A COUNTY VILLAGE WHICH HAS A FRENCH LINK

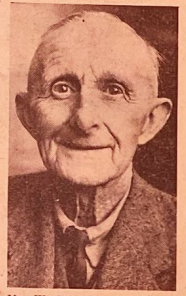
NEWBOLD VERDON —the name of which perpetuates the long-lapsed association of the Verdons, who took their family name from the French fortress town of Verdun, with the district where they were once lords of the manor—is a village which, having remained undisturbed and virtually unchanged for centuries, has suddenly found itself caught up in the fast-moving tempo of today.

The development of Newbold Verdon really began about 12 years ago with the coming of a council estate. Some of the houses were allotted to local people, but many were made available to tenants from Ibstock and Bagworth, villages where the possibility of subsidence made further building impractical.

Occupation of the estate almost doubled the population of the village. Today it is in the region of 2,600. And—within the next three or four years—it is expected to reach about 3,500.

The reason for this apparent "explosion" is the private development which, under a village plan drawn up by the County Council, has been going on for the last three years on the Brascote Lane side of the village.

The number of houses completed so far is about 250 and, it is expected, this number will be doubled by the time the expansion is complete. There will also be half a dozen new shops built on the main street.



Mr. W. Preston, one of the most knowledgeable authorities on local affairs.

For many years, the majority of villagers have worked in the nearby mines and a fair proportion of them still do. Many of the women work in hosiery and shoe factories in Leicester, Earl Shilton and Hinckley.



Mr. T. J. Greaves, headmaster of Newbold Verdon School . . . "we don't go in for

Stupendous Effort

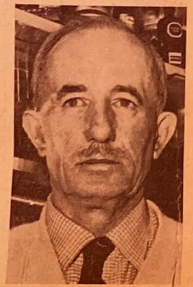
But most of the newcomers are employed in such large concerns nearby as A.E.I. and English Electric.

The main street curves through the centre of the village, past some pretty cottages and quaint little shops, and finally comes to an abrupt end outside the church.

Rebuilt during the last century through the dedicated efforts of the Rev. William Cole, it is a pleasant building in well-kept surroundings and has an unusual tower, rather squat and chunky, which was built about six years ago.

"The local people raised £6,000 to pay for it," said the Rev. R. Gibbons, present rector of St. James, Newbold Verdon. "It took them between 30 and 40 years. A stupendous effort, indeed, for so small a village."

During his 41 years of ministry at Newbold Verdon, William



The landlord of "The Mill," Colonel Morris Burke (Rtd.), of the R.A.M.C. "The Colonel

the building of a new school. It was erected — by public subscription — on glebe land, in 1875, to replace the Free School, which was founded in 1720 by Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, who once lived at Newbold Verdon Hall.

The Bishop also endowed the school with the sum of £20 a year, to pay the headmaster's salary. It is still being paid, though now through the administration of a committee of trustees.

And in the Church is a plate, used during Holy Communion which was originally part of the Bishop's *silver* dinner service. . .

The present churchwardens are **Mr. Peter Allen**, Welcome Lodge, Hunt's Lane; and **Mr. J. W. Johnson**, 49, Main Street.

There is one school in Newbold Verdon, catering for about 270 children from 5 to 11. Afterwards, they go on to Ibstock Secondary Modern School, or to Grammar School at Coalville or Market Bosworth.

The emphasis, said headmaster **Mr. T. J. Greaves**, is always on a good grounding in basic subjects.

"We don't go in for gimmicks," he told the *Advertiser*, "but we try to train the children to develop lively and enquiring minds."

One thing, however, on which Mr. Greaves does lay considerable stress is the importance of swimming.

Children from the school are taken regularly to Coalville Baths for lessons, given by the headmaster. "My aim," he said, "is that every child who leaves here will be able to swim."

At night, the school remains open for use as an Evening Institute. Classes include dressmaking, car maintenance, painting, pottery and judo.

This last has only been running for two months, but is already becoming very popular with local teenagers. The Ladies' Keep Fit class has also proved a winner . . .

On the subject of local affairs **Mr. W. Preston** is one of the most knowledgeable authorities. Until his retirement a couple of years ago, he was on both the Parish and the Rural District Councils and has been actively concerned with many changes and improvements made to the village over the years.

There was, he remembered, "Neither gas nor street lighting" and "very little sewerage" when he first took his seat on the Council 30 years ago.

Water From Pump

Water for his own house—like so many others — came by way of a pump.

Today, Mr. Preston is content to leave parish affairs to his son, Michael, who, with a seat on both Councils, is clearly "following in father's footsteps."

Meanwhile, **Mrs. W. Preston** also upholds the family tradition of service to the community. She has been on the Church Council 40 years . . .

Among recent additions to the amenities of the village has been a major improvement to the street lighting.

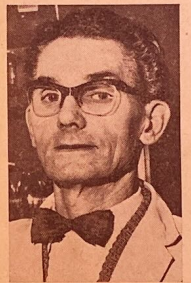
"We have doubled the number of lamps and changed to sodium," said **Mr. Brian Hill**, chairman of the Parish Council. Developments have also been made to the existing playing-field, to provide two children's playgrounds and a move is in hand to acquire a further 12 acres of land for recreational use to serve the newer side of the village.

On the social sid[e] the usual organ[isations] are so much a [part of] life. All appe[ar] much alive — [and] welcome the "n[ew]

The Women's



St. James's Church, Newbold Verdon . . . it has an unusual tower, rather squat and chunky, built about six years ago. It local people between 30 and 40 years to raise the money to pay for it.



Mr. Thomas Nutting, landlord of the Old Swan, in Main Street. He enjoys every minute of his busy life.

public houses and, for a small village, Newbold Verdon is well equipped. There are [in] all

Du[e]

brass roasting-jack in perfect working order; an ox-shoe, dug up on Bosworth Field; conical containers for mulling ale; a loving-cup; and — stuck to a glass shelf above the bar counter — a collection of paper money and coins from many parts of the world.

A recent — and much prized — acquisition is a genuine Speed map of the county, dated 1610.

The fourth inn, the George and Dragon, is at the opposite end of the village, just beyond the council estate. Landlord here is **Mr. Bernard Mobbs**—known to all as "Bunny."

"Bunny" has been in the trade for eight years, but, he said, the George and Dragon is the first he's ever had as licensee.

Warm And Friendly

Previously, he was the remedial gymnast to the Coal Board and travelled all over the country, visiting rehabilitation centres for miners. Before that he was P.T. master at Leicester's Ston[e]y[ate] School, under Cap[tain]

friendly characters and he—at least—still makes a point of doing his "daily dozen."

But subsidence is a problem in many similarly situated villages. Just how badly is it likely to affect Newbold Verdon? What, for instance, is the situation with regard to the new houses in the Brascote Lane area?

A spokesman for Market Harborough Rural Council was reassuring: "The nearest coal workings are still 80 yards from the George and Dragon, which is at the far end of the village from the new estate, and the site was approved on the understanding that this was, in fact, the outside limit of working."

According to the Coal Board, workings in the N[e] Verdon area are confi[ned] the north and west village.

There has been no under the village in and although there is in existence, both [its] and quality are suspe[ct] it is, therefore, most u[n]likely that it will ever be o[pened]

So there is no need for [con]cern for prospective newcomers to

NEXT WEE[K]

SYSTO[N]



Main Street, Newbold Verdon, curving as it does through the centre of the village has some pretty cottages and quaint little shops.

instance, has about members, most of which, said the president, **Mrs. C. N. Herriman**, are "very good cooks." Many of them, she added, still bake their own bread and make their own jam.

At present, most members are busy preparing for their annual Bulb and Produce Show, which will be held in the Church Hall on February 19.

Then there is the Evergreen Club, which meets once a week at the Miners' Welfare Hall. It has been running for about six years now, said the president, **Mrs. J. V. Beck**, and has, among its members, six or seven who are "over 80."

In summer, regular bus trips around the countryside form part of the programme arranged by the committee and give a great deal of pleasure to the elderly people.

Six Volunteers

At the other end of the scale there is a flourishing Infant Welfare Clinic, run by the Rector's wife, **Mrs. R. Gibbons.** An average number of about 80 mothers attend each session in the Church Hall (sessions are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month) and there are six voluntary helpers.

"We could do with more," said Mrs. Gibbons, "but the problem is that most people either have small children or go out to work."

Then, of course, there are the

for many o... ...der generation. They are, as Mr. Nutting said, " a real happy crowd," and among them, still enjoying his pint at 82, is Mr. Nutting's father.

The only problem is with shifts — "they make it difficult to get teams together" — but, even so, the Swan "boys" are favourites for the Tom Bishop Cup for long-alley skittles.

Further up the main street is the Jubilee Inn, kept by **Mr. W. S. Dowell**, who combines a job in engineering at Ratby with his duties as landlord. During the day his wife takes charge of the pumps in this, their first, pub.

"It wasn't my idea in the first place, but I've got used to it now," she told the *Advertiser.*

Then there is the Mill — an inn with a difference, because the landlord here is **Colonel Morris Burke** (Rtd), of the R.A.M.C.

"The Colonel", as he is usually known, specialised in tropical and then in preventive medicine before he retired, and is one of the only two British officers who is a Commander of the Royal Order of the Rising Phoenix (which is equivalent to the Order of St. Michael and St. George), special permission for the wearing of which had to be obtained from our late King. He also holds the O.B.E.

The inn itself was formerly a miller's cottage, where ale was sold, and is well over 300 years old.

Today, it is decorated with a wealth of interesting curios, collected by Colonel Burke and his wife. They include a



Gilbert Farm Estate, Newbold Verdon . . . development here has helped to push the population up to 2,600.

PUT A TIGER IN YOUR TANK



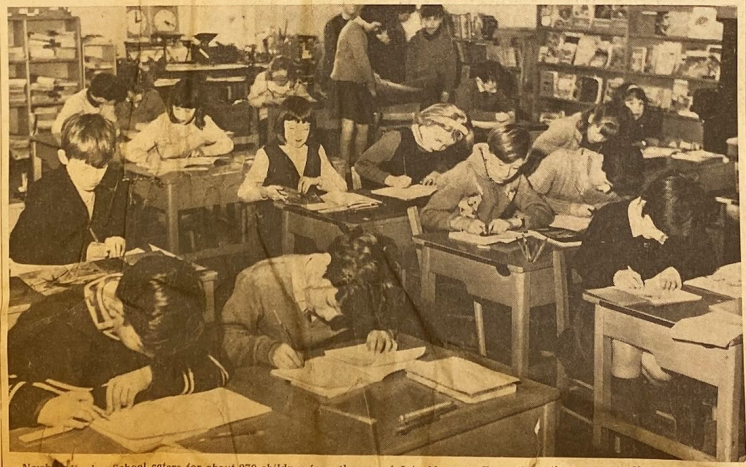
NEW POWER-FORMULA ESSO EXTRA BOOSTS POWER THREE WAYS...

1. QUICK STARTING. New Esso Extra gives quick starting in summer and winter, and *smooth controlled ...wer* with that extra acceleration when you need it. **...MOOTH FIRING.** Esso Extra's new Power-formula ...es ignition, helps your engine to fire smoothly ...otly. **3. HIGH QUALITY.** New Esso Extra has ...lity that modern cars need for peak ...Call in and fill up today!

...BRITTON
... — NEWBOLD VERDO...
...E: DESFORD 544

ESSO DEALER

by F. HEWITT... FR... (1927), LTD., ...RY 11, 1966.



Newbold Verdon School caters for about 270 children from the age of 5 to 11 years. From there they go on to Ibstock Secondary Modern School or to Grammar School at Coalville or Market Bosworth.

COAL — COKE — SMOKELESS FUELS

W. J. PRESTON & SO...

COAL MERCHANTS and HAULAGE CONTRACTOR

DRAGON LANE, NEWBOLD V...
TEL. DESFORD 319

Contact—

M. B. MENSE...

"HOLYROOD" — BARLESTONE R...
NEWBOLD VERDON

FOR ALL YOUR

Plumbing and Heating Installation



H.P. Terms Available

Telephone: DESFORD