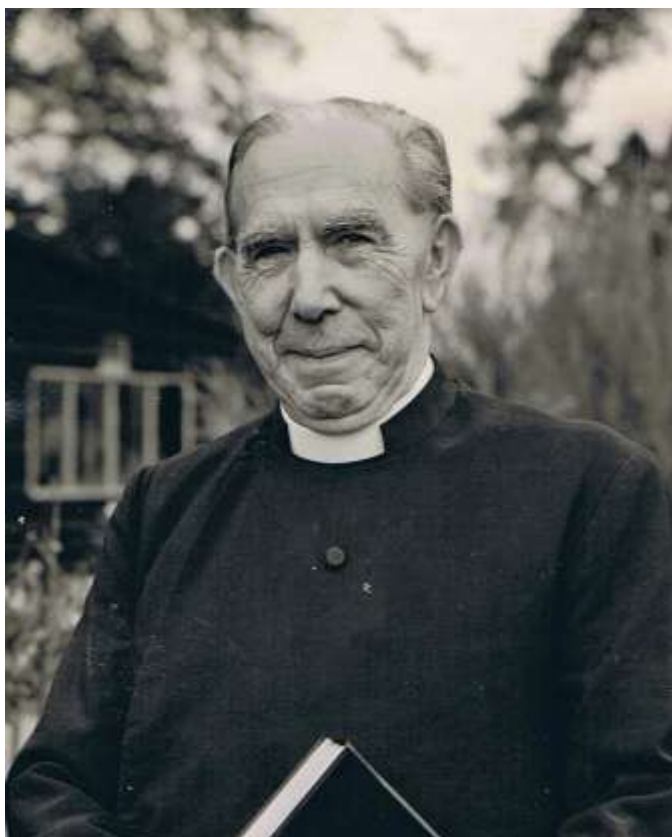


Notes for a  
**HISTORY of LODSWORTH**

Wilfrid Lamb M.A.



Lodsworth Heritage Society

## **NOTES**

**for a**

## **HISTORY of LODSWORTH**

**by**

**Wilfrid Lamb MA**

**(Vicar of Lodsworth)**

**1955 - 1961**

Revd Wilfrid Leslie Lamb (1892 – 1963) gained an MA at Christ Church, Oxford. Following his marriage to Olive, known as Robin, at Minster in Thanet in 1917, he was immediately posted to Mesopotamia. At the end of the war he was appointed to teach chemistry at Oundle School. He moved to St Laurence Ramsgate until 1926, when he was appointed as founder headmaster of Bexhill Boys Grammar School. He was a talented engineer and hand made a steam engine, as well as being a keen chess player and a lover of churches and choral music. In the early 1950s he went to Wells Theological College and in due course became vicar of Lodsworth in 1955.

The Lodsworth Heritage Society is very grateful to the Lamb family, and especially Jeremy Lamb MA, grandson of Wilfrid Lamb, for giving approval for the Notes to be reprinted, and for providing the photographs on the cover, the following page and of Peggy Martindale (Page 27).

Lodsworth, West Sussex, January 2012



Revd Wilfrid Lamb at his induction into St. Peter's Lodsworth in May 1955  
The service was led by the much acclaimed Bishop George Bell, shown on the left.

## Preface

These notes are a gathering together of material which came to my notice in the course of my incumbency of Lodsworth. The main sources were as follows:- Church registers, Hollist documents, various histories of Sussex, such as the Victoria County History, Dallaway and Horsfield; A.E.Marshall Esq., whose family have Lodsworth roots, M.W.Harrison Esq., who also has connexions with Lodsworth in the past; and stories from elderly Lodsworth folk, especially Mrs Marion Osborn.

I am conscious that much of this material needs checking or amending before a final story of Lodsworth is written. Lodsworth has suffered from the lack of historians. The only attempt at writing a history that I have discovered is that by Hasler Hollist in the early 19th century; and then, after a brave start (written in beautiful copper-plate script) he only gets as far as an account of the Chichester Assize in 1279. His story stops abruptly, and the rest of the penny exercise book in which it is written is blank. It is said that one recent Vicar told an inquiring parishioner that Lodsworth had no history!

It seems that life jogged on in a placid way through the centuries, and although many interesting things occurred, no one recorded them. Even the early Vestry Minutes are most uninformative, and appear to concern themselves mainly with Poor Relief, Roads and other civil functions of the churchwardens. We should like to know more about their other activities in connexion with the church and other matters. Many major alterations were made to the church fabric during the first three decades of the 19th century, but little is recorded.

I am writing the story away from Lodsworth, which means depending a great deal on the scanty notes which I have taken from time to time; and not having access here to the church records I have to depend largely on memory; but the story as far as I can relate it from my limited knowledge, is really designed to encourage others to fill in the gaps and write a more comprehensive history of a most interesting parish and village. We have glimpses of the Manor and its inhabitants during the feudal times when Lodsworth was a Liberty (a rare honour for a parish), and during the stirring times of the Civil War. We can uncover a clearer picture of a more recent Age, but now passed away, when the country parish was still almost feudal in its organisation and human relationships: when the squire and parson in practice ruled the roost; when men and women made their own amusements and rarely left their parish. The 19th century was not such a "Golden Age" as some would declare, and there was much social evil, and periods of great depression, especially in

agriculture, but our picture of Lodsworth seems to show a simple contented way of life. Children danced around the Maypole, ploughmen sang at their work, the Church Festivals were the occasion for much cheerful gaiety.

It is well to gather together as soon as possible any material for the story of Lodsworth, for the character of the village is rapidly changing. The beautiful natural setting remains, the ancient houses are still here, and the village being distant from any noisy road, is still as peaceful; but the village school is gone, the motor car and motor-cycle disperse the villagers and television has invaded homes where once the family devised their own amusements. The Church, which formerly was such an important centre of regular attendance and social activities, is now supported by the faithful few; and the parson, who at one time with his churchwardens, was quite an important person in the village affairs, is now welcomed, it is true, but he is, in fact, confined strictly to his church affairs.

And then - Lodsworth has been "discovered"! Those searching for an oasis in this terrifying Modern Age of overcrowding and hustle, have found it here. So the old cottages, which once housed small farmers, craftsmen and farm workers - the descendants of freemen, villeins and cotters - have new owners from afar. These cottages have been modernised, and indeed, made into handsome dwellings, but all these things alter the character of a village.

I have arranged these notes interleaved so that corrections or additional information can be inserted; and in the margin I have indicated the sources: of information.

These sources are indicated by the following abbreviations:-

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| AEM | A.E.Marshall Esq, 23 Hylda Road, Birmingham 20         |
| CR  | Church Registers                                       |
| D   | Dallaway's Sussex                                      |
| H   | Horsfield's Sussex                                     |
| HH  | Hasler Hollist   |
| HS  | Hollist Scrapbook                                      |
| KCC | King's College, Cambridge                              |
| MO  | Mrs Marion Osborn, 60 Heath Road, Petersfield          |
| MWH | M. W. Harrison Esq, Quarry Dean Farm, Merstham, Surrey |
| VCH | Victoria County History                                |
| SRS | Sussex Record Society                                  |

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## **Part I - The Village and Parish**

Just before the Halfway Bridge Inn on the road to Petworth from Midhurst there is a turning to the left which leads to Lodsworth. The lane gradually rises up hill through pleasant fields for about half a mile, and then quite dramatically enters a large space surrounded by graceful 18th century houses. We have entered the village. From this area a lane on the right leads down to the church, and the main road continues to meander through a village rich in ancient cottages and larger dwellings, past a small green before the Inn, and so on through the village which terminates with the abruptness of its beginning, giving place to lovely woodland country.

Lodsworth is one of the most attractive villages of West Sussex. The setting is superb. It lies on a sandstone hill, which overlooks lush meadows and woods. In the distance towards the south are the majestic Downs, and the northern part of the parish terminates on the impressive Blackdown Hills, which rise to 900 feet. It is no wonder that this beautiful spot attracts those who are looking for a place of retirement; and at the present time there are many old houses in the village which have been restored by those who have come to make Lodsworth their home. Yet, many of the ancient families, whose records in the church registers go back to the 18th century, are still here, giving the place that almost unique atmosphere of peace and security from the assaults of the bustling modern world outside.

But, although this parish is so tucked away from the noise and hustle of these times, it has a long and interesting history.

### **The Domesday Book**

The name is Saxon, and signifies the farm or enclosure of Leod or Lodds. This man's name occurs in the Subsidy Rolls of 1327, where "Leod's Bridge" over the present Rother is mentioned as being the home of Richard de Brugge. The actual name, Lodsworth, does not occur in the Domesday Book (1085), except by implication as being one of the Manors of the district called Gretcham. This large area held the Manor of Tillington on the East, and the manor of Selham on the South and West. The actual words of the Domesday Book run as follows:

HH "Easebourne Hundred. Robert holds Gretcham of the Earl (Shrewsbury). Two Thanes held it of King Edward (the Confessor) by allodial tenure for three manors. It was then and is now, rated at 4 hides and 1 vingath. The arable land consists of 7 caracates. In demesne are 2 caracates and 4 villeins and 9 bordars with 3 caracates. Here are 5 serfs, a mill, a stone quarry of 10 shillings, 20 acres of meadow, and a

wood of 30 hogs. Turstin holds half a hide and 1 virgate of this manor where he has 2 caracates with 3 villeins and 3 bordars . . . In the time of King Edward it was worth £6 and afterwards £4. It is now worth £5.5.0”

## **The Manorial System**

The above extract from the Domesday Book, which is Hasler Hollist’s translation of the Latin, is difficult to understand without some knowledge of the manorial system of the time. Under this form of national organisation, England was a land of vills or villages which were largely self-supporting and dependent upon the produce of the surrounding land, partly open fields, and the rest waste-land and woods. The fields were worked in strips about a furlong long and four poles wide, giving an enclosed area of approximately an acre, the amount one team of oxen could usually plough before noon. The word “caracate” which occurs in the Domesday Book and elsewhere (as we shall see) probably stands for an acre, since the word is derived from the Latin for a “plough team”. A “Virgate” was about 30 acres, a “hide” being 60-100 acres. A vill held from 20 or more households, each dwelling having perhaps an acre or more called a toft around it. More about the customs in connexion with the land will be disclosed later.

Politically, the nation was organised like a pyramid with the King at the apex, and the cotters and (at first) the slaves at the broad base. The land was officially divided into manors. A fully developed manor was controlled by the lord, who held a considerable part of the land “in demesne” ie his own private portion. Compare the present large estates such as Cowdray and Petworth. This demesne was cultivated by the villagers each working so many days a week, and in return the lord of the manor allowed them to have land of their own, which they cultivated with the help of their neighbours. In a village there were six classes of men: freemen, soomen, villeins, bordars, cotters and slaves. Freemen could leave or seel their land, and it passed to the heir without licence from the lord, but the villein held his land “of his lord”, and therefore in a sense the land still belonged to the lord, and the villein could neither sell nor give it away. A villein’s heir had to have his lord’s consent before taking over the property, and pay a fine for securing it. The bordars and cotters were a more humble class than the villain. The bordar sometimes worked a strip in the open field like a villain, but the cotter had only his cottage with an acre or two of land, which he cultivated for his family needs, mainly bread and beer. He also eked out a living by working for his lord and the richer villeins. He is the forerunner of the farm labourer. The villein was a small tenant farmer, usually working a virgate (30 acres) distributed in strips across the open field. He paid his lord in labour rather than in money, but he had not the freedom of the freeman. He could be taxed at his lord’s will; yet he had many



privileges to the cottagers. For example, he could secure justice in the courts. The Reeve, an officer representing the villagers, was chosen from the villein class.

There was a Manor Court, and these manor courts made the manor a closed unit. Justice and fair play among its members were thus secured within its own boundaries, and custom regulated the tyranny of the lord. The Manor Courts were hedged around by an intricate legal code. A good example of this will be shown in connexion with the Liberty rights of Lodsworth.

To return to the extract from the Domesday Book. It appears that two Saxon noblemen called Thanes (A S thegn) held Gretcham “in capite” ie directly from Edward the Confessor. Their tenure was “allodial”, which is nearly equivalent to our freehold. William the Conqueror gave this manor to Roger de Montgomerie, Earl of Shrewsbury, under whom, at the time of the survey it was held by Robert, son of Titbald. The stone quarry is one of the three mentioned in the whole Domesday Book.

### **King Henry I Charter**

- HH The earliest record, however, which expressly mentions Lodsworth by name in a charter of Henry 1 dated 1119, wherein he confirmed a grant and exchange of land made by Richard de Balmas surnamed Rufus. This prelate was a great friend of Roger de Montgomerie, and through the latter’s influence, became the Bishop of London. Richard acquired the estates of Lodsworth for himself and the future Bishops of London by an exchange. In the Charter of Confirmation Henry I styles the land of Lodsworth as our land, thereby indicating that the bishops held their manor at Lodsworth directly from the King. This date marks the commencement of the LIBERTY of Lodsworth, for the manor immediately partook of the privileges possessed by the favoured See of London. These privileges were confirmed and ratified by King John.
- HH The Bishops of London held the manor of Lodsworth until the 26th of July 1536, when Edmund Bonner, then Bishop, granted it to Henry VIII in exchange for lands in Worcestershire. The king intended to give the manor to Sir Anthony Browne, but was prevented from doing so by his death. Edward VI, however, fulfilled his father’s intention in the first year of his reign in 1547, and conveyed the estates from one Roger Denys to Anthony Browne. By this conveyance the manor became annexed to Cowdray, and has remained so to this day.

## **The Liberty of Lodsworth**

Lodsworth, then, was a liberty prior to 1536, and enjoyed special privileges, which must have been galling to their neighbours, for certain parties brought an action to test the rights of the Bishop of London in the court at Chichester. The matter of these privileges was adjudicated at an Assize held in the 7th year of King Edward I (1279). From the record of the proceedings in this court we learn for the first time what those privileges actually were. Here is an extract:

“The pleas of Jurors and Assizes held before John de Reygate and his fellows, Justices in Eyre (in circuit) at Chichester in the County of Sussex on the morrow of St John the Baptist in the seventh year of the reign of King Edward, the son of King Henry. (25th June 1279)

## **The Liberty of the Bishop of London**

“The same Bishop by Geoffrey le Porter, his attorney, claims for himself and his Church of St Paul, London, by the charters of the different kings, the following Liberties, namely the view of panepledge in all his lands and tenements wheresoever, so that the view of panepledge be held before the officer of our Sovereign Lord the King, if he chooses to attend . . . And if any amerçiements or forfeitures shall accrue thence the Bishop shall have it by the Charter of King John.

Moreover, he claims Soc and Sac, Tol and Team, infangthef, and outfangthef, and exemption through all his lands of amerçiement of the County and Hundred, and of all suits in the County Court and Hundred Court for murder and robbery of aids to the sheriff and the foresters and their bailiffs and of all other things to them appertaining and of the guard and repair of castles of ward-penny, and over-penny and of thir-penny and hangwyte, stemnswyte, seywyte, blood-wyte, fifthwyte, griethugg, flemensfrith, forstal, hamsokeyne and hey-fare. He claims also to have exemption from waste and regards of the forest, and from lawing his dogs, and from other pleas and complaints and assarts of the forest which belong to the King. And that they may take in their own woods whatsoever shall be necessary for their own use without the view and hindrance of the foresters. And that they and their tenants be free from toll, frontage and passage, roage, lastage stallage, carriage and passage through the whole of the Kingdom by the Charter of King John. Moreover they claim the chattels of fugitives, condemned persons of their tenants and the year's rent and the waste of the lands of the same, and the amerçiements of their own tenants. He also claims to have judgement of gallows tumbnells and pillory and fine for breaking the assize of head and bier. He also claims to have the animals which are called waifs, and that pleas may be held in his courts of all pleas which can be commonly pleaded in Courts of Lords and Barons. They also claim

to have Fairs and Markets and warrins and parks and to be quit of Danegeld and all other gelds and that foreign bailiffs shall not enter their Liberty to execute any writ unless through the default of the bailiffs of the said Bishops and the Canons of St Paul. And that he shall have the standards of bushels, ells and all measures in his said lands. And that they and all their predecessors have fully executed all the aforesaid Charters and that they have neither intruded nor usurped upon our Lord the King or his ancestors..... the Knights therefore elected say upon their oath the aforesaid Bishop and his Predecessors have fully enjoyed all the aforesaid Liberties whenever they have happened and nevertheless they say that there are many Liberties there which have never occurred. They say moreover that they have neither usurped nor intruded upon our Lord the King or his Ancestors . . . It is therefore adjudged that they go without a day with all their Liberties saving the right and action of our Lord the King whenever he may wish to implead them.”

#### GLOSSARY OF ANGLO-SAXON TERMS

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Amerciament     | A fine   |
| Soc             | Liberty to administer justice  |
| Sac             | Privilege claimed by a lord of the manor of imposing fines for trespass.   |
| Toll & Team     | Liberty to take toll and hold a court into which outsiders (i.e. not under the lord's jurisdiction) may be vouched as warrantors   |
| Infangthef      | The privilege of a lord of the manor to judge any thief <u>within</u> his lordship.  |
| Outfangthef     | The privilege enabling a lord of the manor to call any man dwelling in his manor and taken for a felony in a place <u>outside</u> his lordship to judgment in his own court. |
| Ward-penny      | Money paid to keep watch and ward.   |
| Hangwyte        | Thief hanged without legal trial.  |
| Seywyte         | Equivalent for a fine for settlement out of court  |
| Bloodwyte       | Liberty to take all fines for bloodshed.   |
| Fifthwyte       | Fine for disturbing the peace.   |
| Griethugg       | Breach of the peace  |
| Flemensfrith    | Receiving a fugitive or outlaw.  |
| Forestal        | The right to distrain on goods and chattels  |
| Hamsokeyne      | Burglary   |
| Lawing his dogs | Cutting off to the skin three claws of the fore-feet of dogs to prevent their killing deer.  |
| Assarts         | Clearing forest by grubbing up trees. Therefore becoming extra waste land cultivated by peasants for a rent to the lord.   |
| Stallage        | Right to erect stalls in fairs or markets, or money paid for same.   |
| Tallage         | Arbitrary tax on cotters - very unpopular.   |

This judgement was confirmed by a Charter of 3 Henry VI (1425) when Lodsworth is styled a Liberty, and the privileges of the Liberty were granted to the Bishop of London, Lord of the Manor of Lodsworth and to his tenants and inhabitants thereof.

The document given above is a transcription by Hasler Hollist, and is couched in typical legal jargon; but when this is clarified it appears that Lodsworth had the following important privileges:-

1. No tolls to be paid to the King at any market or fair throughout England and Wales.
2. No parishioner was subject to the Sheriff's jurisdiction.
3. A three weeks court to be holden before any two free suitors with power to impanel a jury, and to imprison for debt in the gaol belonging to the Liberty.
4. Exemption from all suit and service at any Hundred or County Court, and from attendance as jurors at any quarter sessions or Assizes.
5. Neither the Sheriff of the County of Sussex, nor the Chamberlain of the King's Household, nor the Earl of Arundel, Marshall of England, have power within the Liberty to do anything which to their officer belongs unless by default of the officers of the said Liberty.
6. A Court Leet to be held once a year by the Bishop with power to enquire into all delinquencies, offences, nuisances, mishaps, encroachments, etc.
7. At this court the tenants and inhabitants of Lodsworth have power and authority to elect and chose annually for their Liberty a coroner, and escheater, a bailiff and a reeve.

HH In those days Lodsworth was indeed a favoured parish, and it is no wonder that its neighbours were jealous. For example, they were probably enraged by such actions as that of the Bishop of London when he sued in 1223 Savario de Bohum of Midhurst for taking a market toll from a Lodsworth man. This sort of thing led to the Chichester Assize of 1279.

VCH The only remaining relict of those times is the Manor Farm House which no doubt was the site of the Court Leet of the manor, as parts of this interesting house date back to the 13th century. The north wall is 13th century, and the south wall is c. 1290. A stone basement room is reputed to be the Liberty dungeon. Galley Hill at the south end of the parish is the site of the Liberty gallows.

I am assuming that most of the privileges appertaining to the Liberty lapsed after 1536, when the manor and estates passed to the Crown, but his point needs

verifying. It is noteworthy that up to the end of the 19th century six constables were elected annually by the Vestry.

## **The Parish**

The extent of the parish in the early days is uncertain, but it is probable that the area was much as it is now, that is, about 7 miles from north to south, and much less from east to west. It is shaped like a long strip with a bulge at the south end, the village being situated approximately halfway down the strip. The present area is clearly seen on the beautifully drawn Tithe Map dated 1841. It is a work of art on vellum, and at present is housed at the vicarage. I have seen it stated that the area of the parish is 2265 acres 1 rood 32 poles, but I do not know the authority.

It was an old custom to beat the bounds of a parish from time to time and there is an account of a ‘Perambulation’ of Lodsworth parish written in his beautiful writing by Hasler Hollist in 1834. The text of this Manuscript is given in the Appendix and will be of interest, no doubt, to present Lodsworthians as the fields and sites where the “Treading” party walked are all fully named.

It is remarkable how narrow the parish is around the actual village. In fact, part of the village is in the parish of Selham. For example, School Common, formerly called Trussler’s Heath, Redlands farm, and Heathend Farm, are all within the Selham boundary, and yet would be thought of as being a part of the village. To the south the outlying parts of Lodsworth parish extend to the boundary of the Graffham parish 3 miles from the village. This part includes such ancient sites as Moorland, Fitzlea and Barnett’s Mill, names which occur in the earliest documents. In fact, many of the ancient place names still survive, notably Hoewyck Farm, originally Howic, the home of William de Howic in 1327. The name is derived from “Hoh” a hill, and “wic” a dairy farm. It is interesting to note that the present Hoewyck farm (1962) is famous for its pedigree herds.

Also at the northern end of the parish are Gentil’s farm & Gentilhurst, both present names of dwellings, and known as such in the 14th century. It is recorded in the Subsidiary Rolls that Nicholas Gentil lived at Gentil’s farm in 1327.

Near the village the river Lod is the eastern boundary of the parish. This pleasant stream, formerly known as the Lud, flows from the Lurgashall ponds into the larger river Rother near Selham Bridge. According to the ‘Place names of Sussex’ the village gave its name to the river. Although Lodsworth is distinguished by its general natural beauty, which today is quite unspoilt, perhaps the loveliest sight are the sunlit glades in the woods through which this gurgling stream runs. It is fairly

fast water from which the patient fisherman is occasionally rewarded with a well nourished trout.

Perhaps owing to the extent of woodland, and the large number of farms in the parish, it has always been sparsely populated. Dallaway gives the population in 1724 as 108 families. In 1801 there were 210 males, 223 females and 92 houses. In 1811 the number falls to 183 males and 205 females, living in 72 houses. In 1901 the population is given as 575 and today (1962) the Parliamentary electoral roll shows 382 names of persons qualified to vote.

In many ways Lodsworth parish is fortunate in being surrounded by the great parks of Cowdray and Petworth, both landlords owning much of the Lodsworth land. They are loath to sell for building purposes and so the speculative builder is barred from despoiling this unique piece of rural England. During the last few years there have been a considerable number of “foreigners” who have come to retire in the parish, but these gentlemen have been restricted to buying existing property or condemned cottages, which they have re-built or enlarged at great expense. Such is the attraction of Lodsworth as a most desirable place for a home, that there are few districts which command such a high price for property.

### **The Village**

There are few villages today which contain such a wealth of ancient dwellings. Most of the cottages up the ‘Street’ have the original 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century work still intact, although in course of time repairs have in some cases altered the appearance of the fronts and roofs. As the visitor enters from the South he is faced by beautiful houses. On his left arm the ‘Old House’ and the ‘Great House’, and on his right is ‘Woodmancote’ and a row of half timbered cottages. The Old House is an imposing three storied Georgian mansion, and The Great House is a large rambling house which was formerly the home of the Dennett family for many generations. This house, once known as Langham Farm, was the complete home, possessing its own bakery and brewery. It is perhaps the most charming residence in Lodsworth. The Great House and Woodmancote on the other side of the road figure largely in the story of the Dennett family which will be given later.

The village street begins from here. On the left is the stone wall of the grounds of Lodsworth House, and on the right are cottages with their flower bedecked front gardens. The ‘Street’ opens out upon the green, where the road forks, the left hand turning winds eventually through the woods to Midhurst, and the right fork carries on through the village to Lodsworth Common.

Many of the houses of Lodsworth would repay detailed study. The Victoria County History (Sussex Vol. IV) gives a few notes on some of them. For example, the manor Farm house formerly the Manor Court, has an early 13th century north wall, and the stone framing of the Early English window of the hall is still in evidence. In the Street, 'Well House' formerly called 'Old Well House' is 17th century. There is a reference to the 'Dower House' 1728 with its fine staircase and panelling, barrel vaulted cellar, and in the outbuildings a double cider press (Lodsworth was famous for its cider). Is this Dower House the present Old House?

At the north end of the parish is the hamlet of Lickfold, and here are three houses named in the VCH. Lickfold Cottage, formerly known as "Franks" is 17th century, and has an alleged 'Priest's hole'. In the 18th century this house had its front faced with stone, giving it at the present time a rather odd appearance. Shotter's Farm has 16th century oak framing, and Hambleton Cottage is also 16th century. These houses are specifically mentioned in the VCH but most of the dwellings in the parish are equally ancient. Lodsworth House, the largest mansion near the village is comparatively modern, being built in 1838. The present Vicarage was built in 1939 on a new site by the church. The old Vicarage, which was too large for any present day incumbent, is probably a Georgian building, enlarged by Leopold Clarke, a rich man, who was Vicar from 1846 to 1876.

There are four Inns in the parish. The 'Three Horseshoes' at Lickfold, the 'Hollist Arms' in the village, the 'Halfway Bridge Inn' on the Petworth road, and the 'Three Moles', at the southern end of the parish. The Three Horseshoes is a 16th century house. The Hollist Arms is also an old house, and was formerly the Poyntz Arms' before 1840. A Charter, dated 1832, which lists 16 inns under the control of Gatehouse, Brewers, includes the 'Poyntz Arms' at Lodsworth. It seems that this property was originally called Ments or Mants, and was mentioned in a Charter of 1425 as being part of the property of the lord of the manor (Bishop of London). Early in the 19th century a Mr Poyntz owned the land around the inn, and sold it to Hasler Hollist in 1838. This Hasler Hollist, who figures so largely in more recent Lodsworth history, inherited a large Lodsworth estate from his aunt, a Miss Hollist of the Old House (Dower House?). A lease to Messrs Gatehouse in 1852 for seven years contains the first mention of the "Hollist Arms" and the display of the Arms as the Inn sign. This was painted by a Mr Ralph Ellis of Arundel. The Arms bears the motto "Gardez le Capron". Hasler Hollist changed his surname from Capron to Hollist when he inherited the Lodsworth property. The Caprons held lands in Lodsworth in the 13th century. The chestnut tree in front of the Inn was planted in 1901 in commemoration of the Coronation of Edward VII.

The Hollist Arms was remarkable in having four generations of the same family as licensees. James Gill held the licence in 1820. He died in 1829, when his wife, Elisabeth carried on until 1842, and then Richard Gill, son of James and Elisabeth, took over. Later on, James, son of Richard Gill, became landlord. Later still, Frederick, his son followed as licensee. The last two landlords were also blacksmiths and farriers, having their forge next to the Inn.

## **Lodsworth Shops**

At the present time there are only two shops in the village, the Lodsworth Stores and the Post Office, but in the 19th century there were at least eight shops. Since that time they have been converted into private dwellings. In the old 16th century house called Weavers there is still remaining the marble slab of Heading's butcher shop. John Horne kept a general store (?), and at Well House a Mrs Child ran a grocery store. Henry Hurst had a sweet and grocery shop at the ancient half-timbered house now known as Erikers. The present Stores was a grocery and bakers shop kept by a Mrs Farthing, who built the little Congregational Chapel (now demolished) on Trussler's Heath. The small graveyard still remains.

Church Cottage by the Lych Gate was the Post Office combined with a tailor's business run by Edmund Terry. The present Post Office and shop used to be a shoemakers, kept by Edward Smithers. A Mr Pesod has a small butcher's shop opposite to the Hollist Arms.

## **The School**

The story of the village school, built in 1845, would be interesting, but I have insufficient material here to write a full account. The site chosen for the school was a delightful one. Built on top of a steeply rising hill at the North end of the village, the school faced a wonderful view across the meadows and woods to Petworth Park, and in the distance Chanctonbury Ring on the South Downs. Behind the school was woodland which stretched towards Cowdray Park.

It was a "Voluntary" Church of England School originally promoted by the National Society, and known as Lodsworth National School. It served Selham as well as Lodsworth, and was partly supported by a local rate, and partly by a Government grant.

Towards the end of the century the H M Inspectors, appointed under the Education Act of 1870 reported that the school building should be enlarged to accommodate the increased number of children. This official report carried with it the threat of



outside control by a School Board from the County Education Department; and in 1899 a meeting of the managers and other parishioners was convened to discuss this matter. A report of this meeting is available, and shows how disturbed the Lodsworthians (and Selhamians) were by this threat.

One parishioner stated: "I don't want to pay £10 instead of two, and I shall vote against the School Board". The meeting was called by the Vicar (C S Chilver) to consider a report of the County Education Committee, among those present were: Lt.Col. E O Hollist, Messrs Dennett, F S Philipson-Stow (of Blackdown House), Wyndham Boxall, W Bridger, R Budd, R S Clarke, E A Dobson, A T Pooley (School master) and J Randall. It was pointed out that the enlargement of the premises would involve a voluntary contribution of 3s in the £ upon property in Lodsworth and Selham. It seems that most property owners were agreeable to this, but there was one dissentient (not named) who prevented a unanimity of opinion. This dissentient urged that the school should exclude extra-parochial children (such as those from Selham), to which suggestion Col Hollist pointed out that if those children were excluded the school would lose its £40 a year grant. Mr Philipson-Stow read an extract from the original Trust Deed: "The school shall always be conducted upon the principles of the Incorporated National Society for promoting the education in the school in the principles of the Established Church etc."

Evidently Mr Dobson grew tired of the long debate, for he moved the resolution: "That to give effect to the recommendation of the Report (Inspector's) this meeting supports the managers and fully empowers and urges them to take such action and such measures as they may consider necessary or expedient to attain the end in view." Mr Lacaita (of Selham House) seconded this resolution, it was carried nem. con.

But the Rector of Selham was still suspicious of the secular School Board for he said he knew that if the School Board had charge of the children six days a week, and the clergyman on the seventh, their moral training was bound to suffer! An echo of the long fight for the control of the Church schools by the Church.

Soon after this came the Education Act of 1902, but I have no information of the school's progress or decline until 50 years later, when the numbers fell so low that in accordance with the re-organisation under the 1944 Act the school was closed in 1951 after over 100 years of activity. From this date Lodsworth children were conveyed daily to schools at Easebourne and Midhurst.

For many years the school building served for parish meetings and concerts. When the Village Hall was built in 1926 all meetings were transferred there.

I wish I had more information about the school personnel. Here and there in the records the name of the schoolmaster is given. A Mr Naldrett preceded a Mr Howick (who had ten daughters who all died from TB). Soon after came a Mr Burr, who ran a night school for boys who had left school, charging 2d each per week. The late Mr C Lucas who died in 1945 aged 87 was a night school pupil, and remembered that it was well attended. In 1922 the Vicar (B H Davies) said that the schoolmaster, although a communist, was a real help to him!

### **The Village Hall**

The Village Hall, of which Lodsworth is properly proud, is a comparatively modern building, being erected in 1926. It is a parish hall, used for all purposes from Drama and Dancing to WI Meetings and meetings of all parochial organisations including those of the Church. Prior to 1926 small meetings were held in the Reading Room in the "Street," at the vicarage, or in a large room at the end of a row of cottages in Church Lane. Larger meetings were held in the school.

## Part II - The Church

The attractive little parish church of St Peter is built just below the village, and is placed in an exquisite setting. Below the church the meadows dip downwards to the River Lod, and the thick woods which rise up a hill to River and the walls of Petworth Park. The view from the churchyard is exceedingly beautiful. Beyond the wooded hills in the near distance are the majestic Downs. The old churchyard itself with its scarlet rhododendrons and old yew trees is a lovely peaceful place.

The present church has been considerably altered from the original mediaeval building, which was a simple box-like nave and small chancel at the East end. It was built of the local sandstone. This simple design was the usual pattern for small rural churches. The date of this early building is uncertain, but presumably before the 14th century, as we know the tower was added then. This simple design of tower, nave and chancel remained until the 19th century when the transepts, side aisles and larger chancel were added. The North transept was added by the Hollist family prior to 1840, and Horsfield in 1825 speaks of “modern windows”. We know that it was built before 1840 since the proposal to build a South transept is recorded in the Vestry Minutes of November 13th, 1840, when W G Ash was the Perpetual Curate. This South transept was built by the Dennett family, who probably did not wish to be outdone by the rival Hollist family. (*The window by Col Hollist in 1859 is to commemorate the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of his sons*) In the VM of 23 April 1841 it was resolved to remove the tombstones in the churchyard to make way for this building. At the same time it was resolved to make other extensive alterations to the church. The churchwardens levied a 1s rate and appealed to landowners to make handsome contributions to their schemes. Probably the nave aisles were constructed then. The western musicians’ gallery was removed, and the nave floor paved with some of the stones removed from the churchyard. The Norman type of window in the south transept was a copy of the original one in Shoreham old church.

More research is needed for the details of this renovation and extension of the church. The Vestry Minutes are very brief on the subject. We know that later on in Leopold Clarke’s incumbency more work was done. Hasler Hollist gave the weather vane on the tower in 1871. A small vestry was added to the North side of the chancel, but the date is uncertain. Perhaps more information on this church building and alterations may be obtained from the Diocesan faculty office.

In 1899 the VM record a proposal to erect a new reredos, and the present handsome alabaster reredos was the result. At the same time a baptistery window was inserted in the West wall of the nave by the widow of Leopold Clarke. The present

organ was erected in 1873, costing only £137! It took the place of a “barrel organ”. More about the organ will be given later.

Little more work was done on the interior of the church until the incumbency of R S Abbott (1944-1955), who converted the North transept into a choir vestry with the help of his churchwarden, Rear-Admiral A R Hammick. The pews were removed and from the wood they built in the choir robe cupboards. The transept was then curtained off until the incumbency of W L Lamb (1955-1961) when the curtain was replaced by genuine Jacobean oak panelling, presented by Philip Freeman Esq, and erected by one of the last of the Lodsworth craftsman, Mr Leslie Osborn. The Royal Arms carved in the oak, and reputed to be one of the best specimens of its kind, was placed on the screen. These Arms were originally fixed over the West door. The date is uncertain – probably Queen Anne.

Considerable new work was done between 1955 and 1960. The original lighting of the church by candles in hanging candelabra had been replaced by oil lamps towards the end of the 19th century. The oil lamps served until 1953 when Mrs Richard Comber installed electric lighting. Flood lamps were fixed on the roof beam, and the result is very pleasing and effective.

As electricity had been laid on to the church, it was decided in 1956 to replace the oil heaters (which had already replaced the old coke stoves) by a system of electrical heating. The tubular system was adopted, and tubes were laid under all the nave pews and also around the nave and chancel at eave level. The result has been very satisfactory. At the same time (or just before) the organ was provided with a Watson electric blower. Between the years 1955 and 1960 the church was enriched by the gift of three small antique oak tables. Two of them were given in memory of Kenneth Gordon and George Simmonds. The third table was presented by Mr George Payne of Midhurst.

In 1957 the interior of the church was cleaned and limewashed with Wakely lime of a warm mellow tint, and the wooden flooring in the North East corner of the nave paved with stone. The texts painted on zinc strips were removed, the Ten Commandments boards were taken from the east end and erected in the South aisle, and the large oil painting by W T Dobson RA was hung in the North aisle. A lamp was fixed outside the West door, and later one was placed inside the lych gate, so that the long path to the church could be illuminated at night-time.

The fabric was surveyed by the Diocesan Architect in 1960 and many structural defects were noted, principally in the exterior walls of the nave and tower. The roof which had been renewed several years previously was found to be in a sound

condition, except in one or two places inside. This new roof was paid for out of the proceeds of the sale of the village school.

## **The Bells**

Lodsworth possesses four very sweet toned bells. Unfortunately we are not clear whether these bells contain any of the original metal of the bells supplied by the Eldridge family in the early 17th century, since Messrs Mears and Stainbank re-cast these three, and added a fourth bell in 1890. The Eldridge family were bell-founders from 1502 to 1714, and more than 90 of their bells are in Sussex. Richard Eldridge was the first founder, and his bells are dated 1502 to 1623. They are generally inscribed "Our hope is in the Lord". Prior to 1890 the three Lodsworth bells all came from the Eldridge foundry. One bell bore the inscription, "Our hope is in the Lord", dated 1606 R. E. The other two bells bore the inscription, "RF IH IP 1602", and "Bryan Eldridge made me 1648."

The Lodsworth correspondent writes in a local newspaper (1890): "Sunday last was bright and joyous day for Lodsworth. The church bells, which had been taken down some two months ago for the purpose of re-casting were heard again, with the addition of a fourth bell. For long it had been desired that the Parish Church bells should be re-cast, but no funds were forthcoming. Help came, however, most unexpectedly. A Mrs Marriott, a lady living in the parish, placed in the hands of the Vicar (C S Chilver) the very handsome sum of £150 to be used for the above purpose. The work was entrusted to Messrs Mears and Stainbank of Whitechapel, who supplied a new peal of four, allowing a certain sum for the old metal. Including the new framework and platform supplied by Mr Lewis of Midhurst the entire cost amounted to nearly £180. Subscriptions towards the extra £30 were kindly given by Lord Egmont, the Archdeacon of Chichester, the Rev Prebendary L S Clarke, Col. Hollist, Mrs Starling and the Rev C S Chilver. The congregation assembled in the churchyard at the close of morning service, when the bells were rung by some of the Midhurst ringers headed by Mr George, who very readily gave their services and did full justice to the rich tones of the bells. A short form of dedication was used and the service was choral with special psalms and hymns, the singing being remarkably good".

"It may be mentioned that each bell bears an inscription. On the tenor bell is written: 'Let Christ be known around and loved where'er I sound', and on the others: 'Praise God in His Sanctuary, Let all the people praise Thee, O Lord, Holiness unto the Lord'".

"This great success should encourage people to help towards the much wished for addition of a fifth and a sixth bell, when 720 changes could be run instead of the present 24."

Let us hope that this pious wish may come true!

Lodsworth maintained its team of ringers for many years, although it seems that the bells are doomed to be silent in the near future, for the old team of F Newman (Captain), F Simpson, F Tooth and A Rogers, are getting too elderly for the work, and there are no ringers to follow them.

Yet the generous Mrs Marriott of 1890 would have been incredulous if she had been told that 70 years ahead her new bells would have been heard and seen by millions through the magic of television, when Miss Peggy Martindale performed her feat of chiming the four bells in a peal single handed!

### **The Incumbency of Lodsworth**

Although Lodsworth was a manor from a very early date, the church was not strictly a parish church, but a chapel attached to the Augustinian Priory of Easebourne. Lodsworth was served by a priest from the Priory, and was probably known as St Peter's Chapel. Since there is a spring near the church known to this day as St Peter's Well, reputed to have healing powers, there is no doubt that Lodsworth was a place of pilgrimage.

Prior to the Reformation there was no incumbent of Lodsworth, and after 1540 (as far as known) the priest serving Lodsworth was known as a Perpetual Curate, and was appointed by the holder of the Advowson, at first Anthony Browne, and then the successors of the Cowdray Estate, the present Viscount Cowdray being the patron of the living.

The title of Perpetual Curate was retained well into the 19th century. It was definitely a Perpetual Curacy in 1835 when the stipend was £12 per annum plus the income from a private gift of £200, and the income (presumably) from £200 from Queen Anne's Bounty plus a Parliamentary grant of £500. In 1724 the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's London, apparently controlled the stipend of the Lodsworth curates, and it is reported that they kept most of it, and "allow nothing to the Curate, the more the shame!"

In fact, Lodsworth has always been a "poor" living: that is a parish which has small endowments. Even in 1939 the contribution from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners was only £151.1.4, so that a living wage depended upon additional grants from the diocese and the P.C.C. The vicar in 1921 (B H Davies) writes with reference to his departure from Lodsworth in 1926:- "My main reason was that the income was nil



Peggy Martindale

(i.e. a charity grant from the diocese of £300, paid twelve months in arrears, plus a very large and costly vicarage...”

But many of the vicars during the 19th century were rich men, so that the value of the stipend was immaterial to them. Leopold Clarke is a notable example. He was vicar for 30 years. He enlarged the already sizeable parsonage, and is reported to have had at least six servants in the house plus two full time gardeners, groom etc. It is said that after his 30 years of comparative luxury the Bishop of Chichester moved him to a sphere of more active work at Bexhill. Now it happens that old Bexhill Church is on a hill, and at that time the parish was growing down below. So Leopold, to save himself the trudge up and down the hill, built a daughter church below for which he provided a curate. It is interesting to note that a later vicar of Lodsworth, B H Davies, became vicar of this daughter, now called St Barnabas, in 1926. At the same time (1926) another vicar of Lodsworth (W L Lamb) was appointed headmaster of Bexhill Grammar School. He became the vicar of Lodsworth in 1955.

Another vicar Charles Chilver (1884-1901) was apparently a man of means, who could afford carriage and pair, and provide himself with a curate – one J B Barnett – who seemed to bear most of the parish burdens. An interesting link with this vicar will be mentioned later.

But to go back to the beginning of the incumbency: It seems impossible to know the names of the visiting priests from the Priory, and even after its suppression and when the advowson had passed to Cowdray, it is difficult to find the names of the curates serving Lodsworth. There is no complete roll such as found at Selham, where the names of the rectors are known from the 14th century.

As far as my research goes, here is the list of incumbents since 1536:

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 1536      | John Andrew       |
| 1580      | Nicholas Marshall |
| 1593      | - Tristram        |
| 1627      | Thomas Stevens    |
| 1641      | Edward Hill       |
| 1646      | - Parry           |
| 1665      | William Acthorpe  |
| 1719-1738 | Henry Baker       |
|           | Thomas Atkins     |
| 1754-1778 | Robert Robson     |
| 1778-1785 | Walter Islip      |



|           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1785-1810 | David Jenkins              |
| 1810-1831 | Francis Whitcombe          |
| 1831-1840 | William Jenkins A.M.       |
| 1840-1846 | John George Ash            |
| 1846-1876 | Charles Leopold Clarke BCL |
| 1876-1880 | Bryan Crowther-Beynon      |
| 1880-1884 | Loraine Estridge           |
| 1884-1901 | Charles Chilver            |
| 1901-1918 | Edward Edgell              |
| 1918-1919 | A H Robinson               |
| 1919-1920 | W C Sydney                 |
| 1920-1921 | H H Hirst                  |
| 1921-1926 | Basil Henry Davies BA      |
| 1926-1940 | James Collins MA           |
| 1940-1944 | George Henry Gibson PhD    |
| 1944-1955 | R F Stutely Abbott AKC     |
| 1955-1961 | Wilfrid Leslie Lamb MA     |
| 1962      | John Howe Greene AKC, BD   |

It is seen from the above list of incumbents that our knowledge of the occupants of the benefice is very sketchy up to the 18th century. The names and dates given for the first nine priests have been conjectured from various documents, such as church registers, Protestation and Archdiaconal Visitations. The Sussex Record Society (vols 41-43 and 45) quote extracts from early Wills which give “Sir John Andrew” as minister in 1536, 1540, 1541, and 1544. Nicholas Marshall is doubtful (although given in Henssey’s “Clergy List”). His name is certainly at the bottom of parish registered entries of 1580, but Mr Steer, the County Archivist, considers the writing to be no earlier than 1700, and is probably the signature of the Parish Clerk who functioned from 1674-1724. This is the opinion of Mr A E Marshall, a descendant of the Lodsworth Marshalls. At the bottom of the 1613 Bishop’s Transcript of Lodsworth parish register, Edward Hyll signs as “minister”, and in 1641 Edward Hill (“curate ibm”) is mentioned under Lodsworth Protestation Returns (SRS vol. 5).

An unusual feature of the Lodsworth list of incumbents is the short period between 1918 and 1920 when there were three vicars in just over two years! The shortness of their tenure was probably due to ill health, certainly not on account of Lodsworth’s air, which is extremely salubrious. Their condition was more likely to have been caused by financial worry, as we have seen (p. 16) the next vicar – B H Davies – is quite bitter about the so-called stipend.

## Church Records and Furniture

Lodsworth Church is fortunate in having a complete set of registers of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1558, a continuous record of church services from 1888, and a set of Vestry and PCC minutes from 1840. These documents contain much interesting information, although the Vestry minutes are disappointingly vague about actual church matters, their business being mainly secular, since from early days the Vestry did much of the work of the later Local Government Office. Hence in those early records of Minutes we hear much about the maintenance of roads and administration of Poor Relief. The new Parochial Church Council was set in 1920 after the passing of the Enabling Act in 1919, and since that date the Minutes of the PCC are fairly comprehensive, although much information we should like to have is omitted in the early volumes. Since 1955 the Minutes are much more informative, and at the present time are a model of what such Minutes should be.

The complete list of Registers and Minute Books is as follows:

1. Parish Registers
  - (i) Parish Register 1558-1736  
Original in County Archives. Transcript in Church keeping.
  - (ii) Parish Register 1737-1812
  - (iii) Marriage Registers  
1754 -1802  
1803 -1811  
1813 -1837  
1837 - date (two copies)
  - (iv) Burial Registers  
1813 -1880  
1880 -1942  
1943 - date  
Grave register for new Churchyard
  - (v) Baptism Registers  
1813 - 1856  
1856 - date
  - (vi) Banns Registers  
1874 - 1933  
1935 - date

## 2. Service Registers

- (i) 1888 - 1889
- (ii) 1893 - 1896
- (iii) 1896 - 1899
- (iv) 1899 - 1901
- (v) 1901 - 1914
- (vi) 1914 - 1925
- (vii) 1934 - 1943
- (viii) 1943 - 1947
- (ix) 1947 - 1958
- (x) 1958 - date

## 3. Vestry & PCC Minutes

- (i) 1840 - 1869 Vestry Minutes
- (ii) 1869 - 1901
- (iii) 1900 - 1940
- (iv) 1919 - 1934 PCC Minutes
- (v) 1935 - 1954
- (vi) 1954 - 1956
- (vii) 1956 - date

## 4. Other Registers and Documents in Church Chest

- (i) Lodsworth Village Fetes 1927, 1934
- (ii) Churchyard Funds 1923-1932
- (iii) Sick and Poor Fund }  
Choir Fund }  
Lickfold Mission } 1887-1900  
Central African Mission }
- (iv) Cottage Allotments 1833
- (v) Confirmation Register
- (vi) Electoral Roll Register
  
- (vii) Box of documents:
  - Church insurance
  - Faculties
  - Special Graves
  - Re Sale of School
  - Re re-roofing of church
  - Re installation of electricity etc.

## 5. Tithe Map in case 1841

In an Inventory of about 1850 (date uncertain) there are listed papers in the church chest which are not there now. It may be that they are housed with the earliest Register at the County Hall, Chichester. These missing documents are: 1. Deed of conveyance of school site from the Earl of Egmont, dated 25th July 1845, 2. Map of parsonage grounds, 3. Map of paths in grounds adjoining Blackdown House.

The Lodsworth registers are extremely interesting reading, and deserve a separate monograph. They are not available to me at the moment, but from memory here are some important features: First, one is struck by the extreme neatness of the earliest registers, which were written in superb script on vellum. The baptism, marriage and burial entries were written down in order of occurrence, and not kept separate as in later years. Secondly, it is extremely interesting to find so many of the names of the first entries still held by families living in Lodsworth at the present time (1962), 400 years later. Prominent names, and they occur throughout this long period, are Boxall, Bridger and Ayling. A photograph of the first age of the 1558 volume is given here. (See insert xxx) It has been said that until recently, one would not be mistaken if one greeted a man on a dark night as Mr Boxall or Mr Bridger!

Thirdly, these registers give a vivid picture of the times before modern medicine and improved social conditions lengthened the expectation of life. Although the deaths of many octogenarians and even nonagenarians are recorded (for the situation and air of Lodsworth are extremely healthy) the high death rate of infants is astonishing. It is no unusual thing for a mother to have perhaps twelve children, and lose half of them before they attain the age of one or two years!

The Service Registers are also of historical interest. It is remarkable that such a small parish (in population) should require the services of a curate! For example, a Mr J B Barnett acted in this capacity for many years during the incumbency of C S Chilver (1884-1901). It seems that he boarded with his wife at a cottage opposite the Hollist Arms. He was evidently a sociable fellow, for he figures prominently in the accounts of the fun and games held periodically in Lodsworth House and the village school. And from the Service registers it appears he did most of the officiating! Barnett must have been a man of little ambition to be content to remain in this humble position for so many years. Perhaps later he was preferred to an incumbency, but I have no information on this point.

An interesting picture of the work of the church is given in the annual statements of accounts. Such a statement is given on the next pages. It is a balance sheet for the year 1899-1900.

Fig. 4. Extract from a sixteenth century parish register. (By permission of the Reverend Wilfrid L. Lamb, M.A., Vicar of Lodsworth and Rector of Selham).



Transcription of first five entries

Anno dñi 1566

- B the xxvij<sup>th</sup> daye of Marche was buried Alls the wif of john hamond
- B The viij daye of Maye was buried valentyne Chase
- C The x<sup>th</sup> daye of June was christened Robert the sonn of Robert Smithe
- M The same x<sup>th</sup> daye of June was Married Thomas Whytt unto Margaratt boxesall
- M The xxx daye of June was married John Aylinge unto Elnor bridger
- C The xxvij<sup>th</sup> daye of Julie was christened Richard the sonn of Thomas chalicrofft

# *S. Peter's, Lodswoth.*

## CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNT.

*From Easter, 1899, to Easter, 1900.*

| Receipts.                     | £ s. d.  | Expenditure.                         | £ s. d. |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Collections.....              | 29 3 94  | Balance fwd.....                     | 0 14 34 |
| Earl of Epsom (donation)..... | 1 0 0    | Oil.....                             | 3 8 0   |
| Balance due.....              | 9 11 314 | Tithe, Mowing, Chantry.....          | 4 0 0   |
|                               |          | Arksell, Bexon.....                  | 14 0 0  |
|                               |          | Beaver & Son, Bath.....              | 0 3 9   |
|                               |          | Wick for Lamp.....                   | 0 2 1   |
|                               |          | Repairing Lamp.....                  | 0 0 9   |
|                               |          | Insurance.....                       | 1 10 6  |
|                               |          | GL's acct.....                       | 1 4 0   |
|                               |          | Bishop's acct.....                   | 0 10 34 |
|                               |          | Printing Circulars.....              | 0 6 0   |
|                               |          | Copies for Intercession Service..... | 0 7 0   |
|                               |          | Morley, Jas., Cole.....              | 3 0 0   |
|                               |          | Lewis' acct.....                     | 5 8 10  |
|                               |          | Arksell, Washing Surplice.....       | 1 0 0   |
|                               |          | Coal, Wood, and Matches.....         | 0 15 0  |
| <u>439 14 6</u>               |          | <u>439 14 6</u>                      |         |

CHARLES S. CHILVER, Vicar.

EDWARD O. HOLLIST, |  
A. J. BLAKER, | Churchwardens.

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

*For the Year ending 31st December, 1899.*

|  | £ s. d.          |
|--|------------------|
| Church Expenses (Easter, 1899-1900).....     | 20 2 56          |
| Chislehurst Diocesan Association.....        | 2 0 6            |
| Organ and Choir Fund.....                    | 5 4 11           |
| Home Missions (A.C.S.).....                  | 5 1 8            |
| Universities' Mission to Central Africa..... | 5 2 2            |
| (Children's Services).....                   | 0 17 4           |
| Sick and Poor Fund.....                      | 11 10 34         |
| Federation of Church Schools.....            | 0 19 04          |
| Royal Agricultural Benevolent Fund.....      | 2 8 4            |
| Chislehurst Infirmary.....                   | 5 15 1           |
| Church of England Temperance Society.....    | 0 14 3           |
| Guild of S. Luke.....                        | 0 6 3            |
|  | <u>286 9 104</u> |

## SICK AND POOR FUND

*1st January to 31st December, 1899.*

| Receipts.                       | £ s. d.  | Expenditure.                | £ s. d. |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Balance in hand.....            | 7 5 54   | Bolton to Money.....        | 3 7 6   |
| Mine (collected at 8 a.m.)..... | 11 10 24 | Meal.....                   | 0 10 10 |
| Charterings.....                | 0 4 9    | Pinnet.....                 | 1 12 0  |
| Mine box.....                   | 0 2 7    | Hospital Expenses.....      | 2 0 0   |
| Donations—                      |          | Nutring.....                | 3 4 6   |
| Mr. Payne.....                  | 1 0 0    | Coal.....                   | 0 5 0   |
| Lieut. Colonel Hollet.....      | 0 10 0   | Milk and Col Liver Oil..... | 1 3 9   |
| Sir E. Canningey.....           | 0 10 0   | Christmas Gifts.....        | 3 10 0  |
| Mrs. Hollet.....                | 0 10 0   | Balance in hand.....        | 7 14 7  |
| Miss Webster.....               | 0 12 0   |                             |         |
| <u>432 6 7</u>                  |          | <u>432 6 7</u>              |         |

## ORGAN AND CHOIR FUND.

*January to December, 1899.*

| Receipts.                            | £ s. d. | Expenditure.                      | £ s. d. |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Collections—                         |         | Deficit from 1898 .....           | 0 1 2   |
| Easter Day .....                     | 3 14 10 | Choir boys and Organ Blower ..... | 3 6 7   |
| Whitsunday .....                     | 1 10 1  | Washing Sarcophagi .....          | 1 7 3   |
| Donations—                           |         | Choir Man's Outing .....          | 2 10 0  |
| Miss G. F. Hollist (the late) .....  | 1 0 0   | Christmas Presents to Boys .....  | 0 3 0   |
| Rev. C. S. Chilver .....             | 1 0 0   | Berlington, Tending .....         | 1 10 0  |
| Miss Webber .....                    | 1 0 0   | Balance in hand .....             | 2 2 2   |
| Mrs. Prantice .....                  | 0 5 2   |                                   |         |
| Contributions for Choir Outing ..... | 2 10 0  |                                   |         |
|                                      | £11 0 1 |                                   | £11 0 1 |

## LICKFOLD MISSION CHAPEL.

*January to December, 1899.*

| Receipts.                 | £ s. d.                            | Expenditure.                    | £ s. d. |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Balance from 1898 .....   | 1 7 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>  | Cleaning and Bell ringing ..... | 5 6 4   |
| Collections in 1899 ..... | 6 15 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> | Loosen .....                    | 2 2 9   |
| Donations for Loosen—     |                                    | Carriage, &c. .....             | 0 4 6   |
| R. S. Clarke, Esq. ....   | 1 1 0                              | Carpet .....                    | 0 2 9   |
|                           | £9 4 1                             | Balance in hand .....           | 5 0 9   |
|                           |                                    |                                 | £9 4 1  |

## READING ROOM.

—1899.—

| Receipts.                             | £ s. d.  | Expenditure.                 | £ s. d.  |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| Balance in hand .....                 | 4 18 1   | Mrs. Duggin .....            | 2 0 0    |
| Honorary Members—                     |          | Tobacco .....                | 1 2 10   |
| Rev. J. A. W. Bell .....              | 0 10 5   | Coal (3 tons) .....          | 5 10 6   |
| Mr. Baker .....                       | 0 7 5    | Groceries .....              | 2 17 8   |
| Mr. Boughton .....                    | 0 7 5    | Newspapers .....             | 2 11 2   |
| Rev. C. S. Chilver .....              | 0 10 0   | Bank Expenses .....          | 0 7 11   |
| B. Stanley Clarke, Esq. ....          | 0 10 0   | Painting and Repairing ..... | 7 6 3    |
| Mrs. Bennett .....                    | 0 10 0   | Rates .....                  | 0 6 11   |
| W. P. M. Bennett, Esq. ....           | 0 10 0   | Balance .....                | 0 0 5    |
| Mrs. Dobson .....                     | 0 10 0   |                              |          |
| The Earl of Egmont .....              | 0 10 0   |                              |          |
| F. Everett, Esq. ....                 | 0 10 0   |                              |          |
| Miss Hollist .....                    | 0 10 0   |                              |          |
| Lieut.-Colonel Hollist .....          | 0 10 0   |                              |          |
| G. G. Laxton, Esq. ....               | 0 10 0   |                              |          |
| F. Philipson-Storr, Esq. (2 years) .. | 1 0 0    |                              |          |
| Mrs. Prantice .....                   | 0 10 0   |                              |          |
| Members .....                         | 6 8 3    |                              |          |
| Received from Mrs. Duggin .....       | 0 5 6    |                              |          |
|                                       | £19 2 10 |                              | £19 2 10 |

EDWARD O. HOLLIST, *Treasurer.*

## NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

| Income.                       | £ s. d.  | Expenditure.                       | £ s. d.  |
|-------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| Government Grant.....         | 97 1 6   | Balance overdrawn, May, 1899 ..... | 1 11 3   |
| Fee Grant .....               | 47 35 0  | Salaries—Mr. and Mrs. Peoley ..... | 120 0 0  |
| Voluntary Subscriptions ..... | 48 17 6  | Assistant Mistress .....           | 43 5 0   |
| Sale of Needlework .....      | 0 11 6   | Lydia Steers .....                 | 8 4 0    |
| Balance May 31st, 1899 .....  | 39 15 1  | Books, Apparatus, &c. ....         | 17 16 9  |
|                               |          | Fuel and Cleaning .....            | 21 19 4  |
|                               |          | Repairs .....                      | 4 13 0   |
|                               |          | Miscellaneous Expenses—            | £ s. d.  |
|                               |          | Insurance and Poor Rate .....      | 0 15 0   |
|                               |          | Rent of Garden.....                | 0 14 0   |
|                               |          | Railway fares, &c. ....            | 0 13 6   |
|                               |          | Advertisements .....               | 0 13 9   |
|                               |          | Printing and Postage ..            | 0 11 5   |
|                               |          | Sundries .....                     | 0 17 8   |
|                               | £224 0 7 |                                    | 4 11 9   |
|                               |          |                                    | £224 0 7 |

FREDERICK EVERETT, Auditor.

CHARLES S. CHILVER, Treasurer.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1899.

| £ s. d.                         | £ s. d. |                              |          |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|----------|
| The Earl of Egmont .....        | 8 0 0   | B. Stanley Clarke, Esq. .... | 2 2 0    |
| Lt.-Colonel Esnyon Milford..... | 8 0 0   | Lady Bowman .....            | 1 1 0    |
| Lt.-Colonel Hollist .....       | 7 0 0   | Mrs. Rose .....              | 1 1 0    |
| Mrs. Mullins Bennett .....      | 5 4 6   | Mrs. Prantice .....          | 1 0 0    |
| F. S. Phillips-Stow, Esq. ....  | 5 0 0   |                              |          |
| Rev. C. S. Chilver .....        | 5 0 0   |                              |          |
| C. C. Lacsita, Esq. ....        | 3 2 0   |                              |          |
| Mrs. Dobson .....               | 3 2 0   |                              |          |
|                                 |         |                              | £48 17 6 |

## CLOTHING AND COAL CLUB.

*Xmas, 1899.*

| £ s. d.                 | £ s. d.  |                      |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Clothing Deposits ..... | 14 18 6  | Clothing Bills ..... | 17 3 4   |
| Coal .....              | 2 19 0   | Coal .....           | 9 8 8    |
| Subscriptions—          |          |                      |          |
| Mrs. Dobson .....       | 0 10 0   |                      |          |
| A Friend .....          | 0 10 0   |                      |          |
| Mrs. Hollist .....      | 0 5 0    |                      |          |
| Mrs. Prantice .....     | 0 5 0    |                      |          |
| Mrs. Bennett .....      | 0 5 0    |                      |          |
| "    Donation .....     | 0 2 6    |                      |          |
| Interest in Bank .....  | 0 5 4    |                      |          |
| Balance, 1899 .....     | 0 11 8   |                      |          |
|                         | £20 12 0 |                      | £20 12 0 |

R. MARY CHILVER, Treasurer.



## CHURCH REGISTERS.

January 1st to December 31st, 1899.

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### BAPTISMS.

- Jan. 8. Henry William, child of Henry H. and Elizabeth A. Gaudin.  
Jan. 30. Percy, child of Harry and Fanny Buxall.  
Jan. 31. Sidney, child of Joseph John and Jane Burchall.  
March 12. Ellen Mabel, child of George and Sarah Woolgate.  
March 12. Arthur Edward, child of Edward and Carrie Jane Ayling.  
April 9. Florence Clark, child of William H. and Ellen Kingshott.  
June 6. Dorothy, child of Arthur H. S. and Sarah Elizabeth Bicker.  
July 2. Ethel Marie, child of William and Kate Boxall.  
July 9. Metel Esther, child of Arthur W. and Rose Lillian Dudman.  
July 30. Gertrudine Muscroft, child of James and Ellen Bridger.  
Sep. 10. Charles, child of John Sander and Sarah Cooper.  
Oct. 8. Rev. Ethelinda, child of Benjamin James and Jane Durrant.  
Nov. 12. Bertha May, child of William and Emma Hills.  
Nov. 27. Nellie, child of Jesse and Cora Boniface.  
Dec. 10. Florence Ada, child of James and Emma R. Etherington.  
Dec. 10. Klein Kate, child of Thomas and Alice Olive Capplin.

### MARRIAGES.

- June 3. Ferdinand Treasurer to Elizabeth Sagaman.  
July 15. Eli Thomas Treasurer to Edna Elizabeth Carver.  
July 18. John Randall to Ethel Dodger.  
Oct. 28. William James Carver to Louisa Mary Hedger.

### BURIALS.

- Feb. 18. Mary Mestey, aged 55 years.  
April 2. Cornelius Varna, aged 27 years.  
April 6. Rhoda Toman, aged 86 years.  
April 8. Emma Hills, aged 72 years.  
May 1. Caroline Bishop, aged 40 years.  
May 18. Ann Wakeford, aged 76 years.  
July 11. Thomas Dudman, aged 42 years.  
Sept. 21. Francis Georgiens Hollist, aged 69 years.  
Sept. 30. Jane Archer, aged 87 years.  
Oct. 11. Mary Carver, aged 72 years.  
Oct. 24. James Burr, aged 85 years.  
Nov. 10. James Bishop, aged 74 years.  
Dec. 5. Nellie Boniface, aged 14 months.  
Dec. 20. Walter Hill, aged 30 years.

CHARLES S. CHILVER,  
Vicar.

## Church Furniture

We have no knowledge of how the church was furnished in the very early days. Possibly the floor was covered with rushes or straw, and the altar furnished appropriately for the Roman rite; (the stoop for holy water still remains at the entrance to the church). There is a reference to two altars in 1545, for there is extant a Will of Robert Chapper, dated 17th March 1545, which reads: "I bequeath unto our Lady's auter (sic) and St Nicholas' altar in the said church (of Lodsworth), one sheet to be divided in twayne for to make ech of then an auter cloth." Note the haphazard spelling in the 16th century. The three words, auter, autor and altar are pronounced more or less the same, so it seems that the spelling was immaterial as long as it was phonetic!

In 1542 Lodsworth had another legacy. Sir Davy Owen left to the Church Mass books, a vestment of red and blue damask, and a chalice of the value of 4 marks. Mrs Marion Osborn notes this but I do not know the source.

Leopold Clarke (Vicar, 1846-1876) made an Inventory of the church possessions, dated 1847, but this date is probably a slip, since some of the articles listed are dated 1848! He gives the contents of the "iron chest" (since disappeared), lists the altar vessels, and then gives the following:

- Two small oaken Alms Plates (of wood from York Minster) with Crosses, AS 1848
- Two copies of Altar Services (bd in morocco, presented Oct 1846 by H Hollist Esq)
- One Book of Occasional Services (similarly bound) AS 1848
- One velvet embroidered Altar Cloth with monogram AS 1848
- One damask stuff Altar Cloth with monogram AS 1848
- One large folio Bible, bd in morocco \*\*\*
- One folio Book of Common Prayer, bd in morocco \*\*\*
- One folio book of Common Prayer for the Officiating Clerk
- One latteen Alms Dish with legend AS 1848
- Two covered Oak Bookstands for Altar Services, presented by Rev A G Bazett AS 1847
- One Oaken Alms Chest, bound with brass, present 1847
- Two velvet red Cushions
- One red velvet Cushion for pulpit
- One Oaken Prayer Desk for ye officiating Clerk
- Three linen Surplices
- One Funeral Bier

Three Bells for calling to Church  
One belfry ladder  
A pair of hempen lych-ropes  
Two covered Chairs, covered with velvet for ye Altar, 1848

\*\*\* both presented by Caroline Guthrie 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1848

The letters AS written as a prefix to the dates, evidently stand for A.D., but I do not know the significance of the "S". All of this furniture is now passed away, with the exception, perhaps (although it is not bound in morocco) of the large Book of Common Prayer. The three bells, of course, were re-cast later. There is no mention of lighting equipment, which must have been candles set in hanging or standard candelabra, a beautiful form of lighting, still in use in several of the Isle of Wight old churches.

### **The Silver**

Lodsworth and Selham possess the oldest chalices in the Midhurst deanery, the date marks are 1567 on the Lodsworth cup, and 1568 on the other. Both vessels have covers of the same dates, which serve as patens. The complete list of the altar vessels at Lodsworth is as follows:

1. Chalice of silver, height 6  $\frac{1}{4}$  in, weight 6 troy oz, date mark 1567. Maker's mark is Bull's Head erased, made in London. It is plain with narrow band of Elizabethan engraving under the lip, round stem with knurled band top and bottom, slightly domed foot with egg and dart moulded edge.
2. Paten cover of silver, diameter 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  ins, weight 2 oz 4 dwt date mark 1567, with 1568 engraved in coarse numerals, maker's mark is Bull's Head erased, London. It is plain with narrow engraved band close to edge, small foot.
3. Chalice of silver, weighing 5 oz 19 dwt, made in London in 1880 being an exact copy of the Elizabethan vessel.
4. A Paten of silver (Britannia standard) 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  in wide made in London in 1705. It is plain with hollow gadroon edge on foot with similar gadroon.
5. Paten of silver made to match the above in 1879

6. A Flagon of silver made in 1846, 11 ¼ ins high, 18 oz weight is jug shaped with narrow neck and two wire edge bands engraved “Gloria in excelsis Deo, Alleluia”. It has a round foot, flat cover with rope thumbpiece and flat handle.

These vessels are in the possession of the church today, but in Clarke’s Inventory (1847) a “plated Flagon” is listed. This has disappeared, unless he was referring to the silver flagon. Also, in an official Inventory of Church plate in the Midhurst deanery (1901) there is listed a “Plate” of silver plate, 6 ins in width. This is no longer at Lodsworth.

Mrs Osborn has given me the additional information about the silver. She does not give the sources of information. The 1567 chalice was made in London by I I Keith, the copy (1880) was made by S Smith, the 1705 paten was made by Richard Syngin, and the copy (1874) of the paten by J Edwards. She also refers to “Jackson, p 100” where it is stated that the 1567 chalice was a copy of one made for Goadby and Narwood Leicestershire in 1567.

## **Church Music**

During the 19th century we have seen that extensive alterations were made in the church. One of these alterations seems to have been the removal of the Musicians’ Gallery at the West end. I cannot find the date of this, but MacDermott in his “Sussex Music in the Past” refers to the musicians of Lodsworth Church who performed on 1 flute, 1 clarionet, 1 trombone, 1 violin, and 1 kettledrum! This mixture of instruments would have made a cheerful noise, and we can picture the services at Lodsworth as being gay occasions. In those days the congregations were large since church attendance was almost compulsory, and the “Old Hundredth” sung lustily with a kettledrum continuo must have raised the roof! The reference to musicians at Lodsworth, and indeed in all the village churches at that time, shows how times have changed. In these days the ability to play on any instrument seems to have vanished.

When the choir stalls were erected in the chancel (a feature due to the Oxford Movement), the musicians gave place to a barrel organ, which could only play a limited set of hymn and metrical psalm tunes. A Mr C Osborn used to turn the handle of this machine in 1860 when he was a boy.

In 1873 the present organ was purchased for £137. It is not stated in the VM where it came from, or whether it was new; but the choir were asked to contribute to its cost! It is still a fine instrument of its kind, and the present tuners – Messrs William Hill and Norman and Beard – speak highly of the quality of the metal used

for the pipes, and the tone of the wooden stops. It is a “tracker” organ of one manual and seven stops. Hautboy, Fifteenth, Stepped diapason, Principal and Gedackt, all in a swell box; an 8 ft Open diapason, and a 16 ft Bourdon, for the pedal organ. It was hand blown until 1955 when a Watson electric blower was installed. This organ was placed on the north side of the chancel in a space which is part of the vestry.

There was a time (date in PCC minutes) when the church council considered moving this organ to the south transept together with the choir stalls. This however, was not done, which I think is a pity, since an open space before the altar is not only more seemly, but in accordance with early practice. The prime mover in this idea of transferring the organ was a Mr Colborne (?), a Midhurst man, who for some time took great interest in the Lodsworth choir and music.

We have some scanty records of the choir in 1870 when the boys wore holland tunics with white collars, blue bows, and black leather belts fastened with a snake’s head round the waist. Mrs Leopold Clarke (vicar’s wife) was organist, and the choir practices were held in a large room at the end of a cottage in Church Lane. There were 10 boys, 10 men and 10 girls! This magnificent choir (in number at least) also performed as a village choral society, for there are glowing accounts of their rendering of “Cherry Ripe”, and “O hush thee, my baby” at a concert given in the school. And no doubt the church choir played an important part in the Jubilee Celebrations at Lodsworth House in 1887, and also at Edward Hollist’s Silver Wedding Party on the 14th February 1890 at the same house.

The music cupboards in the vestry at Lodsworth indicate the wide range of anthems and services which have been sung in church. Much of this repertoire is quite advanced and shows that Lodsworth’s choir was at one time a very able body of singers. This tradition of skilled performance was carried on until a comparatively recent date, but it was broken by the rapid changes in social behaviour since the Second War. The Church no longer became a village centre, the boys, moved away for their schooling, no longer had that intimate connexion with the church that they had when in attendance at the village Church school and the men ceased to be interested in singing. Only the feminine part of what was once a fine body of mixed singers, remained staunch; and so for some years now Lodsworth choir has been composed of ladies and girls, who in their maroon robes, bravely try to carry on.

In 1960 and 1961, however, Lodsworth once more saw their choir stall filled with men singers, when on the occasion of the Patronal Festival, the gentlemen of the choir of King’s College, Cambridge, sung the service in company with the ladies.

A nostalgic occasion for the old church, which at one time had been filled every week with the voices of a large mixed choir.

Just as the choir was almost extinguished by the forces of this Modern Age, so the supply of organists has been similarly affected. For many years the organist was a woman, and the last regular organist was a Miss Mellersh, who played on the Lodsworth organ for 30 years. Since her death the church has had to depend upon the services of occasional players, and sometimes upon the vicar (W L Lamb) who conducted the Services by alternating between stall and stool.

### **Lickfold Chapel**

Unfortunately I have no notes here on the Chapel of St Hilda at Lickfold, which was built at the North end of the parish for the convenience of the inhabitants of the hamlet of Lickfold.

I have written about the building of this little church in the Rother magazine, to which I refer readers of these notes.

At the present time it is used regularly, and has recently been completely re-decorated inside by Miss D Fletcher Jones.

### **The Churchyard**

Lodsworth churchyard is in three parts. The old part surrounds the church, and is approached through a fine lych-gate, which was erected in 1875. This gate is a copy of the lych-gate at Wynsfold Church. On the next page is the original drawing of the gate by James Grist, a Midhurst man who died in 1876.

To the North of the old churchyard there was an apple orchard. This piece of land was cleared and used as an extension to the old churchyard. It has always been known as the "Orchard". It was necessary as time went on to have more space for burials, and later Lord Cowdray gave a portion of the meadow below the church for a new churchyard. This space is used at the present time.

LYCH GATE  
LODSWORTH

*Wykefold Church,*



*This was copied by James Grest  
& put up at Ludsworth at Easter 1875*

(From Hollist Papers)

## **Part III – Social Life and Personalities**

### **The community**

A VILLAGE, like all such small communities everywhere, has its own ways, traditions and legends. The English village is particularly clannish, so much so that until a comparatively short time ago, an adjoining village was regarded as foreign. Lodsworth is a good example of a close community, which retained its almost feudal character well into the 19th century, the lord of the manor and large landowners were the recognised heads, the small farmers being their tenants, and the farm workers and craftsmen being content to serve under them all.

Even in medieval times the peasantry were by no means serfs, and asserted their rights with vigour, as we can deduce from various accounts of the Manor Courts proceedings; and in more recent times, the villagers although having such a meagre wage, stood firmly on their feet.

The Church, through its resident minister, the parson, always exerted a strong moral influence. In the past there were frequent Visitations from the Archdeacon, and on these occasions the parson presented to him those parishioners who had committed misdemeanours in the Church's eyes. For example, in 1622 the report of the Lodsworth Visitation states that "We know of no persons living asunder. There is in our parish but one recusant, which is Mary, the wife of Oswald Bayne." In 1623, Alice West and Robert Ball were excommunicated. In 1664, the not unusual source of irritation of sitting in another person's pew, was evidently regarded as a major offence, for the report of the Visitation states: "We present Mary the wife of Edward Hurst, for sitting in a seat in our church which belongs to Thomas Chilhurst and others, which seat the said Mary hath no right to sitt there." In 1665, Thomas Luffe was presented to the Archdeacon for not paying his tax of 3d to the church.

Until the passing of the Local Government Act at the end of the 19th century (1888 & seq.), and the Enabling Act of 1919 the parson and churchwardens were a powerful triumvirate, and since the churchwardens were often the leading landowners in the parish, these three were the recognised authority in the community. Trevelyan (Social History) says: "The Counties and market towns were still ruled and judged by the country gentlemen to whom all classes bowed."



In Lodsworth the Hollists and Dennetts were the leading landowners, and although the lord of the manor resided at Cowdray, a Hollist of Lodsworth House was regarded as the “Squire”. Fortunately, these two prominent families possessed a fine social sense of obligation to their community, and encouraged many parish activities from allotments to concerts, as we shall see later. They were also generous to their poorer neighbours, and although touchy as to their proper status in society, were always ready to render help when necessary. Both families emphasised their standing by building transepts to the church to hold the special pews for themselves and their body of servants. They and the parson represented the Establishment.

These two distinguished families are now dispersed, although there are two descendants of the Hollist family still resident in Lodsworth. The last remaining Dennett (Hannah) died in 1962.

Both of these families have a very interesting history. I have not examined the collection of Hollist papers, except for a few, nor the large amount of material relating to the Dennett family in the possession of Mullens Harrison Esq, but no doubt these papers could yield much valuable information, not only about the fortunes of the family, but of parish affairs during the past 300 years.

One of the not-so-good consequences of this scientific Age of motorcars, motorcycles and television, is the creation of a dull uniformity of human behaviour. This tendency applies especially to the country village, where the children are banished during the week to a town, many of the men work away from the village, and the cohesion of the community is undermined. Hence the future historian will have difficulty in finding any records of outstanding personalities at the present time. There will be fewer stories of the past such as the older Lodsworthians can so vividly tell; and when these octogenarians pass away, Lodsworth will lose the last links with a village and parish, which like all other villages, was unique with its “characters” and their goings on. The pranks of the choir-boys, the quips of old Ted the sexton, the fun at the village school with a Naldrett or Howick, the schoolmaster, and all the other village tales will pass into oblivion.

One could listen for hours to old Edwin Hills (Page 48) of South Heath farm as he talked of the life in Lodsworth 80 years ago. So Mrs Marion Osborn, Mr Fred Tooth or his brother Bob, or Mr Jim Spooner, and a very few others, still happily with us, can give us a picture of village life, which with its richness of incident, is now a thing of the past. Until one reads of, or hears about village life only 50 years ago, one does not realise the vast changes that have come to pass in society during this comparatively short period. The year 1914 ended an era that was continuous

from the Middle Ages. It is true that there had been great improvements since the 16th century in living conditions and education, but the fundamental human relationships between squire, parson, farmers and villagers had little changed. Country folk are notoriously conservative, and only the vast changes in the way of living caused by the phenomenal progress of science has been able to shake the clannishness of village life. I remember a farm worker of Ashburnham (E Sussex) saying to me apropos of the Labour Government: "If I am going to be b.....d about, I'll see that I am b.....d about by a gentleman, not one of them!" And, doubtless, a Lodsworth man 50 years ago would have expressed the same opinion. The old feudal relationship between the lord and the villein, and later between the 19th century squire and his tenant, had established itself too deeply throughout the centuries.



In 1921 after the Great War and its disintegrating aftermath, the new vicar (B H Davies, 1921-1926) gives a picture of Lodsworth at the beginning of a great change:

“It is an extraordinary village. Its small population included an amazing assortment of saints and sinners, plus the usual mixed lot of personalities. We had just finished a village hall when I left, and I hope it has had some unifying influence. The place was full of small gentry, living in converted cottages – a mixed lot... who were more a hindrance than help, as was the aged squire; but the school-master, though a Communist, was a real help, if not particularly religious.”

The vicar perhaps sees the village through ecclesiastical spectacles, but, reading between the lines, it is plain that the old Lodsworth is passing away.

Fifty years ago Lodsworth was a self-supporting community with eight or nine shops, a blacksmith and other craftsmen. Cider was made in large quantities, for Lodsworth has always been famous for its apple orchards. Today, there is one General Stores and a Post Office combined with a little general shop. All other commodities are obtained from outside of the village. More of the old cottages and larger houses are occupied by the “gentry”, and Lodsworth has settled down to an entirely different pattern, the beginnings of which were noted by B H Davies. It is still an oasis in the wilderness of modern hustle, although only 50 miles from London. It owes its peace to its geographical situation, and the protection of its boundaries by the great manorial parks of Cowdray and Petworth, and in the North by the wooded Blackdown Hills. There has been little new building in the parish, so that the architectural pattern has not altered much. Most of the building work has been on restoration and modernisation of old properties. But the social pattern is very different from that of 50 years ago. There is no resident “squire” at Lodsworth House, the farms being mechanised, have lost a “human quality”, which distinguished the old farm working; and the Church, although respected by all, is no longer an integral part of the residents’ lives. The parish council and other organisations are being increasingly run by the “foreigners”, who to do them justice, have made Lodsworth their homes through their love of the place. There are only a few genuine Lodsworthians left, and these are elderly. Their children have left the village for wider horizons, and so a new Lodsworth is born which has no visible link with the past, except in the old church, standing away from the village, quiet and remote, guarding the resting place of all those souls who have made Lodsworth history throughout the centuries.

Fortunately, however, we have three valuable sources of information about the 19th century social life in Lodsworth. These are the tales of elderly Lodsworth folk such as Mrs Osborn, the Hollist scrapbook, and a reference to the songs of Lodsworth in the Journal of the Folk Song Book.

### **Mrs Osborn's Tale**

“John Hall of Lodsworth was quite an old man when I first knew him 48 years ago. As a young man he was sent away to Portsmouth for poaching (pheasants, I believe), and he always spoke of his time in jail as the time he was at College! He was a quaint old man who liked a beef pudding with plenty of jaby (gravy). He was a good gardener, and had the whole of the garden where Mr Haines now lives down Church lane. He used to sell his produce, and his boy was Mr Fred Tooth, who looked after the donkey and cart. Sometimes it would lie down, and I wouldn't like to say what happened then, though when it stopped as a rule a carrot was held in front of its nose. There is a photo of this grand old Lodsworthian in the Club room of the Hollist Arms, taken when about 80. He died quite 40 or 45 years ago.

John Hall had a brother, William. He lived at the Brickyard and was also a gardener. The corner piece of ground where the Village Hall now stands was the allotment where he worked. It was nearly all strawberries, and after 40 years or so, there are still strawberries growing on top of the wall, and not yet quite so small as wild ones. In those days the allotment was cultivated by the villagers, and competition was keen.

Many now elderly gardeners began their training at the Nurseries which were started by the late Mr T Rogers. I remember being able to buy a buttonhole there for 3d - sometimes a stephanotis, or gardenia or camellia, with a little maiden-hair fern. Two of these gardeners, Bob Terry and Walter Talman wore round hats, and would often be seen taking their walk together on a Sunday evening, though words between them were few and far between. All the gardens were a pleasure to look at in those days.

(This is true today. Most of the houses along the “Street” have delightful gardens behind them. WLL)

George and Edmund Cresswell, two brothers, lived where Mr L Steyning is now. George was married and Edmund was single but lived with them. I remember their window was always full of calceolarias, a lovely sight, flowers that seem to have

gone out of fashion. They were formerly yeomen farmers (Cf Freeman. WLL) and lived at Netherlands Farm.

Edmund used to play a triangle, and George a tambourine, and Mr F Tooth – then a boy – played the melodeon. It used to be quite jolly to listen to them, and very amusing to see them being so serious over it. They were 80 when I knew them, and have been dead many years. Mrs George Cresswell, a neat little woman, who wore black as a rule with white apron, told me how to make different wines, primrose, beetroot, rhubarb, blackberry, damson etc.

Also I had my first taste of cider close by in the barn where it was being made. This is now Mrs Brook's garage. (Now Mr Whitten's WLL). I have been told since that all kinds of fruit went into the cider, which made it more like wine, and if you drank freely of it, it gave you a bad head or worse!"

### **The Hollist Scrapbook**

We should be grateful to the Victorians for their love of albums and scrapbooks in which they stuck newspaper cuttings, dance and concert programmes, and in fact, anything which seemed to them to be of particular family or local interest. These books are invaluable to the historian. They almost serve as a public diary of events. It seems that Mrs Hasler Hollist of Lodsworth House, not having any further use for a bound copy of the Atheneum dated 1828, pasted in it many cuttings of local and national interest, including the handwritten dance and concert programmes as these shows occurred in the village school, or on a grander scale at Lodsworth House or Petworth, Burton Park or other large houses.

In some extraordinary way this scrapbook was found by me under the seat of the back pew in the church among a lot of decaying hassocks!

Mrs Hollist commences her scrapbook in January 1874 with a programme of a play performed by local artistes at Burton Park, called "Calypso, Queen of Ogygia" with two scenes "The Seashore by Moonlight", and "Cyprus, the Abode of Venus". But the next entries are sad ones, being newspaper cuttings reporting the death and funeral of the remarkable Hasler Hollist at the age of 74. The ceremony must have been an impressive one. "It was performed by the Rev L S Clarke, the Vicar of the parish. "The Dead March in Saul" was played by Mrs Clarke upon the organ... Among the chief mourners were Mrs Hollist, Captain Hollist and the Misses Hollist, Admiral Ommanney.... The body was borne to its last home by the tenants of the deceased gentlemen whose many excellent qualities have made his memory universally regarded in this neighbourhood."

So passed on the “Squire” who took such an active part in the affairs of Lodsworth, and shares with Mrs Marion Osborn (at a much later date) the honour of being the only Lodsworthians who were sufficiently interested in the history of their parish to write notes on it. All of Hasler Hollist’s notes were written in exquisite “copper-plate” script, an art which seems to be lost.

But life goes on in the village, and in July of the same year a concert was held presumably at the village school. The hand-written programme is stuck in the scrapbook, and as it is typical of the many programmes treasured, here, I will transcribe it. This form of Victorian entertainment, sentimental, yet hearty, is so far removed from the canned impersonal noise, which is daily absorbed by this generation, that it seems to be of another world.

### **Programme, July 23rd**

#### Part I

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Piano Duet                     | Miss Clarke & Miss Batchelor |
| England                        | Choir                        |
| Solo – My love, he is a sailor | Mrs Farmer                   |
| Duet – The Joyous Reapers      | Mrs & Miss Clarke            |
| Solo – Write me a letter       | Miss Bookham                 |
| Solo – The King and I          | Mr Farmer                    |
| O hush thee, my baby           | Choir                        |
| Solo – The little Gipsy        | Mrs Clarke                   |
| Weil may the Keelrow           | Choir                        |
| Solo – Far away                | Miss Clarke                  |
| I love my love in the morning  | Choir                        |

#### Part II

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Piano Duet                  | Miss Clarke and Miss Batchelor |
| Solo – The old Church Bell  | Mr Farmer                      |
| Trio – Hark o’er the Waters | Mrs & Miss Clarke, Mrs Farmer  |
| Solo – Echo Chorus          | Mr Lascelles & Choir           |
| Solo – Four Jolly Smiths    | Walter Hill                    |
| Duet – ABC                  | Mr & Mrs Farmer                |
| Solo – I love my love       | Mrs Clarke                     |
| Cherry Ripe                 | Choir                          |
| Solo – Ring the bell        | Mr Farmer                      |

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Well, there it is! A glimpse into an Age when Lodsworth turned out in its Sunday best to enjoy the sweet tra-la-las of the vicar's wife and daughter, and the resonant tones of Mr Farmer, and (I am sure) the tenor of Mr Lascelles.

It is apparently a happy Age, yet the Scrapbook records a year or two later (1878):

“Another Christmas Day has gone! Another year closes on its decease. Rigorous winter around us: distress everywhere prevailing: commercial depression, such as we have seldom see in this country: and to the end of which we cannot see making itself felt amongst a large section of the trading classes: manufacturing industry to a fearful extent paralysed: labour unemployed: destitution rapidly on the increase: all the springs of prosperity so low as to threaten exhaustion – such is the gloomy position on which we take our stand to glance back at the general character of the year which in a few days will have taken its course.” (Illustrated London News, December 28th 1878)

There is no hint that Lodsworth was immersed in this sea of gloom, for in the Scrapbook for that year are several concert programmes, one being given at Petworth House, when two Sketches were performed: “Uncle's Will”, and “To oblige Benson”. The actors were evidently distinguished including The Hon. Eric Harrington, The Hon. Everard Primrose, Lord Turnour and others. On this occasion probably only the Lodsworth “carriage folk” set out in their broughams across the Halfway Bridge to Petworth House.

Undoubtedly Lodsworth suffered from the general agricultural catastrophe of this decade (owing to the introduction of Free Trade), and the Scrapbook contains another cutting from the Illustrated London News, dated January 3rd 1880:

“It has been a year of continuous gloom... We have had, strictly speaking, a wintry Spring, a sunless Summer, a wet Autumn, and a premature spell of frost and snow. The fruits of the earth have not fairly ripened... No such year has passed within living memory...”

Prior to 1870 agriculture was flourishing, and there was a cordial relationship between squire, farmer and labourer. Many cottages were built at that time at an uneconomic rent, and on the whole the life of the farm worker was a happy one. After 1875 Free Trade completed its work of destroying the prosperity of English agriculture, and there was an exodus of country folk to the towns. Trevelyan (English Social History) says: “Already in 1881 there were some hundred thousand fewer farm labourers than ten years before, and that was only the beginning of the exodus.”

But there again there is no hint that the community life of Lodsworth was unduly disturbed. There was the same hierarchy of squire, parson, farmers and workers. In 1885 there was a Play given in the school room. Here is the programme:

### **“The Strayed Falcon”**

Characters:

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| John Howieson     | Mr Edwards         |
| Stranger          | Mr Chilver         |
| Alan Macleucar    | H Montgomerie      |
| Page              | Mrs Hollist        |
| Elsbeth Macleucar | Frau Bech          |
| Janet             | Miss Hollist       |
| Lilias            | Miss L Hollist     |
| Mysie             | Miss N Montgomerie |
| Annaple, a gipsy  | Miss Montgomerie   |
| Zillah            | Miss E Hollist     |

Act I

A room in a farmhouse in Scotland

Act II

The same room

Act III

The Gipsy’s tent

Act IV

Same room as Act I

Act V

The Hall in the King’s Palace

**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN**

And then comes the memorable year of 1887 – The Queen’s Golden Jubilee. Apparently the GLOOM had lifted! Lodsworth made the most of it. The local paper spread itself well:-

“The Jubilee was locally celebrated at Lodsworth on Tuesday, when Colonel and Mrs Hollist invited the parishioners to the Park surrounding Lodsworth House. There was a Thanks-giving Service at the church, at which the Rev C Chilver officiated. At two o’clock the gates of Colonel Hollist’s Park were thrown open, and there was a constant stream of people for about half an hour. At the end of that



time there were about 500 parishioners assembled. Mrs Hollist, the Misses Hollist, Colonel Hollist and Master Hollist were assisted by the Rev C Chilver and Mrs Chilver, Miss Chilver, Mr W T C Dobson RA, Mrs Dobson, Mr & Mrs Burdon, Mrs Dennett, Miss Dennett, Mrs Marriott, Miss Marriott, Mr Marriott, Mr Dennett, Mr & Mrs Blaker, and others in entertaining the parishioners. The “Health to the Queen” was received with hearty cheers. Colonel Hollist entertained every parishioner to a meat tea, the catering being undertaken by Mr Gill of the Hollist. A band from London played during the day, and was much appreciated. There were all kinds of outdoor amusements, including racing for prizes. Mrs Hollist very kindly gave each of the children a commemoration medal with which the youngsters were highly delighted. The company, after singing the National Anthem and giving cheers for the Queen, began to disperse about 9 o’clock. Cheers were given for Colonel Hollist, Mrs Hollist and the family, and for the Committee. The village was gay with flags and floral adornments.”

The next year marks the end of an era in the life of the village which was almost feudal. The Local Government Act was passed, and the County Council created, to be followed by the creation of Rural and Parish Councils. The rule of the Squire, Parson and Churchwardens was doomed. One of the Electoral divisions of the County Council comprised the parish of Easebourne, Lodsworth, Selham, South Ambersham and Tillington (the area of the ancient manor of Gretcham - Page 5). Colonel Hollist was elected to represent this Division on the new County Council at Chichester. The Scrapbook records the meeting at the village school, where he explains the new Act, and the functions of the Council: and persuaded the meeting that he was better qualified to serve as their representative on the Council than a Mr Maurice Ireland, a rival candidate. Mr Dobson moved that the Colonel be elected, and Mr John Bell seconded the motion. A show of hands resulted clearly in favour of Colonel Hollist. And on January 1st 1889, the Colonel sat down to luncheon with the Mayor of Chichester in company with all the other members at their first meeting of the West Sussex County Council.

## **A Silver Wedding**

On the 25th June 1890 Colonel and Mrs Hollist celebrated their Silver Wedding; and to mark the occasion invited all the old people in Lodsworth, Easebourne and Tillington who had been married twenty five years or more to Tea. Nearly 100 couples accepted the invitation. One of the features of the afternoon was a cricket match – Lodsworth v Easebourne. Lodsworth won, and Miss Hollist presented each member of the Lodsworth team with a cap in dark and light blue stripes, and took photographs of both Elevens and the married couples attending the tea.

As this is the first mention of the Lodsworth Cricket team, it is interesting to give the details of this match:

| Lodsworth     |          | Easebourne    |          |
|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| H Tribe       | 2        | F Martin      | 7        |
| H Gamlin      | 12       | W Harper      | 1        |
| J Bridger     | 3        | A Gillian     | 0        |
| S Whittington | 14       | E Purser      | 10       |
| R Budd        | 0        | Witham        | 3        |
| H Blaker      | 2        | Capt Maycock  | 0        |
| F Gill        | 5        | T Etherington | 1        |
| Smith         | 14       | J Page        | 1        |
| W Apps        | 0        | A T Purser    | 8        |
| Bishop        | 6        | A Hills       | 0        |
| Bronham       | 12       | G Chevias     | 0        |
| Extras        | <u>5</u> | Extras        | <u>6</u> |
|               | 75       |               | 37       |

### More Entertainments

At the end of the same year, 1890, there was a jolly party at the school, when a special feature of the show was an Exhibition of Mrs Jarley’s Waxworks. The usual village celebrities were there – the Hollists, the Montgomeries and the Chivers – but on this occasion the list includes the Rev L B Barnett the curate and a Mlle Orłowska. Mrs Barnett, who has the distinction of being the last curate of Lodsworth, rendered a song, “Pat O’Hara”. The Waxworks included Jack and Mrs Sprat, Little Bo-Peep, Guy Fawkes, Allens’ Hair Restorer, Jack-in-the-Box, Dirty Boy, Soothing Syrup, Pears’ Soap, Mother Hubbard, and the Old Woman and Broom. Mr W Hills sang a song: “Put it down to me”.

Sometime later on there was a Dance at the school, apparently arranged by the younger folk, aided and abetted by the curate. There were 60 present, including Mr & Mrs Barnett, the Misses Chilver, Miss Hollist and Master Hollist and Master Montgomerie. The band was provided by Messrs A & C Page with E Elliott.

## **Lord Tennyson**

In October 1892 Lord Tennyson died at Aldworth on Blackdown. Since his house was so near to Lodsworth parish boundary, the Lodsworthians were specially affected by the passing of this national figure. The Scrapbook contains long cuttings from the London papers describing his funeral in Westminster Abbey.

## **A Notable Wedding**

In August 1807 Miss Lilian Capron, second daughter of Colonel Hollist was married to Mr Herbert Cooper Barnes, surgeon of Petworth. This event is important in our annals of Lodsworth, as the son of this happy pair, Cecil Hollist Barnes, is the present Chairman of Lodsworth Parish Council. It was a gay wedding, and there were over 200 wedding presents from many well known people, like the Earl of Egmont, the Dean of Winchester and other notabilities. The Rev C S Chilver assisted by the curate (!) performed the ceremony.

In the same year the Diamond Jubilee of the old Queen was duly celebrated in Lodsworth. Mrs Hollist planted a chestnut tree in front of the Hollist Arms as part of the celebration, and the school children replaced the earth around the tree. After the singing of the National Anthem and three cheers for the Queen, the ceremony ended with "Drinks all round"!

## **A Link with the Past - 1900 to 1962**

In the Scrapbook the Chilver family from the vicarage figure prominently in the social round. Mr Chilver was vicar of Lodsworth from 1884-1901. His daughters were a lively pair, and took part in all the village activities. Agnes was perhaps the more serious minded, and was no doubt a very successful Sunday school teacher, for her classes were large and keen. Sixty years after her father had retired to Midhurst, Agnes, aged 89 years, was still alive and active, continuing to do "good works" such as hospital visiting. She died in 1961.

In 1960 the vicar of Lodsworth (W L Lamb) arranged a "Sunday School tea" for Miss Chilver and some of her old pupils. For the first time after 60 years the "School" met again with Miss Chilver in charge. There, to recall old times with her, were eight of her "boys and girls" – Mrs Violet Newman, Mrs Mildred Douche, Miss Janet Boxall, Miss Jenny Hedger, Mrs Elisabeth Tribe, Mr Robert Tooth, Mr Harry Chandler and Mr Fred Tooth. All of them still live in Lodsworth except Mrs Douche. One of them said afterwards, "She is just the same, always so sweet and pleasant. She was worshipped by the people around."

Despite her great age Miss Chilver's mind was as active as ever, and her wonderful memory enabled her to recall much of the "old days" to the delight of her pupils, all of them around 70 years of age. Her Sunday School in 1900 was almost 100 strong. It was held morning and afternoon, and the children attended it as well as the church services. At the end of this heavy day, Miss Chilver ran a Bible Class for boys at the "Coffee Tavern" opposite the Hollist Arms. (Does she mean the Reading Room? WLL).

After the tea, Miss Chilver recalled two interesting old customs of Lodsworth. One was the custom of "rough music". Apparently if someone had behaved badly, or annoyed the village in some way, or even if a husband and wife had quarrelled, the villagers walked up and down outside of their house making "rough music" with cans and anything they could lay their hands upon. Said Miss Chilver, with a chuckle, "There was certainly no music about it!"

The other custom was even more extraordinary. Every Good Friday most villagers would make a Good Friday Bun. This would be placed on the kitchen shelf, and if anyone fell into the river and his body could not be found, they would throw in the bun, and this would lead searchers to the right spot. "I remember," said Miss Chilver, "two boys being found in this way. Everybody believed in it."



HAPPY RE-UNION.—A party was given at Lodswoth Village on Tuesday for Miss Chivers, a former Sunday School teacher at Lodswoth, and some of her old pupils. Round the table (left to right) are Mrs. Michael Douglas, Mr. Robert Cook, Miss Janet Booth, Mrs. Lavin, Mr. Tom Trout, Miss Clifton, Miss Janet Hodger, the Rev. W. L. Lamb O'Carra, Mrs. Violet Newman, Mrs. Elizabeth Telfer, and Mr. Harry Chandler.

## Chess

Lodswoth has the distinction of producing two outstanding chess players, and of being one of the few Sussex villages which ran a Chess Club. The two brilliant players were the brothers, Bridger, members of an old Lodswoth family, which figures largely in its early history. These brothers were small farmers, and it is remembered in the village that they played “blind chess” with each other when ploughing. They ploughed in opposite directions, and when they passed each other one would call out his move, which would be replied to by the other brother on his next round.

In 1901 Chess Congress held at the Pavilion, Brighton, the Petworth side included the two Bridgers. Petworth won the McArthur Cup, and brought this valuable chess trophy to West Sussex for the first time. Mr J Bridger had the honour of getting in the last three for the “West Sussex Champion Queen”, and he eventually became “Champion of West Sussex”. In addition to these victories, the brothers secured 1st prizes in the County Chess Handicaps. There is still, I believe, an old

photograph of the Lodsworth Chess team in the Village Hall. The photograph shows a distinguished guest – Dr Joad, the famous philosopher.

### **Odd Jottings**

Mrs Osborn states that cricket matches and fairs used to be on the field below the Lodge on Gosden's Heath.

She also remembers the many different home-made wines which were popular in Lodsworth. A speciality was "Birch Wine" made from the sap of birch trees.

A Lodsworth panacea for cuts and wounds – "Madonna lilies soured in brandy!"

### **Lodsworth Folk Songs and Carols**

Here we come to an important "find" in the Music Library of King's College, Cambridge relating to the songs and carols peculiar to Lodsworth some 100 years ago. The editor of these notes found there a copy of the Journal of the Folk Song Society 1900, which contained a long article by W P Merrick, who noted the words and tunes of these ditties as given him by a Mr Henry Hills.

The Hills family were small farmers in Lodsworth. They farmed at Moorlands, Fitzlea and South Heath. The nephew of this Henry Hills was Edwin who recently died aged 93. He had farmed at South Heath for 60 years, and when he died he was probably the oldest working farmer in England. The Hills family had lived at South Heath for about 250 years.

Edwin well remembered his uncle, and his love of singing, especially when working in the fields. (see page 34)

Here is an extract from the Journal of the Folk Song Society 1900 with reference to these songs:-

"For this collection of folk songs I am indebted to Mr Henry Hills who has been kind enough to allow me to note them down from his singing. He has spared no pains to render me all the assistance in his power, and has always been ready to sing them over and over again when I have been in doubt as to their correct notation.

Mr Hills is now about 68 years of age. He was born at Lodsworth, a village lying between Midhurst and Petworth in Sussex of which place both his parents are

natives, and where his father had a large farm for many years. Here he spent the first 30 years of his life, and it was mostly from the inhabitants of this neighbourhood that he acquired his rather large repertoire of upwards of 60 ditties.

In 1863, after the death of his father, he took a farm on Blackdown, not far from where the late Lord Tennyson built his residence, Aldworth; and after remaining there for about 15 years he occupied various other farms in Sussex and Surrey until in the beginning of 1899 he came to live a Shepperton, where I first made his acquaintance.

“ ‘Who ever would have thought my old songs could have been any good?’ he has said to me. ‘When I lived down at Lodsworth I knew lots and lots of them, but I have forgotten a great many of them now. Perhaps I shall think of them again some day – I will if I can. Sometimes now an old song comes into my head all of a sudden that I have not heard for many years and years. People used to say to me: What a happy young man you must be, Henry, for you are always singing! The carters used to be always at it when they were along with their horses..... Just take up a stone and rattle it on the handle of the plough and sing to them, and the horses would go along as pretty and as well as possible. I almost feel as if I could go to plough and sing away now. We used to have a carter chap living in the house, and he could sing scores of songs: sometimes of an evening we would sit up and sing for ever so long – first one would get hold of a ballad, and then another would get hold of a ballad, and so on. Sometimes a friend would come to stay with us from London or somewhere else, and if he could sing a song that I liked I would get him to sing and if he could sing a song that I liked I would get him to sing it over until I learned it. I used to hear a lot of songs too, at harvesty homes, tithe-feasts, rent-dinners, rabbit-hunts, and one place or another. Some of the farmers and men about there could sing out and well – capital, they could!’

It seems to have been the rule for each singer, when asked to sing a song at a social gathering, to conclude it by giving a toast. Mr Hills has given me the following “healths” which he has heard on such occasions:-

“Here’s to the fleece and the flock,  
God prosper the farmer and all his stock”

This ‘health’ always followed, “Come, come, jolly ploughmen”

The next ‘health’ was usually given after singing a song called, “You are welcome around my oak table”

“May our friends be as numerous as the leaves of an oak tree, and their hearts as sound as the butt!”

Here is another ‘health’:-

Here’s to the three B’s and the H:-  
Bread when we’re hungry,  
Beer when we’re dry,  
Bed when we’re dry,  
Heaven when we die!

Inside a loaf,  
Outside a gaol,  
A pound of good beef steak,  
And a pot of good ale.

Mountains of beef,  
Rivers of beer,  
A pretty little wife,  
And a thousand a year!

I have made a few notes on some of the songs. In the Journal all the songs and carols are printed with the tunes recorded by Mr Merrick from Henry Hills.

Below is a song, “The Mistress’ Health” sang in Lodsworth at the Harvest Homes:-

### 1. The Mistress’ Health

Now harvest is over, and supper is past,  
Here’s a health to our mistress  
All in a full glass:  
For she’s a good woman,  
And provides us good cheer;  
Here’s a health to our mistress,  
So drink up your beer!

### 2. Peas, beans, oats and the barley (Harvest Homes 1870)

There sits the hand that ploughs up the land,  
Where the peas, beans, oats and the barley stand:  
PEAS, BEANS, OATS and the BARLEY.



Drink off your liquor, and then you'll know  
Where the peas, beans, oats and the barley grow.  
PEAS, BEANS, PEAS, BEANS,  
PEAS, BEANS, OATS and the BARLEY.

When the leader sang the four words in capital letters, PEAS, BEANS, OATS and BARLEY, he pointed at four guests in rotation. When he stopped singing, the persons at whom he had pointed uttered in rotation the word which the leader sang when he pointed at him. Thus, the first would say, "PEAS", the second, "BEANS", the third, "OATS" and the last "BARLEY". These four then drank, while the rest of the company sang the four lines again. The performance was repeated until all had been indicated; and if anyone happened to speak the wrong word he paid a forfeit of drinking another horn of ale! (1889)

### 3. Poor Tom (Harvest Suppers, Lodsworth)

After supper two of the company rose, one of them rapping upon the table as if it were somebody knocking at the door.

The following dialogue then took place between them:-

Who raps there?  
Poor Meg, full of sorrow and care.  
What do poor Meg want?  
A winding sheet to wrop poor Tom up in.  
Is poor Tom dead?  
Yes.  
When did poor Tom die?

Chorus:

Oh! Yesterday in the morning gay,  
Parted poor Tom and I;  
Oh! Yesterday in the morning gay,  
Parted poor Tom and I.  
Drink right or else you're wrong,  
Poor Tom is dead and gone.  
Drink right or else you're wrong,  
Poor Tom is dead and gone.  
We'll whack a little day with his drum, drum, drum,  
We'll whack a little day with his drum:  
We'll drink no more till the old cock crows,  
Without a new in-come.

Nonsense words, but the charm is in the swinging tune, which unfortunately I cannot produce here. Mr Hills said that the two brothers, Richard and John Luff, both in his father's employ, and natives of Lodsworth, used to take the leading parts. (1899)

#### 4. I've been to France

At the Lodsworth harvest home suppers, a popular turn was a ceremony which required a steady hand. An inverted wooden bowl, with a horn of ale standing upon it, was placed before one of the company, who endeavoured to raise the horn to his lips and drink its contents by clasping the bowl in both hands, then toss up the empty horn, turn the bowl upright in his hands, and catch the horn as it descended into the bowl. All this had to be done without touching the horn with the hands, or removing them from the bowl. The attempt was made by each guest in turn. While this was being done, the company sang:

I've been to France,  
And I've been to Dover,  
I've been a rambling all the world over.  
Over, over, over, over.  
Drink up your liquor and  
Turn the bowl over.

#### 5. Come, come pretty maids

Mr Hills says this ditty was always included in the song and carols of the singers who went from house to house at Christmas time. (1850)

Come, come, pretty maids,  
Don't be afraid,  
I mean you no mischief, I vow:  
I vow and protest  
I will not be kissed,  
So you may go courting elsewhere,  
So you may go courting elsewhere.

#### 6. Come, all you worthy Christians

This charming carol, words and tune, is known as "An old Lodsworth Carol". I have not met it in any carol collections, so I give it here in full, words and tune.

The tune has been harmonized by Philip Ledger Esq. Mus. Bac. of King's College, Cambridge, but when sung at Lodsworth, it was probable that the singers sang in unison, with an accompaniment of various homemade instruments.

Come, all you worthy Christians, that were so very poor,  
Remember how poor Lazarus laid at the rich man's door,  
A-begging of more crumbs of bread which from the table fell,  
The Scripture doth inform us, he now in Heaven do dwell.

The time, it will soon come when parted we all must be,  
The only thing that doth remain is enjoying our misery:  
Wherefore we must all an account give, both great as well as small:  
Remember, all good people, that God has made us all.

Oh! Job, he was a patient man, and a rich man in the East:  
How he was brought to poverty! His sorrows did increase:  
He bore it with great patience, and never did repine;  
He always trusted in the Lord, and soon got rich again.

Come, all you worthy Christians that dwell within this land;  
Don't spend your time in rioting: remember you're but man.  
Be watchful of your latter end; be ready when you're called,  
There's many a changes in the world, some rises and some fall.

Though poor, I am contented, no riches do I crave;  
For they are all but vanity on this side of the grave.  
Although many roll in riches, their glass will soon run out;  
No riches they brought in this world, nor none can they take out.

Taken down by W P Merrick in December 1899 from Mr Hills, who was for many years resident of Lodsworth.

Henry Hills was baptised on January 22nd, 1830, and his parents were Charles and Priscilla Hills.

Come, all you worthy Christians

The image shows a handwritten musical score for the hymn "Come, all you worthy Christians". The score is written on four systems of two staves each, using a treble and bass clef. The time signature is 4/4. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#), likely D major. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and chordal accompaniment. The first system begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The second system shows a key signature change to one sharp. The third and fourth systems continue the melody and accompaniment, with the fourth system ending with a double bar line.

Old Lodsworth Carol, harmonised by Philip Ledger Mus.Bac.  
King's College, Cambridge. Organist of Chelmsford Cathedral.

## The Dennett Family

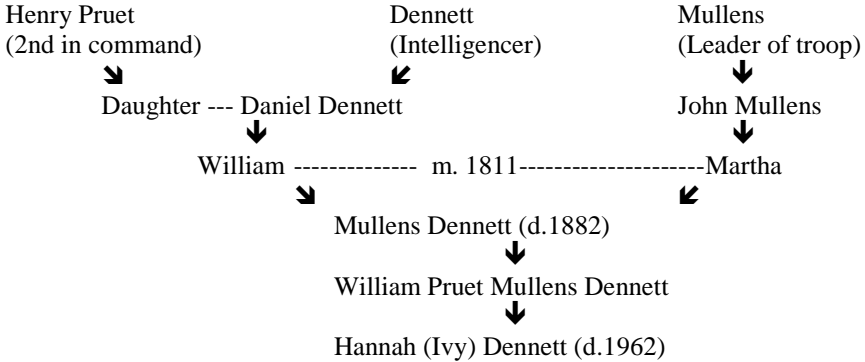
In the course of these notes I have referred many times to the Dennett family. They and the Hollists were undoubtedly the most prominent Lodsworthians for very many years. Miss Hannah (Ivy) Dennett, who died on January 28th 1962, was the last surviving member of a family which had lived in Lodsworth for about 180 years.

The story of this family reads like an historical novel, and Mr Mullens Harrison probably has enough material in his archives for the construction of such a book. There are four families in the “plot”, who were all inter-connected by marriage – the Dennetts, the Harrisons, the Pruets and the Mullens; and although there is mention of some of them prior to the 17th century, the story really begins in the Civil War (1642-1651).

A “Denat” (Dennett) of Woodmancote was one of Oliver Cromwell’s “intelligencers” (spies), and was attached to one of the troops of “Hambleton Boys”, enlisted in Hampshire and Sussex, and under the command of “fierce John Harrison, grim as a ghost”, and the Puritan officer, “Appleteats”, his son. Henry Pruet was second in command of Appleteats’ troops. His grand-daughter married a descendant of the intelligencer Denat by name Daniel, the fourth son of John Dennett of Woodmancote, and Sheriff of Sussex, 1743. Daniel’s son, William, bought property in Lodsworth, and became known locally as “Bright Billy”. He lived at Woodmancote (now the residence of Ernest Shepard Esq, the distinguished artist). On the other side of the road is the Great House, then known as Langham Farm House, and there resided George Mullens. On occasions, Georges’ two nieces spent their holidays at Langham Farm, and apparently the sight of Bright Billy walking in his garden opposite used to cause them great amusement. However, later on, one of the girls – Martha – married Bright Billy in 1811 to everyone’s astonishment. Her sister, Anne, also married at Lodsworth a Mr William Harrison.

William and Martha Dennett had a daughter, and twin sons, Pruet and Mullens Dennett. Pruet (1815-1876) was a bachelor, and lived in Midhurst. He was responsible for the re-opening of the Grammar School (1860). His brother, Mullens, has a second son, William Pruet Mullens Dennett, who was the father of Ivy Dennett who has died recently. Here is a brief genealogical summary of her descent:-

(Civil War)  
 ‘Hambledon Boys’ Troops  
 1642-1651

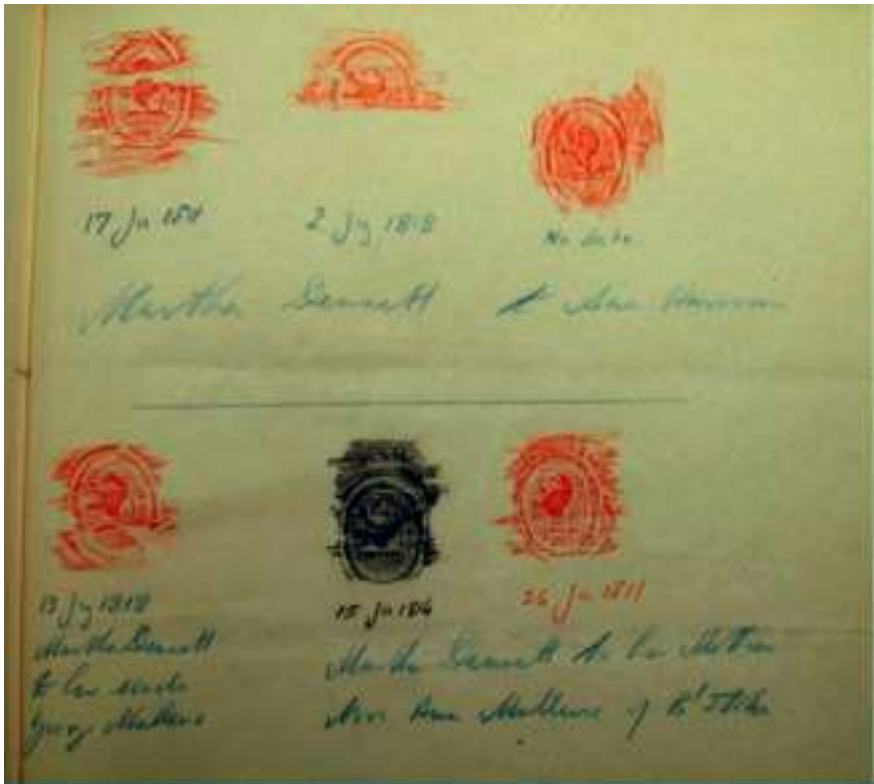


The story outlined like this seems quite ordinary, but actually there were highlights of comedy and tragedy, which can be glimpsed in the extensive collection of family letters that Mr Harrison possesses. The Dennett family ended tragically. It is curious that a curse, placed upon the family for some 300 years by one of the Dennetts of Woodmancote (a High Sheriff of Sussex), appeared to come true. The curse was attached to a signet ring. Here is a rendering in modern English of the ancient writing:-

**Ring of the Dennetts - Woodmancote 1591**

A strange old ring, full steeped in magic deep,  
 Is given Dennetts ever more to keep;  
 That we fine yeomen on our Sussex lands  
 Shall seal the signatures writ by our hands  
 To every Document which we shall sign  
 To vouch ‘tis done by one of Dennett’s line.  
 Thus, ever more, when we have long been dead  
 By all who read our deeds shall it be said

“Argent, a demi-lion rampant gules  
 The destiny of Dennett ever rules,  
 ‘Tis vain for any man to question it.  
 Magna est veritas et prevalebit.”



Upon this ring is placed a solemn curse,  
 Which naught to any Yeoman could be worse,  
 For, if use of the ring we o'er forsake  
 When signatures to Documents we make,  
 Shall then the Dennett line fall into Shame  
 And sure Decline shall cancel out our Name.  
 That we forget this I pray God fend!  
 If we do, then our Line shall surely end.

"Argent, a demi-lion rampant gules  
 The Destint of Dennett ever rules,  
 'Tis vain for any Man to question it.  
 Magna est Veritas et prevalebit."

FINIS

This ring was in the hands of Pruet Dennett (1815-1876), but nobody ever used it after his death. From then onward the family declined rapidly in the male line. Of the last eight men, four died through accidents, one in war, and only three dying naturally, although one went very suddenly. The prophecy of the ring had been fulfilled. Mr Harrison has made some rubbings of the wax seals made by this ring on various letters written by members of the family. (Previous page) The rampant red lion of the Dennett Arms is plainly seen.

These Arms were engraved with the family motto – Argent a demi lion etc - on the sword of John Denat of Woodmancote by William Peachey, a blacksmith of Singleton, who made all the swords of the armigers in the Hambledon Boys troops.

The Red Lion Inn in Midhurst bears these Dennett Arms as its sign.

Incidentally, Ivy Dennett was also a descendant of William Peachey the swordsmith through the female line.

From the days of the Hambledon Boys – the private cavalry regiment of “Idle Dick” Norton, with their wonderful French horses, right down to modern times, the Dennetts have been very “horsey” people. For instance, they rode to dances as far away from Lodsworth as Odiham or Basingstoke. It is also said that they had a regular trade with Sussex smugglers, especially in black silk for mourning wear!



## **Appendix -**

### **A Perambulation of the Liberty and Parish of Lodsworth 1834**

This remarkable manuscript of over 3000 words written by Hasler Hollist, is a master-piece of descriptive detail. Here and there he gives a sketch, but there is no over-all map of the Parish showing the boundaries, as in the great Tithe Map of 1841.

I have underlined place-names in red, (in this edition – *italicized*) as these names may be of interest to the present property owners.

WLL

## A Perambulation of the Liberty and Parish of Lodsworth 1834

**28th August 1834** (due notice having been given to the adjoining parishes of the intention of the inhabitants of Lodsworth to tread their grounds this day commencing at the Halfway Bridge between Midhurst and Petworth, the following persons with others started from the appointed place at nine o'clock.

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Lodsworth  | W H Galdwyn Esq<br>Hasler Hollist Esq<br>Alexander Brown – Steward of Lord of Manor<br>Wm Child – shopkeeper<br>James Marshall – carpenter<br>John Barns, Sen. - farmer<br>John Barns, Jun. - aged 10<br>Wm Wakeford – carpenter<br>John Wakeford – aged 12<br>Henry Wakeford – aged 10<br>Henry Gill – son of publican<br>John Andrews – for his father, overseer of Lodsworth<br>James Webb – Reeve of the Lord of Manor |
| Easebourne | Thomas Jenner – occupier of Moor Farm  |
| Ambersham  | Thomas Jenner  |
| Tillington | Butt – agent for the Rector<br>Geo. Colebrooke – farmer<br>Dobson – agent for Wm Mitford Esq<br>J T Burgess – stone mason<br>Richard Wickens<br>John Barns, Sr<br>John Barns, Jr<br>Hasler Hollist   |
| Lurgashall | W H Galdwyn  |
| Selham     | Hasler Hollist<br>Alex Brown   |

COMMENCE at the corner of the little waste pieces on the north side of the *Halfway Bridge* called *Beggars Corner* – cross over the fence into the furze fields

(Mr Tarhitt's?) up the ditch of the fence between that and Halfway Bridge meadow (Child's) thus leaving the fence in Lodsworth and the field in Tillington, and continue the same line up the west side of the lower end of the River wood hanger to the brook at the spot where the meadow ends. Up the stream to the south corner of an ozier bed called the *Island* belonging to the Manor Farm of Lodsworth. The boundary line here leaves the brook and trends to the Eastward leaving the *Island* in Lodsworth and keeping close under its fence round to the brook again. After following the brook a few yards again leaves it in an easterly direction treading another small plantation into Lodsworth, and following the fence round to the brook. Up the stream about 60 yards to the South corner of a planted piece belonging to Mr Mullens, formerly an orchard. Leave this in Lodsworth and go on to the stile leading to *Eel Bridge*. About 40 yards above the bridge turn in directly to the brook. Up the brook 50 or 60 yards, cross into the *Calves Patch* (Mr Poyntz) treading out the fence of Salmon's Bridge Farm for some distance to a spot where the fence changes. Then tread the fence between *Salmon's Bridge Farm* and *Leggatt Hill Farm* into Lodsworth up the straight hedge, dividing the two farms quite out to Salmon's Bridge lane at a drain or bunny by the gate leading into Lodsworth wood Common. Cross the lane and hedge at the mouth of the drain a little East of the gate into the *Lime Kiln Rough*, and traverse it in nearly the same direction to a young oak marked Ton the East and I, on the West side. From the tree down to the gully below, directly over and into the nine acres. Cross part of this field straight to *Payne's corner* at the Water rail. Up the East side of Payne's field leaving the fence in Tillington quite to the North corner along the ditch in the same direction, the same ditch continuing down the old bank between Spring field and Lodsworth Wood quite out to *River Park Rough*, and over the fence into the Rough about a rod to the North of the Water Stile opposite the stump of an old oak. Straight across the rough by the old bank to the corner of *Winter's End Field*. Up the ditch between that and Ram field treading to the right at the upper end, and treading a little open row into Lodsworth. Keep close along the ditch to a drain in a little bottom called *Dirty Bridge*, where Lodsworth, Lurgashall and Tillington join.

Up the brook to the left as far as the Water rail, then turn to the right under the bank without crossing it, and over the fence into *Mr Poyntz' nine acres*. Keep along the ditch under the fence of the ... wood, leaving the wood in Lodsworth, and the field in Lurgashall as far as the corner of *Mr Bridger's field*. Over into the field and along the hedge treading all Mr B's land into Lodsworth, and all Mr Poyntz' out up to the head of an old pond called *Carver's Pond*. Thence in the same direction up the foot path between *Mr Martin's two fields* part of the old River Park (and recently exchanged) on the one side and Mr Bridger's land on the other leaving the whole of the former in Lurgashall and the latter in Lodsworth. In the same way between Mr Mitford and Mr Bridger treading out the whole of the fence

as far as the stile leading out of Mr B's field into the lane running from the *Southwater farm house* to *Lickfold Bridge* down the lane close under the fence on the left hand treading out all the waste ground in the land, straight to the Southwest post of Lickfold Bridge. (Charles Enticknap and 2 or 3 others from Lurgashall joined us here.) Cross Lickfold Bridge and over the water rail a few yards up to the left through Lickfold hanger keeping close under the fence of *Mishess' (?) ground* and treading all that in. A slip of the hanger runs out some distance up into Mishess' ground - follow this closely, treading it out as before and going up the footpath to the angle and then back under the hedge. At the upper end of the hanger cross the hedge between Mishess' and *Mr Mitford's Rough*, also called the old *Furze Field*. Slant down the brook, then up the brook to the point of the hedge northwesterly up the ditch under the fence hedge to the footpath, and up it through Lee field treading out the double fence of *Goff's* to the stile leading into *Wapple or Halter Lane*. Cross the lane to the ditch in the middle of a wide fence parting *Mr Galdwyn's Kibe field* and *Coleman's 4 acres.* Follow the ditch quite up to the spot where the road from Blackdown to Lurgashall crosses the line. Then follow the old horse track now disused and overgrown with furze quite up to the watering pond for cattle outside of Mr Galdwyn's wall. Over the wall in the bight of the pond, and up the terrace grounds about a rod from the wall treading out the beech trees and treading in the fish ponds just above the upper fish pond and opposite a door in the wall. Climb up between the beech trees and go out at the door into the road. Up the middle of the road under the wall of *Mr Galwyn's Didyfield* treading one wheeltrack out and the other in round to Scout Hatch, and over the corner into the lane stile keeping down close under the fence of the Didyfield, and over into the Didyfield at the corner where Selham coppice begins. Down the ditch on the field side to the bottom. In the same direction along the ditch of the Furney field of the hilly *Calhams* where the fence changes, then over into the *Hawkhill field* still following the ditch down that and the Selham field to and through the fence between the two Calham fields. In at the lower corner of Calham meadow, the fence changing here. Keep on along the ditch of Butt field to the Northeast corner of *Skermers' Coppice*. Down the ditch of the Selham side to about the middle of the Coppice, then over to the Lodsworth side at a stump marked as in Selham estimated to be 15 rods from the S.E. boundary and so down to the ditch of *Gentle's High field* to the Wapple lane by the Hatch treading out the fence of the upper Skermers. Cross the lane into Gentle's great field treading out Hoick high field and fence, through Gentle's Yard treading it all in. From the corner of the Yard Wall straight to the corner of Gentle's Garden and over at the corner to a spot 4 yards from it where a holly used to stand. Then across to the wall of the orchard and over it about 17 yards from the house chimney at a spot midway between an R and a C (the tail of the R which is of iron is gone), thence to the South East corner of the orchard and over into the lane. Slant across to the stile treading in a little

pond. Over the stile into *Hoick lane* turn short to the left close under the hedge to the Gentle's gate, and thence still under the same hedge to about three rods below the second gate from Gentle's commonly called the white gate. Turn here and go back up the middle of the road as far as the Gentle's gate - then cross to the first post of Gentle's gate and go back to the stile by the same ditch and under the same fence as before. At the stile cross the road by the water course and go along under the South bank to the corner between the alder Moor and *Hoick Plat*. Over into the Plat, and then take a straight line to the chimney of the house, through the house and oven and out where the spout hole used to be, now marked S x L. Slant across the garden to the SE corner, over the wall and Southward across the meadow and the eight acres adjoining, straight to an oak in the eight acres fence at the point where that of the four acres meets it. Over into the four acres and slant across to the opposite corner. Over the fence into the Pondfield directly in a line for an old apple tree and in the same direction to the angle of Mr Mitford's old pond head, now a Coppice. Over into the Coppice, and along under the fence of *Mr Mitford's Mill Ham field* treading it in, down to the water at *Old Mill Bridge*. Cross the water a little below the Bridge at the edge of the pond in a line with the fence on the opposite bank. Up the hill under the fence treading the *Slong ground* out and the *Greenhill farm* in. Follow the same ditch (which changes twice) quite out to *High Stead Lane*. Cross the lane into *Plash Coppice*. Keep along the ditch treading the coppice entirely out quite up to the N.W. corner of Lodsworth Wood Common. Keep along close under the western fence round *Rapson's premises*, (an old encroachment) and by the same line quite up to the corner of the *Brick Kiln Coppice* treading in an old encroachment called *Pearcey's*. Over at the corner of Brick Kiln Coppice. Follow the ditch on whichever side up to the SE corner of *Buckle's meadow* and into the Common. Keep close under the fence of *Redland's farm* treading the Common and road in down to the crossroad leading up to Redlands. Cross this into • • garden, follow the ditch through the garden and between the new and old cottages down to the pond at *Smithbrook*. Under the western bank of the pond to the corner where now stands ••• from thence up *Trussler's Heath* between the first and second walnut tree, and treading out the old sawpit, up the heath nearly in the line of a green path to a projecting point of the Eastern fence of *Mr Hollist's Beech field* just at the end of the heath where it contracts to a mere road. Under the fence of the Beech field to an oak at the corner. Cross the road to *Mr Hollist's Marle field* in a direct line for the first of the row of walnut trees in *Woolhurst old Orchard* going into the Marle field about two yards west of the gate. Cross the Marle field on the line pointed out over into the Dean field close below the wall fence on which the walnut trees stand to the end of that fence. Then strike across the field nearly in a line for the stile leading into Mr Mullens' ground. At the bottom of *Dean field* cross over into the nine acres where the fence formerly parted it from the bottom field. Keep along under the site of the

old fence treading it and the old nine acres out, and what was formerly the bottom field into the stile. To the right up under the hedge of the 9 acres to the corner over into Mr Mullens' field, treading out the rackfield and round the latter to the Common, crossing into it just on the outside of Mr Hollist's gate. Keep along under the dry wall fence separating Mr Hollist's furze fields and *Hill Plat Coppice* from the Common to a point beyond the old lime kiln nearly opposite an Ash tree, standing out rather prominently on the waste just above the hill going down to Heath end. Here strike across to the Ash and tread it in. From the Ash straight to *Hampshire end Corner* treading in the old lime kiln.

Down the Common southerly treading it all in, and *Mr Poyntz' enclosures* all out to the corner of a slip lately taken in by Mr P from the Common. Tread this new enclosure in entirely to a point where there is an angle in the hedge. Take a line from this angle to an Ash in the fence at the bottom where it (leads) up to the Midhurst and Petworth road, and tread out about half a rod all the way down as being in Ambersham, leaving the rest in Lodsworth. Over the fence at the bottom and cross the road by the little water gully to the fence separating *Addam's field* from *Moorland field*.

### **End of first day**

### **29th August 1834**

Wm Child, John Barns sen., and jun., John and James Marshall, Mr Dobson, Brown, Jenner, Gill, E.White, H Hollist and many others having again met, we proceeded with the perambulation from the spot where we left off yesterday.

Through the gate of Addam's field and down the ditch treading Addams' field out, and Moorlands field and fence in. Over into the meadow at the bottom and down by the old bank beneath the elms and withytrees to the second elm, marked L. Then follow the line of the old bank of the alder Moor now grubbed in a direction to the NE corner of the existing alder Moor on the South side of the canal. Slant across the canal to this point, making a double Alder in the corner as in Ambersham and the post next the water as in Lodsworth. Southerly round the East side of the Alder Moor by the ditch within the bank, treading the plantation out and the fence into Lockmead. Out at the SE corner and go about a rod westward to the foot of a little bank where a fence formerly stood when there was a lane down here. Along under the line of the bank to the tenth post from the gate of the *Puphill meadow* along a little ditch originally intended for a fence ditch in New Meadow varying from one to twelve feet in distance from the Puphill meadow fence in the South-west to a point marked S and L on the Puphill side, and A on the *New mead*

side nearly as far down as the lower bed of rushes. Follow the line of the rushes on the North side to a stone half a rod from the Eastern point thence to several other stones somewhat as shown in the sketch to the Old River. Follow the Old river round in a NE direction through the *Lock Mead* quite up to its junction with the Canal just below the Lock. Cross the canal here and follow the river by the N bank easterly along the meadows treading them all in as far as the hatch at the SE end of Mr Hollist's Alder Moor called "*The Long Plantation by the River*". From the hatch cross the river straight to the point of the *Mill Mead* where it juts out between the New and the Old River treading in an Alder head close to the water. Still follow the Old River round to a Culvert opposite the spot where *Selham Brook* runs into the river at the end of the Miller's garden. Leave the river here for a short distance, take the water course from the Culvert through the withy bed down to the floodgates of the Mill and back by the river side to a spot opposite the Yew tree in the Miller's garden nearly in line with the Northwest corner of the Mill House, thus treading out a slip of Mill Meadow about 100 yards in length and from 5 to 15 in breadth. Cross the river opposite the Yew tree treading it in up the path by the back of the house to a sort of horse-block jutting out from the wall. Tread this and the house in, and make for the little gate into *Hurland's Lane* with a very slight curve, treading in a slip of the pasture piece from the house to a post in the middle of the line marked S on the West and L on the East side. Through the gate into the lane, to the right alongside the western fence to an Ash tree marked S standing nearly in the bottom, then straight across the waste to a thorn standing on an old bank above the cross-road from Hurlands to Selham about midway on from 50 to 55 yards between the corner of the Hurland farm-yard and the Arch of the bridge over the Selham brook. From this thorn nearly in the same line to a spot about 4 yards from the corner of *Mr Jenkin's meadow called Veness's* where another called "the boused (?) thorn" used to stand directly opposite the corner of the Bullock Stall at Hurlands. Up the ditch on the W side of the Hurlands lane till opposite the door of the house treading the whole of the road in. At this point cross to the middle of the road treading only one wheeltrack in, and the other out as far as the site of an old lime kiln on the Lodsworth side. Continue to tread on in the same manner and about 100 yards up the lane direct up the E bank and tread along close under the fence of Mr Mitford's great (?) treading it in to a point about 40 yards short of the end of the Cover and the same distance from the Hurlands lane to a bound stone on the Westside 12 yards south of the gate leading into Selham furze-field. Up the Western side of the (?) and the same side of Graffham road treading it all in quite up to the heath. Keep along the E side of the bank parting Lodsworth and Selham Commons by a thorn Stem (?), somewhat more than halfway across the common to the *planted piece called Bridgers* where Selham, Graffham and Lodsworth join. Here turn at a right angle to the Eastward. Cross the Graffham road to the fence of Mr Mitford's fir plantation. Follow the ditch treading out the

plantation fence over the *Gallow's Hill* quite down to the brook - treading in the *keeper's house called Hobby* just above the grating. Cross the brook and road - over the fence into the new Meadow two yards to the westward of the Gate where the remains of the post of the old pond grating may still be found. Down the new mead in a zigzag direction by what appears to have been the original water course when the meadow was a pond, to the tail of *Barnet's Mill* pond treading out the (?) (Pratt of *Barnet's Mill* joined us here) of Alders at the water's edge. Through the pond to the grating opposite the great Mill wheel down the stream (treading in the whole of the Mill) 100 yards. Turn up to the left about five yards from an oak in the meadow under the fence of • • • Coppice treading it out. Cross the road into a new planted piece traverse this at a distance of from one to five yards from the fence under a sort of bank, treading out the bank and slip to the Eastward, but slanting quite into the NE corner where a bound stone stands in the fence. Over into the old lands field. Cross it towards the Northwest treading in about 4 acres out of the 10 to a bound stone at the foot of the upper of two elms. Between the two elms over into *Mesne Lane* Westward up the lane to a considerable distance to a point between two young elms standing in the hedge of *Platt's field* 25 yards short of the new quick fence across the field. Over into Pratt's field and slant down following the line of an old bank now grubbed to a chestnut tree in the fences of the meadow below. Tread ? out and again follow the bank to the river treading out an Ash halfway across the lower mead. Up the navigation canal to the places where the old river is cut off from it to make the Canal Bank. Follow the course of the old river round the piece of meadow on the N side of the Navigation formerly part of Eastmead, and treading it in. Keep along the river quite up to the wharf at *Lodgebridge*, then turn northwards by the brook up to a projecting point in the waste about, and just south of the spot where a bridge formerly stood. Cross the brook here into the meadow called *Stonebridge* round by the old bank treading it out and the meadow in to the fence at the N end - over the fence and up the ditch westward treading the fence of *Stonebridge* meadow in from this point to the brook. Re-cross the brook and follow it up again to and through the Arch of Halfway Bridge. Turn to the right at the ditch immediately above the Bridge and along the ditch under the fence of *Halfway Bridge Meadow also called Child's* treading the meadow and fence in, and the road and waste out to the corner about 100 yards from the Bridge called *Beggars Corner* where we commenced yesterday.

Hasler Hollist  
29th August 1834

Sent to Mr Dobson and approved. HH



The Lodsworth Heritage Society was formed in 2010 with the following objectives:

- Bring together those interested in our village's heritage
- Hold events for villagers and others with an interest in our village's heritage
- Record for posterity the memories of local people
- Ensure our village's historical records are preserved and available for study
- Research aspects of our heritage

For more information or to contact the Society please visit [www.lodsworthheritage.org.uk](http://www.lodsworthheritage.org.uk)



Lodsworth Heritage Society