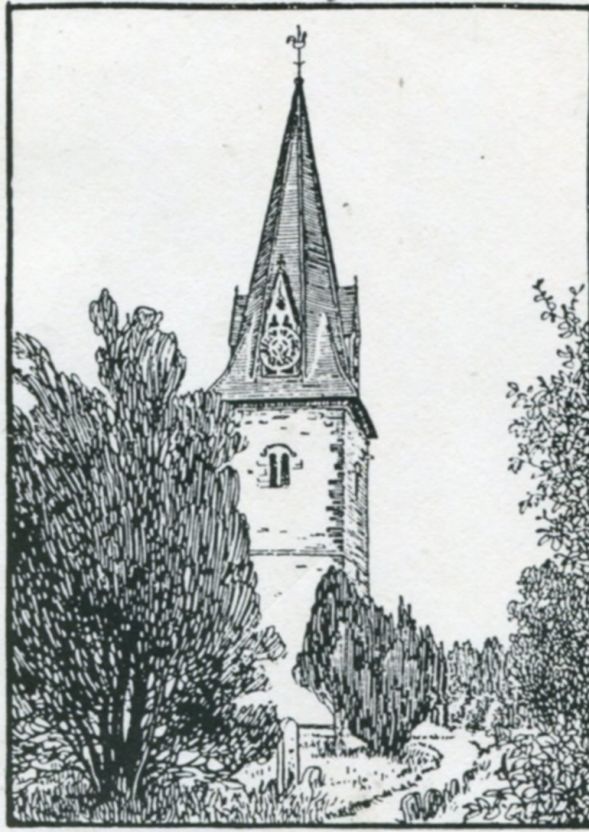


HISTORY OF



HARVINGTON CHURCH : WEST TOWER

HARVINGTON



THE MANOR HOUSE, HARVINGTON

John M Winterburn

A.D 2001



FOUR IMPORTANT, HISTORICAL
FEATURES OF HARVINGTON.

DESCRIPTIONS ARE ON 1 2
THE NEXT PAGE. 3 1

KEY TO, AND DESCRIPTION OF THE COLOURED PHOTOGRAPHS

1 2 1. THE COACH AND HORSES INN

3 4 BECAUSE CHURCH STREET WAS PRIOR TO 1975, PART OF THE MAIN ROAD THROUGH THE VILLAGE, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT THIS WAS A COACHING INN. THE POSITION OF THE INN OPPOSITE THE CHURCH IS A COMMON ONE IN ENGLAND.

2. THE CHURCH BUILT AT VARIOUS DATES FROM 12th - 20th CENTURIES. THE TOWER IS 12th C, THE SPIRE 19th C BUT COPPER COVERED IN 1947.

3. THE DOVECOTE ADJACENT TO THE MANOR. 14th C. A DOVECOTE WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF A MANOR HOUSE, AND COULD NOT BE BUILT WITHOUT ROYAL APPROVAL BECAUSE THE FEEDING OF THE PIGEONS ON GROWING CROPS WAS IN EFFECT A TAX.

4. THE LARGE SYCAMORE TREE ON THE GREEN OPPOSITE
THE VILLAGE HALL

COULD THIS TREE HAVE BEEN PLANTED TO COMMEMORATE SOME NATIONAL EVENT?

THE SEAT UNDER THE TREE WAS GIVEN BY THE W.I IN 1965 TO COMMEMORATE THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF W.I'S. BUT THE TREE IS MUCH OLDER. 80 YEARS?

N.B THERE ARE TWO CLAIMANTS FOR THE TITLE OF VILLAGE GREEN, THIS ONE, AND THE ONE AT THE JUNCTION OF VILLAGE STREET AND RAGLEY ROAD.

HISTORY OF HARVINGTON

John M. Winterburn AD2001

How far behind us is the past ? Consider this rhyme mentioned in the Victoria County History of Worcestershire as still being sung by the village children on St. Valentine's day, 14th February and on St. Thomas' Day 21st December 1868. They went round the village singing;

"Wissal, Wassail through the town,
If you've got any apples throw them down,
Up with the stocking and down with the shoe,
If you've got no apples money will do."

St Thomas' Day was a day throughout the land when Christmas charities were distributed. At Harvington in 1909 there were still distributed Coal, Clothing and Books.

FOREWORD

For readers unfamiliar with Worcestershire, it must be pointed out that the Harvington which is the subject of this present study is not that more celebrated Harvington whose Hall is famous for its Priests' Holes. That Harvington is near Chaddesley Corbett, a village just off the main road from Bromsgrove to Kidderminster. This booklet's Harvington straddles the two main roads from Evesham to Bidford-on-Avon and Alcester respectively.

Professor W.G. Hoskins in his "Local History of England", widely regarded as the local historian's Bible, explains that "The study of English local history and topography is nearly five hundred years old. It dates in effect from William of Worcester's itinerary notes of his journeys made mostly between 1477 and 1480." Hoskins wrote his book in 1972. Hoskins also writes on the very first page of his book "It is indeed almost in the nature of the subject that they (local historians) should have to work in isolation, as there can hardly be two historians in one parish or Village, and if there are, they are probably not on speaking terms with each other." As one who does not live in Harvington, I am acutely aware that by presuming to write this history, I might be treading on someone's toes, but I hope not.

In any case my view is that all are free to study what they please, but at the same time anyone writing a history booklet must recognise as I certainly do, that it cannot be done without the help of others, that mistakes are inevitably made, and that it is not a work set in tablets of stone. Anyone can extend the history by his or her own studies and amend what has been written. To facilitate this I have included at the end of the book some blank pages so that extra notes, photographs, newspaper cuttings etc. can be inserted if desired.

Also I must stress that this history is an outline and much material for its extension exists for others to use. For example just as Mrs. J. Fairs has written an excellent booklet about the Church, more detailed studies than those I have included here could be undertaken and published about the Baptist Chapel, the School, The Inns and the Village Hall to mention but a few possibilities.

Local history is an extensive subject and all may dig in the same quarry ! County and District Councillor Clive Holt warned me that this is not the most tactful phrase to use at the moment, but I think it neatly expresses my opinion.

J.M.W.

Description and History of the Parish of Harvington in the Oswaldslow Hundred of Worcestershire and the Diocese of Worcester. By John M. Winterburn AD2001, 26 Holbrook Road, Stratford Upon Avon. CV37 9DZ. Telephone 01789 296201.

(The writer would welcome observations and comments on this booklet including perhaps correction of errors that might have been made.)

The Oswaldslow Hundred was one of six subdivisions of the County originally based on the principle that each had 100 men to pay taxes and/or provide military service. In some Counties they were policing districts well into the 19th Century.)

(Mrs J. Fairs tells me that the Oswaldslow Hundred comprised 15 manors.)

The writer of this booklet is a Scientist by education and profession, having degrees in Chemistry and a specialist branch of History – The History and Philosophy of Science. He is an active member of the Warwickshire Local History Society and has written and published 17 previous local history booklets which are listed at the end of this one, the 18th.

His interest in Harvington arises from the fact that since November 1999 his son William and daughter-in-law Allison have been living in the Village.

This book is divided into two main sections. A short description followed by a longer history, although in each section there is some overlap with the other.

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Illustrations and Maps occur in appropriate places

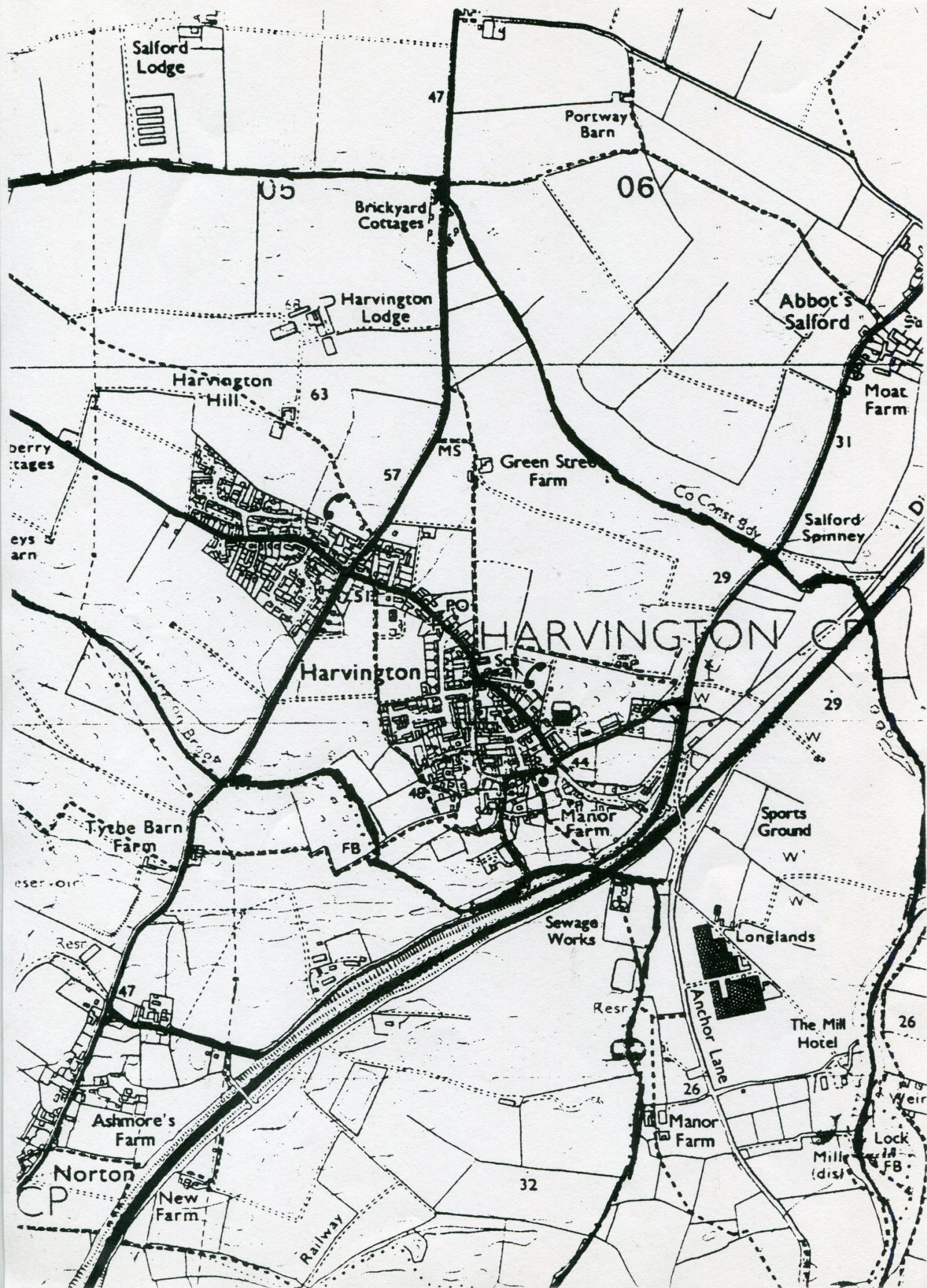
References are given at the appropriate place in the text. The V.C.H., frequently mentioned, stands for the Victoria County History of Worcestershire, Volume III published in 1913.

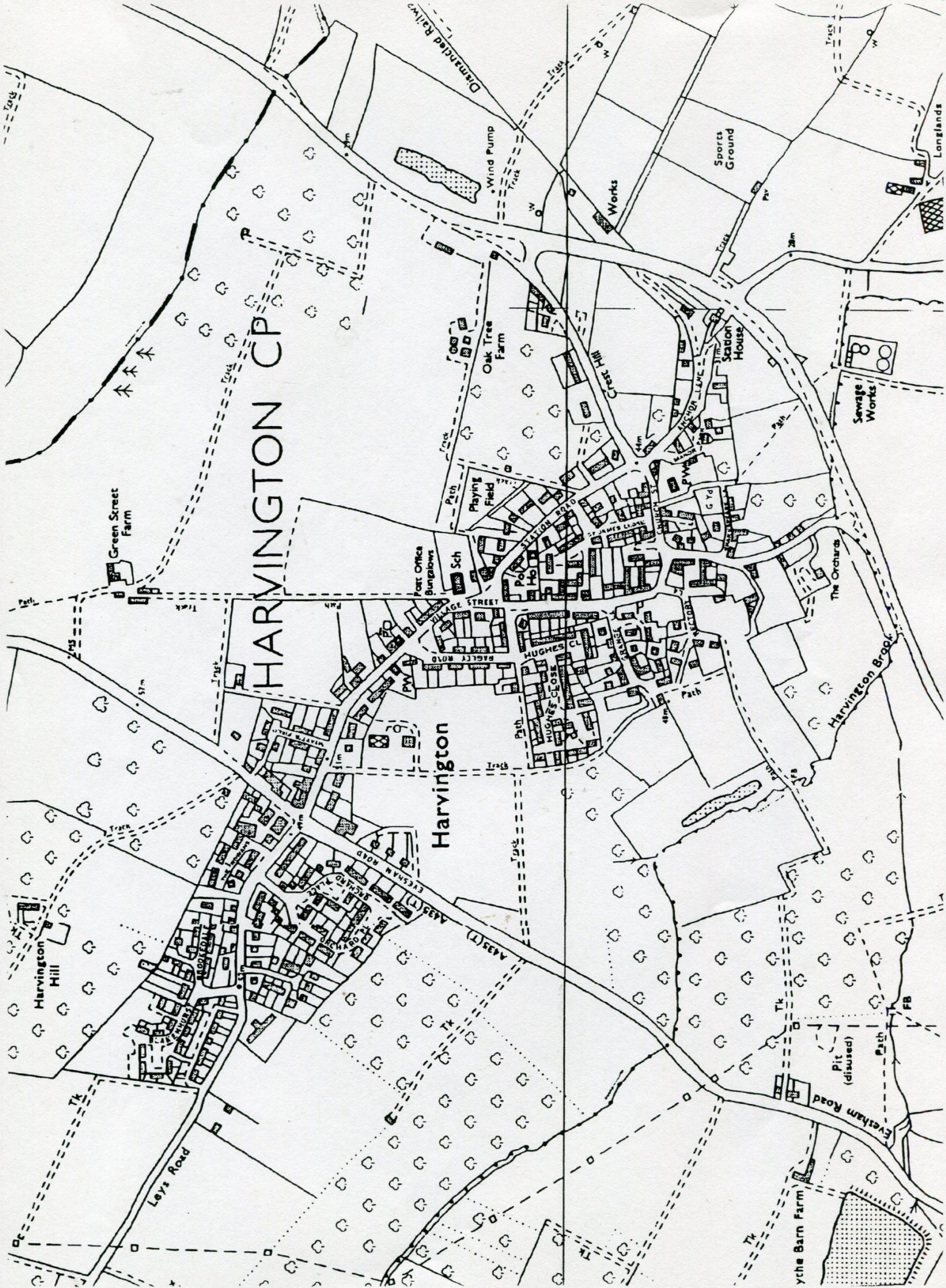
A bibliography is given at the end of the booklet.

One final preliminary point of importance; the writer considers from past experience in writing local history booklets, that if an interesting and connected account is to be made, some speculation is necessary, but that this is justified if it made clear what is speculation and what is documented fact.

80 copies of this booklet have been produced by typing on a word processor (kindly done by Allison) followed by photocopying. Some maps and diagrams are also included as are one page of photocopied coloured photographs and four pages of photocopied black and white photographs all taken by my wife Ann. The pictures on the front cover are photocopies of line drawings in the V.C.H. there is also at the end of the booklet a page of coloured photographs of Harvington Mill being the advertisement leaflet for the Hotel and Restaurant.

If there is any profit arising from the sale of this booklet it will be given to a good cause in Harvington.





DESCRIPTION

Administratively in recent times, Harvington was part of Evesham Rural District 1894 – 1974, since when it has been part of Wychavon District centred on Pershore. Together with the adjoining Parish of Norton and Lenchwick it forms a single membered District Council ward and this ward named Harvington & Norton is part of a County Council ward the rest of which is in Evesham north of the river. There is also a Parish Council of nine members. The Civil Parish and the ecclesiastical Parish are the same.

The Parish of Harvington is about 3.5 miles north-east of the centre of Evesham and lies up against the County boundary with Warwickshire from which it is delimited by an unnamed brook which enters the River Avon at the southern end of the Parish. By taking a right angled bend westward in its upper reaches the stream also forms most of the northern boundary of the Parish. The western boundary is formed by the much larger Harvington Brook and the southern boundary by the River Avon between the confluences with the two streams.

Thus it will be seen that the Parish is almost entirely defined by watercourses and it is a reasonable guess that some far distant Saxon proprietor was given a grant of land neatly described by the river and its two tributaries. The area of the Parish is given by the V.C.H. as 1310 acres, i.e. rather more than two square miles (1280 acres), but the 1895 Parish Council map gives the area as 1244 acres. In shape it is a fairly narrow, bent strip of land approximately 2.5 miles long by 0.75 miles wide, as will be seen from the map on page 4, divides neatly by the two main roads Evesham to Bidford and Evesham to Alcester into three very approximately equal areas of 350 – 500 acres. These areas could roughly correspond to three open fields of the medieval period if three were the number as it often was. That there were open fields is stated in the preamble to the Harvington Enclosure Act, though the number of them is not specified.

The ground rises from about 80 feet above sea level at the southern end of the Parish to about 210 feet above sea level at Harvington Hill towards the northern end of the Parish. According to the V.C.H. the soil is sandy with a subsoil of gravel and Keuper Marl (a type of disintegrated Sandstone). The main part of the village is situated in the middle of the three areas referred to above and contains (2000 AD) the Church of St. James, a Baptist Chapel, the Village Hall, Rectories Old and New, the School, the Post Office and Shop, the Manor House, The Grange, two other large Georgian houses (Langton House and Dalkeith), two Inns (the Coach and Horses and the Golden Cross). Both the Village Hall and the Post Office have notice boards outside them.

There is also a large and very attractive Victorian house called "The Retreat" next to the "Old Bakery" at the junction of Village Street with Stratford Road. It is the only large house in Harvington to have a Stucco front. There is also a very interesting house named Bridge 63 which is described in the section about the Railway.

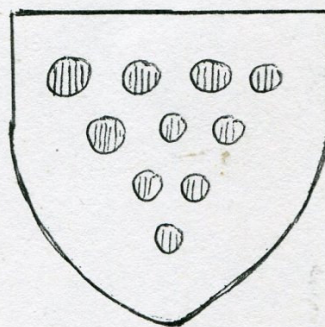
The above list shows Harvington as a village still provided with all the facilities whose disappearance from many villages is much lamented these days. There are two facts which explain and put this in context:

- 1.) Harvington is a large village, 1270 on the 2000 AD electoral register, 1991 Census of total population 1619, allowing 2.6 persons per house the number of houses would be about 620.
- 2.) Many facilities whose disappearance elsewhere in recent times is so much regretted, were themselves first established as recently as the 19th Century. That is of course true of Harvington's lost railway station and Blacksmith. A

Harvington has a map published in 1818 which marks the road to Alcester as "Turnpike Road" but does not show the Bidford road at all. It is interesting to note that the Alcester turnpike road was built exactly a century before the railway.

Since the Village Street leading northwards towards "The Lenches" (Saxon for hills) and called Leys Road is an ancient road, it is possible that the construction of the turnpike road made the crossroads, although there is evidence from old maps that a road had existed before the turnpike construction. The question as to whether the name "Harvington Cross" refers only to the Crossroads or whether there might have been a stone preaching cross, is intriguing, but these were generally in Churchyards. Another very interesting feature revealed by the 2.5 inch O.S. Map, and still very clearly to be seen from the main road to Bidford, is the track shown on the map by double pecked lines (not however shown on the 1895 Parish map). It goes across to the other main road to Alcester and has a right angled bend near which is Green Street Farm implying that the track is, or was Green Lane. The name Green Street or Green Lane in general terms means an unmade, ancient road, though Green Lane, Coventry is now a proper road. Another and better example though not being made up, and running between hedges, branches off Leicester Lane in Leamington and was originally the main road to Leicester. The status of Green Street Harvington therefore merits further investigation. The 1inch O.S. map of 1946 shows extensive Orchards at Harvington, not now much in evidence. But their former existence is the probable reason why an inspection of more recent maps such as the one we have in this book, show a field pattern only at the northern and southern ends of the Parish, for in between are the large areas formerly orchards.

Between the two main roads there are approximately 10 fields on the 1995 Parish map, but about 20 on the 1895 map. In the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries there were also Hopfields in lower Anchor Lane. In agriculture as in all else there is constant change, the biggest ever having been the enclosure of the open fields in 1786. Another intriguing question, knowing as I do that the Diocese of Worcester was the largest wine growing area in medieval England, is were there ever Vineyards in Harvington ? I know that Salford Priors had one, near the Church, as was most appropriate seeing that the arms of the Bishop of Worcester is "Argent ten roundels gules" in other words ten red discs representing a bunch of grapes, on a silver shield. Thus:



Other points arising from an inspection of the 2.5inch O.S. map:

- 1.) There are two houses named "Manor Farm". One is the original Manor House near the Church, the other is half way down Anchor Lane on the western side and beyond the main A46 road. This one was perhaps for a farm later added to the original Manor Farm.
- 2.) Harvington Lodge reached by a drive from the road leading from Harvington towards Alcester, probably got its name in Victorian times when owners of large houses in villages liked a grand name for their houses. In Harvington's

case Manor and Grange having already been taken left Lodge as a possibility (there could of course also have been Hall). There is of course also the Rectory (old and new).

- 3.) Brickyard Cottages in the same Alcester Road and near the Parish boundary tell their own tale.
- 4.) Harvington Hill also needs no explanation.
- 5.) Leys Barn off Leys Road has an obviously derived name, leaving the question of why Leys ? (It is a Saxon word for fields or enclosures).
- 6.) Roberry Cottages near Leys Barn in Leys Road. Could this be a corruption of Robbery ?
- 7.) Anchor Lane is the only road on the 2.5 inch map which is named, and it leads to the ford and on the other side of the river is the Fish and Anchor Inn.
- 8.) Nearby is a house called Longlands.
- 9.) The Mill House Hotel and Restaurant is self explanatory.
- 10.) It is odd that Crest Hill near the Church is not marked.

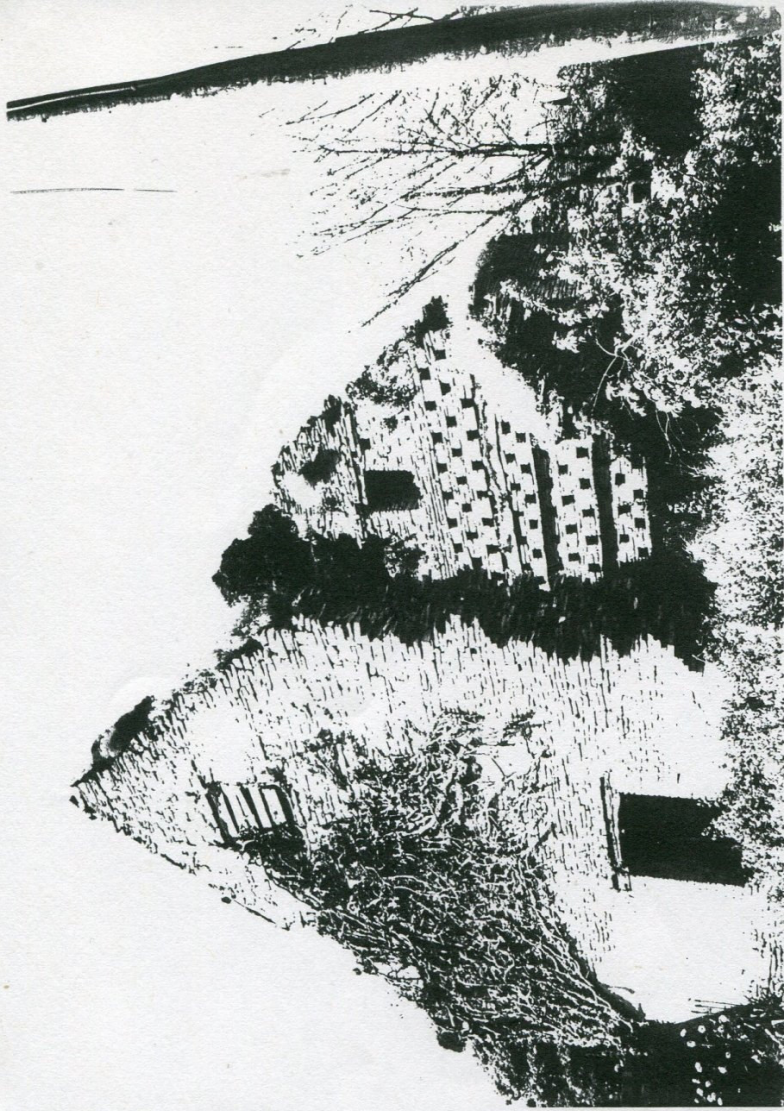
Regarding the ford mentioned above

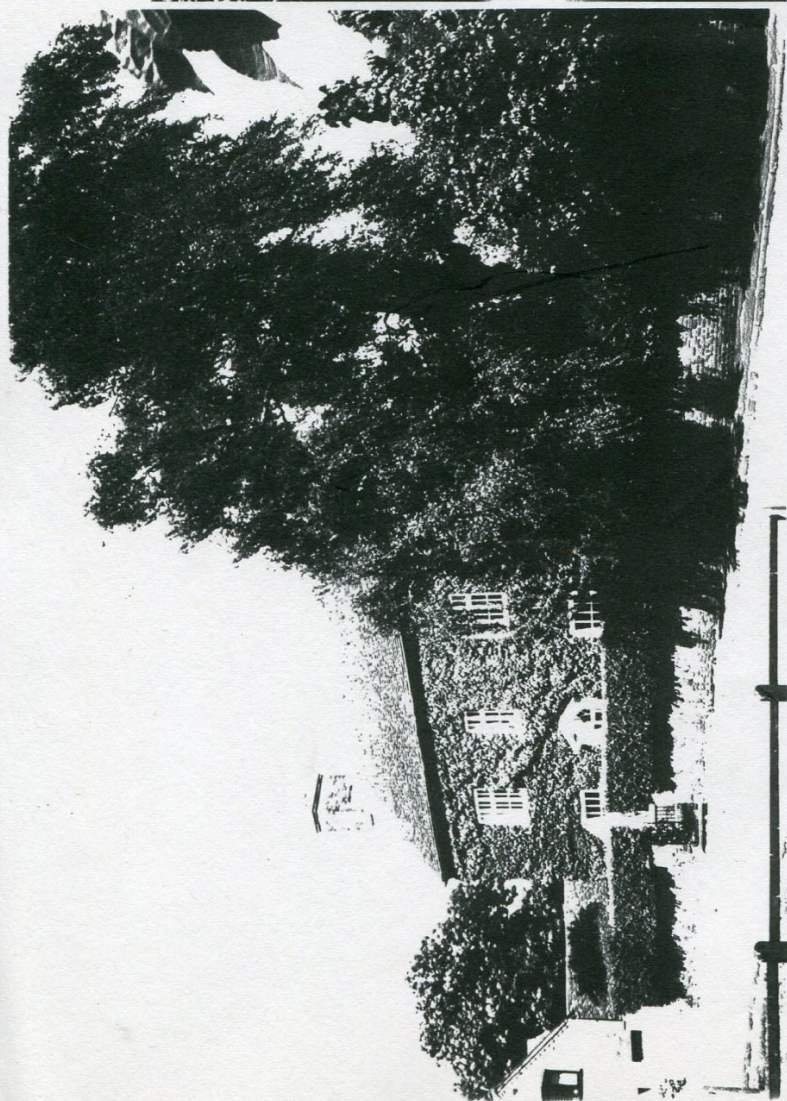
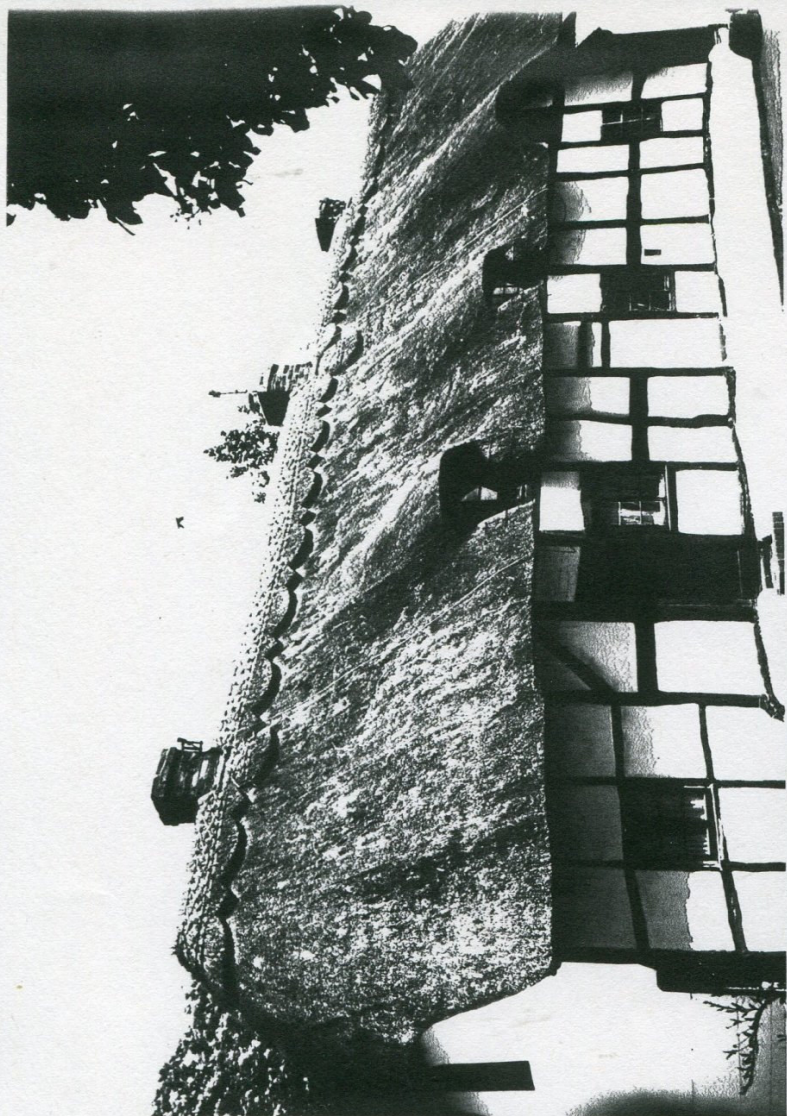
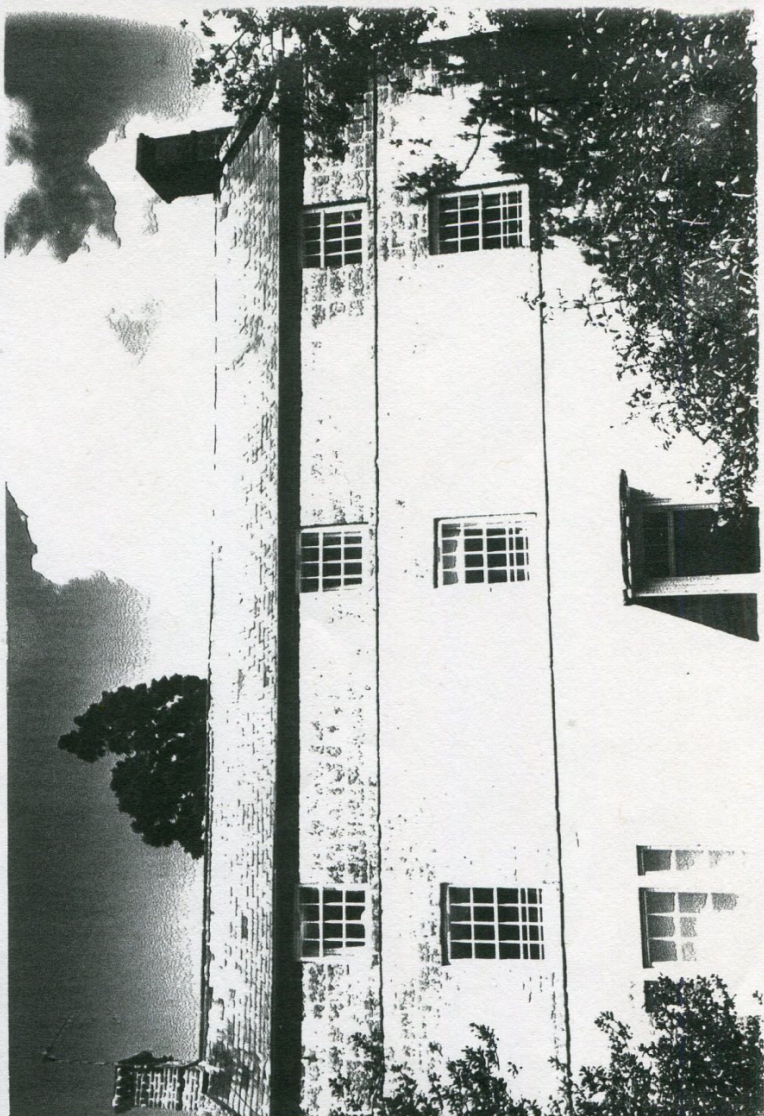
As will be noted in the next section, the name Harvington derives from HereFORDtun, and it is interesting to note that while downstream from Harvington there are no place names incorporating the word FORD, upstream there are several. For example SalFORD (on the river Arrow) but on the Avon BidFORD, StratFORD and very much upstream near Kenilworth ChesFORD. Probably these names relate to the obvious fact that the rivers are more fordable in their upper reaches, in which case Harvington appears to have been the first possibility.

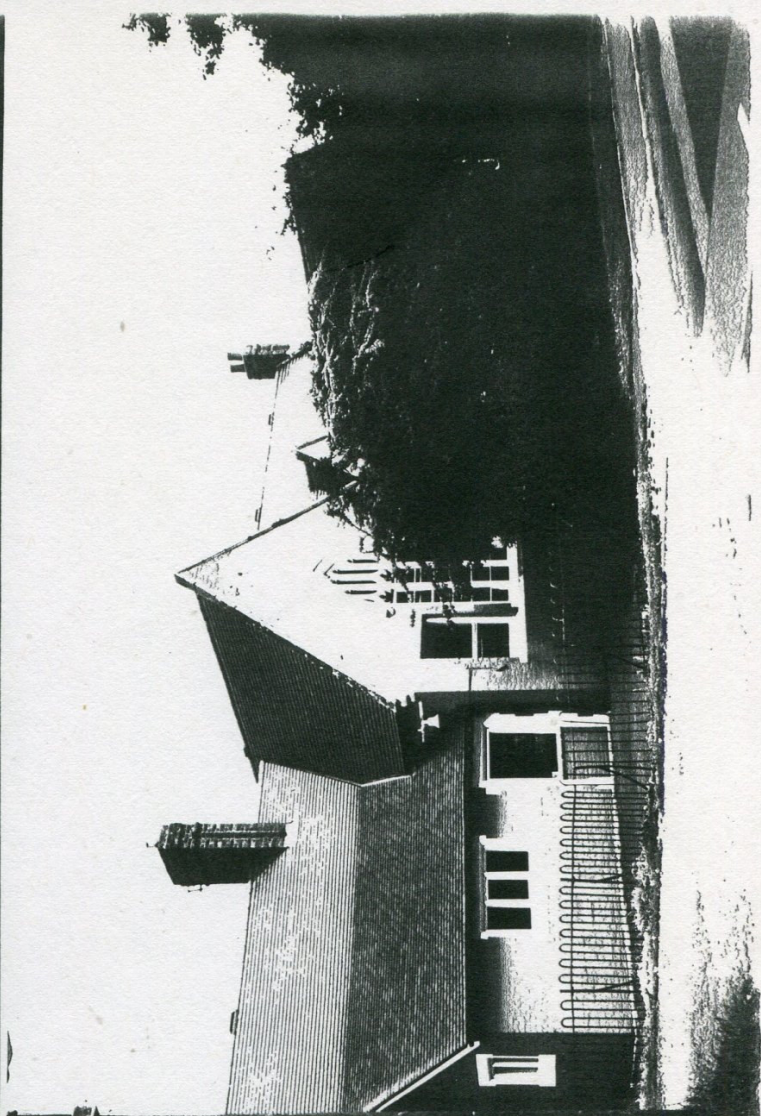
Mr. D. Hutchings of the "Upper Avon Navigation Trust" has told me that in 1901 the bed of the river at the ford was raised to make the stream shallower so that the horse drawn traffic of the day could cross easily to reach Harvington Station. Then in 1969 the Navigation Trust thought first to try and get the Stream deepened, but in the end decided to construct a bypass channel through Anchor Meadow.











KEY TO, AND DESCRIPTION OF, BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS

- 1st PAGE 1 2 1. HARVINGTON CHURCH (DESCRIPTION IN TEXT)
 3 4 2. FIRBANK COTTAGE
 3. THE OLD RECTORY (DESCRIPTION IN TEXT)
 "PINNACLES AND GABLES REACHING TO THE SKY" 4. CRUCK COTTAGE (PROBABLY PART 14th C)

- 2nd PAGE 1 2 1. THE MANOR HOUSE (PARTLY FROM 14th C)
 3 4 2. THE DOVECOTE (ADJACENT) (DITTO.)
 "ANCIENT HARVINGTON" 3. HOUSE IN GRANGE LANE (NOTE THE CURIOUS FORM OF THE DORMER WINDOW LEANING BACKWARDS)
 4. HALF TIMBERED HOUSES (PROBABLY 17th C)

- 3rd PAGE 1 2 1. GEORGIAN (18th C) HOUSE IN VILLAGE ST
 3 4 2. OLD HALF TIMBERED HOUSES IN VILLAGE STREET (PROBABLY EARLY 17th C)
 "17th - 19th CENTURY HARVINGTON" 3. EARLY AND LATE 19th C HOUSES.
 4. THE GRANGE. GEORGIAN, (PROBABLY EARLY 18th C)

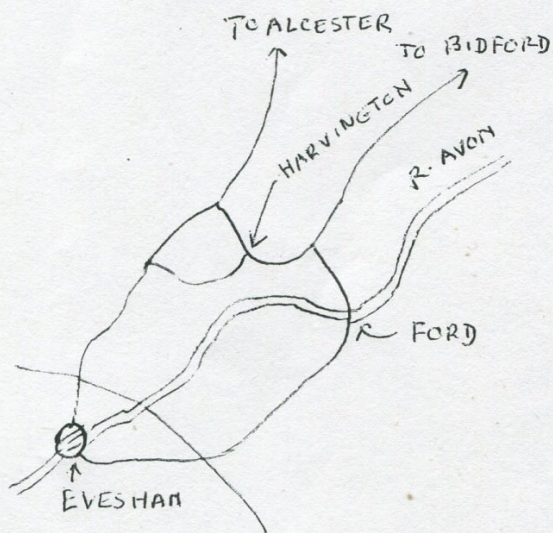
- 4th PAGE 1 2 1. THE GOLDEN CROSS INN
 3 4 2. THE VILLAGE HALL (1931)
 "PUBLIC BUILDINGS 19th / EARLY 20th C" 3. THE BAPTIST CHAPEL (1886) (NOTE THE ELABORATE WINDOW TO THE RIGHT)
 4. THE SCHOOL PARTLY CIRCA 1850 WITH LATER ADDITIONS

VANISHED HARVINGTON



THE RAILWAY, 1866 - 1952 (photo 1965)*

YET SOME THINGS DO NOT
CHANGE.



MAP OF ROAD SYSTEM IN
1265 (FROM BOOKLET ON THE
BATTLE OF EVESHAM)



THE READING ROOM 1887 - 1966 (approx)
(photo 1965)*

HISTORY

The 50p coin is 7 sided in commemoration of the Heptarchy, which was the division of Saxon England into 7 kingdoms before they united under King Athelstan in 925. The process of unification was that of Wessex gradually getting the upper hand. Mercia was incorporated and finally the Danish invaders in the East were repelled by Alfred the Great and his daughter Ethelfreda. It was she who established Warwickshire next to Worcestershire, so I think Worcestershire must have come into being about the same time.

One of the largest was Mercia, in which the Diocese of Worcester founded in 680 and predating the County was included. But Mercia itself was subdivided into tribal regions and that of the HWICCE covered approximately all of present day Worcestershire and half of Warwickshire as far as Warwick, beyond which the tribe of the Stepingas held sway. It is odd and amusing that during the unhappy period from 1974 until 1998 when Worcestershire was forcibly combined with Herefordshire, there used to be finger posts pointing out such public buildings as libraries and county offices with the letters HWCC on them, almost recreating HWICCE in the 20th century ! Harvington was thus in Saxon Mercia among the HWICCE, and from 680 in Worcester Diocese and from about 900 in Worcestershire when the county was created. It has already been noted in the descriptive section that Harvington was in the Oswaldslow Hundred of the County. Now as to more detailed history

The Victoria County Histories available for most of the counties including Worcestershire are multivolume works and are the best starting point for the student of any village history. The entry for Harvington is of 3.5 large pages of small print and is in Volume III published in 1913. It is available for consultation or photocopy in Evesham public library. The V.C.H. account starts with a list of the various spellings of the village name from the 9th to the 15th centuries, 7 variations in all. But in a "History of St. James Church" by Jess Fairs 1997, a total of 13 spellings are given from the 8th to the 16th centuries. In addition I have found three more from maps of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries respectively, the last one from John Corey's atlas of 1787 being the modern spelling of Harvington which has continued to this day.

The following list is compiled from all three sources:

Herverton and Herefordinne	709 A.D.	Church History (C.H.)
Hereford	799	C.H.
Hereforde	802	C.H.
Hereforda	9thC	V.C.H.
Herefordtun	964	C.H.
Herefordtun-juxta-Avene	10thC	V.C.H.
Herefortune	11thC	V.C.H.
Hervertona & Herefortun	1086	Domesday Book
Herfortune	12thC	V.C.H.
Hervertun	13thC	V.C.H.
Herwerton	1277	C.H.
Hervordstun and Herterton	1240	C.H.
Herefortun	1249	C.H.
Hertortone	1275	C.H.
Hervyngton	15thC	V.C.H.
Hervington	1508	C.H.
Herfortun	1542	C.H.
Harvington	1576	C Saxtons map of Warwickshire / Leicestershire.

Harrington
Harvington

1695
1789

Rob Mordon's map of Worcestershire
John Carey's Atlas.

These 23 recorded spellings of 19 variations is by far the largest number for any village that I have studied, but it is to be noted that until the modern spelling occurs in 1787, the most common spelling is Herefordtun, which with minor variations occurs six times, whilst three of the earliest spellings are curiously enough, simply Hereford (e) or (a).

It is obvious that there is a slight mystery here for generally speaking one would think that Harvington meant the town (tun) of the dwellers (ing) of Herva, Herva being a Saxon proprietor (many Saxon male names end in a). But it is obviously not so simple as that. The derivation of Hereford (the county town) is according to the Readers Digest Atlas of the British Isles, from the Saxon Here (a host or army) (compare modern German Heer) and ford, Hereford therefore means a ford where an army crossed a river and Herefordtun means a town (or settlement) at or near a ford where an army crossed. This derivation is given in "Worcestershire Place Names". Well of course there is a ford on the southern boundary of the parish and on the Harvington side commences a road which leads northwards and uphill through the village and on to the villages known as "The Lenches" (Saxon for hills). But what army could have crossed ? Mrs. S. Bacon, president of the Women's Institute has told me that investigations by the W.I. before making the Millennium Tapestry have led to the belief that a Roman Army once crossed the ford from the south and passed up Anchor Lane and the village turning right at Harvington Cross in order to march to Alcester, a Roman town of course. The V.C.H. mentions a place known in the 17th century as Caesar's Well. This is therefore slight, circumstantial evidence in favour of a Roman army. Mrs J. Fairs in her revised Church History 1999, speculates on the possibility that the earliest settlement at Harvington was by the river and later transferred uphill, possibly due to flooding problems.

But was there then a road to Alcester ? What is certain is that Prince Edward, son of Henry III and later himself Edward I in his march from Worcester in July 1265 to Kenilworth Castle and then back to Evesham for the battle on 4th August cannot have used the ford, for the route taken and described in the booklet on the battle (obtainable from the Almonery Museum in Evesham) does not go through Harvington. In any case such an army's march is too late in history to account for the Saxon place name Herefordtun, so it is possible that the Saxons named the village in their own language, after the Roman army. Or was there perhaps some other Saxon army that used the ford ?

Domesday Book

The great survey of England made by order of William I in 1086 is always mentioned in V.C.H. accounts of villages. But in the case of Harvington, most unusually in my experience there is not a full quotation, only a few oblique references to particular matters. Phillimore the local history publishers issued a County by County reprint on the 900th anniversary in 1986. Also a reference in the Church History by Mrs. J. Fairs reads: "The Church of Worcester holds Herefortun with Wiborgstoke (Location unknown) and here are three hides that pay taxes. In demense there are three caracutes and twelve villeins and three bordars with fixed caracutes. There are four men servants and one maid and a mill worth ten shillings and twenty four acres of meadow. It was worth twenty shillings." (i.e. before 1066)

This statement is very similar to the one in "The History and Antiquities of Worcestershire" by Nash 1776. But the original Latin as translated by Dr. R. Bearman, Archivist of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust does not have the expression "Fixed Caracutes" in it. And in Phillimore's reprint "Freeman and Cottagers" are the words used instead of Villeins and Bordars. Also "Four men

servants and one maid are rendered as "4 slaves and 1 female". My interpretation of these entries is as follows:

The "Church of Worcester" means the Bishopric or Bishop for the time being, who held as overlord extensive estates in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, including Stratford-upon-Avon. There is no mention here of sub-tenant as was often the case, so the Bishop probably had a bailiff to manage Harvington and there can have been no Lord of the Manor in the ordinary sense. Therefore no proper Manor House until the Church gave over ownership to others in the 19th Century.

A hide or Caracute was the area of land that could be measured out with a thong cut from an oxhide (Oxford Dictionary). Depending on the size of the oxhide and the thinness of the thong the area varied, but it is often taken to have been +/- 120 acres. A yardland was 1/4 hide and the 1786 Enclosure Act for Harvington gives the area of the parish as 60 yardlands or (15x60) = 900 acres, less than the given area of the parish in the V.C.H. as 1310 acres.

This only goes to show how difficult interpretation can be. But it is perhaps worth exploring the question or areas a bit more.

An acre of ploughland is for example a furlong long (220 yards) by a chain wide (length of a cricket pitch, 22 yards) (220 x 22) = 4840 square yards. Also a square of each side one furlong (i.e. furrow long) = 10 acres and therefore a hide or 120 acres can be visualised as 12 square furlongs, possibly a rectangle of land 4 furlongs or 1/2 mile long by 3 furlongs wide. Our forebears were not so stupid with their complicated mensuration as might be thought. For example, imagine a giant chessboard with its 64 squares each with sides a furlong long. Each square would then be exactly 10 acres and the whole chessboard 640 acres or one square mile. The "board" would have sides 1 mile long.

The whole parish of 1310 acres (according to the V.C.H.) is therefore equivalent to about 1310 / 120 therefore 19 hides, but doubtless much of the parish or manor (they seem to have been the same as there is also coincidence today between the civil and ecclesiastical parishes (by no means always the case)) was wasteland, marsh or woodland. Only 3 hides are mentioned as paying taxes by the entry in the Domesday Book, so perhaps that was the area under active cultivation (outside the Demense or Domain of the Manor which being Church owned paid no taxes.)

Animals could presumably be pastured on the 24 acres of meadow (presumably by the river) or in the case of swine on wasteland or woodland (pigs are fond of acorns). The Demense or private estate of the Lord i.e. the Bishop was worked by the Villeins and Bordars who owed a number of days work per week on the Lord's land (more in the case of the lowly Bordars or Cottagers than in the case of the slightly superior Villeins from which our word Villain is derived !!). No taxes were paid by the Lord Bishop. The 12 Villeins and 3 Bordars implies 15 families of perhaps 5 persons each on average = 75, added to which there were probably others not listed, the maid and other servants, oddly enough no mention of a priest but the mill worth 10 shillings (per annum) must have had a miller and his family and probably servants.

At a rough estimate the population in 1086 might have been 100 and was perhaps less than before the Conquest when the mill had been worth 20 shillings. (Some Saxons might have been driven out after 1066).

One final point in this section: The neighbouring settlement in Warwickshire of Abbots Salford and the next again Salford Priors, were owned by the Abbot of Evesham and the Prior of Kenilworth respectively, so this district was ecclesiastically dominated.

Population Growth

Having mentioned above a possible 1086 population of 100 is a reason for listing some more figures down to the present day. Each is followed by an indication of its source. 1086 = 100 (as above) 1563 = 100 (Nash's 1776 History of Antiquities of Worcestershire gives the number of families as 20 which with the multiplier of 5 totals 100) and in 1749 = 245, Nash giving 49 as the number of families that year. Census returns begin in 1801 but I only have the figures for 1891 = 524, 1901 = 497, 1951 = 677, 1961 = 735, 1971 = 1121, 1981 = 1395 and 1991 (the last) = 1619 but then as noted on page 4, the 2000 electoral register has 1270 entries corresponding perhaps with a total population at the present day of $1270 \times \frac{4}{3} = 1692$. We shall have to wait for the Census due in 2001 for this to be checked. As indicated by the list of populations above there is scope here for others to research and fill in the long gaps of 1086 – 1563, 1563 – 1749, 1749 – 1891 and 1901 – 1961.

Archeology

As regards archaeological discoveries the V.C.H. only mentions "a bronze celt in the ditch which divides Harvington from Warwickshire". (A Celt is an old word for chisel and being made of bronze which no chisel made since the discovery of iron about 1000 B.C. would have been made, indicates a date and therefore the probable habitation of Harvington before 1000 B.C.

Manorial History

Ownership of the Manor (Information taken from the V.C.H.) A.D. 799 land in Harvington was given to the King of Mercia by the Abbots of Kempsey, a place which is about 4 miles south of Worcester on the road to Gloucester.

At the beginning of the 9th century the Bishop of Worcester from 798 – 822 gave two Cassates (Caracutes = hides ?) at Harvington to Earwyrh to revert after his death to the Church of Worcester. This implies that the Bishop was already the owner or overlord, but the Domesday Book states that Harvington was then (1086) owned by "The monks of Worcester" as distinct from the Bishop. (perhaps Norman regime made a change in ownership).

The "Monks of Worcester" i.e. the Priory of Worcester made through the centuries 1086 – 1540, when dissolution took place, many leases of land in Harvington to various people including in 1254 the Bishop of Norwich. After the dissolution of the priory in 1540 the Manor of Harvington was granted to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester in 1542. They leased it in 1641 to a certain Keinpe Howard but after 11 years (1652) the Parliamentary Commissioners under Cromwells government, after having assessed the annual value of the parish at £172.2.0 confiscated it and sold it to one Thomas Bond, but after 1660 at the Restoration of the Monarchy under Charles II it was (presemably) confiscated again by the Crown and presented once again to the Dean and Chapter who held it until 1859 when it passed into the ownership of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. They sold the Manor in 1862 to the Duc d' Aumale about whom a short note follows at the end of this section. Later it was sold to Sir Charles Swinfen Eady who appears to have been the owner at the time the account in the V.C.H. was written in 1913. Of course, when we speak of "ownership" at any time from about the middle of the 17th century onwards, we have to remember that parcelling out into leaseholds, copyholds and freeholds went on at an ever increasing rate in every manor in England. In general this process was particularly rapid post 1918.

The Duc d' Aumale

H.R.H. Le Duc d'Aumale was evidently an émigré French nobleman who had probably chosen to come and live in England as many such did in the wake of the 1848 revolution which abolished the French monarchy, for the second time and established the Second Republic. By 1862 of course there had been for 10 years the reign of Emperor Napoleon III, but as an usurper he was in the eyes of the genuine French nobility, no better than a republic. The Duc lived at Wood Norton, Chadbury only about 3 miles south west of Harvington and I have read amongst the papers in the collection lent to me by Mr T. Watts that men from Harvington used to help drive pheasants through the estate woods at Wood Norton for shooting parties. Also that Monseigneur le Duc was a claimant to the French Throne, but I am not sure this information is right because I know that the Duc d'Orleans was the principal claimant and that he lived in exile somewhere near Evesham.

At the time the Duc d'Aumale was Lord of the Manor of Harvington the other principal landowners recorded were E.G. Bomford, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Rector. The Duc d'Aumale is also mentioned as having subscribed £100 to the appeal for the rebuilding of Binton Church, Warwickshire in 1872. At the time Binton was owned by the Marquis of Hertford so that is perhaps the explanation. (Binton by the way is one of 5 villages that make up the ward I represent on Stratford District Council).

A Medieval Social Problem

The V.C.H. mentions an intriguing piece of social history of the 13th century. Roger de Pershore and his wife Marcia complained to a court that "on the Thursday before the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula (1st August 1254) certain strangers had stolen away Maud their daughter and abandoned her at Harvington where John d'Abitot kept her at his house against her will. He however denied that this was so.

His story was that on the Thursday in question he was leaving his courtyard at Harvington when he heard a great noise. On looking round for the cause, saw a monk and some Welshmen (How did he know they were Welsh ? Perhaps they were speaking in Welsh or with Welsh accents ?) They were dragging along an unwilling girl who made a great outcry. Seeing d'Abitot her captors fled (why was that ? Was he perhaps armed ?) The girl, left alone, begged d'Abitot for shelter. This he willingly gave her. (What did she give him I wonder ?) The girl confirmed this story so the court dismissed the complaint by her parents.

The V.C.H. states that the court was at Worcester, but all Manors also had a Manor Court or Court Leet (corruption of the French "Lieu dit" – the said place) so perhaps there was also one at Harvington. Nash in his history, confirms that there was a Court Leet or Court Baron at Harvington and such a court might well have been held in the Manor House even if, as was probable that was lived in by a Bailiff appointed by the Bishop or Prior. This therefore brings us to a consideration of:

The Manor House

The V.C.H. describes the Manor House in detail. It is of course situated next to the Churchyard on the South East side. There is also a picture, line drawing of the building which together with one of the Church, also taken from the V.C.H., are reproduced on the front cover of this book.

As readers can consult the V.C.H. for details it is enough to mention here that parts of the building date from the 14th century, the lower part is stone rubble masonry and the upper part half timbered. (This is a common arrangement in Worcestershire and West Warwickshire). Originally the Manor was a large hall, open to the roof, with a two storied block to the south. A passage across the house marks the position of the

original Screens Passage (this was an arrangement in the hall type of medieval manor to screen the hall when banquets took place, that is to screen from the entrance, kitchen and serving arrangements. In the beginning the screens were just that).

The arrangements of a medieval manor of this type can be seen at Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire, a National Trust property. It must of course be kept in mind that with the Bishop and later the Priory of Worcester being the Lords of Harvington, the medieval manor must have been occupied by a sub-tenant or a bailiff. Very importantly the V.C.H. mentions the dovecote thus "On the eastern side next to the Churchyard is a fine pigeon house of rubble masonry with stone cells or nesting boxes and like the manor itself roofed with stone slates." These words were written prior to 1913 since when as all can see, the dovecote has become more dilapidated and no longer has a roof. Such a dovecote was the mark of a Manor House and required royal permission because the pigeons were in effect a tax on surrounding farmers by eating their crops.

From this point onwards in this historical section various important buildings in addition to the Manor will be dealt with in turn.

The Church and Rectory

A detailed description of the Church is given in the V.C.H. so will not be repeated here. Also the booklet "St. James' Church, Harvington" by Jess Fairs 1997 and reprinted with extra information in 1999 and which is usually available in the Church, gives an even more detailed description. Here I shall be content to mention a few salient points in order to whet reader's appetite to learn more from the two references I have quoted, and to visit the Church which tells its own story to a large degree.

I think the most important point is one which neither source mentions. The traveller along the main Stratford – Bidford – Evesham road, or on the new A46 bypass, must regard Harvington with its green spire, with some degree of mystery and a mistaken opinion that the Church is probably Victorian. The mystery arises from the fact that since the main road no longer passes through the village, the view of the church on high makes the village seem a place apart. Also a broach spire, with copper plated roof turned green by chemical reaction with carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide and water vapour to give basic copper carbonate { $\text{CuCO}_3 \cdot \text{Cu(OH)}_2$ } and basic Copper Sulphate { $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot \text{Cu(OH)}_2$ } is typically Victorian. Another church I once knew as a native of Leamington Spa was St. Alban's Leamington, which was known as "the church with the green spire". Alas it was demolished many years ago. Such green spires by the way are quite common in Germany and that of the Church of Luneberg is huge and dominates the skyline.

The broach spire was indeed added in 1855 and so is Victorian although the rest of the church and particularly the tower on which the spire rests is much older. The spire was originally covered with oak shingles but these were replaced by a copper roof in 1947.

The church history speculates on the possibility of a church in Saxon times (remember no priest is mentioned in the Domesday Book). Therefore to me that seems unlikely and I know that a very large number of churches were first built in the early 12th century. Nevertheless it is interesting that the church has no transepts, is what is called a "Hall Church", typical of an early period. Also in the exhibition of historical items in Harvington Church on 21/23 July 2000 there was an artist's impression by a local architect of what the early Saxon or Norman Church might have looked like.

The V.C.H. states that the earliest part of the present structure is the tower, though much restored and which dates from the first quarter of the 12th century. The V.C.H. also speculates that because of the extreme height of the nave, the west wall of which is clearly visible, that it might be of pre-conquest date. Early in the 14th century

the whole church was rebuilt (except the tower ?) Other early work is a 12th century doorway between the nave and the tower and a 12th century West Window. But please dear reader study the Church History and the V.C.H. for more details. We may at any rate be certain that there was a church early in the 12th Century at latest and of course the list of incumbents starts in the year 1207, reign of King John whose tomb is in Worcester Cathedral.

Although I am not giving a description of the church I should just like to mention some stained glass windows which I find excellent.

On the north Side a beautiful window depicting St. John and St. James the great and incorporating pictures of ships. (James and John the sons of Zebedee, fishermen on the sea of Galilee) 1917.

On the south side a beautiful memorial window by the widow of Canon Arthur Henry Winnington Ingram to him and their daughter who died aged 22. The window depicts the Good Shepherd and the raising of Jairus' daughter.

Also mention must be made of the memorial tablet to Thomas Ferriman 1569 – 1618 of whom Arthur Mee in his "Kings History of Worcestershire" writes "Historian of Worcestershire and a preacher of whom somebody said – We'll pray the rest may do as thou hast done". Ferriman's son also has a memorial tablet.

The great east window was of 2 lights until 1855 when it was altered to one of 3 lights. On either side of the window stones mark the positions of medieval statues of Saints. Other features are the two piscinas right of the Altar and left of the Chancel arch, above which there was once a rood screen, and a sedilla below the window to the right of the Chancel piscina.

Mrs J. Fairs in her Church History mentions that in 1947 at the time of the Copper Cladding of the spire, "three 17th century bells were removed and a new ring of 6 bells installed. The clockface was also added to the tower. Recently (1998) the bells were rehung. The V.C.H. of 1913 refers to there being tubular bells. Were These the ones removed in 1947 ?

List of Incumbents

I have chosen to call them incumbents as it is not clear when the "parson of the place" became a Rector. I am also puzzled by the fact that Harvington had Rectors and not Vicars. That is because the parish being owned by Worcester Priory, a vicar which means substitute (consider the title of the Pope as "Vicar of Christ") would have been expected. A Rector had sole ownership and control. Evidently some more research is needed here.

The first name on the list, beautifully written on Vellum, framed and hanging in the Chancel and given in 1934 by the widow of the Revd. J. Davenport, is Robert de Clypston. (Clipston is a village in Nottinghamshire). If taken at face value this first name in 1207 implies that if there were a church before that date it was served by travelling priests. Quite a common arrangement in early times.

The total number of names in the list is 66 for a period of 793 years, = 10.2 years on average.

Some of the most notable or interesting were:

Three of the same name in succession, Thomas Ferryman (what an appropriate name for a Rector of Harvington !). 1569, 1618, 1619-1623 respectively. Labelled in the list as Senior and Junior (and was the third one a grandson ?).

Another case of "keeping it in the family" seems to have been William Hopkins Senior 1662-1677 (note that he was appointed in the year in which the Book of Common Prayer was authorised) and William Hopkins Junior, 1682-1684.

Mention must also be made of William Hopkins Senior's predecessor, Stephen Baxter deposed i.e. ejected from the living in 1662 for non-conformity. Was he related to the celebrated puritan divine Richard Baxter of whom there is a statue in Kidderminster?

Then from 1690 –1778 the Rector was Moses Hodges who according to a note in the Church exhibition of July 21/23 2000 was Rector at the time of a wide ranging collection in aid of victims of the Great Fire of Warwick in 1694, which largely destroyed St. Mary's Church. He headed the Harvington subscription list with a donation of 10 shillings.

1784-1797 Matthew Lamb was Rector at the time of the Harvington Enclosure Act 1786.

Also there was Thomas James, Headmaster of Rugby School presented to the living in 1797, died 1804.

According to notes in the exhibition of July 21/23 2000 he was a classical scholar and a Prebend of Worcester which meant he had a stall in the Cathedral but was of course not a Canon in residence. It is stated that he "was unlikely to have lived in the village".

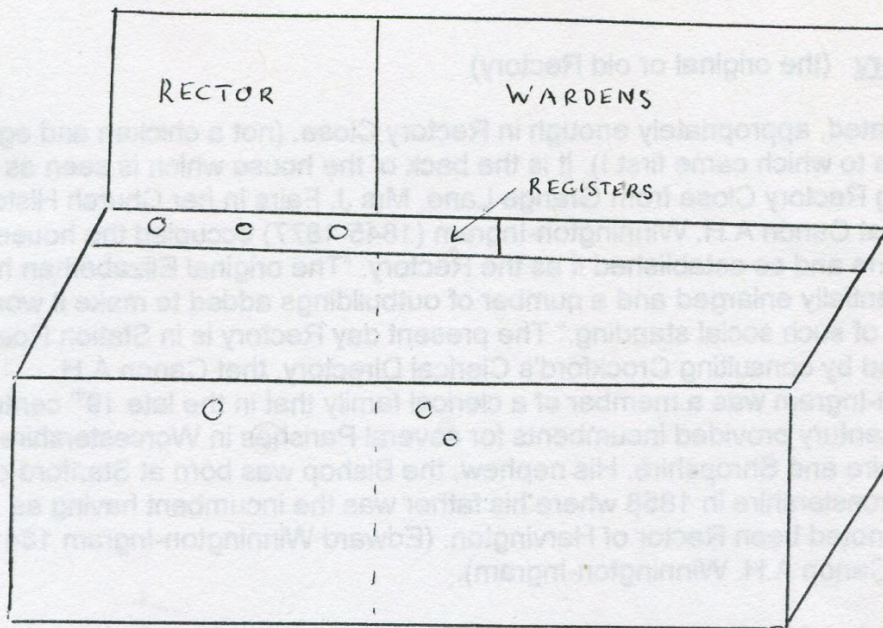
The most important case of "in the family" and also for other reasons is that of Edward Winnington-Ingram 1841-1845 and his brother Arthur Henry Winnington-Ingram (to whom as previously noted there is a memorial window), 1845-1887. Edward was father of the Right Reverend Arthur Henry Winnington-Ingram who was Bishop of London 1901-1939, born 1858 after his father had left Harvington. There is a biography of the Bishop which I have read. It is by S.C. Carpenter, Dean of Exeter 1949.

There is more to be written later in this booklet about the Winnington-Ingrams, but to conclude this section on notable Rectors I will just mention The Revd. James Davenport (1908-1930) who resisted the introduction of electricity – candles only, although oil lamps had been used earlier. (There was a certain snobism in those days about candles versus oil lamps). By the way, were they made in Candle Cottage?

Also regarding the Revd. James Davenport may be mentioned that there is in the Church a Tapestry, Royal Coat of Arms, framed, which was made at the end of the 19th century by Mr. Jozz Kale? who was a native of Harvington and had been employed by the Revd. J. Davenport in London before he became Rector of Harvington. (Information from the Church Exhibition).

Here is an appropriate point in the narrative to mention that an important function of Rectors, together with the two Churchwardens, was that of having charge of money, Church plate and other valuables, and of course documents and records including registers. As was common elsewhere, these were kept in the Parish Chest. Harvington is fortunate in still having its chest though the documents have gone either to the vestry safe or the County Record Office at Worcester. The very large chest is on the north side of the sanctuary, i.e. beyond the Altar rail. It has compartments for the Rector, (one key), the Wardens (two keys) and a narrow compartment for the Registers (three keys). I have nowhere else seen such a complicated chest. Below is a sketch I have made. It dates from around 1605.

THE PARISH CHEST c.1605



THERE ARE COMPARTMENTS FOR THE RECTOR
(ONE KEY O) THE WARDENS (TWO KEYS O O)
AND THE REGISTERS (THREE KEYS O O O)



ANOTHER VIEW OF THE SCHOOL

The Rectory (the original or old Rectory)

This is situated, appropriately enough in Rectory Close. (not a chicken and egg question as to which came first !). It is the back of the house which is seen as one looks along Rectory Close from Grange Lane. Mrs J. Fairs in her Church History explains that Canon A.H. Winnington-Ingram (1845-1877) occupied the house in Grange Lane and so established it as the Rectory. "The original Elizabethan house was substantially enlarged and a number of outbuildings added to make it worthy of a gentleman of such social standing." The present day Rectory is in Station Road. I have found by consulting Crockford's Clerical Directory, that Canon A.H. Winnington-Ingram was a member of a clerical family that in the late 19th century and early 20th century provided incumbents for several Parishes in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. His nephew, the Bishop was born at Stanford-on-Teme, Worcestershire in 1858 where his father was the incumbent having as previously noted been Rector of Harvington. (Edward Winnington-Ingram 1841-1845, brother of Canon A.H. Winnington-Ingram).

The biography of the Bishop, to which I have already referred, also reveals that the Winningtons, before presumably they double-barrelled their name by an illustrious marriage, were from Cheshire, although they had been mainly in Worcestershire since the 17th Century.

The Canon moved into the house that then became the Rectory in 1855. Where he and his predecessors had lived before that I do not know.

The Rectory being in effect in Grange Lane it will now be appropriate to consider

The Grange

This old stone built large house is at the cul-de-sac end of Grange Lane from which the back of the house is seen. The front faces away and shows itself to be a plain Georgian house, but very stately. The word Grange is the French word for Barn, used as such by the Normans. Many large barns must have been lived in and so in time the word came to be used for any large house in a village, along with Manor, Hall, Lodge, Vicarage and Rectory and the name of the village after it, thus Harvington Grange or Harvington Manor. Also in some cases explaining the origin is the fact that the granges of medieval Religious houses often came to be where the Monks or Nuns lived. It is interesting that Grange Close also contains several recent barn conversions, so the original process is still going on these days. Mr. Morris the owner of Harvington Grange told me that it is a listed building said to be Victorian, but that local tradition is that it dates from 1735. It is built of grey stone, the frontage being of Ashlars and in a style that I consider may be called Georgian and could in my view have been built at any time in the total Georgian Period, George I 1714 – death of George IV 1820. I am sure it is earlier than the Victorian Period. Other evidently Georgian houses nearby in Village Street are "Langton House" and "Dalkeith".

The Mill

(See colour photographs at the end of the book)

The V.C.H. states that at the time of the Domesday Book (1086) there was a mill at Harvington worth 10 shillings (a year) and goes on to describe it being let by the Prior of Worcester, in 1143 for 17 shillings a year (what inflation !) plus "a stick of eels" usually taken to be 25. (eels by the way have always been common in mill ponds and races – perhaps it has to do with flowing water, For example a good eeltrap can be seen at the National Trust property Charlecote Park in the river Dene just before it cascades over into the Avon).

Various other lettings of Harvington Mill are mentioned and at the time of the dissolution of Worcester Priory in 1540 there were two mills which were granted to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester who then let them to others.

There is still the site of the (main?) mill with adjacent old baking mill and the next paragraph of information was supplied to me by leaflets and by the waiter at the Harvington Mill Hotel.

The old (does that mean original mill ?) is on an island slightly downstream from the hotel mill. It was a cornmill. Flour was taken from this mill to the so-called "Baking Mill" to make bread. (We are here speaking of comparatively recent times, perhaps post 18th century). Malting and brewing was also carried out at the "Baking Mill". The Hotel leaflet states that this malting and baking was carried out from a time prior to 1750. Hop drying is also stated to have taken place, but since it is known that the hopfields in Lower Anchor Lane were a late 19th century and early 20th century feature of Harvington, it seems likely that this process is also as recent as that. Many original beams can be seen in the hotel and also in the lounge is a beautiful 19th century cast iron baking oven (not in use!).

The Baking Mill buildings were and still are next to a fine Georgian House, Georgian that is in general style, but I think it is somewhat earlier, i.e. William and Mary period (1688-1702). This house is now part of the hotel.

One final point from the V.C.H. in 1818 it is stated that the cornmill was advertised for sale and a paper mill is also mentioned there.

The Value of Properties in Harvington

According to the V.C.H. annual money rents in 1240 amounted to £2.14.10d and according to Nash's History and Antiquities of Worcestershire 1776 during the Commonwealth Period (1649-1660) there were leaseholds worth £41.12.1d per annum and copyholds worth £130.9.11d p.a. thus showing an enormous increase from the £2.14.10d in somewhat over 400 years to a total of £172 2.6d a year (of course this is due to inflation as well as real increases in annual land value but I do not think the inflation rate was more than about x3).

Copyhold meant that the tenant had a copy of the deeds whereas Freehold means exclusive holding of the deeds. Undoubtedly by 1660 there were also Freeholds, but as these paid no rent they do not figure in Nash's totals.

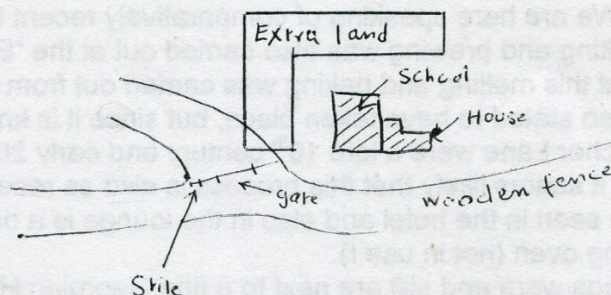
Nash also mentions that Parish Registers begin in 1570 and that land tax in 1776 at 4 shillings in the pound amounted to £85.13.8d corresponding to a total value of over £400 compared with the £172 of about 120 years earlier. The upward trend in values therefore continued as might be expected.

The School and Reading Room

In 1846 the Revd. A.H. Winnington-Ingram became involved in plans to build a School and Schoolmaster's house. Funds were augmented by a surplus raised from the sale of certain properties to defray the Parish's share of the cost of building the Evesham Workhouse (this information is in the document in the box of papers lent to me by Mr Tony Watts and implies that some money went to the one purpose and some to the other). In 1848 he obtained a grant of some glebe land for building the School which opened very soon afterward because in a report of a Parish meeting held on 20th December 1849 the cost of fixing the school bell, sinking a well and putting down a leaden pump is given as £51.13.3 1/2 d and the meeting said to be "very satisfied with the School's construction." It seems likely that the School opened in 1850, probably from the start as a "National School" i.e. one supported by the Church of England School Society. It is not stated if the house was available straight away. The above information is from documents on display at the exhibition of 21/23 July 2000.

Also in the exhibition was a deed and map of 12th August 1891 showing how extra land at the left hand side of the school and behind it was acquired.

The map is represented in the sketch below. The Parish Council map of 1895 states that the School was built for 100, but 1896 attendance was 75. Head – Mrs Millicent Mason. The 1995 map states an average attendance of 140 but of course the School had been enlarged.



As regards the School building, a present day inspection of it in the company of Mrs Marcia Palmer, the present head, showed the original School to be a single hall, but with modern additions at the side and behind where there is also a playing field. Mrs Palmer told me that the number on roll in 2000 was 137 and that the School's present status is that of Church of England controlled (controlled that is by the County Council with however 3 Church appointed Governors, the majority being with Local Authority and parent appointed Governors). The School log books I was told are in the County Record Office at Worcester, but some of these were on display in the exhibition previously referred to. In the exhibition there was a punishment book of 1901 giving details of corporal punishment meted out to boys for such offences as: Impertinence, Breaking a School window, Smoking and probably worst of all "Foul Language".

The Reading Room

Village reading rooms were a feature of the late Victorian period. Usually provided by some rich and benevolent person – often a Squire or Parson, they were rooms where working men could "better themselves" by reading books and newspapers gratuitously provided. There was one in the village of Winterburn in the West Riding of Yorkshire, a village I have studied and after which I am named.

Here in Harvington the Reading Room was provided by the Revd. A.H. Winnington-Ingram at his own expense. That was in 1886, the building stood on the opposite side of the road from the School. The V.C.H. states that he bequeathed the building to the village in his will of 1887. Other sources state that his widow gave it.

There is a picture of the Reading Room on the page of illustrations in this book entitled "Vanished Harvington". The picture is a photocopy of a photograph taken in 1965 and to be seen in the W.I. Scrapbook of that year. The building was sold that year also, probably for about £30 because a newspaper advertisement I have seen states that "The plot of 0.059 acres and building are proposed for sale by the trustees for £30, but that higher offers can be made".

Where the Reading Room used to be there are now four houses opposite the School. A note in the exhibition of July 2000 explains that users of the room had to pay 2d a week and that in due course the place was not much used except as a refuge for workmen in bad weather.

Before the Village Hall was built, the Reading Room was used for meetings in general and for the last year or so before its demolition it served as a T.V. shop ! Just think how the original users would have liked to watch television.

The Baptist Chapel or Church

(On the notice board the name is the Baptist Church but the V.C.H. calls it Chapel.)

The V.C.H. simply states "There is a Baptist Chapel in the parish with 160 sittings, erected in 1886" (it is in Village Street almost opposite the Post Office).

It is interesting to note that in general these days the Methodist, Baptist and United Reform branches of Christianity refer to their places of worship as Churches, whereas formerly they called them Chapels. A Chapel of course is really a small church or part of a Church and the term has strictly no reference to any particular type of Christian worship.

Mrs. Chilvers, the Church Secretary kindly put me in touch with her uncle, Mr. Les Bailey to whom I am indebted for the following information.

The story does indeed begin in 1886 (the same year as the reading room was built) when the congregation at Aitch Lench established the Harvington "Chapel" as a Baptist mission, the Aitch Lench chapel and the one at Donnington having been established by the Bomford family.

Past written records are very scanty, but Mr Bailey remembers the middle 1930's when there was a strong Sunday School.

Mr. Bailey also gave me a list of ministers as follows:

1932-38 (approx) The Revd. Harry Soan who later moved to Foleshill, Coventry and subsequently became a radio broadcaster on County matters. Next the Revd. A.C. Dorman during the war. Afterwards 1945-50 The Revd. Mr Robson. From 1950-1960 the Chapel had a difficult time because the stipend for the minister was not enough. (Early sign of inflation difficulties ?). Also the minister had to run three Churches and lived at the Manse at Dunnington.

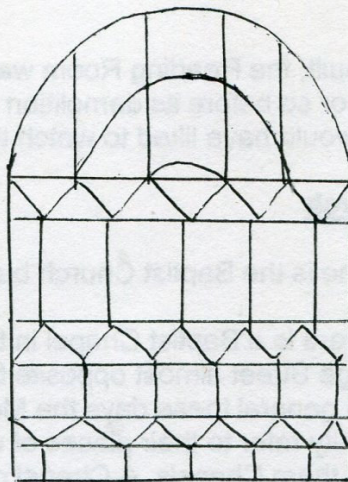
All three Churches later had to carry on with lay preachers, sometimes from as far away as Stratford Upon Avon and Bewdley. In 1964 the Revd. Mr. Banday became the minister. He came from Australia and stayed until 1970 when the Revd. Mr. Wilkinson came for three years, after which self help alone kept the Chapel going. In 1976 the base of the building and the flooring were completely replaced by six people working as volunteers, but the growth of the village in the 1980's brought in quite a number of extra members of the congregation and help from the minister of Evesham, the Revd. Geoffrey Hagan.

The Centenary of the Church was celebrated in 1986 and a garden party was held at Orchard Close, the home of Dr. and Mrs H. Nunn. Dr. Nunn was asked to become Chairman of the Church and this he has been ever since. Also we have in recent years seen a steady increase in the number of worshippers.

Description of the Church

I visited the Church on the evening of 11th May 2000 it being open for a children's meeting.

Inside it is an almost square room, slightly longer than broad and with metal framed windows of a very complex, interesting, intersecting Gothic design. I have made the sketch below of one of them.



Mr Bailey told me that when the floor was renewed a workman said that these windows are the only ones of their type in Worcestershire. Mr Bailey also told me that the pews were removed about 15 years ago except for one and replaced by the present stackable chairs. I have noticed some pews in the Coach and Horses Inn. Are they from here ?

There is no pulpit, but there is a large Wooden Cross on the end wall. I do not remember noticing a special, holy table. Behind the main room there is a smaller one, originally a vestry but now used for general storage.

The Inns of Harvington

Each of the Inns about to be mentioned could be the subject of a detailed study, or perhaps all of them taken together under the general title "The Inns of Harvington" for all together there are or have been five of them at least, namely The Coach & Horses, The Golden Cross, The Shakespeare, The White Horse and the Hoppole. So there is a challenge for one of my readers to take up.

The first two in the list still remain very active whilst the other three are no more. It is a fair bet that the Coach and Horses has its origins as a coaching Inn although it does not have the proving feature of an archway leading to a courtyard behind. It is by the way a common arrangement for an Inn to be opposite to or adjacent to a Church and this is particularly true of the North of England. It becomes convenient for refreshments after Weddings and Funerals and as a meeting place as will be mentioned later.

The proprietor of the Coach and Horses has told me that once upon a time what is now the Skittle Alley was a mortuary. As will be mentioned later, there have been several epidemics in Harvington in the 18th and 19th centuries so that might be the reason.

The Golden Cross might owe its name to its proximity to Harvington Cross.

The Three other Inns no longer with us

Of these The Shakespeare was explained to me by Mr B. Brazier. It was and still is (as a house) at the top end of Shakespeare Lane (Question. Is the lane named after the former pub or the other way round ?). It was a Flowers Inn and as the Flowers brewery was in Stratford that might be a reason for the name. I was told by Mr. D. Hutchings when discussing the railway that the lifespan of the pub coincided with that of the railway. It opened while the railway was under construction to meet a demand from the railway construction workers in 1855/6 and closed due to the death of the last landlord, by chance the same year as the railway closed in 1952. Closed that is for passengers.

The other former Inns were the White Horse on Lower Evesham Road and the Hoppole north of a pond near the green. As the Village Hall was subsequently built

FOWLERS ?

near the site of the former pond in approximately that location, perhaps the Hoppole was thereabouts.

FOWLER'S NEXT TO SCHOOL

The Railway

Originally the Evesham and Redditch Railway opened 16th June 1866 and later amalgamated into the L.M.S. (London, Midland and Scottish Railway) during the interwar years, finally as British Rail before closure in 1952 (for passenger traffic). Going towards Alcester and Redditch the station at Broom, adjacent to Bidford-on-Avon was a joint Stationmastership with Harvington and was the junction for Stratford-Upon-Avon. Between Harvington and Broom there was a station at Salford Priors whose building still exists as part of Bomford's premises.

I had a telephone conversation with Mr. Eric Goring Stationmaster from 1953 – 1965 during a final period in which some goods traffic still used the line. He lives in retirement in South Wales. He told me that the gardens were very well kept at the station and were the subject of a photograph in the Evesham Journal. Also that oil lamps were used to the last on the station although there was electricity in the Stationmasters house.

Mr. A. Thomas of Harvington, also in a telephone conversation, told me that when the railway finally closed in 1965 the premises of 3.5 acres, including yard, platform, station buildings and Stationmasters house were converted by Mr David Hutchings into a 7 bedroomed house. He lived there until Mr. Thomas bought it. Recently it has again been put on the market.

Mr. Thomas said that the excuse for the closure to passenger traffic was that the track was in bad condition, for which reason Bus services were substituted for a time. But the Bus service did not run from the station nor at the times of the former trains so the scheme was not successful and closure followed. Mr. Thomas told me that when the passenger trains were still running they often brought anglers from Birmingham. Market garden produce was also loaded on to the trains and sometimes racing pigeons were brought here and released. During the night, freight trains from Bristol to St. Pancras, London came through Harvington station. In my opinion the view from the bridge at the bottom end of Anchor Lane down into the former track and station buildings only requires a very small effort of the imagination to conjure up a Ghost Train.

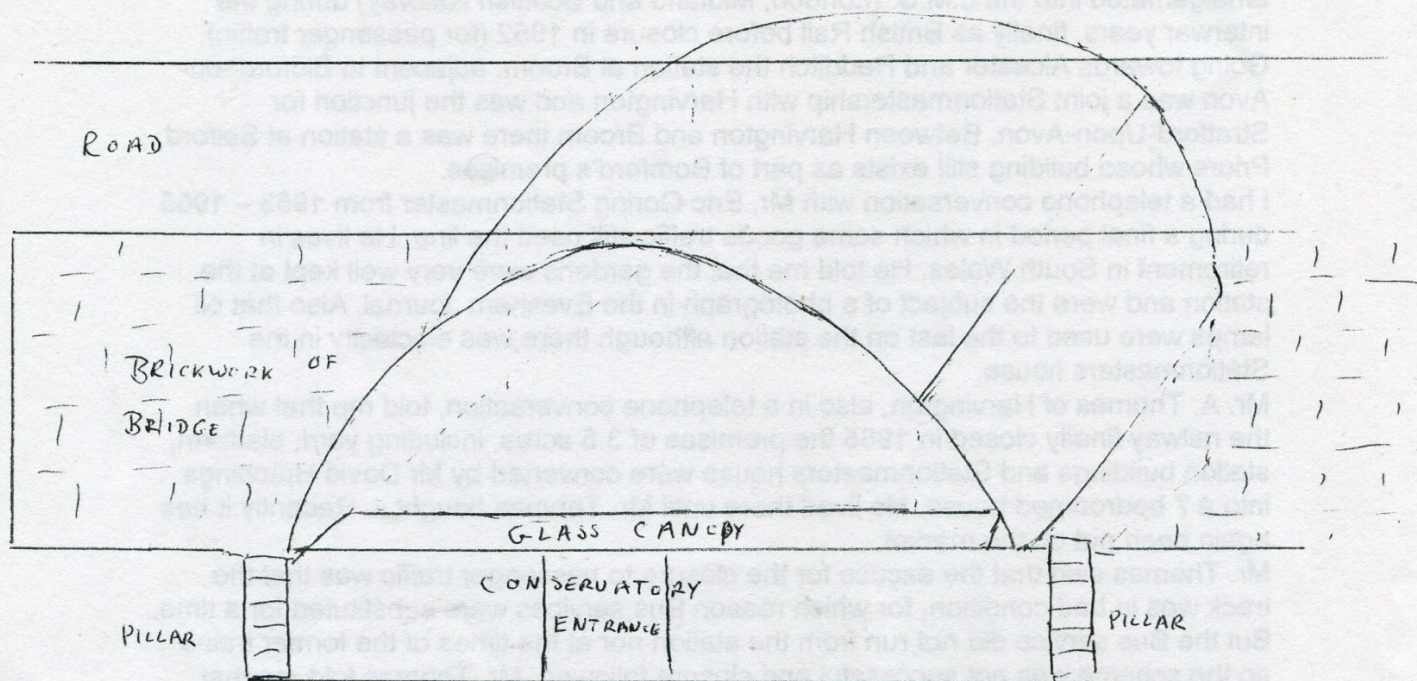
For the unfamiliar with Harvington it should be pointed out that since the construction of the main road bypass to the village in 1975/6 Anchor Lane terminates for traffic at the bridge although there is a flight of steps down to the main road to permit pedestrians if they wish, to cross over and reach the long length of Anchor Lane that leads to the mill and the river.

The bridge is Bridge 63 and that is also the name of the house that Mr. David Hutchings has constructed under it. I visited him recently and he kindly showed me his house and explained how it has been built. Essentially it is under the bridge but on the Evesham side there is a conservatory of considerable size with stone floor and a fountain. The whole arrangement is very elegant and there is for example, a cast iron, spiral staircase leading to a large cast iron balcony upstairs. This constitutes a kind of "Viewing platform" and on the other side of the house there is a wide passage way with equally good views towards the station buildings. The cast iron work came from Toronto except an iron pillar which was originally at Skipton Railway Station. I can say that without doubt this is the most interesting house I have ever seen.

In the garden on the station side is the base of the station lamp standard and Mr. Hutchings has dug up a stationmasters badge with the British Rail emblem of a lion on a wheel. Mr. Hutchings has a large photograph of the station about 1905. One track coming in from the Evesham direction on a sharp bend. Probably batons had to

be given to engine drivers as authorization to enter this single track section. Below is a sketch of the house:

A very good photograph of this house is on page 21 of the Millennium Festival (21-23 July 2000) book.



The Village Hall

This is the last building whose history is to be mentioned and with it will conclude this section on the history of buildings in Harvington. However, what is to be written is largely bound up with the story of Harvington Women's Institute so that there will be an overlap with the next section on the history of items other than buildings – W.I. included.

The W.I. Scrapbooks of 1965 and 1990/92 are the main sources for information about the Village Hall.

Prior to 1965, as previously mentioned in this booklet, the Reading Room and later the School, were both used for meetings and this usage pointed to the desirability of a purpose built Village Hall, eventually built and opened in 1931 as the datestone on the front of the Hall proclaims. Much of the impetus for a hall came from the W.I., especially after the late Miss Penney had given the site, including a pond later filled in, about 1925.

A parish meeting in 1928 set up a building committee with Mr. R.L. Brazier as chairman. The committee was very successful in raising money totalling £693 of which £153 was given to the W.I. A grant of £180 was received from the Carnegie Trust and a £200 interest free loan from the national Council of Social Services. This money was later paid back by the proceeds of a succession of annual fetes. The total cost of the hall was £1087 and I think a multiplier of 40 applies to 1930 prices. Even so, such a fine hall for £40,000 of modern money would not be possible. The hall was opened by the cutting of a red, white and blue ribbon by Lady Evers Monsell, wife of the then First Lord of the Admiralty. All this, and more detail is described in a newspaper article in the W.I. scrapbook for 1990/92.

Description of the Hall

Brick Built and cement rendered painted creamy white, double doors to the front painted green. Above the Parish Council Notice Board three shields suitable for Coats of Arms but not bearing any – this is something that could be remedied perhaps with the Coat of Arms of Worcester Diocese, The former Evesham Rural District which was the local authority in 1931 (remember the date stone) and one that could be specially designed for Harvington.

The notice board to one side of the double doors and a map of the locality with fieldpaths indicated for walkers on the other side. There is a small carpark in front of the hall. There is a range of windows down each side of the main hall which has a polished wooden floor suitable for dancing and there is a stage. To one side of the hall there is a kitchen and serving hatch and behind the stage is a small committee room.

Framed maps of the village in 1895 when the Parish Council was established, and a century later in 1995 hang on the walls. There is a large wooden shield with smaller metal shields round the edges, being a gardening competition shield.

Also there is a silver cup in a glass case and two framed certificates of merit in the Best Kept Village Competition. Also, most recently, the W.I. Millennium map, nicely framed has been hung in the hall.

This is naturally a map of the village with pictures of various buildings and other features in their respective positions on the map and printed explanations of them and in some cases their histories beneath each picture. This is very interesting and the worthwhile project was organised by Mrs. J. Fairs and Miss S. Cole who are also producing a booklet about it, and the exhibition in the Church 21/23 July 2000 of which it was a part.

In the W.I. Scrapbook of 1990/92 are photos of the hall after a bad fire during the night of 6th/7th August 1991.

Plastic chairs melted, beams and wooden uprights were blackened, walls were smoke blackened and altogether £30,000 of damage was caused by an intruder who claimed "he was looking for somewhere to sleep". I do not think he can have slept very well. To the disgust of the village, though quickly apprehended he was never brought to trial. Why?

Also in the scrapbook are Evesham Journal photos of 1931 showing the view of the Village Hall and committee members in another photo together with Lady Evers Monsell. There is also a typed account of the opening ceremony, probably taken from an article in the Evesham Journal.

The section which now follows deals with items that are not buildings.

The Village Green

From various references and conversations with Harvington residents I have formed the opinion (open of course to correction by anyone with more information) that the green was originally quite a large area of, presumably Common Land with the roads in the village centre crossing it. (I know from studies of other parishes that such was a very usual feature of rural England in bygone times).

This large, original green seems to have included the present small green opposite the village hall with the large sycamore tree and seat beneath it. Also part of the curtilage of the School and the land opposite at the junction of Ragley Road.

Incidentally, when Evesham R.D.C. built the then Council houses in Ragley Road it had to buy the land by compulsory purchase.

This part which is very much larger than the other has many ornamental trees on it these days, but formerly I have been told there was a row of poplar trees behind it. (there is still a nearby house named "Poplar House"). Regarding the small green with

the Sycamore tree, there were two photographs of it in the exhibition held in the Church 21/23 July 2000. One of these was dated 1907 and showed the tree, naturally very small compared with its size today and staked.

The other photograph undated, showed the tree smaller still with an appearance of having been quite recently planted. It seems possible that the tree was planted to mark some special occasion a few years before 1907.

Candidates for this honour are the start of the 20th century in 1901 (celebrated correctly instead of 1900), the death of Queen Victoria and accession of Edward VII also in 1901, or his coronation, I think the following year.

I have spoken about this to several elderly people in Harvington but so far have received no precise information. The seat beneath the tree was however presented by Harvington W.I. and there is a photo of it in the 1965 scrapbook. At the time it had a plaque to say who had given it, but that has since been vandalised. The seat has probably had some of the wooden slats replaced, but the iron ends of an interesting shape, are clearly identifiable in the 1965 photo. The 1965 scrapbook also states that the "seat is on the Village Green". Others consider the larger green adjacent to Ragley Road to be the village green, but as I have already written, it seems to me that both are parts of an originally more extensive green.

Parish Registers

These are of three kinds. The Church Register which in addition to baptisms, marriages and funerals often have extra notes of general interest. Then there are the proceedings of Parish, public that is civil meetings and finally, since 1895 there are the minutes of Harvington Parish Council. This subject leads to a study of local government. It should be pointed out that from the time of the Elizabethan Poor law of 1601 parishes were civil as well as ecclesiastical, and the Churchwardens had the duty of drawing up rating lists and administering the poor law. These duties remained until Union Workhouses were established in 1834, while other duties of a civil kind and the right to levy a church rate, lasted until 1867. Even after that, particularly in country parishes, the incumbent or churchwarden presided over any public meeting there might be, until this duty fell upon the Parish Council Chairman (after 1895). Even today, any person on the electoral register, whether or not listed in the electoral roll of the church, has the right to vote in the election of churchwardens. That is why to this day, the annual vestry meeting for that purpose is held immediately before the annual church meeting. It will therefore be seen that church and civil matters have been interwoven over the centuries.

A church inventory of 1552 lists:

- A silver and gilt chalice
- Other chalices
- 2 silver Cruets
- 1 Copper Cruet
- 3 bells in the steeple (this probably means tower)
- Cope of blue velvet embroidered with gold
- 3 pairs of old vestments with albs.
- A waterpot of lead
- 3 irons to set lights upon (i.e. votive candles)

It should be noted that 1552 was the year of the introduction of the second prayerbook of Edward VI, being much more protestant in tone than that of 1549. Therefore many of the items listed would no longer be needed. N.B. Church inventories were general in 1552.

At the exhibition held in the church on 21/23 July 2000 some of the registers normally in the County Record Office were on view. What follows is either taken from that

exhibition, or in some cases from copied documents in the collection lent to me by Mr. Tony Watts.

At various dates from 1605 – 1632 sums of money, generally 20 shillings or 40 shillings were given to create a parish fund for the poor. Then the following entries: 28th June 1610 Edward Willes buried having been found dead and drowned in the Avon on 26th June. (Willes is not a common name, but I know that a Willes family, probably named after the parish of Willes Pastures near Southam, Warwickshire, were from the mid 16th century until quite recent times, Lords of the Manor of Newbold Comyn, which is part of what is now Leamington Spa, and that most of them were either William or Edward.

- 1611 John Perkes, the glover was buried the 25th day of March. This entry is interesting because of the man's trade which he might or might not have carried out in Harvington.
- 1625 Roger Jones a narrow weaver and freeholder was buried the eighth day of July. Again, an interesting entry on account of the trade and the definite reference to his being a freeholder.
- 1626 Elizabeth the daughter of Mrs Katharine Fferriman, widow "slaine by a fall down a paier of stayers with a paier of sizars in her hand" was buried the tenth day of August. Readers will agree this must have been a tragic accident, possibly quite a young girl.
- 1630 Roberte a youth drowned the day before in the Avon was buried the XII day of July.
- 1631 Syman Davies who died in Bretforten field as he came from Campden fair was buried the XVII day of February (Is it possible that he had drunk a tankard or two of ale at the fair ?)

April 6th 1697 Thomas Godfrey (Pauper) is to work for 36 undermentioned persons for 8d a day, or if they can find him no work then 4d a day (except at Harvest Time). I suppose this means they had to pay 4d for no work, but the relevance of Harvest Time is unclear.

- 1700/1701 8 grown persons buried of a malignant fever, of which but one grown person escaped (I take this to mean that 9 had the fever of whom 8 died.)
- 1710/11 7 more died of a malignant fever and were buried.
- 1766 December 30th. A man unknown taken from the river buried. (It is quite clear that death by drowning was fairly common. Why I wonder – desperate suicides in hard times ?)
- 1803 A list of volunteers for the renewed war against France after the breakdown of the "Peace of Amiens" of 1803 has ten names and gives the occupations of most of the men who joined up from Harvington. Included were:
A shepherd, a yeoman, a servant, a joiner, a pavier (that is interesting), a labourer. (This list was on display at the Church exhibition 21/23 July 2000).
- 1808 20th November. Richard and John Earles – father and son, were killed by the fall of a cart at Marriage Hill, Bidford on Avon. Verdict. Accidental death. N.B. Road accidents were common long before the advent of petrol engines.

The following information comes from the notes in a blackbound book in the collection lent to me by Mr. Tony Watts. They are described by him as the contents of a whitebook, probably from the Parish Chest and concern Vestry meetings (1841-1871) Church Rates (1841-1873) and Churchwardens accounts (1841-1874). He made these extracts in January 1981.

The salient points are:

15th April 1841. The meeting voted for a 4d in the pound rate for church repairs. The meeting was held in the church and then adjourned to the 29th April in the "Coach and Horses".

15th May 1841. A list of rates paid was produced from which we learn that the total assessment that is rateable value was £2475.13s.5d raising £33.17s.1d. 72 persons

were on the ratings list but only 23 were liable for the poor rate and the highways rate.

"The Coach and Horses" was assessed at £15.6s.0d and the largest assessment was that of W.H. Marshall at £349.15s.4 ½d and the smallest that of William Williams, gardener at 2s.11d who paid 1/4d ! That was for house and land. Was it a small house on a small plot ?

Mr Cook who wrote accompanying notes to these extracts from the minutes stated that the list of ratepayers was reduced over the years and by 1873 there were only 6 payers of the church rate at 1 ½ d in the pound. (But by this date it was a voluntary payment, compulsory church rates having been abolished in 1868).

A list of dates running from 1842 – 1847 follows with the details of all sorts of expenses – a very wide range e.g. for a map 1s2d. Draining the churchyard £1.1s.0d, 30 dozen eggs 5s. Why? Surplices £1.10s. 8d, dust pan 1s.3d.

Large scale repairs to the roof, seating, windows etc. in the sum of £1506.0s.0d were carried out in 1853-1855, £50 to purchase an organ in 1855 and clockwinding for 12d. was this for a week, a month or a year ?

In 1862 15s a year was agreed in payment to a Mrs Smith for lighting, cleaning and blackleading the stove. In the period 1893 – 1919 Christmas gifts to 40 poor persons at 1 shilling or 2 shillings and sixpence each were provided by the Duc d'Aumale, The Duke of Orleans and Sir Charles Eady. I think these were successive donors over the period and not all at the same time.

Thus it will be seen that the meetings occupied themselves with matters both great and small.

There are also extracts from a Receipt and Payment Book of the Poor Law commission and overseers accounts for the period 1836 – 1848. For example:

Paid to convey Samuel Woodward a pauper, to Evesham Workhouse 1 shilling – March 14th 1838. But on October 14th 1844 the expense of taking William Hawkes and his wife to the Workhouse was on account of the use of a horse and cart 3s.6d

There were quite a number of other such cases over the years but sometimes not to the Workhouse but to another parish, presumably the native parish.

For example, February 23rd 1845, William Spiers and family were taken to Great and Little Hampton. Taken by horse and cart at the cost of 7 shillings.

There then follows in the extracts a series of parish meetings and vestry meetings.

29th January 1846. A meeting was convened in the church and adjourned immediately to the "Coach and Horses" (They seemed very fond of this procedure. Why I wonder ?). These various meetings also include several already mentioned in the sections on the school. But other interesting general decisions were:

24th March 1849. A committee was appointed to tell Edward Collins to desist from his intention to erect buildings on an area of land at Taylors Hill which the meeting considered that under the terms of the Act of Parliament of 1786 for the enclosure of the parish to be reserved for the use of the parishioners in general.

26th February 1863. To consider celebrations to mark the occasion of the marriage of Edward, Prince of Wales, later to be King Edward VII to the Princess Alexandra of Denmark. Subscriptions were invited to provide a dinner of roast beef and plum pudding and ale for all the men and boys of the parish, boys to be twelve years or old or more. Also to provide a tea with plum cake for all the women and children residing in the parish. The wedding took place on 11th May, but before that on the 23rd March it seems the dinner and tea had already been held because the exact quantities of food and drink that had been required were reported to the meeting as follows:

171 ½ pounds of beef given by the Rector, The Revd. A.H. Winnington-Ingram. Plum Pudding (weight not stated) given by Mr John Marshall. (The Marshall family were the largest ratepayers in the parish). 193 lbs of cake and 54 ½ lbs of beef were provided for the tea (perhaps they had cold beef sandwiches from the beef not eaten at the dinner ?) Fireworks and prizes cost £1.3s and the balance of the money subscribed but not spent, and amounting to 11s.8d. was given to the aged and sick.

This account is an excellent example of Victorian Charity to the poor and presumably the dinner and tea were held before the wedding because it was thought that a good meal in cold rather than hot weather would be better. But what if the wedding had been called off ?

In 1879 a meeting was informed that the drainage of the village had cost £325. I have read that this work was undertaken after an epidemic. That is stated in the Harvington W.I. section of the 1950 book "Life in my Village" published by the Worcestershire Federation of W.I.'s and available for consultation in Evesham Public Library. "After a diphtheria outbreak in 1878, three landowners paid £325 in 1879 for a drainage system".

The same meeting also elected overseers of the poor, constables and various other officials. An earlier meeting of the vestry on 22nd February 1872 had minutes recording details of this type of procedure for there were elected 5 overseers who were all "substantial householders" but the 9 constables appointed included Gardeners and labourers and one carpenter.

Richard Bullock was elected Waywarden and was the parishes representative on the Evesham Highways Board which maintained roads before the County Council took on that responsibility in 1889.

15th April 1841:

At this Vestry meeting a census of houses and owners was reported. National Censuses take place every ten years and because the first one was in 1801 all the others have a 1 in the year. It is not clear whether the list beneath was from the published result of the 1841 census or was perhaps information the vestry was forwarding to the Census authorities. More likely the latter as April is rather early in the year to expect final, published results.

Total of owners / residents	71
Cottages	60
Houses	33
Gardens	65
Shops	3
Public Houses	2 *
Blacksmiths	1
Malthouses	3
Cornmill	1
Schoolmaster	1 (but there was as yet no school !)
Rector	1
Rateable Value	£2,475.13s.5d

4d in the £ charged for the Church repairs. Of 71 persons involved 50 were excused the poor and highway rates.

In 1873 only 6 persons paid the, by then, voluntary church rate of 1 ½ d in the £.

* This perhaps implies that the Shakespeare, The Hoppole and the White Horse had not yet been established. Certainly the Shakespeare was not established until the railway came.

Further Local Government Development

The local government development in any parish has to follow the alterations made from time to time by central government. The main stages in the 19th century were the establishment of Union of parishes workhouses in 1834 to be run by Boards of Guardians – so there came to be one at Evesham for Harvington. The abolition of the church rate in 1868 and transfer of many powers of the vestries in civil matters to Rural Sanitary Authorities based on the areas of the Workhouse Unions, the

Education Act of 1870 which did not affect Harvington in as much as the Church School must have been considered adequate so that there was no need to elect a School Board, the establishment of the County Council in 1888 and of both Rural District Councils and Parish Councils in 1894

The Parish Council of course is happily still with us and its detailed history would be another suitable subject for a history booklet.

1974 of course saw the amalgamation of small rural districts and boroughs so that since then Harvington has been part of Wychavon District Council area. To conclude this section there will now be considered an important matter of the early local government reorganisation that made a huge difference to Harvington as to other parishes at various dates in the 18th century. It was:

The Enclosure Act and Award (also incorporating tithe redemption) of 1786

People of limited historical understanding sometimes recognise only two periods in history – the present day and what they vaguely call “olden times”. Also most history tends to be concentrated in the historians “modern history period”, usually reckoned to have begun with the Battle of Bosworth and accession of Henry V11 in 1485, and so coinciding with Professor Hoskins period since the study of local history began.

In this five hundred year span in my opinion, the best date in any parishes history to divide “olden times” from modern times is the date of the enclosure act which of course varied somewhat from parish to parish.

In some parts of the country the tithe award was made on a separate, later date and this was often so in Lancashire. Here in the Midlands both were usually undertaken at the same time, as here in Harvington. And in such cases the importance of the date as a watershed in the parishes local history is greatly emphasised and reinforced.

The reason for my view as stated above is that the entire appearance of the parish was suddenly and dramatically changed. This change was also accompanied by changes in land ownership and tenancies. Improved farming methods were introduced on the consolidated holdings. Tree and hedge planting was undertaken, highways defined and made and byways staked out. An entire village system that had more or less held sway since the Norman Conquest was replaced by a system which we still have today. And now for the details.....

These details are taken from a photocopy of the award which is in the County Record Office, also from a hand written copy and various other papers, all in the collection lent to me by Mr. Tony Watts.

The Enclosure Act consists of 27 large printed pages, so of course there is much detail about exact procedures, costs and penalties, but the main thrust of the enactment is as follows:

Three commissioners are appointed and each is to be paid £1.11.6d i.e. ½ guineas a day for their work.

They were Edward Palmer of Coleshill, North Warwickshire, John Whateley of Chadshunt near Kineton, Warwickshire and John Clarke the elder of Pebworth, Gloucestershire.

Mapping and surveying to be done by John Clarke the younger of Evesham. The fact that the three commissioners lived outside Worcestershire was probably to give a sense of impartiality in their decisions.

They were sworn in in June 1786 by John Hughes, presumably a J.P. at the Stanford Arms Inn at Salford Priors (now the Blossom valley Inn). The preamble to the act states its purpose to be that of allocating the “open fields and common land of the parish” at the time scattered about in various plots large and small, to existing proprietors of land in proportion to their existing holdings (principle of “much gets more”). This was mainly to the benefit of Church lands of the Dean and Chapter of

Worcester accounting for 46/60 of the area of the parish. (The parish was stated to comprise 60 yardlands or hides and was as was previously noted that was only 900 acres out of 1310 so I now think this might mean that 410 acres were common land or open fields). Proprietors of newly allocated land had to pay for the fencing or hedging. The act also required the commissioners to lay out roads and footpaths of specified widths (usually 40 feet for roads). Existing old enclosures could be included with new ones or exchanged for others as seemed convenient. The act also required tithes in kind payable to the Rector to be substituted by agreed rents or allocation of glebe land. So in fact the act was an enclosure act and award and a tithe appointment act at the same time.

After completion of their work the commissioners were required to have an "instrument" of their decisions engrossed on parchment and accompanied by maps of the old and new enclosures. These items to be deposited in the parish chest. Everything has now gone to the County Record Office but there are no maps surviving, although the St. Helens branch of the record office has a "conjectural map" made after study of the award by Dr. J.D. Schooling. This map was on display at the Church exhibition of 21/23 July 2000. The names and numbers of the enclosures are in red if new and black if old.

Amongst the penalties in the act is one that authorises the seizure of animals being pastured on what was common land but no longer is. For their release to their owners 10 shillings an animal is to be charged, but if the owners could not pay then the beasts were sold.

This was a severe measure for the poor who would also not get any allocated land because they could not afford to fence it, and the small compensation they received was soon spent. In England as a whole, the enclosure acts caused great distress even if they gave greater agricultural efficiency. In general and probably therefore at Harvington, these acts made for a sharper division between rich and poor and helped to increase the demand for workhouses (examples have already been given of parish payments in Harvington to convey people to Evesham workhouse).

The Instrument (or Award)

Mr S. Cook evidently studied this document in a copy that he borrowed locally (where is it now ?) and made copious hand-written notes from which the following main points emerge.

Public roads to be 40 feet wide. Newly planted trees to be 50 yards apart and 18 feet from neighbours' fences. One acre of public gravel pits to be provided, presumably for the repair of roads. Two acres of marl pits also to be provided (marl is a natural mixture of clay and lime and is used for lightening heavy soils when it is dug in).

Some tithes to the Rector to be in the form of glebe land and others as rents. Fences to be kept in repair for 7 years by their owners and then by the occupiers. (The Dean and Chapter and the Rector were exempted from this).

Payment of expenses to be by the owners except in the case of the Dean and Chapter and the Rector. Allotments, that is leases, not to be granted for more than 21 years.

Roads to be made as follows:

1. Turnpike Road(s) to be 60 feet wide (Evesham to Alcester).
2. Salford Road to be 40 feet wide starting from Sawpit Lane (where was that ?) to the hamlet of Abbots Salford.
3. From the School (what school ?, perhaps there was some parish or dame school that pre-dated the Cof E School, or as this was taken from Mr. Cook's copy it might be his way of recording the position by reference to the present school). This road to be 40 feet wide from the Blacksmith's shop North West into the Turnpike Road at Porter's Elm (where was that ?) crossing it and then northwards to Lench Gate. (This road seems to me to be, if the

- blacksmith's shop was where it later was, from the junction of Stratford Road along Village Street, across the Evesham to Alcester Road at Harvington cross and up Leys Road to where there was presumably a gate giving access to an unimproved road, that is one that gets to "The Lenches".
4. Four footpaths are then described and also nine private roads.
 5. Gravel pits were stated to be at Harvington Cross (that would be useful for repairing the Turnpike Road) and Harvington Leys (where exactly was that ?)
 6. Marl pits to be at Taylors Hill (where was that ?) and Horsemoor Furlong (off Salford Road). (Taylors Hill has been mentioned previously on page 27)
 7. There then follows 8 plus pages of allocations of land. 14 to the Rector (one page) 13 to the Dean and Chapter of which some are to be held jointly with a certain Ann Chamberlain. 20 others shared between the Dean and Chapter and various private proprietors. 13 to the Duc d'Aumale. 17 more to the Dean and Chapter alone. The "various proprietors mentioned above were William Marshall, John Pearce, James Pearce and Mary Holbrook.

I have made a list of all the allocations but it would be tedious to list them all here. Therefore I am listing a main statement without too much detail, but if anyone is interested I could supply the omitted details.

The main beneficiaries were as follows:

	Acres	Roods	Perches
The Rector	236	0	15
The Dean and Chapter	89	3	28
D & C and E Marshall	23	0	9
D & C and Duc d' Aumale	100	2	3
D & C and A. Chamberlain	60	1	37
D & C and J. Godfrey	141	1	21
D & C and J. Marshall	54	3	20
D & C and W Marshall	63	0	30
D & C and J. & J. Pearce	43	1	19
D & C and M. Holbrook	3	0	22
D & C and several persons	1	1	31
Totals	817	2	32

I think the various allocations to the Dean and Chapter plus others meant that the land was to be owned by the Dean and Chapter but let to the stated person(s). Then there were 8 allocations to small proprietors as follows:

	Acres	Roods	Perches
George Evans	46	3	20
E. Marshall / others	69	3	22
E. Marshall alone	4	2	10
W Tovey	7	0	31
Ann Hawkes	5	0	16
A Chamberlain	17	0	20
John Marshall	6	0	9
Charles Oldaker	0	1	34
Totals	157	1	2

Now if we add the totals of the two lists we get 974 . 3. 34 and if we then subtract this grand total from the total area of the parish we get 335 . 1. 6. Implying that 335+

acres were not allocated and were probably old enclosures including gardens and vegetable plots on which houses and cottages stood.

The case of Charles Oldaker who received the smallest allocation is intriguing. It is only guesswork of course, but I think he might have been a stubborn peasant with a cottage and a small plot of land of about 750 sq yards which he insisted should be augmented by an increase in proportion of about 3:1 as for any larger proprietors, because $750 \times 974 / 335 = 2250$ sq yards, which added to his existing made about 3000 sq yards or about 2/3 acre. Presumably he had just enough savings to pay for fencing, but the larger proprietors must have regarded him as a damned nuisance. To my mind he was the embodiment of Toryism against the forces of Whiggery !

The accounts of the enclosure award

The payments of expenses in allocating land to 15 people was £1507. 2s.4d. They were all people to whom land was granted except the largest allocation which is not mentioned (for some reason) in the schedule. He was The Revd. Edward Williams, Rector of Chastleton, Oxfordshire, who died in 1788 aged 64. He was allocated 251 acres, 6 roods and 7 perches. There is a certain mystery here. The smallest payment was of course Charles Oldaker, who paid 17 shillings and 11 pence for his allocation of 1 rood 34 perches. The above mentioned payments were of course receipts by the commissioners.

Outgoings included payments for new fencing, legal fees, part payment for existing hedges, clerk's fees, hire of rooms in Salford Priors and Evesham and charges for engrossing the final documents, for ploughing and hedging and drainage. These last two items were in addition to the £1507. 2s. 4d and made for a grand total of £1575. 3s. 11 ¼ d. (how accurate !). The award was enrolled with the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Worcestershire on 2nd October 1787. The above details are copied from the hand-written copy of the award made by John Bullock of the Manor House, Harvington in January 1893.

The Tithe Award

Mainly this was achieved by land allocation to the church in place of payments in kind, but for 16 presumably poor and landless cottagers, there were money payments to me made annually. The 16 payments by cottagers ranged from 9d to ¼ d . Probably these paltry sums were not collected but were included in the award by the demands of arithmetic. As an aside I can mention that when my maternal grandparents bought a new house in 1908 at Leamington Spa but in the parish of St. Mary' Magdelene, Lillington, they had to pay one shilling a year to the church until the 1920's. But by then about 200 houses had been built in the locality and 200 shillings = £10.00.

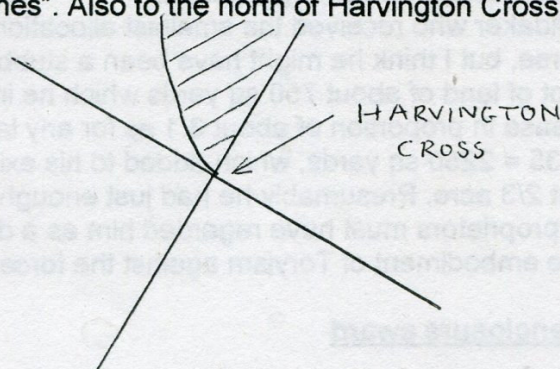
Those liable at Harvington for the small tithe payments were John Canning, Eliz Marshall, Joseph Ganderton, Sarah Berwick, Thes Cowley, Eliz Knight, Rob Dawes, Will Clark, John Rawell, Will Taylor, Sam Woodward, Will Blundell, John Cale, George Barnett, Will Merriman and Jas Pestrige. The list if nothing else is an interesting list of some of the ordinary inhabitants of the parish in 1786/7.

In conclusion of this section on the Enclosure Act and Award, please try to visualise the enormous differences it made both to the appearance of and life in Harvington at the end of the 18th Century. After it we are truly in "Modern Times".

Harvington in 1930

At the exhibition in the Church 21/23 July 2000 was a map made by Sarah Dawes in 1930 which showed the land allocated at the time to various crops and uses.

Allotments behind the School and to the east of Leys Road about half way along it towards "The Lenches". Also to the north of Harvington Cross and Evesham / Alcester Road



Pasture opposite the School and including the land where the Ragley Road houses are now are and the Green adjacent to them.

Agricultural Land (I think this must mean arable land) between Village Street and Evesham Road.

Market Gardens to the right of Evesham Road going towards Evesham.

Orchards in Various locations corresponding approximately to those shown on the 1" 1946 O.S. map.

Those who live in Harvington these days will be able to decide how the above description differs from the present day situation as regards land usage.

It now seems that I am getting towards the end of the historical account of Harvington But I must add a short description of the W.I. Scrapbook of 1965 which has been very helpful in providing information. Also I have the idea of providing it with a suitable box, out of the profits of the sale of this little book.

Included with the Scrapbook is a history of the W.I. by Mrs. G.M. Bailey 1979, so I will begin with that.

The Harvington W.I. was founded in 1924, the national organisation having been set up in 1915. As previously mentioned, the W.I. was one of the earliest organisations to see the need for a village hall and worked tirelessly towards the provision of one. The interest in this project began in 1925 only one year after the branch was founded.

There then follow mention of various activities down the years which I decided not to reproduce here but wish to emphasise that in my opinion the two most important contributions to the well being of Harvington have been the impulsion for providing the Village Hall and in the 1965 Scrapbook.

The Scrapbook produced in Harvington as elsewhere in England to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the movement, is certainly worth a thorough perusal by anyone interested deeply in Harvington. Here I will be content to mention as a snapshot of 1965

1. Population January 1965 785 in 309 houses
2. 12 houses had their own wells
3. 3 general stores
4. Alterations were made to the Rectory
5. August 2nd the post Office was moved (presumably to where it is now. Before that I suppose it was in "The Old Post Office" i.e. in the thatched house with roughcast walls next to "Crooked Walls" as shown in the page of paintings shortly to be mentioned.
6. Saturday 14th August. Church Fete mentioned including a photo of the Revd. C.P. Johnson and Mr. Gerald Nabarro M.P. (For Kidderminster and I suppose he came in his celebrated car with number plate NAB1)

But in my opinion the most outstanding and remarkable item in the Scrapbook and a reason above all others why I recommend residents of Harvington to look at it is a page of six delightful, little watercolours of views of Harvington painted by Mrs Hilda Brazier.

Each measures 4.2 x 2.5 inches. They are as follows:

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1. | 2 | 1. | View of the Church and Manor Farm. |
| 3 | 4 | 2. | "The Steps", "Malthouse" and "The Laurels" |
| 5 | 6 | 3. | "Crooked Walls" and "The Old Post Office" |
| | | 4. | "The Cottage", "Dream Cottage" and "Dalkeith" |
| | | 5. | "Firbank, "Thatcholme" and "Thatchways" |
| | | 6. | "Candle Cottage" |

In conclusion, please take up some of the suggestions I have made for further historical study (Do not forget the blank pages at the end of this little book).

John Winterburn

Finished writing in A.D.2000, to be published in A.D. 2001

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8. Advertisement leaflets of Harvington Mill Hotel
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In addition a great amount of information was obtained from the collection of documents lent to me by Mr. Tony Watts and the exhibits in the Church Exhibition of July 21/23 2000.

Also in various conversations.

Much of the above is acknowledged at the appropriate points in the text.

List of the Previous Local History Booklets by J. Winterburn

All are out of print but could be photocopied to order.
(Not in chronological order).

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| In Lancashire: | History of Culcheth , History of Education in Culcheth. |
| In Yorkshire: | History of Winterburn Hamlet. |
| In Berkshire: | History of Steventon. |
| In Kent: | The Derings of Surrenden Dering |
| In Warwickshire: | History of Lillington
History of Halford
History of Baddesley Clinton,
History of Billesley Trussell
History of Bardon Villages
History of Saint Andrew's Parish, Shotton
Thomas Miles and the story of Mount Pleasant, Shotton
The Development of Local Government in Leamington Spa
The Development of Local Government in Stratford on Avon
History of Arnold Lodge School, Leamington Spa |
| In Lancashire and Warwickshire: | The Nineteenth Century Squirearchy |
| General: | The History of Local Government in England |

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mineral water, colour television, tea and coffee facilities.

A modestly priced but excellent wine list accompanies the appetising menu which makes maximum use of local and seasonal produce, fish and game (there are also light lunches on the Terrace), reflecting the owners' belief that dining well must be high on the agenda for a successful visit. Guests take away memories of spectacular countryside, superb meals, immaculate service, charming surroundings and perfect hosts. **Directions:** The Mill can be reached by a roadbridge over A46 opposite Harvington village, off the Evesham to Bidford road.

