

Lillington Local History Society



Our second on-line “meeting” - July 2020



Social distancing in Cubbington Road in the 1900s



Do you know your Lillington?

The image is from 1908 and shows a road junction in Lillington. Do you know where it is or what the building was used for? There is a clue at the bottom of page 3, and the answer is on the back page.

THE CROSS & HAND – THE SEQUEL

In a previous newsletter readers were left in uncertainty as to the origin of the Cross and Hand, a speculation I inherited from the late Elaine Rumary. Elaine was a consummate researcher; it is perhaps worth looking at the evidence she accumulated to sow the seed of doubt.

The starting point, with so much of Lillington's history, is the Fish map of 1711. The James Fish Survey of that year shows the location of a Cross adjacent to the Midland Oak, identified by a tree symbol. This is perpetuated on the 'Neat' copy. In the finished version of the Manor (sic) of Lillington, the Cross is shown at the junction of current day Lillington Avenue and Lillington Road.

In Henry Beighton's Mapp of Warwickshire from 1725, the Cross is described in the key as a cross of direction. When it comes to the inclosure award of 1730 the phrase Cross and Hand occurs when identifying boundaries of the award. Later, in a publication of 1959, the dust cover shows a map of Warwickshire by William Yates and Sons from 1793 showing the Cross in the previously described location.



Looking down Lillington Avenue towards the Midland Oak in the early 1930s.

The 1803 survey of Grange Farm carried out by Thomas Phillips shows the Midland Oak but no sign of the Cross. Later, in 1839 Tithe Apportionment, which shows buildings in Lillington, no building is depicted at the point where the Cross and Hand is said to have stood. However, in the Minutes of the Board of Health during the 1860s the Cross of Hand is mentioned a number of times. *September 2nd 1867: "The Surveyor ... recommended that the footpath on the West side of the Old Kenilworth Road be repaired from the Cross of Hand to the foot of the hill leading to Blackdown Hill."*

Early editions of Ordnance Survey maps show no evidence of a building or inn at the aforementioned junction, so why did William Cooper in his 'History of Lillington' state "*This inn stood near the Midlands Oak, where Warwick Road joins Lillington Road*"? Cooper concludes the existence of the inn on the evidence of the Inclosure Award "*extending from Lemington Lanes end by the Cross and Hand and old inclosure*". There is no mention of a building. The Cross and Hand would make a suitable name for an inn, particularly in the current fashion of changing pub names to something trendy.

In Elaine's research she concludes that a cross was certainly there in the 1700s. She advances that a cross could have a finger or hand to indicate direction. Contemporary speech when written could have resulted in Cross 'n' Hand or Cross of Hand as per the Board of Health Minutes. When the cross no longer appears on a map, a postcard from the 1920s shows a lamp post near where the cross would have been with direction sign boards attached to it. I am indebted to Elaine for leaving me her research upon which this article is based.

Peter Coulls

VICARAGE ROAD 100 YEARS AGO

Let's walk down Vicarage Road in April 1911, courtesy of the National Archive census returns.



Reginald and Susan Maudslay live at **Number 1**. Alice Woods looks after their one-year old daughter, Margaret. They also employ a cook and a housemaid. Reginald Maudslay writes on the census that he is the Managing Director of an Engineering Company. He was in fact the founder of the Standard Motor Company in Coventry. The family later moved to Sherbourne. His son, Henry Maudslay, born in 1921, joined the Royal Air Force in 1940, was awarded the DFC and was the youngest of the Dam Buster pilots.

Elsie Higgs, 52, lives next door at **Number 3**. Her father, Thomas, had been the manager of the Charing Cross Hotel in London, where she was born, and later the proprietor of the Regent Hotel in Leamington. Miss Higgs has a general servant, Amy Hartwell. The Reverend Roper Roberts, 27, a Clerk in Holy Orders (priest) was her lodger.



Magalen Wilson, 75, lives at **Number 5**. Magalen was born in Madras, India, where her father, Captain Arthur MacFarlane, had been an officer in the Madras Army. Her husband had been the Vicar of Waterbeach in Cambridge, then Rector of Stoke Bruerne, and later of a parish in Pembrokeshire. Magalen had five children and her daughter - also called Magalen - lives with her still. They are helped by Charlotte Reed, their domestic servant.

There's a big family at **Number 7**. Charles and Clara Birch have five adult children still at home. Charles started as an organist in Leamington and lived on the Parade before moving to Lillington. He lists himself as a Professor of Music and Piano Merchant. His shop is at 104 The Parade. His son, Charles, 26, is also a Professor of Music. Nellie Eyre, 20, their servant.

Henry Hillier, 33, the dentist lives at **Number 9**. He and Clarice, his wife, have one servant - Sarah Knight. The Reverend Champion Welbank Streatfield, 73, lives at **Number 11** with his daughter, Winifred, and their servant, Edith Hiorns. He had been born in East Ham in Essex and served as Vicar of Isycoed in Denbighshire.

Number 13 is home to Frederick, 57, and Lizzie Myott. They had seven children, and three of the surviving five still live with them. Frederick had been trained as a chemist in Oldham, but started listing himself as 'retired' from the age of 37.

CDMR

Acknowledgements: National Archives; Leamington Lives Remembered by Alan Griffin for the material on Henry Maudslay; Travelodge; Standard Motor Club; Wikipedia

Picture Puzzle from page 1

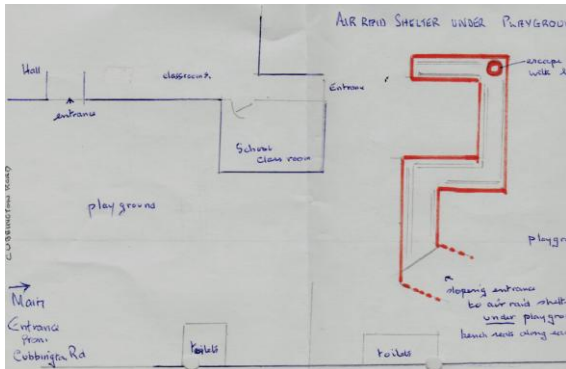
A clue to the location of this junction would be that it is now a roundabout on the way to Kenilworth.

MEMORIES OF LILLINGTON 1941-1948



The family moved to Melton Road from Bedworth in 1941. Our house there was badly damaged in the Coventry blitz on 14th November 1940. My father's tax office was totally destroyed and the work was transferred to a large house in Northumberland Road, which had been taken over by the Government.

Our house in Melton Road backed onto open fields. We kept chickens and rabbits. This is me and my sister Margaret. I attended Lillington School for several years. I remember Miss Luggar, one of the teachers.

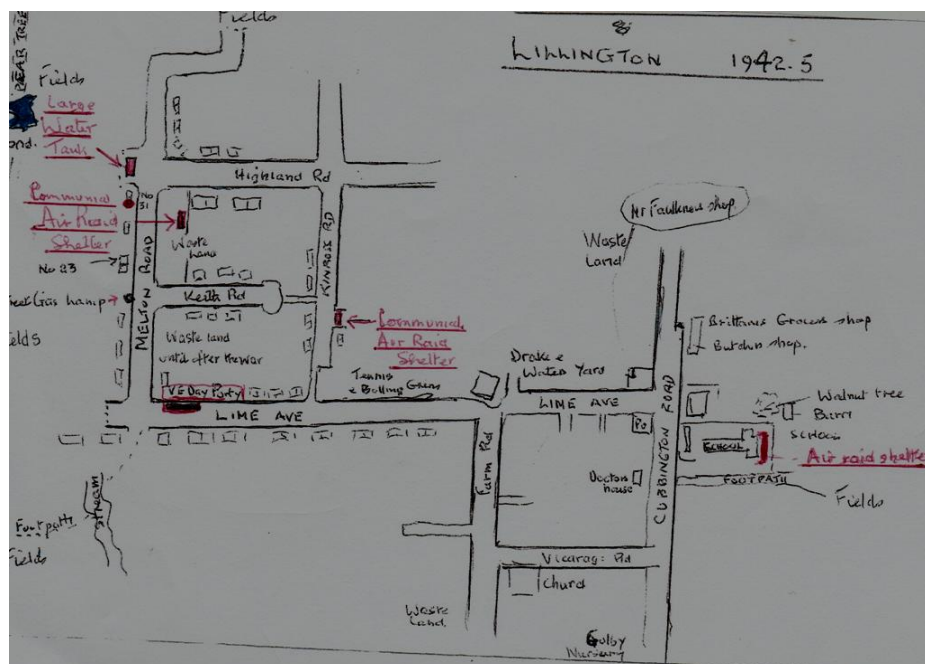


Under the far playground there was a large air-raid shelter with a sloping entrance that often flooded.

There was an escape hatch further up the playground at the end of the shelter in case the entrance became unstable.

I was a choir boy at Lillington Church. Below the church was the Vicarage and I remember a foreign gentleman lodging or living there. He had two Spanish dogs called Blackie and Brownie. He used to walk the dogs round Lillington repeatedly calling out their names very loudly.

Above 31 Melton Road there was a very large water tank in case of fires, etc. There was an air raid shelter on open land at the corner of Highland Road and Melton Road, but I don't remember ever having to use them. There was another on Kinross Road near the end of the footpath through from Keith Road.



After the war new houses were built on the right-hand side of Melton Road. I remember Mr Faulkner's shop at the top of Lime Avenue, the post office on the opposite corner, and the large farmhouse opposite the end of Lime Avenue in Cubbington Road. (Village Farm- Ed) In the grounds was a large walnut tree. I remember getting my first ice cream, a Lyons wrapped in paper, and the first banana from Mr Faulkner's shop, after running home to get 1d or 2d for the ice cream. I remember the gas streetlights being switched on after the war. A man came weekly with his ladder on his cycle to wind up the clockwork mechanism.

My father had a large allotment on Epsom Road, on land behind the Cubbington Road houses. We had a large plum and four apple trees. He joined with two other allotment holders and eventually kept three pigs in an old pig sty. Half of each pig had to be handed over to the Government when they were killed, as there was some help with feeding the pigs while they were alive.

Further along Epsom Road was Mr McGregor's stud farm, with many horses to be seen in the fields.



Stud Farm and Epsom Road
Image: Mrs Ward

Lewis and Watters builders' yard was in Lime Avenue, opposite the end of Farm Road. There was a house adjoining the yard which partly stuck out into Lime Avenue. (Manor Farm- Ed)

Manor Farm after the removal of the conservatory and lefthand end of the building during road widening
Image: CR



Across the fields from the top of Melton Road there was a large pond where we used to play and catch newts and collect frog spawn. (There was originally a marl pit in this area, and maybe the pond was the pit now filled with water. Farmers used it to condition the land. – Ed)

At about 10 years old, I moved to Milverton Junior School where I passed my 11+ exam. I spent about 15 months at Leamington College before moving to Leicestershire.

Bob Barnes

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, PETER COULLS

I anticipate that a good many of you are wondering when our meetings will resume.

Although Government guidance is now that Churches will be able to open shortly for private prayer, that will not have any effect on Lillington Local History Society for the foreseeable future as we would not wish to put you, our members, at risk.

We will be kept informed by the United Reformed Church as to any changes in their current policy. In the meantime, we will continue to produce our electronic newsletter every two months which we hope you will enjoy.

It is a challenge for a good many to occupy their time, so why not jot down some of your own memories of Lillington? It doesn't matter how long or brief they might be, just send them or post them to:

Chris Rhodes - chriscdmrhodes@aol.com , or
Margaret Rushton - rushtonmm1860@gmail.com

Has anyone kept a diary throughout lockdown? Would you be willing to share it with us?

Don't forget the challenge that Margaret sets you every so often. The results from previous ones appear on the website, so why not go and have a look for yourselves - www.lillingtonhistory.org.

The History Group is in safe hands as your Committee will let you know what the future holds as soon as they are able. In the meantime, stay safe.

Picture Puzzle from page 1

The image shows the junction of Kenilworth Road and Bericote Road - this is now a roundabout. The building is the former toll house and was demolished about 50 years ago.

Lillington Local History Society Website



The website address is: www.lillingtonhistory.org

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.