two parties much to the amusement of all, including the press.

1975 – Wolverton Play Area, a lease was obtained from the George Brown Trust.

#### Chairmen of the Baughurst Parish Council (Wolverton amalgamated in 1932)

1894 - 1896 Wallace Walker	1964 - 1970 R A O'Bee
1896 - 1925 A R Roberts	1970 - 1979 Derek Ball
1925 - 1932 Rev W S Steggall	1979 - 1986 L C Wilson-Dutton
1932 - 1939 George Smith	1986 - 1988 M G Slatford
1939 - 1946 Rev D L Board	1988 - 1991 R A O'Bee
1946 - 1948 Rev E Bramwell	1991 - 1992 S M Allen
1948 - 1949 J Kier	1992 - 1993 R A O'Bee
1949 - 1959 Lt Col T Gregory	1993 - 1995 P Garrett
1959 - 1960 M T A Smith	1995 - 1997 R A O'Bee
1960 - 1961 E Waterman	1997 - 2010 C C Surtees
1961 - 1964 M Walford	2010 - M Slatford



## Public Houses

### The Hare and Hounds

This public house on the Wolverton Road was occupied from 1800 by Stephen Grigg and Mrs Bettridge in 1828 when it was let to Mr May, (in 1851 it was let to brothers James and Charles May for £16 pa). Other landlords were Richard Blunden), Wheelwright, (1844/59, later in 1875 he was at the Pineapple, Brimpton Common), William Hedges (1865 until he died in 1868), Mrs Charlotte Hedges (1878) who died in 1891, Mrs Rose Hannah Hedges (1891/8), George Hedges (1902), Robert Tilley (1901 & 1911), John Lawes (1911), Wilfred Butler and William J and Ellen Davies (1918 – 1964). When the Duke of Wellington sold it in 1943 for £1600, it was let to John May & Co. on a 21 years lease in 1928. In 2002 it closed and became a private residence.



The Hare and Hounds, c. 1920

### The George and Dragon

In the 1670s John Acton, a cleric of Bentworth, who was a Quaker sympathiser and trustee for the copyhold of Mary Potter of the well-known Baughurst Quaker family (see *Non-Conformists*), seized the 'Manor of Inhurst and Ham'. He died in 1690 and his brother, Michael, a cleric (probably the curate of St Michael's in Basingstoke) inherited the Manor in 1691 and a copyhold which included the land later called Digweeds Farm and the George and Dragon (reputedly named after an old establishment on Brazenhead Lane that had connections with the Crusaders).

The land (a messuage of a yardland and diverse purperture lands\*, 63 acres) was granted in reversion by the Dean & Chapter and the Manor of Manydown to William Francis Digweed in 1793 for life; to Frances Susannah Digweed (2 year old) on May 1806; to William Webb (aged 13 months) on June 1835 (in 1814 William Webb, 1792-1878, married Mary Digweed, 1762-1825) and William Webb, aged 25 years, in 1858. [\*Land infringed']

On 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1859, the Duke of Wellington purchased the George & Dragon and Digweed's Farm (65 acres) for £475 from Messrs Webb, the property was copyhold held in the Manor of Manydown. As above, the 'existing lives' were held by William Francis Digweed (83 years old cousin of Mary) and William Webb (23 years old, son of William and Mary), but later the Duke

purchased the freehold from the Dean and Chapter in 1859 for £474-6-0. There was also an allotment under the Enclosure Award of about 2 acres, the greater part of which forms the pond at West Heath (the plot 10<sup>e</sup>, see Chap.4). (See sketch below, the numbers are those allotted for tithe award purposes in 1839.)

Description of plots, with area in acres, rods and poles:

17 Plot of frontage 0-0-29

18b - do - 0-1-9

406 The pasture 2+ a

408 Long Knavery 8+ a

460 Townend piece 8+ a

463 Garden and meadow 6+ a

464 The garden 0-2-0

465 Loveday's mead 3+ a

497 Nether croft 5+ a

498 Roundabout field 3 + a

499 The rick yard 0-1-19

500 House, buildings, yards and garden 0-1-1

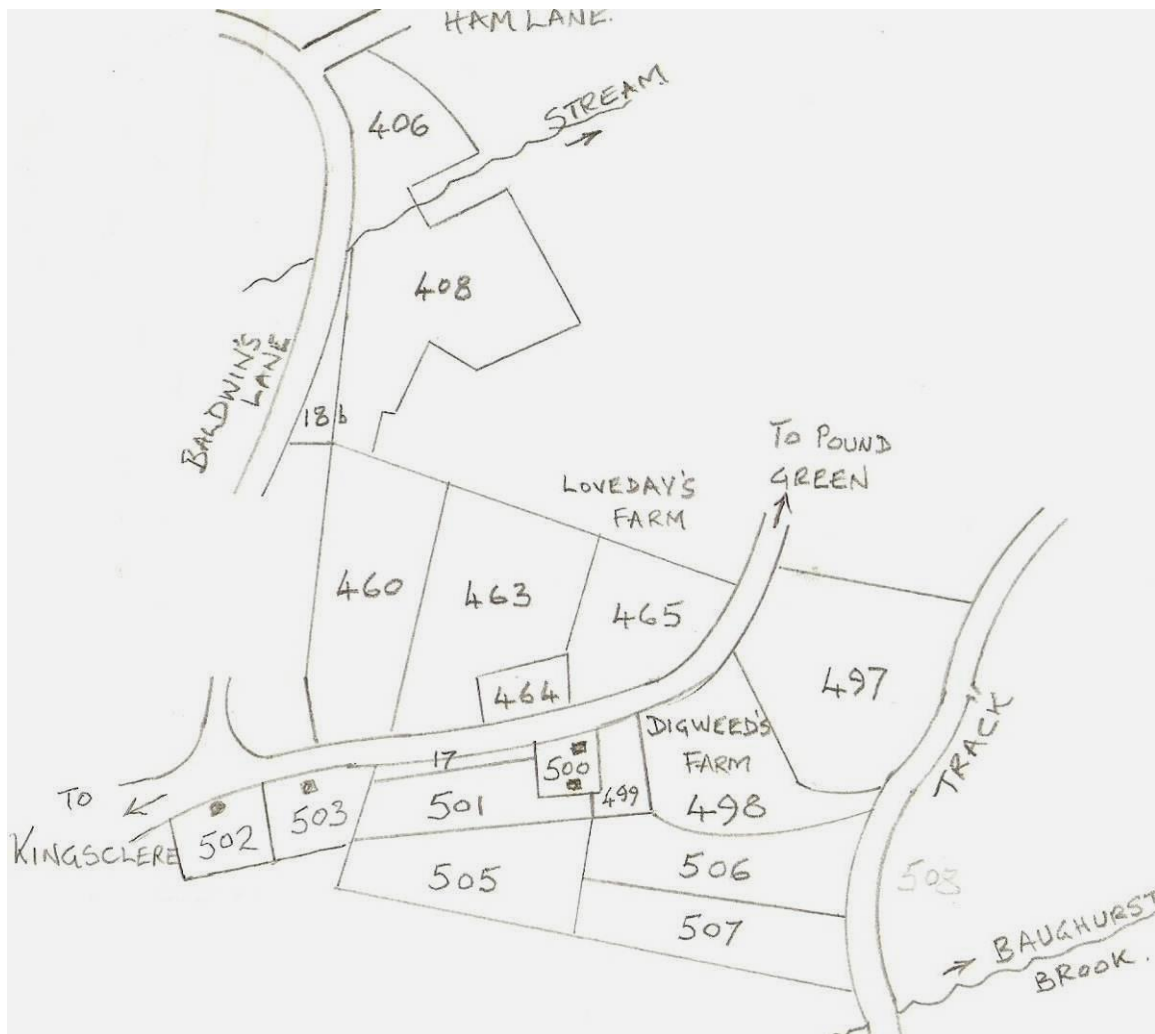
501 Home meadow 2+ a

505 Great ground 7+ a

506 Crooked close 5+ a

507 Further ground 5+ a

[/1373]



The areas of Towns End that the Duke purchased, with Tithe Map identification numbers

The public house was formerly the farmhouse of Digweed's (now Townsend) Farm and in 1808 the innkeeper was William Hasker, who also owned Forge View (his uncle was William Hasker of Oxford, his aunt was Hannah Kercher of Wolverton and his unmarried daughter was Sarah Hitchcock). When the Duke of Wellington purchased the Digweed's Farm land it became a smallholding where the Duke's rents were collected and the pub's tenant was John May & Co. William Cassell (b.1786) was the victualler in 1833 and George Ford, a Farmer (1820-1892), in 1847/85, his son William Charles Ford was there from 1887 to 1907 (he also had Causeway and Digweed's Farms). The annual supper of the 'Modern Order of Forestry' was held in the pub in January, 1892. In November 1905, the Duke held his usual half-yearly Michaelmas audit at the George & Dragon where a score of tenants sat down with the Duke, Mr Walker of Wolverton Park and Mr North (Agent) to an excellent dinner served by Mr & Mrs Ford. The pub was also the venue for the Harvest Suppers given by John Singleton of Baughurst House.

It was leased in 1908 to W J Drake from The Brewery, Kingsclere who agreed to take over the inn on a 21 year lease at £80 pa subject to subletting the associated land. He wrote again to the Duke on February 7<sup>th</sup> wanting all the land as the new licence holder may want to farm the land. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Drake said he has a licensee of his of 15 years standing, who did want all the land. Also, as the land is in poor condition he suggests an allowance be made for manure, and he would like to rent a cottage with the farm (the existing licensee was William C Ford, wife of Rose Ann Jacob). [1689/2]

W Drake agreed to let Mr Parkinson (*of Cottrell's Farm*) have a right of way over part of the land and Ford claimed all the fittings from the new licensee, Tom Boulton from Ashmore Green, who was still the landlord in 1911. [1689]

Later, in 1927, the inn, and two acres, was taken over by John May's Brewery, the landlord in 1938 was Mr Strickland. Richard Behar purchased it in 1943 for £1550.

## **The Village Hall**

Nationally, the need for better rural facilities had been recognised and the first Village Halls started to appear in the 1910s, but most local landowners were neither able, or willing, to provide the site or costs required. It was not until around 1920 that the National Council for Social Service (NCSS) took up the cause, especially with the needs and expectations of returning servicemen, and formed a rural department. They issued a bulletin in 1921, 'Better living in Rural Areas', which highlighted the problem that for generations, village life had been based on the feudal system, therefore, country life should be built on a more solid foundation. A rapid rise in the number of Village Halls materialised as the contribution made by the NCSS was significant, giving loans of a sixth, plus grants of another sixth of the cost. Funds were often gathered in remembrance of the war, to be used for a memorial for the living rather than the non-utilitarian form, such as a cross, which often conflicted with the gentry and clergy's preference.

In spite of this dichotomy, by public subscription and fund-raising activities, many halls were built due to the rising popular demand for better rural leisure provision alone - with many villages erecting wayside crosses as well. The NCSS helped with influencing the hall's ownership and management, e.g. a Trust with representatives from local voluntary organisations, clubs and elected members, for which they distributed a model trust deed. This was all part of the cultural change that occurred in the early years of the twentieth century, for example, the break-up of large estates due to an agricultural depression and the fall of land prices. Also, there was the growing shift of village leadership (the election to county, district and parish councils of people other than the squire or vicar) and the consolidation of non-conformism which reduced the Parish Church's influence.

After a period of suffering and sacrifices, ordinary villagers and servicemen returning from the war, wanted to build a fairer, better and more comfortable world. The 'occupational community', where the only common feature was that everyone worked in, or relied upon, agriculture (a local estate) and local trades, when their village halls were built, being secular and non-denominational, led to a growth of social activities. The existence of these new venues

certainly opened up a range of activities not experienced before but, whether partaking in concerts or watching a 'cowboy film' on a winter's evening, it was a social change for the better.



The Village Hall when new

There was a need for a village hall in Wolverton, there was not much finance and as it was felt that putting an old army hut on the site would not be suitable. One was built by the villagers themselves in 1921, the site having been agreed by the Duke of Wellington near the Poors Cottages. Mr 'Brickie' Watson, a worker on the estate, showed how to make bricks of clay, straw and sand. Mr Gregory, the village postman, Mr Watson and the Rector made most of the bricks, digging the clay from Mr Cleverley's field between Spicer's Pond and the old school, and laid the concrete foundations. The women, under Mrs Acton the Rector's wife, brought these bricks from where they were made to the building site. Farmers sent their waggons to Silchester for its special sand for roughcasting the walls and Mr Wallace Walker from Wolverton House and his chauffeur put down the floor. The Rector glazed the windows - the frames having been made by the estate carpenter, Mr Taylor, after the pattern of those in the Rectory (see above). The cost was £117, was 42 ft long by 20 ft wide and it was opened by the County Member, Sir Arthur Holbrook on 27th January, 1922.

The site of the Wolverton Club (120 ft frontage by 65 ft deep) between the Post Office (the old school) and Wolverton Cottage was let in 1943 to the Rector and the Churchwardens. [/463]

The rent to the village in 1948 (paid by the Rev Board) of the Wolverton Club, as it was called, was 2/- for two years, the Hon. Sec. of the Village Hall (Club) was W. Cooper of Fairfield Villa. But soon after the Duke had to sell off the estate, the Club was conveyed in 1950 to the village for a purchase price of £5. [/1119]

The roof was re-thatched in 1953 by Col. Walford in remembrance of his father and in 1958 new cloakrooms, toilets and kitchen were added [Wolverton scrapbook]. The floor was replaced by concrete in 1983, which exposed a time capsule containing coins dating from 1915 to 1920 placed by W J Walker in November 1922. A time sheet was also found from 1937 when G Hopkins and Son, Builders and Decorators of Kingsclere carried out some re-building work. Cloakroom, kitchen alterations and installation of six heaters were carried out in 1923, a new floor was installed in 1983 and the roof had a new thatch in 1985, this latter refurbishing cost amounted to £12,000.



The hall decorated for the Coronation in 1935? – Note, no kitchen area



Two views of the Village Hall during refurbish (1958?)



### **The School**

A School for 50 pupils was built in 1844 for £300 by the Duke of Wellington with him and the Rector, Rev Richard Pole, as patrons; it was deemed a 'free school'.

Schoolmistresses included: -

Mrs Mary Ann Cannons in 1855,

Mrs Sarah Millard in 1859,

Miss Kennedy in 1865,

Mrs Eliza Jane Duffell in 1867,

Bridget Friend Moore (born 1833) in 1880/1,

Annie J Gates (b. 1849) from 1891 (at a salary of £60, with Lily Rabbitts as Monitoress paid £10-8s pa in 1905),

Miss Jane Cottrell in 1910,

Miss Ethel Maud Baker in 1912 (with Miss Olive Jones as Assistant – plus Edith K masterman?)

Miss P Watford in 1919 (to, at least 1925, with Miss Rabbitts as Assistant).



Annie J Gates was the Headmistress from 1891 to 1910, she lived there as well as having four classes, c.1910. [In the 1905 Kelly's Directory, she was called Miss Annie Irish Gates.]

Amongst pupils in 1880 were Fanny, Agnes, Annie & Ada May; Fanny, Mary, Jane, Thomas & William White; George & Sarah Rabbitts; William & George Wheeler; Kate & John Pierce; Harriet, Bart & Ernest Fisher; Nora & Fred Soper; Florence & Laine Miles; Helen, Anne, William & George Cooper; Elizabeth & Annie Hedges; Annie & Jessie Weston (daughters of George, the Gamekeeper at Wolverton Park Lodge); Elizabeth, Henry & James Holmes; Kathleen & Annie Bowman; Sydney Taylor and Elizabeth Armsworth.

The County Surveyor's report in 1903 is enlightening:

- the school with teacher's house attached is built of red brick with stone dressings and is slated. The fuel shed and office are of wood.
- there is one room with space for 43 children (attendance is 39).

- there is no lavatory accommodation, the teacher lends a bowl for washing when required.
- water is obtained from a nearby cottage, an analysis of which states, 'free from serious pollution, some atmospheric dust has found its way into the well – otherwise, good water.'
- there are privies for boys and girls. Properly constructed earth closets with divisions and doors to each should be installed with a proper paved approach.
- the urinal is not properly drained but runs into the ground – it should be properly drained.

[48M71/19]

In 1911 the average attendance was 31 pupils and by this time, the Duke supported the costs with the remainder coming from a voluntary rate. The school closed on 2nd June 1928 and it became a private residence – it being used by the Rector from June to November, 1929 whilst the new Rectory was being built (see P.13).

[For extracts from the school log, see Appendix 5]

### **Wolverton Post Office**

This was shown on the 1877 map adjacent to Wolverton Church and William Soper, Snr, had been the Post Master since 1875. He was followed by his son William and wife, Mary Ann, but by 1911 Henry John Gregory was the Post Master and Postman (his wife was Ellen). A second Post Office opened in the old village school (near the Village Hall) around 1928 and was let to Gregory. Henry Gregory was still Post Master in a new building in 1943 when the old school was sold for £700. In 1943 this building was let to Mrs Keep and when sold by the Duke of Wellington for £1525 it was described as 'of brick construction and thatched roof'.

[It is said that Mr Froome (a part-time shoe mender, who lived in Ramsdell) collected the mail from Baughurst in 1912 and delivered it to Ewhurst, thro Foscett and Brazenhead Fms to Wolverton Park where he and Soper sorted it – Soper going on to Rectory Lane and Plantation Farm.]



Wolverton PO next to the church with Mr William Soper, Gardener, and wife, Mary Ann, Post Mistress, c.1900. [In the 1905 Kelly's Directory, she was styled 'Shopkeeper']

Robert George, born 1880, was the son of William, Snr (born 1836) and Mary Ann Soper (born Baughurst 1835). Other older children were William (Jnr), Nora & Fred (at school in 1880).

Robert married Charlotte Ann (Lottie) Chiffince (born 1880) in 1903, daughter of Robert, a Butler (born 1849), and Clara (born 1850), who lived in Spicer's Lodge (see pictures p.24/5).

Ada Florence, born in London in 1896, was the daughter of William, Jnr, born 1866 (a Police Pensioner in 1911 census) married to Mary Aileen (born 1864), of Wolverton Lane, they also had Cecil, born 1903, and Daisy Gladys, born 1905. Ada married Wilf Cooper in 1917 where William was styled a Retired Police Inspector.

[For more on the Sopers, see page 10 and *Parish Clerks & Sextons*, p.17.]



A later picture of the PO, above, c.1907 with William and Mary, son Robert, wife and child (plus 2 onlookers?).



The Post Office in the old school, c. 1930 – note the telegraph pole (centre) and a pillar of Wolverton Park, left (still there covered in ivy, 2016). [What were they installing in the verges ? (see also the picture of Townsend, p. 53.)]



Two more views of the Post Office in the old school, soon after 1928



Forgeview was another Post Office in 1903 run by Edward Waterman and in 1965, E Waterman, a Coalman and Parish Councillor, had a Post Office at Wolverton Common, in what is now Hawkin's Cottage (named after F. Hawkins who was described in the sale of the Duke's property in 1943 as a Smallholder of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres south of Island Heron): John Bennett distributed the post. On 31st March, 1972, the cottage was sold to Mr & Mrs Rodda and the Post Office Authorities decided they would not take on new people and the P O was therefore closed, but they supplied a mobile office for a short while.

The Roddas renovated and extended the cottage (the left-hand third in the picture below), they also sold off some of the land on the roadside where Pippins, etc. were built.



The Post Office in Hawkin's Cottage in the 1970's



Robert George Soper, born in 1880, in a Telegraph Boy's uniform, c.1895



Robert as a Postman in the 1940s

## Snippets

Arthur Hawkins was a tailor who died in 1647.

The wills were published of Robert Herne in 1640 and Elizabeth Heron in 1671 - did their family give the name to Island Heron, often written as Herne or Hearne?

Among the Overseers accounts there were comments on events affecting the parish, for example, in 1680 they reported that 'Charles Butler, Richard Tiler, Amy Humphrey, Katharine Ward and ye Widow May buried in woollen according to your art and an oath given by Mr Brown' (father of Sir George Browne). [Acts of 1666-1680 stated that everyone should be buried in English woollen shrouds and exclude foreign textiles - if they could not afford wool, then they were buried naked. The laws were enacted in order to protect the wool industry from imports. These laws were soon ignored.]

The will of Thomas Jacob was published in 1745, he had been a Collar Maker (harnesses for horses) and in 1734 was a Churchwarden. His widowed mother was also a Churchwarden in 1728 and his son Edward was a Brickmaker who died in 1799. The will of Richard Harmsworth, Keeper to Jemmett Raymond, was published in 1752.

In an indenture dated the 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1781, Jonathon Jewel, a Thatcher, sold to Richard Farmer, a farmer, for £10 all that messuage, tenement or cottage, orchard, house and outhouses at Wolverton Common late in the occupation of his grandfather, John. To be left for use and benefit of the churchwardens and Overseer of the Poor for the time being and their successors. Sealed and delivered in the presence of William Holding (Chairman of the Kingsclere Union) and Richard Tomlins. This was probably the cottage at Towns End mentioned below. [19M76]

Sir Peter Pole, the former owner of Wolverton House, in 1820 received the Justices Certificate of Qualification (JP) and on 14/9/1831 he wrote from Welbeck Street, London to the Duke of Wellington recommending Joseph Brooks, a resident of Wolverton who had served Sir Peter for more than 20 years, as Local Steward - he had heard that the position was vacant. The Duke replied, on September 8<sup>th</sup>, that he was not aware that he required the assistance of Mr Brooks.

[Hartley]

Samuel Collett of Wolverton was appointed a Commissioner for Tithe Awards in Berkshire in 1817.

Elizabeth Weeb of Wolverton Lodge died in 1823.

John Ruddle declined the tenancy of Wolverton Farm so Richard Pole wrote in June, 1829 to John Webb saying he could have the farm for his 250 sheep at a rental of £360. [/1569]

John and Robert Ruddle rented three farms including Harriden's Farm, Knowl Hill which George Ruddle had in 1879. [William Ruddle had Inhurst House and Manor Farm in 1828.]

In October, 1830 there was a sale of remaining Husbandry Stock and Miscellaneous Effects from Wolverton Park Farm which included 6 horses, 7 cows & 1 bull, 4 pigs & 1 boar, Dung Carts and Market Waggon, a 4-horse and a 2-horse Oak Roller, a 36 inch cylindrical iron-jointed Park Roller and a Punt and Sledge. [44M69]

An enlightening article in the Hampshire Advertiser of Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1846 indicates the views of the reading classes:-

*'Wolverton, the Rev. R Poole, Rector, is a kind and feeling pastor, B Simmons, Esq. of Reading has his country seat here called Wolverton House whose family are very charitable to the poor. Here we found the cottagers better off, their dwellings in good repair and decently furnished, very low rented under the Duke - none more than £2 pa. None need to want to work here, the farmers have to go to other parishes for labourers. Wages are 10 to 12/- per week, women are paid 1/- and boys 6 to 8d. Here, broken victuals is given away and milk also: meat at Christmas; a good school attended to by the minister with books free. Not much of an area for grazing - the land more fit for growing corn.'* [TOP347]

John Fisher of the Manors of the Lordships of Sandford Malshanger and Woodcutt had a sale by auction at Basingstoke on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, 1874 of the Sandford Estate in the tithing of Sandford in the parishes of Kingsclere and Wolverton. The freehold estate, owned by William Holding in 1824, by William Goddard, pre 1789 Richard Brickenden lived there and by the Kingsmill family;

it includes Frith Willicroft Gulley and Cowlease Coppices. Also, a tenement or cottage in the east woodlands of Kingsclere lying on the west side of a lane leading to the common called the Frith. Plus a meadow of 2 acres formerly in the possession of William Hunt, afterwards in the occupation John Bates, since then of Thomas Bates and then William Tibble (see *Wolverton Common Chapel*, above). In 1743 William Fisher had 12 plots near his Sandford Estate given to him in an Enclosure Award including a plot of 38 acres at Dell Hill bounded by the Kingsclere and Wolverton road (he sold 21 acres to the Duke of Wellington). Also a plot of 2 acres at Holt Common bounded by Holt Common Road and a private road was given to Thomas Fitzgerald and Thomas Child who transferred it to William Fisher. Another plot was given to John Rabbitts and Edward Bates. (Was Child related to the occupier of Pit House Farm, see below? Edward Bates and his relations lived at Little Ham Farm for about 100 years from the late eighteenth century.)

In 1879 W M Phillips paid the Duke £329 pa as rent for Wolverton Farm.

The population was quoted as being 144 in 1801 with the Poor Rate at 2/6d in £ giving £79-6-11d (in 1775 it gave £47-8-4d). [16M79]

Sam Prismall was a Yeoman and Overseer of the Poor (see *Overseers*, Appendix 2) who died in 1808 and Elizabeth Prismall married Thomas Booth from Sidmonton in 1794 at Wolverton. Thomas, son of David Prismall a Farmer, was a Farmer at Church Farm in 1859/61, he was also a Shopkeeper in 1884.

When the Duke bought the Wolverton Estate (1831/2), the Hare & Hounds was owned by Mrs Betteridge on lease to James and Charles May and occupied by Stephen Grigg. Adjoining cottages on Wolverton Lane were occupied by Joseph Jacob and Francis Butler and a nearby brick kiln, formerly the Hop Ground on the Ramsdell Road, and land (just over 2 acres) was occupied by Edward Jacob (in 1851 Catherine Jacob paid £13 pa for the kiln). [/1539]

The 1831 census produced the following statistics (William Stevens of Wolverton Farm was the Enumerator):

- area 1400 acres, 41 houses with 2 uninhabited, 42 families (31 in agriculture and 7 in trades, crafts, etc), population was 123 males and 106 females: occupiers employing labour 5; labourers in agriculture 31, in trade, etc 8; 2 professionals and 4 male servants and 5 female.

In 1831 George Lane, Yeoman of Wolverton, also a Blacksmith, let a cottage at Plastow Green to Louisa Vince, widow of Kingsclere, for £4-4s pa. [58M80]

The Tithe Commutation documents of 1839/40 show that the Rector controlled an area of 1a 0r 24p of churchyard and 76a. 3r. 38p. of glebe land, the Rev R Pole also had 4 acres of land. Waste land in Wolverton Common of 17a 1r 10p, Stony Heath Common (waste) was 20a 0r 0p and roads and other waste was 8a 2r 0p (all areas in acres, rods and perches).

Plantation Farm was in the occupation of John Hawkins of Ewhurst Farm and Oak House, Baughurst in 1839, the next occupier was his son Henry John Hawkins 1851 (500 acres), then from 1861/79 William Spackman was there (400 to 840 acres), E W Spackman had Freemantle Farm.

Casual profits made by the Duke in 1851 were £162 for timber and £75 on wool. [/1466]

In the 1891 census, George Stearman was the Gardener/Cowman at Wolverton Cottage (actually from 1875 to 1911), George Webb Jones (also 1881 & 1905) was the farmer at Wolverton Farm and Rose Hedges, William Fisher (Sawyer) with his son Bartholomew and Joseph Rycroft (Gardener/Domestic Servant) lived in the cottage on the west side of the Hare & Hounds. In the Plantation Road lived John Shatford, Farmer with John, aged 14, and James, aged 9; next was James Parris, Shepherd, and in Hannington Road was George Canning, Coachman and Groom.

David Dow (Under Estate Agent), Luke Weston (Jesse Weston in 1915), Charlotte and William Hawkins were at Towns End in 1891; in 1901, David Lewis, 64, was the Grocer/Baker at Towns End. Percy Marriner (born 1870) and wife, Eliza, was the farmer at Rectory Farm.

In Plantation, Thomas Nickless, 48, was a Shepherd in 1901 and was also there in 1911 (and 1915) with his son William aged 21.

In 1901, Wolverton Lane was the home to Henry Rabbitts, Agricultural Labourer; George Lawrence, 62, a Grocer/Shopkeeper (also in 1911); George Allen, 65, a Carter; James Cooper, 66, a

widowed labourer (also 1911) and his son George, 28, a Carter; Henry Kew, 26, a Bricklayer (also in 1911, James Kew, 50, a Bricklayer lived near the school), etc.

Members of the Wolverton Cricket team in 1902 were: A Kew, T Edwards, L Tilley, H Hallam, W Fisher (William, above? Although he would have been 73 years old.), G Spagman (George Spackman?), A Hutchins, E Kew, B Tilley, ? Pascoe and T Weston.

Mr & Mrs Walker of Wolverton House regularly gave their workers a Harvest Supper in October and held the occasional Servant's Ball. For example, in October 1902 they gave a Harvest Supper at the George & Dragon Inn to 29 farmers of land over which they had the shooting rights. Mr & Mrs Ford did the catering and afterwards there was tobacco and ale when the health was drunk of the Walkers, Mr Weston (Gamekeeper, see picture on p. 25) and the Fords.

Surprise and consternation were expressed in June, 1909 when the Hon Charles Stewart Rolls, partner of F H Royce, travelling in a balloon from Whitchurch, had to land at Wolverton Farm. His passion for ballooning led to flying aeroplanes and to his being granted licence number 2 from the Royal Aero Club, he was also the first man to fly across the channel from England to France.

In 1901 and 1911 George Spackman was a Shopkeeper.

James Edward Shatford was the lodger at Pit House in 1915, his landlord was J H Shatford.

To celebrate the Coronation of King George VI, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1937 there was a fete at Wolverton House. A large number of Fancy Dress entrants assembled outside the village hall then proceeded into Wolverton Park, preceded by the Hannington Silver Band and Britannia. Prizes were presented to the best dressed boy, girl, lady and gentlemen. There was also a Baby Show judged by Dr. L G Housden with the prize presented by Lady Rogers. Finally, Mrs H S Walford gave a souvenir mug to every child.  
[Newbury Weekly News]



Coronation celebrations - Mrs Dixon (Old Lady, 7<sup>th</sup> from left), Mr Goodall (Indian - 5<sup>th</sup> from right) were the winners for the Ladies and Gents categories



The winner of the boys' category was Peter Mason (Possibly 7<sup>th</sup> from the left – Black boy) and for the girls, Evelyn Knight (? – Chip off the old Block).



Who is this? And whose van?



During the 1939-45 war, Raleigh Malby Plaice (1893-1957), son of Robert, a Farmer occupied Wolverton Farm (293 acres) which was sold by the Duke in 1943 for £5,700; Messrs Whistler & Lawrence had Hannington Farm and Messrs Lewis & Church had Plantation Farm (816 acres) which was sold in 1943 for £10,000 (when the Duke had to sell the estate to pay death duties). Also during the war, a Food Production Unit was set up for Baughurst with Gilbert May, of Pit Hall Farm, as one of the members.

In 1918 Frederick and Amelia Adnam lived in a cottage in Wolverton Park, William and Mary Aileen Soper lived in Wolverton Street and Henry and Hyetta Chesterman were at The Lodge, Wolverton Park.

Wolverton Cottage, next to Wolverton Farm, late in the occupation of Mrs Annette Tonge (and previously by Lewis Bartholomew, see 1875 to 1911 Directories below) was let to Mrs Parkinson in 1927 on a 21 year lease at £20 rent for 5 years, then £42 pa (it included a house, garden, stables and field – just over one acre), it was sold in 1943 for £950. [/1787]

Woodside Cottage near the old Hare & Hounds, was sold in 1943 for £600 when the occupier was W Smith, Estate Woodman. Also sold in 1943, were the pair of semi-detached cottages to the east of Baldwin's Lane, Towns End, the left- hand one being let to Ted Saunders (he had 4 cottages) and the other to Mrs Hayward. (For additional tenants in 1943 when the Duke had to sell, see Appendix 4.)

Mr Moore of Century House was amongst those who requested additional agricultural housing in 1946.

In 1949, a suggestion was made by the Parish Council that the new council houses be named 'Agricultural Houses, Townsend'.

Messrs Munro Kerr (Vice Chairman of the Parish Council) and Waterman were elected trustees of the Sir George Browne Trust in 1964.

For the life of a girl at the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century, see Appendix 6. [Utilities – Water as laid on in 1958 (wells supplied all houses before this time) and in 1933 when the first council houses were built, an artesian well had to be sunk. Electricity came in 1948 - Wolverton scrapbook.]

## Occupations

The village has always had the usual rural trades, people worked in domestic service, public houses, shopkeeping, blacksmithing, shoemaking, etc. but Farming has consistently been the main occupation. Most of the local farms were rented from the Wolverton Estate or other large landowner, and were generally classified as 'Corn and Dairy'. The main constituents being sheep, cattle, animal foodstuffs and cereals with the farm workers having many skills – with horses, as shepherds, in forestry, etc. The type of farming changed, especially in the twentieth century, and so did the skills necessary to keep up with technology of new methods and machines. Horses and oxen as the prime movers were superseded by steam which in turn lost out to the internal combustion engine.

For details of the Post Masters and Royal Mail deliveries, see pages 38-42.



Wilf Lewis, Jim Farthing (nearest engine) and his dog, Bill, with Joe Kent's threshing team at Rectory Farm, Rectory Lane, Wolverton. The engine is 'Kitchener' (Wallis & Steevens) and the sacks are from local maker, John M Carter. Circa 1920/1930.



Baling with more modern equipment at Pit Hall Farm in the 1940s  
(an Allis Chalmers tractor and a Case baler)



Good use was made of 'war-surplus' equipment on Pit Hall farm,  
mobile lifting tackle made from a Morris Armoured car, 1948

### **People in Trade Directories, etc.**

The Smithy at Town's End had John Freeman as Blacksmith in 1841 with James Taylor (born 1821) as a Junior Smith and Fred Frankum (born 1826) as an apprentice, but by 1875 his wife, Elizabeth (born 1806), had assumed the role. Their son George E Freeman (born 1839) was the Smith in 1881, but he lived in Foscot Lane as his mother, still lived at The Forge. William John, the son of William Freeman, was the Smith in 1905. The Blacksmith in 1911 was Walter William (or William Walter) Wiggins (with wife Georgina), his sons Alfred George, Edwin born in 1897, married Sam Gundry's daughter Nellie in 1925. Another son, Frederick a soldier born in 1910, married Anne Beasant of Ewhurst in 1936. Walter's grandson, Richard, still operated as a Blacksmith in the 1990s, but only cold-shoes horses in their stables. The Smithy was sold by the Duke in 1943 for £550.

In 1859 the Duke of Wellington was listed as Lord of the Manor. The Population in 1861 was 188 according to White's Directory, but Harrods puts it at 146, as does the Post Office Directory and a gazetteer of 1870/2, which also says there were 33 houses - a directory in 1855 put the population as 183. Also in 1859, George Wigg was at Povey's Farm; William Stevens at Wolverton Farm - 'a good farm' for which he paid £310 pa rent to the Duke in 1851, previously occupied by Pole (he was also the farmer in 1855 and the 1867 PO Directory); William Soper, shopkeeper (at the Post Office), had succeeded David Soper as Parish Clerk; Thomas Budd was Church Clerk; John Freeman the Blacksmith (also in 1855, when he was also a wheelwright, and 1867); Richard Blunden at the Hare & Hounds (had been there since 1844); John May a Baker/Shopkeeper and William Bond a Shopkeeper (in 1867 was the Baker also). James Smith was the Farm Bailiff to the Duke of Wellington.

Post Office Directory 1875 - (inclusions where different from above) Lewis Buckle Bartholomew, Wolverton Cottage; Mrs Eliza Freeman, Blacksmith; Mrs Catherine Hedges Hare & Hounds,

(William Hedges was the publican in 1865/8); William Soper, Postmaster; William Spackman, Jnr at Plantation Farm and John May, Shopkeeper and Carpenter, Wolverton Common.

In 1878, the population was 170 (also in 1871); residents similar to 1875 with and George Wigg still at Povey's Farm, Ewhurst plus William Bond; Mr Lewis B Bartholomew now at The Cottage; David Dew, Woodman to the Duke of Wellington and Mrs Charlotte Hedges, Hare & Hounds. William Soper was still the Postmaster in 1881. W M Phillips was at Wolverton Farm in 1879 (with Mary Prout, born 1866, there as a servant) and Sherif Hiles was at Balstone Farm.

In the 1911 Directory (Kelly's):- William Soper (Junior), Acting Parish Clerk; Henry John Gregory, Postmaster; Mrs Annette Sophia Tonge (who died in 1927 aged 76), Wolverton Cottage; Ben Bedford, Farm Bailiff to the Rector; George May, Bailiff to Mr Walker of Wolverton House; Frank Owen, Gardener to Mr Walker; Theodore Cox, Ham Farm; Alf Ford, Povey's Farm (George Smith with Albert and Edward were there in 1918); George Webb Jones, Wolverton Farm (and in 1881 although George Cleverley and wife, Alice, were there in 1918); William Newman, Plantation Farm; John Lawes, Hare & Hounds; Walter William Wiggins, Blacksmith (and in 1925). [Listed under Ashford Hill are - Sidney Taylor, Wood Dealer; Frank and Fred Hedges, Wood Dealers; R C Eaton, Carrier; James Hiscock, Shopkeeper and John Bone, Farmer - all of Wolverton Common.]

Wolverton marriages during the 1914-18 war indicated the number of people in the armed forces. For example, in 1917 Ada Soper, daughter of William, a Pensioned Police Inspector\*, married Wilfred Cooper, an Able Seaman from a destroyer HMS Starfish, son of Henry, a Farmer. Florence Mary Edmonds, daughter of Charles a Platelayer, married a Private of the Canadian Regiment in France at Wolverton in 1918. In 1918 Beatrice Edwards, a WAAF and daughter of Jeffrey, a Gardener, married a Bombadier in the Royal Horse Artillery. A similar mention of the armed services marriages appeared in the 1939-45 war.

[\* William Soper was noted as a 'Police Sergeant, Retired' at the wedding of his daughter, Daisy Gladys, in 1928!]

In 1941 (the Agricultural Returns), W J Davies was at the Hare & Hounds, R M Plaice was at Wolverton Farm (R H Plaice was at Sandford Farm in 1977) and H Wiggins was at Townsend Forge.

### **The Wolverton Echo**

This was a bi-monthly publication which was delivered free to every household and provided an additional means of communication in the village. It was published from December 1977 until August 1987, 46 issues, and was full of interesting information and advertisements, but like many local things, it ran out of volunteers.

Entries include - Mr Waterman had a Post Office at Wolverton Common (see bottom of p. 53) and John Bennett distributed the post. The house by the church was also a Post Office (shown on the 1877 map) and Mr Gregory delivered the mail (see *Post Office*, above).

The house that is now Abbots Wells once sold sweets and home-baked bread.

The Women's Institute was a joint meeting with Ashford Hill, alternating between both village halls.

To commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, there was a Children's party where a feast, fun and games were provided at Wolverton Cottage and the 82 children of the village were given a Jubilee Crown.

In 1978 Bobby Schroder resigned from the Parish Council due to ill health, Martin Slatford was elected to replace him.

In 1979 the Wolverton Field, next to the old Hare & Hounds pub, which is rented by the Parish Council as a play area for village children from the Sir George Brown Trust, had swings and a slide installed to encourage its use.

Village fetes in aid of the Church and Village Hall were held at Wolverton Cottage, Wolverton Lane by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Kent.

In 1981 it was proposed, that in view of the demise of the village shop run by Mr & Mrs Ireland, a village market should be held in the Village Hall to sell things homemade or home-grown. One

of the benefits of this was that villagers were able to meet and talk to one another, a successful first market was held in December, 1982.

### **The Wellington Catalogue**

This contains many articles connected to the Wolverton Estate and surrounding area e.g. Foxcote & Brazenhead Estates purchased by Parliamentary Trustees in 1860 (for the Duke), 1830 estate ledgers, estate general accounts and rent rolls from 1870-1950. General records of the estate including terriers mid nineteenth century, book of reference relating to tithes 1857, rental 1872/80 & 1832-1965, labour account books, etc. Records of Ewhurst Farm 1904/34, Freemantle Farm 1928/9, Plantation Farm 1888/96, Timber Account books of Wolverton 1840/9, planting, Wolverton tithes 1838, etc. To pay for death duties, the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke had to sell all his land in the area in 1943, these are detailed under the respective house or farm names, but a list of tenants in his cottages is in Appendix 4.

The following are records of various transfers of property and are of interest mainly due to the involvement of one of the ubiquitous Thomas Pentons who acted in many capacities e.g. as the Wolverton Blacksmith, an agent, witness and testator to many documents. An old family in the area e.g. Richard Penton and his son, Edward were copyholders of a cottage and 10 acres of land in Lawrence Wootton in the survey of Manydown Manor in 1649 and in 1661, Edmund Pentin was the Decenarius (a Provost or Senior Juror) for Wootton in the Manydown Court responsible for the proper cultivation of arable land. [*The Manor of Manydown* - Kitchen]

Thomas Penton was the Wolverton Blacksmith, his son Thomas was also a Blacksmith and Farmer, born in 1760, he inherited two cottages from his father (one on the SW corner and the other down the lane opposite the old Baptist Chapel). The father must have married a second time as an entry in the St Stephen's register of 1766 states he married Mary Young. The second Thomas died in 1820 and the properties went to his eldest son, a further Thomas who died in 1832. They then went to his widow, Mary, who sold them to their son, a fourth Thomas.

In 1805, Penton was employed by Thomas Hide and Thomas Faulkner, executors for the late Mr Hide of Causeway Farm, to value and distribute his properties, including part of Ham Farm, between them. A field south of the Foxcot farmyard was sold by Thomas Penton to Thomas Dicker in 1809 (see below). Also, in 1809 at a timber auction, Penton successfully bid for two lots for oaks.

Thomas Penton was named as a testator in the will of Thomas Faulkner in 1812 when he left Kiln Cottage, Inhurst Lane to his sister Johanna Green, widow and his sister Susan wife of Jeremiah Hill. [12M49/20]

William Gundry agreed for £140 in April 1811 to sell Townsend Meadow to the tenant, Thomas Penton. Also called Forgefields it was one acre and 2 roods and had been used as a burying ground for Quakers but long since discontinued. It had been formerly in the possession of James Church and P Paice, afterwards by John Jewel and Richard Blunden and was, before that, the inheritance of Mary Spencer. (This land was used as the Quaker burial ground after the Potters moved out of Brown's Farm and into Baughurst House, the vaults have been found there.)

The Pentons owned a dwelling, Townsend Blacksmith's shop and a piece of pasture, 1 acre and 1 rood, (held for the life of Mrs Mary Penton aged 65 in 1830); three cottages, gardens and small pasture held under the Dean & Chapter for two lives, aged about 30, in the occupation of Hawkins (later Mrs Charlotte Hawkins), Woodhouse and Boggs (included are Townsend Cottages) and two freehold tenements and small meadow occupied by Arnott and Jewel of 1 acre and 2 roods (mentioned above). The one on the corner was sold to James Jewel (1801-1859), a Thatcher, for £25 in 1837 (sometimes called Jewel's Cottage) and when he died it was sold to George Lamb as part of Cotterell's Farm which was later sold to the Duke - the cottage was demolished around 1900. The other cottage, earlier May's Cottage and now The Mallows, along with the other properties above were sold by George Paice to the Duke in 1836/7 for £550.

[/841]





Townsend showing the Park Gates and the Smithy, c. 1920



An earlier view of Townsend looking north-east .....



..... and from further back, c.1930

Land near the Quakers Burying Ground (rear of Towns End Farm), near the George & Dragon, was formerly in the occupation of John Yates and John Sharier, then Richard Digweed, William Ball who purchased it from Thomas Penton and in 1792 sold it to William Bettridge. It was occupied by William Gundry who on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1807, bought the garden and messuage (formerly two messuages or tenements of 20 perches on the road opposite Baldwin's Lane, plots no. 502 and 503 on the sketch in *George and Dragon*, above) from John Bettridge, lately a Shopkeeper of Tadley, for £80 which was paid as a mortgage by George Paice, Auctioneer of Basingstoke, and witnessed by Thomas Penton, Blacksmith of Wolverton (Gundry's Cottage, now Forge View).

On 27th June, 1830, William Gundry (Yeoman) died intestate and therefore a Declaration by John Freeman aged 53, Blacksmith (of the Townsend Smithy) was necessary so that the eldest son, George Gundry, Coppice Dealer, and wife Jane could inherit the house. [William Barlow and John Freeman lived in cottages on the corner of Baldwin's Lane, now demolished.] In November 1840, George Paice asks for return of the mortgage and interest (£94-14-6d) but agrees another mortgage of £200. Paice died on 5/4/1842 and in 1848 his successor, Charles Paice, bought the property from George and Jane for £237-4-1d (the mortgage plus interest). On 23/6/1853 the property was sold to the Duke of Wellington for £150 who used it for his Under-Agents, but in 1903 it became the Post Office. [174 & 1540]

DESIRABLE FREEHOLD  
**PROPERTY.**

**KINGSCLERE COMMON, near WOLVERTON PARK,  
HANTS.**

***Mr. PAICE***

WILL SELL BY AUCTION,  
**At the Hare & Hounds, Wolverton,**

At THREE o'Clock in the Afternoon.

**On THURSDAY, the 22d of FEBRUARY, 1844,**

**In TWO LOTS,**

The PROPERTY of the late Mr. RICHARD BLUNDEN.

**LOT 1.**

A NEWLY-ERECTED, SUBSTANTIALLY-BUILT, WELL-ARRANGED

**Brick & Tiled Tenement,**

WITH capital Garden and productive Meadow, Piggeries,  
Wood-House, and Out-Buildings, containing together about  
Three Quarters of an Acre, in the Occupation of *Mr. Lawrence.*

**LOT 2.**

**TWO TENEMENTS**

In excellent Repair, nearly adjoining the above, with extensive  
Gardens.

The above Property is pleasantly situated, overlooking WOLVERTON  
PARK, the NEW ROADS now forming, run close by,

AND THE LINE OF THE

**Contemplated RAILWAY, between NEWBURY & BASINGSTOKE,**

It will be within a few Hundred Yards,

**And to the proposed Station, only 10 Minutes Walk.**

Further Particulars may be known on Application to MESSRS. COLE, LAMB, and BROOKS, Solicitors, BASINGSTOKE  
and ODIHAM, and of the AUCTIONEER, BASINGSTOKE.

R. Cottle Printer, Basingstoke.

An interesting sales poster for the property of Richard Blunden involving Mr Paice in 1844, lauding its proximity (an exaggeration) to the proposed railway station (see *Railway Mania*, below).

Thomas Penton, Wolverton Blacksmith, on 23/3/1802 provided £50 as a mortgage to Jonathon Harmsworth of Kingsclere, labourer, for a cottage, out-buildings, garden and a piece of land (1 acre & 6 poles), now in the occupation of J Harmsworth, in parish of Kingsclere at Holt Common adjoining Wolverton Common bounded in the north by a close of ground belonging to John Soper. This land plus new allotments allocated by enclosure was mortgaged for £49 on 20/1/1850 by John Harmsworth (son of Jonathon) of Kingsclere, labourer, to William Holding, Gentleman of Kingsclere (Clerk to the Kingsclere Union). The total land of 2a 2r & 34p had Wolverton Common and Driftway on the east, Lord Bolton's land to the north, Thomas Reynold Reynolds' to the west and the road leading from Wolverton to Exmansford on the south. ['Driftway' is another word for 'drove road'.]

In 1852, John Harmsworth gives the Rev. Richard Pole of Wolverton, all the freehold cottage, garden and land (2a, 2r, 34p) to sell as he sees fit; to give to his wife Mary 2/6d pw and after her

death share it between four children - Daniel, Martha Cooper, Joseph and Ann. In 1854, all the above were sold to the Duke of Wellington by the Harmsworths and W. Holding, with James Barlow as the tenant. [/1578]

[Note: George Lamb of Cole, Lamb & Brooks, who was the solicitor in this set of documents, in November 1848, was a Perpetual Commissioner for the County.]

The history of Foxcote and Brazenhead Estate starts in the Compotus Rolls of the Manor of Manydown (their accounts); among the places mentioned in a document dated 1334 under the heading of Hanytone (Hannington) was Foxcote. [Note that Foscot(e) is spelt many ways.]

In the Foscot deeds, the farm went from Mr Robbins to Robert Tyler 24/3/1735, and Jasper Tyler, Oct 1769. Then Selina, wife of Jasper Stacey and daughter of the late John & Ann Letita Tyler of Baughurst, died 13/9/1829. [/1368/2]

In May, 1805, John Tyler of Kingsclere gave the estate to his son, John. John Jewell, aged 75, affirms that he had lived in the parish of Baughurst, about 1 mile from Brazenhead Farm (actually next to the George & Dragon), all his life. He knew that John Tyler, the elder, was the son and heir of Thomas Tyler. The Tyler (elder) deed was confirmed by Robert Gedge of Wolverton, Walter Dyker of Hanyton, John Butler of Wolverton, William Sylvester of Wolverton and John Gedge of Overton. [/1368/25]

Thomas Hyde, Jnr, farmed his uncle's land in 1800/2, he died in 1802 and his executors were Thomas, Snr, Francis Dicker (uncle), his brother Charles and John Hawkins who farmed for his widow until 1809. Richard Hyde, brother-in-law, took over until 1816 when Edmund Beale took over the farming. Edmund was the owner of part of Foxcote near Skyer's Wood, Ramsdell in the 1839 Tithe apportionment, Charles Ilsley was the occupier.

There was a draft agreement, after searches made of the Court Rolls regarding Brazenhead, that the land included tenement and farmhouse at Foxcote and Brazenhead Farm, to the west, over 98 acres including a quarry and Drift Road (a drove road, a track not kept in repair) - and Shawlands Farm situated at Pitham. At an auction in 1833 Brazenhead Farm (where Richard Smith was the tenant farmer), Samuel Platt was the highest bidder with £1865. He was the owner named in the 1841 Tithe Apportionment with Daniel Poulter, who had moved from Ham Farm, as the occupier, the farmer was Daniel Elliott in 1852. [Hunt & Co Directory] [/1368/23]

In January, 1847, the land was sold by Thomas Dicker, Yeoman and his wife, Maria, to W J Chaplin of Ewhurst, this included 2 acres called Shaw Lands at Pitham occupied by T Dicker. On 15/6/1860 the Duke purchased the Brazenhead and Foscot (sometimes written Foskete) Estates (229 acres) of the late William James Chaplin from his widow, Elizabeth, for £7000 (less £121 for cottage burnt down since the valuation). [William Chaplin owned Baughurst House and had been the Duke's tenant at Ewhurst.] There was a bond raised to pay for this and the payment of this was satisfied by a telegram sent to Lamb, Brooks & Challis of Basingstoke via The Electric & International Telegraph Co. In the November, wasteland at Stoney Heath (3 acres), not included in the sale, was offered - this common land was Enclosed & Allotted to the Lord of the Manor and Landowners of Baughurst by agreement and not by an Act and although it was bounded on all sides by the Duke's property it was declined. [/838]

Before 1847, Foscot was two farms, Foscot and Benham's Farms, which varied in area but in 1847 was stated as 128 acres. Francis Dicker was the proprietor of Benham's in 1800, his brother Thomas was the tenant. Thomas died 1822 and Francis in 1823 and Benham's went to Francis' niece, Mrs Elizabeth Beale (daughter of Thomas and wife of Edmund). Her tenant was a cousin, Charles Hide of Wootton-St-Lawrence.

Foscot included Stonewoods, Goodriches, Marshalls, Clodley (clod lands), Draw Lands, Martin's Pightle, White Piece, Bramley Lands and Pitslade (or Pit lane Piece, on the current A 339 near Brazenhead Lane). Tenure and proprietor was Thomas Dicker who inherited from his brother Richard in 1797, at the Manydown Court in 1800 a reversion was granted to Thomas Dicker, the younger aged 17. He also held Pit Lane and Folly Farms. Part of an isolated Baughurst field (4 acres) south of the farmyard at Foscot was sold by Thomas Penton to Thomas Dicker for £49 in 1809 (farmed from Povey's). On Thomas's death, his property went to Sarah Hide (sister of Charles above) and when she died in 1804, the farm went to the executors

(including Richard Awbery of Ibworth - Thos Awbery was the farmer at Pitt Farm in 1852 [Hunt & Co Directory] who sold it to William James Chaplin of Ewhurst Park, who was MP for Salisbury and held many directorships. When he died in 1859, it was sold to the 2nd Duke of Wellington. In June, 1860 the land included Wootton Farm, cost £12,900, Foscot, £6930, and Baughurst House, 57 acres, £1900 (rented from the Dean and Chapter, Winchester). All land formerly held partly by John Tyler, T (J) Dicker and Sarah Hide.

[Lamb, Brook and Challis, Solicitors]

Traditionally Foscot Farm was part of Povey's but in 1943 was sold to Henry Miller (the tenant being S A Jury) with, and attached to Ewhurst, which included Povey's and Hollybush Farms.

In 1841 the farmer at Foscot Farm was Ilsley and in 1860 was George Wigg (who also had Povey's Farm). George Wigg farmed over 800 acres including Povey's and Foscot until he died in 1895.

[Note: In the survey of Manydown Manor in 1649, Edward Wigg and his sons James and Edward held the three 'lives' of some land in Upper Wootton.]

At an auction of underwood in Wolverton in 1886, lots were let to:-

Taylor, M Ford, David Ford, John Saunders, Albert Saunders, James Saunders, George Rampton, W Smith, Rapley, Miles, George Ford, W Hitchcock, Gundry, W Spicer and G Baggs. The lots totalled 77 acres and went for between £2 and £12 per acre, realising £353 (one lot was Island Heron Copse).

The Duke of Wellington considered purchasing Pit Hall Farm in 1887, as shown in a letter from Simmons & Sons (Agents of Henley, Basingstoke and Banbury) to Walter Monsley at Stratfield Saye.

[/281/7]

The land around the George and Dragon was given by the Manor of Manydown to Francis Digweed for life, May 23rd, 1797, and to Frances Susannah Digweed (2 year old), May 1806 and to William Webb (13 months), June 1835, etc. On September 6th, 1858, the Duke purchased from Messrs Webb, the George & Dragon (the old farmhouse) and Digweed's Farm (63 acres) for £615, the property was copyhold, held in the Manor of Manydown. The existing life was William Francis Digweed (83 years old) and William Webb (23 years old); although they were the owners, the pub was run by William Cassell in 1833. An Indenture dated 28/7/1859, showed that the freehold of this land was transferred from the Dean and Chapter to the Duke of Wellington, a total of over 65 acres, for £474-6-0d.

[/1373]

The house was once the place where the rents were collected from the Duke's tenants.

In 1851 George Ford, then in 1887 William Charles Ford, Tom Bolton in 1908 and Strickland in 1938 were landlords at the George & Dragon.

In November 1905 the Duke held his usual half-yearly Michaelmas audit at the George & Dragon where a score of tenants sat down with the Duke, Mr Walker of Wolverton Park and Mr North (Agent) to an excellent dinner served by Mr & Mrs Ford.

W J Drake from The Brewery, Kingsclere agrees with the Duke of Wellington on February 3rd, 1908, to take over the George and Dragon, Baughurst on a 21 year lease at £80 pa subject to subletting the land. He wrote again on Feb 7th wanting all the land, as the new licence holder may want to farm it. On May 23rd, Drake says he has a licensee of his, of 15 years standing, who wants all the land. As the land is in poor condition he suggests an allowance be made for manure, and he would like to rent a cottage with the farm, the existing licensee is Ford. Drake agrees to let Mr Parkinson have a right of way (Malcolm Harrison Parkinson was the farmer of Cottrell's Farm in 1907/11) and Ford claims all the fittings from the new licensee, Tom Boulton.

[/850 & /1689/2]

Frith Farm was once part of the Sandford Estate, the tenants of the 188 acres in 1871 were William Ruddle (part of a family that had many farms in the locality), in 1875 George May, and in 1909, J H Shatford. The land to the south was Island Hearne, owned by the Duke of Wellington.





Foscot Farmhouse circa 1930

### Wolverton Roads

There were three turnpikes in the district – firstly, the Kingsclere to Reading road which went through Ashford Hill and Aldermaston, The second, the Newbury to Basingstoke road, went through Kingsclere, Wolverton, Baughurst, Ramsdell, Shothanger and then along the course of the present A 339. Thirdly, the Aldermaston to Basingstoke road which joined the second road at Stoney Heath. Many current roads were not in existence in 1800, such as the road through Axmansford. Also, the present A339 between Kingsclere and Basingstoke started out as the joining of a series of tracks - no wonder today it is so windy and narrow (see below).

To keep the roads in good condition, which was the parish's responsibility, money had to be raised. Under an Act of 1835/6 to 'Consolidate and Amend the Laws relating to Highways in England', a Surveyor of Highways was appointed in each parish to set a rate on house and land owners to supply funds. In 1836 this was the Curate, Richard Pole, and a rate of 6d in the £ was set. The total amount raised was £20-14-6½ and was used for the repair and improvement of village roads. In some years this amount was not enough and, for example, in 1837 there were four collections. There were also special cases, in a Vestry meeting chaired by George Rawlins (of Wolverton House) on 27<sup>th</sup> December, 1839 consent was granted to 'divert and turn a new highway from Kingsclere East towards Basingstoke and to raise money by a rate not exceeding 1/- in the £ in two instalments'. In 1841 the Surveyor was Charles Heselden (Plantation Farm) and Richard Pole was by then acting as Rector. Interesting contributors to the Highways funds were the Duke of Wellington (paid £3-16s), William Stevens (Wolverton Park, 1836), John Freeman (1/9d for house and shop, 1837), Edward Jacob (house and Brick Kiln, 1838), Blackall Simonds (Wolverton Park, 1845), Lord Paget (Wolverton House, 1848) plus two at Browning Hill House, Richard Justice, Esq. (1836) and the Rev. Thomas Hasker (1845).

From the Account Book of 1844 to 1859, the expenditure each year was approximately £9 per annum, for example, A. Blunden spent December, 1844 and January, 1845 mending Hannington Lane and clearing snow; for 34½ days work he was paid £2-17-6 at a rate of 1/8d per hour – the Surveyor also paid for tools, e.g. 2/- each for stone hammers. [103M82]

Back in the 1840s, the main route from Newbury to Basingstoke ran through Kingsclere to the Wolverton Pound (bottom of Crabbs Hill), via Wolverton Road and then the Baughurst to Basingstoke Turnpike Road but it was far from ideal. A notice dated 31st August, 1841 issued by Cole, Lamb & Brookes gave details of a change in the route from Kingsclere in order to improve the condition, widen it for wheeled vehicle use and to shorten its length. The proposed route from Kingsclere would run from the Wolverton Pound, along the present A 339, up Ramsdell Road, down Wolverton Lane, through Foscot Farm) by Ewhurst (south of the House and north of Pit Hall Farm), Pit Hall and Woodgarston into the original turnpike at Shothanger, about half a mile north of Rooksdown thereby cutting the length of the old route (Kingsclere to Basingstoke) by a mile and a quarter and avoiding several hills. It said that this would give ready access to the Basingstoke Station of the South Western Railway and benefit all villages on the new route.

Subscribers to the estimated cost of £1200 were the Duke of Wellington (£200), Lord Bolton (£100) and the L&SW Railway (£200); others were invited to send donations to Cole, Seymour and Co. at the Basingstoke and Odiham Bank. It is not certain when the current route between Wolverton Pound and Shothanger, as an alternative, was proposed. [12M49]

Roads were not maintained very well and even the major routes caused problems when motor cars started to become popular. The surfaces were muddy and potholed so in the early part of the twentieth century, these were filled with stones, gravel and flints from the nearby Downs. Steam-driven road rollers were used to crush and consolidate these with tar being sprayed on as a binding. It was not until late in the 1930s that a decent surface was achieved when tar macadam was used.



View up Crabb's Hill from the A339, c.1930 with Spicer's Lodge just visible. (see also picture above)

[The pond in the corner of the A 339 and Crabbs Hill is still today called Spicer's Pond.]



The A339 between Rectory Lane (on the left) and Crabb's Hill (right). The area in the bottom right hand corner is called Spicer's Green (after the pond there), c. 1920



Later view of the above (c.1930s)

## Railway Mania

Apart from a dearth of money, the lack of adequate water and deterioration of the Basingstoke Canal together with an increase in the number and quality of turnpike roads after 1815 with tolls having to be paid, meant a consideration of railways as an alternative. The first railway having been built by Richard Trevithick in 1804.

The Basingstoke Canal carried much material for the construction of the London to Southampton railway, which opened to Basingstoke in 1839 and, by 1840, to Southampton. Ironically, this work meant a short reprieve but the canal company continued to lose money and by 1866 was in liquidation. Although it carried on under various guises, by 1901 trade had virtually ceased. A similar situation applied to the Kennet and Avon Company and it was taken over by the Great Western Railway in 1852.

Speculators often proposed schemes for railway routes from the North and Midlands to south coast ports in order to carry freight and coal for the new steam-driven ships. An auctioneer's handbill in February, 1844, for houses at Kingsclere Common stated that they were within a few hundred yards of a proposed line and 10 minutes walk away from a proposed station (see p.54). The station could have been near Axmansford as Kingsclere Common was the area between a line at Chapel Lane on the Wolverton Road, through Wheathold and Fair Oak on the B 3051 and a line running alongside The Holt and two copses back to the Wolverton Road. Somewhere in this area could be just over a walk of 10 minutes, but this is probably typical estate agent's exaggeration. This proposed line was never built, it was possibly overtaken by the Reading to Basingstoke line, built in 1848.

Remembering that there was cut-throat rivalry between all the many railway companies, things didn't stop there. The Didcot, Newbury & Southampton Railway (DN & SR) was another attempt at a north-south link (the initials were advertised as the Direct North & South Route), it was planned to run to Southampton from Newbury via Micheldever. After protracted infighting between the speculators and the GWR (owners of the line at Didcot and Newbury) and the L&SWR (the owners of the line from Basingstoke and Southampton) it was altered to run through Woodhay, Highclere, Burghclere, Litchfield and Whitchurch. It eventually opened between 1885 and 1891.

The determination to build a railway in this area did not stop, as in 1899, under the Light Railways Act, 1896, a proposal was made to construct a 13 mile Highclere, Kingsclere and Basingstoke Light Railway. It was to commence approximately 1 mile south of Burghclere (on the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton Railway line) with stations just south of Ecchinswell (for Sydmonton), just north of the A339 roundabout at Kingsclere (where the line went down the route of the modern by-pass), at Wolverton on the north-west side of Crabbs Hill (for Hannington and Baughurst), near the Vicarage on the Ewhurst Road at Ramsdell (for Baughurst and Tadley), Monk Sherborne, near the church, Sherborne St John, near the pub, and terminating at the Basingstoke L & SW and GW Railway stations. The proposal was for one train only going backwards and forwards, the journey taking  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour and to reduce costs there would be no ticket offices, the guard issuing and collecting tickets en route in the corridor train. The benefits were identified at a public meeting in Kingsclere in September, 1900 with the Right Honourable W W Beach, MP in the chair. The need was cited as removal of the numerous traction engines which are a considerable source of danger and cause much damage to the roads. The population of the places served was 14,844 according to the 1891 census and there would be opportunities for through traffic. The cost was estimated at £65,000 with £6,000 for rolling stock but the revenue of £2,840 pa expected would be sufficient to pay a dividend of £4 per cent, equal to a gross revenue of £7,100 pa, taking working expenses at 60% of gross receipts. A committee of local landowners was formed to gather the sum required and completed subscription forms were to be sent to John Barnes, Solicitor of Kingsclere (the Duke of Wellington was asked to subscribe and accept shares in lieu of the land taken from him, [/1280]). Several people had pledged money, including the Earl of Carnarvon £25, Sir Percy Bates (Woodgarston Estate) £20, Queen's College, Oxford £20, J Singleton (Baughurst House)

£25 and the Duke of Wellington £100 which is surprising as in August, 1889 he said in a letter to Lord Carnarvon that the line would cut his Ewhurst Estate in two. [75M91 & 11M94]

This proposal did not succeed, so none of these nearby transport systems materialised and no more were proposed as the internal combustion engine revolutionised transport at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Although just outside the parish, Pit House Farm (which included Sandford Woods and part of Frith Farm) owners are well documented:

1706 Christopher Widmore of Herriard, died in 1724

1732 David Lewis of Lincoln's Inn, Middlesex

1734 Charles Coleman of Hackwood, left to his daughter, Ann, and her husband,  
Joseph Hollis of Lyndhurst

1770 John Mount of London, later of Wasing Place

1785 Richard Soper of Oakley

1828 Thomas Child of Hurstbourne Tarrant

1852 Thomas Awbery

1875 George May

1900 Dampier Child

1909 J H Slatford was the occupant

1930s Major Priston

1936 T E D Skurray

1954 Admiral of the Fleet Sir Philip Vian

1968 Captain Edward Farquar and his wife, Polly (nee Vian) Taylor

## **Ewhurst**

In 1086 the estate was held by Walter of Hugh de Port and in the Domesday survey, called Werste, was assessed at 1 hide; in the thirteenth century, then called Ywhurst, it passed to Robert St John and his family. By the middle of the fifteenth century it passed to John Norwode (from Norwood, Kent, now south London). After other owners, in around 1580 the estate was sold to Richard Ayliff, yeoman, (the Lay subsidy rolls of 1586 show that Richard Ayliffe paid £23-23s for goods from the manor) and by 1654 it was held by another member of the family called Richard followed by his son John c. 1664. By 1684 it belonged to James Plowden whose wife was the eldest daughter of John Ayliff (they married at Ewhurst in 1682) and later by the Rev James Plowden (the minister of the estate church who died 1761). Here, there is some confusion as the register of Papists in 1717 state that Ann Hyde, a widow of Hartley Wespall, owned the estate and let the manor and farm to Thomas Furbar and let the brick kiln and one acre to William Dicker. Other records show that James Chichele Plowden, son of the Rev Plowden, sold the manor and farm of Ewhurst to Robert Mackreth in the 1765, he started life as a servant but amassed a fortune in India, was the MP for Ashburton and was knighted in 1795. He improved the estate and sold the reversion in 1808 to John Symmons who had full possession in 1820 (he also bought Ham Farm and Towns End forge, Forester's Cottage, part of Stoney Heath and Povey's Farm in 1821).

William Harris lived at Ewhurst Park from aged 11 to 56 years when the estate was offered to the Duke, the estate then ranged from Pound Green in the north to Balstone Farm in the south. He confirmed in the sale documents that the Pleasure Grounds were formerly known as 'The Warren' and that part of the estate was lived in by the late Sir Robert Mackreth and John Symmons, Esq. William Reader (1759-1839) a Barrister-at-Law of the Middle Temple was the resident at Ewhurst House before purchasing Baughurst House in 1829 (see sale particulars,



Appendix 3). On Symmons' death in London in 1831, his estate passed to his son Charles Augustus Symmons and then Sir Peter Pole who sold it to the Duke of Wellington in 1831.

### Ewhurst House

'A commodious mansion in a large and well wooded park. It is of no particular architectural style having been built over a number of years but it contains a most excellent dining-room. It has been altered over the years from Mackreth to the present owners. The estate contains a fine artificial lake of 18 acres'. (Whites Directory of 1859)

William James Chapl(a)in, 1787-1859, (owner of Baughurst House in 1858 and Brazenhead/Foscot Estate from 1844) occupied the house in 1829 with his wife Elizabeth when he qualified as a Deputy Lieutenant. He was Part of a well-known firm of Carriers and Coach proprietors, was Sheriff of London in 1845/6, M P for Salisbury from 1847 to 1857 and chairman of the South Western Railway. Chaplain paid the Duke £610 pa rent for the house and farm, which was farmed by one of his sons in 1851 and in 1852/5 he was mentioned in Slater's Directory and named in a gazetteer of 1870/2 (see also 'Hero', Below). William Henry Chichele Plowden leased the house circa 1845 when he had just sold Stratfield Saye to the Duke, he was a magistrate for the Kingsclere Division in 1875 and rented the house for over twenty years. He re-built the church and donated a flagon (see below).

Lt. General The Lord Alexander George Russell, CB, 7<sup>th</sup> son of the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Bedford (1880-1905) born in Woburn, was the resident at Ewhurst from 1880 to 1905 with, *inter alia*, his brother-in-law William Heyterbury, Peer of the Realm, aged 71 Records show that he sent £208-14-7d on 11/11/1887 to the Duke of Wellington as half-year rental for Ewhurst Park and Hollybush Farm. [It is interesting to note that quoits was a popular game at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. A club was formed around 1907 at the George and Dragon P H and in 1892 there were quoits competitions between Wolverton Park and Ewhurst Park teams. Kew and Oliver were the top scorers for Wolverton who won. The next game was overwhelmingly won by Ewhurst who beat Hannington - (Lord) A G and L G Russell played well for Ewhurst.]



Aerial view of the house from the SW, circa 1930

In 1891, Captain Herbert Rawson, Royal Engineers, was a visitor who was obviously well looked after by the 23 servants in the house.

A steam engine was installed against a stable wall in 1889, probably to drive an electric generator, and cover was required by the Law Fire Insurance Society. In 1905 the electric lighting installation (engine plant and battery) was inspected by a firm of Consulting Engineers. The plates of the battery were found to be highly deposited due to overloading in the past 3 years leading to the purchase of a recording ampere meter to check on any overloading.

[/1190, 818 & 435]

The 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Wellington lived at Ewhurst soon after his accession (1900) until his death in 1934.

The Duke and the Duchess used to provide entertainment and tea for more than 200 employees of the Ewhurst and Wolverton Estates including a young man engaged in 1924 as the Aviary Attendant at 30 shillings per week [/370]. The Duke enlarged the house, leasing Stratfield Saye to his son around 1921, but death duties forced the sale of their estate in 1943. An auction took place in Reading Town Hall on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1943 of land (6240 acres) and buildings; a timber company were the purchasers - at that time and since before 1939, Sir Alexander Roger rented Ewhurst House, the Home Farm, nine cottages (two near Cotterell's Farm occupied by Mrs Hockley and Mrs W Hampton, who was killed, were destroyed by bombs in November, 1940) and the shooting rights.

It was sold to Louis Goris in 1950 and in 1974 his step-son, Lt Col Richard Mayfield, DSO, LVO, took over and renovated the house and garden, he died in 2007.



Ewhurst House from the south east, c. 1940



Ewhurst House from the north, c.1940



The Dining Room with the Adam Fireplace

Ewhurst Farm was used as a parsonage in the eighteenth century, until the amalgamation with Wolverton church, James Cameron was the Farm Overseer in 1891 and his widow, Elspit aged 64, was there in 1901 with Charles Froome, 20, from Charter Alley as Groom. [/281/16]

In the 1910 Income Tax Valuation, this area of 335 acres, was occupied by Thomas Kitchings, Gross annual value £56-10s and Rateable value £50-15s (the cottages were occupied by James Bridgeman, etc.).

### St Mary's Church

A small building of flint with an open bell-turret, was first mentioned in 1310, was improved by Robert Mackreth around 1800 and was rebuilt in 1872/3 by William Henry Chichele Plowden on the site of its early 14th century predecessor. [VCH]

The piscine in the south wall of the chancel has two late thirteenth century stones in the jambs with stop chamfers (see picture below), the old drain is also preserved.

In the Visitation Report to the Bishop in 1788, Thomas Obourn stated that the area was 400 acres but as for population there were only two houses in the parish. The manor house had two servants, when the family were away from home, and the farmhouse in which is a bailiff, his wife, a servant and three children. Robert Mackreth, Esq. is the patron.

In the Minister's report to the Bishop in 1851, the seating was stated to be 43 free and 12 in the chancel; attendances were 35 in the morning - the only service. It was joined with Wolverton by an Order in Council in 1880. The plate consisted of a silver chalice inscribed 'The gift of Francis Chute, 1739'; a silver paten dated 1720 given by the Rector, the Rev Richard Pole in 1847; a silver flagon of 1847 inscribed 'The gift of W H C Plowden, August 1873' and a silver alms dish of 1863 inscribed as the flagon. [Chaloner Chute in 1644 was involved with Wolverton (see *Wolverton House*) and from 1653 lived at The Vyne.]

The church originally had one bell, monuments to Sir Robert Mackreth and two to the Plowden family. There is only one book of registers with various entries starting in 1682 up to 1812 (see below). The advowson was included in the settlement of the manor from 1310 on Roger de St John and his wife Joan, and has ever since been with the owner of the manor until union of the church with Wolverton. The church was closed and de-consecrated in 1966 when



the lecturn and reading desk were given to St Stephen's, Baughurst; the Wellington Memorial Tablet was moved to Stratfield Saye Church in 1971 and other articles were given to St Catherine's, Wolverton (see above).

Statistics from the Parish Register show that between 1684 and 1719 there were 7 christenings, 8 marriages from 1682 to 1736 and 11 burials between 1687 and 1736. Up to 1812 there were very many years when no entries were recorded.



The Church in the 1990s showing the piscine (basin for washing Communion Vessels)

The Ministers (or Curates) of Ewhurst were:

- Johannes was Rector of Iwhurst in 1415 (from Court Rolls of Wootton)
- Andrew Bruce c.1690
- Richard Tyrell BA in 1726 (in 1728, Richard Blunden, Churchwarden, on behalf of the parishioners, complained of his negligence.)
- James Plowden, died in post 1761 (see the tenants of the House above)
- Thomas Obourn 1762 - 1799 (was curate at Wolverton, Patron was Robert Mackreth, Esq.) He buried the Rev. James, a Rector of this Parish, in 1765 (was this James Plowden?) [ J Obourn was a local J P in 1773]
- David Renard, 1773
- John Harwood (1772-1846), BA 1793 and MA 1797 (Queen's College, Oxford), made Deacon 1794, as Curate of Ewhurst, priest in 1796 was also Rector of Ewhurst, Laverstoke and Sherborne St John, 1796. As there was no residence, he lived at Deane until he died. In 1810 he may also have been the Curate of Hannington and Tadley but only during the winter, the Curate of Silchester officiating for the rest of the year. (The church at Tadley was called a Chapel with a capacity of 160 for a population of 524.)
- Edward Bickerton
- Charles Augustus Stuart, MA, installed 24/1/1811 on the death of the previous incumbent
- Richard Pole MA (from 1847, probably the date of joining with Wolverton)
- Charles Earle Harwood BA, Curate 1835
- John James Digweed, Curate 1841
- George William Cruttendon BA 1851

- Joshua Le Marchant BA 1855
- Thomas Langford BA 1858 [Rectory united with Wolverton in 1880.]
- George James Monnington 1875

### **Parish Council**

Following the requirement of the 1894 Local Government Act, which called for county, borough and parish councils, the first meeting of the Ewhurst Parish Council took place on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 1894. Lord Alexander Russell was elected chairman for the year and the members were J Cameron, W Clarke, R Sykes, M Pearce and G Preston. The meetings only business seemed to be to elect a chairman, discuss the Overseers' accounts and set the rate (1/3d in the £ in 1896):

- 1904 - held at Ewhurst Farm with Thomas Hitchings of the farm in the chair, the meeting had a Clerk, C E Westcombe (who was also the Assistant Overseer) and a new rate was set at 2/- in the £ on buildings, etc and 1/- in the £ for Agricultural land.
- 1918 - on the death of C E Westcombe, R H Garrett was elected Clerk and Assistant Overseer at £10 pa.
- 1919 - Victor Hitchings was appointed Overseer and chairman of the meeting.
- 1927 - the meeting was held at the residence of Mr Mawby, Mr Ford was elected Chairman and Representative of the Rating Authority.
- 1928 - a precept (an order for collection of money in the rates) of £1-0-5d on the Kingsclere Rural District Council was made to meet the payments to the Clerk (R H Garrett).
- 1929 - a precept of £1-1-7d was made (salary £1 and expenses). The amalgamation of Ewhurst and Wolverton Councils proposed by Kingsclere was accepted.
- 1930 - H J Beckingham was chairman and a precept for £3 was made to meet Council expenses.
- 1932 - the final meeting of the council was held when it was amalgamated with Baughurst.

### **Snippets**

Thomas Obourn's report, above, said the population was 8 and in his report to the Bishop in 1810, John Harwood stated that the capacity of the church was 100 and the population was 6.

The 1831 census produced an area of 820 acres, 2 houses uninhabited, 3 families (2 in agriculture) giving a population of 28 (15 males and 13 females). The occupier of the House employing 2 labourers, 1 professional and 4m & 5f servants. In White's Directory of 1859, the population was stated as 16, and in 1871 it was 32, although a gazetteer of 1870/2 says it was 12 with two houses.

In the 1881 census, the population was 33 people - in the House there were four members of the family and 10 servants; in the farm there were the shepherd and 5 of his family, the valet and 5 of his family and a carter and 3 of his family; and in the cottage there was another carter and 2 of his family.

In 1831, Hollybush Farm was a public house called The White Lion (featured in the Agricultural Riots in 1831) and a bakehouse, lately occupied by John Lawton who died in 1831.

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Andrew Twitchen rented part of Ewhurst in 1851, Messrs Whistler occupied Ewhurst Park Farm in 1832 and Thomas Hitchings was there in 1909.

In 1943, Gilbert May rented 131.6 acres of land at Ewhurst and had the sporting rights on 115 acres in the area of Ewhurst Park and on the western side of the A 339.



## A Hero

William James Chapl(a)in was the owner of the Brazenhead/Foscot Estate from 1844 and Baughurst House in 1858, he occupied Ewhurst House from 1829 to 1845 and in 1831, when the Duke bought the Estate, he paid £610 pa rent. [See p. 62.]

His son, John Worthy Chaplin (1841-1920) born at Ewhurst Park was an Ensign in the 67<sup>th</sup> (South Hampshire) Regiment of Foot and won the VC on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1860 at North Taku Forts, China during the Second Opium War. A force of British and French troops stormed the fort and Chaplin planted the regimental colours on a breach in the wall made by a storming party. He later placed it on the bastion which he was the first to mount, replacing a Chinese flag, but he was also severely wounded, 4 VCs were won that day by the 67<sup>th</sup>. He subsequently became a Colonel and was awarded the CB (Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath), his medal is now in the Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum in Winchester.



*Ensign Chaplin of the  
67<sup>th</sup> Foot at the  
battle of Taku Forts*

Exterior and interior  
views of the English  
entry to the fort



## Appendices

### Appendix 1 (ref p.3)

#### Poor Rate

1680 – Contributors for the Relief of the Poor in Wolverton include:

Mr Sutton 8/4d  
Mr George Brown 6/4  
William Stiff 8/-  
William Tiler 1/3  
Richard Tull 2/11  
Thomas Smith 1/-  
Charles Butler 1/-  
John Butler 2/6  
Richard Waterman 8d

Total contribution £1-19-9d

[103M82]

(Note that Gabriel Barnaby, Rector, paid 5/- for his pasnege (parsonage) in 1713 and local names were apparent in 1788, i.e. Thomas May, William Mailling and Benjamin Apelby.)

It is interesting to see where the money collected was used. In the disbursement to the poor in 1723;

Widdow Riley received 1/- per week for 52 weeks	£2-12-0
Old Webb got 6/- per month for 4 months,	£1 - 4 0
and received 8/- per month for 6 months,	£2 - 8-0
for his rent and faggots	£1-11-4
Funeral charges, etc.	<u>11-0</u>
Total	£8-18-4

### Appendix 2 (ref p.3)

#### Overseers of the Poor of the parish

These were used to set a rate and raise money from villagers, to look after children and others with no means to maintain themselves and to relieve the blind, lame or poor unable to work.

Some Overseers for Wolverton (spellings were as indicated, as were some titles) were:

1666 – William Tylor and John Parot (Churchwardens)

1680 – Charles Butler and Richard Waterman

1681 – Richard Tull and John Ward

1682 – John Butler and John Smith

1683 – Thomas Wayte and William Bousome

1684 – William Stif and William Tyler

1691 – William Tylor and Widdow Smith

1695 – William Smith and William Jacob

1700 – William Tylor and William Bousome

1702 – John Lovelock and Robert Luke

1714 – Farmer Lovelock and Farmer Tyler

1725 – Bryan Alder and James Young

1728 – Widdow Jacob and John Keen

1734 – Thomas Jacob and John Tylor (Churchwardens)

1802 – Robert Bunce and Samuel Prismall

The post of Overseer was abolished in 1925.

### Appendix 3 (ref p.20 & 61/2)

#### Wolverton and Ewhurst Sale

Attached to the Estates sale document (below) is a statement dated 1828 by William Harris, Gent, of Ewhurst Park, aged 53, in which he says that he has lived there for 42 years. He also states that the Pleasure Grounds were formerly known as 'The Warren' and part of the estate was lived in by the late Sir Robert Mackreth and John Symmons, Esq. Other recollections were that the Lion Inn (now Hollybush Farm), a well frequented public house which was occupied by James Leavey with a good garden, meadow, etc. of over 69 acres, was formerly a messuage or tenement called 'Stones'.

The Wolverton Estate of 3,800 acres, gave rents from tenants valued at £6370 pa., included the manors of Wolverton, Inhurst & Ham, Clere Woodcot, North Oakley, Freemantle and Hannington Launcelevy, also included was the advowson of Wolverton Church. The Mansion House, a capital property for a Nobleman of family of the first distinction was described as a spacious and substantial edifice faced with Bath stone, seated on a lawn; there were Pleasure Grounds and a Mill House in the park with a horse-wheel engine for raising water to the reservoir and the mansion. Within the house were ladies' and gentlemen's dressing and morning rooms; two capital bed chambers, two secondary bed chambers; four excellent bed chambers with dressing rooms; two other bedrooms and six for servants.

Farms included were Wolverton Farm, 352 acres; Plantation Farm, 386 acres, occupied by William Bunce; Ham Farm, 152 acres, occupied by William Brown; Harroden's Farm (Kingsclere), 194 acres, occupied by Robert Ruddle (with John, they rented three farms in Kingsclere); Hall Farm (Kingsclere), 148 acres, occupied by Francis Flower; North Oakley Farm, 541 acres, occupied by Andrew Twitchin – the Hare & Hounds, occupied by Mrs Bettridge, was leased to Mr May.

In total, Ewhurst Manor covered 1,700 acres and the Lord of the Manor had the advowson of Ewhurst Church. Ewhurst Estate, 278 acres, had a Mansion House with 6 principal bed chambers, lady's and gentleman's dressing rooms, two bed rooms for men and 7 for servants. There were 3 seven-stall stables, 4 coach houses, capital stewponds stored with fish and a nursery. Ewhurst Farm, 433 acres, occupied by Messrs. Whistler and Povey's Farm, 161 acres, occupied by Mr Harris. Balsham Farm, now Balstone Farm and Folly Farm (part of Pit Hall Farm), occupied by William Wix and had many fields, etc. called after the chalk pits nearby (Pit Ground, Great Pit, Pit Coppice and Pit Lane). Pope's Farm (late Paice's Farm), 120 acres, included a Malthouse and was occupied by W Webb. A farmhouse (near Pound Cottage, Towns End) which was occupied by Elizabeth Butler; cottage, garden and meadow (where Povey's Cottages, Stoney Heath are), over 1 acre, occupied by William May and a cottage with a Bakehouse (next to the above), over 1 acre, occupied by the late John Lawton (died 1827). Axmansford (then called Exon's ford), 4 acres was also included.

**Very valuable & extensive Freehold & Copyhold Estates**  
**WOLVERTON AND EWHURST,**  
**CAPITAL RESIDENCES, MANORS ABUNDING WITH GAME, FISHERY, &c.**  
**PERPETUAL ADVOWSONS,**  
**FARMS, LANDS, BEAUTIFUL WOODS AND PLANTATIONS, UPWARDS OF**  
**SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED ACRES.**

**Particulars and Conditions of Sale,**  
OF THE VERY VALUABLE AND IMPORTANT

**Freehold & Copyhold Estates,**  
PRINCIPAL PART LAND TAX REDEEMED;  
**WOLVERTON PARK ESTATE,**

SITUATE BETWEEN  
**BASINGSTOKE AND KINGSCLERE, IN THE COUNTY OF HANTS,**  
CONFRISING  
**A SPACIOUS & SUBSTANTIAL MANSION HOUSE,**  
Cased with Bath Stone, seated in a Park, finely diversified in Hill and Dale, with Sheets of Water, and richly Timbered,  
A CAPITAL PROPERTY FOR  
**A NOBLEMAN, OR FAMILY OF THE FIRST DISTINCTION;**  
*The Manors, or Reputed Manors,*

OF  
**WOLVERTON, HAM, CLERE WOODCOT, NORTH OAKLEY, FREEMANTLE, & HANNINGTON;**  
**The Perpetual Advowson of the Rectory of Wolverton,**  
PARSONAGE, TITHES, AND GLEBE LANDS;

**SUNDRY FARMS, WITH FARM HOUSES,**  
And Agricultural Buildings;  
**COTTAGES with Gardens, and the HARE and HOUNDS Public House;**

THE WHOLE CONTAINING UPWARDS OF  
**THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED ACRES**  
Of Meadow, Pasture, Arable, and thriving Wood Land;

THE  
**MANOR, or REPUTED MANOR, of EWHURST,**  
With a commodious Mansion or Manor House,  
Seated on a beautiful Lawn, in a Park finely Timbered, and noble Sheet of Water, grand Terrace Walk of great extent, with magnificent Views;  
*The Advowson & next Presentation to the Rectory of Ewhurst;*

**THE LION INN, & SUNDRY ELIGIBLE FARMS,**  
Farm Houses, Yards, Barns, Stables, and Agricultural Buildings, and upwards of  
**ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED ACRES**  
Of Meadow, Pasture, Arable, and thriving Wood Land;

*An Allotment of Land, near the New Inn, contiguous to the Road from Basingstoke to Aldermaston;*

THE WHOLE FORMING A VALUABLE AND EXTENSIVE PROPERTY, UPWARDS OF  
**SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED ACRES;**  
The Farms Let to respectable Tenants, under Agreements and Yearly Tenantry;—the Rental and estimated Value upwards of  
**Six Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy Pounds per Annum;**  
A very advantageous Property, for Residence or Investment, for Gentlemen fond of Agricultural and Field Sports:

**Which will be Sold by Auction,**  
**By JOHN ROBINS,**

**OF WARWICK HOUSE, REGENT STREET,**  
**AT GARRAWAY'S COFFEE HOUSE, 'CHANGE ALLEY, CORNHILL,**  
**On THURSDAY, 27th NOVEMBER, 1828, at Twelve o'Clock,**  
**IN LOTS.**

The Poster showing some of the lots for sale in 1828

Appendix 4 (ref p.47/51)

List of cottage tenants of the Duke of Wellington in September, 1943 when he sold up.

L G Bryant - near Hollybush  
Mrs F Butler - -----do -----  
Mrs Murrell - -----do -----  
Mrs Phillis - ----- do -----  
Mrs Cooper - Wolverton Lane  
M Denton - Stoney Heath  
F H Feltham - Wolverton Park (Middle Lodge)  
H J Gregory - Post Office  
A G Hayward - Towns End, Baughurst  
W Hedges - Stoney Heath  
Mrs Keep - Near Wolverton Church  
E Hillier and Kingsclere R D C - Wolverton Park  
R M Plaice - (5 cottages), Mr Cooper, S A Jury (attached to Povey's Farm) and, lower down, one part of Wolverton Farm and one of W Soper at Wolverton Lane  
W Robinson - Townsend Lodge  
Ted Saunders - Towns End, Baughurst  
W Smith - near Hare & Hounds  
George Smith - West or 'Spicer's' Lodge  
Miss A Smith - Pump House Cottage  
W Soper - Wolverton Lane  
W C Staniford - Estate Yard, Wolverton (on corner opposite Wolverton Cottage)  
G S Taylor - near Chapel, Baughurst  
W Wiggins (house, smithy and land) at Townsend  
A A V Adams - Manor Farm  
L W Webb - Rimes Lane, Baughurst  
George Appleton - Heath End  
W Chase in Church Lane/Kites Hill  
T Austen, cottage just up the road to Kingsclere from Crabbs Hill  
M E Brock, land between Church Lane and the A 339  
F Hawkins, 2¾ acres smallholding south of Island Heron.

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Appendix 5 (ref p.38)

Wolverton School Log Book from 1880

The new Rector, the Rev Cave, commenced his duties on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1880 with the only teacher, Bridget Moore, who became a Certificated Teacher, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class in 1876. The dimensions of the schoolroom was 28 feet long by 15 feet wide and in November there were 10 boys and 18 girls present. On the 5<sup>th</sup> November, Fanny and Ada May, Sarah and George Rabbits, Kate and John Pierce were absent all week picking acorns.

In 1888 there were 44 pupils present and in the winter the school was closed due to the weather.

To commemorate the Queen's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 1899, the school was given a half days holiday.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1908 there was a visit by the Bishop of Winchester, the Rector, the Bishop's Chaplain, the Rural Dean and managers. In the same year Miss Owens left.

The school was closed on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1912 for the Sunday School.

During the lunch break on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1912, an infant was seen to be drowning in the water near the further corner of the field. Miss Baker, the Head, and Miss Rabbits, Assistant Teacher, eventually got him out by forming a chain with an older boy.

Manager's Log from 1910

Meeting on 22/10/1910 with the Duke of Wellington in the chair, the Rev Scott-Boucher, G W Jones and W J Walker in attendance; Miss Jane Cottrell was appointed to the post of Mistress at

a salary of £75 pa. (Receipts show that in 1893 the Mistress's salary was £40pa and that she was granted £34-12s as a government grant for the running of the school). [180M87/A2/1-4]

A report in June, 1911 by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors suggested that Miss Cottrell was not well and at a meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1912, Miss G M Baker was appointed in her place at the same salary including home and garden but not fuel (the Managers were as listed above plus W Newman of Plantation Farm).

At the meeting in March, 1919 there were four applicants to be considered for the post of Mistress. The Managers were unanimous in selecting Mrs Goodenough if her qualifications were sufficient for the Education Department (was this Mrs Frederick George or Mrs Cyril Goodenough from Baughurst?). However, they obviously were not sufficient as their second choice, Miss Watford was appointed. Further, Olive Jones should be recognised as a Teacher with more salary (4 shilling per week was not considered sufficient) – in May this was accepted, the salary being raised to £20 pa. It was also agreed that a garden class with plots to be started among the boys; that afternoon school should commence at 1pm and close at 3.10pm and that holidays should be one month in August, three weeks at Christmas, one week at Easter and none at Whitsuntide. Further, that a soakaway drain should be made for the school house and a force pump arranged to bring water from the well in Albert Smith's garden.

In 1921 the fire insurance cover for the school was £1200.

A Garden Fete in 1924 raised £25-13s; £2-6s was spent on school prizes and £2-14-3d spent at SPCK (Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge) for bibles and hymn books. December 1924 saw the resignation of Mr & Mrs Albert Smith as cleaners because they were not strong and had done the job for 23 years; John Knight was appointed but quickly resigned and Mrs Gregory took on the work. It was further agreed that there should be no school meals as the teachers had too much work and there were no sufficiently responsible pupils.

The County Education Department wrote that Miss Dorothy Hughes being under 18 years of age could no longer be paid as a mistress therefore the agreement should be ended. It was pointed out that she was over 18 and was kept on at a salary of £40 (later raised to £65). Holidays were now – summer 5 weeks, Christmas 2 weeks and Whitsun 1 week.

In 1928 there was a letter from the Education Office at Winchester stating that the average attendance was 24 pupils (24 on the register) and that the cost of the school was £353 pa. As there were only one teacher and a supplementary teacher they could not provide effective and suitable instruction to all ages from 7 to 14 years. [Previously pupils were exempt from school from 12 years of age if they passed the Labour Certificate Examination and in agricultural districts could be exempt at 11 years, for 6 months of the year, but the Education Act of 1921 stated that every child should attend up to 14 years of age.] Therefore the school should be closed and the pupils transferred to Kingsclere C of E School.

At the Manager's Meeting in April, 1928, they agreed, as the current Head was leaving in June, then that should be the closure date, it then became the Post Office. [103M82/PJ1]



Appendix 6 (ref p.47)

Florence Emily Smith's career

This story of a local lady's life gives an insight into life around the turn of the nineteenth century and was typical of many of her generation when the choice of a job was dictated by social factors rather than individual talent.

Florence was born in Newbury in 1890, was the eldest of seven children and when she was five, her father took a post he held for the rest of his working life. He became one of the six gardeners at Wolverton House which, although owned by the Duke of Wellington, was tenanted by an unmarried brother and his sister, they lived in a cottage on the estate. They became one of many servant families – the impressive household boasted a Butler, Footman, Coachman, Grooms, six Maids plus the gardeners – and Florence recalled she had a happy childhood in the gardener's cottage and her taste of life in the Big House. At a suitable age, between ten and fourteen, the daughters of estate workers were eligible to be ball-girls at summer tennis parties – complete with starched pinafores and ribbons in their hair. The ladies who played wore large hats and skirts, which daringly skimmed the ankle to allow movement, and had to hold up the skirt in one hand while they hit the ball with the other. The girl's pay was a strawberry tea in the servant's hall and the princely sum of sixpence.

At Wolverton School she remembered great events such as teas and games at the Jubilee celebrations of 1897 and wearing black armbands for Queen Victoria's Memorial Service when the bell was tolled for the end of an era. At the age of fourteen she left and became General Maid to a working farmer in Hannington. In a working uniform of cap and starched apron over a print dress she mostly helped the wife indoors but occasionally fed the hens and did a bit of gardening. She scraped mud off the farmer's boots and polished his horse's saddle and her mother earned a shilling a week paid for laundering the uniform; Florence earnings were 8/4d a month plus keep.

After two years, there was a dramatic change for someone who had never travelled far from home, her father took her to Reading by horse and cart where she boarded a train which took her to Margate, and a first view of the sea. She had been told to look out for a large person in a sailor hat. She turned out to be the Cook at her next post which was a Between Maid or 'Tweenie' to Mr Cyril Cranmer C Kenrick, a master at Wellington College, Westgate. There she helped the Cook and House Parlour Maid, and being hard-working and competent with a real interest in cooking, her employers encouraged her to develop. Her two afternoons off each week were spent sitting on the sands and listening to the Salvation Army Band; when she left after three years her wages were 15 shillings per month.

Her next job (in 1909) was as Cook for Captain Charles Jarvis Matthew Kenrick of Chartham, Mr Cyril's brother, who soon moved to Scotland, so she became Cook to the Vicar of Chuham. [It is interesting to note that Capt Kenrick moved to Hannington and then settled in Baughurst in 1920, there must have been a local connection for Florence to get her job in the first place.]

During her time in Kent she met a friend's brother, Alfred Wood, and their courtship led to a wedding at Wolverton Church in 1914, on her mother's Silver Wedding Day. He was a reservist and spent the war years on a farm, with their two sons they continued to live in Kent although Alfred died at an early age in 1936. Florence always remembered her employers with affection, saying they were all good church people and that she was grateful for the sound training she received in service. In 1976 when she came back to Wolverton, with one of her sons, to see Wolverton House once again, she remarked, 'It looks empty!'