

THE PAST 200 YEARS

FOREWORD

I issued my account of Tarrant Gunville, The Past 200 Years in 1999, revised it in 2004 and have now brought it further up to date. As someone once said, 'History does not stand still'. All proceeds will go to the Church.

If you find that you have limited time or inclination to read through all that I have written, may I commend you to glance at the rebuilding and repair of the Church, pages 2 - 4 and 5, Farming on pages 11 - 14, Roads pages 20 and 21, Celebrations and social events pages 32 to 34, Statistics page 39 and Parochialia, page 40 to 42 (a few extracts from the diary of the then Rector).

If any readers have information or suggestions for the improvement of this Account, I will be a ready recipient (830509, e-mail eddie.b@which.net).

Eddie Brown

June 2007

INTRODUCTION

Those who were living in the village in 1994 will recall that my intention in conducting research into the Parish was first, to try to produce lists of the names of people who had lived in each of the houses in the Parish during the past 200 years, and secondly to tap the memories of parishioners and so provide an account of Tarrant Gunville and its past.

The first ambition foundered simply because the comprehensive records that are available, going back to 1841, provide much information about people but record few names of houses until about 1960, thus it is not possible to link people and houses before then. The second ambition prospered, and expanded into research including visits to public record offices and other sources of information. The results are the notes that follow. They cover almost 200 years.

I am very grateful to all the people who so readily fed me with information and I am particularly indebted to Mrs Thorne, Elliott and Jean Bailey and Keith Belbin. I have been well supported by Hannah Watson, Ron Dobrée-Carey, and, particularly, by Janet Harding and Elisabeth; my thanks for all that they have done. I must also thank Alan and Nita Mercer for designing the front page.

I hope that the notes will provide answers to some of the questions about the past that may be in people's minds. I also hope that they may stimulate memories so as to provide more information and that they might encourage others to delve into the past and record their findings. That there is more to be done will be self-evident from this account. Certainly we have found that each answer to a question generated further questions, and each piece of research revealed opportunities for additional research. May I encourage anyone who says, 'Why didn't they speak to X, dig out information about Y, read up on Z?' to set out and do their own research. I will not be in the least offended by such remarks and will readily give whatever help I can. I will also be the grateful recipient of any relevant information that anyone may want to give me (830509) - I am quite happy to visit and take notes.

Eddie Brown
March 1999¹

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TARRANT GUNVILLE PARISH SINCE 1800

This account is concerned with Tarrant Gunville parish during the past 200 years (ie from about 1800 onwards). But it is worth noting that there is evidence of the area being inhabited by Mesolithic hunter gatherers over 5500 years ago, by Iron Age people (from about 750BC) and later by the Romans.

The area is described in the Domesday Book, when the parish was held by Ailfus Camerarius. The name Gunville comes from the de Gunvills (various spellings) who were supporters of the Norman kings. Over the years the name of the Parish has varied, for example Gondeville (13th C), Gounvyl and Gounfylde (16th C) Gundfield and Gunvill (17th C).

Stubhampton, the hamlet within the parish, is equally ancient. Over the years the spelling of the name has also varied. In the Domesday Book (1086) it was Stibemetune, Tarente Stubhampton (14th C), Stupyngton (15th C), and Stepinton (16th C). The name of the hamlet is thought to mean 'farm of the dwellers by the tree-stump' or 'in the tree-stump village'. If this interpretation is correct there must, at one time, have been a spectacular tree-stump there.

The Tarrant part of the name is believed to be a version of the word Trent, an ancient Celtic word probably meaning 'river liable to floods'. Some researchers however think that Tarrant is derived from 'the torrent'.

In 1800 Tarrant Gunville was a parish of 408 people with just over 100 houses (sources do not all agree on numbers). The censuses, from 1841 onwards, show a mixture of houses occupied by large families and houses with a few elderly people in them. Most old houses that are single units today were then divided into two or three tenements. For example, Chime Cottage was two tenements, as was the Old Post Office. The parish appears to have changed little during the 19th century, and well into the 1950s there were still many cottages divided into two tenements with large families living in some. Unfortunately we do not have access to detailed census records after 1891 and cannot provide information about the precise process of change.

Until the 1950/60s most of the people living in the parish knew each other and met regularly as they walked to work or to the shop, pub, school, post office, church or used the village tradesmen. In the late 1990s there is no shop, pub, school or post office, and few village tradesmen. Most people have cars and have work or other interests outside the village. Hence we do not all know each other. Nevertheless the village is a friendly place with a good deal of community activity.

The Church held a strong, central position in the community during at least 160 years of this account. For much of the 19th century the Vestry, chaired by the Rector, was the 'local authority'. It was responsible, for example, for putting forward names of parishioners to be constables, for maintaining roads and, where necessary, building new roads and bridges, for schooling, for looking after its poor and for setting and collecting rates to fund these activities. Because of its central role it is with the Church that we begin.

TARRANT GUNVILLE CHURCH

A church has stood in Tarrant Gunville since about 1100. It seems most likely that at first it was quite small and that it was enlarged over the years to meet the requirements of an increasing population or the ambitions of the incumbent, the vestry or the local gentry. One can also imagine it being well attended. People now living in Gunville can recall going to church three times on a Sunday when the singing was supported by a church choir.

This account of the church begins in the early 1840s. The parish church was then in a poor condition. There must have been draughts whistling in from all directions - a blessing in warm weather perhaps, when one bears in mind the probable primitive hygiene in the parish, but penitential in winter when there was probably no heating at all.

Contemporary quotations give a good feel for the situation. 'The old church was in a very dilapidated condition and contained no features of special interest' (The Registers of the Rural Deanery of Pimperne, Blandford portion). 'Now towards the middle of the 19th Century the Parish Church is, through increased population¹ become too small for the accommodation of the parishioners'. In *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset* Hutchins records 'Originally it was proposed to restore and enlarge the whole Church but the walls were, in so many places, so unsound and the timbers so thoroughly decayed that there was no alternative but to rebuild it altogether'. Hutchins also notes that 'When the old Church was pulled down a curious rude arcade was discovered running along the south side of the north aisle, which had been concealed by the flat plaster ceiling of the nave. The work was of rough purbeck stone, and three of the arches of which it was composed have been rebuilt in a like position in the present edifice and are now in consequence of the open roof exposed to view.' *Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset* records - 'Reset in the S wall of the aisle, between the nave arcade and the aisle roof, are two and a half bays of interlaced, round-headed wall arcading with plain pilasters, moulded impostes and plain archivolt.' According to several reports, these are 12th century - and they can still be seen from the vestry door.

It is not known who prompted thoughts of restoring and extending the church. The minute book shows that the Vestry decided in 1844 'that a faculty be obtained authorising the pulling down of part of the church'. There is no mention of increasing the size and, exasperatingly, there is subsequently only one minor mention of the work, ie a decision to take down the face of the clock during rebuilding. But it is known from other records that the tower was left untouched while the rest of the church was restored.

A Petition, dated 16 March 1844, was put to the Bishop of Bristol 'by the churchwardens George Carter and Joseph Wareham of Tarrant Gunville that the Parish Church is through the increased population of the said Parish become too small for the accommodation of the parishioners... in consequence parishioners of the said parish had resolved that the same should be enlarged by extending the nave and two side aisles thereof 16 feet or thereabouts in length to the east ends thereof and that the present old galleries and pews of the said church should be removed and new seats erected in their place.....also chancel taken down and rebuilt.....also take off present roof of said church and to be replaced with slate or tile'. It was also 'expedient to make for preservation of all monuments tablets pennons and hatchments as have been legally put up in the present church.... and preserving tombs and tombstones now legally in the churchyard'. A faculty, approving the enlargement, and signed on behalf of the Bishop of Bristol on 23 March 1844 records that, in the meantime, Tarrant Gunville had been transferred to the diocese of Salisbury.

The new church was capable of accommodating 371 persons, 'of which sittings 85 are to be appropriated and 286 free'. The rebuilt church was consecrated on Thursday 2nd October 1845 at 11 o'clock in the forenoon by Edward Denison, Bishop of Salisbury.

Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset indicates that the stair turret in the tower was built at the same time as the reconstruction of the church.

¹ Population 1801 - 408; 1841- 518

Although there are no records of the rebuilding one can imagine frequent visits by the Rector, the Church Wardens and many of the congregation. There would no doubt be discussion, disagreement, concern about whether the work was being done properly and according to specification, last minute changes of mind, (to exasperate the builder); a ferment of interest and expectation. But eventually the building was completed and it must have looked quite splendid (indeed it still does). The total cost of the work was £1,272. 6/-, of which more than half (£730) came from contributions.

Incorporated Church Building Society	£175
Incorporated Diocesan Society	£150
Lord of the Manor J J Farquharson	£300
Rector Rev John Watts	<u>£105</u>
	<u>£730</u>

There is an official account in the Wiltshire Record Office of the service of consecration which was led by Bishop Edward Denison with the support of numerous clergy. It says nothing of the atmosphere (which must have been festive) or of the celebrations afterwards (no doubt a few toasts were drunk and perhaps speeches made). Nor does it mention whether the working population of the parish had the day off, (for the consecration took place on a Thursday). The collection at the consecration was an astonishing £110. 11.10d. We can almost hear the Treasurer say, 'That leaves about £432 to be found; I wonder where it will come from'. We also will have to wonder because we do not know!

At the end of this section there are plans, taken from the vestry minute book, showing the church as it was in 1844 and the proposed, enlarged church. It is interesting to note that the new plans proposed a vestry opposite the entrance, a pulpit on the South side, some structure, possibly the prayer desk referred to later, on the North side and that stairs to the tower are shown. There is also more seating than there is at present. Although we do not know whether work was done in accordance with the plans and alterations made later we are inclined to think that, apart from the seating, the plans were altered in 1844.

On completion of the restoration the Rector issued this splendid letter to his congregation.

'Dearly Beloved Brethren,

Our New Church having now been Consecrated and our ordinary Services restored, there are a few points, which I am anxious to put before you, as suggestions for yourselves, and rules which I am anxious to adopt:-

In the first place, as the far greater portion of the Sittings of our Church are free and unappropriated, in strict conformity with the ancient usages of the Church of Christ; in accordance with the wishes of our Bishop; and the rules of those bountiful Societies, without whose aid the works of rebuilding could not have proceeded, I am anxious to make known to you, the arrangement which I think best suited for our mutual accommodation:-

I would wish that the Nave, or centre of the Church should be occupied by Families who sit together, that the North Aisle should be occupied by Single Females and the South Aisle by Single Men; of course all seats not occupied before the end of the Confession, will be open to any part of the Congregation.

I am anxious that *Hassocks* should be placed in every seat. For the Free seats I am willing to supply them; and as there is good room for kneeling, I trust and hope that you will all "meekly kneel upon your knees," at those parts of the Service where the Rubric, the direction in your Prayer Book, requires you so to do.

In the Public Prayers you are all directed to take part, audibly to repeat the responses, and at the end of each prayer to join in one solemn utterance of the word "Amen"; signifying thereby your hearty assent to the substance of the Prayer which the Clergyman has offered in his and your behalf.

The Singing, or Psalmody is an important part of Christian Worship; and during this part of the Service all should stand erect, (as indeed you do,) and as far as possible all should join their voices in singing Praise to God.

We have long since restored the ancient custom of Baptising Infants during public Service, immediately after the Second Lesson in the Evening Service, so far we have done well, that this rule has been established; but I would request the Congregation generally to take part in this Service, standing up and kneeling, and repeating the responses and joining in the "Amen."

The Office of Churching of Women, will be read before the General Thanksgiving in the Afternoon Service, the Woman kneeling upon the steps of the Altar, who will make her Offering before she returns to the seat assigned to her.

I feel every confidence that you will kindly assist in carrying out these simple rules and suggestions. We should all endeavour to follow the Apostle's teaching, who bids "that all things be done with decency and order"; by so doing we shall contribute to the solemn Service of Public Worship, and thereby promote the edification of ourselves and others.

With every prayer that, by God's assistance, we may all and each of us make good use of the opportunities afforded to improve in Godliness:-

I remain, my beloved Brethren
Your affectionate Friend and Pastor
John Watts

Rectory House, Tarrant Gunville
Monday October 6th, 1845

The minute books of the Vestry and PCC record many repairs and improvements to the church and its fittings. A few are noted here:-

In 1884 the chancel was tiled, the Chancel step repaired and aisle floors repaired (with old paving). The cost of the tiling, £17, was met by the Rector.

1890; when the new organ was installed in 1890 the Vestry decided that a lectern be substituted for the old prayer desk, the prayer desk to be divided into two priests desks to stand on the chancel steps N & S.

1899; Rev Lee Warner arranged and paid for the tiling of the whole of the chancel at a cost of £44. (We wonder why retiling was done after only 15 years.)

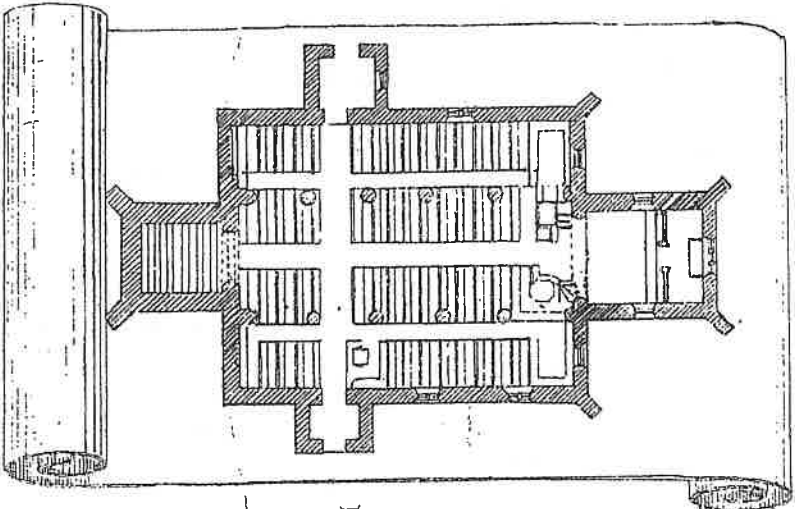
In 1908 the vestry obtained a faculty to replace the East window, installed when the Church was restored. The window was designed and installed by C E Kempe & Co, Nottingham Place, London.

In 1921 Mrs Hughes-Gibb offered to install a stained glass window depicting St Michael and St George in the North wall to replace the existing plain glass, as a memorial to her husband, Francis Hughes-Gibb, and two sons who were killed in the war. The Vestry were pleased to accept the offer, a faculty was obtained and the window installed by James Powell & Sons of Whitefriars.

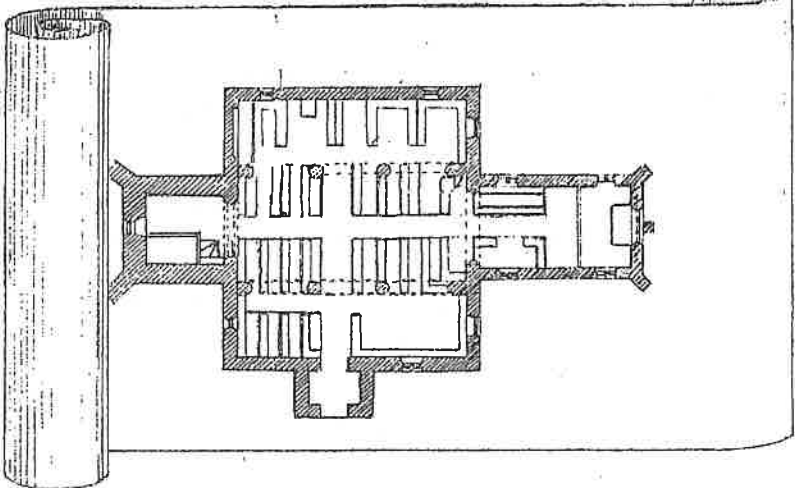
In 1923 a faculty was issued for the erection of a marble tablet with Belgian marble background, in memory of Edwin Lucas, on the wall of the tower.

In 1959 a faculty was obtained to instal electricity (estimate £59.19.0) by the Southern Electricity Board (SEB). 12 lighting points were to be provided, controlled by 12 switches. A light in the nave and a pilot light were controlled from the main door. A note by the SEB records that there is no independent lighting plug or point suggested for the pulpit or the organ, nor an outside point near the porch.

Plans of church taken from Vestry Notebook 1844



Plan of proposed enlargement.



Plan as at present.

Present Accommodation

221

Proposed Accommodation

350

of which

275

will be free & unappropriated

Seats.

GARRARD'S GURVILLE CHURCH, DORSET.

Whit and Brandon, Architects

Until 1896 the church had been funded by a voluntary rate and by subscriptions and donations. In 1896 it was decided, as an experiment, to replace the rate with monthly collections. The results appear to have been satisfactory except when a principal contributor was absent abroad for some time. The resulting deficits seem to have been met by 'the generosity of Squire Farquharson'.

The Rector's churchwarden usually served for a very long period. In 1911 the then Bishop suggested that the office might be held by others in turn; His Lordship's suggestion was immediately adopted, but seems to have lapsed after a fairly short time.

ROOF REPAIRS

As most people will know, C of E churches are inspected every five years (the quinquennial inspection) by an architect appointed by the diocese. The purpose of these inspections is to monitor the condition of the building and to identify necessary repairs. Inspections of Gunville Parish Church, as much as 20 years ago, had drawn attention to deterioration in the stone ridge of the roof and the poor state of the slates. Small repairs were made from time to time but by the report in 2003 it had become clear that there were major problems and that ongoing piecemeal repairs were not the answer. The PCC therefore decided on major roof repairs. In September 2004 the builders, A E Griffin and Sons, submitted a budget quotation of £74,822 to strip the roof, rebatten, supply and fit new slates, gutters, downpipes and ridgestones. When architects fees of £10,229, VAT and other extras were added the total became £98,145. Although VAT would have to be paid it was recoverable. Even so, such a figure was a daunting challenge for a small parish such as Gunville. Where was the money to come from?

Fortunately the PCC had shown considerable foresight. In anticipation of the need for heavy expenditure on repairs at some time in the future, Sylvia Spooner had organised, from the 1980's, regular, covenanted payments to the church, additional to the normal weekly offerings at services. Through these donations together with careful husbandry £66,000 had been accumulated by 1998. By the end of 2004, the total funds available for the repair work was £69,000. The PCC obtained a grant of £8,000 from the Rushton Churchyard Trust and careful negotiations and a persuasive site visit led to a grant of £10,000 from the Dorset Historic Churches Trust plus an offer of an interest free loan of £10,000. This gave a total of £97,000.

As the PCC felt confident that they could bridge the £1,000 gap and repay the £10,000 loan they accepted the quotation. But when the scaffolding was erected, more work was found to be necessary to replace the sheet lead roof of the tower, to repair the parapet masonry and to replace the second floor tower window. These major extras plus other minor items raised the projected cost, including VAT, to £117,436. Thankfully reductions in cost also arose. Work totalling £6,088 was found to be unnecessary and the architect's fee was re-negotiated down to £4,500. And £1400 was raised by selling unwanted second-hand slates and scrap lead.

The Parish showed tremendous support for the church raising £19,000 in 15 months. In addition, the Treasurer, Lizzie Patterson, obtained generous donations from individuals and there were donations from the Horse Show and gifts from Trust Funds. Despite the pressure on its resources, the Church continued its annual donations to the British Legion, Water Aid and the Children's Society.

Inevitably, once building began, point after point arose requiring quick decisions if work was not to be held up. Fortunately, the team of architect, David Brearley, the builders, Griffin, and the Church Warden, David Morrow, proved to be winners. They worked well together. They were open and honest with each other and work proceeded well. David was on site most days and decisions were made quickly and sensibly.

There were many meetings between Lizzie Patterson and David Morrow to keep track of costs and funding. Bob Gorton, the other church warden, brought his accountancy skills to meetings to help with the figures. But funds were always tight. Cash flow was a constant headache. For example, the church relied on the VAT, which it was able to recover, to help meet staged payments to the builder. The Treasurer, Lizzie Patterson, soon learned the meaning of 'brinkmanship' because, however promptly the bid to recover VAT was submitted, there was a

known gap of 4 to 5 weeks before the Inland Revenue refunded the money. Given our general experience of the inefficiency of bureaucracy there was a natural lack of confidence that the money would be available in time. As it so happens the IR always did pay up on time.

There were several side effects of the building work. One was the need to shroud the organ and all its pipes from dirt and dust. But the church organ is an essential item to provide tuneful guidance and to encourage the hesitant singer. Muriel Parker, the organist, brought along her small portable electronic keyboard and led the singing from the cross aisle. While no real substitute for the organ, her keyboard provided vital support throughout the work on the roof.

As you may imagine there was a great deal of material to be moved on to the site and lots of stuff to be removed. To transport all of this material to and from the church using the normal access from the Everley Hill road would have added considerably to the cost and to the timescale. By kindly offering access through his property Major Humphreys not only saved the expense but also provided easy access for the builders.

The work was completed in time for the Christmas services in December 2005 at a total net cost, after clawback of VAT, of £99,439. A special Service of Blessing for the new roof was held on Sunday, 12 February 2006.

ORGAN

We have little information about music in the church for most of the nineteenth century. It seems certain that there was singing at the services during this period because of references to hymns at services such as the consecration of the restored church in 1845, and the instruction in the Rector's letter in 1845. Whether the singing was accompanied, and if so, how, is unknown. The first reference we have found seems most odd. On 24 July 1845, while restoration was taking place, the Vestry minutes record; 'It was unanimously resolved, that Mr Watts having it in contemplation to lend an organ to the church, that the Parish do accept the same as a loan - Mr Watts retaining his full rights of private property in the instrument. It was also agreed that the Church Wardens should sign a minute to the above effect'. The minute was subsequently signed. There is no further reference to this offer but in 1851 or 1852 £9.11.3d was collected for the organ fund.

Forty years later, when a new organ was installed, there is a note of an offer from Mrs. Lee Warner to buy the 'old organ' for £30. Whether this organ is the one offered by Mr. Watts, or another, is not known. The sale to Mrs Lee Warner does not appear to have taken place because a report of the dedication of the new organ notes that 'The removal of the old organ (to Sheringham Church) restored the view of the west window in the tower'. All this suggests that there was an organ in the church from at least 1845 onwards.

In 1890 the Vestry agreed to the installation of a new organ at a cost of £150. The organ, built by J Stringer & Co of Handley, Staffs, seems to have been a great success and the 'opening' of the new organ on Tuesday 29 July 1890 was quite an event. It began with the dedication of the organ at a choral celebration of Holy Communion at 10.30am. Then 'At 4pm Gunville, as a parish, had mustered its strength ... the church was filled in readiness for choral evensong'. Twelve clergy attended. The choir 'in cassocks and surplices for the first time...showed marked evidence of careful training; the pointing of the psalms was distinct and emphatic and the hymns ... went with a precision and emphasis most grateful'. The offertories for the new organ amounted to £4.12/-. In the evening an organ recital was 'received with rapt attention'.

There is no record of work on the organ until 1953 when £82 was spent repairing the organ blower. Presumably by that time the blower was powered by electricity instead of being hand operated as in earlier years. In 1898 for example, Sidney Lucas, the organ blower, had his pay increased from 12/- to 15/- per year. A year later he resigned and Edward Thorne took over as organ blower. His son, Les Thorne, later became the organist. We have no record of when the change to electric operation was made.

In 1960/61 major repairs were undertaken at a cost of £167. This included £38 to bring the instrument into first class condition. Further extensive work was undertaken in 1989 thanks to a

legacy from Miss Lomax who had been the organist for many years.

HEATING

As we all know heating churches is a difficult problem. The church in Gunville is no exception. It seems probable, from our researches, that the heating in the church was inadequate until the late 1900s. Thus if the first church was built in 1100, it is possible that for almost 900 years congregations had, at the very least, been very uncomfortable in the depth of winter and, at the worst, had been absolutely frozen. I wonder how many layers of clothes Rectors, in the past, wore under their vestments in winter.

The first reference we have found to heating is in 1853. The vital word in the Vestry minutes is indecipherable but it is clear that the Rector was authorised to take some action in connection with a stove. There are no further references to heating until 1890 when a heating system based on Grundys Patent Warm Air Heating Apparatus was installed at a cost of £62; the Rector footed the bill. On 3 March 1890 the Rector, (Rev W H Hitchcock) wrote to the manufacturer complaining that in mild weather, with hard stoking and with the thermostat set at 60°, the maximum temperature reached was 42°. The letter refers to a money-back guarantee if the church is not satisfied with the system. It is not known why the Rector did not take advantage of the guarantee but contented himself with suggesting a contribution to the organ fund. Mr Grundy sent two guineas, plus advice on how to improve the effectiveness of the system. Whether his advice was taken and whether it improved matters is not known.

There is then a gap in the records until 1957. The PCC meeting on 27 February agreed that as the heating boiler was rapidly wearing out, the members should explore 'various possibilities' of replacing it. The next meeting, on 24 September, decided on overhead radiant electric heaters for which an estimate (£212) had already been obtained from the Southern Electricity Board. A faculty was obtained to instal the heaters. Despite this the next PCC meeting discussed other means of heating the church, in particular night storage heaters and using electricity to heat the existing water system. A faculty for the latter was obtained on 5 April 1958. Four immersion heaters, each of 3kw, were installed in the water tank. This tank was topped up automatically from a cistern which needed to be filled periodically by hand. Unfortunately, after some years, the cost of electricity increased at a rate that could not have been foreseen and this means of heating became uneconomic. In 1987 four large mobile gas heaters (which became known as 'Daleks') were bought from Pimperne Church for £8 to augment the heating.

Because this whole system was in various respects unsatisfactory, the PCC decided in 1994 to install electric heating based on tubular radiators under the seats of the pews. This method ensures that people sitting over the heaters are provided with their own, individual basic heating system which means that they are warm even in the coldest weather. When the electrician began to install the heating, he found that the wooden platform on which the pews rested on the south side of the nave was so badly affected by woodworm that it could easily have collapsed. David Angus rebuilt the platform before the new heaters were installed.

When the immersion heaters were in use, one Church Warden forgot to fill the cistern, and as the system ran short of water it interrupted the sermon with loud unmelodious rumblings until its water requirements were met. Another Church Warden switched on the heaters during very frosty weather and then went to top up the cistern. He found that it was frozen over, and as he began to deal with the problem a cylinder of ice was projected from the feed pipe, missing him by inches.

BELLS

There are three bells in Tarrant Gunville church, treble, second and tenor. Only one is rung now because of the poor condition of the tower.

Treble

Inscribed John Turner, Thomas Saunders, Churchwardens. Cast by Clement Tosier in the year 1714. Its diameter at the lip is 28.75 inches (73cm). It weighs 5.5 cwt

Second

Inscribed 'In God Rejoice Ever' J. W. 1623. It was made by John Wallace of Salisbury, is 31.75 inches (81cms) in diameter and 7cwt in weight.

Tenor

Inscribed 'Thomas Mears founder, London 1843'. The Vestry minutes of 3 March 1843 record that 'the Rector having proposed that the broken Church bell should be recast ... the Parish consented unanimously'. The bell is 34.25 inches (94.5cm) in diameter and 10.5 cwt in weight.

There may have been a fourth bell, the bells described being the 2nd, 3rd and 4th notes of the scale.

RECTORY

As inhabitants of Gunville will have noted the Old Rectory is a large well-built edifice amply suited to a substantial benefice. This may not be the appropriate term to describe the living 180 years after the present Rectory was built.

We do not know why it was decided to rebuild the Rectory but we do know from the Vestry minute book that 'the present Rectory was built by the Rev Francis Simpson, principally at the charge of the patron (University College, Oxford) in 1814'. The Patron had obtained leave to spend £2859 on the rebuilding. When Canon Watts became Rector, his wife was obviously not satisfied with the domestic arrangement because he added a kitchen and offices (perhaps in 1828).

In the intervening years there are records of repairs to the Rectory but no alterations.

The Rev A C Brashaw, who retired on 31 December 1957, was the last Rector to live in the Rectory. By the time of his retirement the Church Commissioners had a well-established policy of selling large rectories and vicarages because of the cost of maintaining them and because the clergy, who were responsible for the heating, could not afford to keep them warm. Thus the Rectory was sold to Major Humphreys in 1959.

The Rev A C Brashaw was followed, as an interim arrangement, by a Priest-in-charge (Bertram Eccles) who was succeeded by Anthony Johnson, instituted on 20 June 1960. The Rev A Johnson lived in Stubhampton Manor House while a new Rectory was built in Tarrant Hinton. He moved there in March 1961. The background to the location of the Rectory was an Order in Council dated 19 January 1928 by which the six Tarrant benefices became a single benefice, but each Parish was to 'continue distinct'. The change took place over many years. When the Rectory was built at Tarrant Hinton, Gunville, Hinton and Monkton had been amalgamated and the central parish got the Rectory.

CHURCH LANDS

The Glebe appears to have included an area with houses called Glebe Close, and Glebe Farm. The tithe map of 1840 shows the glebe as consisting of Glebe Farm, now called Home Farm, the garden of the rectory, the field between the churchyard and the road and the field between the churchyard and the rectory garden.

We have little information about Glebe Farm. Mr Keith Belbin understands that an earlier farmhouse at Glebe Farm was on the right as one enters the farmyard. Certainly *Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset* records the present house as being late 19th century and constructed within the walls and under the roof of a small barn of c1800.

There are records of repairs to the farm in 1873 when £233 was spent on 'taking down the wall at the side of the house and rebuilding it', and unspecified repairs were undertaken in 1879 and 1885. The farm was sold to Mr H R Farquharson in 1892 for £1,350, the valuation of the Board of Agriculture. It is not clear from any of the records why the farm was sold. However the notes in the Vestry minute book of 1835 to 1872, pages 140 and 147, note that the sale should lead to profit in the future because the investment of the £1350 should provide a better return than the £50 annual rent of the farm.

A further note in the Vestry minute book records that 'an attempt to sell the "Church Lands", ie the Close, to our Squire was delayed by the Charity Commissioners who treated this trumpery plot of ground as though it concealed a gold mine. By over-sharpness they lost us our Squire's

original offer of £100 as the valuation they required came to no more than £84', (an extract from Rev Lee Warner's Parochialia). In May 1881, Mr Farquharson had offered £100 plus expenses to purchase Church Close and the ground rents of seven cottages standing on Church land. The Charity Commissioners insisted on a valuation and it was not until 16 July 1883 that their authority to sell was received. The draft conveyance was then delayed by some mistake by Mr Farquharson's solicitors in London; thus it was not until April 1884 that the sale was completed. It is also noted that 'no tithe dues are in existence. Possibly, if they ever existed, they were burnt in the Blandford fire'.

In 1896 an additional portion of Burial Ground was given to the church by the Trustees of the late H R Farquharson Esq, and was consecrated at Evensong on 15 May 1896. The note adds 'It is to be regretted that a larger portion of new ground was not added at the time. But Mr Hughes Gibb, the tenant of the Manor House, was unwilling to give up a further piece of the Close'. (Presumably this is the 'Close' referred to in the previous paragraph and is the land between the graveyard and Church Lane). But all was not lost; some 50 years later the graveyard was extended to its present size, the new railings being made by the local blacksmith, Mr Janes.

APPENDIX

The following information about Patrons and Incumbents has been extracted verbatim from the Vestry Notebook, up to 1960.

<u>Patrons</u>	<u>Rectors</u>	
Elizabeth de Burgo	John Pycot afterwards Dean of Exeter	1281
	Roger de Townland occurs in William de Oxwyk	1304 instituted Jan 1344 exchanged with instituted 25 Oct 1361
William Bp of Winchester	William Cogan	
	John Chappel	instituted 27 Dec 1361
Lionel Duke of Clarence	William de Carliolo on resignation of last Rector	instituted 1363
Roger Mortimer, Earl of March	John Warmyngton	exchanged with instituted 19 Mar 1397
	John Melton	exchanged with
The King (Henry IV)	Richard Cicester, or Chichester	instituted 1406
	John Trewman	
	Vicar of Sturminster Newton	instituted Nov 1407
The King Henry V in the Ministry of Low March	Simon Slowly	instituted 21 Apr 1413 exchanged with
	Nicholas Fowkes	instituted 8 Feb 1414
The Earl of March		
Edmund, Earl of March	Richard Fletton	instituted 11 Oct 1419
Richard Duke of York	Thomas Condover	instituted 8 Mar 1441
	Robert Sylygrove	instituted 7 Nov 1454 exchanged with
	Droton Walshe	instituted 14 Sept 1457
Cecilia Duchess of York	Edward Dashwood Thomas Waldon also Rector of Pimperne	instituted 3 Aug 1480
The Queen, widow of Henry VII, Elizabeth of York	John Swan, or Swayne	instituted 28 Sept 15
The King, Henry VIII	Christopher Morrys	instituted 18 Apr 1538

(probably Edward VI)	Richard Martindale	instituted	1547
(certainly Edward VI)	Thomas Daccomb	instituted	1549
Queen Elizabeth	John Swayne	instituted	1572
Richard Swaine of Tarrant Gunville, gent.	John Ryves LLB sequestered 1645. Living valued at £120 disposed of by Committee to Munlosse ?John Monlas (note in Vestry Min Bk: 'From Watson's Ashmore 1890 P96 I find that JM was an "Intruder" at this time, but conformed & held the living till 1675')	instituted	4 Nov 1635
	Edward Culpepper	instituted	1675
	Daniel King MA		
	George Stubbs MA Fellow of Exeter a great author		
Edward Eyre & Elizabeth Lee	Edward Fleet of Kings Cambridge MA 1672 died 1797 near Romsey. The oldest clergyman in that neighbourhood and a very singular character. He sold the advowson in 1747 to Univ Coll & enjoyed the living for nearly 50 years afterwards.	instituted	3 Apr 1743
University College Oxford	Francis Simpson Fellow of Univ Coll died 1827 aged 71 years	instituted	24 Jul 1797
	John Watts Fellow of Univ Coll died June 2 1872	instituted	25 Jun 1828
	James Lee-Warner Fellow of Univ Coll	'read in'	15 Sept 1872
	William Henry Hitchcock MA Univ Coll died 9 April 1900 at TG Rectory	instituted	29 Jan 1889
	Gerard Mottram Hutton MA by Bishop Wordsworth in Salisbury Cathedral during a severe thunderstorm which involved the Cathedral in the blackness almost of night.	instituted	27 July 1900
	John Lewis Rhys		
	Arthur Clement Brashaw MA Retired on Dec 31 1957	instituted	11 July 1927
	Bertram Richard Eccles Priest in Charge		1957
The Queen the patronage having lapsed	Anthony Trevor Johnson MA	instituted	20 June 1960
<u>Taken from the record in Hinton Church</u>			
	Gordon W H Seely		1968
	Michael John Flight		1975
	Michael George StJ Nicolle		1981
	David Charles Steven		1986
	Jimmy Hamilton-Brown		1994
	Michael Foster		2000

FARMING

In the early 19th century there were 11 farms in the parish. On the Eastbury House side of the valley road were Eastbury Dairy, Marlborough, Stubhampton Manor, Dungrove, Bussey Stool and Stubhampton. On the Westbury House side of the road were Glebe (now Home), Westbury, New Barn (Harbins Park), Dairy and Dairy Lodge (Furzey Down). Nine of these were owned by the Farquharson family, and most of them were let to tenant farmers. Glebe farm was the property of the church and Stubhampton Manor was owned by Henry Hill. The freehold of this last farm is reputed to have been obtained by squatters rights. At some stage Stephouse became a farm; it was also owned by the Farquharsons.

Today Glebe Farm (Home Farm) and Stubhampton Manor Farm are independently owned as is a comparatively new farm, Ashmore Barn. Many farmhouses are now occupied separately from the farm land - Stephouse, Marlborough, Dungrove, Stubhampton, Westbury, Dairy and Furzey Down. And most of the farmland is held by two landowners - on the Eastbury side by the Farquharson family and on the Westbury side by Major Humphreys.

J J Farquharson was a London stockbroker who bought 23,000 acres of land to the north of Blandford in 1806. The estate included most of the parish of Tarrant Gunville. A house was built at Langton Long for the family dwelling and the present buildings at Eastbury were used as kennels for his foxhounds. (He was a keen huntsman and kept another pack of hounds in west Dorset so that he could hunt the whole county with his own hounds.) When the estate was divided in the mid-19th century, one branch of the family remained at Langton Long and the other moved to Gunville Manor before refurbishing Eastbury and making that house their home. During the 19th century the Farquharson family continued to buy small plots of land in the parish. In the mid 1940s about 1300 acres of their land and buildings on the west side (Westbury) of the parish were sold, partly to recapitalise after the war and partly to dispose of assets which provided little or no return. For example, cottages were then let at rents of £5 per annum, which did not cover the costs of repair and maintenance.

Over the years more and more land on the estate was brought into cultivation. But even at the end of the war, in 1945, there were still large areas of the parish which were covered with scrub and woodland. Government policy at that time encouraged landowners to bring such areas of land into production - but how best could such land be cleared? Ronald Farquharson solved the problem by buying surplus government equipment - Sherman tanks, which were then available for well under £100 each. He had bulldozer blades fitted and used them to clear about 1200 acres. In the process he also needed to get rid of tree stumps, some of which were very large. This time the solution was to use ex-Commandos who had expertise in using the then readily available explosives. At times the Commandos could be a trifle over-enthusiastic: at a clearance near Bussey Stool Farm one explosion projected an enormous stump high into the air and down into the farmyard where it flattened a caravan. Fortunately the occupant was at that moment hanging out washing in the garden!

The farms on the Eastbury estate in the 1800s were entirely livestock, with a small amount of arable land to provide feed for the animals. This pattern continued until about 1939. Today Eastbury Estates is a very large arable farm on which, in addition to the traditional cereal crops, the Estate has grown flax, linseed, hemp and experimented with genetically modified crops. It has also diversified and includes businesses concerned with contract machinery, animal feeds, contract cleaning and fumigation of grainstores and runs a commercial shoot. It is also the importer and distributor for UK and Ireland of farm machinery manufactured in Germany.

Major Humphreys recalls that his first purchase of land, after acquiring the Manor, was of about 90 acres, covered in scrub, at the north end of Stubhampton. Leslie Thorne, who kept the shop, had told him that it was for sale and he was able to buy this land from Mr Law. As opportunities arose he was able to buy further land and today the family own Westbury, Harbins Park and Furzey Down farms, having purchased them during the 1950s and 1960s.

Boom and Bust

During the 200 years of this account, farming has been through several cycles of boom and bust. The Napoleonic Wars (1793 - 1815), the Great War (1914 - 1918) and the 1939-45 war all saw an increase in demand for home-produced food and a corresponding increase in the price paid for it. For example, during the Napoleonic wars the price of grain and of meat at least doubled. The consequence of the demand and the increased prices was to increase production by improved methods and by bringing more land into use. There was a further period of prosperity ('High Farming') from about 1840 to 1880 when industrial development and the growth of towns generated much increased demand. All these periods of prosperity were followed by depressions or recessions which were the result of a general economic downturn, an increase in lower-priced imports or a reduction in subsidies. The same pattern continued during and after the 1914-18 war. In the 1930s, for example, farms in the Tarrant valley were given up because they were running at a substantial loss. The 1939-45 war appeared to break this cycle. Subsidies ensured that farming prospered until almost the end of the 20th century. But by the 1990s farmers found that excessive supply of farm products combined with reductions in prices and subsidies reduced income substantially while costs continued to rise. Some farmers merely tightened their belts as a means to survive, some sought to maintain income by farming ever more efficiently while others diversified to find new crops, new markets or new farm-related businesses. During the 1980s and 1990s the Government introduced schemes of various kinds to restore hedges, to encourage tree planting, to reduce production (ie the Set Aside scheme) and the Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme.

The landowners and the farmers appear to have prospered in the good times and suffered in the bad. The workers appear for the most part to have lived poorly, and in crowded conditions in small houses with few facilities until the 1939-45 war.

As one would expect, the basic farming cycle has not changed in the period, but farming has been through its own 'industrial revolution'. The period of prosperity from 1840 to 1880 saw considerable advances, in the use of fertilizers, in the development of new strains of cereals and the introduction of different breeds of farm animals. As machinery developed in this period, it became larger and more expensive and beyond the pocket of individual farmers. This led to work being undertaken by contractors - history is repeating itself today.

HOME FARM

Home Farm was previously Glebe Farm, ie the farm was part of the benefice of Tarrant Gunville. In 1892 Glebe Farm was sold by the Church to Mr Farquharson for £1350. The Belbin's rented the farm in the 1920's and eventually bought it from Mr Farquharson in 1948. By 1996 the farm was 440 acres, 330 acres in Tarrant Gunville parish, the rest in Tarrant Hinton and Pimperne. The name was changed to Home Farm in the late 1950s.

STUBHAMPTON MANOR FARM

Stubhampton is a farm of about 37 acres which was acquired in the 18th Century by squatters rights. How this happened is not known. The farm has been in private ownership ever since. The current owner bought it from George Mells in 1955; he had purchased it from Hill Bros who are known to have owned the farm from 1840 onwards.

The farmhouse was previously on the Valley road. The present farmhouse, is on the Bussey Stool road .

WESTBURY FARM

Westbury farm was 350 acres when Mr Brown bought it from Mr R Farquharson in 1945. Hancock's Wood and another 50 acres were purchased from Captain Stedham in 1955. There were 5 cottages with the farm - Homers, Chime, Westbury, and 2 at Drove Barn. At the same time Mr Brown bought Westbury Cottages which were improved in 1954 by adding mains water, bathrooms and lavatories, and installing Rayburn cookers (at £35 each) in the kitchens; he also combined the third and fourth cottage. In 1945 there was no electricity or mains water in the village.

About 7 or 8 workers were employed on the farm. The dairy cattle were Ayrshires because of the

higher butter-fat content of their milk - 70 to 80 in number and the dairy was at Drove Barn Farm. The bull calves were sold very young because their meat was not valuable. The heifers from good milkers were kept and the others sold. The cattle for sale were taken to Wimborne market. A milking parlour was installed at Drove Barn: the milk was cooled and stored in churns which were collected by United Dairies.

At harvest time additional labour was employed, and threshing tackle plus two or three men hired from Verwood. The farmer could generally get the threshing gang, at the time he wanted, in the winter. The equipment they brought included a steam engine, a thresher, an elevator or a machine to tie the straw into bundles. Mr Brown eventually bought his own equipment.

Mr Brown recalled that in 1945 the Everly Hill road from Drove Barn to the village had high hedges on either side. Although it was tarmacadamed it was frequently knee deep in mud because Wiliam Mells (who farmed the land before Mr Brown bought it) drove his cattle down to Westbury Farmhouse most days to water them, there being no water at Drove Barn except an underground water tank. Mr Brown built a reservoir at Drove Barn which was supplied from a borehole which he sank in the garden of Downlea Cottage. He also deepened the well at Drove Barn.

Mr Brown also recalled that in winter 1947 the road to Drove Barn was impassable because of snow drifts. He and Major Humphreys, starting from Drove Barn and the Manor respectively, attempted to clear the snow with tractors with buckets on the front but did not succeed. Because of the snow milk was taken across the fields by horse and wagon from Drove Barn to Home Farm, which was accessible by road.

At some time before the last war there had been racehorse stables at Westbury Farmhouse.

MARLBOROUGH FARM

This was a farm of about 40 acres rented from the Farquharsons. It consisted of the three fields to the right at the top of Sheep Drove. The tenants were not allowed to plough the fields, hence it was wholly a dairy farm. The dairy, now Jim Bulpitt's workshop, was shared with Stephouse farm, which occupied two-thirds of the building. A mixed herd of 14 cows was milked on the farm until the mid 1950's.

The farm was run as part of Home farm from the late 1930's. In the early 1970's the Belbins rented just 10 acres with the farmhouse. In about 1980, the Belbins bought the 10 acres, but vacated the farmhouse which was then modernised and occupied by Mr J Farquharson and his family.

EASTBURY DAIRY

A farm which in the late 1990s had 120 cows and produced about 11160 gallons of milk a year.

STEPHOUSE FARM

A farm of about 150 acres which used two-thirds of the dairy which it shared with Marlborough Farm. It was farmed by Claud Belbin until 1939, then by his brother Charles Belbin until 1964.

DUNGROVE FARM

This was a separate farm of some 150 acres until the early 1960s. Thereafter the land was farmed by Eastbury Estates.

BUSSEY STOOL

Books about Dorset names suggest that this farm was named after the Burcy family who lived there in the 14th century. 'Stool' means literally, 'a stool', perhaps used here to indicate a flat topped hill. The 1841 tithe records show John Bussey as being the farmer then. It was a separate farm of about 250 acres until the early 1960s.

BUSSEY STOOL PARK FARM

This was a separate small farm for about 60 years from the mid-1800s.

STUBHAMPTON FARM

This was a farm of 170 acres with about 50 cows which was owned and farmed by Mr James from 1909 to 1988 when the farmhouse and some land was sold to Mr C Hannam and some land to Major Humphreys, about 50 acres being retained.

DROVE BARN

This has not been a separate farm within living memory and we have found no records to indicate otherwise.

HARBINS PARK FARM

The 1805 OS map shows this as New Barn. Histories of farming suggest that in times of prosperity (eg the Napoleonic Wars), uncultivated land was brought into production to gain advantage from demand. This led to barns and other buildings being erected, sometimes as an addition to an existing farm, sometimes to create a new farm. These were frequently called 'New Barn'. We do not know when the name was changed from New Barn to Harbins Park. As those who have read the history of Cranborne Chase will know, Richard Swayne, who owned Gunville Manor, died in 1725, leaving no male heir. His property passed to his daughter Abigail who had married a Harbin. This is a farm of 320 acres.

FURZEY DOWN

This was Dairy Lodge Farm until the 1950s when it became Furzey Down. It is a farm of 250 acres.

ASHMORE BARN

A mixed farm of 140 acres producing suckler cows and barley for malting.

HOME FARM

I have to thank Keith Belbin for the following notes about farming practices. Home Farm was essentially a dairy farm which raised oats, barley and, later (about 1993), maize on about 50 acres to feed farm animals. More recently (ie 1970s to 1990s) the arable area was increased. The herd, up to the 1950s, was mainly Shorthorns, a breed with a good milk yield but also useful for producing beef. Over the years the herd was gradually changed from Shorthorns to Friesians. Improvements in grass management, including the use of fertilizers, allowed the herd to be increased from 37 in 1956 to 135 in 1995. In October 1995 the Friesian herd was sold and the excess milk quota leased, leaving 17 Shorthorns.

The cows were originally milked by hand, being tied in a long line to a fence during milking. In the 1920s one dairyman was responsible for the supervision of the herd but all the farm workers helped with the milking before going off to their other tasks. The milk from the buckets was poured into churns and collected by lorry which came from Baillie Gate, Sturminster Marshall / United Dairies. Later the cows were tethered in cow-stalls in a byre. In the mid-1950s (when electricity was supplied to the village) milking by machinery began, the milk being cooled before being put into churns. Finally, in 1977, a new milking parlour was built and a 420 gallon refrigerated tank installed. The milk was then collected by the Milk Marketing Board, later Milk Marque. In the 1920's there could be as many as eight workers handmilking. When machinery was installed only three were needed, including the dairyman. From 1977 it was a one man unit.

The increased mechanisation of milk production not only eliminated the need for hand milking, it also cut out the need to handle the churns. An empty milk churn weighed 32lbs when new, (33 lbs if re-tinned), and held 10 gallons of milk, giving a total weight of 100lbs, or nearly 1 cwt. Over 30 full churns had to be lifted on to the collecting platform each day. Aluminium churns, being much lighter, were a great improvement. The milk lorry would leave the same number of cleaned empty churns as it collected, unless extra churns were asked for.

The herd was maintained by breeding and selective purchase. Cattle which were not required on the farm were taken to market - store cattle to Shaftesbury, calves to Sturminster Newton, fat and barreners to Salisbury and pedigree to Yeovil.

barreners to Salisbury and pedigree to Yeovil.

Harvest

In the 1920s cereal crops were mown and bound into sheaves by a reaper drawn by a 3-horse team. Two or three gangs, working in pairs, would 'hile' the sheaves (ie stook them), the arrangement of the sheaves varying with the type of grain. The sheaves would then be carted and made into ricks in the rickyard or taken to an area easily accessible by the threshing machine. Two wagons, each driven by a lad, would transport the sheaves. In the fields, teams of three (two pitching up, one on the cart) would load the carts. At the rick, two or three would build the rick - a very skilled job. When the thresher arrived, teams of about 9 would be required; one to manage the engine, two putting up the sheaves, one cutting the binding of the sheaves (and feeding the machine), one on sacks for the cereal, one clearing dust, one on the baler and two making straw ricks. The bagged grain was taken to the barn where the sacks were carried in by the men and emptied in a heap. As the heap grew higher, the top was reached by a long plank with cross pieces to provide footholds. The technique was to run at the plank and climb as high as possible before emptying the sack. The work was arduous - oat sacks weighed 1.5 hundredweight, barley 2 cwt - and falling off the plank into the grain dangerous, and not uncommon. The first combine harvesters, which began to be used on this farm in the 1960s, bagged on the combine. The bags were then taken to the store and emptied, manually, as before. Modern combines feed the grain straight into tipping trailers which unload the grain into the store.

Haymaking

A mower with two horses cut the hay, which was turned as necessary until it became dry enough to be stacked. It was then rowed up ready to be collected by a 2-horse sweep which took it to the centre of the field in which the rick was made. Two men fed the elevator taking the hay up to the rick where 2 or 3 skilled men built the rick. When the ricks had been built, they were allowed to settle. Loose hay, removed so that they looked neat and tidy, was used to level the top where it had sunk. The rick was then thatched. When hay was needed for feed it was cut out in blocks from the rick with a hay knife. When the baling machine became available, bales were fed on to a sledge behind the baler where a man arranged them in blocks of eight, when they were tipped onto the ground. Later machines did not need a sledge, the bales being dragged along in an oblong metal frame. The frame lifted when it was full. The bales were loaded onto trailers and taken to be stacked, in early days under a thatched top, later under polythene cover. Now they are put into barns. As the bales are not all exactly the same shape, the sides of even a well-stacked rick could begin to bulge or lean outwards, risking collapse. When the sides sagged the ricks were supported by wooden props. It was of course a matter of pride to do the stacking so well that the props were not needed. Over the years the bales have increased in size from 3ft x 1ft x 18 inches to 8ft x 3ft x 2ft.

One of the early mechanical balers produced small circular bales. These machines have been replaced with ones which produce large circular bales bound round the circumference by transparent plastic. The bales may be stored in the open because rain does not penetrate far into them.

Silage

Silage is a green crop (such as grass or clover) which has been harvested, compressed, fermented and stored to be used as animal fodder. Some of the circular bales mentioned earlier were wrapped in black polythene to produce silage. Alternatively the crop was collected and stored, within 24 hours of being cut, in a large walled clamp, covered closely with black polythene which was held down by hundreds of old tyres. When the silage in the clamp was needed it was cut out by JCB's and fed to the cattle in the byres, or the cattle's access to the clamp was controlled by an electric fence. Cattle would not eat silage that was badly made. They also showed a preference for the silage from round bales, possibly because the grass in them had not been chopped into small pieces. Silage, which began to be used on the farm in 1978, is now made by contractors rather than farm labour.

Manure

The manure from the cattle was, of course, returned to the land. In early days it was loaded manually on to carts which deposited it in small heaps across the field. It was then spread by

hand. Over the years it became a largely mechanical process and is now done by contractors using heavy machinery.

Grazing

In the last ten years or so, late grazing for sheep (in autumn) on recently sown grass was let to neighbouring farmers.

STUBHAMPTON MANOR FARM

Stubhampton Manor Farm consisted of a two-storey hen house behind the old farmhouse, built in 1961, two hen houses at Princes corner built in 1956, and two broiler houses at the bottom of Abbey Lane built in 1958 and several fields. It ceased production in 1997.

In the hen houses the hens roamed free and at Princes Corner they were also freerange in the fields. In the houses the eggs, which were laid in large nest boxes, were collected by hand two or three times a day. There was a system of overhead rails which ran round the whole of the hen houses. Suspended from the rails, on metal rods, were carriers like very large bowls. Feed was taken round in the carriers; they were also used to collect the eggs. Each hen produced between 200 and 300 eggs a year. The eggs would then be cleaned and packed. Some would go to hatcheries in Blandford, and the remainder would go to retailers for consumption. Those for the hatcheries would be placed on perforated plastic trays so that the eggs could be fumigated. The flock was maintained by purchasing young hens rather than by hatching farm-produced eggs. At its maximum there were 10,000 birds in the flock.

Broilers were bought in at one day old and reared to be sold when they were 4lbs in weight. Six batches were produced each year. The original heating system was by hot water circulated in banks of pipes from an oil fired boiler. Later, overhead canopy calor gas heaters maintained the required temperature. Feeding, by hand initially, was heavy work as two to three tons were supplied each month. The automated system, installed in 1970, was based on hoppers from which feed was supplied on demand. Six times a year the houses were completely cleared by local farmers who used the manure as fertiliser. Initially some 9,000 birds were raised in each batch, taking 12 to 13 weeks to reach the required weight. This changed to batches of 18,000 which took only six weeks to reach 4lbs.

When the farm was in full production and the broilers were hand fed, 4 people were employed, but with automation it became a part-time job for one person. The farm ceased production in 1997.

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

During the 19th century it was very obvious that the most important commercial activity in the parish was agriculture - as it is today. But what about employment? There were, in 1881, 35 agricultural labourers. If one adds shepherds, gamekeepers etc the number employed in agriculture increases to 62. There were 73 people otherwise employed.

A wider look at employment during the 1800s and early 1900s suggests that the parish was largely self-sufficient. There were two bakers/grocers, a dairy, a post office, two beer houses and a pub, boot and shoe makers, tailors and dressmakers, bricklayers and masons, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, saddlers and harness makers, timber dealers, a thatcher, an undertaker and a school teacher. It had its own constable, its surveyor/waywarden and an overseer of the poor.

There is very little local information available about income or cost of living which might give some feel for living conditions in the parish in the 1800s. There are, however, a number of studies of rural Dorset which suggest that life in the villages was far from easy. Research illustrates the agricultural labourer's poverty. Employment was most commonly on a daily basis, with no income when work was impossible because of the weather. Working hours equated with daylight hours. Low wages (varying between 7/- and 12/- a week depending upon the state of agriculture) led to a poor diet of bread, potatoes and vegetables with meat and cheese a rarity. Other studies describe the overcrowded and insanitary conditions, especially where privys and pig-styes were built on higher ground behind the cottages. Unemployment figures of 40% are frequently quoted. And there appears, in Dorset, to have been a significant level of emigration, particularly to Canada and Australia in the late 19th century. For example, in 1874 alone, 40 people from Gunville emigrated to Canada. The farmers themselves suffered, particularly after 1870.

A quotation from *Farming in Dorset 1846 - 1996* by J H Bettey provides a humbling account of conditions.

'The New Poor Law of 1834, with its system of grim Union workhouses which are still seen in many parts of Dorset, failed to eliminate poverty, and the evidence of numerous Parliamentary commissions and Reports throughout the nineteenth century bears witness to the continuing low wages and bad housing of the Dorset farm labourers. For example in 1843 Rachel Hayward, the wife of John Hayward, a farm labourer from Stourpaine gave evidence to Parliamentary commissioners about the crowded conditions and meagre, monotonous diet which she and her family were obliged to endure.

'There are eleven of us in our family - myself, my husband, three daughters and six sons. We have two rooms, one down stairs and the other up stairs over it. We all sleep in the bedroom. My husband gets 8s or 7s a week; my two eldest daughters get about 3s 6d a week at buttoning, and three of my boys get 5s a week together, in all about 16s 6d a week.

We have sixteen and a half lugs of potato-ground on which we grow potatoes and a few vegetables; for that we pay 7s 7d a year rent. We pay 1s a week for the cottage, and coal and wood cost us 1s 8d a week at this time of year (December). We get three-quarters cwt of coal a week, I buy besides, every week three-quarters lb of soap, 1oz of tea, half lb of bacon. I reckon we eat a pound of bread each day. My three boys that are out at work went out at nine years old.'

The only local information about conditions comes from notes by the then Parish Clerk (Mr Fanner) who records wages as 1/6, 2/- and 2/6 per day (7p, 10p and 12p) for men and 6d (2p) per day for women. If these figures relate to Tarrant Gunville, men could earn between 9/- and 15/- (45p and 75p) for a 6-day week. The same note provides information about the cost of food.

Meat (price per lb) Ham bacon 1/- (5p); pig meat 9d (4p); mutton 6d (2p); beef 4d (2p)
Other Flour 9/4 a bushel (46p); quarter loaves 1/- each (5p); sack of potatoes 10/- (50p); cheese 5d per lb (2p). Unfortunately no date is given for these figures.

A lady in her 90s, who had lived locally all her life and whose father was an agricultural worker recalled that during her childhood (ie about 1910), her mother would put into a large pot, hung over the open fire, a lump of pork or bacon, vegetables in a net and a dumpling wrapped in a cloth - to feed a family of 8 children and 2 adults. They kept a pig and grew vegetables in the garden. During the summer the children frequently slept outside - under a hedge when it was dry and under a tarpaulin if it rained. The family washed and shaved outside during most of the year.

Another elderly (but not working class) person who knew the parish in the early part of the century recalls being appalled by the stench from some of the worker's houses when the door was opened!

We have some more recent detailed information. For example, on one farm in the parish in 1963 the pay of one agricultural worker was about £9.8/- per week (£9.40) plus overtime, which could range from 15/- (75p) to £7.10/- (£7.50) per week. Both of these are exceptional, the most likely level being £1 to £3 per week.

Typical weekly take home pay at this time, assuming £2 overtime, would be £9.5/- (£9.25)

Pay	£9.8.0
Overtime	<u>£2.0.0</u>
Total	£11.8.0

Deductions	Tax	£1.4.0	
	Nat Ins	10.7d	
	Rent	6.0d	
	GP	2.5d	<u>£2.3.0</u>
Net total			£9.5.0

The pay bill for a medium sized farm could range from £58 to £83 per week. The average would be about £69.

ROADS

Although this 'history' is concerned with Tarrant Gunville during the past 200 years, it is useful, when considering roads, to have a glance further into the past because, for many hundreds of years there was little change in the management of roads. And the roads around Tarrant Gunville were a product of that earlier period.

Up until 1555 (except perhaps during the period of the Roman occupation) roads had been a responsibility of local land owners. However, by the early 16th century conditions on the roads had become so intolerable that Parliament felt forced to accept responsibility for them. In the words of an Act passed in 1555 the Government became responsible for 'amending of highways being now very noisome and tedious to travel in and dangerous to all passengers and carriages'. The act made roads a parish responsibility under the Lords of the Manors and the local Justices. In Tarrant Gunville in the 19th century the Vestry carried this responsibility. The Act provided that two parishioners should be elected at a Parish session each year to act as Highway Surveyors, or Waywardens, to inspect roads, water courses, bridges and pavements within the parish three times a year and report on what they found deficient and to arrange and supervise the work that the Vestry agreed should be done. Their concern was exclusively the highways, the byways being left to the care of landowners. Under the Act, every person holding land of an annual value of £50 or more, either arable or pasture, was required to supply able-bodied men with a team of either oxen or horses, and tools or implements for the work of repairing the highway for eight hours on four consecutive days annually. (This was increased to six days in 1563). The surveyors were authorised to dig out sufficient stone and gravel for the work without paying for it. Old maps show a quarry a short way up from Ashmore Bottom on the left. Cottagers without land were required to work on the road themselves or find substitute.

The general view of historians is that the system did not work well. At best people avoided their responsibilities by a variety of stratagems; at worst, the workers enjoyed time spent on road repairs as a holiday when they did little work and might spend much of their time drinking.

In 1835 a new Highways Act was a major piece of legislation, some of which is still in force today. This act abolished statute labour. The Parish Vestry was still the highway authority and raised rates to pay for the work and, for the first time, to pay their waywarden or surveyor.

The 1861 Highways Act set up the District Highways Boards and nearly all parishes had their roads maintained by the District. All maintainable roads should have been listed but this does not appear to have been done on a systematic basis. The Highway Board had to keep a list of their roads and Highway Board minute books were kept. Unfortunately we have not yet found any covering our parish.

In 1894 the newly created Rural District Councils became responsible for minor roads and took over the Highway Board's list of roads. Further the Local Government Act of 1929 transferred the rural roads to the County Council in 1930 and again a list of maintainable roads were handed over. None of these lists have been traced. We have therefore had to consult books and old maps for information.

Old maps and historical records show that until late in the 19th Century, apart from major tracks and drove roads, the countryside was a mass of tracks developed to meet local needs. People used the most convenient track that was passable. A few of these tracks are identified by historians as 'roads'. There is no precise and concise definition of a 'road' but there appear to be two key elements - the route was that most frequently used by most travellers or the route was maintained by a local authority.

The attitude of authorities and others towards roads is of interest. Today the authorities are expected to build and maintain roads to meet the requirements of commerce, industry and the public. In Roman times, roads were built to allow the Roman army to move rapidly about the country. At various times in the past the reigning monarchs required certain roads, which they used frequently, to be maintained. But in general, from Roman times to the late 19th Century, all that the traveller could expect was a right of passage. This is well illustrated by the report about a

Leighton Buzzard glover who, while returning home from Aylesbury market at dusk, fell into a hole in the road 8ft x 10ft x 8ft deep, which had not been there when he last used it. Because of heavy rain the hole was filled with water, and he drowned. A local miller was charged with having caused his death. It appeared that the miller had required ramming clay to repair his mill. He admitted that he had instructed his servants to dig the clay from the road. His defence against a charge of having caused the death of the glover was that he had had no malicious intent; his sole purpose was to get clay to repair the mill and he did not know where else to get it. He was acquitted.

We do not know for which roads the Vestry in Tarrant Gunville was responsible. But the minutes of meetings from 1837 to 1872 show that the Vestry was conscientious in appointing a surveyor or a waywarden each year to maintain the roads in the parish and examined their records and accounts regularly.

Extracts from the vestry minutes

The vestry minutes of 1 August 1839 record that 'a plan for the bridge over the River Tarrant was exhibited and approved. It was agreed that a stone coping should be adopted. And further the carriage of the materials was undertaken by the rate payers in proportion to the sums that they were assessed'. There is no hint to help identify where this bridge was to be built, and no record that it was built.

28 March 1850

It having been represented to the Vestry that it would be highly desirable to make a road between the parish and Ashmore to join the Shaftesbury road; and it having been communicated to the Vestry that the parishioners of Ashmore were willing to make their portion of the new road - It was agreed that such new road would be a great accommodation and [name illegible] be empowered to communicate with the waywardens of Ashmore.

and at the next meeting...

...although such a scheme would be very desirable yet under the prospect of the parochial roads being placed in the hands of a General Surveyor it was thought prudent to postpone the scheme for the present.

25 March 1868 -

Mr G Carter represented the dangerous condition of the road and watercourse near the house occupied by Mr Ephraim Ridout (*now Old Home Cottage*); another accident had recently occurred there.

In Tarrant Gunville today there are only the few public roads with which we are all familiar, ie, from Tarrant Hinton through Gunville and Stubhampton, leading towards Iwerne Minster, from the Old Forge past the church towards Everley Hill with a branch towards Home Farm, the short stretch from Prince's corner towards Bussey Stool and School Lane leading to School Close. In the past there appears to have been several more. Ronald Good in *THE OLD ROADS OF DORSET* records 8 roads which are illustrated in the map at Appendix 1, and the Ordnance Survey [OS] map (based on survey undertaken from 1805 to 1809) shows a spiders web of tracks and roads. We have not yet been able to discover why so few roads were adopted.

It is interesting to note that the OS map and a locally drawn map of 1828 show the Valley Road, through Gunville, as running along what is now the river bed from Homers to beyond Marlborough Farmhouse. The Tithe Map of 1840 shows the road in its present alignment. We have not found any record in the Vestry minutes from 1837 onwards of a decision being made about the change in the line of this road. Thus it seems that the route of the road was altered between 1828 and 1837, and it seems reasonable to assume that difficulty associated with flooding was the main reason for the change.

The road from the Old Forge, past the Church and on towards Home Farm has an interesting history. Although we cannot be certain, we think that the road from Gunville to Blandford originally ran from the main road through Gunville, past the Rectory, the Church and the Manor and then along the existing track which leads towards Home Farm. In the 1780's the line of the

road was altered so that it curved away from the Church and the Manor, ie it became the "old road" in the map on page 23. In 1803 there was a further alteration. It became the new road in the map, ie the route taken by the present Everly Hill road as far as the Y-junction, then the road towards 'Home Farm.

The evidence for the second change is a record of a special Quarter Session held in Tarrant Gunville in 1803 which approved the alteration of the "old road" to the "new road" shown on the map. In the process the two Justices of the Peace obtained the written consent of Josiah Wedgewood, James Samways, William Bussey, George Collins, and William Spinney to the road being "made through their lands".

The first change is deduced from two Indentures dated 1788 and 1789 and a subsequent Faculty from the Diocese of Salisbury. These record that Mr Chapman, who had built the present Manor House, had given land for a road from Gunville to Blandford. This road is thought to be the old road in the map. In exchange Mr Chapman was given the land on which the original road had run, ie the road past the Rectory, Church and Manor. It seems highly unlikely that he was given the land where the road passed the Rectory, mainly because that part continued to be used as the road to Blandford until 1803. But he certainly seems to have got the land where the original road passed the church. This original road provided access to the church for all including hearses and carriages. And it ran alongside the south wall of the churchyard - a wall that no longer exists. Mr Chapman proceeded to build a wall, parallel to the south wall of the churchyard, on the land that he had been given. Because of this new wall the road to the church became too narrow to allow hearses and carriages to reach the church door. One imagines that Mr Chapman must have been aware that his wall would limit access. People going to church, and that must have included important people in the village, including the Rector, must have seen the wall being built, must have seen that the road was becoming narrow and yet the wall was built. We do not know when the wall was built or whether there were protests but we do know that Mr Chapman petitioned the Bishop of Bristol to allow him, at his expense, to knock down the south wall of the churchyard and build a new road to the church, "more commodious for the passing of funerals and carriages than the old road would have been". The evidence is an instruction from the Bishop of Bristol, dated 11 October 1788, to three local clergy and two lay members, "on whose Integrity, Fidelity and Cicumspection we greatly rely", to investigate the substance of the petition and recommend whether a licence or faculty to do the work should be granted. Approval was given and one must assume that the south wall of the churchyard was demolished and the road built.

So far as the people in the village can remember access to the church was by a drive which passed the front door of the Rectory and went straight up the road to the door of the church. The Rectory was sold in 1959. The route past the Rectory continued to be used until 1961 when, in agreement with the new owner of the Rectory, a drive was made from the Everley Hill road along the south west edge of the Rectory garden to meet the drive to the church at right angles. That is now the access to the church.

Another record of road building occurs in 1890 when General Pitt-Rivers (who owned the land adjoining the Eastbury estate at Farnham) and H R Farquharson drew up an 'Agreement for grant of right of way and construction of a road' from Bloody Shard Gate to Princes corner on the road to Stubhampton. The agreement stated 'Pitt Rivers to construct a road and allowed to draw from suitable places (not more than half a mile from said road) such amount of chalk as may be necessary and 500 yard of flint without payment of any royalty. H R Farquharson to supply more at not more than 9d per yard. Road should be clear width of 14' and clear of all gates and other obstructions and duly fenced'.

In a letter to H R Farquharson concerning this road General Pitt-Rivers writes 'It will make my road to Blandford about 230 yards longer than it would be by Halifax and Marlborough Farm, by which road I maintain that the right of way at present exists but that it is not enough to prevent my agreeing to a neighbourly settlement of the matter'. It seems from this that the road was probably built at the suggestion of Squire Farquharson.

We do not know exactly when the public roads through the village were surfaced in tarmacadam. Older inhabitants can recall that the main road through the Parish was flint, chalk and gravel into

the 1920s and that the road beyond Stubhampton remained gravel until the 1930s. The surface was very uneven and when it became worn large and sharp flintstones would stick up through it. The road up to Bussey Stool became deeply rutted in the winter. The carts would then use an adjacent part of the road to avoid the ruts. The road from Marlborough Farm northwards through Stubhampton was single track until the 1970s. It became increasingly wider as a result of heavier traffic.

In 1991 the telephone lines, which had been strung between poles alongside the road, were buried in a trench cut along the edge of the road. Sections of the road through the parish were allocated to different contractors. At about the same time additional drains were sunk in the road through Gunville and channelled under the road into the river.

Many residents recall that during the 1970s and 1980s they viewed with apprehension the time of the Dorset Steam Fair until it moved to its present site on Hinton Down because the road through the village was one of the main routes to the Fair, causing traffic jams at Parkers corner. Public spirited people who lived near the corner acted as traffic policemen to get the traffic moving, but even so delays could be so long that the shop would do a good trade in ice-cream! When the Steam Fair was at Ashdown there were particular difficulties for those who lived on, or near, the Everley Hill road because the Police made it one way up the hill to the Fair in the morning and one way down from the Fair later in the day. It was only after much persuasion that people were allowed to drive to their homes against the flow.

The road through Stubhampton appears always to have been a problem because of flooding, and the Parish Council (PC) had, for many years, pressed for action to be taken. For example when Blandford Trades Council wrote to the PC about the state of the road, the reply from the PC described 60 years of efforts to get improvement. There had always been particular concern about the stretch from Princes Corner to the sewage works. In 1962 a new road from the corner, across Mr Regnart's field to beyond the pumping station, was proposed by the Parish Council but no action was taken by the District Council because no money was available. In the previous year the PC had also considered covering the river through the village.

The Roadman was a key figure in maintaining the roads after they were taken over by the local authority. Two or three were responsible for maintaining the road through the parish (and beyond) and for cutting back the verges and clearing the bed of the river. They could be seen all year round wheeling barrow-loads of chalk and flint to repair pot-holes and carrying with them their tools which usually included a spade and a rammer. Sometimes they travelled further afield on bicycles with their tools tied to the crossbar. When the roads needed work beyond their resources, flint and chalk would be brought by horse and cart and a steam roller would come out from Blandford to compress and flatten the surface. The flints came from a pit a short way up Ashmore Bottom on the left, and the chalk from another pit near the bend in the road close to Ashmore Bottom.

The speed and volume of traffic had in 1968 prompted the PC to consider, and press for, a speed limit of 30mph through the village. The speed limit was agreed by the District Council in 1968 but was rejected by the Ministry of Transport. The PC had also asked for signs warning of dangerous bends to be erected, and also a sign at the C13 and in Tarrant Hinton 'road unsuitable for heavy traffic'. Both were rejected.

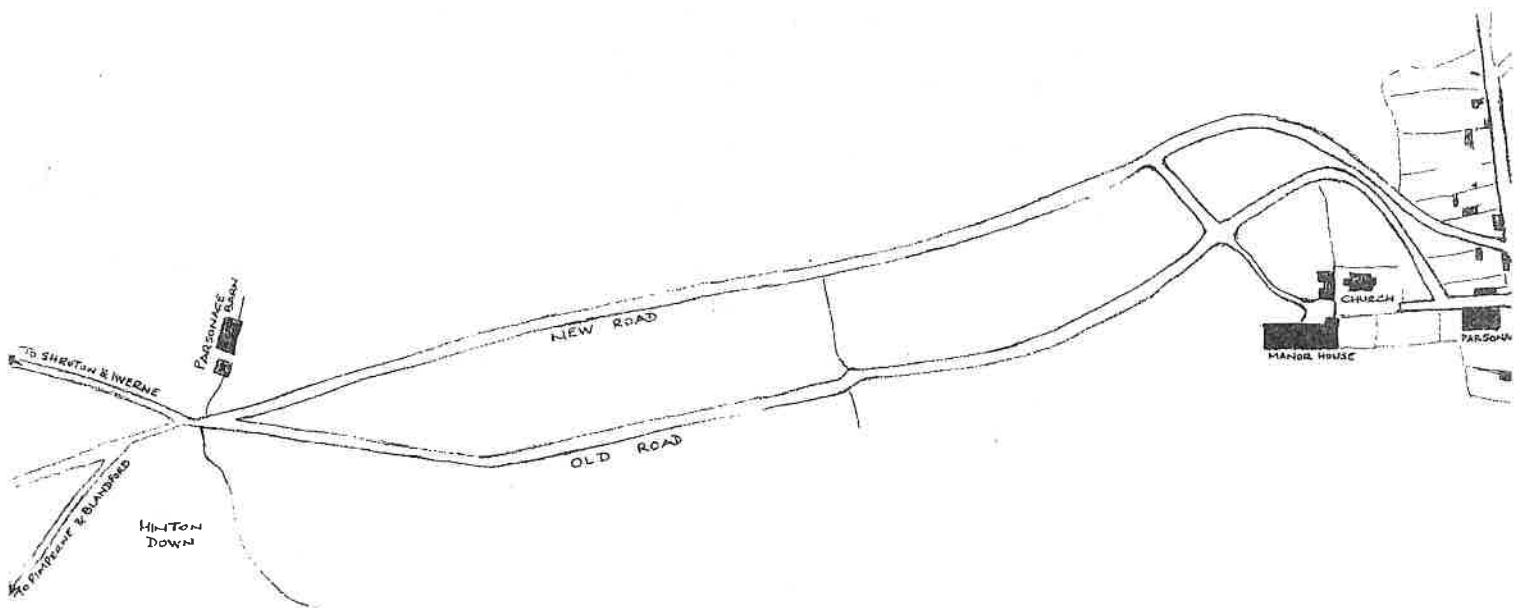
In 1997 the 30mph limit was again approved by the County council and is expected to be introduced soon.

Lest anyone imagine that rights-of-way disputes are of recent origin here is a cutting from the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* dated 30 March 1826....

Dorset Assizes - James John Farquharson Esq v the Rev Francis Simpson, Rector of Tarrant Gunville. This was the last cause tried at these assizes. It lasted from three o'clock on Saturday afternoon till eleven o'clock at night. It was an action of trespass for entering a certain close of the plaintiff at Tarrant Gunville, and breaking down a gate, and also certain railing and paling there belonging to the plaintiff. The defendant had pleaded the general issue, not guilty, together with several special pleas, justifying the alleged trespass on the

ground of there being a public footway over the locus in quo, the use of which footway, it was alleged, was obstructed by the wrongful erection of the gate, and the railing and paling in question. The plaintiff, by his replication denied the right of way. Mr Sergeant Wilde, in stating the plaintiff's case to the Jury, observed that the object of Mr Farquharson bringing this action was not so much to complain of what had been done by the defendant, as to establish the fact that no such public footway as that claimed existed. It was stated that the footway in question, which led from the street or carriage road of the village of Tarrant Gunville, was bounded on one side, by a close called the Plantation, and on the other, by a cottage and garden occupied by one William Ridout, and extended through a drova[sic] or drong, across a mead called Barton's Hill, and Hayley, to the village of Tarrant Hinton, from whence it was continued across the Great Western Road leading from Salisbury to Blandford, to several adjacent villages. Seven witnesses who were examined on the part of the plaintiff, gave negative evidence against the fact of there being a public footway over the locus in quo, stating that they did not remember any such footway to have existed, while eleven witnesses on the other side (many of them very old men, and some who had known the parish upwards of 60 years) swore positively to the fact of there having been an ancient footway over the spot in question, commencing from the corner of a house called the Bugle Horn Inn, in the street or carriage road of Gunville village, and continuing from thence in a regular beaten tract across the mead called Long Mead, and over Bartons Hill and Hayley to Tarrant Hinton. More witnesses were about to be called on the part of the defendant, when at ten o'clock at night, the learned Judge (Sir James Burrough) intimated that the case had already extended to a great length; upon which the defendant's Counsel immediately closed their case.

- After an ingenious reply by Mr Sergeant Wilde, and a few observations from the learned Judge, the Jury, without hesitation, found a verdict for the defendant, thereby establishing the public right of way. The trial lasted eight hours.



SCHOOL

Tarrant Gunville Church of England Primary School

Since early times education had been a function of religious organisations, and until 1870 it was normally the local church which organised the building of local schools. From the Elementary Education Act of 1870 onwards the responsibility moved steadily away from the Church to the Government and via the Government to local authorities. Thus, as you will see from the account that follows, it was the Church in Tarrant Gunville that decided that a village school should be built (in 1874) but it was the local authority that decided that it should close (in 1978).

The first mention of a school in Tarrant Gunville is on 27 March 1851, when a vestry meeting under the Chairmanship of Canon John Watts, the rector of Tarrant Gunville, agreed to the sale of church property to finance a school.

Presumably the decision of this meeting was not acted upon because there is no further mention of the subject in the minutes. There may however have been some provision for schooling at about this time. For example the 1861 census identifies Wiliam Maidment (aged 72) as schoolmaster and living in the 'Day School', and the *PO Directory* for 1859 and *Harrod's Directory* for 1865 include 'Miss Mary Fanner - day school'. But a report on page 117 of the Vestry Minute Book notes that before 1874 'all Gunville children had to walk to Tarrant Hinton School', which contradicts the idea of a school in Gunville.

Whatever the situation may have been in the 1850s and 1860s, we do know that in 1872, shortly before his death, (2 June 1872), Canon John Watts added a bequest to his will; 'I give to my son, the Rev Robert Rowley Watts, the sum of £100, upon trust, to apply the same towards establishing a School in Tarrant Gunville...' A subsequent note in the Vestry Minute book reports:

'Accordingly after a long delay and discussion as to site, a portion of ground, almost a quarter of an acre was (for the sum of £15) purchased.....on the 24 February 1874 for the creation of a school for the education of 'children only of the farming, labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes in the Parish....and for no other purpose than such as the School Committee shall allow - which said School or Schools shall always be in union with and conducted according to the principles of the Church of England....The School to be under the sole control and management of a Committee consisting of the Rector..., his licensed Curate..., the churchwardens..., and subscribers of not less that One Pound annually to the funds of the School...' The school was built by subscription; over the porch is the happy inscription "Nisi Dominus". The actual building costs amounted to £760'.

Apart from the note about the opening of the school, all earlier records have been lost. It is therefore a bit of a shock to find that in 1952, the school faced the threat of closure. After representations, a census of the catchment area was undertaken. This showed an increasing child population. The local authority agreed that the school should remain open provided the school was extended in 'a manner satisfactory to the Authority'. The Ministry of Education would pay half the cost, the Diocesan Board a part and the Church of Tarrant Gunville the rest.

As a consequence the school was enlarged in 1955. The main additions were a new classroom for infants, (previously the infants had been in the village hall), complete new sanitary arrangements, central heating, electric light and power at a total cost of £4,472. The Church's proportion was met under the Barchester Scheme (a Diocesan Scheme) whereby the people of Tarrant Gunville paid the Diocese £30 per annum in return for the Diocese providing the Church's share of the cost. The payment increased to £35 in 1960 and to £36 in 1966. A 'Friends of the School' Association was formed to meet the annual cost through subscription, thus avoiding the need for repeated appeals.

A School Inspector's report on 5 March 1956 recorded: "There has recently been much improvement here both in the premises and in the work....."

The independent efforts seen in the infants class are developed in all subjects in the juniors class under the Head Master, and they lead to private reading and good original writing on topics of interest to the children in history, geography, nature study and local events. Many specimens of

archaeological value have been brought to school by the children and identified and labelled by them. Physical activities, art, crafts and music all show enterprise and a satisfactory sense of achievement.

The Managers and the Authority are to be congratulated on the greatly improved accommodation, and Head Master on the initiative and self-reliance shown in the children's work.'

During the period 1955 to 1976 the school held an annual Christmas Fair, put on a pantomime and gave a party for the school children. All these appear to have been very enjoyable and financially successful.

1974 - Centenary of the Founding of the School

Extract from minutes of the Managers Meeting 9 October 1974.

'The village has elected a committee under the chairmanship of Mr Duff to arrange suitable activities to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the school in Tarrant Gunville, which was thought to have taken place about 20 October 1874. The children were taking part in an entertainment to be given by the WI on Monday 14 October. A party was being given in the school on Saturday 19 October and a church service on Sunday 20 at which engraved medallions would be presented to the present pupils. The bell had been taken down and cleaned and was to be put on a shelf in the school with a plaque on it.' After the school closed the bell rested on a shelf in the tower of the church until the end of 1998, when it was once more placed outside the old school building, which had been converted to a private house.

Playing Field

This field adjacent to the school was given to the parish in 1955 by Mr Ronald Farquharson and was known as 'The Squire's field'. There was a statutory bar to a gift of more than 1 acre and so the Parish Council bought the balance, 0.7 acres for £5, which Mr Farquharson immediately put into the playing field fund. According to the minutes of the meetings of the School Governors (1955 to 1978) the school used the playing field as well as providing and maintaining equipment for it.

Closure

After being under threat of closure for several years, the school closed in 1978 when the attendance dropped to 19, at a school which had been built in 1874 to accommodate 70 pupils and extended in 1955. The remaining pupils were transferred to Pimperne.

School Teachers

Miss Kate Davis 1875
Miss Bessie Trim 1880
Miss Sarah Hayter 1885
Miss Rose Buckland 1889
Miss Rosina Folkes 1903
Miss Bessie Matthews 1907
Miss Lucy Eames 1915
Miss Frances Cox 1923
Miss Leah Gardner 1923
Mrs Florence Hartley 1927
Miss Riggs 1928
Mrs Lotteridge 1932 - 1938
Mrs Mortimer
Mr Mortimer - 1950
Mrs Crabtree - 1956
Mr Willmott 1956 to 1978

Assistant Teachers

Miss Slipper 1932
Miss Baggs 1945
Miss Watson
Mrs Mortimer
Miss Jones 1956 - 1960
Mrs Davis 1960 - 1961
Miss Sylvia Collings } 1961 - 1969
Mrs Sylvia Belbin }
Mrs Maynard 1969 - 1970
Mrs Jones 1971 - 1978

THE SHOP

The records that we have found show that there was a shop in Dairy House in 1840. It was run by John and William Arnold until about 1880, when the Sims family took over. In 1919 Mr Farquharson asked Mr & Mrs E Thorne to take over as shopkeeper - Mr Thorne was at that time the blacksmith. The shop was finally bought by the Thorne family from Mr Farquharson in 1949, and they ran the business until 1989 when it was bought by Mr & Mrs Cusack. The shop closed in 1990.

Running the shop was a full-time business. Mrs Thorne recalls that she and her husband had three week-ends off during the 40 years they had the shop. Mrs Thorne describes her typical day as getting up at 5 am to prepare breakfast, do the necessary domestic work and prepare for opening the shop at 7 am. The shop was open all day until 7 pm, when Mrs Thorne completed any necessary clerical work and cooked an evening meal. A long day. And she was on her own after 1981 when her husband died.

Deliveries were made locally. Many people had purchases on account and paid each fortnight or monthly.

The shop provided a comprehensive service to the village. It was grocer, greengrocer, butcher, baker, dairy, confectioner, tobacconist, and it also stocked some necessities such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, stockings and aspirin. But it was not only a shop, it was a focal point in the village where people met to enjoy each other's company, to gossip, to advertise social events and so on. And it had the added social benefit that people met each other as they walked to and from the shop. Mrs Thorne's happy laugh could frequently be heard out in the road when the door was open during the hotter weather. Some men, finding it full of women, would 'come back when the ladies' WI meeting was over'. One man who was strategically placed in a cottage opposite would watch until the shop was quiet before nipping across to make his purchases. On a Monday some young men would be late getting up and would stop on their way through the village to buy something for breakfast. As a result there was frequently more trade between 7 am and 9 am, on a Monday morning, than for the rest of that day!

Over the years the clientele changed. In earlier days the parish was an agricultural community. The people had low incomes, they had their own vegetable plot and frequently their own pig. They were tied to the village by limited transport and were much more ready to buy the cheaper cuts of meat and to live on a simple staple diet. By the time Mrs Thorne retired in 1989 the parish had long ceased to be an agricultural unit. Although agriculture was still the main industry, it employed few workers and many machines. The houses were occupied by people who were comfortably off, many had come to the village from other parts of the country and, frequently, were no longer young. They also had their own transport. The shop thus had to compete not only with shops in Blandford, Shaftesbury and Wimborne, but also as far afield as Salisbury : it had to stock, for example, about eight different kinds of tea, loose and in teabags, and there was no demand for the cheaper cuts of bacon.

The shop had always been fortunate in having very cold storage in the dairy at the west end of the house, where items such as butter, lard, cheese and meat were stored under muslin (with mint on top of meat to keep off the flies). In the very warm weather the butter, which was in large slabs, would be lowered down the well, which was even cooler; otherwise it could have become too soft to be made up into pound or half-pound pieces when it was sold. It was not until about 1949, when Inspectors from the local authority insisted that fridges were bought, and cheese put into a cupboard with metal gauze on the sides.

The Thorne's had cows, pigs and chickens on land behind the shop. The cows provided milk which was then made into butter. Milk was sold in the shop by ladle into containers, and the bulk collected in churns by the local dairy.

Supplies for the shop were mainly local from Blandford, from a bacon factory at Iwerne Minster, from the bakers (Reeves of Pimperne and Maidments of Tarrant Monkton). In the 1920s during hot weather the meat was sometimes delivered (by the travelling butcher) covered in flies; Mrs

Thorne's mother would then soak the meat in vinegar and half cook it. In 1930 the sweets were bought directly from Tuckets (a famous sweet maker) and other supplies from Hardy's of Salisbury. By the 1950s individual suppliers were bought up by groups, who then tied shops to them by various devices such as special offers related to continuity of orders - the local group being Amalgamated Foods, later SPAR.

Mrs Thorne tells the story of milk having to be delivered to The Kennels on one occasion (usually it was collected). A young lad in the village was asked to deliver the can of milk. The occupant of The Kennels later complained that there had been a tadpole in the milk. Presumably the young lad had drunk some of the milk and topped up the can from the river!

For a whole variety of reasons, the Thorne's built up great customer loyalty and that loyalty was maintained even in the 1980s despite the attractions of supermarkets in nearby towns. When the Cusack's took over in 1989 they found that some customers had taken the opportunity of the change in ownership to use the supermarkets or other shops and they therefore had a much smaller customer base. Two months after they moved in there were tremendous storms and floods. The shop - along with the rest of the village - was without electricity: it had no lighting and power and nearly all the frozen food was lost. Ironically the shop became very popular for a short period, when it was least able to provide a good service. That custom dried up with the receding flood water. New hygiene regulations which required substantial investment, the greatly increased business rates and a falling income dramatically reduced any profits. In the end the shop closed in 1990.

In Dairy House there used to be a large bread oven in the dairy in addition to the domestic one in the house. Presumably this was used when the shop was also a bakery in the 19th century. There is believed to have been a slaughterhouse in the yard behind the house. There was also a turkey loft, where it is thought turkeys were hung before Christmas.

Two other shopkeepers are recorded in censuses and directories: Frampton Ames (baker) 1848 - 1851 and Ephraim Ridout (baker and grocer) 1851 - 1880. In the 1920s and 1930s Mrs Joyce at 1 China Lane sold sweets.

Many travelling shops visited the parish until the mid 1960s. There were bakers including Bond, Maidment, Paynes, Giffords, Reeves, and Buddens; about six butchers, three of whom were Churchill, Collier and Eastman; one fishmonger, Millbanks; Parkers, who delivered paraffin and cleaning materials, and one hardware van. People speak of this last as being, 'a lovely van with galleries, porcelain jars and little drawers; it stocked everything that you could think of.' Dickenson came with his horse and cart about every six weeks selling china, glass and ornaments all of which were well displayed on hooks or in baskets. His coming was preceded by the musical tinkling of his wares. In the 1940s Mrs Sheen from Sixpenny Handley came in her pony trap every Monday with linen and clothes. She delivered to the door. The Belbins delivered milk.

There was a bakery, Wilkins, at Farnham and people walked there to buy flour. Mr Wilkins delivered bread to Gunville by a horse and cart.

Refrigerated vans visit the parish today selling fish. Milk and papers are delivered and, of course, there is a mobile library.

In August 2003 a shop was opened at Home Farm to the delight of people from many miles around. Marlene Belbin's bubbling welcome to customers is complemented by excellent meat, dairy products and locally grown vegetables at very competitive prices plus home baked cakes, ready cooked meals and an astonishing range of preserves, relishes, drinks and frozen goods.

POST OFFICE

The first postal systems were those run by the Monarchs, Emperors and other leaders. Letters were written on wax, clay or bronze and were carried by messengers to all parts of the kingdom or empire. Sometimes the message was memorised. As one might expect, the Romans had an extensive official postal system but only the Emperors could use it. There were private companies which carried letters for others, and merchants themselves had their own means of communication. After the fall of the Roman Empire (about 500AD) the Roman postal system collapsed and was only gradually replaced by other means. By the 11th century the monasteries and the universities, all of which had their own messenger services, played a significant part because their networks could be used by others. There continued, of course, to be the private arrangements of merchants, and travellers were used by friends as messengers.

The Royal Postal Service in the UK had regular traffic between London and Edinburgh. In 1635 the service, which used riders on horseback, was opened to the public. Gradually as the volume of mail increased it began to include heavy parcels and more valuables. This led to the use of mail coaches, each with its own armed guard. When the coach arrived in a town the driver blew a horn or rang a bell to tell people to come to collect their mail. People in the surrounding area would call periodically to collect letters and parcels. When the railway network was established - from about 1840 onwards - it was used to transport the mail.

At this time there were two substantial problems with the mail. It was expensive, the cost being based mainly on distance. And payment was uncertain because the recipient, not the sender, had to meet the cost and, of course, some recipients were unwilling to pay. It was in 1837 that Rowland Hill suggested that in the UK the price should be based on weight, not on distance, and that the cost should be met by the sender. He suggested the use of a one penny stamp, to prove that payment had been made, and the stamp was to be cancelled by a postmark to prevent its being reused. Thus was introduced the system we know today.

Before 1850 letters and parcels could be taken to the local Post Office or put into a bellman's bag. A bellman was an employee who travelled round a local area collecting letters. In 1850 post boxes were introduced, and were gradually installed across the country.

The earliest record we have of a postmaster in the parish is 1855 when John Arnold held the position. Mr G Sims followed in 1882. Both also ran the shop in what is now Dairy Cottage and it seems reasonable to assume that the Post Office was in that cottage between 1855 and at least 1895. There is a gap in our records until 1915 when a Mrs Ridout was the postmistress. By that time the Post Office had moved across the road to The Old Post Office where the succeeding postmasters were Mr R J Hunt, Mr J E Boxall, Mr H Swain and Mr Leonard Saint. After The Old Post Office ceased to be used the post was dealt with by Miss Hillier in Cottage Row, beside the school. Mrs B Wells, at 2 School Close, was postmistress from 1967 to 1986 when Mrs D Rendell, at 8 School Close, took over. The Post Office closed in 1987.

By the end of the 1800s, post was delivered on foot from Blandford Forum by a postman who walked through Pimperne, Tarrant Gunville and Chettle to Farnham, delivering mail to the Post Offices and collecting mail on the way back in the afternoon. In the 1950s the system was mechanised, the delivery to and collection from the postmaster being made by the postman on a motorcycle with a boxed-in sidecar. The mail was distributed in the parish by the Postmaster. Mr Saint used to say that he cycled about 17 miles delivering mail and that it took him about four hours. Later, the post for those on, or close to, the main road was delivered by van while the postmaster took mail to those in other houses. It was not until the 1970s that all the mail was delivered and collected, as it is today, by van from Blandford Forum. The post boxes used to be in the wall of the Old Post Office and at Princes Corner. Mrs Thorne, as a child in the mid 1920s, delivered telegrams on her bicycle. When she came home from school she could see whether there were any telegrams in the window of the Post Office awaiting delivery. She was paid 6d to go to Hinton and 9d to Chettle, and earned enough to buy a new bicycle.

At that time (mid 1920s) the only telephone in the village was in the Post Office.

PUB AND ALEHOUSES

We started with high hopes of obtaining a reasonably detailed history of the Pub and the Ale houses in the parish, because anyone who wished to sell beer, wine and spirits had to have a license - certainly since 1552. That Act also required that all keepers of alehouses and tipping houses should enter into recognizances or bonds that they would maintain good order in their houses and not allow unlawful games such as quoits, bowls, cards, dice, football and tennis! Subsequent Acts varied the restrictions placed upon licencees. Unfortunately the relevant records are not available before the early 1900s - and are very elusive after 1900 - and for information we have had to rely mainly upon censuses, from 1841 onwards, a tithe map (1840) and Directories.

These records show that there was in the parish the Bugle Horn and also two or three beer houses. The Bugle Horn, of course, took its name from the arms of Bubb Doddington, who completed the building of Eastbury House. We have a record of most of the innkeepers from 1841 until it ceased to be a pub at the end of March 1995. The last innkeeper bought the pub in 1988 during the property boom and finding that it did not give him a suitable return on his capital, sought to sell it during the recession in the 1990s. As he was unable to sell it as a business at an acceptable price, he obtained planning permission for it to be converted into a private house and eventually sold it as such at a considerable loss in 1997.

The history of the beerhouses is less easy to trace. The Beerhouse Act of 1830 was passed to encourage the sale of beer. It brought into being beer retailers who kept beer shops or beerhouses which could sell only beer or cider. Licenses were available on demand from Excise Officers. The 1841 census includes James Fanner and George Prince as Beerhouse Keepers. The 1840 tithe map and index shows James Fanner as occupying a cottage (site 117) on the piece of land which is now the front garden of the bungalow Rosewood near China Lane, and it seems safe to assume that this is where his beerhouse was.

The index to the 1840 tithe map records two George Princes, one of whom is a beerhouse keeper and the other an agricultural labourer. We know from other evidence that there was a beerhouse at Stubhampton Gate and that that is the cottage which was occupied by George Prince, beerhouse keeper. He appears in subsequent records until the 1861 census. A Directory lists a Robert Gatehouse as a beerhouse keeper in 1865 and censuses and Directories list Elvira, Lavinia and Serena Gatehouse as the licensees from 1865 to 1885. Their position in the censuses put them firmly in Stubhampton and it is therefore possible that the Gatehouse family followed the Prince family at Stubhampton Gate. There is an Aaron Anstey recorded as a beerhouse keeper in 1889 and 1895, a George Bishop in 1898 and Henry Sharp in 1907. All are in Stubhampton. Again it is possible that they were at Stubhampton Gate. We do not know when this beerhouse closed.

This leaves three other beerhouse keepers; Frampton Ames who is listed in 1848, 1851, 1855 and 1859, Humphrey Ames who appears in 1861 and 1865 and Sophia Farmer recorded in 1855 and 1861. So far we have been unable to trace the cottages that they occupied.

The index to the 1840 tithe map identifies Westbury Cottage as a malthouse. This could mean that malted barley was prepared there and used to make beer for sale in the beerhouses, or supplied to someone outside the parish.

SERVICES

WATER

As I write (in January 1999) and look out of the window, I can see a 10 foot wide river Tarrant flowing through our garden, there is water pouring from springs throughout the parish and, once more, the road at Princes Corner is flooded. There is a lot of water about. But people have not always had reliable water supplied to their houses. For example, Mr Peter Farquharson told a story about problems with laundry. Mrs Blandford, who used to live in Cottage Row, off School Lane, did the washing for the Squire, Mr Ronald Farquharson, who was Peter's older brother. At one stage during a long hot summer the Squire became less and less satisfied with his laundry and asked his brother to investigate and get some improvement. So Peter called on Mrs Blandford who was apologetic and concerned because she was well aware that the laundry service was not as good as it should have been. But what could she do? After all, her well had been dry for almost 6 weeks! She had done her best. Her 'best' was to very carefully fold the clothes sent to be washed and return them to the Squire!

The 1901 OS map of the parish shows wells in most houses and pumps in the larger properties - the Manor House, the Rectory, Little Tarrant, the School, Dairy Cottage and the farmhouses at Westbury, Stephouse, Marlborough and Stubhampton. Eastbury drew water from a well in the field next to our house, Ashdown Cottage, and used a windmill to pump water up to a reservoir at Halifax, at the top of Sheep Drove, where there was another windmill. In the 1930s a borehole was sunk in the field opposite the well and a motorised pump installed in the small hut that can be seen there today. The reservoir supplied Eastbury, and it also provided a piped water supply to many houses in the parish and in Tarrant Hinton. Thus Eastbury became, effectively, a water company with all the attendant problems of ever increasing regulation. Even today it supplies about half a dozen houses in the village. We do not know exactly when the piped supply was introduced but it seems probable that it was in the 1910s. The supply was not wholly reliable partly because the windmills were not very efficient and partly because the reservoir could dry up. Elliott Bailey can recall being sent round the houses in very dry weather to try to find leaks but found the task impossible because people were stubbornly determined that there were 'no leaks in my house'.

All this suggests that there must have been serious difficulties over shortages of water from time to time; indeed in 1921, a very dry year, many wells were deepened. Older inhabitants make light of the issue, pointing out that there were always a few wells which were not dry.

The parish eventually got its mains water supply - thanks to Shaftesbury Rural District Council (RDC). This RDC needed more water and, in 1948, had sought the agreement of Blandford RDC, which was responsible for the Gunville area, to sink a borehole at Stubhampton and run a 9 inch mains to a reservoir at Bowers Barn on the C13. The discussions and negotiations were prolonged and it was not until the 1950s that agreement was reached. Under the agreement a 6-inch main was also to be laid to a new reservoir at Drove Barn for the benefit of Blandford RDC. Tarrant Gunville parish benefitted in two ways. First a main supplying the parish was laid down Abbey Lane and then north and south along the main road through the parish and up School Lane. Thus, during the 1950s, houses in the village were connected to a public water supply for the first time. But the connections were not automatic nor were they necessarily easily arranged.

Miss Kitty Bennett (who lived at Little Tarrant) told the story of being the first house to be connected to the main, although she could not recall the precise year. 'The summer had been very dry and there was no water in most wells. I felt that it was wrong to impose upon those who still had water so I cycled, on a Friday, to the office of the water company in Winterborne Stickland to press to be connected to the main. I recall sitting on the radiator in the office to get warm because, as it so happened, the weather on that day was wet and miserable. There was a long discussion; the water company were not very helpful. Eventually, wanting to get rid of me, they made an offer which they obviously thought an impossibility. If I could dig a trench for the pipe over the week-end from the road to my house, they would lay the pipes on the Monday. Needless to say I agreed immediately. I cycled home and phoned Les Baggs, from Chettle, who had done work for us. He came on Saturday with another man and did the job. Les said afterwards that I had sounded so desperate that he would have dug a trench for

me all the way through the village to get me my water. The water company laid the pipe from the main and I got my water supply.'

Thereafter houses in the village were connected over a period. For example, those houses which were supplied from Eastbury reservoir had that supply withdrawn when they changed hands. They then had to arrange to be supplied from the mains. The stop cocks for these connections were positioned in the verge beside the road but as the road has become widened, as a result of increased traffic wearing away the verges, some original stopcocks are in the road. If the householder is not alert when the road is repaired, they may find that their stopcock is covered by several layers of tarmacadam.

Today, in 1999, we are fortunate that even in the driest summer there is no restriction on the use of water.

SEWERAGE

The second benefit of the borehole being made was a sewerage supply - to Stubhampton. One of the conditions for the extraction of water for human consumption was that there should be no risk of contamination, eg from privies, cesspits and septic tanks, within a radius of half a mile of the borehole. Thus those extracting water had to bear the cost of installing WCs in the houses within this radius as well as laying the sewer and building the sewage treatment works at Stubhampton. In some cases they had to build small extensions to the cottages to accommodate the WC. There was discussion of extending the main sewer all the way through the parish but it was thought the cost would be too high.

Thus part of the parish for some time enjoyed the comfort of an indoor WC while most of the rest still trudged to the bottom of the garden, in all weathers, and at all times, to meet calls of nature. Eventually, of course, these houses also got cesspits or septic tanks but even then some were unwilling to give up their old ways. Old Mrs Saint, who used to live in the Old Post Office, would tell anyone prepared to listen that she wasn't giving up her bucket for anyone.

Today some houses are faced with serious difficulties when the water table becomes very high because water can then fill cesspits and septic tanks, cause them to overflow and make them unuseable. This may account for the strained expression on some people's faces during floods. It certainly prompts those whose drainage system is not affected by the rising water table to assist friends by sharing their washing machines and sometimes their bathing facilities.

ELECTRICITY

For hundreds of years the houses in the parish had been lit by oil lamps and candles. Some people talk with nostalgia of the warm, soft light of the oil lamps particularly when the family were gathered round a warm fire on a cold winter's evening. Others mutter about the work of keeping the lamps filled, the chimneys cleaned and the wicks trimmed and say that even when the lamps were working well the light was poor and there was inevitably smoke and dirt.

All that changed in 1949 when electricity came and, at the flick of a switch, the room would be flooded with light. By today's standard the single light and single 5amp socket which was installed in each room is quite inadequate but it was a luxury in those days.

The supply proved to be unreliable during stormy weather and people came to accept the almost inevitable cuts in supply most often as a result of trees or their branches being blown onto, and breaking, the wires. Much work has been done in recent years to cut away branches that were likely to cause damage to the wires and the supply has become much more reliable.

CELEBRATIONS : SOCIAL EVENTS

Tarrant Gunville is an active social community and although there is little information about activities before the 1940s we do know about its celebration of national events from 1897 onwards.

Celebrations

For the Diamond Jubilee in 1897, 'The Parishes of Tarrant Valley - Hinton and Monkton attended a choral evensong at Gunville church....The three surpliced choirs were in procession together with the Monkton Band - the church was packed in every part; some 400 must have been present....

June 22nd - The two parishes (*Hinton and Gunville*) invited by Mr Farquharson to Eastbury for the day of Jubilee. Perfect weather. The men sat down to dinner at 2 o'clock about 130. The Women to Tea, about 150. The children over 100, and the men to Tea in the Evening. Some 400 altogether - a great success in every way.'

The Vestry minutes of 17 April 1902 record that the question of Coronation festivities was raised. It was decided that Tarrant Gunville 'should not be behind the other villages in England in loyally celebrating the glad event of the crowning of King Edward VII'. Unfortunately we do not know how that challenge was met.

There may have been a celebration at the end of the Boer War in 1902, (certainly the bells were rung, the flag flown and a special service held), and another at the end of the 1914/18 war.

In 1935 on the Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary there was tea for the children and a social and dance in the evening.

There was a Coronation celebration at Eastbury in 1953 when the children enjoyed an excellent tea and each received a memorial cup, saucer and plate - some of these are still intact today.

In 1977 Tarrant Gunville joined with Tarrant Hinton to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. There was a fête at Eastbury with a fancy dress parade and a tea for the children, and in the evening a barbecue and dance was held in Tarrant Hinton.

In May 1995, on a warm and sunny summer's weekend, Gunville celebrated the 50th anniversary of VE Day - the end of the 1939/45 war in Europe. The road through the village was closed. There were races in the street, competitions in the Squire's Field, a street tea party for the children and an exhibition of wartime memorabilia in the village hall. The 'Tarrant Troupers' put on a variety show - the first half a variety programme and the second half a hilarious play. Several new 'stars' came out during the evening. The Troupers have continued to perform regularly since.

The Village Hall

The Village Hall, or more accurately, the Parish Room, was erected in the 1920s on land owned by Mr Farquharson. The site was eventually given to the Parish Council in 1970 on the understanding that if it ceased to be used for the hall, it would revert to the Farquharson family. The hall itself was a first world war hut which was moved first to the grounds of The Kennels (where it was used as kennels) and was then given to the Parish in the 1920s - presumably at the same time as the land was given by Mr Farquharson.

The hall was smaller than the present one but with a similar layout, ie a hall with behind it a store room, kitchen and toilets. It did not have an entrance hall or small room at the front but a verandah which extended the whole way along the front. It was painted green and the corrugated iron roof was black.

The hut provided the main part of the hall. The original back rooms were created by cutting in half another wooden hut, the Reading Room, and adding it to the back of the hall. This provided a small store room, a ladies room with two bucket toilets and a room to lay out food. All the rooms were small. The Reading Room, a large wooden hut, had been given to the parish by Mr

Hughes-Gibb of the Manor for the use of the men to meet, argue, read, play cards and dominos etc and to keep them out of the pub It provided three rooms - a small room where the present storeroom is, a ladies room with two bucket toilets where the kitchen now is and a room to lay out food, where the toilets now are. There were no cooking facilities and the ladies used to bring food already prepared; tea was supplied from an urn once electricity was available. In 1968 the kitchen and toilets were added and in 1978 the storeroom was extended. In earlier days there was a permanent stage at the side-road end of the building near which was a large cast iron, solid fuel stove with a metal chimney going up through the roof. That stove needed to be moved when the 1968 extension was made. The system of gas heaters was installed in 1970.

The hall served the parish very well for over 70 years but those who used it regularly knew well its disadvantages, its dampness and the difficulties of keeping it in repair.

In the early 1980s there were discussions about enlarging the hall (eg by building a room at the front or by putting up a shed in the garden) but the committee decided against these additions. The possibility of rebuilding and enlarging the rear rooms was also considered and quotes (£3000 to £7000) were obtained. The small gain in space was not considered worth the cost, but because of dampness at the back it was decided to re-roof the rooms at a cost of £3200 + VAT. Unfortunately the join between the new roof and the main hall was not well done and water leaking into the back rooms continued to be a problem.

Separately it is worth noting that in 1989 there was a healthy balance of £2034 in the accounts and the committee were warned that they could be liable to corporation tax! And the Poll tax was also set at £200; rates had previously been £3. To escape the corporation tax and to reduce the Poll tax the hall became a charity in 1991.

By the early 1990s the committee was discussin the possibility of building a new hall and were searching for grants. Fortuitously the Lottery arrived at this stage and an application was submitted in 1995.

The first application for lottery funding was unsuccessful but was a very useful learning experience. A survey to assess support for the hall and to establish preferences for activities in the hall led to re-affirmation of the decision to go for a new hall and to a determination to build it in brick and flint to match adjacent houses. Open meetings held to discuss plans drawn up by an architect led to marked support from some and hostility from others. Gradually views became polarised. An influential group were strongly opposed to the new hall arguing that no sound case had been made for replacing the old hall, that a new hall would lead to greater use, lettings to groups outside the village and thus noise and disruption. Some also thought that the proposed design would be ugly and suburban in style. This group were reinforced by those who ridiculed the possibility of raising the necessary money (about £100,000) regarding it as pie-in-the-sky, or even lunacy. There was another group who enthusiastically supported the attempt to have a new hall even though some of these had a nostalgic affection for the old building, having enjoyed many happy occasions there. And there were those, of course, who remained neutral. But when open meetings to make decisions were held there was strong support for a new hall. A sub-committee was given the task of raising the money for the hall.

The first need was to pay the architect for his initial work and to take the project forward to planning approval. It was hoped that most of this money would come from the Lottery. The first application for a Lottery grant of £4240 was sent off in 1997 with a great deal depending on its success - and it was successful. A second application for £3350 submitted in 1998 was also approved. By this stage the forecast of building costs was steadily rising, from under £100,000 to over £150,000.

The sub-committee was very active in arranging all sorts of activities and seeking donations from villagers and grants from Charitable Trusts etc. The energy was tremendous. But it became more and more clear that the success for the enterprise depended on Lottery funding. This led to ever expanding research into the experiences of other villages who had gained Lottery funding, into sources of advice and of additional funds. Drafting the Lottery funding application began in earnest in 1998, one member of the committee doing the basic drafting and the others poring

over the drafts at meeting after meeting. Eventually, well satisfied with the product, there arose an opportunity to have the proposed application vetted by someone who had been an assessor for Lottery applications. The critique was devastating - a two page pithy, pointed destruction of the carefully argued case. In retrospect this was probably the most helpful and constructive advice that the committee received. It led to a complete revision of the proposed application. Even then the contents of the 22 page application required drafting and redrafting as well as the addition of two appendices. Finally the application was sent off. It passed the first stage of the process. The second stage was an hour-long inquisition by telephone of one member of the committee and then the wait to hear the result. To their great delight the committee heard in November 1999 that the grant had been approved. The Lottery provided £104,000 Dorset County Council £20,000, North Dorset Council £16,000. The lowest tender by Hammonds & Son, of £167,000 was accepted in April 2000 and building began in May 2000. The roof was on by September and the building was completed by the end of January 2001. These few words obscure eight months of hard work, particularly by Brian Kenny, who visited the site almost daily to check, encourage and persuade the builders to produce the building we wanted. Fortunately Hammonds & Son were good, well-organised builders but some of the sub-contractors were not so reliable. The committee had decided on a building of high quality and in Brian they had found someone to translate that decision into reality. Thus we now have a splendid village hall that so many visitors admire. In the process of raising funds and building the hall most of the divisions in the village were healed.

The building work cost £172,000 (against the tender of £167,000). Additional costs in furnishing and equipping the hall to the standards set by the committee raised the total cost to £198,000. So successful had fund-raising been that the committee were left with a balance of over £10,000.

Social Events

Dances were held regularly in the village hall until the late 1950s to music provided by Les Thorne (piano) and Edward Thorne (drums). For the following 10 years, until the dances stopped, people danced to a band (the Pinelanders) or to records. Denis Wareham supplied both the record player and the records. On one occasion, in 1963, he set off with his equipment and decended the hill from Furzey Down where he lived. The road was covered with deep icy ruts after heavy snow and as he turned the bend at the beginning of Stubhampton his van tipped over and strewed his records and equipment all over the road. Showing a true pioneer spirit, he managed to get his van upright again, picked up all his records and equipment and carried on to provide the music for the dance.

The headmaster of the village school, Mr Wilmott, used to organise a Christmas Fair with stalls of all kinds and a big Christmas draw. Money raised purchased 'extras' for the school, including a record player, a swing, and a stage and curtains (both of these were subsequently used in the village hall). It also ensured that every child in the school got a present of a book (not a toy!) at the Christmas party. For many years he wrote and produced a pantomime until the school closed in 1978. In more recent years Muriel and Bill Parker have been leading lights in writing and producing pantomimes.

The dinners of the Slate Club, held in the village hall, are spoken of with a nostalgic glow. After the men were well fed and well drunk, the speeches and toasts began. Most speakers had not been warned in advance, and since they were not ready and practised orators they quickly fell back upon their reserves of stories. The air gradually became bluer, not entirely due to the cigarette smoke! Fortunately the ladies had retired having cooked and served the meal; but somehow the hatch into the kitchen was never completely closed.

Concerts have been held in the church from time to time. A recital was given in the evening of the day that the organ was installed. Much more recently, in 1953, there was a fête and concert; in 1966 the Stour Valley Band and ToCh choir from Wimborne gave separate concerts; in 1989 a choir from Milton Abbey sang madrigals and motets; for several years from 1991 onwards the Cranbrook Singers from Essex entertained the village.

Whist drives and Bingo, held on alternate Thursdays, were begun in the 1960s in the village hall

to raise money for the sports club. Bingo, organised by Mrs Thorne for over 25 years, regularly attracted a packed house and people still talk of the large numbers who attended being crammed into the hall, leaving little room for movement. Whist drives were organised by Brian Trickey, who did a tremendous job over the years and raised a great deal of money for the church, the village hall and other charities. In 1998 alone, for example, he raised £966.

Carol singing round the village has taken place for as long as people can remember. There are many reminiscences about the quantity and variety of refreshments offered. Jean Bailey recalls that after the tradition had lapsed for several years, George Francis, who played the accordion, asked her to organise some singers. For many years this group sang carols. They had four rehearsals and then, over four nights, walked round the village visiting every house - it was a long way. When the walking became too much for George, 'old man Rogers' took them round in his horse and cart. This group was succeeded by another who used a horse and cart (later a lorry) decorated with fairy lights and candles. Mr Thorne's piano was hoisted onto the cart or lorry to accompany the singing. More recently the singers have been transported on a farm trailer pulled by tractor with hay bales providing comfortable, if somewhat precarious, seating. The singing is led by Muriel Parker using a small electronic keyboard and often kneeling on the ground outside houses on the wet and cold December night, but making light of these inconveniences. Recently the money raised has been used to finance a Christmas party for the village children.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s a Mrs Clark organised a 'club' for children on Saturday mornings where they played games and had tea and every year she arranged charabanc outings for the children to Bournemouth and Weymouth. In the late 1940s motor bike races were held in Eastbury Park. People came from a wide area to compete and to enjoy a great day out.

Sports Club

The sports club ran football, cricket, table tennis and tug-of-war teams. Football and cricket were played in the grounds of Eastbury House before moving to the present cricket ground (which was leased from John Brown, the farmer who owned the land at that time). The football moved again, to Glebe Farm, now Home Farm, where the pitch is still known as the football field. The tug-of-war team competed all over the county and was good enough to win the County Championship in 1970. It organised competitions on a piece of flat ground in the field opposite the pub and then retired to the pub to relive the event over well-earned pints. All four sports teams ran from the 1940s to the 1970s; only the cricket team remains, with matches on Sundays and Wednesdays but with now only two members from Tarrant Gunville. However there is at present table tennis, pool and darts in the village hall, organised by a few people who wanted to provide activities for the teenagers of the parish.

Women's Institute

Tarrant Gunville WI was formed in March 1947 and now, in 1999, still enjoys the company of two founder members, Mrs Jean Bailey and Mrs Ella Thorne.

Jean Bailey writes that 'meetings were held every second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon with tea or coffee and biscuits served. Members' young children attended and were served orange squash. One member always brought a duster, which she used if she saw dust anywhere in the hall; she also brought her knitting, and you could hear her needles clicking together during the meeting. We had speakers, and a flower show in the halls at Gunville and Hinton alternately, and we took part in the WI Show in the Corn Exchange in Blandford. We performed plays and had a little band - Mr Thorne played the piano, Miss Bennett the triangle, Mrs Toots Bailey the drum, while the rest of the members played paper and combs and Mrs Thorne and myself sang. Mrs Ivy Sims from Princes Corner recited poems in a real Dorset accent. We used to go by coach to a show in Salisbury, followed by a meal, and the WI organised a children's party each year. At the Rectory we performed "Alice in Wonderland" in the garden in the summer, and in the winter had sewing classes when people would bring their sewing machines along - afternoons with plenty of fun and laughter.'

Membership has fluctuated over the years and in the late 1980s there was a rather worrying time when numbers were low and it might have closed. However, from that low point numbers have risen to more than 30 and it is a thriving Institute with many activities. A drama section puts on a pantomime most years, written by Mrs Muriel Parker and produced by her husband Bill, who

risen to more than 30 and it is a thriving Institute with many activities. A drama section puts on a pantomime most years, written by Mrs Muriel Parker and produced by her husband Bill, who also makes the scenery plus many and various effects - the smokescreens for the entry of the Fairy Godmother or the exit of Cinderella are unforgettable! Meetings are now held in the hall once a month, in the evening, with a speaker most months, and a hot supper cooked by members on a rota basis. For the Birthday meeting each March there is a buffet and in July our food is taken to the house of one of the members and the meeting is held in the garden - weather permitting. There are flower shows, yearly outings, and a dinner in March. A regular skittles team competes in the WI County Competition and another team plays short-mat bowls in an annual challenge match at Tarrant Keyneston. The WI provides a much needed place for the women of the area to get together, with members coming from Gunville, Stubhampton, Tarrant Hinton, Tarrant Launceston, Pimperne, Blandford and Blandford St Mary.

Horse Show

The first show was held on 16 August 1947, organised by Mr Nigel Steadham, who lived at the Manor (he was also the Secretary), the Rector, Rev A C Brashaw, Captain and Mrs Brown and Mr Roy Belbin. There were then a number of children in the village who were very keen on riding and their parents and friends thought a local show would be an exciting idea. The site for the show was in the fields adjoining Eastbury House, by the kind permission of Mr & Mrs Ronald Farquharson; the present site is still in this lovely parkland setting, though slightly further away from the House, and the success of the show over so many years is largely due to the wonderfully peaceful setting well away from the road, and the friendly family atmosphere that has built up over the years.

In 1947 the show started at 1.00pm and consisted of jumping and gymkhana classes as well as lightweight and heavyweight cart horse classes. The Comic Dog Show also started in 1947 as a 'fun' ending to the day, and has continued most successfully ever since, with many horse show entrants bringing their dogs with them to enter 'Dog most like its owner' and similar classes. The 'big' and 'little' dog races are a sight to behold as the avenue of trees resounds to the calls of frantic owners trying to get their pets to run to the finishing line rather than explore the nearby hedges or have a scrap with the next dog!

At the first show the price for reserved ringside carpark was 10/-, unreserved ringside 5/- and ordinary carpark 2/6d. In 1999 the price is: ringside £5, ordinary carpark £2.50, and the show runs from 9.15am to about 4.30pm, with three rings and a cross-country course.

In the early days there were a large number of entrants because there were then very few similar events in the neighbourhood, but by the 1990s, every weekend, there were horse shows at many locations in the county. However the Gunville horse show has retained many loyal competitors who regularly attend each August, some families from one generation to the next. The Portman foxhounds parade at each show and in the past there has been clay pigeon shooting and classes for donkeys, and mares and foals. Today the show consists of jumping, showing classes, hunters, mounted fancy dress, gymkhana and driving (the show being affiliated to the British Driving Society).

From about 1949 to 1989 the secretary was Miss Kitty Bennett of Little Tarrant - a much loved lady who knew a large number of competitors personally and remembered their parents (and perhaps grandparents). A small committee of local people run the show and helpers have learned to grapple with the intricacies of putting up the tents. For many years the privacy of the toilets were preserved by long lengths of sacking fixed to poles. Holes inevitably appeared in the sacking and each succeeding year required ingenuity in arranging the sacking. 'Portaloos' are now hired!

When the show first started a dance used to be held at Eastbury after the show, but nowadays the organisers go home and put their feet up!

The show had to be cancelled in 1989 because of horse 'flu' in the area and the foot and mouth epidemic forced it to be cancelled in 2001.

WEATHER

Here are a few notes about weather, taken from several sources, to confirm that the weather has always been changeable.

1777 August 7th - The springs run at Abbey Gate.

1799 September 29th - the Springs run at Over Carren Pit.

1809 January 30th - the Springs run 300 yards above Washers Pit. The wind very 'rof' that day. It 'blod' Mr Groves carriage and horses over at Wingreen, and James Smith over and off his horse. The wettest winter known.

1816 December 26th - the deepest snow I ever know.

1819 December 29th - the deepest snow that any man living did know. It was knee high all solid on the ground everywhere.

1821 May 26th - the blackest hailstorms I ever saw

1821 July 19th - the hardest thunder I ever knew in my life, or any man living. It killed John Adlem in Tollard Green.

1828 January 19th (*but this date may be wrong*) - the highest Springs ever known. They run out of our entry into kitchen!

1860 A very wet and cold summer. Harvest finished October 6th. The springs high a long time in summer.

1863 A shock of earthquake over West of England.

1868 July 20th and 21st - the two hottest days ever known in England.

1890/91 'The winter will long be remembered as one of unexpected severity. The frost set in on Tuesday November 25th, 1890. The first snowfall (some 6 inches) took place on December 19th, followed by another 4 inches on the night of the 20th. This continued on the ground with almost incessant frost till Thursday January 22nd 1891 - 8 weeks and 2 days. First rate skating on the River Stour below Bryanston. An ox roasted on the Lake at Sherborne'. The lowest temperature recorded on the Rectory lawn was 8° F. In addition to the abnormal frost described, mention may be made of the extraordinary spell of dry weather which followed upon the same. 'The month of February came to an end without a drop of rain having fallen generally throughout the county. In consequence the Springs in Tarrant Gunville did not break until 11th but failed to rise in the Tarrant beyond the Blacksmith Shop. March 9th and 10th witnessed a continuous snowfall of some 30 hours or more with a strong wind. Drifts were consequently formed in all directions and every approach to Gunville blocked.' The Post was delivered through fields. 'The mails were only got through to Wimborne by the pluck and energy of the Blandford officials. The Monkton Postman almost succumbed - being in shelter of a Rick the whole night.'

1892 Agricultural depression universal. Bad harvest. The Tarrant never rose beyond the Post Office this winter. A very severe month from Christmas onward. The lowest reading on the Rectory lawn 9° F.

1893 The great drought of 1893 was largely responsible for the loss of the harvest. There was sun and less rain than has been experienced for twenty-nine years. During the months May, June, July and August (*there were*) between eight and eight and a half hours sunshine a day for 60% of the time.

- 1921 Wells deepened.
- 1947 The village was almost cut off by snow.
- 1960 The river ran from Stubhampton from October 1960 to March 1961
- 1965 The Parish Council minutes note on 31 March their thanks to Mr J Strange and his tractor driver, Mr Scott, who kept the road open during recent snow; but the Council wrote to the RDC to complain about the state of the Hinton to Blandford road and how long it took to clear the snow
- 1973 The village was snowed in and the milk from the farms could not be collected. The Belbins left churns of milk outside the shop for people to help themselves; there was a box for donations (to the church).
- 1979 A note of 21 May records 'it had been a bad winter for snow'.
- 1987 Tremendous winds. One of the worst storms for many years. Thousands of trees blown down across the county. Many buildings in Gunville were damaged.
- 1990 January saw the worst floods for about 50 years, the road closed at Princes Corner and closed to most cars by Stephouse Cottage. Several houses had pumps operating all day and night to prevent wells overflowing and flooding the houses. Springs rose in unexpected places; in Chime Cottage they came up inside the house! The river ran in November 1989 and then from early February for a month. In January and February there were several storms when very high winds caused damage to overhead power lines resulting in the loss of electricity to the village; the longest period without power was for 38 hours.
- 1994/95/98 - the river ran high during the early months of the year. In 1998, for example, the road at Princes Corner was flooded for three weeks.
- 1998 David Angus recorded a total rainfall of 986mm (38.8ins) for the year. The short-term average is 896mm (35.3ins).
- 1999 River ran in Gunville from mid January to mid February.
- 2000/2001 - river rose in November 2000 and the road flooded in December. Many houses were flooded, mainly because of springs rising. The river in the village ran until March 2001
- 2007 The Church Fête opened at 2.15pm on Saturday 9 June - and so did the heavens. 36.1mm (1.5 inches) of rain fell between then and 5.00pm. A raging river ran, the sun shone in Hinton and beyond Stubhampton.

STATISTICS

Population

The following figures are taken from census records where these are available

1801	408	1901	303
1831	502	1911	292
1841	518	1921	286
1851	475	1931	241
1861	441	1951	241
1871	395	1961	257
1881	348	1971	230
1891	369	1981	224
		1991	248

It is worth noting that one of the reasons for extending the church in 1844 was an increase in population.

Some figures from the Censuses - 1841 to 1881 and 1991

	<u>1841</u>	<u>1851</u>	<u>1861</u>	<u>1871</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1991</u>
Population male	263	235	222	191	163	114
Population female	255	240	219	204	185	134
Total	518	475	441	395	348	248
Number of dwellings	112	102	103	95	94	102
Adult male			154		108	
Adult female			148		125	
Child (M) 14 yrs & under			68		55	
Child (F) 14 yrs & under			71		60	
Adult over 50 yrs (M)			56		34	
Adult over 50 yrs (F)			44		38	
Pauper			1		11	
Born in T Gunville			307		194	
near T Gunville			63		43	
Born elsewhere						
England			67		109	
Scotland			3		2	
Wales						
Overseas			1			

Janet Harding, who keeps a record of people moving into the parish, has noted that between 1989 and September 2004 there have been a lot of changes in householders. So much so that out of 118 houses now in the parish, only 56 have the same occupants as in 1989. Some dwellings have changed hands as many as four times in this period.

PAROCHIALIA

When I had a finished draft of the section on the Parish Church, I sent it to the Rector of the Parish and to those retired Rectors who were still alive. I received helpful comments and suggestions from all of them. Canon A T Johnson, who was Rector from 1960 to 1968 drew my attention to a book, *The Nineteenth Century Parson* by Tindal Hart and Edward Carpenter, published in 1954. This contained a few pages from what it described as 'James Lee Warner's, voluminous Parochialia'. The Reverend J Lee Warner was Rector of Tarrant Gunville from 1872 to 1889. The pages appear to be extracts from a diary. They give a very interesting insight into life in the village in the late 1800s. I have, of course, now read *The Nineteenth Century Parson*. I have also searched without success for Lee Warner's Parochialia. The search included letters and phone calls to his descendants.

Extract from *The Nineteenth Century Country Parson* (pages 186 to 192)

VI. PAROCHIALIA; JAMES LEE WARNER

TARRANT GUNVILLE

"*The Labourers Union* claims some notice, as having been a 'burning question' in 1873 especially. 'Delegates' occasionally addressed meetings at Blacksmith's shop: members were enrolled but never in such numbers as to make the opposition of the large Farmers impossible. The smaller Farmers did not actually oppose it. On the other hand the larger Farmers did not conceal their dislike to it. Two or three members lost their places and migrated. Two young men came back again from Lancashire. James Prince, a man with a large family, had previously done likewise. The labourers themselves were never unanimous as to the value of the Union. My own position in regard to it became (to myself) clearer and clearer. I always asserted *everywhere* the perfect right of the Labourers to join the Union. I maintained that it was tyrannical to turn them off for so doing. At the same time I pointed out the limits of the movement, how it could not but depend eventually on the laws of demand and supply. Too much might be hoped from it as well as feared from it. I also told the delegates that I could not, as Clergyman to Employers as well as Labourers, go out of my way to urge the men to join the Union: at the same time that I was anxious to discuss the matters judicially with all who sought my advice and that they might have my word for it, that anything which seemed to me tyrannical should be remonstrated with. In 1874 there was a strike for some weeks on the part of several Labourers in the employ of Mr Burgess to obtain 11s. instead of 10s. with their cottages rent free. Mr B had lowered their wages from 11s. to 10s. during the winter months. The carters did not join the strike. The men came back gradually. The weather favoured Mr B. The movement never threatened to be really serious. I only mention it as the most serious event of the kind since I have been here. The men suffered from not belonging to the Labourers' Union, which would have supported them when out of work.

In May, 27 persons left the village for Dalhousie in New Brunswick, 5 families in all. Albert Ridout, carpenter earning £1 a week; James Prince, Thatcher on the estate, also getting good wages but with large families: Henry Collins: Robert Burden: and George Lucas (these last three all somewhat out of favour as having been Unionists) were the heads of the families. The leadership of Albert Ridout, a very capable and ambitious man, coupled with the sense of companionship in so large a number from the same village, was the moving cause of this emigration. The desire for land of their own, kindled by the Unionist papers, was also a strong motive. Personally I lamented the loss of some of the nicest people in the village. In July the Toms family (10 persons in all) emigrated to Ontario, there to join a brother. This family was no loss to the village. Thus in 3 months nearly 40 persons (36 Gunvillites) exchanged Tarrant Gunville for Canada.

* * *

September 11 1874 --- My attention was attracted to a Brawl at the Bugle Horn, which proved to have begun with a party of Farnham nutters. The publican who had already sent for the Policeman was not to blame. The men on coming out refused to give their names and were rowdy. I gave them in custody. After waiting 11 days I found that the Police did not intend to prosecute. The Superintendent, who may perhaps not have felt confidence in the Policeman who

was now here, thought that the evidence was not sufficient to convince Lord Portman, of whose criticisms he was evidently afraid. I at once took out a summons against the worst of the men. . . . The man was fined 5 shillings and costs. I have reason to think that my action in this matter produced a good effect on everybody.

* * *

February 28 1875 -- I held a C of E Temperance meetings in the School room. I could not persuade the chief Farmers to attend. I think they somewhat misunderstood the moderation of my aims, which were mainly to make a demonstration against the national sin, of which happily we have but few instances here, and to pledge the village generally to the non-abstaining declaration. Good seems to me to have been done by their calling pointed attention to the subject, and I shall take up the subject again or not, according as I find general need for it. My usual practice is never to allow any case of intemperance which I come to hear of to pass by without a severe personal remonstrance on my part. The occasional outbursts of intemperance in both the landlord and landlady of the Horn are our most serious scandal. I have cautioned them severely, and could I but catch them *flagrante delicto* would leave no stone unturned to get them out. We can scarcely now be said to have any habitual drunkard in the place. 2 or 3 may be described as occasional drunkards.

* * *

February 16 1880 -- Jerry Ridout and his wife at very short notice expected to leave their cottage (none other being provided) in order that Stoper the late Butler at House and now νεογαμος (newly married) might move into it and so be nearer his small Farm. The case seemed to me hard: and the Squire seemed to think that they could get lodgings in the village or indeed take rooms at the Horn! Eventually they were taken in by Frederick the son, in a one bedroom Cottage, the discomfort being such that Mr Lance soon objected and with partial success, another Cottage large enough for the two families being provided. Meanwhile the other Frederick Ridouts were being distracted by the evident dislike of the Squire to them and by absence of work. Also the two Hargrave Sawyers (Benjamin and Frank) were dismissed at Christmas with little or no reason being assigned. Another brother Phineas by name who had always satisfied Burgess completely was dismissed by the squire too after short employ, and went to Pimperne. Frank going to Hinton, and Benjamin in June receiving a summons of ejection, which on the Squire writing to me about it led me to write to him this letter. At Christmas I had remonstrated with him about Hargraves in vain. It was too true that he seemed to have taken a capricious and unnatural dislike to the old inhabitants to the tune of 'ye are idle, ye are idle'.

June 18 - My dear Farquharson,

I have preached patience and resignation to B Hargrave successfully for half a year: but worms will turn, and he is now too much for me. As you say he will of course get the worst of it. His feelings are these: (1) Two of my brothers who have satisfied every other master before and since, and whose characters were irreproachable, have been kicked out of the village. (2) I myself was dismissed without reason after 32 years service. I would gladly since then have accepted labourer's work, but no work of any kind has been offered me. I have had no regular work of any kind for 25 weeks. (3) If I am to be driven out of the village, it is not worth my while now to move into another cottage. Therefore they may turn me out, but I will not go of my own free will. This is no doubt what he would say. I am not justifying him, but I only wish to state what I imagine would be his case. Till now, I have marvelled at his complaining so little. In conclusion I cannot help pointing out to you that (1) The Morgans, whom no one would miss, still continue here. (2) No one would miss Gillow Lucas. (3) The Cooks were brought into the village, already too full. (4) In Stubhampton there are now four decent cottages with only three persons in them all,

Yrs ever
J.L.W.

PS -- As a rule I do deprecate family men of good character and past 50 being driven out of the village. The more young fellows see of the world elsewhere the better.

The above letter I give in full merely to illustrate the state of things as regards middle

aged respectable parishioners during the last six months. Burgess' departure and the squire's farming aspirations giving the scope for it: but happily all Fowler's cottages constitute a land of Goshen. Lane has to bear much of the odium of the changes: I think unfairly, seeing that I can recall no really harsh act of his in the whole of the preceding period. Meanwhile the 'ungodly flourish like green bay trees'.

* * *

March 10 1882 -- School flogging case, big with consequences, not one of which I regret (writing as I do this in July) unpleasant though they were at the time. Enclosed is a short account, but other local papers were full of it. I was warmly congratulated on the result. [This case may be briefly summarised as follows: a boy in the school committed an indecent offence upon a girl and afterwards 'talked of the same in filthy and disgusting language'. News of it reached Lee Warner, who went to the boy's home, took him to the school and administered a flogging. The father sued Lee Warner for £50 for assault. The Vicar admitted that he had committed a technical offence in fetching the boy from his own home, and for this he was fined the nominal sum of one shilling. The judge in his summing up said: "He would desire the jury to look the matter fairly in the face, for if such conduct was not corrected they must see how great was the danger of corrupting others and probably the whole school. Again, what might be expected of the girls if such immorality were permitted to pass unnoticed." The jury, after a brief retirement, dismissed the case for assault.] Fowler's six months absence at Charlton all the time and timidity, the recent success of the Reads in some other Blandford law case, which had given them a taste of forensic success, and also of attention, etc, were all causes militating against a settlement out of court, which I too absolutely declined, if it was to involve Hush money. Of course going to the cottage was their best card, but really the battle I fought and not unsuccessfully, was an acting manager's right to flog a boy when called upon to do so by the mistress in a bad case, which she as a woman feels incompetent to deal with. I should not of course go again to a cottage, but without the slightest hesitation I should again flog 'more majorum' in any scandalous case.

* * *

JUBILEE

June 14 1887 -- Meeting in the school room to appoint a committee. Squire had promised £25 between the two villages and I promised not less than £10. Determined to hold it in Kenal Park (*sic*) for both villages. To cook meat amongst ourselves, ordering at the rate of 11b a head. 300 persons calculated for adult men and women. Children to have tea separately which Sims was to provide at sevenpence a head. Proposal to collect money generally opposed by me successfully, who contended that the rich might well entertain on such an occasion the poorer ones. However the committee set to work with a good will and all the arrangements were excellently made.

June 28 was observed here by a magnificent Beacon Fire at Telegraph Clump, Gunville wood, and hands employed under Fowler's direction. A noble pile, a glorious sight when lit at 10 pm with 30 Fires or more responding from Ashmore, Win Green, Stillington Hill, Milton Abbey, all the sea coast line of hills. 'Such night in England n'er had been, nor ere again shall be.'

June 2, Sunday -- A Jubilee service here in the evening with Jubilee hymns and sermon to match' was successful and stirred up loyalty.

* * *

January 4 1888 - The presentation (to Beckley) at last arrives.

January 8 -- I preach a farewell sermon from Acts XX, 32. I find that in my fifteen and a half years at Gunville I had 140 baptisms, 33 marriages and 82 funerals of which one was of a person 90 years of age, 7 of 80 years and upwards, 23 of 70 etc, 13 of 60, 6 of 50, 8 of 40, 4 of 30, 4 of 20, 15 of 10, 10 of under. Not till 1879 did I bury any child at all. 4 were violent deaths. There were 5 confirmations in my time and 93 confirmees, of whom 44 were girls and 49 boys.

MISCELLANEA

The Chapel

The office of Eastbury was burned down in the mid-1940s, providing a spectacle of flames and smoke accompanied by bangs from the explosion of cartridges that had been stored in the office. The flames consumed the estate records and also the records of the Parish Council. The office, a corrugated iron building lined with attractive wooden panelling, stood on a separate plot which has since been incorporated into the garden of Yew Tree Cottage and had been a chapel until at least the mid-1930s. The chapel was well attended, the singing led by a harmonium and sometimes by a melodion, and the services were taken by lay readers from Blandford. At harvest festivals all the produce which had been collected in the chapel was sold to people in the village to help with the cost of maintenance. Surprisingly there are no records of the building on OS maps. Fred Blandford, who gave me most of this information, thought that the chapel closed because of the difficulty of getting lay-readers to come out to lead the services.

The Forge

There were, in the 1840s, three forges in the parish but the only one which survived into the 1900s was that at the corner of Church Lane. People recall it as a focal point, visited regularly by the many horses in the parish and a source of delight to children with its combination of bright fire, red-hot metal, showers of sparks, and its array of equipment and tools, all combined with its dark shadowy interior. Keith Belbin recalls that the horses from Home Farm which were brought down to be left and shod, were then taken into the road by the blacksmith and made their own way back to the farm. We have a long list of blacksmiths, including Mr Janes (Mrs Thorne's father) and Edward Thorne (her husband's father). The forge closed in the early 1960s.

Military

Eastbury House was used as a hospital towards the end of the 1939-45 war, and the Manor House was occupied by the military (apart from a flat used by the owner and a servant). On the run-up to D-Day there were American troops in a tented transit camp between Park Cottage and Bye corner. A few eggs could be bartered for several packets of cigarettes. The troops trained in Ashmore Bottom which was then unfenced scrub. German and Italian prisoners of war worked in the fields.

A Village Horror From Vestry Minute Book (page 155)

On Thursday July 21 1904 as the Rector was sitting in his study at about 2.20pm working [somewhat sleepily for it was a warm afternoon and all things conduced to slumber] with one of his pupils, suddenly his cook burst into the room excitedly crying 'Oh Mr Hutton, come at once: Sampson has cut his throat'. Sampson was the huge and stout village blacksmith - not inaptly named and lived within a stone's throw of the Rectory. Two of his daughters were at that time in the Rector's service and one of them from an upper window had heard her mother's cries in consequence of which the cook had run across to see what was the matter. Mr Hutton was not long in arriving upon the scene and there he found Sampson with a great gash across his throat, from which the blood seemed to be literally pouring, holding the door of his woodshed against four or five white-faced village men who had been attracted by the cries of his wife. The door was soon forced and Sampson offered no more resistance. He kept asking for a knife 'to finish this little job' and once or twice during the next hour he was evidently under the delusion that a razor was lying at his feet. A chair was brought into the woodshed and, guarded by the Rector, Alf Giles, C Dan, E Sims and I Davis, Sampson remained comparatively quiet until a police officer and Mr Daniell, surgeon, of Blandford, arrived. Sampson allowed the doctor to sew up the wound, which certainly would have been fatal but for the mass of flesh which formed the blacksmith's double chin, and was then driven off to the lock-up. He was brought before the magistrates on the following Saturday and remanded to the Quarter Sessions.

Sampson had been giving way to intemperate habits and for some days before the tragedy had been 'seeing things'. The very hot weather had perhaps made matters worse. His trade was leaving him and he was heavily in debt. He soon recovered from the wound in the prison infirmary at Dorchester and came up for trial at Quarter Sessions on 19 October. The Rector went to Dorchester to see him through his trial and after a severe warning Sampson was

liberated. His business had meanwhile been sold as he did not wish to return to a house that must have such painful memories for him and his wife.

Fire

In about 1933/1935 Downlea Cottage, which was then thatched, burned down; the flames could be seen for miles. The arrival of the fire engines from Blandford caused great excitement; children could see the flames from the school.

Houses at Eastbury

The Inventory of Historical Monuments in the County of Dorset, Volume 4

'(28) Settlement remains (927126) near the principal gateway to Eastbury, occur on both sides of the Tarrant Brook. Houses were still standing early in the 19th century (OS1811) but at least four had gone by 1840 (Tithe Map) and the others were removed later in the 19th century. The remains comprise 10 or more long closes, bounded by low banks, set at right angles to the brook. Disturbed areas at the lower ends of the closes indicate former buildings.'

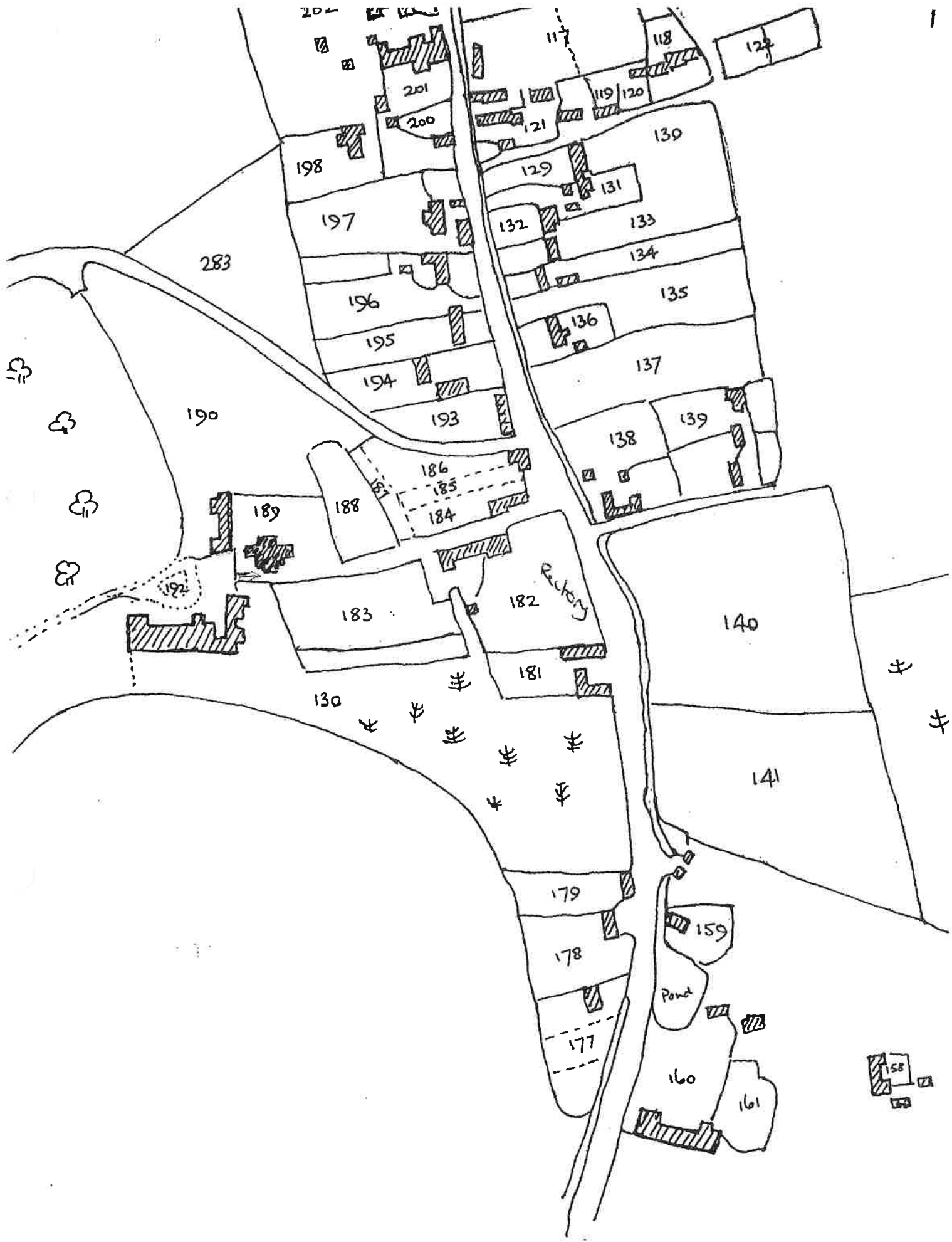
Mischief

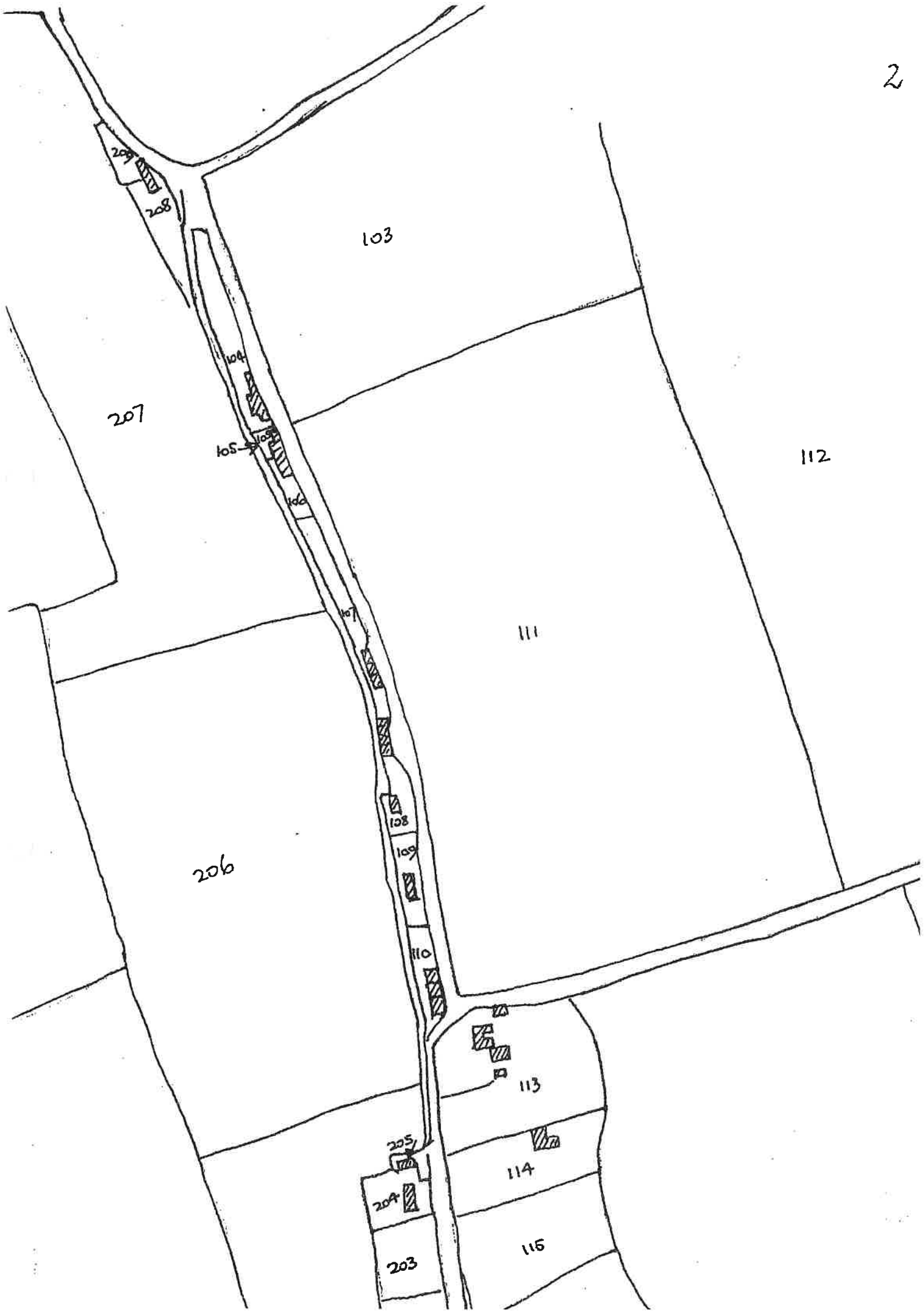
During one of the highest recent winter floods in the early 1990s, two teenage girls from the village, for a prank, stood in the deeper part of the flood just round the bend at Princes Corner until they heard a car coming, when they knelt down. The car screeched to a halt and the driver, seeing the girls nearly up to their necks in the water, leapt out and said 'My God! Is it as deep as that!?' He reversed his car sharply and fled without trying to get through the flood water. The girls were delighted!

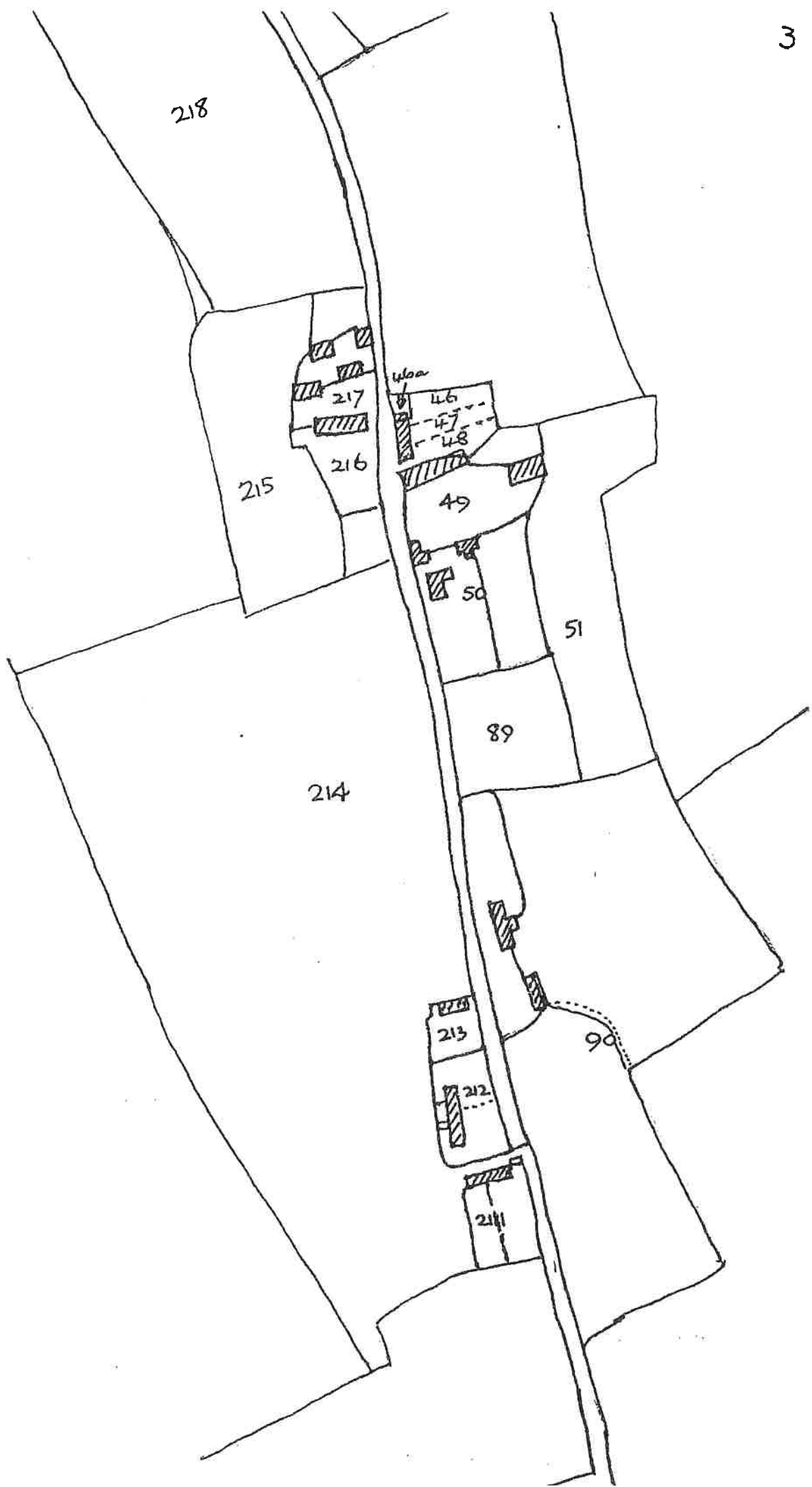
1840 TITHE MAP : 'Homesteads' in NUMERICAL ORDER

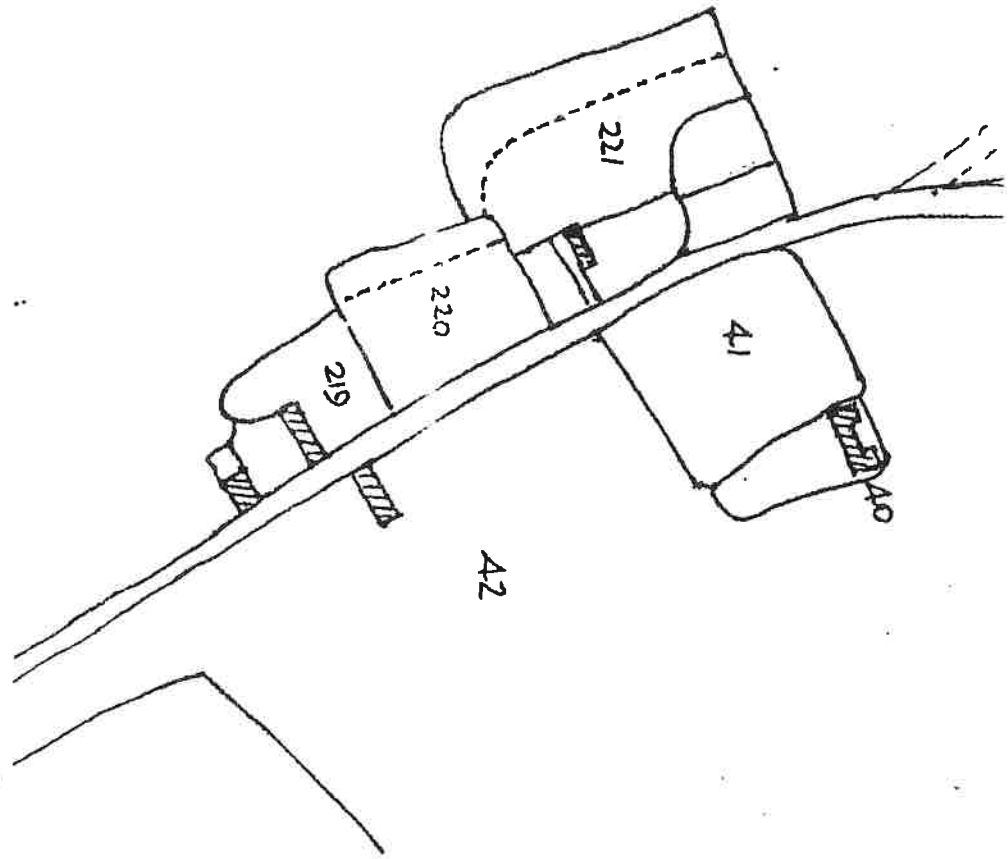
<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Occupier</u>	<u>Description</u>
40 Prince, Arthur & another	Themselves	Cottage 2 tenements & gardens
43 Farquharson, James John	Kiddle, William	Barn
46 Kimber, Jane	Herself	Cottage & garden
46a Wareham, Joseph	Spinney, Henry	Blacksmith's shop
47 Dibben, Robert	Moore, James	Cottage & garden
48 Dibben, Richard	Cole Joseph	Cottage & garden
49 Farquharson, James John	Wareham, Joseph	Barn, stable & yard
50 " "	" "	House, garden & orchard
53 Parish pound (East)		
54 Farquharson, James John	Himself	Dungrove barn & yard
55 " "	"	Dungrove cottage & garden
72 " "	"	Bussey Stool house, barn yard & garden
90 Hill, Henry Rogers	Himself	House, barn yard, garden orchard plot
104 Hunt, Morgan	Himself	Cottage & garden
105 Farquharson, James John	Henville, John	Cottage & garden
106 Dunford, John	Himself	Cottage & garden
107 Farquharson, James John	Pole, Arabella & others	Cottage, 3 tenements & garden
108 " "	Toms, James	Cottage & garden
109 Hall, Charles	Lucas, Richard	Cottage & garden
110 Farquharson, James John	Kearly, Ann & another	Cottage 2 tenements & gardens
113 " "	Dibben, Richard	House, garden orchard & homestead
114 Everett, John		Orchard & fuelhouse
117 White, Sarah	Fanner, James	House & orchard
118 Farquharson, James John	Fanner, John & others	Cottage 3 tenements & gardens
119 " "	Kelleway, (Swan?) others	Parish house & garden
120 " "	Barnes, George	Cottage & garden
121 " "	Maidment, William & others	Cottage 3 tenements & gardens
129 Ames, Frampton	Himself	Cottage & garden
131 Farquharson, James John	Cousins, William	Cottage & garden. State garden
132 Carter, George	void	Cottage & garden
133 Farquharson, James John	Dibben, Robert & another	Cottage 2 tenements garden & orchard
134 " "	Ridout, Arthur	Cottage, garden & orchard
136 " "	Arnold, John	Cottage & garden
138 " "	Carter, George	Cottage garden & orchard
139 " "	Himself	Cottages & gardens
158 " "	Himself	Cottage & garden
159 " "	Dibben, Samuel	Cottage & garden
160 " "	Himself	Workshop & yard
177 " "	Harding, Abraham	Cottage & garden
178 " "	Harding, Sarah & another	Cottage & garden
179 " "	Ridout, William	Cottage garden & orchard
181 Andrews, Edwin Esq	Eyres, Phineas	Bugle Horn Inn, stable & orchard
182 Watts, Rev John (glebe)	Himself	Rectory house garden & offices
184 Farquharson, James John	Harding, Job & another	Cottage 2 tenements & garden
185 " "	Ridout, Michael	Cottage & garden
186 " "	Penny, William	Cottage tenements & garden
191 " "	Himself	Keepers Cottage, outhouse
192 " "	"	Gunville House, offices etc

193	Farquharson, James John	Spinney, Thomas	House, Smith's shop & garden
194	"	Hargrave, William & another	Cottage 2 tenements & garden
195	Farquharson, James John	Fanner, Isaac & another	Cottage 2 tenements garden & orchard
196	"	Fanner, Henry	Cottage 2 tenements garden & orchard
197	Bussey, John	Himself	House, barn orchard & garden
198	Farquharson, James John	Himself	Cottage, garden, malthouse
200	"	Dominey, Samuel	Cottage & gardens
201	"	Himself	Barn & stable
202	"	"	Farmhouse garden
204	Farquharson, John James	Ridout, Ephraim	House, shop & garden
205	Parish pound (west)	void	Cottage & garden
208		Young, William	Cottage & garden
209	Farquharson, James John	Newick, Charles & another	Cottage 2 tenements & garden
211	"	Prince, George & another	Cottage 2 tenements & garden
212	"	Lucas, Charles	Cottage & garden
213	"	Kiddle, Anthony & another	Cottage 2 tenements & garden
216	"	Himself	Garden, orchard & plot
217	Kiddle, William	Lucas, Samuel & John	Cottage, 2 tenements & garden
219	Farquharson, James John	Prince, George	Cottage, garden orchard & plot
221	Dunford, Joseph John	Dunford, Joseph	House, garden orchard & plot
233	Farquharson, James John	Himself	Cottage, barn & plantation
265	"	"	Barn, yard & plantation
278	"	Himself	Cottage, barn yard & homestead
295	Watts, Rev John (glebe)	"	Cottage & garden
296	"	"	









OLD ROADS OF DORSET

The figures, apart from the A and C roads, are the serial numbers in the text of *Goods Old Roads of Dorset*

