

A Memoir by Harry Dart (1899-1983) called A History of Barnham and its Inhabitants.

I have recently been pressed by several friends to put together my own reminiscences of Barnham and its inhabitants during my sojourn here since 1906.

Firstly I must make a few notes upon my own history leading up to my coming to reside in the road I still prefer to call "The Street", Barnham.

My parents came to live at Yapton in 1898 and I was born in that village a year later. My father worked as a carpenter for a builder named McCoombe, his yard being on the site now occupied by Jame's Garage in Burndell Road. His business covered a considerable area in the surrounding district and his men walked several miles daily to their work, working up to 70 hours a week at 4½d. per hour.

The first job which my father worked upon was the erection of a pair of cottages beside the derelict canal in Barnham, they were then and still are part of Barnham Court Farm, the occupants being farm workers. One of the earliest residents of these cottages was George Hughes who continued to work on Court Farm until his retirement, he had one son, a school mate of mine, who emigrated to Canada after the 1914/18 war, he has now been dead for some years.

My father also worked on Red Cottages (now Street Cottage) in 1899 where other farm workers lived.

Two other picturesque flint built cottages existed in The Street occupied for many years by Court Farm workers, these were demolished after the 1939/45 war and Primrose Cottage stands on the site.

In 1902 my father left the Yapton builder and took up work with Harry Knight, lately landlord of the old Railway Hotel, and started development in Elm Grove, West Barnham. Elm Grove at that time only consisted of the short road from the main Eastergate road to the present left-hand corner, the existing dwellings being two semi-detached cottages at the top of the road (one of which housed the village policeman for many years) and four three-storey terraced houses which later became known as Estate Cottages.

Mr. Knight Purchased the plot from the main road to the bottom of Elm Grove on the right and first built two blocks of four cottages known as "Fishbourne" and "Tisted Cottages" → Mr. Knight's old home was at Fishbourne. When No. 1 Fishbourne Cottages was completed my parents and I came to live there, my father's carpenters shop has stood in the garden of No. 1 for many years, it has been, since then, a shoemakers (owned by Bert Boniface) and much later, a garage.

Working for Mr. Knight until 1905 my father assisted in building "Bentworth" and two houses at this end of Elm Grove South, then only a lane leading to a brickyard. This brickyard was owned by

2

Barnham Nurseries Ltd. and supplied many bricks of which the older houses in West Barnham are built, clay for bricks was still being obtained up to 1950, the last brickmaker, Charlie Stevens, had taken over the job from his father.

Barnham Nurseries Ltd. was established before 1900 the original directors being Messrs S.S. Marshall, W. Pertwee, W. Chapple and J.P. Goodacre. These gentlemen also formed a company - West Barnham Estate - planning to build a number of houses in Eastergate Road and Elm Grove which was then extending westwards, Bungalows were also planned and built for Nursery Employees at the lower end of a narrow farm access lane - now Downview Road.

The first house to be built in extended Elm Grove was "Woodcot" and owned by Mr. Edward Hartley who started there an entirely new enterprise - the production of cultivated mushrooms - the first in West Sussex. I was then under school age and when lost could always be found messing about on the mushroom farm.

Mr. Sydney Marshall (referred to above) and his brother Mr. Harry came into the district in the 1880's, they were the sons of Mr. E.J. Marshall, head master of Brighton Grammar School - a tablet exists to his memory on the wall inside St. Mary's Church.

E.J. Marshall purchased "The Cottage" in The Street in 1890 and added the modern extension behind the 200 year old house. He died in 1899 and his widow continued to live in "The Cottage" using the present "Garage Cottage", which E.J. had built, as a stable and coach house. In the flat above lived George Boxall who was coachman-gardener, I well remember Mrs. Marshall being driven around by him in an open landau and a handsome grey mare. She dressed like Queen Victoria in her latter years, in fact, she closely resembled Her Majesty being portly and of small stature. The brothers Marshall first worked together founding Sunnyside Nursery in Yapton Road and, upon parting, Sydney established The Barnham Nurseries Ltd. while Harry continued at Sunnyside.

Mr. Knight's building plans coming to an end, my father formed a partnership with a local bricklayer - Harry West - who emigrated with his large family to Australia in 1910. West and Dart built most of the houses on the W. Barnham Estate and Eastergate Parish Hall (more about which later) and then in 1904 a plot of land at the top of The Street was sold to a developer, the first houses to be erected by a Chichester Builder being "Corsica" and "Ellesmere" (now "Tempe") the others, except "Kingsley" (Langley House) were undertaken by West and Dart. The first of these were "Bankside" and "Moreton" and we moved into the former in September 1906.

These four homes were the first development in Barnham for many years, with the exception of the Vicarage (1902) and Fir Croft the houses in the Street were 200/300 years old. The last of the new housing was "Ravenhurst" in which the developer, an Australian

lived himself. It is interesting to note that this house was almost completely built with second-hand materials obtained after the demolition of the old Railway Hotel, up to quite recent years the door leading from the hall into the kitchen bore the legend Bar Parlour engraved on a glass panel. Having completed his developement and sold the two remaining plots Mr. Ateo returned to Australia and was never heard of again. Regarding the plots mentioned I shall have more to say later.

Earlier I referred to the new Vicarage, built in 1901, apart from The Cottage it was then the largest house in The Street as Parsonages were in those days. Barnham had had no resident Vicar for nearly 100 years until the Rev. Robert Barrett came to the new house and ministered at St. Mary's until his death in 1927. In early September 1906 when I came to live in The Street the new School was opened on the Yapton Road, local children up to that time attended at Yapton or Eastergate Schools.

As I was living previously in West Barnham I had my first schooling at Eastergate - a very old building in use since 1836 - and under a much-loved head teacher, Mrs. Harvey, I had good basic instruction. We had only slates for writing and no individual reading books. Each morning we opened school with prayers and a hymn conducted by the Rev. Mr. Fraser, whose Rectory was nearby, before and after the "dinner" break we sang "grace" to the tune of The Old Hundredth our hymns and songs being accompanied by the teacher upon a squeaky old American Organ. Those of us who brought sandwiches, living some distance away, ate them sitting round the Tortoise coke stove - I can still recall the pungent smell of that stove.

Barnham
School

→ Now in 1906 some 36 children gathered at the new School which consisted of two classrooms, the larger having a central movable partition contained Standards I to VI and the smaller housed the infants. Teaching and strict discipline was maintained by the Misses Bradshaw, Miss Mary, the elder, being the "Head" and Miss Isabella the Infants' teacher. Those of us who had attended the older, primitive schools gazed wide-eyed at the combination desks each seating two, at the exercise books, pencils and pens and real ink and the grand maps and instructive pictures on the walls. It was a Council and not a Church school but our Vicar called quite often and questioned us upon our Scripture lessons, he was correspondent to the board of Managers.

A high fence divided the playground, one half for boys and the other for girls and infants there was also an open play shed (also divided) for use in wet weather. Organised drill and games became part of the daily curriculum, singing and dancing was accompanied with a piano, I fancy the only one existing in Barnham in those days. We had extra long holidays in the summer to enable older children

4

to help in the harvest fields and after the farmer had collected all the "shocks" and made them into ricks for threshing we younger ones were allowed to "glean" all the loose stalks and eafs for our fowls. Nearly every house had its backyard fowl-run and with the help of a lovely crowing rooster my mother raised a brood of chicks every year. Other school holidays were shorter, a week at Christmas and only a few days at Easter. No half-term breaks but if the average attendance had been good we were given one whole day a month; for personal good attendance (never absent, never late) we were presented with a coloured picture card on Friday. I remember collecting in this way a series of pictures of butterflys - I wish I had kept them. Half-day holidays were observed on Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day and All Saints after we had attended service at the Church in the morning. We also made holiday on May 24th. St. George's and Empire Day after assembling at the school to sing patriotic songs and "God save the King" (Edward VII)

School leaving age was fourteen but a boy or girl who could pass an examination in the three "Rs" conducted by H.M. Inspector was able to leave to go to work at twelve. This advantage was frequently taken by those from big families to augment the weekly income for wages in the rural districts were low, families of six to ten children were fed and clothed for thirty shillings a week. There was cheap farm and garden produce available but few saw meat more than once a week and a present of a bowl of dripping from one of the larger houses was eagerly accepted.

The Misses Bradshaw took up residence at "Moreton", there being no school house, remaining there until 1911 when my grandfather, having retired and already purchased these two houses wished to live here. Unfortunately he did not enjoy his retirement for long, both he and my grandmother died in 1916. So in 1911 the Misses Bradshaw built "Ingleton" on one of the last two of Mr. Ateo's plots and resided there until 1916 when the elder of the sisters died quite suddenly. The last of Mr. Ateo's plots was sold in 1910 to two maiden sisters of Rev. R. Barrett, they named the house "Kingsley" and they and other relatives remained there until 1930

Upon Miss Bradshaw's death Miss L. Currie from East Sussex became head mistress, remaining until 1921 and living at "Moreton". She was followed by Mr. H. M. Lindsay, our first head master, for by then there were seventy children at the school. He left in 1942 and thereafter for six years the school had several short term heads. In 1948

Mr. Stanley Hooton came, he will always be remembered for his kind, genial manner, his hard work for educational improvements and the foundation of the Annual School Sports and Christmas Parties. He also took ~~in~~ ^{took} great interest in all village activities. His sudden death in 1964 was a sad blow to the parish, we who had had the pleasure of working with him felt a very great loss. My late wife, who was

Chairman of the Board of Managers at the time corresponded with Mr.C.V.Baker,a former assistant master,who graciously consented to apply for the post and obtained it. He still carries out his duties most efficiently at both the old school and the new Primary complex in Elm Grove built in 1968 in the grounds of "Woodcot" which,laterly,had been Miss Wentworth's Orchard. What changed conditions to those existing in 1906 - there are now nearly 300 pupils and Mr.Baker controls a staff of ten teachers plus four canteen workers.

According to practice in the 1906 era I was taken to Church(St. Mary's) by my parents,often twice on Sunday,my mother playing the little American Organ for the services,she was quite accomplished having carried out the same duties at her home in Dorset. That same organ was still in use when I became Organist and Choirmaster in 1923,the present pipe organ was installed in 1925. I had a good choir of twelve boys and girls and five or six men, among the latter were my father,Mr George Boxall (an excellent tenor) Mr.J.J.Robinson,then editor of the West Sussex Gazette, and Mr.R. Collins who was also a Churchwarden. The choir had much support from one talented family,the Harrises,at one time there were five of them in the choir plus an older brother,Charlie,who pumped the wind into the new organ. Quite a few of this family together with their children and grandchildren still reside in the district. The Churchwardens in 1906 were Mr.J.Harrison of Barnham Court and Mr.R.Collins of Parsonage Farm, later Mr.J.Baker,our miller took the place of Mr.Collins; these two gentlemen remained in office up to 1930.

Upon the death of Rev.R.Barrett in 1927 the Rev.S.Jones who had been curate at Arundel Parish Church for some years became our Vicar being followed in 1939 by the Rev.M.Champneys who remained until his retirement in 1958. After a very short ministry by the Rev.Q.Nelson Rev.G.Keable occupied the living for ten years being followed by Rev.R.Nicholls who resigned after three years and was followed by our present Vicar,Rev.K.J.Tuffel.

I had left St.Mary's in 1929 and took up a similar post at a Church in Littlehampton,remaining there for seventeen years,when upon the death of my father I resigned to enable me to give more time to the builder's business in Barnham. At that time I joined Eastergate Church choir and spent a most happy ten years under the choirmaster there,my good friend Mr.R.C.Kingsmill who was also a director and secretary to Barnham Nurseries Ltd. In 1968 I returned to my old Church at Barnham where for some time now I have held the privilege of being Vicar's Warden,lately I have been training a small choir and frequently have the pleasure of playing the organ.(50 years after.

I have referred to Mr.J.Baker as our miller,in those early days the

Mill was a lovely sight and an outstanding feature of the village having white painted sweeps and a fan-tail, corn was ground by wind power until the mid 1930s. One of my own great pleasures was a visit to the mill to buy food for our fowls and to be shown the truly wonderful machinery and grinding stones by Mr. Baker. The miller owned a retail shop in Littlehampton and delivered his goods to the shop and to farmers, large and small, in the district in a large covered horse waggon. The driver was Mr. Alan Payne whose son, Tom, still works at the mill now owned by Mr. R. Reynolds, a nephew of John Baker, the corn now being ground by electrically powered motors.

Barnham before 1914 was a typical country village, very self-contained but having the great advantage of a railway station, nearly all the men worked upon the farms, in the two nurseries or upon the railway in the locality. The roads were narrow, bordered by ditches (no flooding in those days, that came with modern improvements) with flint surfaces pressed in by huge steam rollers, very dusty in summer and muddy in winter. There was no traffic as we know it, a few farm carts a flock of sheep or bullocks and a few cyclists passed the school each day and it was an event which teacher allowed us out to watch when one of Mr. Spark's traction engines came by with its trailing waggons or threshing gear.

The blacksmith's shop, which stood on the site of the Murrell Arms car park was a thriving business together with the adjoining wheelwrights. We boys were often late for school through watching the smith, Harry Dollery, shoeing a horse or fitting a red-hot iron tyre to a waggon wheel. After Mr. Dollery retired the son of the landlord of the Inn, Will Brown, carried on as smith for many years, his father being the wheelwright and a clever maker and repairer of furniture.

Having the advantage of the railway nearby, one of Barnham's really flourishing industries started about 1900, I refer to the Market which was first held weekly in a "dock" to the West of the station, later much enlarged when Messrs Stride and Son obtained the plot behind the Hotel (now Murden & Peacock) and built a huge cattle shed and laid out pens for sheep, pigs and poultry.

As the years passed it became one of the largest weekly markets in the south of England. Monday was Market Day and all the local business men and farmers gathered there to discuss important matters and to meet their clients. Much business was done in the market room (now Mr. Taylor's D.I.Y. shop) where, when the cattle market ended, the auctioneers sold the local garden and dairy produce and often furniture and household items.

The closure of the market in 1948 was deplored by many and ended an important era of rural life.

7

I referred earlier to a licensee of the Murrell Arms, Mr. V.F. Brown whose son, William, followed him as landlord and upon his death his widow, Fanny, took over the license and remained there until 1863 when Mr. M.J. Cutten, a member of a well-known Chichester family of coach builders succeeded. I can well remember one former licensee of some repute who lived there about 1900 and continued to live locally after giving up the pub and his business as wheelwright. He was Mr. Harry Hall a short bearded old gentleman who was also Chairman of the local branch of the Foresters' Benevolent Society. This Society held an open air Church Service annually to which Mr. Hall travelled on a white pony wearing the Society emblems. I think he must have lived until about 1914 for I can remember as a Youngster accompanying the hymns on a harmonium at Eastergate. This service would have been held in the open space leading to the Church and to Manor Farm and conducted by the Rector of Eastergate, Rev. W.D. Yoward, who gave an address standing in his motor car.

By the way, his was the first car owned and used by anyone in our immediate district.

In those far-off days before the First War everything moved very leisurely, our baker from Yapton and our local milkman had time to chat and dispense local news and gossip on their daily rounds. National news too, my mother loved to tell of the baker's roundsman (Fred Jeffries, whose niece eventually became my wife) arriving one day waving a small flag and announcing that Mafeking had been relieved. Our milkman, Mr. Snelling, had his dairy herd at Cox's Farm in Lake Lane, I remember his elder daughter - a buxom person - bringing two large pails of milk across the fields to Yapton Road slung on a yoke across her shoulders. There she met her father and together they supplied the customers, dispensing the milk into jugs from pint and half pint measures with shiny brass handles. Shortly before the First War a new milkman set up at Manor Cottage, Mr. F. Sanderson, the plot upon which Little Barton stands today being his cattle yard and the present garage and stores his stable and cow-stalls. Much earlier in the century our milk had been delivered by Mr. W. Collins who kept the Post Office and general stores in Eastergate Square, he baked bread and made butter and also owned Decoy Farm at Oving. Our meat came from a Yapton butcher whose shop in North End Road near Yapton School is still a butcher's business today. The first butcher's shop in Barnham was a timber shed erected on land (not then railway property) opposite the Hotel and opened by Mr. Syd Fiest in 1910. I fancy Syd built his shop without planning permission for within a few months it was picked up bodily and re-erected on the bank by the railway bridge where he continued in business until moving to a newly built shop next to

8

the Garage west of the station. The shop by the bridge remained and was next opened as a fish shop in 1919 by Mr. Ron Bradley - he "fried" too and we used to queue up on Saturday evening for 1/- worth of fish and two pennorth of chips, that amount being a sufficient supper for both my parents and me. Since those days the old shop has seen many changes and it now forms the larger part of Mrs. Jey's stores. The other building now incorporated with Jey's was built in 1925 and opened as a gentlemen's hair dressers by Mr. H. Stevens who lived at that time in Mill Cottage (later Mr. R. O. Dunlop's studio the business was taken over in the early thirtys by Mr. Cresswell, who eventually built and traded together with Mrs. Cresswell at their present premises on the main Eastergate road. Later the wooden building, having stood empty for some years was opened as a branch establishment of a Veterinary Surgeons from Littlehampton, upon closure Mrs. Jey extended her business and the two old shops became one.

Housewives in the early days did not make weekly trips to the towns for shopping, the "International" from Chichester called every Friday taking their orders for the following week.

There was a small local general shop combined with the Post Office - now part of Cherry Tree Cottages opposite the school - the owners being two elderly sisters named Carpenter. We children were cheerfully served with sweets in little paper cones when we had been given a ha'penny to spend. In 1910 Mr. Fred Chandler purchased the business which he enlarged and included a drapers and so it remained until 1945 when Mr. Chandler retired and his son, Will, took the Post Office only across the road to "The Poplars" where it remained until he also retired in 1966. Messrs Lamb & Selman operated the "stores" until the new Post Office was built opposite the Station. The villages around were served well by a friendly carrier, Harry Collins whose base was the old Tangmere Hotel, who brought out goods purchased in Chichester twice a week.

Barnham has possessed a coal depot for many years, the first owner being Mr. H. Knight, of the old Railway Hotel, his delivery man being Frankie Bacon who lived in one of the little thatched "Parish Cottages" which stood on the site of the Hall Car Park. Later the business was bought by Mr. W. Miles who sold out to Bognor Coal Co. in 1920, eventually Messrs. Hall & Co. became the owners for many years - the business now being "Corralls".

The new Market brought about other businesses which were built near the Station, these being Messrs A. Cortis, Corn & Seed Merchants, Messrs Alfred Pain, Ironmongers and our first bank, Barclays, now Messrs Tregears Estate Agents. Messrs Pain's together with the corn merchants now exist as Mrs. Siems' Estate agency. In 1946 Messrs Pain built a new shop on the opposite side of the road, much of which has been incorporated in the new Post Office Stores.

9
The National Westminster and Lloyds Banks were built in the old Station Approach by my father in 1933 and the following year he added Hall & Co's building supplies and coal office. Since 1899 Barnham has possessed a meeting room, the corrugated building in front of the present Parish Hall was then built on Parish land and presented to the village by Mr. Hounscome who farmed at "Bonhams" Yapton. Its original purpose was for W.E.A. meetings to give our men some evening occupation other than just visiting the "local", Mr Hounscome being a practising Methodist and an advocate of teetotalism. These activities in the new Parish Room were supervised by the manager of Sunnyside Nursery, Mr. H.M. Rhind. Whist Drives, little dances and "sing-songs" were frequently held there, in fact Mr. Rhind started the first Country Dance Club which in later years became a very flourishing organization. The present Hall was built by my father in 1927, thanks being due mainly to the Women's Institute (formed in 1923) for their efforts in raising much of the funds to meet the cost.

I left Barnham School in 1911 which by then had some sixty pupils and another assistant teacher, Miss Elliott from Chichester who later became Mrs. Lummus, her husband had a electrician's business in South Street for many years. For the following four years I attended Colebrook School which stood on the front at Bognor, travelling to and fro by train each day for a return fare of 4½d. my quarterly season ticket cost £1.5.0. During the time I was there I saw the building of the Theatre Royal and the Rex Ballroom, all recently demolished.

Concerning railways, the present station, new platforms and sub-way came about in 1936/7 followed in 1938 by the electrification of the line, a considerable improvement upon the little push-pull engine and one carriage which conveyed us to Bognor and back.

1908
In 1906 the new Rector, Mr. W.D. Yoward, with the help of Mr. A.J. Day of Fontwell instigated the building of Eastergate Hall. Messrs West & Dart carried out the contract and when it was officially opened in August 1907 it was considered to be the finest rural Hall in Sussex. I well remember the opening ceremony when a company of London Artistes entertained the mothers and children in the afternoon and followed with a Grand Concert in the evening with dancing and jollification until 2.a.m.

The telephone came into use in Barnham in 1906 our first local Exchange being the thatched house east of Eastergate Square and operated by Mrs. Walling - Barnham Nurseries being Eastergate 1 and my father's No. Eastergate 9. As the number of lines increased a new Exchange was built near the original and manned up to the time it became "Automatic" by a cheery individual, Frank Terry.

We used to call him if we were going to be out and ask him to take any expected messages and pass them on later, or he would call and say "Where have you been, Mr. X has been trying to get you all day". During the 1939/45 war when I was an Air Raid Warden and manning our post at "Sunnyside" I had many friendly chats with Frank in the middle of the night especially if local "incidents" were taking place.

The 1914 war brought changes to our little community, young men were called to the forces and young women became Land Girls and the older men formed a Unit of the L.D.V. later known as the Home Guard. The local unit drilled and had firing practice in the large covered Market building. Rural areas, such as ours, did not suffer very severe hardships, those with gardens and orchards worked doubly hard producing our vegetables and fruit and during "rationing" our local vendors saw that none of us went short on essentials.

When the war came to an end those returning to their homes found work scarce and to help in overcoming this problem the West Sussex County Council purchased land in the district for the purpose of Small Holdings. In Barnham the Council obtained the big field bounded by The Street and Hill Lane and three other substantial plots. By 1921 twenty holdings had been plotted and houses built on each, sixteen on the field and four in other parts, the tenant farmers disposing of their produce at our weekly market. The average size of the plots was 1 to 2 acres with the exception of Church Farm which was much larger having grazing and arable land. The scheme was not so successful as had been anticipated, each holding being too large for one man to cultivate alone and not sufficiently profitable for extra labour to be employed. In time most of the plots became privately owned, the owners having some profession and cultivated the holding in spare time.

I have mentioned Church Farm where a Dairy Herd was first started by the Poulton brothers, John and Roger, in 1921. When they relinquished the farm John emigrated to Australia and Roger joined the Southdown Bus Service where he worked until his death. They were followed at the farm by Cyril Allam who started a retail milk round in the district, I remember that he introduced the daily "pinta" in a bottle to Barnham. After Mr. Allam a farmer named Williams lived there for several years to be followed by the present owner, Mr. Booth. Among others of the early smallholders were the brothers Toynbee who first operated the large nursery on the Yapton Road, living respectively in holding cottages now known as "Sunnycroft" and "Mapletrees". Mr. Gerald, the elder brother later formed a company dealing in Haulage and Contracting and, eventually in building while Mr. Frank continued as managing director of the Nursery. In 1920 "The Cottage" in The Street, occupied during the war by Mrs. G. Brooks and bred greyhounds, was sold to Major Milner who became

11

the first Chairman of the newly formed Branch of the British Legion. It became a most flourishing branch having, at one time, over 300 members and known as the Eastergate & District Branch. The Railway Hotel was its headquarters and its activities were numerous including the forming of a successful Concert Party of which I was pianist and organiser and we performed regularly at Edwardian type of "Smoking Concerts" around the district. At each anniversary of the Armistice the Branch marched from the Hotel to Eastergate War Memorial - The Lion was erected in 1921 - for the annual Service of Remembrance preceded by Chichester City Band. One of their musicians - Amos Sandford, now a nonagenarian and living at Westergate - sounded the Last Post and Reveille. The Legion branch attended with their Standard at the unveiling of several War Memorials at Churches in the area. Successful fetes were organised to raise funds and for many years a flourishing Slate Club existed, the annual share-out and concert held just before Christmas was an important occasion. Owing to the passing away of older members and lack of interest the branch dissolved in 1950 those remaining members being incorporated in the Bognor Branch.

Major Milner was also the first Chairman of the Eastergate & District Conservative Association which still exists. This Association held an annual Flower Show and Fete in the grounds of "The Cottage" Mr. Bert Barnett being the leader of a hard-working sub-Committee. Mr. Barnett and his father were among our more successful small-holders for many years, Bert was also manager of Cortis Corn Stores.

I must mention one life-long friend, Mr. Rupert Burch who lived here from 1923 until his recent death, he came from Walberton, the son of a farmer and himself a very efficient horse dealer. In this particular business he co-operated with the Palmer brothers, Archie and Fred, the latter lived for some years at "Ellesmere" in the Street and whose eldest son now owns the Garage in Walberton Street. Mr. Burch farmed at Tars Farm first living at "Redmays" in Lake Lane and, from 1930, in the farm house then built in the Street, he was a fine character and a tower of strength in village activities.

The Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1931 and owes its existence to the prodigious efforts of a few local Methodists headed by our Station Master and his wife, Mr. & Mrs. Hewitt and built by Messrs Leonard Tee building contractors of Chichester. For some time before the building of the Chapel the Methodists held Sunday Evening Services in the Market Room.

Upon his retirement Mr. & Mrs. Hewitt lived in "Ingletton" in the Street for several years.

A Roman Catholic Chapel existed for some years in a timber building on the opposite^{side} of the road to the Methodist Chapel. Previously this building had been a work shop standing in the grounds of "Sunny Bank", both house and shop were built by Mr. Harry Hilton, once a carpenter apprentice of my father's. Mr. Hilton also built "The Poplars" in Yapton Road and "Redmays" and "Pollards" in Lake Lane, this latter house was built for Mr. Eric Pain who owned the local shop - Alfred Pain of Arundel Ltd. Mr. Hilton retired through ill health in 1940 and his workshop then became the R.C. Chapel and his house became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richards and their son, Benjamin. The house "Pollards" mentioned above was owned by Mrs. Treweeks and, subsequently, by her son Richard from 1939. Mrs. Treweeks was an accomplished artist and there are several of her paintings to be seen in homes in the village, Richard was a valiant worker on behalf of St. Mary's Church for many years.

One of our oldest existing houses, picturesque under its thatched roof is "Luccombe Cottage", so called by Miss Hill who resided there in the 1920s. During the past seventy years the house has had several owners, when I first came Bob Sadler's shepherd lived there, he grazed his master's sheep in the big field upon which the small-holdings stand. After Miss Hill's departure two ladies owned the cottage and opened a little "teas and refreshments" room which was much appreciated by the troops stationed in the village during the last war. They were followed by Mr. & Mrs. Partington who were most enthusiastic workers in village affairs they owned the first Television receiver in Barnham and a number of us were invited to watch the Coronation of our Queen Elizabeth in 1953. Upon their leaving Mr. & Mrs. St. John purchased the property and finally Mrs. White who came in 1966 and lived there until her death in 1976. Mrs. White will always be remembered for her good-natured and kind-hearted ways and for her unfailing support of St. Mary's Church and other village activities.

by the

Barnham Parish was enlarged in 1948 ~~xxxx~~ building of twenty eight Council Houses on the Barnham Nurseries grazing meadow at the top of the Street - the estate now known as Marshall Close.

Moreton

Barnham

February 1978

The history of changing Barnham and its rural existence in the foregoing pages ended in 1948 with comments on existing conditions in 1978, many changes have taken place during the last two decades, hence these additional pages.

Reference has been made to the retirement of the Rev.G.Keable in 1968, he being the last Vicar to occupy the house built in 1901 for the Rev.R.Barrett. The Church Commissioners had purchased a plot of land opposite the Church, in a meadow, which, for many years, had been part of Manor Cottage property, in 1964. During the interregnum following Rev.Keable's retirement the Commissioners erected a large Guildway Bungalow on the site which was first occupied by the Rev.R.Nicholls who only held the benefice for three years being followed by the Rev.K.Tuffel. During his happy ministry of seven years a small adult choir was formed, forming a great asset to our Church Worship, the parish greatly regretted his retirement in July 1978. He and Mrs.Tuffel interested themselves in the increasing number of children coming into the district and started groups of Cub Scouts and Brownies which met weekly at the Parish Hall, Mrs. Tuffel being their first Leader. These groups are still flourishing together with those of Scouts and Girl Guides. Upon the resignation of the Living by Rev.Tuffel the Church Council was informed by the Bishop and the Diocesan Authority that the parish of St.Mary, Barnham would no longer have an incumbent of its own and that the benefices of Eastergate and Barnham would be linked. A new Rector, the Rev.T.Packer had been appointed to St.George's Eastergate in 1976, becoming the first to occupy the new Rectory on the West Barnham road. Rev.Packer commenced his ministry at Barnham in August 1978 having the care of both parishes and later becoming Priest-in-Charge of Aldingbourne which living also became vacant. Meanwhile the Diocesan Authority disposed of Barnham's new Vicarage to private owners. Rev.Packer resigned the Living, mainly because of his failing health, in December 1982. at the time of writing these notes St.Mary's is, once more, in the midst of an interregnum.

A great asset to our Parish was realised in 1962 with the coming of the Main Sewer to Barnham and the surrounding villages, much difficulty was experienced by the contractors in making their deep excavations owing to a high water table and loose, running sand at a few feet below surfaces. A sewage disposal plant was built in the area of the old canal at Shripney where the Aldingbourne Rife accepts the surplus purified water.

This sewer made possible one of the larger developments on the outskirts of the Parish, the Barnham Nurseries had almost closed down their business in 1969 and sold off that part of their land opposite the Railway Station to developers. Within two years some 300 houses had been erected, all inside Eastergate parish, leaving a large open space bordering the main road upon which were promised badly needed shops. After eleven years the erection of these shops commenced in January 1983.

The remaining Directors of Barnham Nurseries had erected new buildings upon their plot in the Yapton Road between the butchers (Barleys) and the old school. One of these buildings formed their own new offices, the other being opened as a flourishing Garden Centre in March 1973.

In 1982 the senior Director of the Nurseries, Mr. J. P. Goodacre's son, wished to retire and their last remaining land, the plot referred to above, was put up for sale. The interest of Arun District Council was aroused subject to its ability to obtain Planning permission for 62 dwellings. Such development would be the greatest ever within the boundaries of Barnham Parish should it come to pass, but there is considerable objection to the scheme in the village. Further, this area was designated a "green belt" in plans produced by the County Council for village development some twelve years ago.

A Senior Citizens' Club to be known as the "Evergreens" was formed in 1959 by Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Walder under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society. This Club still flourishes having about forty members who meet fortnightly at the Parish Hall, kindly donated rent free by the Parish Council.

Mainly through the untiring efforts of Mr. M. J. Cutten, landlord of the Murrell Arms since 1965, a very fine Village Sign was erected on the Green and unveiled by Mr. Bernard Price, a local Writer and Broadcaster of note on 1st. July 1982. Mr. Cutten has also placed other items of historic value on the Green each having a suitable plaque of commemoration.

An elderly resident, Mr. James Walder, who was born in Barnham died in 1982 - a life-long friend of mine for we were both foundation scholars at the old school in 1906. Apart from a lady living in Aldingbourne I think I must be the last remaining person who enrolled at that school.

Moreton
Barnham

February 1983