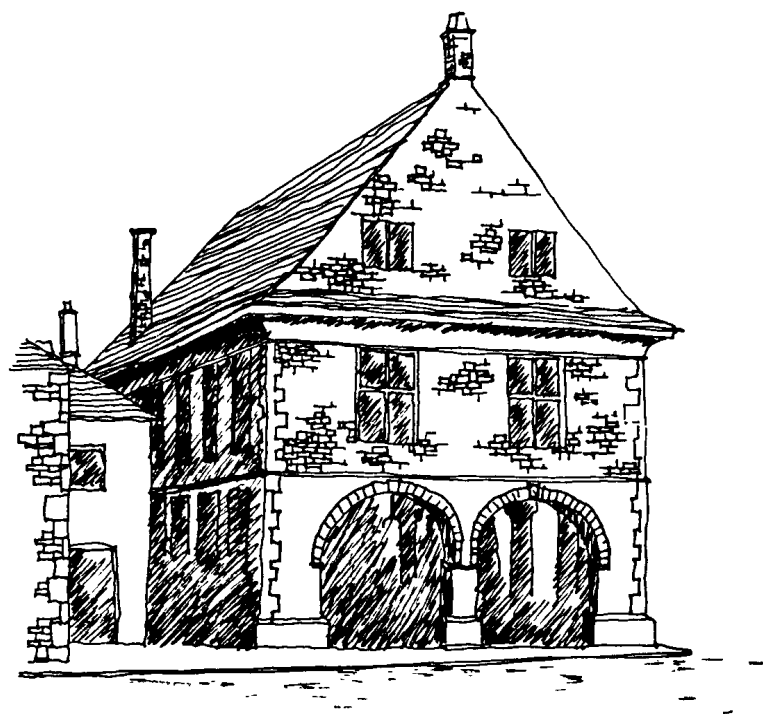


*Minchinghampton*  
*Local History Group*



*Annual Bulletin*  
*Number 32*

2015

# MINCHINHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

## ANNUAL BULLETIN NUMBER 32

2015

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# MINCHINHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP COMMITTEE 2014/2015

|                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. John Williams - Chairman      | j.jlw.williams@talk21.com       |
| Dr. Hugh Kearsley – Vice Chairman | hugh@windmillplace.org.uk       |
| Mrs. Diana Wall – Secretary       | dmw.wall@gmail.com              |
| Mrs. Sarah Cole – Treasurer       | sarahcole01@outlook.com         |
| Mrs. Maureen Anderson             | maureen@bramblebank.myzen.co.uk |
| Mrs. Pat Carpenter                | pat@brimscombe2.fsnet.co.uk     |
| Mrs. Jenny Morgan                 | brownclose@gmail.com            |

## PROGRAMME OF PAST MEETINGS

|      |           |  |
|------|-----------|--|
| 2014 | November  | A.G.M. and “The Final Curtain - An incomplete history of Minchinhampton Dramatic Society” - Alan Vaughan |
| 2015 | January   | “Stroudwater Textile Trust - Preserving our local heritage” - Maureen Anderson & Jane Ford               |
|      | February  | Show and Tell - Items of Local Interest” - The Members   |
|      | March     | “Fabian Ware and The Imperial War Graves Commission” - Charles Booth                                     |
|      | May       | “Stroud Workhouse” - Charles Townley   |
|      | June      | Visit to Chavenage House   |
|      | September | “Get Orf My Land” History of farming in Gloucestershire” - John Putley                                   |
|      | November  | A.G.M. and “The Ermin Street Guard” - The Roman Legions in Gloucestershire - John Burdon                 |

## **A Sixties Childhood Memory**

**Pat Carpenter (McMahon)**

During the early sixties, my sisters and I thought that Minchinhampton was the greatest place on this earth. Mainly because it was our annual holiday location and the home of both sets of grandparents. Alice and Tom Perrett and Phyllis and Albert McMahon (Mr Mc) lived two doors apart, in The Tynings. Our cousins, my sisters and I spent many happy school holidays, flitting from one house to the other, even visiting our Great Aunty Nance (Johncock) who lived in the semi opposite Granny Perrett, but not too often, as she was more than a little scary.

Other aunts, uncles and cousins, lived in and around the streets of Minchinhampton; Tetbury Street, Friday Street, The Glebe, Box Council houses, and even above Minchinhampton Men's Club.

I won't tell you about one of our Christmas stays, the one that lasted several weeks, we spent it at Granny Mc's as the roads were closed due to the very heavy snowfall on Boxing Day, this meant we couldn't get back all the way to Stonehouse. I'm not going to tell you about the long summer holidays we spent, with many of our cousins, being frightened by adders in Besbury, finding giant puffballs in the Tynings fields, walking "all the way" to Tom Longs Post, and collecting car numbers at Blue Boy's corner. We waited a long time between cars then, a little different to now, when you can wait a very long time for a gap in the traffic.



The time I want to tell you about is Roger's Whitsuntide Fun-Fair .

This took place on the Common, by the church. Grampy and Granny Mac, saved all their copper change from their meagre pensions, and from Granny's cleaning job, down at "The big house" in Besbury lane.

When the Fair arrived, all the grandchildren were given the same amount of pennies to spend at the fair, it seemed like a fortune at the time. All the aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents went to the fair together. We wore our new summer frocks and sandals, and were scrubbed mercilessly by Granny Mc until we shone. We would walk down from the Tynings in a great gang, getting more and more excited the closer we got to the action and the wonderful smells of candyfloss, hotdogs and fried onions. We rode the bumper cars, swung on the swing boats, played "hook a duck" and "roll a penny" we spent hours it seemed on "Crompton's Cake Walk" always waiting for that last pile to drop. We badgered our dad, and our uncle Tony Mc until they'd have ago at the Dart game for us, and always, always, between us, we won at least one Goldfish, begging mum for her mixing bowl to keep it in, we hardly ever had a proper goldfish bowl.

After the Fair, we all went back to Granny Mc's for a lovely Tea. Boiled ham sandwiches or fish paste, tongue or cheese sandwiches, and homemade cakes. We drank tea if it was chilly, which it often was, or squash if it was warm. An extra special treat was if we were given "Tizer", we were so spoiled.

Tea-time gave way to playtime, and soon it was time to walk down to the Market House to get the bus home. Dad and Uncle Tony Mc and probably several others had gone to the Crown "for a Pint", I don't even think they had any tea, we arrived at the centre of Minchinhampton, tired and happy, Dad came out of the Crown and said that we were too early for the bus, so we all had time for a drink and a packet of crisps. It happened every year, we always looked surprised.

There used to be a small corridor at the back of the Crown, it had a door at both ends, and leatherette seats down both sides, this was where we were allowed to sit. We were given a very warm bottle of R Whites lemonade or cream soda, and a packet of Smiths crisps with the blue bag.

My sister Judy made sure we had all visited the toilet, I think mum was in the bar having a shandy, and then we crossed the very empty road to the Bus Stop at the side of the Market House.



After what seemed like forever, as we were usually getting cold, the bus would arrive, Mum, a pram, my sisters and whoever was the latest baby, climbed on to the bus. There was rarely anyone else on it.

The time for the buses departure was showing on the church clock, and the instruction came from mum “Go and tell your father, the bus is going”. Judy and I would run across the road to the Crown, stick our heads around the door, Oh! that lovely beery smell, and shout, the pub was noisy, “Dad the bus is going” Dad would take a slurp of his beer and say, “Tell the driver I’ll be there when I’ve finished me pint”.

We would run back across the still empty street, mount the bus relaying Dad’s message as we got on.

The driver would wait a few more minutes, always after the time he was supposed to leave, then he would start up the bus.

As he pulled away from the Market House, Dad would come trotting out of the Crown, jump on the bus, pay the fare for all of us, and still manage to take his seat before we turned the corner into West End.

I still love a Fun fair, and I still think Minchinhampton is the best place in the world.

# A Letter from North Africa

**Diana Wall**

Last year, a letter dating from World War II was passed to the Local History Group which merited some research. The letter was written by Bill Gosling, the youngest of five children who grew up in Minchinhampton. The recipient was his sister, Marjorie, just two years older, and her husband Albert (Bert) Flooks; they had married in 1939 and were still living at Hampton Fields. It linked Bill to a momentous time in the campaigns in North Africa, when the tide began to turn against the Axis. Written in pencil, on flimsy paper, it reads:



**Marge & Bert**

*7933190 Spr. Gosling W  
C Squadron 51st R.T.R.  
British N.A. Forces*

*22/5/43*

*Dear Marge and Bert,*

*Here's just a few more lines to thank you for your paragraphs of a few days ago. I the whole day off today and spending it at the seaside, so thought I would send you a few more lines while I had the chance. It is lovely here at present, boiling hot, & the Meddi (sic) lovely and calm & we are alternately swimming & sunbathing.*

*We had quite an exciting do, a couple of days ago, as we took part in the Victory March through Tunis. I expect you have heard and read about it. Of course, our old tank, "Charger" had to be in it. In fact, it was the only one of our Squadron in the march past, but some more of ours were forming the guard of honour. We went to Tunis the day before and when we stopped we were treated well by the French people. They were soon bringing out bottles of wine, bread and fruit and started decorating the old tank up with flowers, but they want a lot of understanding if you don't know French. They gabble away and wave their hands about but it is all double-dutch to us. The girls and women still manage to keep themselves very smart, there's no doubt about it, they are much smarter than the English; although I can't say I prefer them for all that. Tunis is a very new place but at present there is nothing much in the shops & no canteens, & very little to drink, so of course, it has little attraction for us as it is.*



*We got a couple more of our lads back a day or two ago that makes all of them back now that were taken prisoner. Of course, we lost a few, but got off very lightly really. We lost the operator off our tank, we have been together on the same tank for over a year, but he was one of the poor unfortunate ones who got caught by mortar fire.*

*Anyhow, it is all over for us now, for the time being, and we are still wondering what is going to happen to us next, but can only hope for the best.*

*Well, I must close now, so here's wishing you all the best and hoping you are still O.K. Love to you both, your loving brother,*

*Bill.*



The 51st Royal Tank Regiment to which Bill Gosling was assigned had been reorganised following the retreat from Dunkirk, but only became fully equipped with Churchill tanks by the end of 1942. In January 1943 they shipped to North Africa and came under the British First Army. There is mention of Bill's Unit in War Diaries of the Tunisian Campaign; 51 RTR supported IX Corps at Fondouk Pass on 7th and 8th April. The 128th (Hampshire) Brigade of 46th Infantry Division crossed the Wadi Marguellil during the night and at 5.30 am on 8 April began its

main attack, supported by 'C' Squadron 51 RTR, and by noon had achieved its objective. The regiment ended the campaign in Army Reserve, which was when it took part in the Victory Parade, held on 20th May 1943. Another eyewitness account was from Andrew Browne Cunningham, the Allied Commander Naval Forces Mediterranean, who wrote:

*"It had been decided to hold a Victory March at Tunis in which units of the First Army, with representative detachments of the American and French forces which had taken part in the recent victory, should all appear.*





*This took place on May 20th, with the troops marching past, bands playing and General Eisenhower taking the salute. Most of the Allied Commanders were with him — Alexander, Tedder, General Juin, various other French Generals, and myself. Mr. Harold Macmillan and Mr. Murphy were also on the saluting platform.*

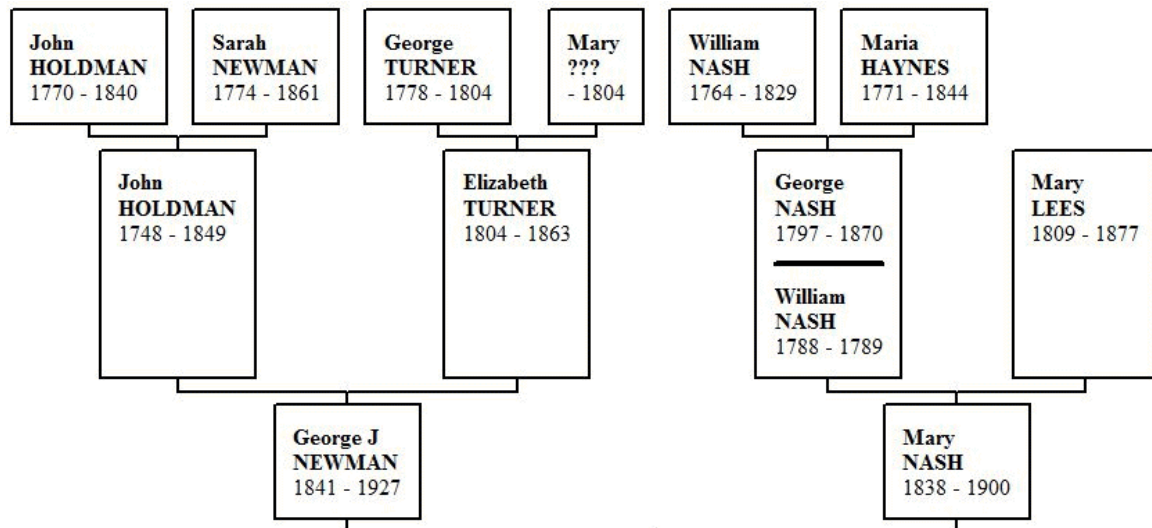
*It was an impressive display, and I was greatly struck by the fine appearance of the men of the British First Army. They were in wonderful fettle - magnificent young men, fit, smart and in great spirits: toughened by their hard fighting and trying winter in the cold and mud. I remarked to Mr. Macmillan who was standing beside me that the very sight of them made one proud to be British.”*

It is possible to view the news coverage of the march on the Pathe News website ([www.britishpathe.com/video/victory-march-in-tunis](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/victory-march-in-tunis)) – perhaps Bill is one of the thousands of British soldiers featured and Marge and Bert saw the film in one of the Stroud cinemas.

# Minchinhampton link to the first colonial boy: The life and times of John Newman Holdman

Neil Flanagan

Minchinhampton can claim, however tortuous, a genealogical link to the very first born Anglo Australian. It is generally accepted that the first born Anglo Australian colonial was William Nash<sup>1</sup>. He was the child of William Nash and Maria Haynes born on 25 May 1788, some 4 months after the First Fleet arrived in Sydney Harbour. Unfortunately, William only lived for eleven months and he died on 19 June 1789. The Minchinhampton link to this event is through John Newman Holdman, who eventually became known as John Newman and was transported to Australia in 1823. One of his sons, George James Newman, married a Mary Nash who was in turn was the daughter of George Nash, the brother of William Nash.



John was the son of John Holdman and Sarah Newman. A search of the Holy Trinity Church Minchinhampton parish registers shows a long association between this area and the Newman families<sup>2</sup>. The link between Minchinhampton and the Holdman family is more obscure and it is possible that he was a naval person<sup>3</sup> who blew in and out of this area within a short period of time.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nla.gov.au/infoserv/faq/index.php?lang=en&action=artikel&cat=10&id=19264&artlang=en>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nla.gov.au/infoserv/faq/index.php?lang=en&action=artikel&cat=10&id=19264&artlang=en>

<sup>3</sup> UK Naval Medal and Award Rolls 1793-1972 (Domingo). John Holdman ordinary seaman on board the ship *Superb*.

John's convict records state that he was born around 1799 in the, then, island state of St Domingo, which is now comprised of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. I fail to see how this birth could have occurred at this location, given that his (possible) father was a serving as an ordinary seaman in the war with France at this time and place. It is also unlikely that he was of sufficient rank or standing that his wife would have accompanied him on this venture. Nevertheless, five years later John was baptised at Holy Trinity Church Minchinhampton on 1 January 1804.



**Weavers cottages in Watledge overlooking Nailsworth**

It is unknown where the Newman / Holdman lived in Minchinhampton. It can be speculated that the family lived in Watledge. At that time many people lived and worked in the cloth industry as weavers. John's records often referred to Nailsworth Parish (despite this parish not existing at this time) and this may be a reference to the village that he looked across to every day from his home in Watledge.

It appears that John was a very naughty boy and hell bent of self-destruction, or possibly seeking a ticket out of the country<sup>1</sup>. At that time there was some leeway given to first and second time offenders, but repeat offenders were often given short thrift at the end of a rope or transportation to Australia. So it appears John was completely reckless having numerous charges levelled against him, one of which got him sentenced to a 7 year holiday in Australia. Charged leveled against John include the following<sup>2</sup>:

1. Assault and robbery. In January [Epiphany Session] 1819, aged 21 years old, he was in the Gloucestershire Gaol charged with assault. During this imprisonment he was also charged with stealing from his fellow prisoners by picking their pockets of their money.
2. Larceny. In April [Easter Session] 1819 John, aged 21 years, was tried and convicted in the town of Gloucester with larceny, having stolen a silver tablespoon from John Harvey.

<sup>1</sup> Australian newspapers at that time had a constant theme that many impoverished English people looked to transportation as a way to a better life.

<sup>2</sup> Baxter, Carol. 2004. Nash: First Fleeters and Founding Families. Self published. St Ives.

3. Horse stealing. On 10 August 1821, aged 23 years old, he was charged with stealing one black cart gelding from Falfield. He was found not guilty and released a week later.
4. Stealing. The offence that led to John's transportation also occurred early in August 1821. He stole two ends of cloth from the cloth room of Thomas Ellary in Randwick (Stroud) on 2 or 3 August 1821.



**Likely scene of the crime at Stroud**

For his efforts, John was given seven years in Australia. Having survived the prison hulk system at Woolwich, where almost 1 in 2 persons died, John arrived in Sydney Australia on board the ship *Princess Royal* on 13 March 1823.

Life in Australia was not a bed of roses and like a number of others he eventually died an alcoholic at the relatively young age of 51. In the meantime he married, had eight children, further reoffended and held a number of different jobs in-between. He died a pauper on 4th July 1849.



**Likely residence of Sarah Newman at the time of the 1841 census**

In the 1841 English Census, his mother Sarah Newman is shown as living in West End, Minchinhampton. Detective work done by Di Wall has pinned this residence down to an "Alms House" that is now likely priced well beyond the reach of any current day poor people.

### **Author**

Neil Flanagan is an amateur family researcher and a descendant of John Newman Holdman through his mother. He resides in Brisbane, Australia and recently visited Minchinhampton as part of an overseas holiday retracing his family's footsteps. Neil would like to publicly acknowledge the assistance given to him by Di Wall in spending time and sharing her knowledge on Minchinhampton, a lovely part of the world.

### **Postscript**

Neil would be interested to hear from any persons who are related to the Newman or Holdman families. He can be contacted at [neileann03@optusnet.com.au](mailto:neileann03@optusnet.com.au)



# Slave Ownership – the Minchinhampton Connection

**Diana Wall**

Stuart Butler has compiled an excellent list of slave owners in Gloucestershire who were compensated for their “losses” following the Act to Abolish Slavery in 1834. He lists William Chacon Lindsay and his wife Mary Wilhelmina (née Jarvis) of Minchinhampton as being compensated £4,194 12s 7d for 276 slaves in Antigua.

Who were the Lindsays? Why were they due compensation? A little research using family history sites gives us some answers. William and Wilhelmina were married in Cheltenham in 1835 and by 1841 were living with their two daughters at “Springfield” at Forwood; Ella had been baptised in Holy Trinity in 1839. William was a retired captain in the Royal Artillery who had been born in Antigua in 1793 but the claim for compensation was through the Jarvis family. Of course, at this period in history, the wife’s assets were transferred to her husband on marriage.



**Springfield in 2000**

The papers for Claim Antigua 30 (Thibou's Estate) are dated 24<sup>th</sup> October 1836. The Jarvis family had owned several plantations for the production of sugar cane in Antigua and had acquired Thibou's Estate through the marriage of Thomas Jarvis and Rachel Thibou on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1749 in Antigua. They were Wilhelmina's paternal grandparents, who produced a large family (probably fifteen children), the oldest of which, another Thomas, born in 1750 was the father of Wilhelmina, Grace and a son Robert who died in infancy.

The claim was based on the marriage settlements made at the time of the younger Thomas' marriage to Mary Blackwell in Winchester in 1801. This was, however, his second marriage and the claims of his siblings, especially as specified in the will of Thomas the elder, were upheld and those of Wilhelmina (through William) and Grace, then living in Cheltenham, were denied. No money was paid to them and most of the compensation of £4,194 12s 7d for the 276 slaves in Antigua was paid to their aunt Christina; also unsuccessful was a claim by their uncle, Bertie, who had been running the estate for many years.

William and Wilhelmina moved to Bathwick before 1851, then later to Winchester where they died aged 84 and 82 respectively. Their daughters did not marry and continued to live together in the family home until their deaths; both were wealthy women by the standards of the day. As a postscript, Grace Jarvis moved to Minchinhampton as a lodger in Butt Street (probably what we now know as Stuart House) before 1861 and was buried here in Holy Trinity in 1869.

### **Sources**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Ancestry                            | <a href="http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree">http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree</a>                         |
| Find My Past                        | <a href="http://www.findmypast.co.uk/">http://www.findmypast.co.uk/</a>                                 |
| Legacies of British Slave Ownership | <a href="https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/">https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/</a>                                     |
| Slave Owners in Gloucestershire     | <a href="http://radicalstroud.blogspot.co.uk/2015/08/">http://radicalstroud.blogspot.co.uk/2015/08/</a> |

# Minchinhampton's Unusual Malt House

**Hugh Kearsey**

The Malt House was built in about 1750 and is a most unusual design. Not unique, because there is one other of similar design in England. The Malt House, now known as Windmill Place, is situated at the very top of Windmill Road. It was built in a quarry, so the building would have used stone from that quarry and the one on the opposite side of the road. The construction was what is known as rubble - like dry stone walling with lime mortar. It has to be faced in rendering to make it waterproof. It is thick and very heat efficient.



Upper Cellar

The ground floor was a cart shed and office. A three storey cottage was also part of the main building and a stable was attached. A slope led from ground level to the north west end of the upper cellar where the barley was spread out ready to sprout. At the far end was a hole so the barley could be transferred to the lower cellar. The cellars were lit by shafts on the



Bottom Cellar window





**Bottom Cellar steps**

north east side with leaded light non opening windows protected by a wrought iron grid. On the south west side was an opening window on each level. There is evidence that there was a fireplace on the north west end wall which could have been used for drying the grain. However when converted to totally living accommodation after the malting operation ceased, that end was heavily modified

and the slope to the upper cellar was filled in and toilets built on a colonnade above. Access to the cellars was then by stone steps from the ground level.

The main cellar conversion could be dated to about 1870 as the new stone steps could have been made from upturned window cills reputed to be from the old windmill when it was taken down and it used bricks produced at the brickworks that was once next to Eagle Mill in Thrupp.



**Bottom Cellar**

The drying process might have been carried out in the bottom cellar or in a separate hexagonal building beside the house.

The other Malt House is at Alton, Staffordshire [*Google: Malt House listed Alton*] and is now a Bed and Breakfast establishment, Grade II listed. The main difference between them is that our Malt House was built of stone and the Alton one was built of brick although the cellar had a stone barrel vaulted ceiling.

**WINDMILL PLACE, MINCHINHAMPTON COMMON.**  
**T**O be LET, at once,—A most pleasant, healthy, and roomy and convenient RESIDENCE, with large underground Rooms (suitable for many purposes), Stable, Coach-house Gardens, Out Offices, and about 23 Acres of good Land, with excellent Barns, Sheds, and Yard adjoining. The whole adjoins the well-known Common, over which there are Valuable Rights, is well supplied with Water, and suitable for a Gentleman requiring some Land, or for Business, and to Let Lodgings. — Apply to Mr. Kearsey, Solicitor, Stroud. 6619

Advert 1874

## WHOSE ROAD DO YOU LIVE ON?

This is the proposed title for our group's exhibition on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016. As you know many of the roads in our town are named after people or events that were important to Minchinhampton. We plan to tell as many of the stories behind the as we can. If anyone has already done some research into their own road name we would very much appreciate your help.

Please contact Jenny Morgan, Pat Carpenter or indeed any member of the group committee. Thank you.

Gloucestershire Chronicle Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 1915 Does anybody know where this is?

**M**INCHINHAMPTON COMMON.— Detached Stone-built RESIDENCE, pleasantly situated nearly 700 feet above sea level. Sheltered from North and East, open South and West. Grand scenery. Accommodation: 3 Sitting and 7 Bedrooms, Bath-room (h. and c.) and usual Offices.—Apply Davis and Champion, Kendrick Street, Stroud.

It could be Windmill House ! Davis & Champion were agents for it then.