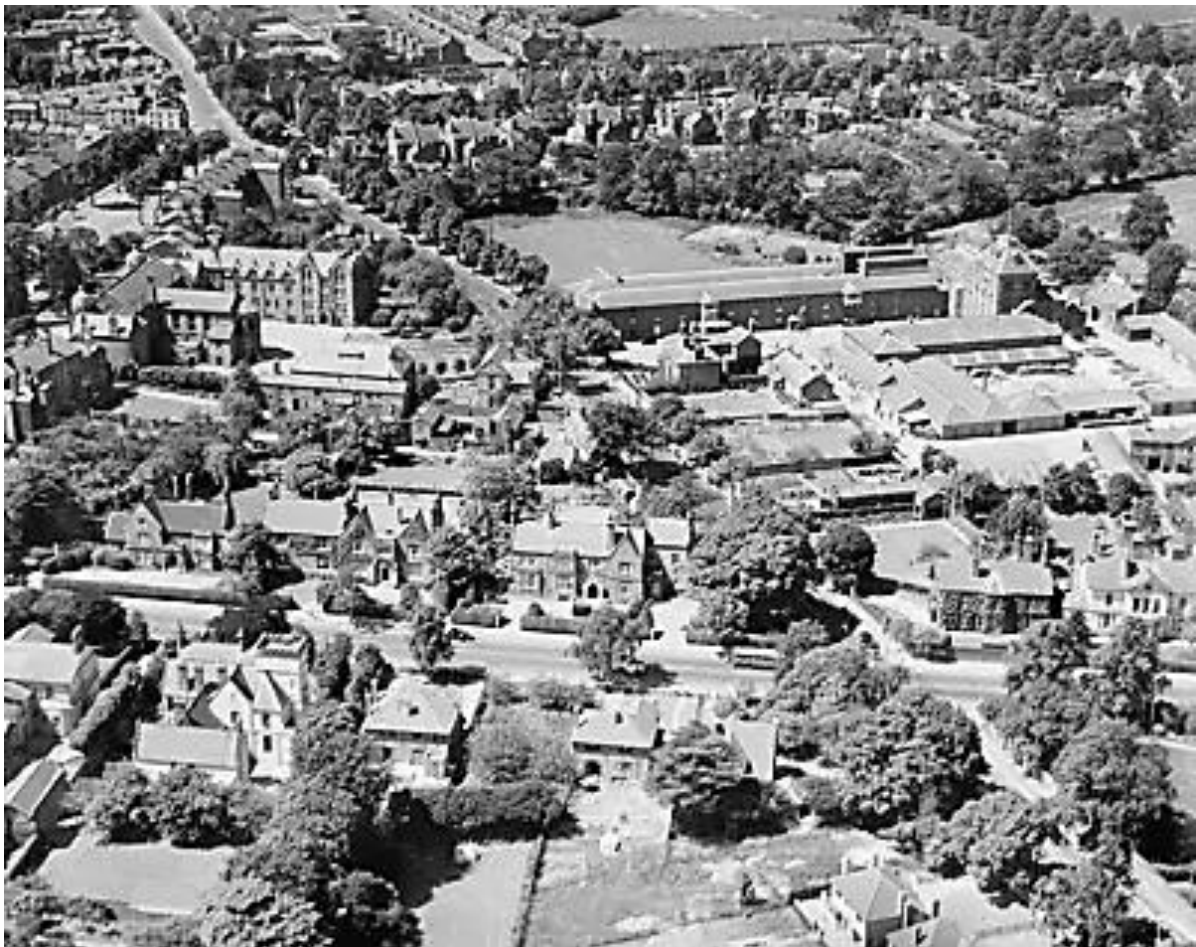


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# *Lillington Local History Society*

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NEWSLETTER NUMBER 35    DECEMBER 2023



An aerial image of part of Lillington - photographed in 1939

Do you know where this is? Think Maltings. Think School.

You can view hundreds of aerial images of England. See page 6 of this Newsletter for more information.

This image shows the Lucas Brewery in Lillington Avenue, top right, and the Kenilworth Road, running left-right across the lower third of the photograph.

THE LILLINGTON CLUB INDENTURE 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 1924

HM Land Registry  
Official Copy  
This copy may not be the same size as the original.

PRESENTED  
C5005

TWELVE SHILLINGS  
AND  
SIX PENCE

*This Indenture*

26 JUN 1922

made the  
thirtieth day  
of June 1922

ADDED  
JULY 22 1922

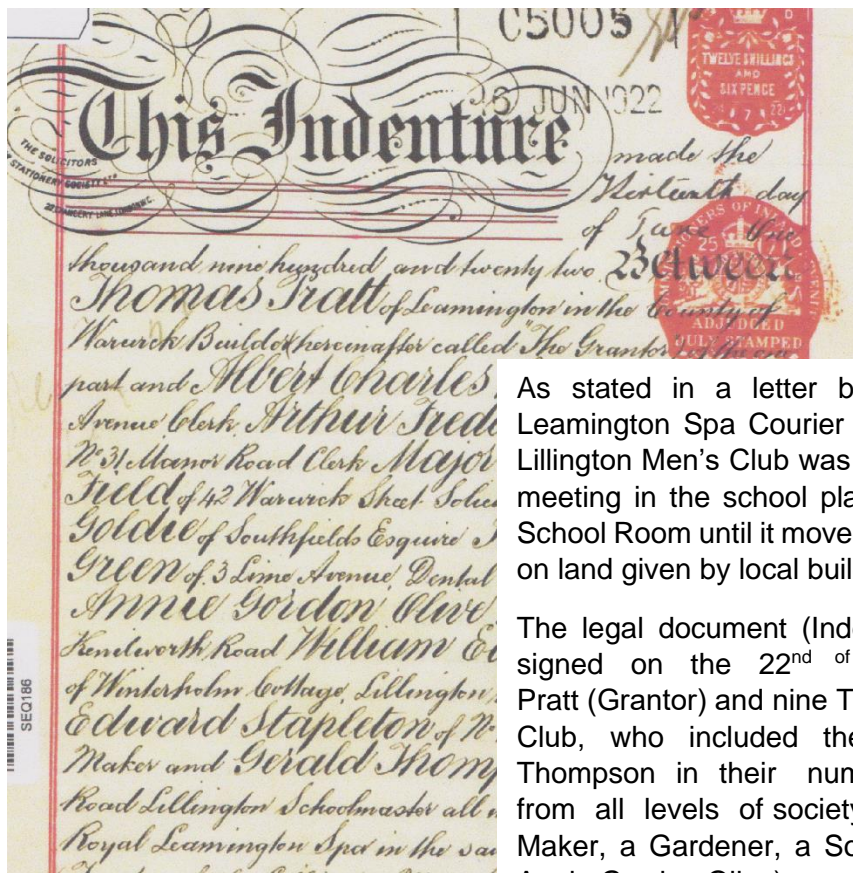
12/6

thousand nine hundred and twenty two. *26 June*  
*Thomas Pratt* of Leamington in the County of Warwick Builder hereinafter called "The Grantor"  
part and *Albert Charles Booker* of No 5 Lime Avenue Clerk, *Arthur Frederick Boulter* of No 31 Manor Road Clerk, *Major Sydney Riach Field* of 42 Warwick Street Solicitor, *John Henry Goldie* of Southfields Esquire, *John George Green* of 3 Lime Avenue Dental Mechanic, *Mrs Annie Gordon Clive* M.B.E. of Over Royal Kenilworth Road, *William Edward Kenick* of Winterhorn Cottage, Lillington Road Gardener, *John Edward Stapleton* of No 2 Lime Avenue Boot Maker and *Gerald Thompson* of No 3 Farm Road Lillington Schoolmaster all in the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa in the said County of Warwick (Trustees of the Lillington Men's Club and hereinafter called "the Trustees") of the other part *Whereas* the Grantor is seized of the hereditaments hereinafter conveyed for an estate in fee simple in possession free from encumbrances and has agreed to present the said hereditaments to the Trustees for the purposes and upon the trusts and conditions hereinafter mentioned *Now* this Indenture witnesses that in

WIK390753  
SEQ186

P. QUALITY

## THE LILLINGTON CLUB INDENTURE 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 1924



As stated in a letter by Gerald Thompson to the Leamington Spa Courier on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 1949, Lillington Men's Club was formed in 1897. After the first meeting in the school playground, the club met in the School Room until it moved to a new site in Lime Avenue on land given by local builder Thomas Pratt.

The legal document (Indenture) for the new site was signed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1924 by Thomas Pratt (Grantor) and nine Trustees of the Lillington Men's Club, who included the above mentioned Gerald Thompson in their number. The Trustees came from all levels of society, ranging from Clerks, a Boot Maker, a Gardener, a Solicitor, and a lady MBE (Mrs Annie Gordon Olive).

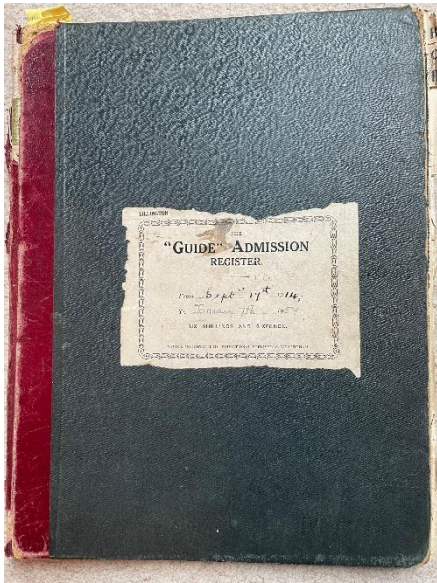
Of singular interest is John Henry Goldie Esquire, one of the Trustees, of Southfields, Lillington Road, who must have died within a year or so of signing the Indenture. For, as reported in the Guardian Newspaper in 1929, not his widow Emily, who died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 1928, an left estate valued at £10,617 (over £1million pounds today). To her son Noel she left *"the ring formerly the property of King Charles 1<sup>st</sup>, with the miniature which has always accompanied such ring, requesting him to bequeath the same ring and miniature to such of his children as he shall in his discretion think fit."* Additionally, the crucifix on the High Altar of St. Mary Magdalene's Church is inscribed: *"To the greater glory of Christ in His eternal Sacrifice and in memory of his servants John Henry Goldie and Emily his wife July 1931 R.I.P."*

The Trustees had to pay Thomas Pratt the sum of five shillings in order to validate the Indenture. There are a number of precise and rather mundane facts stated in the document relating to the location of the land, the height of any fences, and the notice the Trustees should give the Grantor if they wished to make any significant changes. There are, however, two very interesting restrictions on the use of any buildings of the Lillington Men's Club. Firstly, none of the buildings were to be used for Roman Catholic or Dissenting Worship. Secondly, no building was to be used as an Inn, Public House, or Victualling House for the sale of wine, beer, ale or spirits. It would be very interesting to find out when this change of use was legally granted – particularly for the present Club membership!

Les Markham

## LILLINGTON SCHOOL – ADMISSION REGISTER 1914-1957

The Society is fortunate to have had access to the Admission Register for Lillington School which lists all 2,146 children who started at the school between 1914 and 1957. As well as their names and dates of birth, the register also includes each pupil's home address when they started at the school and, from this, it is interesting to see how Lillington has grown and developed over the 40+ years from 1914.



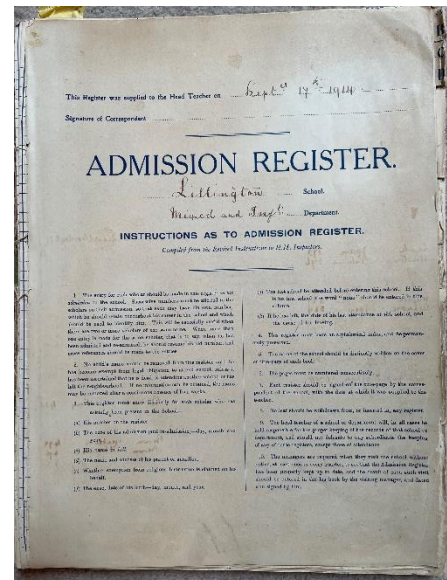
Between 1914 and 1926 most pupils lived in 'old' Lillington – Cubbington Road, Manor Road, Farm Road, Church Lane, Lime Avenue, with a few from New Cubbington – Gibbs Cottages, Tybourne Terrace, Lulworth Cottages in the vicinity of High View Road and the old Rugby Tavern – as well as the farms and cottages at Blackdown and Bericote. As the school and its catchment area grew over the next few years, pupils joined from the Wathen Road/Campion Road area, and Cloister Crofts/Kenilworth Road.

In 1927, children from 1-3 Pound Lane and the newly built houses in The Holt started at the school, soon followed in 1929 by children from the new houses in Lime Avenue (beyond Manor Farm). A number of these children had previously attended Rugby Road, Leicester Street, St Paul's and other schools in the town.

By 1935 construction of the Manor Farm Estate had started and by 1940 children from the houses in Melton Road, Highland Road, Kinross Road, Lonsdale Road, Braemar Road, Keith Road and Telford Avenue were starting at the school.

From 1936/37 they were joined by children from the new houses in Taylor Avenue, Gresham Avenue, Cromer Road on what was referred to as the Pound Lane Estate. Development of this area continued after the war in Buckley Road, Dudley Green, Rawlinson Road and, from 1952, Valley Road, Haddon Road and Wellington Road.

By the early/mid 1950s, development in Lime Avenue had continued beyond Melton Road and children were joining the school from the newer houses in Montrose Avenue, St Andrews Road, Helmsdale Road and beyond.



### Lillington School During WWII

Between September 1939 and January 1941, the school welcomed 76 children from many places that were affected by the war - Birmingham, Sunderland, Canterbury, Liverpool and London to name but a few – but it was from Coventry that the largest number of children arrived, mainly following the bombing of the city in November 1940. In the 'Cause of Leaving' column it was noted that some children had returned to their home town, often after only a few weeks, but for many of them it was noted that they had 'Left District' – possibly meaning that they had been evacuated to a safer location.

*Denise Watson*

## EXTRACTS FROM THE LILLINGTON CLUB ARCHIVE

*With thanks to the current Chair and Committee*



The Club has kept several important documents that illustrate its one hundred year history. These include a copy of the original indenture, see page 2 of this newsletter, which secured the land, and committee minutes from sixty years ago.

**The Committee Minutes from 1963 to 1972** give a detailed insight into the several challenges faced by its members as it worked to provide a welcoming and interesting social venue for local people. Over the years the Committee saw several changes of Steward and dealt with tardy contractors and recurring financial problems. A common theme was a continuing aim to improve the building and car park. The Club provided a social venue, bar and a range of activities including snooker, dominoes [on a quiet sliding surface], darts, whist drives and Bingo. There was a regular programme of visiting 'artistes'. New members were always coming forward, sometimes as many as thirty in a single month. The Club premises were badly damaged by fire in 1970.

**The AGM Minutes : 1965-2001** Apart from a difficult period during the recession of the early 1990s when the number of entertainment events was reduced to cut costs, the Club has continued to flourish and have an active membership and hard-working Committee. The Club has successful Snooker, Billiards, Darts, Dominoes and Crib teams, as well as Table Tennis, Hockey and Cricket teams. An active Ladies Committee has organised annual OAP Dinners and Socials, as well as numerous fund-raising events. The Ladies have their own Darts team, and a Keep Fit Club was created in 1974.

In January 1968, the meeting was informed that No 20 Lime Avenue had been purchased for £2,950 as the Stewards' residence. No mention was made of it being sold at a later date, although members were informed, in 1977, of the intended purchase of 24 Lime Avenue as "this would solve a number of problems". (Note: It is understood that the houses at the top of Lime Avenue were renumbered at some point so this may refer to the same house.)

There was mention of fire damage to the Club building in 1971 but no details were given. Repairs to the club have been an ongoing issue and loans from Ansell's (£10,000 in 1972) and Courages (£6,500 in 1986) have allowed repairs and improvements to take place.

The rules were changed in 1995 to allow members to wear 'respectable' shorts in hot weather!

*Denise Watson & Chris Rhodes*

## LEAMINGTON FROM THE AIR : 1937

Do you know where this is?



The image is part of an enlarged aerial photograph taken of Leamington in 1937. The former Regent hotel is easy to spot in the centre of the image. But the area and chimney at the back? I think these must be the stables attached to the hotel, in the area now known as Livery Street.

**To access hundreds of similar images of England:**

Go to [historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos](https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/collections/aerial-photos)

Scroll down the map of England - it's covered in hexagons.  
Use the mouse wheel to enlarge the map as big as you like.  
Place your cursor arrow over the general area that you want to see and click.

The symbols:

- Purple diamond: historic aerial view taken at an angle. **[Best image for viewing]**
- Red circle: modern aerial view
- Brown rectangle: historic aerial image- camera facing directly down

Click on symbol. This will give you a small pop-up image plus date and location  
Click on pop-up image  
Enjoy the image. It can be enlarged by clicking in the centre of the photo.

## ST MARY MAGDALENE: LILLINGTON'S PARISH CHURCH WHO WAS MARY MAGDALENE?

The Christian Gospels tell us that it was Mary Magdalene, “from whom seven demons had gone out” that ministered to Jesus and His disciples during their travels; that she was present at the crucifixion and that she went to Jesus’ empty tomb. The Gospel account suggests that she was the first to recognise Jesus after His Resurrection. This probably explains why so many churches have been dedicated to her name. 266 in England alone.



*Tapestry in St Mary Magdalene's church, Lillington*

The Lady Chapel at St Mary Magdalene's contains a Morris & Co. tapestry, *'In the Garden'*, made in 1910. It represents the meeting on the first Easter morning between Mary Magdalene and the risen Christ. The legend above translates – *Jesus said to her 'Mary'. She said to him 'Master'*.

The Gospel writers Matthew, Mark, and John call her “Mary of Magdala”, and Luke calls her “Mary surnamed the Magdalene”. This distinguishes her from Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Traditionally the name Mary Magdalene has been understood to mean that she came from a town called Magdala. Some Biblical scholars contest this and stress that the word “*magdal*” in Aramaic, and “*migdal*” in Hebrew, means “tower”, and that “Mary of Magdala” or “Mary the Magdalene” is not a reference to where she hails from but to her attributes as “the Tower”. Mary, as the first named of the women who ministered to Jesus, was probably so good at it that she was his “*magdal*” – his “tower of strength”.



The image on the left shows part of the stained glass window in the north aisle of Lillington church. Mary Magdalene is seen at the bottom, washing Jesus' feet: traditionally the most menial task for a servant to undertake.

*Larry Connor, Chris Rhodes. Illustrations with permission of St Mary Magdalene's Parish Church*

## SHIELA LOMAS



Lollipop lady Sheila Lomas retired last year, 2022, after 52 years of serving her community in Lillington.

Sheila's face would be known to literally thousands of people from over the five decades, including myself, when crossing her patch on Valley Road back in the 1980s.



I've also heard adults say to their children on the school walk: "The lollipop lady was here when I went to school."

Sheila was a County Council employee, officially entitled Road Traffic Crossing Warden.

Sheila commented that the change in the Stop and Go sign to a much lighter material helped immensely. As did the change in the crossing point from in line with the alley from Haddon Road park to the new middle point in the road when the school entrance changed.

Thank you, Sheila, for crossing us all in every weather imaginable.

*Image and text Gary Timlin. Image date 2019*

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

[Lillingtonlocalhistory.org.uk](http://Lillingtonlocalhistory.org.uk)

This Newsletter is published by the Lillington Local History Society, c/o Lillington Free Church, Cubbington Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 7AL. The views expressed in the Newsletter are personal to the contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Society.