
Lillington Local History Society



Our 11th Online Newsletter – January 2022

Then and Now ... The Junction of Cubbington Road and Lime Avenue



The junction in the 1900s –

The lime trees have not yet been planted and there are iron railings in front of the houses, including the corner shop.

Image: Windows on Warwickshire



The same junction in 1967 -

Sensicle's the Bakers is on the left-hand corner and Stockwell's general store is opposite. The lime trees are as tall as the houses and the railings have been removed.

Have the two men just left the Walnut Tree?

Image: Windows on Warwickshire



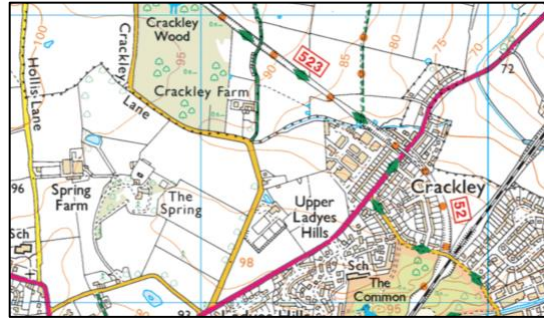
And in 2021 –

Premier Express Convenience Store on the left-hand corner, with Artisan Floors (now closed) opposite. The lime trees now tower above the houses and there is a pedestrian refuge on the busy Cubbington Road.

Photo: Denise Watson

CRACKLEY BISCUITS

This recipe also appears in Catherine Rothwell's book. I knew little about Crackley, apart from that Crackley Wood is the site of one of the Protection Camps where concerned environmental campaigners are trying to stop further destruction of our Ancient Woodland by HS2 Ltd. A farm and various remnants of the original settlement still exist, to the north of Kenilworth.



Copyright: Ordnance Survey

If you fancy a treat here's how!

Ingredients

6oz (150g) self-raising flour
3oz (75g) sugar (preferably caster)
4oz (100g) butter
½ teaspoon each of bicarbonate of soda and ground ginger
1 tablespoon golden syrup

Method

1. Sieve all the dry ingredients into a bowl.
2. Melt the butter and syrup in a saucepan and pour into the dry mix, stirring well.
3. Make small balls of the mixture and space out onto a baking sheet.
4. Bake in a moderate oven for 12-15 minutes until lightly browned.

Sounds delicious!

World War II link between Crackley and Stoneleigh

When I wrote about Stoneleigh's Herb Pudding and Crackley Biscuits I didn't realise that the two places had anything to do with each other until I read about Crackley School.

In 1862 the Fathers, who founded a boy's high school at St Osburg's in Coventry, asked the Sisters of Mercy to provide an education for the girls who worked in the silk mills nearby. They set up a boarding school at Walsgrave Road, overlooking Gosford Green near the city centre and named it St Joseph's, after the fathers.

All went well until the outbreak of World War II, at which point Lord and Lady Leigh offered the nuns and girls a safe haven at Stoneleigh Abbey, following numerous air raids with the school being finally destroyed in 1941. By December of that year the senior girls decamped to Offchurch House while the juniors remained at Stoneleigh for the duration of the war.

In 1944 Mother Magdalene Pennington was able to purchase Crackley Hall plus 40 acres from John Siddeley, First Baron of Kenilworth and, by January 1945, the school had 140 pupils. In 1949 the purchase of The Gables, Kenilworth, to provide more accommodation, meant that, finally, all pupils could move to one site. However, it took another 60 years before the school, like the biscuits, became known as Crackley Hall School.

Dearne Jackson

FARM WORKERS - CHILDREN AND WOMEN

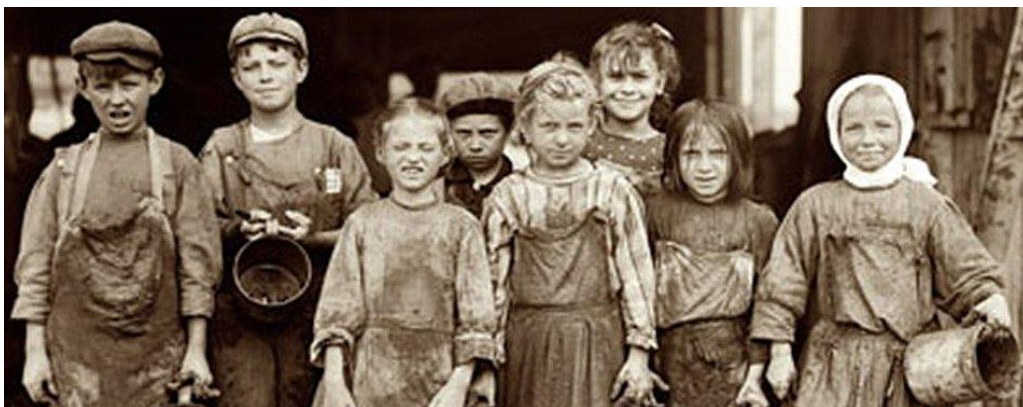
If you had been a worker living in Lillington one hundred and fifty years ago, it is likely that you would have been employed in one of the big houses springing up in nearby Leamington, working in the brickyards, or labouring on the land.

The image below shows a team of farm workers in North Lincolnshire in 1865. We know from the 1861 census that eight labourers were employed at Manor Farm, working the twenty-two fields between Lime Avenue and Telford Avenue. They probably looked like their Lincolnshire counterparts.



We know from the Royal Commissioners' report of 1867 that women and children were also expected to work the land and provide much needed extra money.

From November to March, boys aged from 10 to 13 would top and tail turnips. Women and 'big boys' 'dragged' them out of the land. Women and children would collect stones from the field for road building.



In April, children from six years of age would do bird scaring, from May to June they would be weeding and pulling up couch grass. From July to September, they would be involved in the harvest - gleaning (collecting dropped grains of wheat). October was spent bird scaring, weeding and the potato harvest.

Images: Bing and Rawding

Chris Rhodes

THE CONTENTS OF MANOR FARM IN 1876

When the widow farmer, Mary Beamish, died in 1876, all her property, down to the smallest item, was listed for probate. Manor Farm's fields stretched from the farmhouse's present position in Lime Avenue across the land to what is now Telford Avenue.

Everything attached to the farm had to be counted and assessed for probate. We know all the details because the officer's original notebook is in the County Record Office. Each item was given a separate value but was recorded in a code difficult to untangle.

The probate officer listed 147 sheep and lambs, cattle, and six horses including Captain, Prince, Poppet and Bonney. There were stored crops of winter beans, wheat, barley, oats, peas and hay.



Image Windows on Warwickshire

Manor Farm House was twice the size of the present building on Lime Avenue, which lost its main section to road widening in the 1970s.

The house contents included teaspoons (12), salt spoons (6) and dessert spoons (18). There was an extensive range of pots and pans for making cheese and butter. The cheese room was separate from the dairy.

Mary Beamish clearly liked her linen: she had 35 pairs of sheets, 24 chamber napkins, and 12 'toilette covers'. She kept her three decanters, 12 wine glasses and 28 tumblers in the dressing room. At the time of her death, she owned seven bottles of homemade wine, two bottles of port, and a liqueur.

Mary's property was valued at £1,877 4s 6d. This is approximately £210,000 in today's money. She was buried next to her husband in Lillingdon churchyard, in the area now occupied by the Octagon.

Chris Rhodes

LILLINGTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY WEBSITE

The Society's website – <https://www.lillingtonhistory.org> – is a valuable source of information about Lillington and the surrounding area. If you're not familiar with the website, here are a few pages that might be of interest ...

Newsletters

Printed copies of the Newsletter have been published three times a year, in Spring, Summer and Autumn, until Spring 2020.

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, when our face-to-face meetings had to be cancelled, the decision was made to produce an online Newsletter on alternate months as a way of keeping in touch with members. So far, there have been ten online newsletters, with this edition, the eleventh, published in January 2022.

Copies of all the printed and online newsletters can be viewed and downloaded here - [Newsletter](#).

Gallery

The Gallery pages include not only old photos and pictures of Lillington, but also records of events that have taken place in Lillington over the years. Click here to view photos and pictures of the Old Village - [Gallery](#).

We Remember

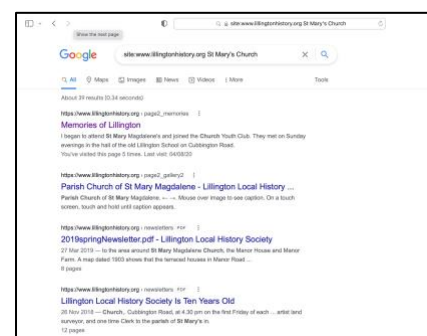
We are grateful to our members for sharing their memories of growing up, living and working in Lillington, and always welcome contributions. Take a trip down memory lane here - [Lillington Memories](#), [My First Day At Work](#), [VE Day](#) and [My First Holiday](#).

Lillington Connections

Did you know that Oliver Cromwell stayed at Lillington Manor on the night of 21st June 1645 on his way to the West Country from the Battle of Naseby? This and other stories of notable people with connections to Lillington can be found here - [Lillington Connections](#).

Can't Find What You're Looking For?

If you are interested in finding out about a person, a building, or even a road name in Lillington, the Search function on the website can be a great help. By entering the subject in which you are interested in the **Search this site**: box at the top of the website's Home page and clicking on the **Search** button, you will be taken to a Google page that lists all the results of your search. For example, entering 'St Mary's Church' into the **Search this site box**: brings up 37 results, all links to articles on the Lillington Local History Society website.



Denise Watson

CLOISTER CROFTS

In the Lillington Street Names article in the September edition of the Newsletter, mention was made of some houses that were built in Cloister Crofts for Warwickshire County Council's Chief Officers.

Two pairs of large semi-detached houses were built near the junction with Lillington Road in the early 1950s and were occupied by the following Officers of the Council –

- No 29 – County Fire Officer
- No 31 – County Planning Officer
- No 33 – County Architect
- No 35 – County Medical Officer.



Photo: Denise Watson

As can be seen from the photo, the houses, which have all been extended in some way, are substantial semi-detached properties and occupy large plots with good-sized gardens to the front and rear. The rear gardens back on to Southfields, the sheltered housing complex, in Lillington Road.

Note: Thanks to Peter Coulls for information on which Council Officer occupied each house.

Denise Watson

In the Centre of England

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lillingtonhistory.org Search this site:



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.