

GOOD History



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GOOD HISTORY

The Journal of the Eynsham Junior History Group

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My thanks, also, to the members of the group, who may not have made written contributions to this issue, but have added to our discussions. The cover picture is taken from a leaflet about the Eynsham Festival held in May 1972



The old lock beam which has deteriorated since we last photographed it in 1997

EDITORIAL

This term we have been discovering how Eynsham has changed over time, particularly in the past fifty years. Eynsham has always been thought of as a centre of agriculture and farming but in the recent past it has changed considerably. Farms are no longer the main feature of the village and we have been looking at the ways this has changed Eynsham. We were lucky to have Mr Mark Pratley come to a meeting to talk to us about his childhood and how Eynsham had changed and once again we were fortunate to have the extremely good teaching video made for us by Mr Blake Pullen showing many changes in Eynsham. The group also realised that there had been changes even in their time.

The group has also tried its hand at reading eighteenth-century wills and inventories, and Abigail Sutherland, now an associate member of the group, has taken a fresh look at Henry VIII and his numerous wives.

In the summer we took another look at the river and thought about how its influence on Eynsham had changed and it is a pleasure to say that a number of parents joined our walk and one set an example to the children by recording the afternoon in the article below.

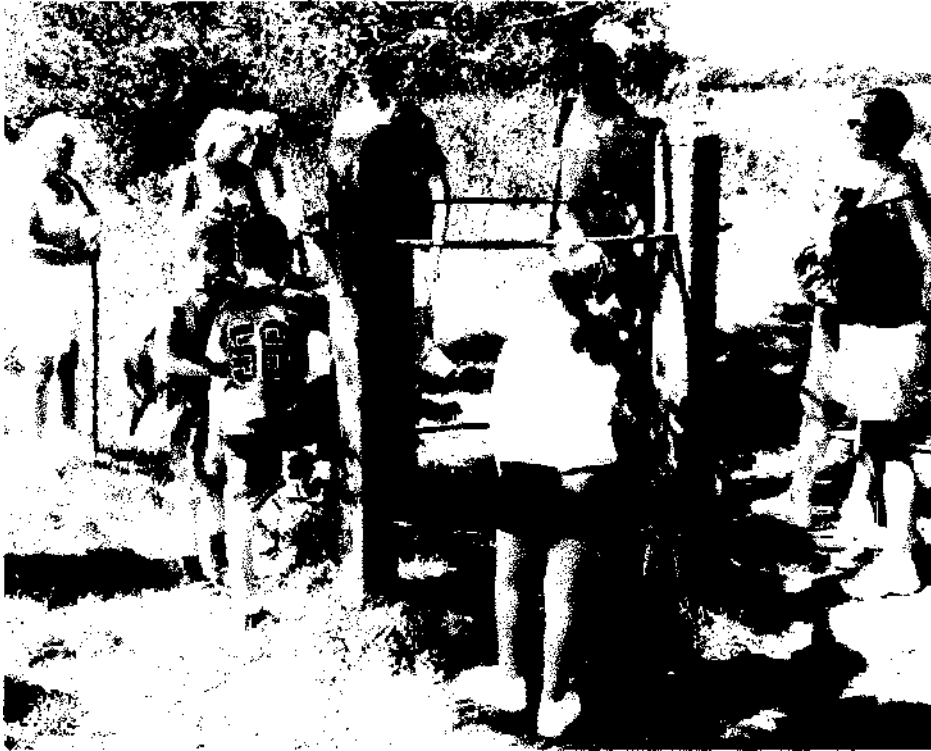
ONE SUNNY AFTERNOON AT EYNSHAM LOCK by Jamie Maskell (Father of Luke and Chad)

The World Cup was over, no cricket and no golf to take up a hot Sunday afternoon.

Well, I was so glad it didn't because it gave me the opportunity to do something I hadn't done for many, many years with the added bonus of seeing close up something that had always intrigued me. What am I talking about? A walk to Eynsham Lock and the chance to see inside a narrow boat, that's what.



Setting off from the playing field to the Siemens building, where we discovered the land it sits on had in fact been used for many different businesses over the years. It has now been a manufacturing plant that makes MRI body scanners for the past 22 years. Through the kissing gate, then across the field to the small wooden bridge where we discovered that it had been a small lock in the early 1920's with the remnants of one of the lock beams and the iron circle that was used for storing the lock paddles.



Looking at the stand where the oars and paddles used to be placed.

On to the lock itself where we were lucky enough, for the children in the group to be able to open the lock gates for the passing boats. One of which was a very nice cruiser, that I discovered is kept moored on the island at Pinkhill and the owner uses it regularly to travel between Eynsham and Lechlade. It seems that boating holidays have diminished rapidly over the years. Cheap foreign travel and unpredictable weather, I presume.



Finally we were introduced to Mr Tim Bryce, the very proud owner of the very long narrowboat, (57 feet and 1 inch long, I believe). Mr Bryce decided to give up the concrete jungle for a life on the river and his 3 year old narrowboat is now very much his home. Fortunately for us he kindly gave us an insight of what life is like living on a very homely narrowboat. Well, apart from a garage, it has everything you have in your own home, lounge with a flat screen TV, kitchen, bedrooms (one for guests), fridge, washing machine, computer, and all the home comforts that make a home.

Oh, I almost forgot one very important thing. It doesn't have its own garden, but then again who needs one when you can open your window to a different landscape every day.

REFLECTIONS ON REMEMBRANCE DAY by Matthew Marks

It is this time of year again, when the clocks change, and it gets dark much earlier at night. This is also the time, when the poppies start coming out and being worn for Remembrance Day.

Up until this year, Remembrance Day has been just a day of pride for me. Being in the Scout movement, Remembrance Sunday has always been, "dress up in full uniform", and "best behaviour in church", and "we're on show to the whole village", and things like that. I have always been able to take pride in my uniform, and hope I will be asked to carry the flag. We parade from the Scout Hall to the Church, and all sit down, and are silent.

When it came to the two-minute silence however, I have never properly understood what the conditions of war were like, or really why the wars started. My attention span couldn't last two minutes, and I always ended up thinking of different things, not at all related to Remembrance Day.

This year however, I knew what to think about. This is because at school this year in history, we have been looking at what started World War I.

[Editorial Note: Britain went to war in August 1914 to prevent Germany dominating Europe, although the reason for the war is usually attributed to the murder of the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia on 28th June 1914. At least 10 million men, from all sides, were killed in action during the conflict.]

MY GRAMPY THE MORRIS MAN by Oscar Burton-Green

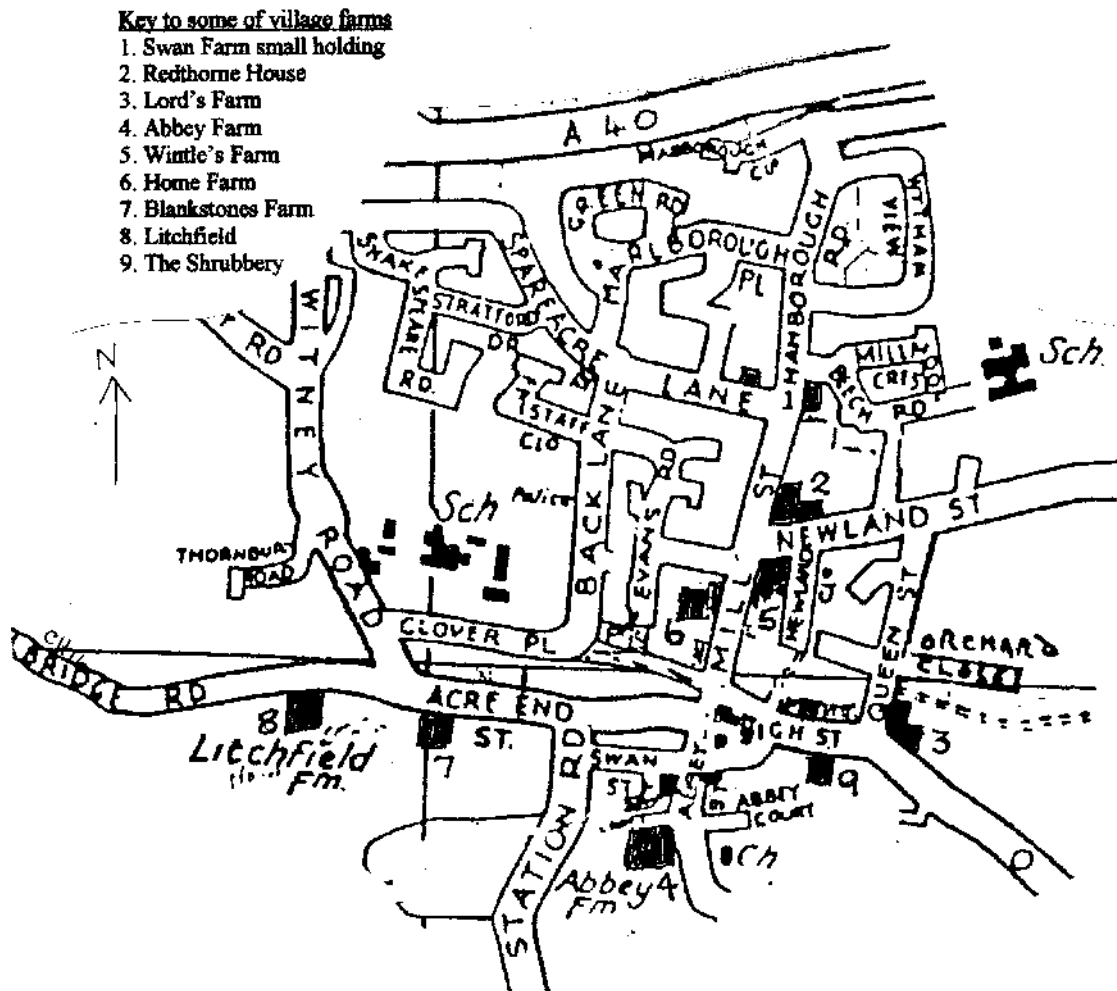
In 1978, twenty years before I was born, my Grampy, Keith Green with some of his friends, started researching the history of the Eynsham Morris. They wanted to start a new Morris team. The last Morris team had stopped around the 1920's. The research took them about two years. They had to discover what dances were performed by speaking to men who were still alive who had danced in the old team. Eynsham Morris have a unique step. They also dress in smocks and breeches with big bells on their legs and hobnail boots and top hats with lots of feathers on them. I enjoy watching them dance around the village from May until the end of October. I don't know if I will be a Morris man but you never know. (They drink lots of beer!).

TECHNICAL CHANGES by Reuben Andrews

When my mum was little only about ten people in her school had a computer. My Granddad found out how to make one so he built one. The games had people on made out of letters. They did not really look like people! Everyone I know has a computer now. The people on the games look exactly like real people. My Dad had a television at home. The television picture was all grey but now it is all colours. My Dad only had three channels to watch. We have about twenty channels now.

FARMING CHANGES IN EYNSHAM by Phillip & Benedict Zealley

This term we have been studying farms and farming in Eynsham. The farms used to be around the centre of the village. There were farms in Queen Street and Acre End Street among others. The farmers kept animals such as cows and pigs.



We also looked at the will and inventory of William Quartermain. He was a farmer who lived in Eynsham in the early eighteenth century. His will describes him as a yeoman which was more or less the same as a fanner at that period. Among his possessions he had 4 cows valued at £12 and 3 pigs valued at £2. 13 shillings.

	£	s	d
3 Pigs	02	13	00
2 Yearlings	02	00	00
4 Cows	12	00	00

CHANGES IN EYNSHAM PUBS AND INNS by Chad Maskell

There are now 9 pubs in Eynsham. 30 years ago there were 13 pubs. In the middle ages people went to drink in local cottages, but they were not allowed to get drunk and not allowed to buy drink when church services were happening.

Inns were more important than pubs as you could eat and stay there. Because Eynsham was such an important place, it had an inn as far back as 1587. It was called The Angel. It changed its name to the Red Lion at the beginning of the nineteenth century. There is still a Red Lion in the village today.

MY INTEREST IN FOSSILS by Kushal Nayee

I was given some fossils and a book about them and I find it so interesting I even read it at bedtime. I wondered where the fossils I was given were found. I found one in a river. It had compressed bones in it. I tried to take out the bones but I couldn't.

[Editorial Note: A fossil is either the remains of any animal or plant preserved in rock and petrified or turned to stone, or it is the petrified cast or impression left by the buried animal or plant after it itself has decomposed. The study of fossils is known as 'palaeontology'. Kushal is also interested in flints and has tried flint-knapping – the forming of flints into cutting tools just as the Stone Age people did.

HENRY VIII AND HIS SIX WIVES by Abigail Sutherland

Henry Tudor was born on June 24th 1491 second son to Henry VII and his wife Elizabeth of York. His older brother was married to the Spanish Princess Katherine of Aragon while he was still a child but he died young and the betrothal was transferred to Henry, who on the death of his father became Henry VIII.

Of Henry and Katherine's children only their daughter lived to be an adult. As Katherine had not given Henry a son he divorced her and in due course married Ann Boleyn. She also failed to produce a son, only giving Henry a daughter, Elizabeth. Henry quarrelled with Anne, and had her sent to the Tower, where she was beheaded. This allowed Henry to marry again.

Sadly, Jane Seymour, who, it was said Henry truly loved, did produce a son, Edward, but died in child birth. Henry remained unmarried for a number of years but when he saw a portrait of Anne of Cleves he sent for her and when she arrived they were married. The portrait, however, was very different from the real woman and Henry once more divorced a wife who wasn't 'up to standard'.

His next wife, Katherine Howard, was a lady at court who caught his attention. They were married for less than two years as Henry believed her to have affairs with other men at court and had her beheaded.

Henry's sixth wife was Catherine Parr and she managed to outlive him. She married again and much about her can be found out by visiting Sudeley Castle.

An easy way to remember the order of Henry's wives is through a little rhyme:

Divorced, beheaded died,
Divorced, beheaded survived.

Oxford Castle by Thomas Sutherland

Over the years the site of Oxford Castle has changed many times, from a Norman motte and bailey castle to a County Prison and more recently the background of ITV's prison drama *Bad Girls*. However, for a couple of years the site was silent with nothing happening at all. That was until the redevelopment of the site when evidence of a violent past was found hiding beneath the surface. The BBC programme *Meet the Ancestors* came and did an archaeological dig. During this dig they found what looked to be the results of a mass burial. They also discovered that the site had been one for carrying out executions. Public hangings commonly happened on that ground until 1863.

The site of Oxford Castle had, until recently, been in the hands of Oxfordshire County Council. Many grants enabled the land to be turned into a brand new tourist attraction at the heart of Oxford. This new attraction includes a multi-million pound development which has turned prison cells into Oxford's very own Malmaison Hotel. The old hospital has been turned into a tourist shop for the historical walk which you

can take around the site and hear about the grisly tales of what really happened in the torture chambers all those years ago. You can step down into the 900 year-old crypt and feel the claustrophobia that those poor people felt when they were locked in there.

Around this site there are many other things to keep you occupied, *for* example there is an art gallery and a wide range of restaurants and the ice rink that has opened for this Christmas season.

Do you dare enter Oxford Castle or even the 900 year-old crypt?

Well that's up to you!



[Editorial Note: Oxford Castle was built in 1071 by Robert d'Oilly to deter enemies, as at Windsor and Wallington, from crossing the Thames. As a deterrent it worked. Except for Stephen's brief skirmish with Matilda no serious hostilities ever threatened the massive St. George's Tower or the Mound with its keep on top and its well within, (recently still intact)]

Money Changes

Money in the eighteenth century was calculated in pounds, shillings and pence, £. s. d. There were twelve pence to the shilling and twenty shillings to the pound. The value of money was also different. In the 1700s the price index was calculated as 590.7 while in the 1990s it was 58130.1. It has probably changed again by now. These figures were taken from '*Sterling; the Rise & Fall of a Currency*' by Nicholas Mayhew.

AN 18th CENTURY INVENTORY by Elizabeth Gornall

A true & perfect Inventory of all the goods and Chattels of James Quatman
 late of Engham in the County of Devon Esq^r deceased taken and appraised the
 twenty eighth day of March 1704 by us George Knapp and Will^m Wife
 of Engham Gent^l

Appraising his goods and appraisall	20	00	00
In 7 parcels one table right chairs one oval cabinet and other things	01	00	00
In the Chamber one of parcel two fowling beds one flank bed three bedsteads three carpets one trunk three rowle beds five pieces of blankets with furniture other things	07	00	00
In the Chamber one bed and bedstead with curtains and valances one chest of drawers painted chairs or stool one quilt one pair of blankets with other things	05	00	00
In the Chamber one silver tankard one silver cup & four spoons	10	00	00
In the Chamber one the kitchen one fowling bed one flank bed two bedsteads two rugs to cover of blankets one Chest of Linen with other things	14	00	00
In the Cellar seven barrels with the bearing vessels two flands	02	00	00
In the Chamber one bed and bedstead one chest of drawers one pair of blankets with furniture other things	01	15	00
In the kitchen one table one four seater parlor plates four kitchen furniture one pair of chairs one pair of chairs with other things	06	10	00
In the yard one stack of hay	32	00	00
In the yard two rows with corn in the barn	100	00	00
In the stable nine horses with the harness	32	10	00
In the yard one cow	50	00	00
In the ground eight eight plovers	22	00	00
In the yard nine pigs	04	10	00
In the Cellar one two songers two songers two parrots two parrots two lads two songers	10	00	00
In the yard three flands	03	00	00
In the yard	20	00	00

George Knapp }
 Will^m Wife } Appraisors

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Edw^d 2^{da} May 1704

A true and perfect inventory of all the goods and chattels of James Quartermain, late of Ensham in the County of Oxon Deceased, taken and appraised on the twenty eighth day of March 1704 by us George Knapp and William Wise of Ensham.

	£	s	d
Imprimis his purse and apparel	20	00	00
In the parlour, one table, eight chairs, one cupboard with other things	01	00	00
In the chamber over the parlour, two feather beds, one flock bed three Bedsteads three coffers, one trunk three coverlets six pair of blankets With several other things	07	00	00
In the best chamber, one bed and bedstead with curtains and valance One chest of drawers, seven chairs one chest one quilt and one pair of Blankets with other things	05	10	00
In the same chamber one silver tankard, one silver cup and four Spoons	10	10	00
In the chamber over the kitchen, one feather bed, one flock bed, One bedstead, two rugs, two pairs of blankets and one chest of Linen with other things	14	00	00
In the cellar, seven barrels with the brewing vessel and two stands	02	00	00
In the dairy house one lead pail, one churn, two tables, seven Knives five cheese boards with several other things	01	15	00
In the kitchen, one table, one form, five pewter platters, four brass Kettles, four brass pots, five skillets, one brass pan, with other things	06	10	00
In the rickyard, 6 ricks of hay	32	00	00
In the rickyard, two corn ricks with corn in the barns	100	00	00
In the stable, nine horses with their harnesses	32	00	00
In the park side, twenty cows	50	00	00
in the grounds eighty-eight sheep	22	00	00
On the park side, nine pigs	04	00	00
In the coach house, two wagons two dungcarts 6 harrows two poles Two ploughs, two ladders, two longcarts	10	05	00
In the rickyard three staddles	03	00	00
Good debts	20	00	00
	342	00	00

George Knapp)
Will. Wise) Appraisers

Exhibited 2nd May 1704

[Editorial Note: As can be seen reading 18th century manuscripts is not easy but with a lot of hard work Elizabeth has given us an accurate transcription although some words have been changed to modern-day spelling. James Quartermain was the grandfather of William Quartermain whose inventory has already been mentioned. It is interesting to note that the value of farm goods is much greater than those in the house.]

THE 21st BIRTHDAY QUIZ.

[The questions in this quiz have been taken from items reported in the '*Good History*' journal since 1995.

1. What was the name of the Talbot Inn at the beginning of the nineteenth century?
2. Who, besides John Bartholomew, left money for the poor children of Eynsham and other villages at the beginning of the eighteenth century?
3. What was the name of the preacher who was the founder of the Catholic Apostolic Church in 1830?
4. Which politicians visited Eynsham Primary School in 1967?
5. What was the name of Eynsham Post Mistress in 1854?
6. To which paper-mill did many of Eynsham workers go when the Eynsham Mill closed down at the end of the nineteenth century?
7. To which animal does this bone belong?



8. What is the name of the Christ Church Cathedral bell?
9. When did the railway come to Eynsham?
10. What material did Stone Age men use for knives?
11. What was the Alfred Jewel used for?
12. What was the name of the rope making family who lived in Acre End Street?
13. What relief agency was founded in 1942?
14. What was the name of the Eynsham poet who wrote "Ten Little Kingdoms"?
15. Which vicar of Eynsham started a brickworks?
16. Which Oxford hotel was designed by the same architects who designed 'The Holt' in Mill Street?
17. When was Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India?
18. Which missionary, whose life was made into a film, inspired Mrs Mabel Chapman?
19. What did a fowler do for a living?
20. What happened that shook the world on 2nd December 2004?
21. Which politician visited Eynsham Primary School in 2005?

There will be a prize for the first correct set of answers received by January 18th 2007. Answers may be handed in at the School or at 6 Abbey Street. A correct set of answers will be posted on Eynsham website by 1st February 2007.