



Ombersley & Doverdale Parish Magazine

**February
2021**



This on-line edition supports the printed version.

Please see the printed issue for full advertisements.
A list of advertisers plus their contact details is at the end
of this on-line issue.

Worcestershire Seven Parishes Service Rota for February 2021

Due to the current lockdown the following services will be held via Zoom.

February 7th 11.00am Holy Communion ZOOM service

February 14th 10.00am Family Service ZOOM service

The pattern of services will be reviewed after February 14th. The Zoom ID and passcodes are likely to change fairly regularly. If you do not receive the weekly message with this information please call Nicolas Wright on 07968 531216 who can provide it.

Thoughts from the Rector at New Year 2021

I write these words at the beginning of this New Year as I hear that the Prime Minister is due to address us all at 8 o'clock this evening. I would like to wish you all the happiest of years, but I recognise that if your year is to be happy then you and I will have inner work to do. I suspect that the Prime Minister's news will make us do this work.

I tend to watch a little more television than usual at this time of year. The days are all too quickly over and the nights are long. There has been a particular treasure on early evening television which I confess to have missed the first time around and that has been the travels of Michael Palin. I suspect that I missed it because for about ten years or so I was without a television set at all. I remember that when I was a parent at the school gate waiting to pick up my children parents would come up to me and ask, "Is it true?" "Is what true?" I would reply. "Is it true that you don't have a television set?" And I would have to confess that it really was.

Well, I am making up for this time with some pleasure and I want to share a particular moment in his journey across the Sahara Desert that has had a profound effect upon me. Palin arrives at a mining complex at the edge of the desert in Mauretania, a country that I know almost nothing about. And there he meets a family who live in a shelter

constructed out of the sacking that at one time contained the explosives used to blast iron ore from the ground. In his somewhat hesitant French he asks the woman who lives in this bleak place with her family sitting about her, "What gives you happiness?" She replies with a smile of an almost transcendent loveliness.

"Whatever God gives makes me happy."

Whatever God gives. Is she a living saint? Well, I for one would be honoured to enter heaven while carrying her luggage. Her radiance and the answer she gave surely points to an inner beauty. And I do not think that I will ever forget her words.

"Whatever God gives makes me happy."

If we are to receive the gift of a happy new year then we too need to learn to treasure all that we have as a gift from God. And if a woman, struggling to survive in a shelter made of explosive sacking on the edge of the desert can achieve such astonishing happiness then surely so can I, surrounded as I am with so much prosperity.

PRAYING THE PARISH

If you have a particular need or things to be grateful for, please let us know



Rev Stephen Winter 07773 760899 or mail@stephenwinter.net
Angie Randle 01905 620753 angierandle@hotmail.com
or James Homer 01299 851637 ajfhomer@btinternet.com [lay reader with pastoral responsibility for the Worcestershire Severn Parishes

Areas for February:

Sunday 7th February – Apple Tree Walk, Holt Fleet Road, Parsonage Lane

Sunday 14th February – Sinton, School Bank, Ombersley School, Hawford, Hawford School

Sunday 21st February – Boreley, Mutton Hall, Comhampton, Dunhampton

St Andrew's News

Welcome to 2021!

We have left what is probably going to be the strangest year of our lives with a Christmas season that was certainly not what we had hoped or planned for. It wasn't all bad though, we did have a lovely afternoon with Carols in the Car Park on the Sunday before Christmas and I certainly enjoyed the chance to sing outside with over 130 other people, and to have the Christmas story told in bite sized pieces with the carols. A thank you to Rev. Winter and the SAS for making it possible, and also to people who were so good about keeping spaced out. Our final service of the year was a beautiful wedding; more about this elsewhere in the magazine. What a joyful way to say goodbye to 2020 and thanks to our zoom facility, the bride and groom could share with friends around the country.

The New Year starts slowly as no physical services will take place before the next government review. Please keep an eye on the notice boards or website after that in case changes come after the magazine deadline.

Our latest family service was based on Thankfulness, and referenced Pollyanna's 'Glad' game, a book most of us have heard about, but may not have read (yet!). We had an opportunity during the service to share our blessings, which were many including: the digital technology that has allowed us to keep in touch with family and friends; living in a beautiful rural village with easy access to the countryside; a community that has worked hard to look after each other; a surgery that has been ahead of the game giving us access to the vaccine; being retired; box sets; having the chance to slow down and think.

I'm sure you will have ideas of your own, and perhaps this month as the days get longer and lighter it is time to focus on all the good in our lives.

Happy New Year!

THE PARISH OF ST ANDREW'S OMBERSLEY

St Andrew's Parish Register for December 2020

31 st	Felicity Hunter and Paul MacDonald	Wedding
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St Andrew's Association

Sadly, our plans for 2020 rather fell apart, but we are up and running for 2021!

Talks at 3pm on Sunday Afternoons

We started on January 10th with an illustrated talk on the Holy Land by Howard Robinson. A man who has successfully tackled the complexities of the computer world and took us through their 2017 trip with photographs, maps and postcards clearly showing the story of Jesus's life and country and the places you can visit...some cleverly photoshopped so we could actually imagine the people who used to live there. If you are planning a trip (in time), I would thoroughly recommend hearing this talk first, and don't miss Hezekiah's Tunnel in Jerusalem, if you don't mind confined spaces!

Our next talk will be on February 14th at 3pm:
'Our Beautiful Planet'

This will still be a Zoom event, and you need to supply your own Tea and Cake...

Details will be on the website www.st-andrews.church and allaboutombersley, or contact Howard on 620995 or Fiona on 621176.

There are no tickets as such, but we are asking for donations to help cover the cost of the streaming equipment we now have for the church. Please ask for bank details.

VILLAGE NEWS

Plaque for “Olga’s Path”

In June this year we sadly lost villager Olga Allen. Despite being one of our older residents, Olga had campaigned for some time to replace a muddy track, which went from opposite the Hamptons to the Main Road, with a substantial footpath. Eventually, Olga achieved this and the path has been used and applauded by local residents.

Olga’s friend Rosemary Humphreys organised a collection for a plaque and arranged for it to be made and sited on the pathway. Friends can now remember Olga as they tread the path.

Many thanks to Rosemary and all those who contributed to the collection and Chris Colley at Fortis who gave permission to site the plaque.

Jan Mitchell

Please Note: All copy needs to be sent to the editors by February 10th for inclusion in the March magazine

TOAD

To ensure that you have your say on the future of your local area and are kept up to date with developments, please visit the website www.toad.works and sign up to receive updates and don't forget you can also now follow us on allabouttombesley, Facebook and Instagram

Contact Susan Collier Email susan.collier1954@gmail.com or Judy Goodman Email judygoodman33@outlook.com



Let's get the Community together

and have some fun in 2021!!!

**Events and Activities
for Everyone to enjoy**

Saturday 4th April - Family Easter Egg Trail

Saturday 26th June - Veteran Car Show

Saturday 16th October - Themed Evening Meal

Saturday 4th December - Craft Fayre & Father
Christmas

In addition to the above we have in the pipeline a
Fashion Show, Shindig and Gin Tasting Evening

Look out for further details in the March Magazine and
the Ombersley Memorial Hall and All About Ombersley
websites

NOT A COVID WEDDING

It was the Saturday before Lockdown 2 when my daughter and her fiancé decided to end the year with love and joy by choosing 31st December 2020 to marry.

All systems go, three dresses arrived in the post, one was chosen, job done. Calls and emails to St Andrew's Church and Sunbury on Thames Church for banns to be read, job done. Next flowers, reception and numbers (at this point 15 guests were allowed), tier restrictions adhered to, menus chosen, job done. The wonderful Crown and Sandys staff obliged and embraced the challenge. Flowers sorted, we were good to go!

The excitement built towards Christmas, but there was a small voice in our ears suggesting more restrictions were to come. The first was announced, only six at the reception and bride and groom potentially going into tier 4. Both dashed to Worcestershire to isolate for two weeks before the wedding. Guests were still able to come to the ceremony, but that was all – most would be driving for hours to come and go in a day. On the Monday before the wedding the snow came, was this going to prevent the guests coming? No, not at all.

At the rehearsal the day before the wedding, came Boris's announcement of tier changes – no reception allowed! A mad dash to the supermarket for fancy food and Hobbycraft for items to create a wedding table followed. At no point did the bride or groom complain. Everyone involved at the church kept their spirits up, even suggesting they could marry during the rehearsal should a complete lockdown occur!

Witnessing this couple marry for love in Felicity's childhood church was the most perfect and beautiful day. The snow making everything look magical. They had achieved their goal, a union that was meant to be, minimum bells and whistles, but surrounded by a love so strong you could feel it.

Immediate family making the journey and many more family and friends watching from afar thanks to Zoom (one good thing to come out the lockdown) all wishing them happiness. This was not a “Covid” wedding, which people may say in the future, but a “meant to be” wedding; religious, meaningful and beautiful. Proof that God stands by us and love wins the day!

Thank you to everyone who the made the day possible and now for the Christening.....

Lynne Hunter



OMBERSLEY

MEMORIAL

VILLAGE HALL

**Sorry we are closed until
further notice**



Community Tea & Coffee Shop
(Not for Profit)

TOAD – Tomorrow’s Ombersley and Doverdale – An update

In October 2018 all homes within the Parish were hand delivered a household questionnaire to which a staggering 63% of households replied. The results have become a major influencing factor in not only the drafting of our Neighbourhood Development Plan, but also in helping the Parish Council know what is important to you locally. As we go into 2021, we would like to share with you progress on work being done to enhance life within the Parish.

The Memorial Field Project 2020/2021

This project has been delayed due to the lockdown period in 2020. However, in November work to replace the high fencing that sat between the Memorial Hall and the field with a lower black fence that complements the railing that go along the steps into the Memorial Hall was completed. At the same time, matching fencing, but in green, was installed around the children’s play area. This was designed to give our little people a dog-free space in which to play safely.

Memorial Gates

Following a request from residents, work has now started on the project that will become a fitting reminder of the Sandys family. The old wooden gates at the entrance from the Main Road to the Memorial Field have been removed. The concrete bases have now been laid for the stones, originally from Ombersley Court, that will be incorporated into two pillars. These will support some new metal gates that will become a future part of the history of the Ombersley and Doverdale Parish.

Once the pillars are in place, the final measurements will be taken for the new gates, which will be made ready for installing in early spring. Initially, the ground below the gates will only be hard core, the area being completed when the pathways are laid in late spring. In the coming months, the next stage of the Memorial Field project will be developed, incorporating new pathways, trees and benches. At the same time, consideration is being given to other projects within the Parish

The Memorial Field project is being overseen by Ombersley Parish Council, Ombersley Memorial Hall Trustees and Ombersley Memorial Management Committee.

From the Archives of the Ombersley Parish Council Minutes

THE HOLT FLEET BRIDGE AND TOLLS

In 1823 Mr Adrian Darby (a descendant of Abraham Darby of Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge) approached 'The Little Marchioness' of Ombersley Court with a plan and estimates to alter the turnpike road between Ombersley and Holt Heath and to effect a crossing over the River Severn by way of a metal bridge instead of using a ferry. The Dowager Marchioness was interested and through her and her son's influence helped ensure that on 5th May 1826 an Act of Parliament was passed allowing the road alterations and the new bridge.

The first stone for the bridge, designed by Thomas Telford, but with cast ironwork for its 150 feet span produced by William Hazeldine of Shrewsbury, was laid on 21st August 1826 by Lord Foley of Witley Court. The bridge was completed in the short space of 16 months, and opened on New Year's Day 1828. The work was completed within the budget of subscriptions (£8,500 collected) costing £8,300. Tolls were set on the bridge and overall it was very advantageous financially to those who had subscribed. BUT, not everyone was happy as the following extracts from Parish Council minute books show:

At the first annual assembly of the parish held at the National Schools on 1st April 1895, a motion was unanimously carried to 'free the Holt Bridge of toll charges'.

"This meeting considers that Holt Fleet Bridge, the only one across the river between Stourport and Worcester and the connecting link between 2 main roads, should belong to the council and not a private company, and requests the parish council to consider the matter with a view to petitioning the county council to acquire and free the same."

At the annual assembly of the parish held at Ombersley School on 31st March 1896, a motion was unanimously agreed stating:

“That the inhabitants of Ombersley deplore the failure of negotiations with regard to the removal of tolls charged by the trustees of Holt Fleet Bridge and suggest that the Parish Council get a petition signed by the whole parish and presented to the County Council.”

From the minutes of the quarterly meeting of the parish council held at Ombersley school on 20th July 1898. The following motion was unanimously carried:

“That steps be taken immediately to get a petition signed by the inhabitants of Ombersley for presentation to the County Council.

1) That the charging of tolls on the Holt Fleet Bridge is antagonistic to the spirit of the age and an evil which ought to be promptly removed. 2) That a resolution to this effect be adopted by this council, and copies forwarded to the Worcester Chamber of Commerce and the various parish councils around, also to the Rt.Hon. Earl of Dudley and to any persons whose influence may assist in removing this monopoly.”

The County Council acknowledged receipt of the said, strongly worded petitions in a letter dated 6th March 1899, and after consideration by the Highways and Bridges Committee of the County Council, a recommendation was made to hold a conference for local authorities affected at the Holt Fleet Hotel on 14th June 1899.

The quarterly parish council minutes of 18th July 1899 read *“The chairman reported on behalf of the Holt Fleet Bridge committee... had convened a conference of authorities interested in the matter and negotiations had taken place with the proprietors of the bridge and the highways and bridges committee of the County Council; the matter was proceeding favourably and he hoped that the results would be that the bridge would be free to the public in a short time.”*

Finally, in 1900 the Holt Fleet Bridge, the last toll bridge in the county, became free. However, even then there were delays. The advertised opening on Saturday 14th July did not proceed as planned as the local Government Board required certain improvements to be done beforehand.



Sage advice from a Parish Resident

Ron Naylor who lives in Uphampton was one of the first to receive the Pfizer vaccine at the Medical Centre in December.

Ron commented, “To anyone who may be reticent, I have had numerous vaccines over my 106 years and none of them have caused me any detriment. And there’s a good chance they’ve even helped me to hopefully get to my 107th birthday this month”.

Ron was 107 on 15th January.

Please Renew your Parish Magazine Subscription

Since no magazines were printed during the period April – August 2020, the price of the 2021 magazine has been reduced for those who paid the full amount for 2020. The following charges are for 10 copies in 2021.

- Subscribers who paid £5.50 for 2020: **£3**
- Subscribers who have not yet paid for 2020: **£8.50** (covers 2020 and 2021)
- New subscribers: **£5.50**

Please help the volunteers who deliver the magazines to your door by paying in a timely manner. It would be a great help in the current “Covid” climate if you could put the correct money in an envelope and post through the letter box of the person who delivers your magazine. If you are unable to do this, please have it ready for collection when the distributor knocks on your door after the current lock-down.

Note: Advertisements subsidise the cost of the paper copy. Any profits are split between the two churches in the parish. Please subscribe to the paper copy of the magazine!

Ombersley Medical Centre is open and able to support you with any health queries.



We are open **NHS**
But working differently to stay safe

Phone first
Due to social distancing you can't walk-in without an appointment. Please be kind to the people who you are talking to on the phone or online, they are working to make sure you get the best care you need, while also keeping you safe following the guidelines.

You may not be given a face-to-face appointment
We will first talk to you on the phone or through an online video call. If you do need to physically see someone, we will let you know what to do.

If you are asked to come to the surgery, please do
Don't forget your face covering

If we make a referral it may be longer than expected
Unfortunately due to coronavirus, some referrals are taking longer than usual. Only get back in touch with us if your condition is getting worse



Coronavirus is nobody's fault, but it's everyone's responsibility

We know that times are strange, difficult and confusing at the moment and we have put measures in place to keep our patients and team safe whilst still providing medical care.

There will be some further changes as we move into Winter. Dispensary will be moving to the front of the building where there is better light and path underfoot. There are still some adaptations we need to make and we will update you as soon as possible. The Dispensary will continue to operate as normal (apart from location within the building). We would like to reassure you that there is no need for you to bulk order medications.

Please call the surgery with any medical need, medication issues or support during this time. Stay Safe.

THE PARISH OF ST MARY, DOVERDALE

CHURCHWARDEN:	Mr.R.Coppini
Tel: 620963	(vacancy)
LICENSED LAY READER:	Mr.Richard Jeynes
Tel: 620441	
TREASURER:	Mr.D.Hawkins
Tel: 620059	
SECRETARY PCC:	Mr.G.Crow
Tel: 772850	

Sidesmen: Mrs, V.Harris, Mr.C.Harris, Mr.G.Crow, Mrs.S.Crow,
Mr.J.Chapman, Mrs.A.Chapman, Mrs.W.Hawkins,
Mrs.S.Rees

Organists: Mrs.L.Moyse, Mr.D.Terry

FUTURE SERVICES

Many of us managed to attend at least one church event over the Christmas period, whether it was carols outside or church worship. Now, we are experiencing yet another lockdown and further interruptions to our church services. Although government ruling states that places of worship are allowed to remain open for both private and public worship at the time of going to press, no definite plans are in place to re-open churches for Sunday worship in this Benefice.

Please consult the weekly on-line MESSAGE from Nick Wright, Parish Administrator for all important updates.

MORNING PRAYER

Each week-day morning at 9.15a.m., Revd. Stephen Winter holds a short Morning Prayer service via Zoom. If you would like to join, please use Meeting ID: Zoom ID-845 168 9869 and the protected password. Please check with Stephen to see if the password has been updated.
mail@stephenwinter.net

A fond farewell was given to former Church Warden, Sue Murray, who has recently moved out of the area. Sue has lived for many years in the parish and has worked tirelessly for St. Mary's in her many roles both as a PCC member and on the committee of the Friends; and by no means least of all, her valued contribution to the maintenance of the churchyard. Sue has moved away to be closer to her family and although she will be greatly missed both as a church member and as a friend to so many, we wish her all the very best in her new life.

CHRISTMAS WITH A DIFFERENCE

CAROLS IN THE CHURCHYARD

St Mary's Carol Service of nine lessons and carols was, sadly, impossible to arrange in its usual format because of Covid restrictions. However, a very enjoyable, alternative version took place outside in the churchyard with twentyone people singing and worshipping. Lay Reader, Richard Jeynes, took the service and David Terry, organist, led everyone through the carols from the open church door. Sue Crow and Valerie Harris read short lessons and Chris Harris lit a small fire in the corner of the churchyard to represent the tableau of the shepherds watching over their flocks. Afterwards, the Friends served welcome glasses of mulled wine, coffee and mince pies. Many thanks to all those who helped to arrange such a memorable service, enabling the Christmas Story to be celebrated at St Mary's.

CHRISTMAS DAY

A Morning Prayer service at 10.30a.m. to celebrate the Joy of Christmas was led by Lay Reader, Richard Jeynes. Robert Coppini read the Gospel lesson and John Chapman read from the Old Testament. Thank you to Richard for stepping in to take the service for those wishing to worship on Christmas Day.

1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (27thDecember)

Thank you, Stephen, for your inspiring Zoom service on the last Sunday of December. Stephen had downloaded music and carols, interspersed with readings, for everyone to join in with and enjoy.

Instead of the usual sermon, Stephen concluded by reading the last few pages from “A CHRISTMAS CAROL”. There was no need to be a Dickens’ enthusiast to appreciate the poignancy of this particular Christmas message in the last chapter from which Stephen so magnificently read.

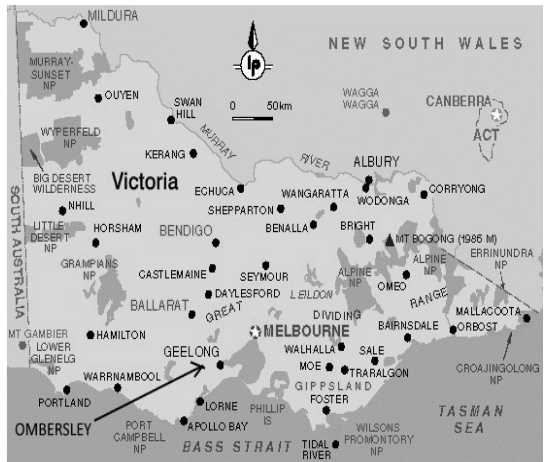


Strangely, the scene from Victorian times was unwittingly, but fittingly set as we all awoke the next day to a cold, snowy landscape similar to that of the Dickensian Christmas of 1843 when Scrooge would have awoken to a similar scene that Christmas morn.

How did Ombersley Victoria get its name?

We all think of Ombersley as a unique place and indeed, it is. But, it’s not the only Ombersley on the planet. Ombersley also exists DownUnder in the state of Victoria, Australia, about 35 miles west of the coastal town of Geelong and 80 miles south west of Melbourne (see map). It is not even a village and consists mainly of rolling farmland. The nearest urban area is a small town on the Barwon River called Winchelsea. In the 2016 census, Ombersley, Victoria had a population of 97, rather less than the 2400 in Ombersley, Worcestershire.

So, how did Ombersley, Victoria come into existence? Let me explain. Like many places in Australia and across the world, early explorers and later settlers commemorated their birthplaces by naming places after towns and villages from where they originated. Ombersley, Victoria is just such a place.



Emigration to Australia

Indigenous peoples inhabited the continent of Australia for about 65,000 years prior to the first arrival of Dutch explorers in the early 17th century. In 1770, James Cook sailed along and mapped the east coast, which he named New South Wales and claimed the land for Great Britain. It was initially settled through penal transportation to the colony of New South Wales. The population grew steadily in subsequent decades, and by the time of a 1850s gold rush, most of the continent had been explored by European settlers. On 1st January 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was formed.

The 19th century population explosion in the United Kingdom saw millions living in poverty. Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, the Australian continent was only sparsely populated by convicts, soldiers, and pioneer settlers. In 1831, the British government established the Emigration Commission offering assisted migration schemes to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land (now called Tasmania). Over one million immigrants (either assisted or unassisted) arrived in Australia from the United Kingdom during the 1800s.

There were four classes of immigrants to Australia:

1. Convicts after they were tried and convicted for crimes committed in the British Isles.

2. Bounty immigrants chosen by Australian colonists to come from the British Isles to Australia.
3. Assisted immigrants with the financial assistance of the government, organizations, or wealthy individuals.
4. Passengers who were able to pay for themselves.

Voyages were long, uncomfortable and dangerous. Emigrants faced the threat of storms, sickness, fire, icebergs and shipwrecks. Emigrant guides suggested that a man should pack six shirts, three Guernsey or flannel shirts, six pairs of stockings, one pair of good stout shoes, one pair of good stout boots, one suit of warm outer clothing, one suit of light clothing and an extra pair of trousers, one light cap, and one warm cap or southwester. An adult woman needed six chemises, six pairs of stockings, two flannel petticoats, two lighter petticoats, two pairs of good boots or shoes, one good warm cloak with hood, one hat or light bonnet for warm weather.

How do we get from Ombersley, Worcestershire to Ombersley, Australia?

As you might infer, Ombersley Victoria came about via an immigrant. His name was Henry John Collins whose father, also called Henry Collins lived in England and variously listed his occupation as gentlemen servant (in 1829) then clerk, traveller and labourer as his life continued. Henry Collins Snr was a widower when he married Ellen Poyner in London on 1st April 1828. Ellen was born in Ombersley, in 1803. Their son, Henry John Collins was born in Ombersley, Worcestershire in January 1828 (before their marriage it would seem). Their residence was given as Davies Street, London when Henry John was baptised on 9th July 1828 in St George's Square, Westminster. At that time Henry Collins Senior's occupation was recorded servant and valet.

Henry John Collins acquired a further six siblings, all baptised in Ombersley/Claines. One record suggests that Henry Collins Snr was in service at Ombersley Court, but so far there is no definitive evidence of this. Nevertheless, it appears that the family spent considerable time in the village as Henry John grew up. Prospects in rural England

at that time must have seemed poor for an ambitious young man compared to opportunities overseas. Henry John Collins (aged 25) emigrated to Australia aboard the *Lady Flora* in 1853, landing in Sydney. He then made his way to the state of Victoria. Overland this is around a thousand kilometres, so it is possible he took to sea again and landed in Melbourne or Geelong. On his arrival in Victoria, he went to the development area of the Western District where he became a carrier, using a bullock team and wagon. He carried supplies for the outlying stations, returning with wool and other produce to Geelong. Later, when the railway was extended in 1875, he carried goods to the Winchelsea rail head, returning with firewood for the stations.

It was told how he learnt the trick of surviving attacks from Aborigines, who at that time travelled in large numbers at night. He would light his camp fire to cook the evening meal, some distance from his bullock wagon, and later retire to sleep under the wagon. Often, he lay there whilst the Aborigines passed in the night; next morning, on inspection of his camp fire site, he would discover signs indicating that the Aborigines had thrown their spears around the fire (from *Coast to Coast* book).

On 23rd August 1855, Henry John Collins, aged twentyseven years, married Lucy Orchard, aged nineteen years, the daughter of Thomas Orchard (who came to Australia from Wickingham, England) at St Thomas's Church of England; this being the first Church in the Shire of Winchelsea. It is not known where they lived but, presumably, in the tiny village of Winchelsea.

On 31st December 1875, Henry Collins was granted land, described as more or less eighty acres four perches, being allotment 21B in the Parish of Gellibrand, County of Grenville. He named the property *Ombersley* after his birthplace in England.

From the baptismal records at St Thomas's Church, Winchelsea, Henry and Lucy Collins had a family of fourteen, all born in the Winchelsea area. Two children predeceased their parents; Helen at infancy and Joseph at the age of twenty years. The male members gained a reputation for being excellent horsemen and were employed as horse breakers and coachmen on many Western District stations.

The early death of Joseph Collins was suicide. He apparently stole 20 sheep which he then sold. He was arrested by two constables and escorted back home where they recovered the proceeds of the sale. His mother asked the police to inform the boy's father of his arrest and Joseph was left alone in the room. A shot was heard and they discovered that he had committed suicide with the family's breach loading gun.



There are still many descendants of the Collins living in the Winchelsea Shire to the present day and many grave markers exist in the churchyard of Winchelsea including that of the unfortunate Joseph Collins

Ombersley, Victoria Post Office

On 1st May 1884, the Post Master-General's Department opened a Post Office on the Collins property and called it Ombersley Post Office. The wider area became known as the Ombersley District. Henry John Collins was appointed as Post Master, a position he held for many years as well as continuing to farm his land. After he died at *Ombersley* on 29th June 1911, the Post Office was taken over by his daughter Eliza Collins. She continued to run the office until after the death of her mother, Lucy Collins, on 22nd December 1917. The property was sold to Wilfred Hawes in 1918, and, when Eliza Collins resigned as Post Mistress on the 21st April 1918, Mrs W. Hawes became her successor.

Fire destroyed the post office in July 1933, but it was later rebuilt to be closed finally (as a post office) on 31st March 1963. Shown below is an image of the Post Office from around 1910.



Acknowledgements

Ancestry.co.uk website

findagrave.com website

Wikipedia

Coast to Country, Winchelsea, A History of the Shire. Pubd. Hargreen Publishing Company, 1985.

National Archives of Australia ABN 36 889 228 992

Personal communications from the members and descendants of the Collins and Poyner families.

A final word

It would be interesting to confirm the possible link with Ombersley, especially any members of the Collins or Poyner family. If you have any information please contact a member of the Ombersley History Group.

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Christmas News from Sytchampton Endowed Primary School



Happy New Year

First of all, we hope you have all managed to have a lovely Christmas and would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Be Creative

December was very busy, and an exciting month at Sytchampton. Although things looked slightly different this year, we didn't let anything stand in our way and kept all the celebrations as normal as possible.

Every year, we begin our December celebrations with our Christmas Fair, which this year was online. It was so important to still hold the event as it provides our children with opportunities to design and make different Christmas products to buy or sell to our school community and is also part of their 'Design and Technology' curriculum. The children had a wonderful time and during the week, there was a great Christmas buzz around the school. It was so successful that some items were even sold out within twenty-four hours!

The Christmas fair is also a chance for the wider community to come into school to sell a wide range of gifts too. Due to the current restrictions, businesses also held a Virtual Christmas Market which promoted over a hundred local businesses. Well done everyone for your hard work!

The Show must go on!

The saddest casualty of COVID was not being able to perform our nativity or KS2 carol service to parents and carers. However, we have been creative this year and all staff have filmed nativity scenes and performances. Once all performances were recorded and edited, the productions were made available to parents. We really hope you enjoyed them. I know I did!

He's behind you...

This year we were unable to organise our usual whole school Christmas trip. However, our children still had the magical experience of a pantomime as we were able to purchase a digital recording of Cinderella. Any families that were having to self-isolate were sent the pantomime too, so everyone was able to join in with the fun. **OH NO HE'S NOT!**

Our Wonderful PTA

We have a very hardworking PTA, which during December arranged: the virtual Christmas market, a virtual visit from one of Santa's elves, a social distance visit from a "special visitor", a Christmas tree raffle, an online auction and have even brought the school a book vending machine that will be used to promote the love of reading throughout the school. I hope you all put your feet up over the Christmas break and thank you for all your hard work. We are looking forward to other events throughout the school year.

Thank You and Hello!

A huge thank you to Stephanie Gates who has been our Chair of Governors at Sytchampton for an amazing 18 years. You truly have helped drive the school forward and we can't thank you enough for all you have done. We look forward to still having you and your expertise on our Governing Body.

Last of all, we would like to welcome Dr Pinky Jain into the new Chair of Governor role. Your kind and creative approach will be a true asset to our school and we are looking forward to our continued journey together.

Advertisers 2021 Electronic List

All-inc-Cars – taxi service – 01905 826261 / 07739 109590

Amba Legal Services – Will writers – 01299 251442 / 07966 053887

Andy Johnson – chimney sweep – 01886 821933 / 07798 790913

AS Locks & Services – 01905 726671 / 07956 371673

AY Services – general maintenance – 01905 759151 / 07876 308058

Bedwardine Funeral Services – 01905 748811

Best of British Garden Services – 01886 889070 / 07983 351634

Bowbrook Gardens – landscaping etc. – 01905 937852 / 07792 613020

CT Building of Ombersley – 01905 620942 / 07973 663442

Catkins Cattery – 01299 250472

Creative Landscapes – 01299 250720

Doorbars – chartered surveyors/land agents – 01905 27288

Dorn (M&E) Ltd. – installation of electric vehicle charging points – 07712 811552

Droitwich Gymphobics – 01905 312424

E J Gumery & Son – funeral directors – 01905 22094

Eclipse Home Care – 01905 641070

Elite Marquees – 07958 288510

Elite Sweeps – sweep/log burners – 01905 700701 / 07712 220671

Fisher Bodyshop – car body repairs – 01299 333131

Forever Living Products – health/skin care – 01905 620318 / 07906 701589

GLM Services – general maintenance – 01905 864172 / 07399 024702

Graham Pugh – decorating/carpentry – 01905 621147 / 07967 883121

Green Thumb – lawn care – 01905 840740

Hopwood Tree Services – 07581 742243

Huumankind – residential care – 01905 905130

I & S Stoves – woodburning stoves etc. – 01886 812452

J & S Trade Supplies – double glazing etc. – 01886.888024 / 07966 804007

Jack Hobbs – milkman – 01905 455336

Jeremy Billingham TV Aerials – 01905 799152 / 07850 969307

Jonathan Sproule & Sons Ltd – 07973 445048 / 07976 826065

Julie Davis – mobile hair stylist – 01905 427704 / 07977 590087

Karol Kleen – carpet/upholstery cleaning – 01299 404275

King’s School Hawford – 01905 451292

Kingsway House - premises for hire - 01905 619877

Leapgate Builders – also mini digger with driver for hire – 07702 053756

Marshall-McKay – kitchen/interior design – 01905 622317 / 07765 447704

Me..Time Pilates – 07791 873870

MG Domestic Heating – 07870 498879

Mick Miles – gardening/pest control – 01905 620394 / 07732 223825

Mobile Podiatry/Chiropody – 07989 964854

Ocuplan – Long-term eye care – 0121 517 0423

Oldfields of Ombersley – country/equestrian – 01905 622295

Ombersley Dental Practice – 01905 621881

Ombersley Golf Club – 01905 620747 (restaurant 01905 620621)

Ombersley Memorial Hall – 07936 467390

Ovengleamers – oven cleaning – 01275 370571

Oven Magic – oven cleaning – 01905 700500

Phillip Serrell Auctions – 01684 892314

Re-Upholstery & Repair Services – 01584 881227

W Roberts Tree Care & Landscaping – 01299 250664 / 07772 456692

S J M Locksmith Services – 01905 570999 / 07871 442011

SMB Electrical Solutions – 01905 428892 / 07917 182945

Steve George of Ombersley – landscaping etc. – 01905 621427 / 07745 597050

Studio Smith Architects – 01905 622373 / 07921 623709

Sytchampton Community Centre – 01905 620943

T M Shouler – carpentry/joinery – 01905 620374 / 07900 268075

Taylor & Co Architects – 01905 621600 / 07831 146738

Top Cut Mowing Services – 01905 621 858 / 07802 717057

Town & Country Stonemasons – memorials etc. – 01905 759191 / 07774 198968

Walkercrips – stockbrokers & financial advisers - 020 3100 8285

Whitlunge Gardens – tea rooms/gardens – 01299 250669