



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

24th July, 1952.

Dear Miss Feilden,

I have had the honour of laying the Women's Institute Scrapbook before The Queen.

Her Majesty commands me to write and tell you how delighted she was to have had the opportunity of seeing this lovely book, and how much The Queen admired all the work that had gone into it.

Her Majesty bids me express to you her most sincere thanks for your kindness in sending this delightful book for her to see.

Yours sincerely,

Lady-in-Waiting.

Miss Olivia Feilden,
Bramdean House,
Alresford, Hants.

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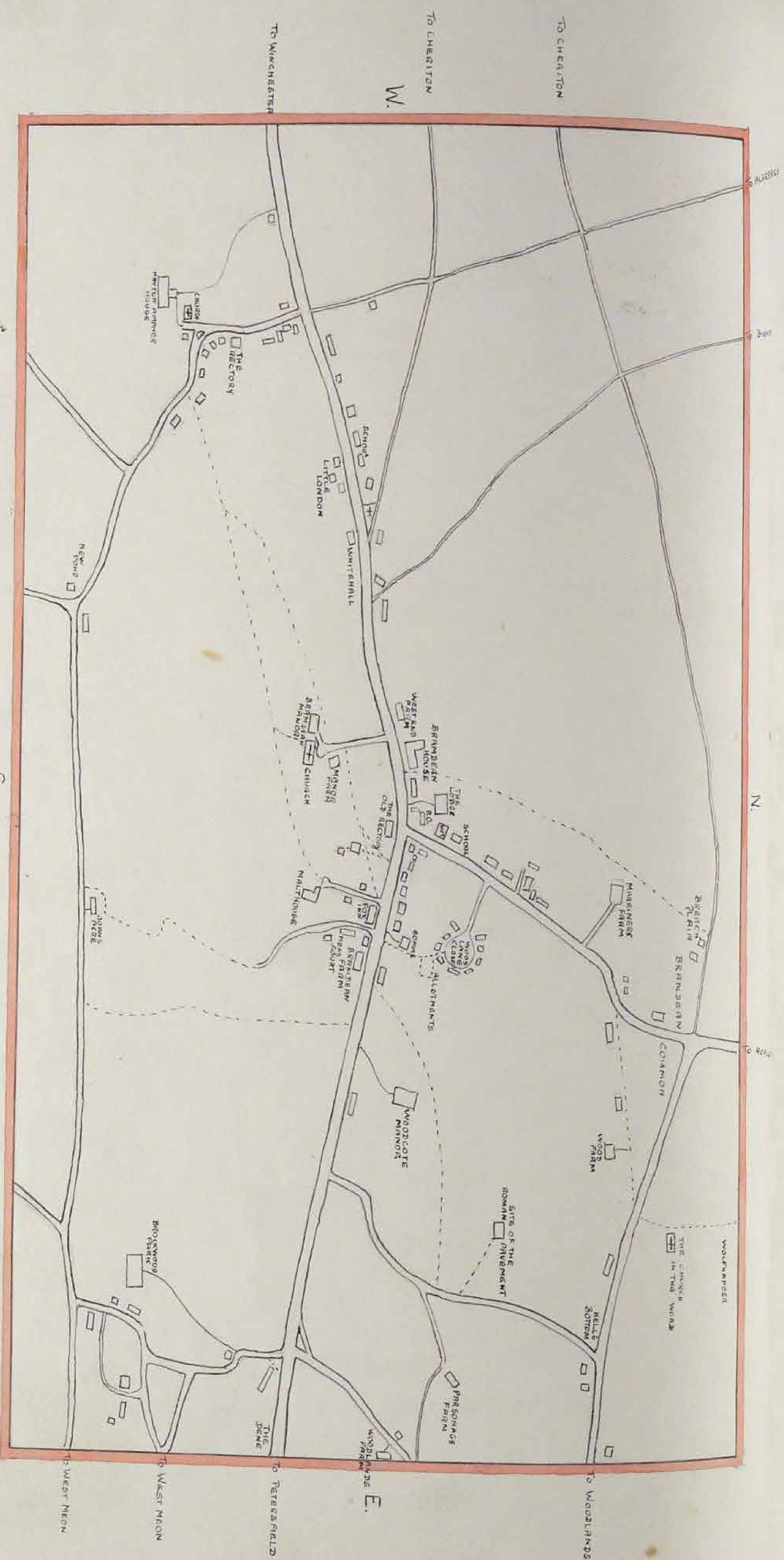
Bramdean & Hinton W.I.

Hampshire



*Bramdean
and
Hinton Ampner
Village
Scrap Book
Compiled
1951*





SKETCH MAP OF HINTON AMPNER & BRAMDEAN.



AERIAL VIEW OF BRAMDEAN IN 1940.

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BRAMDEAN

The Village of the Broad Valley

Two thousand years ago a Roman officer of the occupying army built himself a villa ten miles from the Town of Gwentceaster (Winchester) on the edge of the huge forest which stretched from Hampshire to Kent. He chose a plot of rising ground in a Broad Valley. He followed the usual Roman plan of a series of small rooms with a heating system to protect him from the cold of Britain. At least two of his rooms were given tessellated pavements with elaborate pictorial designs. Time levelled the villa and covered the pavements with soil, and generations of peasants tilled the field, until in 1823 their tools constantly striking bricks led to the discovery of this fascinating remnant of the Roman occupation. Enough remained to show the outline of the house and of its heating system. In the Gentleman's Magazine for August 1824 can be read an account of 'the late discovery of a Roman pavement at Bramdean'. The writer spoke of 'these splendid remains of the Roman era', and said that they appeared to him to be far superior to many of those found in other parts of the country. He gave great praise to the owner of the land, Mr. William Greenwood, for his careful preservation of these valuable relics by covering them with a building. Unfortunately, some time later the pavements were taken up and removed to Winchester and they cannot at present be traced.

This country-house was in an isolated position; but when in due course the Saxons introduced the eight-horse plough and so were able to clear the valleys and settle near the water-courses instead of on the uplands, a village came into being. In 908, a grant made by King Edward the Elder (son of Alfred the Great) to Winchester Cathedral mentions 'Bradandene' (the Broad Valley), and there is good reason to identify this with Bramdean. Did

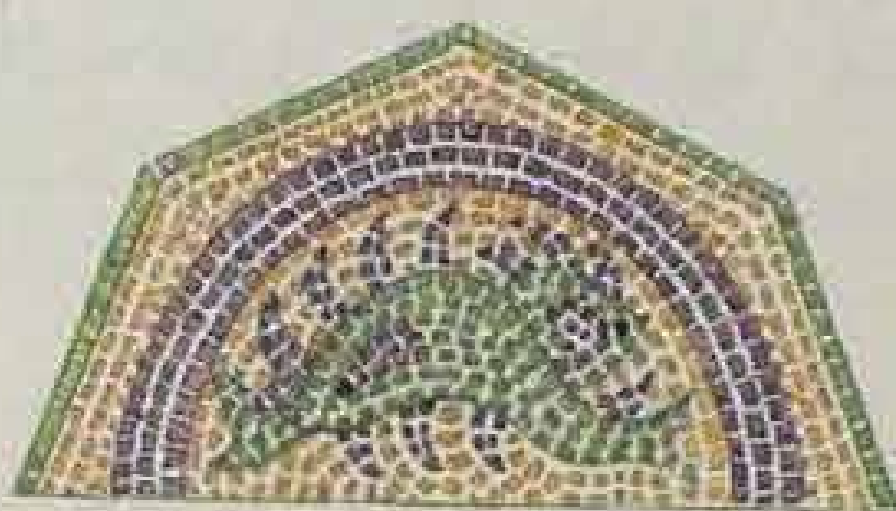
King Alfred himself ride out from his capital one day to Bradandene and note it as a pleasant place?

The Domesday Book, compiled in 1086 at William the Conqueror's royal palace in Winchester, tells us that 'Milo the Porter (i.e. seneschal of Winchester Castle) holds Brondene from the King'. That this also is Bramdean is shown by the fact that Woodcote Manor in Bramdean was a royal manor held in return for service to the King; and a reference in the reign of King Edward IV shows that this office of custodian of the castle had been held in conjunction with the manor of Woodcote for 400 years.

The nearness of Bramdean to the Pilgrims' Way (from Winchester to Canterbury through Alresford and Alton) suggests interesting pictures of the Middle Ages, when dwellers on the fringes of the high roads must have seen something of the great world passing by.

In the Civil War, the pastoral soil of Bramdean was trampled by war, and even in the last century rusty cannon balls, relics of the battle called indiscriminately Cheriton, Bramdean, or Alresford, were turned up by the ploughman. In this battle, which took place in March 1644, Cromwell's victorious army was drawn up on the ridge of land which stretches from a point near Cheriton to the further end of Cheriton Wood; the Royalists are said to have been disposed between Titchborne and Bramdean Common. Local legend says that horses will not go down the lane from Cheriton Wood to Hinton crossroads, where horses were killed in the battle, and that the men who were slain were buried in Hinton Ampner (now Bramdean's sister parish).

The continuity which these historical contacts picture is emphasised in the story of Woodcote Manor and other old houses, told on a later page.





Hinton Ampner

The Village of the Uplands



The first mention of 'Heantun' (the high village) is in the year 1045, when it was to be found in a charter. It is in all probability the 'Htentune' which Domesday Book says was held by Bishop Walkelin of the King and was 'always' in possession of the monastery at Winchester. This monastery had a farm with extensive lands at Hinton, from which the produce was drawn for the almoner's dispensing. The name Heantun or Htentune Almoner became in time Hinton Ampner. The monastic farm-house was destroyed by fire at the beginning of the fifteenth century, and was succeeded by a Tudor house. The old name of Prior's Hinton was later changed to Hinton Ampner House.

The parish records date from the time of Queen Elizabeth, but the beautiful Saxon arch in the North-West corner of the Church is a portion of the Saxon Church referred to in Domesday Book. The wide acres of the parish of Hinton afford wonderful downland views and the ancient manorial land has been cultivated since long before Domesday. Much of the history of the widely scattered parish lies in this cultivation of pastures, ploughland and woodland; and much in the story of Winchester's connection with the ancient Church and with the Monastic farm.

Traces of a far earlier habitation were found by the archaeological discoveries of Canon F. B. Milner, formerly Rector of the parish, who unearthed on the North side of Lamborough Lane a Long Barrow of the Neolithic period which, as he points out, may have been erected about 2000 B.C., when Abraham was trekking from Ur of the Chaldees into Palestine. A fragment of pottery of that period supports this date. Other barrows, containing bones, on the South side of Joan's Acre road, are thought to be of the Bronze Age, about 1500 B.C.

It is interesting to see in Hinton Church the oak door (under the Saxon arch) which bears an inscription showing that it was given to the Church about a month before the battle of Bramdean took place. The parish registers record the year 1666 as 'annus fatalis', though there is no actual record of plague burials there; and the still existing name 'Pest Houses' just outside the parish boundary suggests a grim tale of the Great Plague.

The historical associations of this ancient parish are many, and the tale of its harvests is a very long one.



Bramdean Church.



A record of some benefactors in gold lettering on black wood.

BENEFACTORS OF THIS CHURCH. — — —

James Venables Esq. New seated, Pav'd & Beautify'd church; ciell'd, Glaz'd & Repair'd the chancel, and built the Porch & Gallery A.D. 1733-34. Lady Gould gave the Silver Flagon for the Communion Service, and likewise the Bible and Common Prayerbook. Stephen Green, Gent. Gave the Chalice & Patten pulpit cloth & cushion A.D. 1675. Miss Catherine Pocock ciell'd the church. Miss Phillippa Venables new roof'd, Tyled new Ciell'd Ruffcast this Church likewise Pav'd the Gutter round the church; new Cast the Bells & rebuilt the Tower in the year of the Lord 1766.

Miss Catherine Venables gave the pulpit-



now hanging in the vestry. It records, among others, the family of Venables who lived at that time in Woodcote Manor and later in Bramdean House.

Brandean Church

S S Simon & Jude



The Church stands halfway up the slope to the south of the village in a lovely setting of trees, with old farm buildings nearby. The original structure dates from the 12th Century, and remained more or less unchanged until the beginning of the 19th Century. Thomas Durnford, Rector for 51 years in the 18th Century, states that he found it little altered since "Giles the Englishman" began his ministration in 1289.

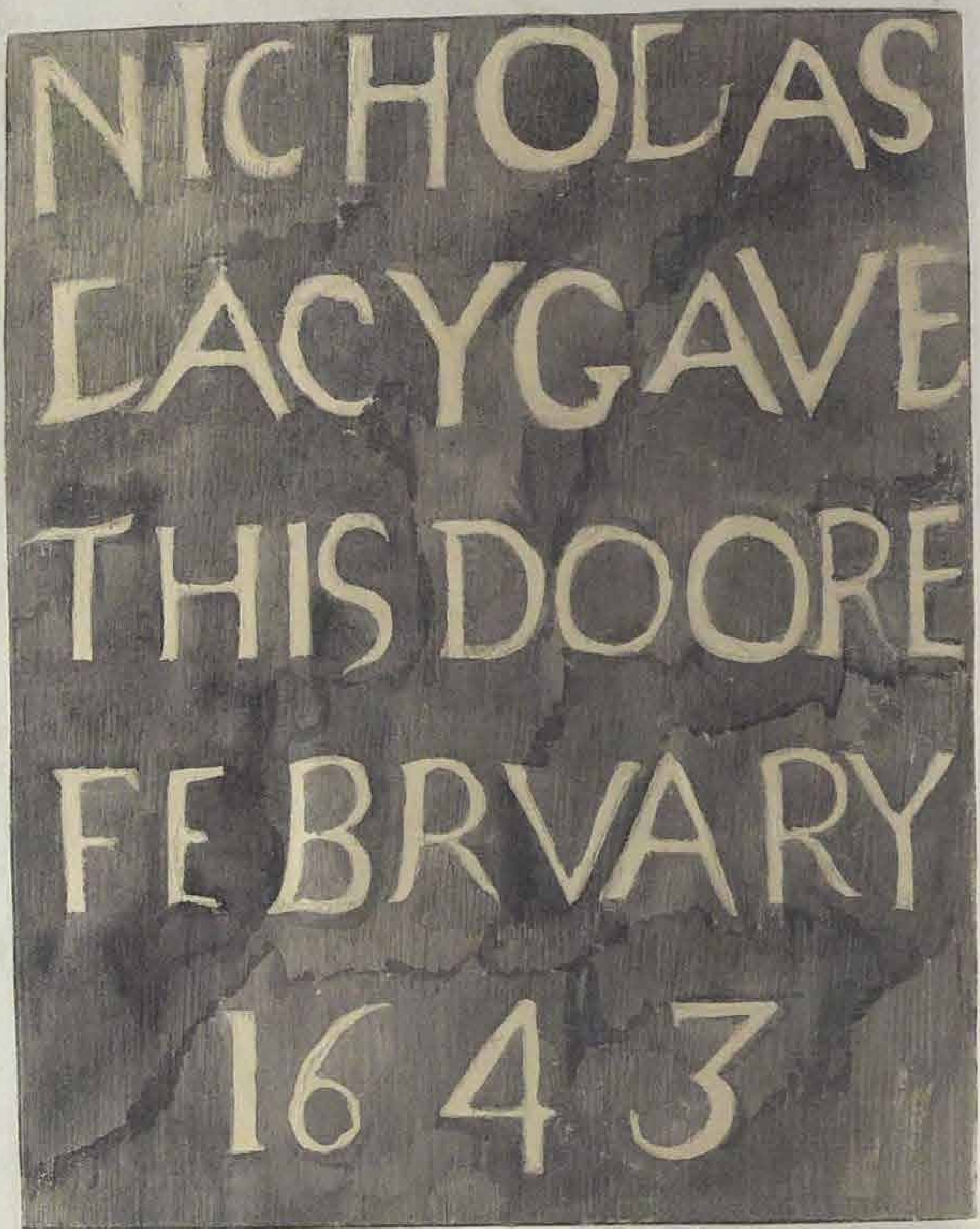
In 1839 the Rev: Charles Walters who was a man of means, carried out the alterations which make the Church much as we know it to-day. He built the South Transept and organ gallery, raised the ceiling of the aisle, and caused "the altar to be modelled in the Gothic style."

All that remains to be seen today of the 12th Century Church are the chancel arch, which has good leaf capitals, and the lower of the two west windows. The hinges on the Church door and the timbers of the roof of aisle and chancel are all of great age.

In the Churchyard there are various old Tombstones, Two on the left of the path to the door, and one on the south side, the latter with wrought iron surround. These are pleasant examples of 18th Century Renaissance. A famous, but more modern feature is the wild bees' nest in the woodwork surrounding the west window, known to have been there for fifteen years.

The registers date from the year 1573 and during the 1939-45 war were microfilmed for safety, together with the eighteenth Century Churchwarden's accounts.





Taken by a Hinton School girl.
(Joan Grey)

A Rubbing from a Plaque in Hinton Ampner Church to commemorate the erection of a Door in February 1643, thirteen months before the battle of Cheriton.

Erratum. Owing to a change in the Calendar between 1643 and 1644 the actual interval between the erection of the above Door and the Battle of Cheriton (1644) was One month and NOT thirteen months as stated.



mat

The Church of All Saints

Hinton Ampner



mark

Hinton Ampner parish Church, dedicated to All Saints, is of great interest as preserving its Saxon plan and a few details from that period. This early work - the south west doorway, two pilaster strips, and part of the north east quoin of the nave - is all in Binstead oolite, which was used in the Saxon work of several neighbouring churches, including Corhampton (a Saxon Church to which the original Church of Hinton Ampner was probably much akin). The door under the Saxon arch, which bears the inscription 'Nicholas Lacy gave this door February 1643', has panels with mitred mouldings on one panel. This door shows the marks of weapons, a relic of the day, when Cavaliers pursued by Roundheads after the battle of Bramdean took refuge in the Church.

The three bells bear inscriptions 'Serve God 1 W 1603' 'Fere God 1 W 1603' 'In God is my hope 1610'. The registers date from the reign of Henry VIII. There are some interesting monuments of more recent date. The same William Blake who endowed the school left various moneys for the use of the needy of the parish.

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The Church in the Wood near Bramdean Common, was put up in the 1880's as a mission church for the gypsies who dwelt on the land near the Common. Services are held there in summer by the Rector. A 'peppercorn rent' of a shilling a year is paid to Magdalen College, Oxford for the land on which this church stands.



luke



john

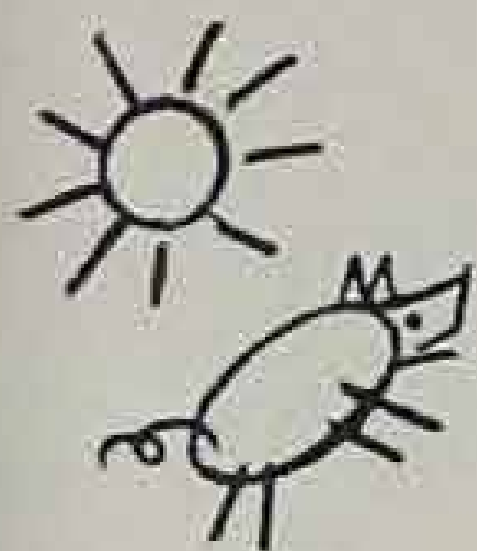


Hinton Ampner Church.



Hinton Ampner School.

2
2
4



Hinton Ampner Endowed School.

The school house at Hinton Ampner was built and endowed by a legacy from William Blake, who died in 1729. Blake is said to have been a groom in the service of Sir Hugh Stewkeley at Hinton Ampner, and to have eloped with his master's fourth daughter Betty. They were married in 1720 and lived at Weeke near Winchester where Betty died three years later. There is a fine monument in Weeke Church to William and Betty Blake recording their benefactions to the parish of Hinton Ampner, benefactions which have placed the school in so strong a financial position that its continued existence seems to be certain.

The school building was presumably begun about 1730 and is a simple but charming example of early Georgian architecture. It is perhaps interesting to note that the fenestration of the windows, lead lattices set in wooden mullions and transomes, belong to the style of an earlier date. By 1730 sash windows would be usually found in all but remote country buildings.

$$1 + 1 = 2$$

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KATIE
BLOCC2

Bramdean School. This was a

Church of England School built in 1872, for 84 children, succeeding a nearby single storied building. It became an Infants School, but the building has been disused since 1946, the youngest children being taken by bus to Hinton Ampner School, to which the junior children walk. At eleven years of age boys and girls go, either to Alresford County Modern School (by special bus) or to Grammar Schools in Winchester.

At Hinton Ampner, school dinners have been cooked on the premises since the beginning of 1951; previously they were sent in containers from the kitchen of a neighbouring school.

~~ERNIE MUDGE~~ ROTE THIS

HE NEVER

Woodcote Manor.



View from South.

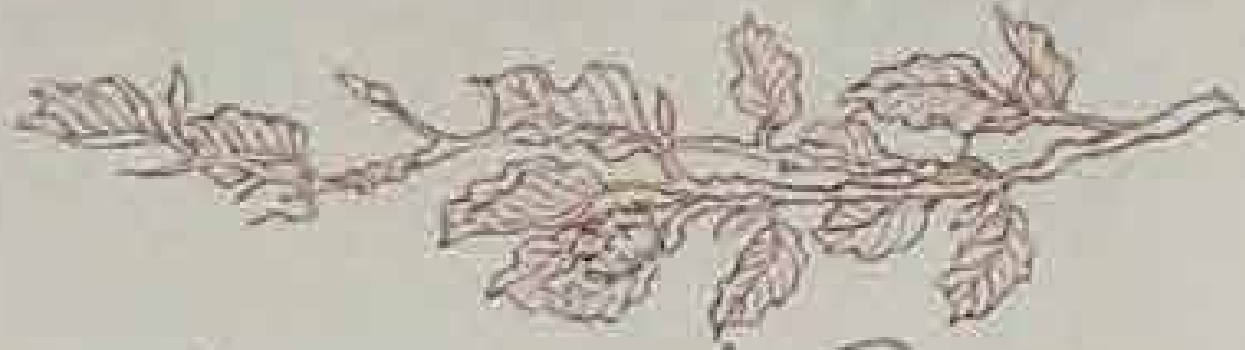
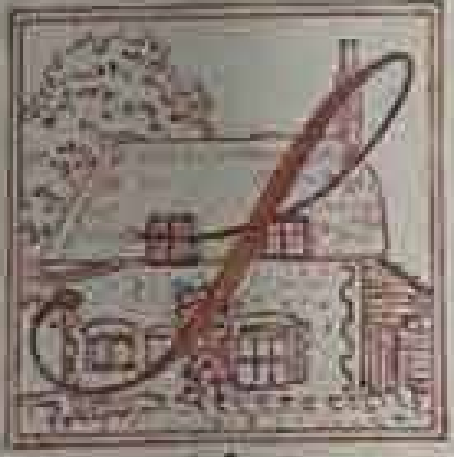


View from North West.



View from West.

Houses of Bramdean & Hinton Ampner



Some of the houses of Bramdean and Hinton Ampner are of great interest. They cover a long range of periods. Among the oldest are probably Woodcote Manor, the old house which is now the Post Office, Bramdean Cottage, Bramdean Farm, and possibly the Fox Inn. There are some very good examples of Georgian and Victorian building.

Woodcote Manor is chiefly Elizabethan and has the date 1611 on its stack pipes. The exterior is a most picturesque grouping of mellowed old brick chimney and gable, and its interior is rich in old panelling and tapestries. Tradition says that there was a chapel close to the house, and a room in the house is also said to have been used as a chapel. There is a room still called 'the priest's room', two secret chambers, and a secret stair which led to an underground passage from the cellar, leading, according to rumour, to the old monastery at Titchbourne. Two of the rooms contain powdering closets, and the Tapestry Room has, besides its old tapestries, a carved chimney-piece with a design similar to that on the tomb of Mary, Queen of Scots. The gardens are lovely and varied and the trees are very fine. The ancient manor in which this house stands is that mentioned in Domesday Book as held by 'Milo the Porter' (seneschal of the royal castle at Winchester) 'of the King'. Nearly 400 years later, there is a record of an enquiry held on the question why the office of custodian of the castle gaol was held jointly with the manor of Woodcote. A previous reference in the reign of King John, shows how a further service to the King was exacted, in the form of taking charge of the King's falcons at Winchester and providing a falconer and three hounds.





Colonel George Greenwood and his four brothers with the tree-lifter (from a water colour drawing by their sister)

In 1884 Colonel George Greenwood published a book called "The Tree Lifter, or a New Method of Transplanting Forest Trees"

Brockwood Park on the opposite side of the main road, at the eastern end of Hinton Ampner parish is a two storied Georgian house painted white. It stands in a finely timbered park with a lovely view across the wooded valley. This was greatly enlarged in the eighteenth century from a farm-house mentioned in the Hinton Ampner Court Rolls. Originally Lye House, its name was changed to Brockwood because there were so many badgers near by. At the end of the eighteenth century the Greenwood family became the owners, and later they also owned Woodcote for a time. It was during Mr. William Greenwood's ownership of Woodcote that he took steps to preserve the Roman Villa found in one of the manor fields. His son, Colonel George Greenwood, was the planter of the celebrated copper beeches, so delightful a feature of Hinton Ampner and Bramdean. A man of great ingenuity and enthusiasm, he invented a 'tree-lifter', a device for transplanting trees by moving them bodily, each with its own earth, from one spot to another. The Greenwood family planted a great variety of trees, among them the rows of fine copper beeches with which the main road is bounded which particularly in spring and autumn give a brilliant colour to the landscape, and their woodcraft has been continued by the later owners. At the bottom of Brockwood Hill, beside the main road, is a heap of stones placed there by Colonel Greenwood over the grave of his favourite hunter Prism, so well beloved as to have been shod with golden shoes; on the opposite side of the road are the 'Saracen stones' brought by him from East Tisted, and set up on this spot.

Mead Court, now divided into several houses, is believed at one time to have been used as a rest-house for clergy from Winchester Cathedral.



Bramdean Farm.



The
Fox
Inn.





Bramdean Farm, (scheduled as an

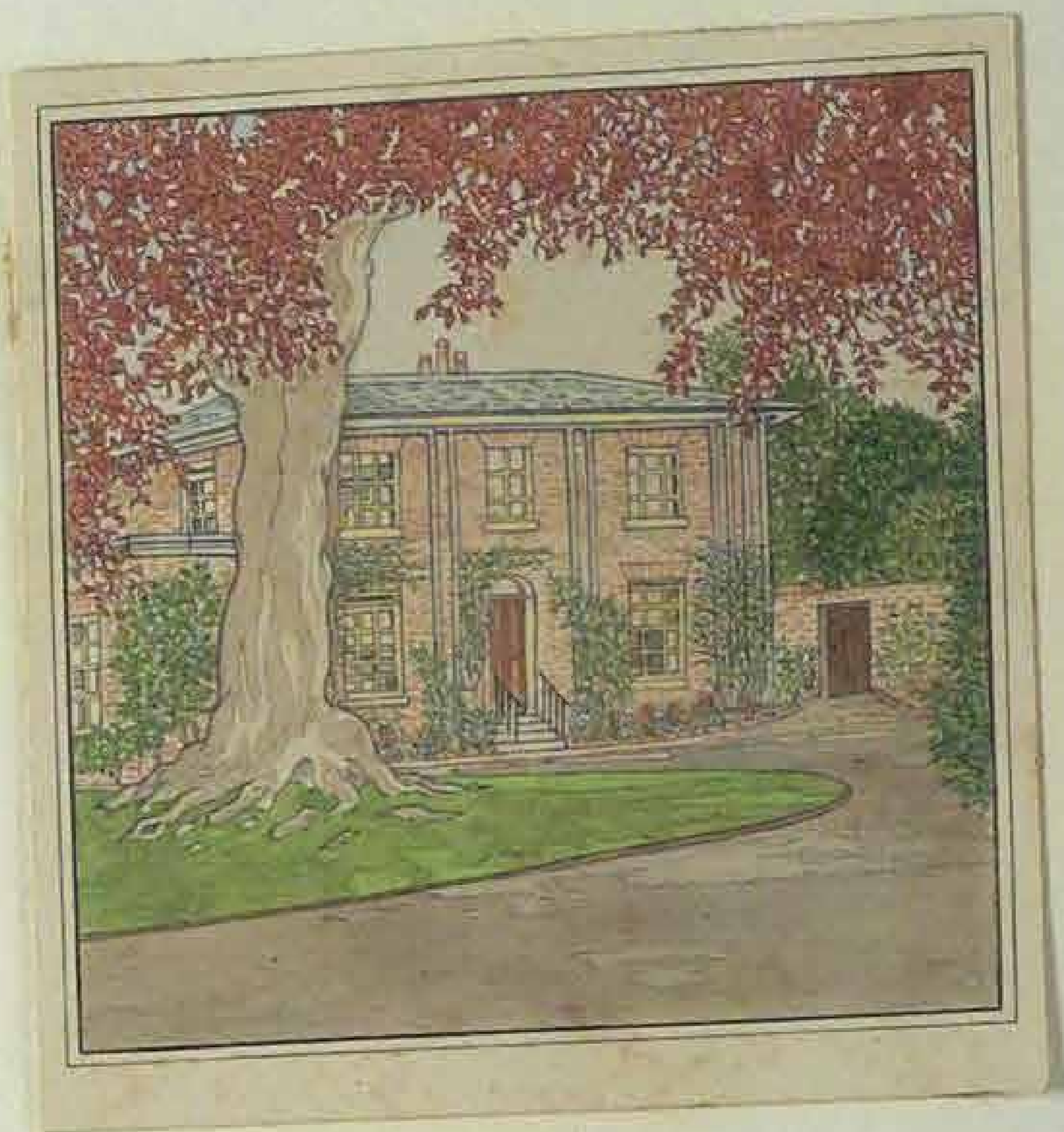
Ancient Monument) standing close to the south side of the main road, is a good example of the spacious farmhouse style of architecture which prevailed from Henry VIII's reign until the end of Queen Elizabeth's, and sometimes longer. The exact date of building is unknown but the stout walls of brick and flint, massive chimney stacks, robust timbers and thatched roof would suggest about the middle of the 16th century. Three of the ground-floor rooms have large open fireplaces with side breadovens. Its appearance is extremely attractive and is a clear testimony to the prosperous husbandry which must have existed to give rise to so comfortable a house. This farm land which has been under cultivation since the early middle ages is today run on a mainly arable basis and is equipped with modern harvesting machinery. A new type of drying plant is being installed for the 1952 harvest helping to keep Hampshire in the forefront of farming pioneers.



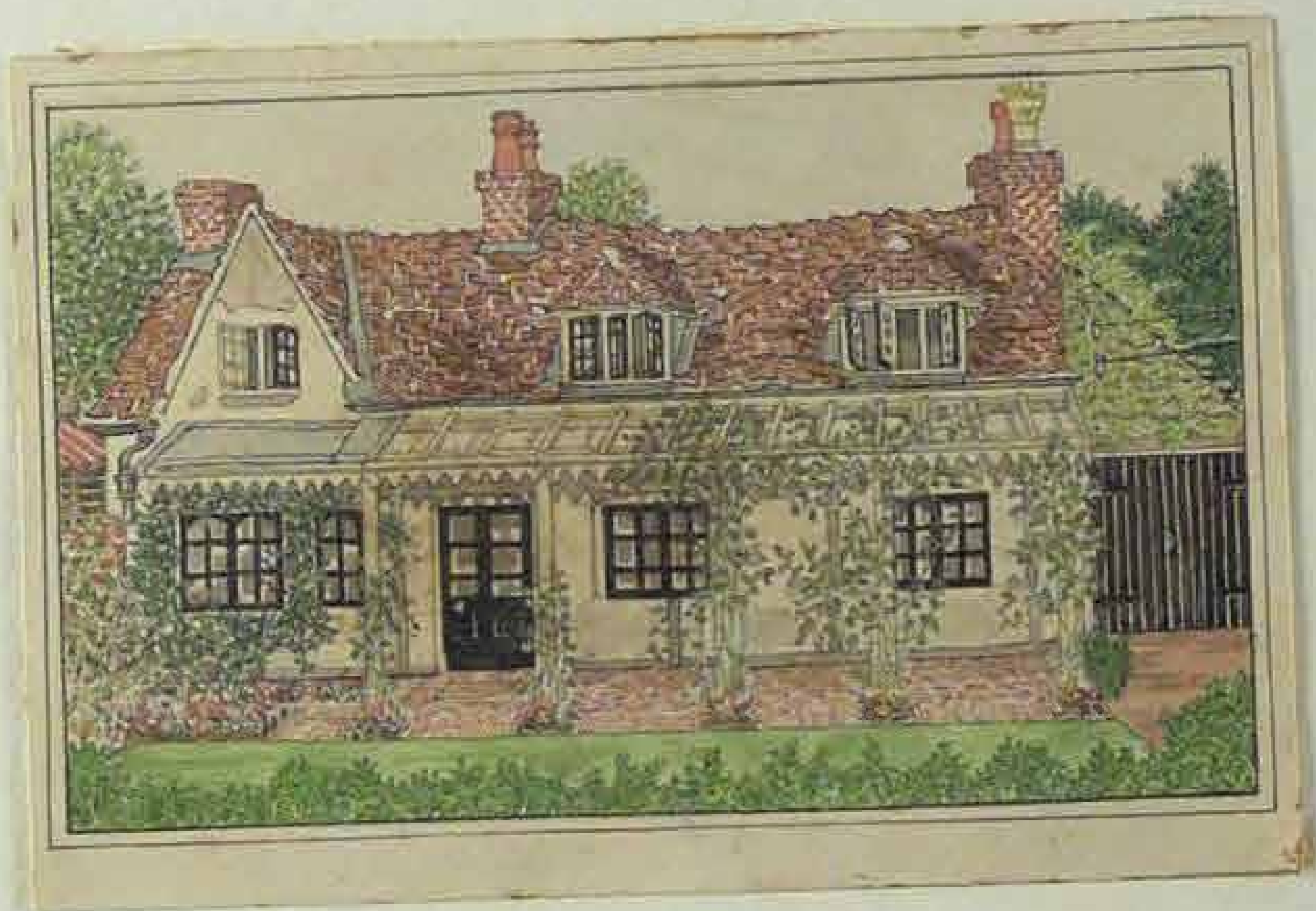
The Fox Inn, a delightful old weather-boarded building of considerable antiquity, standing in the main road on the east side of Bramdean Village is reputed to have been frequently patronised by the Prince Regent, when hunting with the Hampshire Hunt, the Kennels of which were at that time in the neighbouring village of Kilmeston. To commemorate this, an excellently carved wooden replica of the Prince of Wales' feathers has been placed on the outer wall near the main entrance.



Bramdean Lodge has now a predominantly mid 19th century appearance but in fact the central part of the house, as well as the back, dates from considerably earlier. A large room with bedrooms above, was added on either side of the original nucleus and so gave the house its present form.



The Gomm's.



Bramdean Cottage.

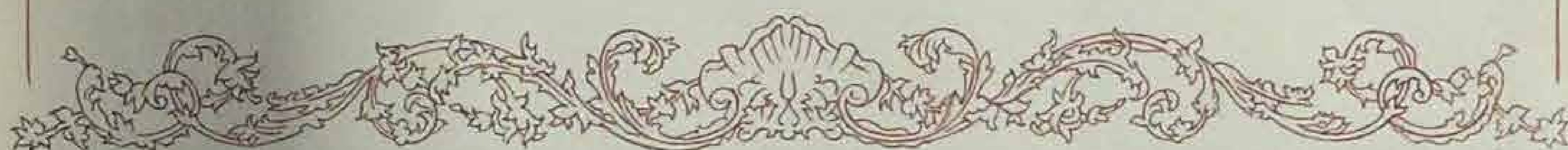


Bramdean Cottage. At the time of the battle of Cheriton (or Bramdean) in 1644, Cromwell's officers, according to tradition, had their headquarters in a house which is part of the present Bramdean Cottage. This original house was added to about 1700, and assumed its present shape. In this house lived Field-Marshal Sir William Gomm, once an officer of Wellington's army, and later Commander-in-Chief in India, and Governor of Mauritius, and in the garden is buried his favourite horse, Pekin, a tablet to whose memory is still to be seen on the wall.

The Gomm's. Sir William Gomm enlarged the other house in the same grounds (built in the early nineteenth century). In this house called The Gomm's, some other members of the family lived. The grounds were later divided and the two houses became independent.



Bramdean Manor, which stands on the slope of the hill close to the church, was built by a member of the banking family of Hamkey. The mellow brick of its walls, heavy parapet and long flight of iron-balustraded steps leading up to the front door would suggest a date about 1700, but architectural styles changed slowly in country districts and it seems probable that it was built a quarter of a century later. During the second half of the 18th century twin bow windows were added on either side of the entrance, but in general it remains a remarkably unaltered example of robust country building during the early part of the 18th century.





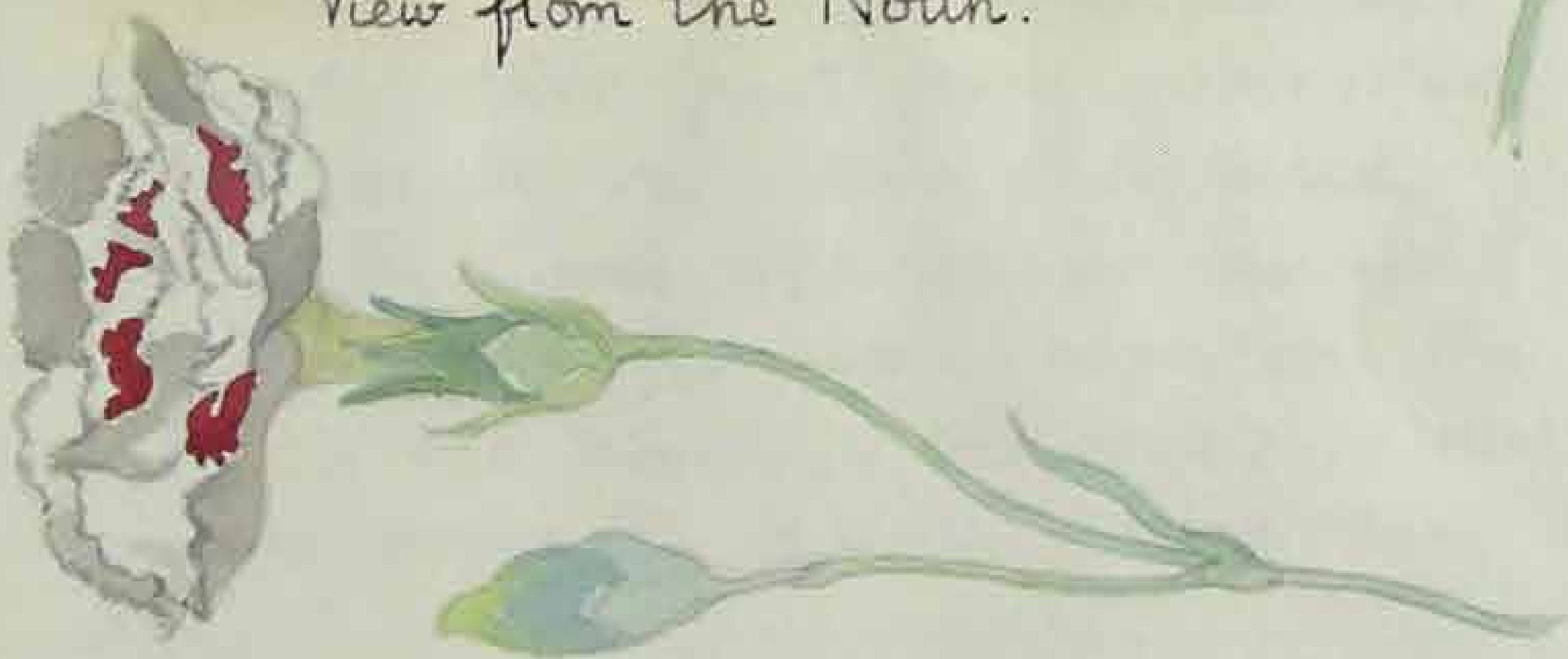
Bramdean House.



View from the South.



View from the North.







Bramdean House is a charming Georgian house of which the central part was built about 1740 of plum blue brick headers laced with the rubbed vermilion bricks used so much in the eighteenth century. Later in the century the facade was lengthened by the addition of a wing on either side of the central block: that on the east side containing a large and handsome drawing room. The ironwork gates and overthrow of Italian design were added in 1900. The garden slopes up from the house into a long narrow perspective ending in a contemporary summer house with a clock face and cupola. The house was occupied for nearly 100 years by the family and descendants of the Rev. and Hon. George Augustus Legge.



Littledean, which is separated from the highway by only a narrow strip of garden, is a pleasant example of same late Georgian building. The simple arrangement of the facade to the road, with central doorway, two windows on either side and five above, is typical of the last years of the eighteenth century, and indicates the well proportioned rooms within.



The Old Rectory, in Bramdean was the Rector's residence until the parishes of Hinton Ampner and Bramdean were joined about 30 years ago, after which the Rector lived at Hinton Ampner Rectory. It is a picturesque old house, dating in its oldest part from about 1540. A cupboard still exists in which it is said that the Rector of the Civil War period burned papers when the Roundheads were expected. An interesting feature of the house is the mansard roof with its two slopes, probably of William and Mary date.





Hinton Ampner House



A Victorian Country House, reduced in size and remodelled to Georgian character in 1937-8.



The Drawing Room, a room of the 1850s, virtually intact.





Hinton Ampner House.

The ancient Tudor manor-house of Hinton Ampner, pulled down in 1790 on account of 'hauntings' (see account of the Hinton Ampner ghosts), was replaced on a nearly site by a Georgian building which is the centre of the present house. In 1937 the Georgian character of the house, which had been overlaid in Victorian times, was restored.



Georgian symmetry and dignity were regained, the superimposed gables and mullioned windows were removed, and materials from demolished Georgian buildings were used for recasting the main rooms. Adam mantelpieces and an Adam ceiling were brought in. A feature of the house is the double drawing-room which retains its Victorian style and belongs in furnishing and decoration to the 1850's, when French influence was strong, and resplendent colourings were in vogue. Among the pictures, a number of nineteenth-century 'conversation pieces' emphasise these characteristics, and preserve the atmosphere of the period. The house stands at the Western extremity of a long ridge which here reaches its Termination above the source of the river Itchen. In every direction (except the East) there is a wide view over a scene typical of the quiet beauty of the Hampshire countryside.



Malthouse.

One of the most picturesque houses in Bramdean is the Malthouse, in which is incorporated the old malthouse of the village, where the roasting was done. The house has fine old chimney-places, and is full of old oak beams. It is surrounded by a garden of great interest and variety, made at various levels on the hill-side.



A noticeable feature of many houses in Bramdean



Malthouse.



Fir Tree Cottage.



Porch Cottage



Mead Court.

is most skilful and artistic thatching. A good example of these is Fir Tree Cottage built in 1642. It has an oak front door reputed to have been removed at some period from Bramdean Church. The present owner has lived there for thirty-one years, the two previous successive owners having occupied Fir Tree Cottage for twenty-five years each, covering nearly a century.



Ye Olde Cottage which is equally old has oak beams and some sixty years ago was the residence of the local police constable.

Flint and brick houses are a characteristic feature, and many an attractive colour-washed house repays close observation of its building.

In the centre of Bramdean Village is an old house which is now the Post Office. In the kitchen of this house the wooden beam over the vast old chimney arch has the inscription 'Anno 1657, W.E.' This gives the date of the main part of the house, built in 2½ inch bricks of 'Warwickshire blues.' The chimney-stack, built of two-inch bricks, is thought to be very much older, and its great size, and the fact that the floor of this room is laid on a slope with a gutter, suggests that the room was originally used for some local factory work. The chimney is wide enough to allow a man to walk up the steps which are built inside it. The huge hearth formerly held, in addition to a baking oven, and bars for hanging bacon, large copper vessels for brewing beer. The house has beautiful old internal timbers. The adjoining house is of later date, but harmonises with its neighbour and is supposed to be on the site of the old parish stocks. From the house, herbaceous borders stretch down to the main road, where stood the old toll-gate, and a smithy in which at one time there were as many as four blacksmiths working. The Smithy is now replaced by a garage.



Woodlane Close is a small housing estate, well placed on a western slope of the north side of the village. The houses are built around a wide concrete roadway and are of considerable variety, including traditional style, Swedish, firey, and some bungalows. In one of these houses lives the District nurse. This estate has its own water tower, and the village allotments lie close by.

The cottage in which Grinling Gibbons is said to
have lived, now pulled down.



Grinling Gibbons



South aspect of
Hinton Ampner House
taken from the Park.



South aspect of the original Hinton Ampner House
with a Meet of the Hampshire Hunt in the foreground.

The Hinton Ampner Ghosts

The present owner of Hinton Ampner House, Mr. Ralph Dutton, has contributed the following account.

The Tudor manor house at Hinton was inhabited through the 17th century and during the early years of the 18th by the family of Stewkeley, and in 1719 Mary Stewkeley, daughter and heiress of Sir Hugh Stewkeley, married Edward Stawell, who later succeeded as Lord Stawell. The Stawells continued to live at Hinton after the death of Sir Hugh, and Mary Stawell's younger sister, Honoria, lived with them. Mary Stawell died in 1740 and Honoria in 1754: a year later Lord Stawell died suddenly of apoplexy in the parlour at Hinton. During the lifetime of the family there had been much gossip in the neighbourhood about the relations of Lord Stawell and his sister-in-law, and it was whispered that a child had been born and had been murdered by Lord Stawell.

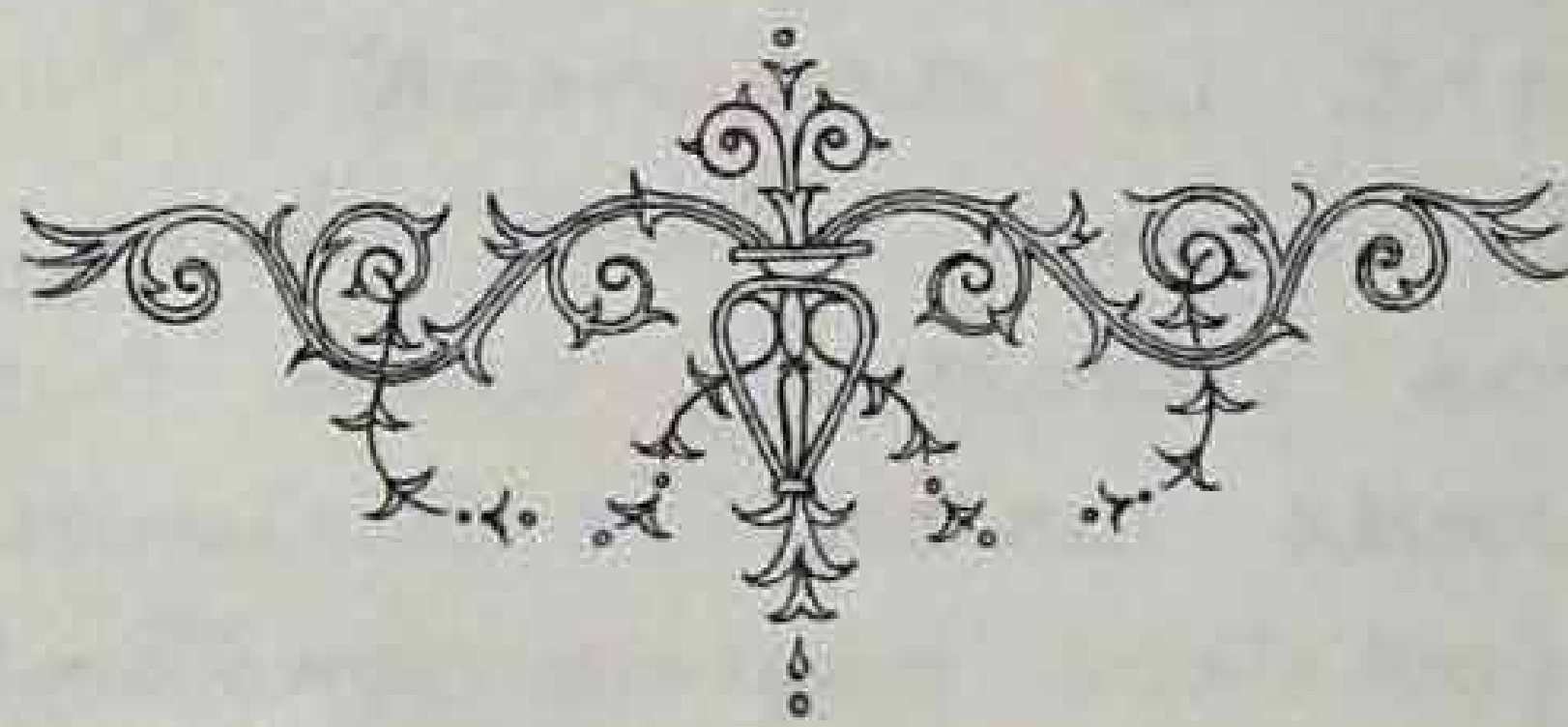
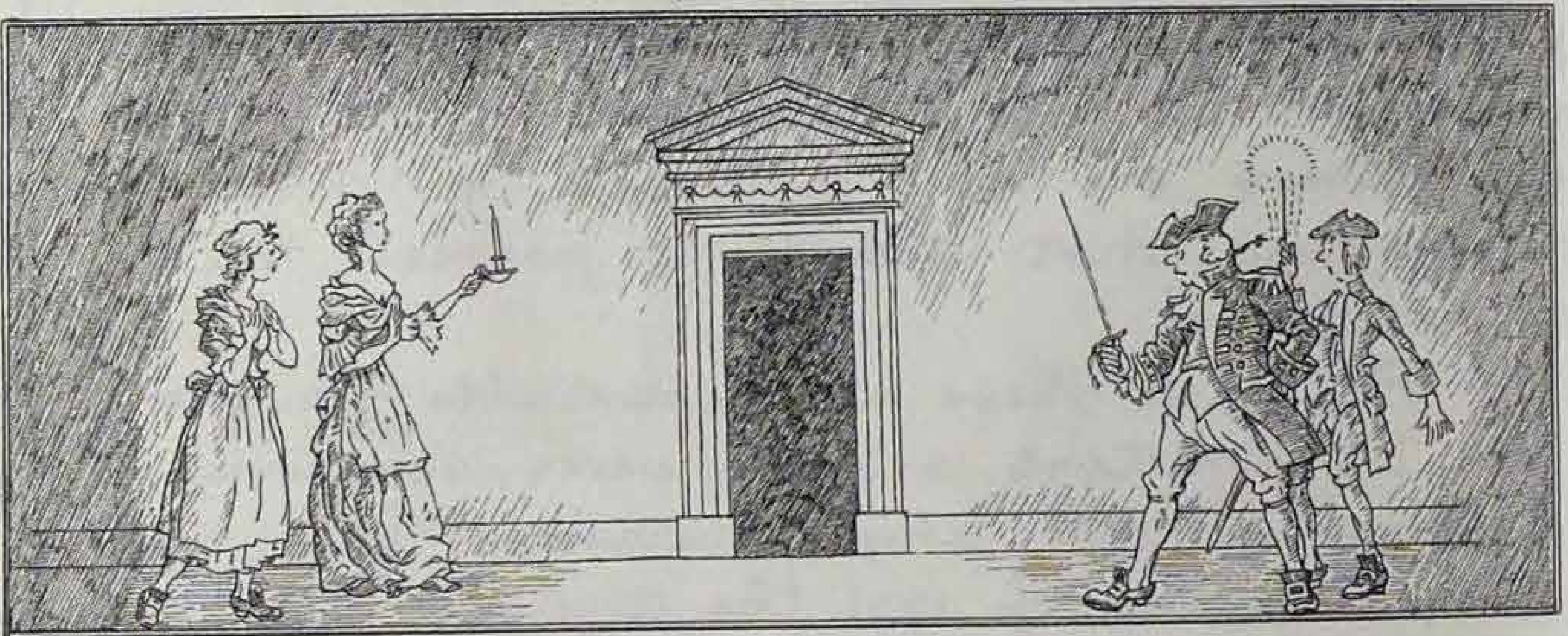
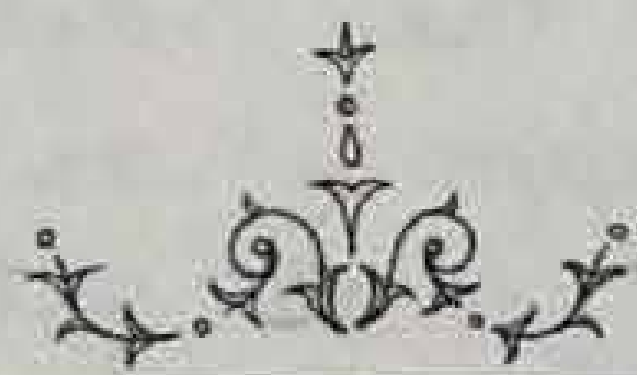
The manor house remained empty for some years after Lord Stawell's death, but in 1765 it was let to Mr^s Ricketts who came there with her young family while her husband was in the West Indies. Mr^s Ricketts, who was a sister of Admiral Jervis, later Lord St Vincent, and a woman of great strength of character, left an exact record of her alarming experiences during her six years of tenancy. The MS is now preserved in the British Museum.

The first two years seem to have been fairly peaceful, but in 1767 strange noises began to be heard about the house, groans and the rustling of a silk dress, and in the summer of that year a woman's figure in a dark dress was seen by

the assembled servants rushing through the kitchen and out of the back door, but a groom who was in the kitchen yard at the time saw no one come out of the house. The following year the noises increased in violence, and on several occasions Mrs Ricketts heard heavy footsteps at night crossing her bedroom floor, while doors, particularly the front door, would bang so loudly that the whole house shook, but on inspection they were found to be locked and bolted. Several times a man's figure in a buff coat was seen both inside and outside the house, and it was thought that this apparition resembled Lord Stawell. A more pleasant phenomenon was the 'sound of harmony', which Mrs Ricketts constantly heard, but at other times she was oppressed by 'a hollow murmuring that seemed to possess the whole house'.

At first these unaccountable sounds were intermittent, several weeks sometimes passing without any occurrence, but in the early summer of 1771 the disturbances became far worse, and usually continued from midnight to daybreak. Voices were frequently heard which sounded as if a woman was pleading with two men, though no words could be distinguished, and heavy footsteps passed constantly through the rooms and up and down the passages. Life in the house became insupportable, and Mrs Ricketts packed her belongings and left with her family and staff. A little later another family rented the house, but soon departed, and the place was left untenanted and derelict. But the unpleasant manifestations were said to continue, and those walking through the garden in the evening affirmed that they heard strange sounds echoing through the empty house.

About 1790 it was decided to pull down the old house and rebuild on a site a short distance to the south. This late Georgian structure forms the centre of the existing house. When the old building was demolished a curious find was made: under the floor boards of one of the rooms was a wooden box, and in it a little skull. The box and its sinister contents was immediately seized by the steward, and no more was heard of this unlucky discovery.





Birds

Residents.

Blackbird

Thrush

Misselthrush

Chaffinch

Linnet

Robin

Sparrow

Rook

Jackdaw

Yellow hammer

Magpie

Jay

Greenfinch

Goldfinch

Bullfinch

Cirl bunting

Starling

Sky-lark

Pied Wagtail

Gray Wagtail

Meadow Pipit

Tree Pipit

Golden crested Wren

Wren

Huthatch

Great Tit

Blue Tit

Marsh Tit

Cole Tit

Longtailed Tit

Green Woodpecker

Barn owl

Little owl

Sparrow hawk

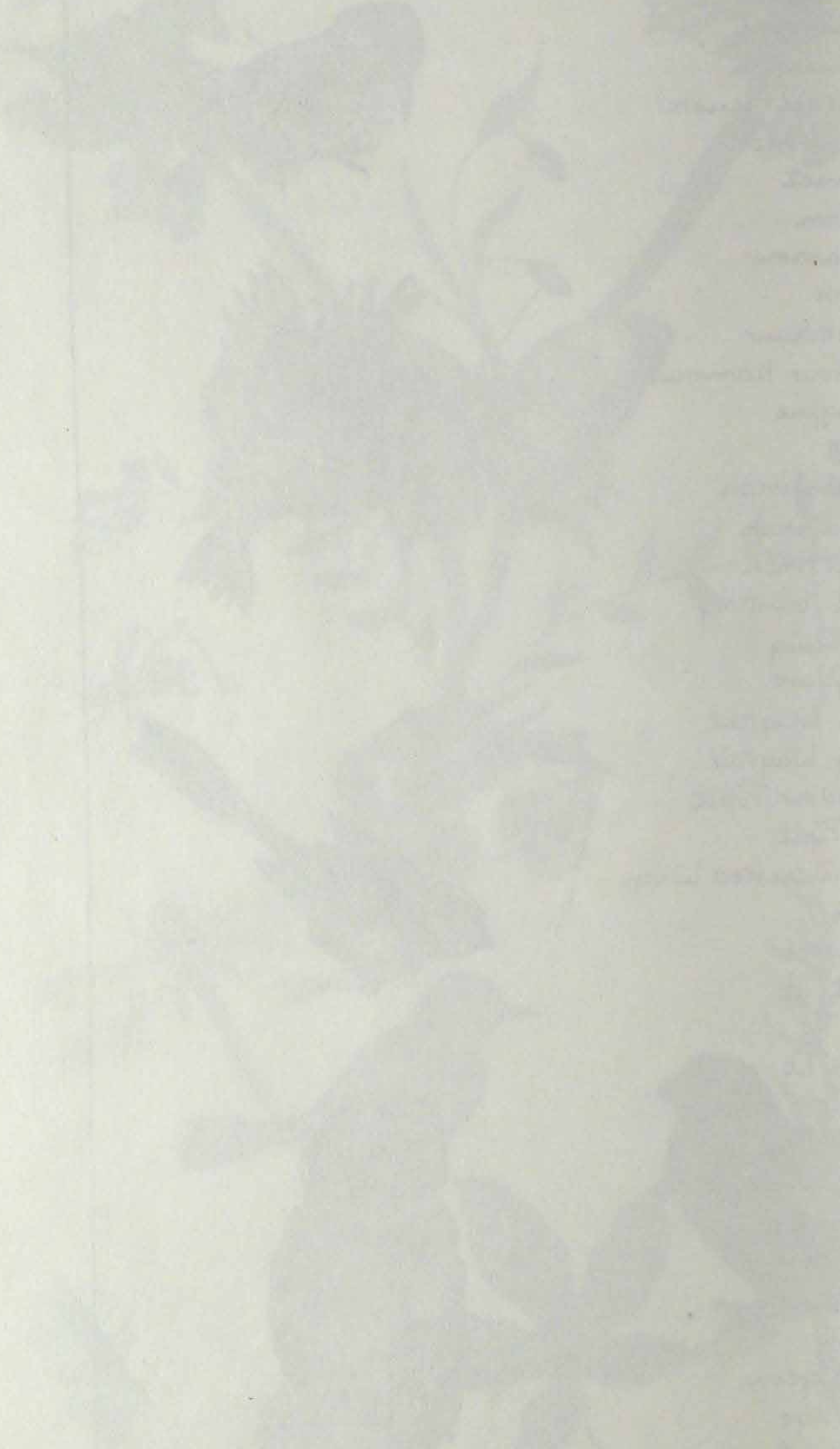
Peewit

Woodpigeon

Partridge

Pheasant





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Birds (continued)

Migrants

Cuckoo

Martin

Swallow

Swift

Willow Warbler

Chiff-Chaff

Wood Wren

Spotted Flycatcher

Red Flycatcher

Garden Warbler

Blackcap

Whitethroat

Lesser Whitethroat

Nightingale

Turtle dove



Occasionally seen in the District.

Swan

Heron

Hoopoe (Passage migrant)





CARDAMINE
PRATENSIS



CONVOLVULUS
SEPIUM



VERBASCUM THAPSUS



DIPLOTAXIS
TENUIFOLIA



ROSA CANINA



LONICERA
PERICLYMENUM



ACHILLEA
MILLEFOLIUM

Some Wild Flowers of Bramdean and Hinton Ampner

Snowdrop

Cowslip

White Violet

Dog Violet

Bluebell

Oxslip



Lady's Smock

Early Purple Orchis

Common Broom

Primrose

Wood Anemone

Celandine

Daisy

Hedge Parsley

Buttercup

Archangel

White Dead-nettle

Germander Speedwell

Wild Vetch

Potentilla

Cinquefoil

Dandelion

Corn-Cockle



Cuckoo-pint

Forget-me-not

Purple Clover

Greater Stitchwort

Shepherd's Purse

Field Maddar

Wild Basil

Foxglove

Garlic Mustard

Herb Robert

Silver Weed

Saxifrage

Sanicle

Bugle

Hemp Agrimony

Common Mallow

Mayweed

Tansy

Cranesbill



Pansy

Ground Ivy

Field Calamint

Wood Sorrel

Great Willow Herb

Rose Bay

Rattle

Corn Marigold

Nipplewort

Succory

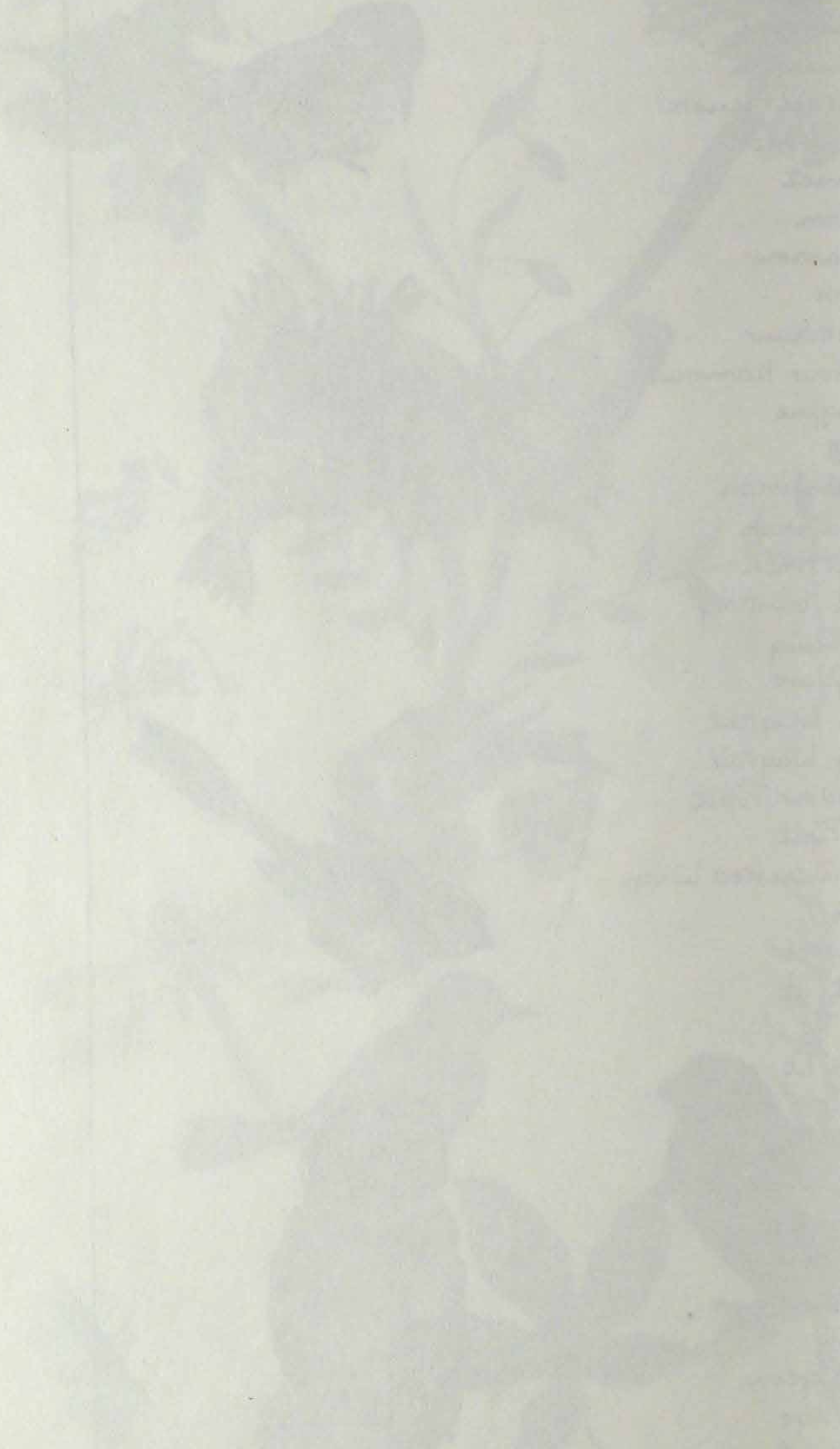
Campion

Broom-Rape

Self-heal

Purple Loosestrife

Hairy St. John's-wort



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Flowers (continued)

Great Mullein

Hairbell

Yellow Toad-Flax



Vipers Bugloss

Sun Spurge

Ling

Field Scabious

Lady's Bedstraw

Crowfoot

Rock Rose

Wild Thyme

Bindweed

Lesser Bindweed

Dog Rose

Birdsfoot Trifol

Scarlet Pimpernel

Knap-weed

Honeysuckle

Ox-eye Daisy

Rag-wort

Comfrey

Field Poppy

Fumitory



Solomon's Seal

White Lychnis

Water Mint

Centaur



Dock

Ragged Robin

Soapwort

Hawkweed

Spurge Laurel

Wild Teasel

Pyramidal Orchis

Twayblade

Narrow

Field Rose

Groundsel

Willow-herb

Burdock





Brimstone



Red Admiral



Peacock



Marbled White



Meadow Brown



Clover Yellow



Butterflies



Bramdean is fortunate in providing a natural habitat for many of our British species of butterflies, and in being well placed for the rarer migrant species; as it lies a few miles north of one of the favourite arrival points of those flying North from the Continent, Mediterranean and North Africa.

Amongst the commoner species, 8 are of the family Satyridae:-

The Speckled Wood.	Meadow Brown.
Wall Butterfly.	Hedge Brown.
Marbled White.	Small Heath.
Grayling.	Ringlet.

In the next family, Nymphalidae, we have 10 species:-

Pearl Bordered Fritillary.	Red Admiral.
Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary.	Painted Lady.
High Brown Fritillary.	Peacock.
Silver washed Fritillary.	Comma.
Small Tortoiseshell.	White Admiral.

Two species of this list are particularly interesting. The Red Admiral and The Painted Lady. Both these butterflies are migrants. The home of the former is Southern Europe and the latter North Africa and the Riviera, from where they migrate in May and June.

In family Riodinidae there is only one species. The Duke of Burgundy Fritillary. This pretty little butterfly can be found in several spots here where the cowslips grow.

Of the family Lycaenidae we have 7 species in the district:-

Silver Studded Blue.	Small Copper.
Brown Argus.	Green Hairstreak.
Common Blue.	Purple Hairstreak.
Holly Blue.	

The next family, Pieridae, embraces the one and only enemy of the gardener, the Large White.

In this district we have 6 species:-

Large White

Small White

Green veined White

Orange-tip

Clouded Yellow

Brimstone

The Clouded Yellow is another migrate arriving here in good summers in June, its home is the Mediterranean and North Africa. This summer has produced very few specimens, only two being observed in Bramdean. The Brimstone is one of the earliest butterflies seen on the wing in early Spring.

The last family to be represented in this district is Hesperilidae in which we have four species occurring commonly:-

Dinky Skipper

Grizzled Skipper

Small Skipper

Large Skipper

Amongst the very rare migrants, the Camberwell Beauty is a prize much sort after by collectors. One was observed flying across Bramdean Common this autumn.

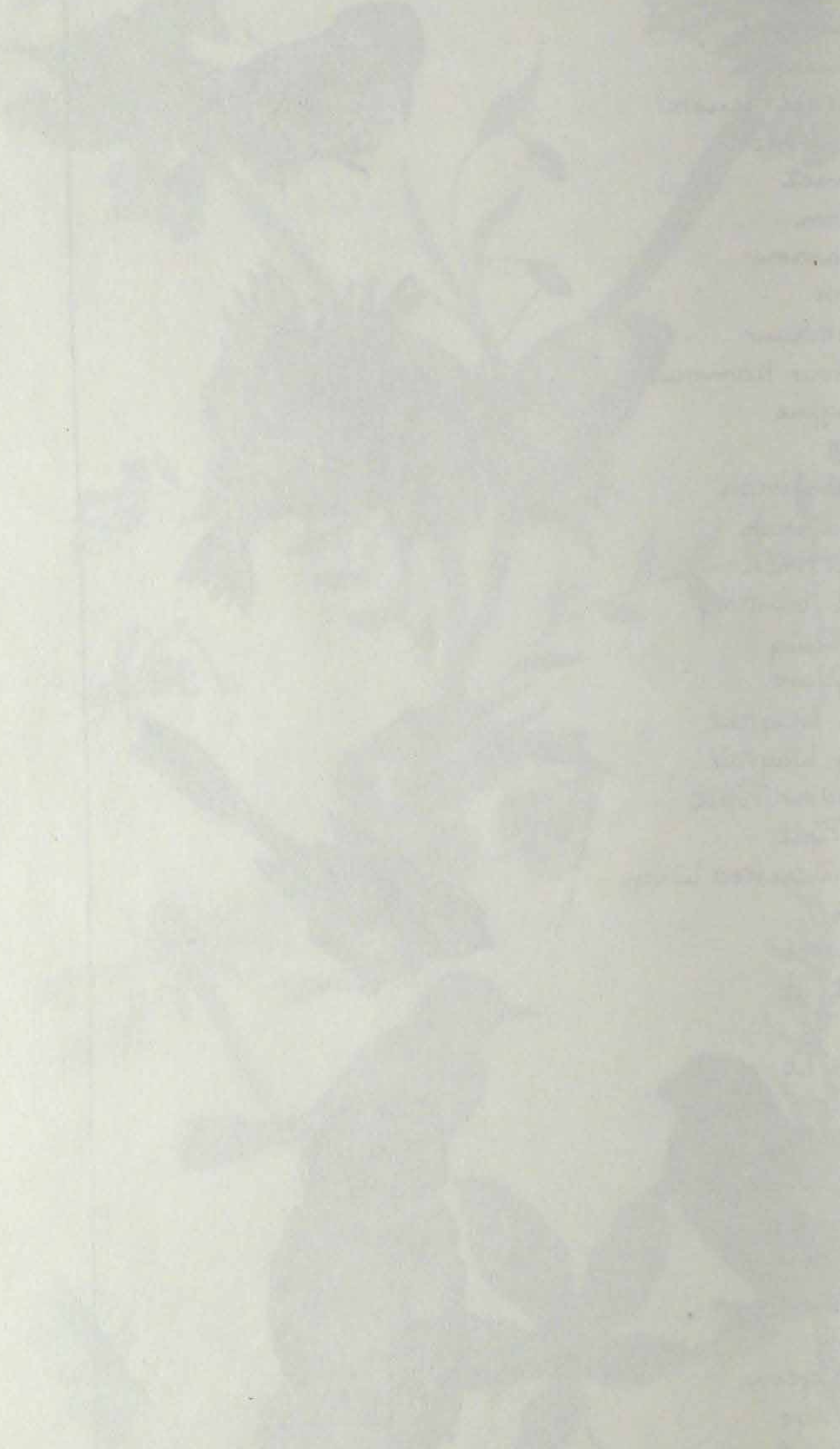
Moths have been omitted from these notes, but to the entomologist Bramdean has more than its share of the beautiful species in this branch of lepidoptera.

Notes provided by:-

C.W. Burnard, F.R.E.S., F.Z.S.

(The well known Entomologist now living on Bramdean Common.)





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West End Farm House.



Mr. Thomas Bucksey
and Mr. Charles Cooper
with "Bob."



Ye Olde Cottage.



Agriculture



WINTER

SUMMER

The traditional husbandry of this district was sheep-farming and corn-growing. Many of the famous Hampshire Down sheep, marketed at Alresford (once one of the biggest sheep-markets in the country), must have come from Bramdean and Hinton Ampner. The practice was to fold sheep in hurdles, feeding off arable crops, and to follow this by ploughing the land and growing corn. The sheep moved round the farm, and the corn crops followed them. On the lower ground there was a certain amount of dairy cattle, and some beef farming; but the essential income of the farmer came from mutton and wool. The Hampshire Down sheep played a large part in England's wool exports, at one time the largest in the world.

With the first world war, much of this came to an end, and in the inter-war years, when agriculture languished, all sorts of mixed husbandry went on in this area, the farmer doing whatever might be done to make a living.

The enormous agricultural effort of the second world war, with its emphasis on the maximum production of bread-corn and milk, brought further great changes. Wheat and dairy cows predominated, and the sheep population declined rapidly. This emphasis continues, and rather more than half the agricultural acreage is now pasture or hay, about one-third of the remainder being harvested in wheat, with smaller amounts of barley, oats, and mixed corn for feeding. The potato harvest is small owing to the unsuitability of the chalk soil for this; very few pigs are kept, and very few sheep. Bramdean having only 100 sheep, in contrast to its 200 milking cows.

In the last few years there has been a

rapid mechanisation of farm-work. Very few farm horses are to be seen in the area, and Tractors are frequently to be met, as they move from field to field. A large proportion of the crops is cut by the Combine Harvester, and farmers join with one another in the sharing of drying-plants. Tractors and other farm-machinery are rapidly being assimilated to the look of the country-side and are a welcome symbol of progress.

Amongst many names of local fields and pastures are the following:-

Lower and Upper Whitehill
 Lesser and Upper Estacombe
 Mariner's Field
 Whistlows Hill
 Breach Plain
 Great Cinderland
 Cinderland Hill
 Horse Meadow
 Cheriton Wood Piece
 Bright's Plain

Oatuns
 Copse Close
 High Field
 Lown Meadow
 Breach
 Lynches
 Flat Back
 Cheriton Lawn
 Hollow Hide
 Hook's Croft



AUTUMN



WINTER



Women's Institute was formed in Bramdean & Hinton Ampner in 1920. Mrs Dutton was the

first President with Miss G. Legge as Secretary.

One of the original members, Mrs Budd, still belongs to the present day Institute, another being Mrs Langridge.

The Women's Institute has striven to widen the interests and improve the lot of the rural housewife. Their suggestions are brought before the Parish Council by a representative W. I. member.

Various Social amenities carried through were primarily brought forward by the W. I. such as telephone kiosks, improved bus services, and dust bin collection. In 1950 a resolution on children in Hospital, formulated by this W. I. was carried by a substantial majority at the Albert Hall Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Women's Institutes.



A.C.F.



A.C.F.

CADETS

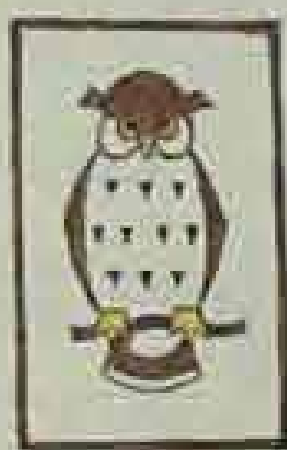
A large proportion of the boys of the two parishes belong to the Bramdean Platoon of the 5th Cadet Battalion, the Royal Hampshire Regiment. This platoon, which takes in boys from the neighbouring parishes as well, was formed in 1941 by its present officer, then a member of the Home Guard, and all boys over twelve enrolled. The cadets were trained as messengers and used as runners for the Home Guard, and as mock parachute troops in Home Guard training. They also helped in raising war funds. After the war, numbers had a temporary decline, but inspired by National Service needs increased again to the present roll of over Twenty. The boys are given a training on army lines and enabled to pass both parts of Certificate A, gaining an advantage when they begin their National Service in any one of the Forces.

GIRL



GUIDES

The Bramdean Guides have been in existence since 1915 when they were part of the 1st Haresford Company, becoming the 1st Bramdean Company in 1924. In 1932 they were re-registered as the 1st West Meon Company, many guides coming from Woodlomas, again reverting to the 1st Bramdean Company about 1943. For a few years after the war they were in abeyance, but have lately been reformed as the 1st Hinton Ampner Company with a membership of five.



BROWNIES



Brownies were formed in 1948, and now as the 1st Bramdean Pack, with twenty-one members, are flourishing and full of vigour and zest.

YOUTH CLUB

A Youth Club for girls and boys was started by the Bramdean Village Hall Committee in 1950, the ages range from 14 to 22 years, and the Club meets on two evenings every week in the Bramdean Village Hall.

The boys do Carpentry, Lino Cuts, and Leather Work.

The girls do Dress-making also Leather Work.

For recreation they play table-tennis, skittles, darts, draughts and dominoes. In the summer tennis is played on a court made and maintained by Club members, near the Hall.

JUNIOR CLUB

A Junior Club was formed in 1950 for both boys and girls of Elementary School age and now has a membership of over 25. Meetings are held during the winter months for games in the former Infants School, and further activities are planned for the future.

CRICKET AND FOOTBALL

A Cricket Club has flourished in these two villages from times beyond living memory. Successive generations of players and patrons have lent it warm support.

The Club's first ground, used for many years and still existing, was in Hinton Ampner Park. A second pitch was later made in Fox Meadow at Bramdean; more recently a field was used at Woodcote. When that was ploughed up in the second World War, the present pitch in Brookwood Park was made available. The Club still rouses steady local interest and play is regular with many neighbouring teams.

Recently a Football Club was formed for the two villages and is affiliated to the Winchester and District Football League. Its games and matches are played on a ground loaned by the owner of West End Farm, Bramdean.



WAD

THE HOME GUARD

WAD

The Bramdean and Hinton Timpner contingent of the Home Guard was raised in 1940 with a membership of about 25, later increased to more than 40. Well equipped from the start, it owed much of its enthusiasm to the inspiration of Sir John Capper, the veteran Major-General who at that time lived in Bramdean. The Guard room was in the centre of the village, and the nightly patrols were shared among the men after the normal days work was done. When the Home Guard was called out on suspicion of invasion this contingent was assembled complete with every man and two horses, in less than 20 minutes. They had their share of false alarms and reports, and some share of real emergency operations, notably when a blazing German bomber came down in Wood Lane and two of its crew were taken prisoner by the Home Guard. Torn parts of a German war map were found and re-assembled and proved to be of exceptional value.

Mustering among their number seven crack shots, the contingent won shooting contests against all comers. They were active in raising money, and were the originators of a yearly Horse Show which was continued until recently.

THE W.V.S.

During the second world war the Women's Voluntary Services were very active. A Rest Centre for 85 people was in waiting, emergency food was stored in readiness for invasion, evacuees were looked after, salvage and National Savings started, and over 8000 garments made for the various services. A voluntary car service, chiefly for maternity cases, was run; and weekly agricultural pies were distributed. The Blood Transfusion Centre for these two parishes combined with two others had 100 donors, the

largest for any rural area; and the W. V. S. staffed a mobile canteen which attended all the bombings of Southampton and Portsmouth.

At the present time a monthly distribution of coal liver oil and orange juice is made for the babies of the two parishes.





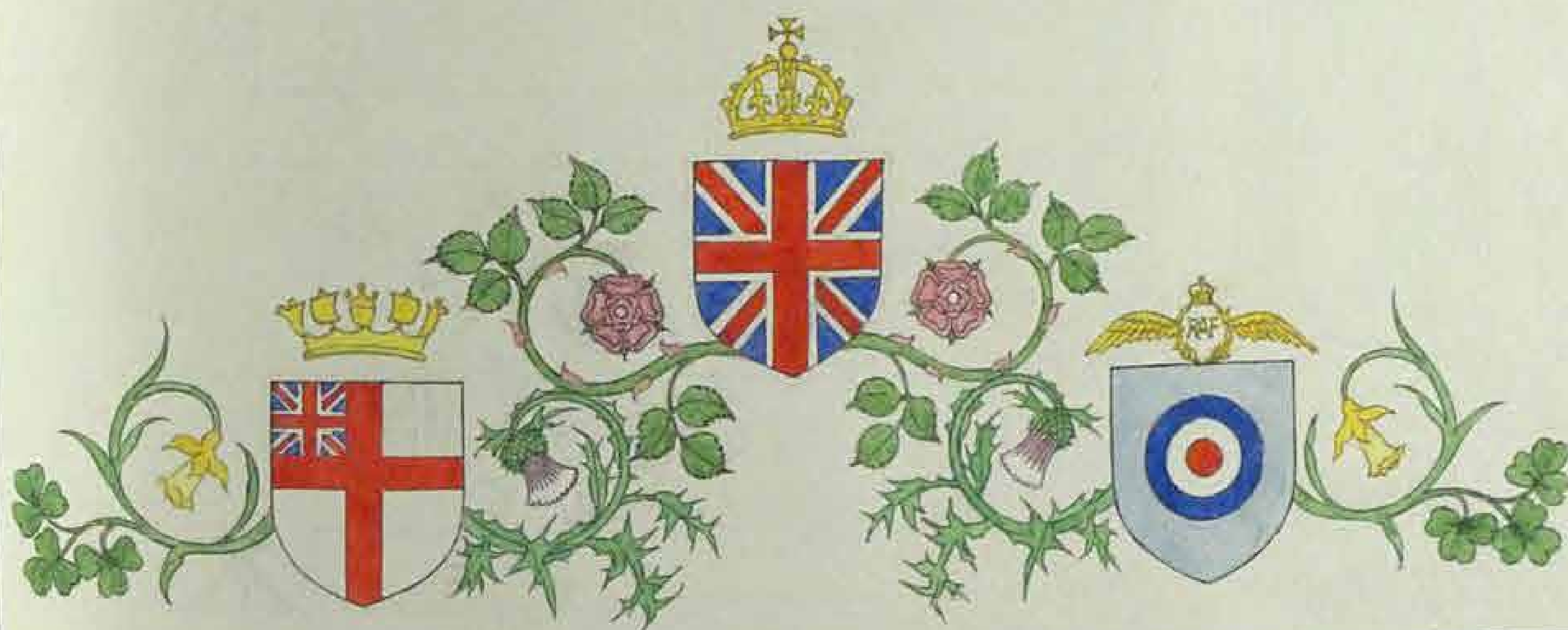
THE BRITISH LEGION

Recruitment for the British Legion was started in Bramdean and Hinton Ampner by Major General Sir John Capper K.C.B., G.C.V.O., in 1921, the year of the foundation of the movement, members being part of the Alresford Branch until November 1945 when, in anticipation of increasing membership after the Second World War, the formation of a separate Sub-Branch for the two villages, including Brockwood, Hinton Woodlands, and Bramdean Common, was sanctioned. Members and activities rapidly increased and the area of recruitment was extended by stages to include, first, Kilminster, then Cheriton, and finally Beauworth, Lane End and Longwood.

By 1948 the enrolled strength had risen from the ten original members in 1945 to close on one hundred. It was therefore decided, in agreement with Alresford, to establish an independent unit for the area concerned, to be called the Bramdean, Cheriton, and District Branch.

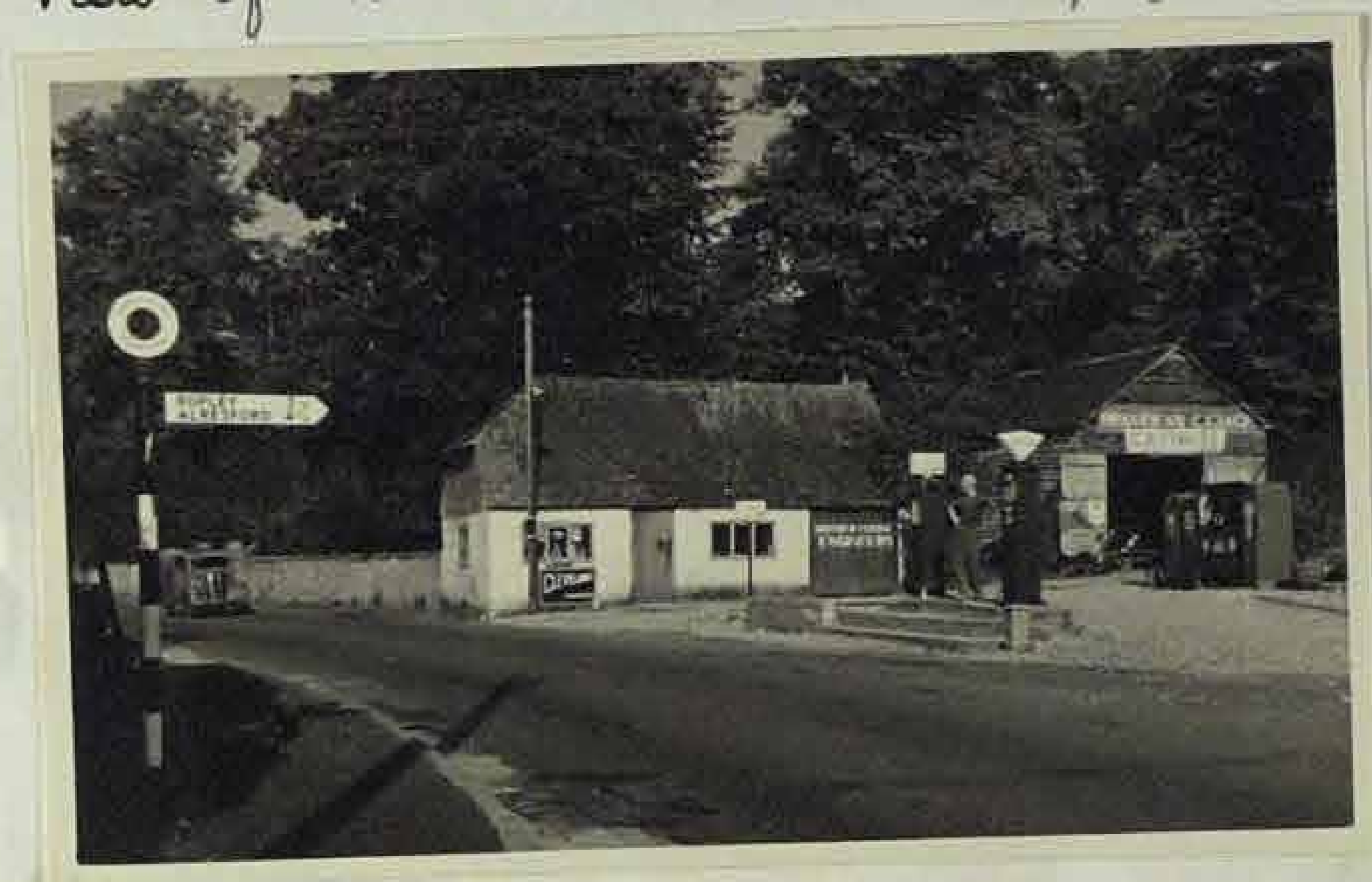
In 1950 the Branch Standard was dedicated in Hinton Ampner Church, and, later that year, an annual Remembrance Day Parade and Service initiated.

The Branch plays its full part in Legion activities, and Welfare work is dealt with by the Services Committee. The first Branch Fete was held in Bramdean in 1951. Membership of the Branch now totals 137, and there is every prospect of this number being gradually increased.

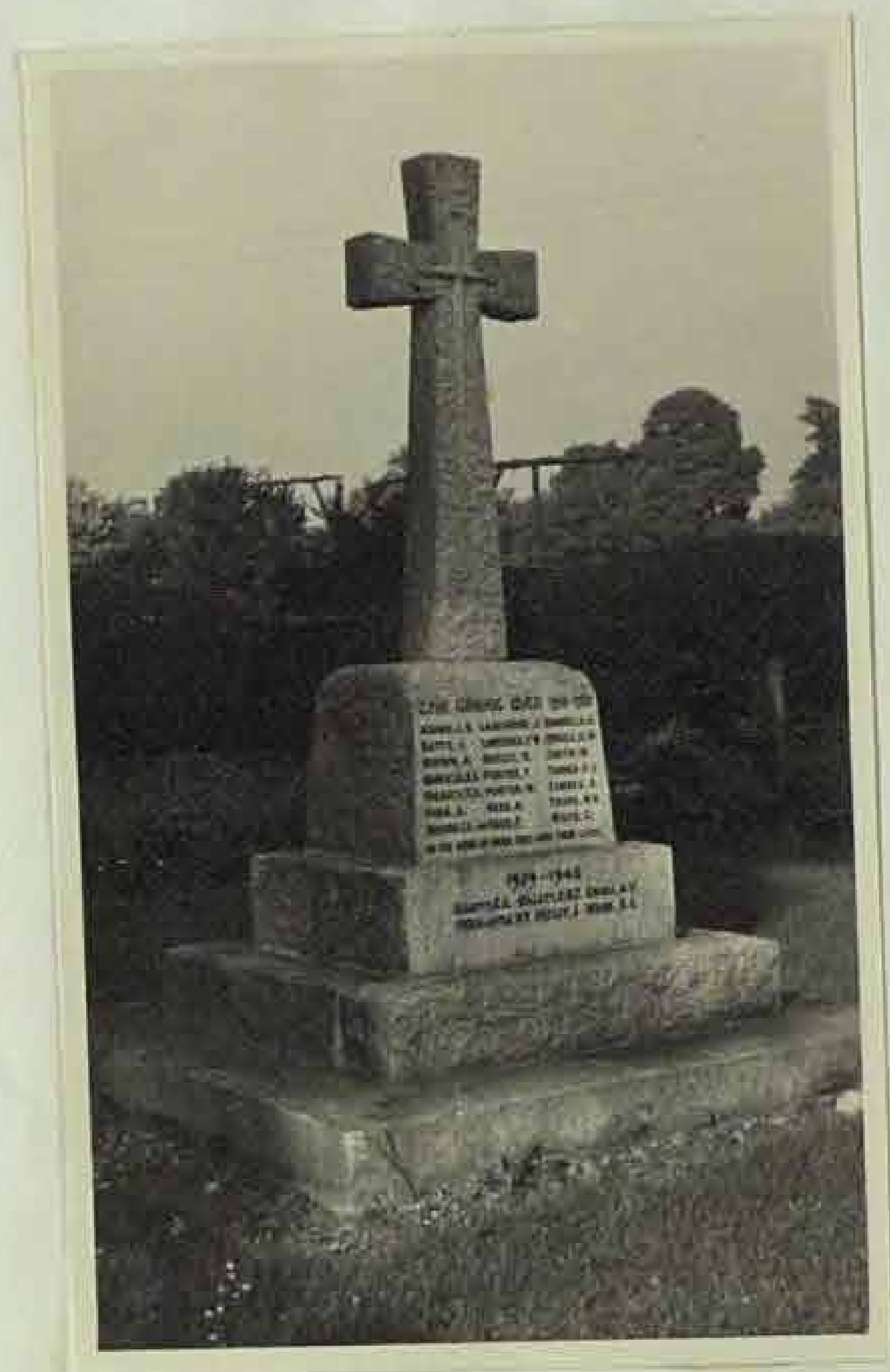




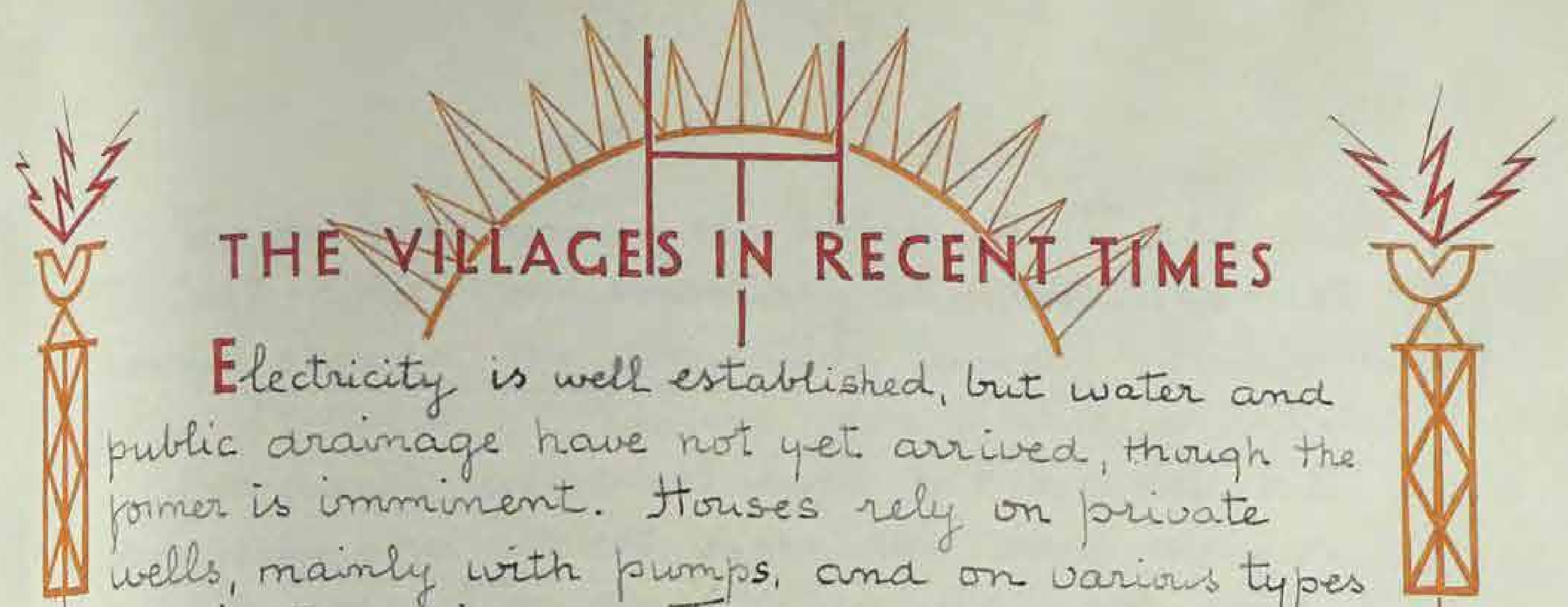
View of the old blacksmith's forge.



A recent photograph of the same view as above, the blacksmith's forge has become a garage, the signpost is moved to the opposite side of the road, and the low wall has been pulled down.



Bramdean and Hinton Ampner War Memorial.



THE VILLAGES IN RECENT TIMES

Electricity is well established, but water and public drainage have not yet arrived, though the former is imminent. Houses rely on private wells, mainly with pumps, and on various types of private drainage. The underground river near the main road and the large number of springs secure the supply of the wells on the lower ground.

There is an automatic telephone sub-exchange, and two telephone kiosks. Two shops and visiting vans from Alresford between them supply the village of Bramdean, which has also a garage, an inn, and a sub-postoffice. The Police Cottages were built about 20 years ago, and house the local Police Constable and the County Roadman.

The County Library has a small branch open once a week in the old Infants School.

Bramdean Hut (an army hut relic of the first world war) is managed by a committee and is an excellent village hall, used regularly by the Women's Institute and the Youth Club, and for various other activities, including dances and occasional film shows.

Cricket is played at Brockwood, in association with other villages; and there is a football club which plays with the Winchester and District League. Both of these clubs are very active; and the boys of the two villages have their own games organised through the Cadets.

There are two pieces of common land, Brockwood Dene, beside the Petersfield road, and Bramdean Common, north of the village, which belonged to Magdalen College, Oxford until recently, when it was given by the College (for Bramdean village) to the Winchester R.D.C.

The Parish Council of Hinton Ampner and Bramdean was formed in 1932. A parish Council had existed in Hinton Ampner since 1894, but Bramdean only maintained a Parish Meeting.



The parishes are in the Winchester Rural District, and Parliamentary Division. The last census showed the population to be [Figures for the 1951 census not yet released by H.M. Stationery Office]

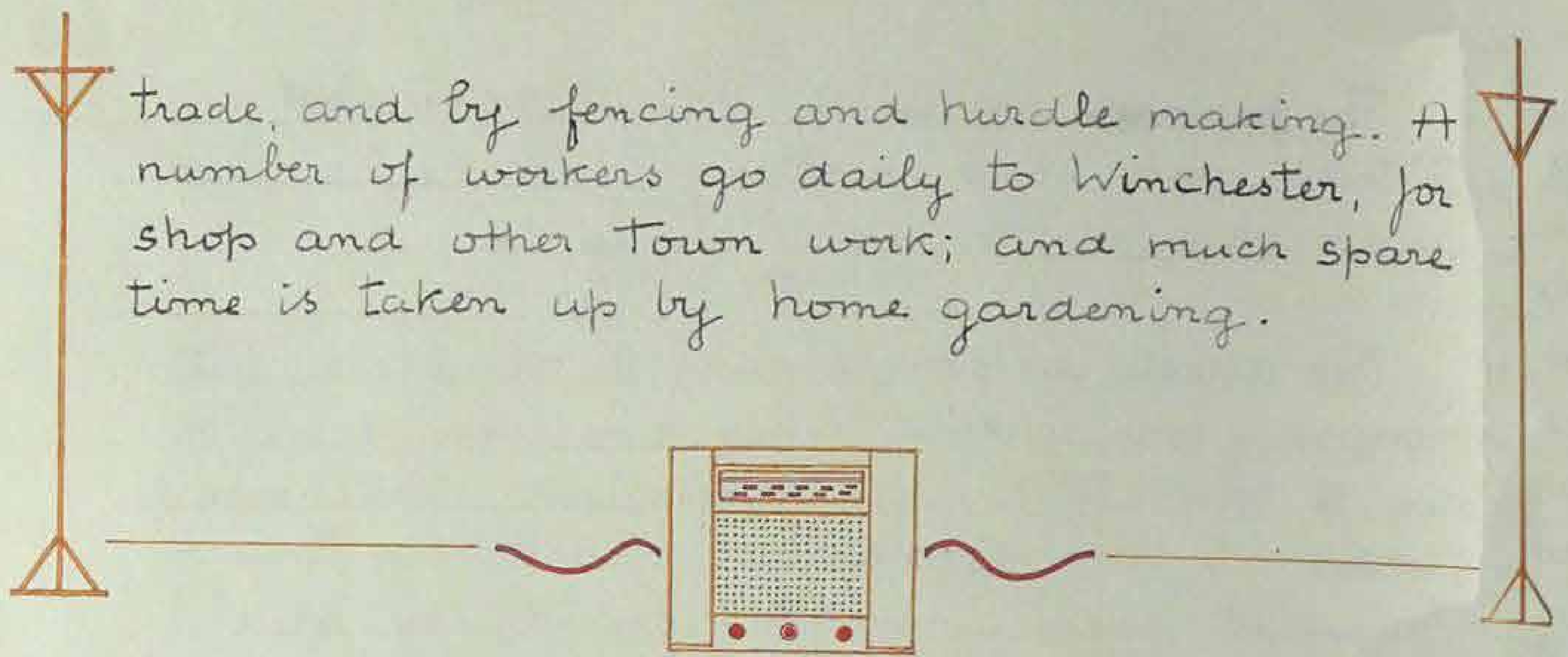
No direct bus service runs to Alresford, but Hampshire and Dorset buses run every hour or two to Winchester and Petersfield, with good shelters at both Bramdean and Hinton Ampner. The nearest railway stations are Topley and Alresford on the Alton and Winchester line, and West Meon on the Meon Valley line; but the direct bus service to Winchester and Petersfield connects more easily with the main line railway in those towns.

During the war, the main road was enlarged to take the war traffic. A number of bombs fell in the parishes, but damage was confined to doors, windows, and roofs. A factory was established in a part of Bramdean Lodge for making 'small parts' for aeroplanes.

Between 80 and 90 men and women from the two parishes were serving in the Forces. Six names are to be seen on the War Memorial, which had already 21 names from the first world war. It had been set up after the first war on a small piece of land purchased for the purpose, and vested in the Rector and Churchwardens of the two parishes. It takes the form of a simple granite cross, with a cross-hilted sword in relief upon it, and the names and dates below, with the inscription 'In the hour of need they gave their lives.'

Farming continues to be the basic occupation of these villages. In addition to the larger farms there are small holdings which keep whole families at work. Wood cutting is actively pursued; hard woods are plentiful, and immense lorryloads of tree trunks are a common sight on the roads. Other occupations are provided by the building

trade, and by fencing and hurdle making. A number of workers go daily to Winchester, for shop and other town work; and much spare time is taken up by home gardening.



Children's Contributions.

Photographs of Original Scripts

Hinton Ampner Endowed School
History
Hardware cottages built in
1894 New Cheriton
Lail Walmsley

Hinton Ampner Endowed School
History
West-End Farm was built in
the year 1764.
Stella Grooms

Hinton Ampner Endowed School.
Past Mr Hughes, you will come to a sort of
crossroads If you go along your left a
little way you will come to a mound
there a lot of British soldiers were
buried after battle of Cheriton. Their armour
was buried with them.
Stella Grooms.

Hinton Ampner Endowed School.
History.
Under the ground in one of
Mr Dowling's fields is a hidden
river.
Jill Powell.

Hinton Ampnet Endowed School.
 History
 When Baron Milnet lived at Hinton
 Ampnet, he dug up a skeleton of a lady
 sitting up.

Heather Williams

* Founded and Endowed by P^r William Blaker 4.D. 1735

Copied by Wilfred Joyce.

The inscription is now inside the school.
 It used to be outside above the door.

Hinton Ampnet Endowed School
 History
 Roman Ruins at Bramdean
 There is a tunnel from Woodcote
 Manor to the Roman Villa.
 Many years ago when the battles
 were fought, the soldiers hid and
 escaped in the tunnel.
 My grandfather has been through
 it, but you have to go on your hand
 and knees it makes your back ache
 because it is so long.
 The field cannot be ploughed up
 very well because it caves in.
 The field mentioned above is called
 Pavement Field.
 Alec Meek.

1. Young's
2. Bushy
3. Young's



Brown Collaps - Brauer's Case - Braundean - Hydromyces Dutton
inhabited them by M^r. Spencer - Paris - Leipzig 1862
also at Paris or Spencer by H^r. Weston From Collected Sonnet

Weavers Close 1862



Weavers Close 1951.



Bramdean
Infant
School.

Built
1872
Closed
1946



Memories and Observations



One of the oldest inhabitants of Bramdean was Mr. Annie Hawkins, whose husband followed the local craft of hurdle-making. She lived here all her life, and recalled the days when she walked to and from Alresford for weekly shopping, and how on one of these journeys she was the discoverer of the body of a girl for whom a search had been in progress.

There are recollections of the severe snowstorm in the 1930's which blotted out all roads and hedges, and of the urgent Traveller whose luggage was carried by two men on a broom-handle to West Meon station.

It will be remembered in future years how the floods of 1951 made one-way Traffic on the road for many weeks. Swans were several times seen flying over Bramdean during this time, and many gulls would visit the flooded fields.

Grinling Gibbons, the seventeenth century wood-carver, stayed for some time in a cottage in Bramdean and some of his work is said to be in the neighbourhood.

Field-Marshal Sir William Gomm, G. C. B. owned two houses in Bramdean, and lived in one for many years. He was an officer throughout the Peninsular War and was present at the battle of Waterloo. He had a distinguished career, spending seven years as Governor of Mauritius and five as Commander-in-Chief in India, and retiring as Constable of the Tower of London. He died at the advanced age of 91.

Major General Sir John Capper K. C. B., K. C. V. O., who lived at Bramdean House, and raised the local Home Guard in 1940, was in 1903 Commandant of Balloon School and made one of the pioneer ascents.

A romantic tale is told of buried treasure at Brockwood. It is said that during the first Great War Mr. Coats the cotton magnate, who

was then the owner, put his wealth into £1000 Bank of England notes and bearer bonds and concealed it, with a valuable collection of coins, somewhere on the property. The secret was disclosed only to a nephew, who was later killed in the war, and after the death of Mr. Coats the hiding place was unknown to anyone.

The nineteenth century owner of Brockwood, Colonel Greenwood, planter of the delightful trees, is much remembered in the neighbourhood. The Colonel was one day asked by a tramp (who thought he was meeting a brother of the road) whether the big house yonder was worth a call. He encouraged the tramp to call, and then took a short cut to the house to instruct the butler to give the man a meal and a half-guinea piece. Meeting the man again presently, he asked him what success he had had, and was shown the sixpence he had been given. It was an unlucky day for the butler.

The present occupant of the Post-office can remember how his mother would have 13 or 14 hams hung up in the huge old chimney, and how she would hang a ham a year before using it.

A previous occupant of this old house was Mr. Budd the blacksmith, who more than 50 years ago brought the first steam traction engine in the district, and built for it the large shed which is now part of the garage. He was indentured as apprentice in 1864 to the previous blacksmith.

Mr. Thomas Bucksey of Bramdean has worked for the same family for 43 years. He was a shepherd of Hampshire Down sheep in the days when they were folded in the fields, and he tells how this method of dressing the fields produced good straw for thatching and fodder. He used to make a three hours' journey in the early morning to take his sheep

to Abresford and Winchester sheep fairs. His first wages in Bramdean were 14/- for a 63 hour week.

Mr Charles Cooper of Bramdean, originally a carter, has worked for one family for 20 years. In his earlier days the harvest took about five weeks, and with four horses they would cut about fifteen acres a day.

In a house in Bramdean there are two spurs, said to have been found on the site of the Battle of Cheriton nearby, one a Cavalier type and one of a kind used by the Roundheads.

The local flints which cover the fields and gardens have their own uses as moisture shelters, and are also to be seen in the walls of many of the houses. Worked flints from Neolithic days may often be found in the ploughed fields.

Some of the houses have long records of occupiers; for example, the present occupant of Jessamine Cottage has lived in it for 24 years. Mrs Tanner, who died this year, widow of old Walt Tanner had lived in her cottage for 50 years; and in Fir Tree Cottage the last three inhabitants cover over 80 years.

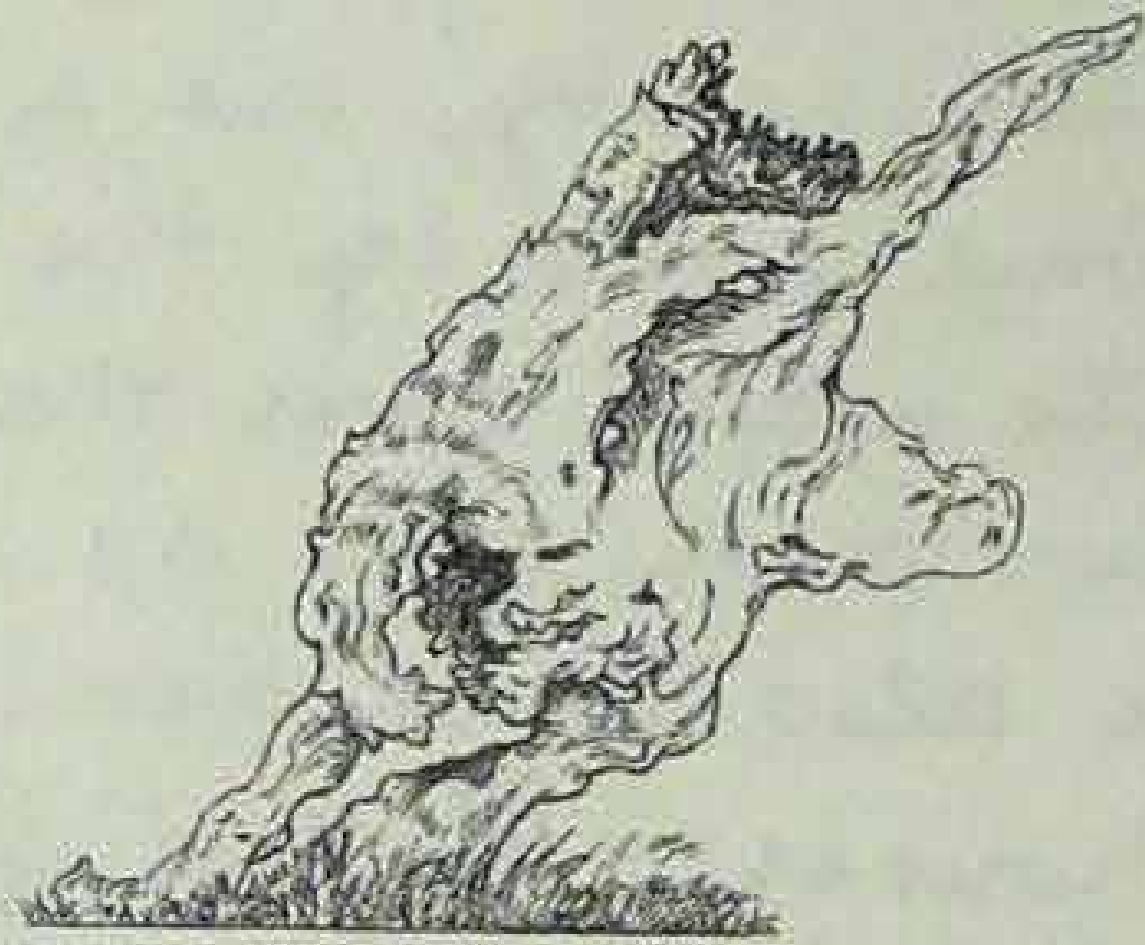
Ancient memories are preserved in some of the interesting local names of fields and woods: Joan's Acre, Hell's Bottom (also called Wolfhanger, and near to the wolves last covert), Saints' Close, Weaver's Close, Tithelands Lane, Thistly Field, and many others.

Bramdean Church had at one time mural paintings, now obliterated, which could be compared with the early sixteenth century paintings in the Lady Chapel in Winchester Cathedral.

One of the interesting items in the Bramdean Church register is ^{the} baptism of a black boy, released from slavery. This is under the date 1812.

Another entry in the register records the burial about 1800, of a negro man who had

been for over 50 years in the service of the Earl of Powys, who left by will a considerable sum of money to his fellow servants and to the poor of Bramdean.



Ancient Tree Stump in Lawn Meadow
near Bramdean Manor
Farm.



This Scrap Book has been compiled and edited by members of the Bramdean and Hinton Ampner Women's Institute in collaboration with many living in both villages.

Thanks are due to the present and former Rectors, the former Clerk for 25 years to the Parish Council, the Schoolmistress, and to the old inhabitants whose memories have proved of great value.

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