History of Newbold Verdon: Mary Fisher (Circa 1970)

First printed in the St James's newsletter, this is an old photocopy of the articles. There may be some articles missing.

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher (Contd)

From 800 A.D., England was invaded by the Danes or Northmen or Vikings, who came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. As the Angles and Saxons before them, at first they came only for loot and plunder, but by the middle of the century, they came to conquer and settle. They were pagans and hated Christianity and their route was marked by blazing villages, churches, abbeys and monasteries. But a deliverer came in king Alfred the Great. Every one has heard of the king who let the cakes burn and was scolded by the house-wife. This took place while Alfred was hiding in the marshes round about Glastonbury. He gathered his army and won a great victory at Ethandune, in 878 A.D. By a treaty between Alfred and the Danish leader, Guthrum, known as the Peace of Wedmore, the Danes were allowed to settle to the north and east of the Watling Street, which district was known as the Danelaw. Guthrum was baptised, Alfred himself being his god-father. Thirty other Danish chiefs received baptism, and the Vikings settled down in the lands allotted to them and before long became absorbed in the Christian population.

Newbold was in the Danelaw and under Danish jurisdiction. Note the names of places in the vicinity ending in 'by': Cadeby, Naneby, Enderby, Kirkby, Ratby, Groby, Blaby, etc., meaning 'a Danish village'. When the Danes were victorious and confiscated the English soil, the land was given to their warriors, who were known as 'soke-men' = freemen. The word 'soke' has come down to us through the ages, as in the 'Soke of Peterborough'.

To be continued.

Notes:

SPARKENHOE

Notes

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher (Contd.)

SPARKENHOE - How the name arose Early in the tenth century, the counties or shires took shape. No exact details are available but they appear to have been formed during the Danish incursions, probably created for military and financial reasons, or, alternatively, to enforce the law and to organise resources to resist the Danes. Very early, they came under two chief officers, the king's financial representative, the shire-reeve or sheriff, and the military leader, the earl. The shire was responsible for keeping roads, bridges and walls in good order. The bishop, whose diocese often co-incided with the shire, also had a share in the administration of the region.

In the reign of Edgar the Peaceful,(958-975) we hear of a division into hundreds or wopentakes, as the Danes called them, for the trial and punishment of evil-doers. Edgar is described as the king who 'upreared God's glory and loved God's law and bettered the public peace more than the kings that were before him'.

What the name 'hundred' meant is not clear; a collection of a hundred homesteads? or a hundred heads of families?

In Leicestershire, there were originally four 'hundreds', Guthlaxton, Gartree, Goscote and Framland. Later, Guthlaxton was divided into two hundreds, the new hundred being called Sparkenhoe.

The rural deaneries of the Church were often similar in area and name but did not coincide exactly with the hundreds.

This information is derived from various sources,

Short History of the English People, J.R.Green,
Oxford County Histories,Leicestershire, Charles E.Kelsey,
A History of Lincolnshire, Alan Rogers,
Provincial England, Dr. Hoskins.

 Customs of N V.

Notes

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher(contd.)

Interesting Customs used in pre-Conquest days and afterwards -

Although nothing is yet recorded for Newbold, something of the regular life is known and would apply to our own locality.

Most villages had a village green. If there was a green in Newbold, it would be the wide-open space leading up to the church. Note how easily this could be defended. The domestic animals were driven on to the green for safety against wild animals and enemies, especially in time of war.

In Newbold, formerly, the expression 'end' was used, e.g. Church End, Middle End, Bottom End. "How could the end be in the middle?" asked inquisitive children. Actually, an 'end' mean't a cluster of houses built on to the outskirts as the population increased. Over the border in Warwickshire, Chapel End, Wood End, Church End, have become places of considerable size.

The chief domestic animal of these times was the ox. Oxen were used for ploughing. Horses were smaller and lighter; the heavy cart horse was not yet developed, and horses were ridden into battle, and for transport but only occasionally used for agriculture.

The plough used in these times was known as a caruca, a Danish word meaning a plough with a wheel, and a caracuta was a measurement of land, (varying with the nature of the soil), being as much as could be tilled with one plough with its team of 8 oxen in a year. Sometimes, this measurement was known as a ploughland.

To be continued...

Brascote

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher(Contd.)

Some interesting local names

Brascote is one of many lost villages. The village green with roads leading from it can still be traced, and there is a legend that treasure was buried on the green, but of what treasure, and who buried it, there is no trace. Elderly people born in the district remember their forbears speaking of "Brascote Cherry Wake", showing that the soil was good for cherry trees. The word Brascote is a derivation of Brockardescote, brock = badger, cot or cote = mud hut, and es= the old English genitive; therefore, the meaning was: the mud hut or dwelling of the badger catcher.

The Woolpits is the name of a field on the Hall Farm. Other places in the country also have fields known as the Woolpits. At one period, these woolpits were considered to be connected with the wool trade, which flourished in medieval times; but today historians think the name goes right back to Danish and Anglo-Saxon times, when the country was ravaged by wolves; Edgar the Peaceful, (died 975 A.D.) accepted tribute of wolves' heads from Howell the Welsh king; therefore. why not from other districts too.

The Welsh destroyed all their wolves and the tribute was discontinued, but later the marauding Danes again exacted it under a new title, the tribute of the black army.

To be continued...

Notes

looking Melanesian Christian Community.
(To be concluded)

Parish Boundaries

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher (Contd.)

Parish Boundaries - In early times, the parish boundaries followed the natural features, e.g. streams, woods, hills, etc., and were marked carefully in other places, so that there was no doubt in case of disputes. The beating of the bounds was an annual occurrence; it has been said that young boys were taken along and given a sound beating at strategic points, in order to impress the course of the boundaries on their memories. In medieval times, at Rogationtide, there were services in the fields, asking for blessings on the crops. It seemed to be meet to say, 'Please', to the Almighty, as well as 'Thank you', when the crops were gathered. In Newbold, the boundaries have somewhat altered over the years. Formerly, 'the Heath' was in Bagworth parish and was known as Bagworth Heath. At the time it became Newbold Heath, there were changes between Newbold and Barlestone parish boundaries. In the 1930's, the boundary between Kirkby Mallory and Newbold was changed. The three houses at the corner of Kirkby Lane were in Kirkby parish, Cottage Farm,(Mr. Wibberley's) was in Desford, and the boundary between Newbold and Kirkby was a short distance behind Desford Road. When Mr. Starbuck's house was first built, the front door was in Newbold parish and the back door in Kirkby. The School House Farm,(Mrs. Towers') was in Kirkby parish, together with the majority of the land. The boundary then was in Black Lane,(now known as Red Lion Lane) and certain cottages there were in Kirkby parish. Alterations have brought Mrs. Wibberley's bungalow, Cottage Farm, and the two cottages belonging to Kirkby Old Parks into

Notes

Notes

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher (contd.) Romans

The Roman rule lasted for 350 years and the Britons came to look upon the Romans as their protectors and guardians. When the legions were withdrawn, they, the Britons, were helpless against the invaders from the north of Britain, the Picts, and from over the North Sea, the Angles and Saxons. In due course, these latter arrived in the Midlands driving the Britons into Charnwood Forest and further, into Wales and Cornwall. After the Britons had fled, the newcomers burned down the settlements and established their own dwellings nearby, but not on the same spot. It was easier to cultivate the land which had once been tilled, than to break fresh ground.

Coming now to Newbold Verdon; there is no written evidence until 1087 A.D., when the Domesday Book was compiled, but its very name sheds light on Anglo-Saxon times. 'Newbold' is an Anglo-Saxon name, de Verdon, the name of a Norman Baron, being added more than a century after the Conquest. 'Bold','bolt','bould','boldt' = a house = a chief's house, built of wood, resembling a huge barn.

'Newbold' = a new house; therefore it is reasonable to suppose there was an old house. Was this destroyed by the Angles? A field on the Hall Farm is named,'The Old Piece'. The Victoria County says there are ancient earthworks in a field near the church. One can only speculate as to the origin of the New House.

M.D.Anderson, in 'History by the Highway' writes thus,"Even fields which remained derelict from the sixth century, when large numbers of their Celtic owners migrated to Brittany, until the twelfth or thirteenth centuries were so recognised by the medieval peasants who re-occupied them and were referred to as 'Ye old land', a term which has persisted in such Devon farms as Yelland, Yellaton, or Yellomead". (to be contd.)

The Conquest

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher(contd.)

After the Conquest. William shared out the land of the defeated English to his victorious barons; each parcel of land being known as a manor. To Hugh de Grantmesnil went the greatest share of the spoil in Leicestershire; sixty-seven townships scattered in different parts of the county, some of which were Newbold, Bosworth, Barlestone, Cadeby, Naneby, Kirkby etc. Another part of Bosworth was given to Robert Beaumont, Earl of Mellent, or Meulan.

De Grantmesnil restored Leicester Castle and the Church of St. Mary de Castro. He sublet the land at Newbold to Huardus; at Cadeby to Ivo; at Barlestone to Ernald and Ralph; at Bosworth to Hugh.
Grantmesnil = a town in Normandy from which Hugh came. Hugh de Grantmesnil also built castles at Groby, Whitwick and Earl Shilton.

Next to the king in rank came the barons and their vassals, those whom the barons put in charge of their estates. Next came the tenant farmers who rented lands from their lords. They were the conquered English landowners. Next came the villeins. These were farmers who were tied to vill or township and held their lands by tilling the lord's land or reaping the harvest as well as grinding the corn. There were also cottars and bordars who had very small holdings. The lowest classes were the slaves or bondmen mainly the descendants of ancient conquered races. They wore round their necks an iron collar with their owner's name. They could be bought or sold in a market like cattle; but their owners were not allowed to kill them.

In Domesday no bondmen are recorded for Newbold, Barlestone or Cadeby. At Bosworth four are recorded, two in each manor. At Thornton there is still a farm called "Bondman Hays", and a field at Desford was known as "Bondman Piece".

 The Conquest

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher(contd.)

Agriculture at the time of the Conquest and afterwards.

The method of farming was not changed by the Normans. There were no small farms, the villagers worked the land collectively. Each farmer or villein had strips in the common fields according to his status. The strips were not always side by side, as the soil differed in quality in various parts of the field. The lord of the manor may have had his land or part of it together round his manor house, this land being known as the demesne. The villeins or their underlings worked their lord's land. This was the condition of holding their own strips. The ploughing was done communally and the heavy plough needed a team of four, six or eight oxen to draw it. Each farmer had the right of grazing in the wastes and heaths, the number of his animals according to the size of his holdings.

Ploughing with oxen was carried on for centuries; much later than might be supposed, right into the eighteenth century. The writer of these notes had the interesting experience of handling an iron shoe of an ox. This was ploughed up in 1966, when a field of turf was broken to the plough on the farm of Mr. Wightman of Brascote House Farm. Oxen shoes can be seen in collections of old farming implements and utensils.

 Domesday

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher(contd.)

Domesday continued..

The Conqueror's purpose in compiling the Domesday book was for taxation purposes; to discover the possibility of increased payments. It was barely finished by the time of William's death, and was very unpopular throughout the country.

A council was held at Gloucester, the result of which was 'a great numbering of the people' or general census. The Hundred Moot was called in each district, in Sparkenhoe at Croft, and collected together were the Sheriff, the thegns, the parish priests, the reeves, the franklins, who were examined on oath, of the numbers, names and holdings of the men of their place, both as they were in King Edward's days and at that time (1086). The lands had to be described, whether ploughlands or pasture, wood or waste; the mills (both windmills and water mills) and fisheries were recorded and each farmer's stock of oxen, cows, sheep or swine. The entire record included all England, except London and the four Northern Counties. It was preserved at Winchester and known as the Winchester Roll or Domesday Book It was written in Latin but translations have been made. The original copy is still extant, showing what a wonderful work the French speaking scribes made with English names and places. It can be seen in the Public Records office in London. It is one of the most interesting records in existence, showing the exceeding antiquity of our existing divisions of townships, parishes and estates and in some cases of the families inhabiting them.

Domesday

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher(contd.)
Domesday continued.. A further extract from Domesday concerning Newbold states:

"Two ploughlands in Newbold, part of the lands of Hugo de Grentismaisnell were held at the general survey by Huard. The land was equal to two ploughs, and one was in the demesne, with two bordars."

By carefully considering the two entries we have an interesting picture of life in Newbold one thousand years ago. A ploughland = 120 acres, therefore 480 acres approximately were under the plough. In addition there would have been meadow and grazing land, surrounded by rough uncultivated common land, known as heath or waste, the latter word meaning wild or untilled, not useless.

Before the Conquest the land at Brocardescote and near was in the Queen's fee and we are told that this land was equal to 3 ploughs and 3 villains had one plough each; while the other part, i.e. at Newbold, was equal to 2 ploughs and one in the demesne with two bordars, making 6 ploughs altogether. A villain was a farmer and a bordar, a much lesser person possibly a cottager who had his cot and holding by working on the demesne, or the lord's land. The name of the Saxon lord from whom the land was confiscated is not stated.

Both areas were given to Hugo de Grentismaisnell, a mighty baron and intimate friend of the Conqueror. He sublet to Huardus. It is evident that in this locality there was no opposition to William as the value of the land increased from 5/- in the time of King Edward to 20/- at the time of the Domesday survey, this showing that no burning or devastation had taken place, such as there was in Yorkshire and Staffordshire.

Land Use (13

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

Leicester Abbey and Newbold. Kirkby passed from the Mallory's to Leicester Abbey and Nicholls quotes from the register of the Abbey of St. Mary de Praetis at Leicester. He gives a list of tenants, and in this list are given the names of three people living at Newbold - "Johannes Bosse of Brescot holds one close called Normanshey in the field there and pays XVd 1 cock. Thomas Hall of Newbold holds one piece of meadows called Hypswell and another piece of ground called Mallery swong and pays 1d homagium. Walterus Denos lord of Newbold, for a right of way to his village of Broscote, going to and coming from, with his out of the way dwellings in the Heyth in the field of Kyrkby pays one pound of pepper."

The date given is 1220, 750 years ago. At this time most of the arable land was in large communal fields but sometimes a piece of land was enclosed and sometimes pigs were kept upon it for a time after which it was much easier to clear and cultivate. These were called dens or denes. There is nothing nowadays to indicate where the close called Normanshey lay. The piece of meadow held by Thomas Hall called Hypswell is today called the hipsalls, the far hipsall and the near hipsall. The ground here is wet and a spring in the locality is the source of "the Flat tail" brook. The Hypswells are today farmed by Mr.J.Wibberley. There is nothing to indicate the position of Mallery swong.

Homagium meant that at seedtime and harvest and other busy times the person who held the ground must send men to help in the sowing and the reaping of the harvest. Walterus Denos would be the lord of the manor and held his lands under the de Verduns. From this account he had lands at Brascote which were out of the way and difficult to reach, also in the Heyth that lay where Desford Road now is and the fields lying to the south, The Middletons, Gorse Hayes, etc.

Contd. at foot of p.5.....

One pound of pepper seems a peculiar way of making a payment, till we remember that in the Autumn the greater part of the animals were killed and salted down, and pepper would help to keep the meat and disguise the taste if the meat became 'high'.

The Black Death

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

The Black Death. In 1349 the Black Death, within a year, had carried off at least a third of the population of England. Its immediate effect was a dearth of villein labourers and of free labourers. The free labourers who survived could claim a scarcity price for their labour. In a static agricultural community, when a third of the available labourers are killed, the produce from the land will be significantly less, and prices for that produce will be higher; money will decline in purchasing power. That was the justification for the higher wages the labourers demanded. The need of the manors was so great that in many places the labourers were given what they demanded.

The first Statutes of Labourers were enacted in 1349 and re-enacted at intervals through Edward III's reign. They demanded the fixing of wages at rates paid in 1346 (before the Black Death) and they obtained branding as part of the punishment of those who sought wages in excess of such niggardly rates.

The above conditions are the explanation of why so many villages became lost and deserted, many in Leicestershire. At Brooksby the site of the ancient street and cottages can still be seen. In Leicester 1348, upwards of 2,000, more than a third of the population died, and another visitation occurred in 1361. Henry de Knighton relates that 380 persons died of this plague in the parish of St. Leonard's, above 400 in St. Martin's, and above 700 in St. Margaret's, and in due proportion in other parishes.

In Newbold, as there were no records kept of births, baptisms, marriages and burials, the numbers who died from the Black Death are unknown. It is now known that this

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Mr Statham. a Martyr's relation

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

A Brave Martyr.

Older residents of Newbold Verdon will remember the late Mr. Roland Statham who lived at Newbold Heath. He was organist at the Methodist Chapel for some time.

The writer of these notes recollects a conversation with him, when he disclosed being a descendant of the famous martyr John Huss (1369-1410) This must have been on his mother's side; so there may be people living in Newbold Verdon today who can also claim that honour.

With great fortitude John Huss was burned at the stake 6th July 1415. By his death he became a national hero. The University of Prague declared him a martyr and fixed his feast day on the day of his execution. He was born of a peasant family at Husinee (whence Huss) in Bohemia, the modern Czechoslovakia. Some of his teaching was identical with that of John Wycliffe (died 1384) in England.

For some years before he died John Wycliffe was the rector of Lutterworth, so has special interest for inhabitants of Leicestershire. He is particularly remembered for his translation of the whole Bible. Among other things he denied the doctrine of transubstantiation. He was denounced as a heretic by the clergy, for in those days the services were conducted in Latin. Printing had not yet been invented. In 1428 the Bishop of Lincoln carried out the decree of the council of Constance, and exhumed Wycliffe's body, burned his bones, and cast his ashes into a brook named Swift.

NV Names 500 yrs ago

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.
Names of people who lived in the vicinity of Newbold five hundred years ago.
These notes are taken from Leicestershire Medieval Pedigrees by George Farnham F.S.A.

A.D.1416. Matilda Barnard, formerly wife of John Barnard, granted to Alured Lathbury and Alice his wife their heirs and assigns for ever a cottage and croft in Cateby between the tenement of the said Alured on the north and a vacant spot on the south.

Witnesses Giles Meignill of Cateby
Robert Humfray " "
John Walsheman " "
William Payne " "
Henry Crafte of Naneby and others,

dated at Cateby on St. Peter ad vincula 4 Henry V.

From another source we know that a Robert Crafte paid a sum of XVIIjd in 1327 in the Lay Subsidy Roll of that year.

A.D.1419 Matilda Barnard of Cateby, daughter and heir of Robert de Cateby, in pure widowhood granted to Reginald Lathbury, his heirs and assigns for ever, all the lands, tenements, meadows, etc. in Cateby which descended to her by hereditary right after the death of Robert her father.

Witnesses Alured Lathbury, Knight.
John Yns, John Marchall of Upton,
John Cateby, John Shepey of
Osberston, Richard Botiller of
Cateby and John Walsheman of Cateby.

dated at Cateby 6 Aug. 7 Henry V.

A.D.1425 Reginald Lathbury esquire granted to John Marchall of Upton, William Marchall of Stretton and John Palmer of Stoke, their heirs and assigns, all his right in the manor of Cateby and in all his lands and tenements in Cateby Co. Leicester and in

Cont'd on Page 8

Names 500 yrs ago

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.
More names from 500 years ago -

A.D.1429 John Wallsheman of Cateby, the elder, granted to Adam Warde, Robert Toway and John Gerveys the elder, their heirs and assigns, all his lands in Cateby.
Witnesses. William Sutton, John Shepey, Thomas Dolman of Osbaston, Thomas Colwry of Broscote and John Hevet of Naneby.
Dated at Cateby on St. Luke the Evangelist 8 Henry VI.

A.D.1450 Adam Warde of Shulton granted to Elizabeth Moton, the wife of Robert Moton, Knight, and Thomas Lathbury, all his lands, tenements etc. in Cateby, which he lately had of the gift of John Wallesham of Cateby, together with John Gerveys and Robert Towere.
Witnesses. Wm. Sutton of Osbaston, John Boteler of Bosworth, Wm. Benet of Peckleton and others.
Dated at Cateby 4th April 28 Henry VI.

Writer's comment
The name Ward connected with Shilton
The name Toway becomes Towere, modern Towers?

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher. Early Enclosure.

Early Enclosures in Brascote, Naneby and Newbold Verdon. In an earlier paragraph it was noted how, after the Black Death the statutes of labourers led to the Peasants' Revolt. Apparently this was a failure. Fifteen leaders, including John Ball, were hung, drawn and quartered. The towns and cities where the rebels had been briefly successful were heavily fined. There are records of about 110 executions. The break-up of the manorial system and the commutations of feudal dues for money rent, and the change from serf labour to wage labour had increased. The great landowners realised that sheep could be looked after more cheaply than arable farming; so many of them turned their lands into large sheep farms; even at the expense of turning out labourers from their cottages. On Mr. Wightman's farm at Brascote, there are very large fields and this is a sign of early enclosures.

In 1490 the Marquis of Dorset was enclosing in Northamptonshire and Warwickshire as well as in Leicestershire. Wolsey's commissioners reported that in 1490 he enclosed for pasture thirty acres of arable in the parish of Wicken in Northamptonshire. In Warwickshire his enclosures were on a much larger scale. At Weddington in 1491 he destroyed ten farm houses and evicted sixty people by converting and enclosing three hundred acres of arable. Six years later he enlarged his parks at Chilvers Coton and Astley, called the New Park and Old Park respectively. In Leicestershire he also enclosed on his own estates at Bradgate and on his ward's manors of Brascote, Naneby and Newbold Verdon, which lay together in the west of the county.

The Marquis of Dorset = Thomas Grey. His ward was Walter Deveraux, Lord Ferrers of Chartley, then a minor; the owner of the manors of Newbold Verdon and Brascote.

 Wool trade.

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

The Wool Trade. Extremely large flocks of sheep grazed on the newly enclosed pastures, and enormous quantities of wool were purchased by the 'merchants of the staple'. The staple was a kind of union to which the merchants belonged for purposes of taxation when exporting the wool. Huge fortunes were made by these wool merchants. One of these was William Wigston, Mayor of Leicester in 1448. He belonged to the staple of Calais. John Wigston of the Newarke had a son called William the younger, having a cousin William 14 years his senior. William the younger, with his brothers, was the founder of Wigston's Hospital for twenty-four old people, twelve men and twelve women, 1520. He also founded a Chantry in the Collegiate Church of the Newarke, so that masses might be said for his soul, and he erected and endowed the Chantry House, a substantial dwelling, for the home and maintenance of two priests, who were in succession for ever to officiate at the altar on his behalf. This chantry house has been preserved and his coat of arms is above the doorway at the front of the house. The many Wigstons of Kirkby Mallory are thought to be descended from this family, and in Newbold Verdon there are connections with the Kirkby Mallory family. The writer's own family is descended from the Kirkby Mallory family through her paternal grandmother, as are other relatives in Newbold. Another person living in Newbold, Mr. Michael Mensley, is also a descendant of the Kirkby Wigstons through his paternal grandmother. There is a gravestone to the memory of a Wm. Wigston near to where the gate to the Hall used to be. In the poll of 1867 the name of Thomas William Wigston is included in the list of pollers from Newbold. The Leicestershire Archaeological Society 1949 states that taxable property in Leicester amounted to £2639 in 1524 and of this sum, the Wigstons owned rather more than one quarter.

First Parish Register

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON. by Mary Fisher.

The Beginning of the Parish Registers.

In 1538 Thomas Cromwell, (not the famous Oliver) Secretary to Henry VIII, directed that every clergyman shall for every church keep a book, wherein he shall register weekly every marriage, christening and death, any neglect being made penal.

A copy of the earlier registers was made at the end of the 18th century, and kept with the originals, but the ink was poor and the writing almost illegible.

The Newbold registers date from 1542.

This was at the time of the suppression of the monasteries. Until this period there were two churches at Bosworth; the older, St. Thomas and St. Anne, was suppressed in 1548. The first entry in the Newbold register is Humphrey Wolfreston baptized July 8th 1599 by John Abell who was presented to the living in 1591 according to the list of Rectors, by Humphrey Wolfreston of Newbold Verdon, co. Leicester, gentleman, by reason of a grant from Gilbert Earl of Shrewsbury. Looking back to 1543 the Rector was then Edmund Wolverston presented by Francis, Earl of Shrewsbury.

Conjectures arising from the above. Abell is an old family name in Newbold. Could this family have descended from John Abell Rector who died in 1601, two years before Elizabeth I? Beyond Newbold Heath towards Bagworth, is a field known to older inhabitants of Newbold as "Cock Shabbey", or Cock's Abbey. The writer has never seen the name in print. Could there possibly have been, in ancient times, a small monastic establishment? An intriguing speculation!

Newbold a history around 1. ie Gr Plague

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

Change of Ownership, continued.

1610. Two years after 'The Chater' was sold to Wm.Mounteney (1608) the Earl of Huntingdon sold the rest of the manor with the manor house to Nicholas Hearne, who subsequently sold it to Sir Thomas Crewe in 1625. He was serjeant-at-arms in the last parliament of James I and 1st parliament of Charles I.

1630 Sir Thomas Crewe Lord of the Manor.

Other Freeholders - Wm. Mounteney Chater, John Chapman, John Houcke, Robert Atterton.

At this time Newbold was a very small village.

1564 only 16 families and 2 in Brascote.

1633 The Parish of Newbold Verdon gave towards the repair of St. Paul's in London, the 3rd day of September 1633 the sum of twelve shillings as a benevolence. Cuthbert Nicholson, Rector. Robert Wilkinson, Humphrey Atterton Churchwardens. 5/6d was given in 1635.

1660 The parish of N.V. gave unto the fire at Fleckenham, Norfolk, nine shillings and threepence. The parish of N.V. gave unto the fire at Mountsorrel in the county of Leicester two shillings and ninepence.

1665 That our parish gave the first feast day 2nd August to those whom it has pleased God to visit with pestilence, the sum of ten shillings and ninepence. Great Plague of London. 1666 That our parish gave to the relief of those distressed citizens of London, by reason of that late dreadful fire 10th day of October, the sum of Two Pounds fifteen shillings and threepence

1669 That our parish gave unto the distressed captives in Algiers and in the parts of the Turkish Dominion this 18th July the summe of five shillings and sixpence.

1670 That our parish gave unto the distressed captives in Algiers this 23rd day of October

Lord Crewe

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

Will of Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, September 18th 1721. Nathaniel, Lord Crewe died aged 88, after being Bishop of Durham for forty seven years. Leaving no issue, his estates at Newbold came to his nephew, James Montagu, who went abroad with him at the time of the Revolution, returning when the new King, William III took no reprisals against those who had opposed him. Nicholls states he left to the Poor of the city of Durham 200l, Poor of Bishop Auckland 100l. Mr. Richard Stonehewer, Mr. Ralph Trotter, Mr. Francis Pewterer, and every one of his domestic servants, a year's wages over and above what was due to them. His coachman's wife 10l. His servant Thomas Bately £100. Mr. John Wallis and Mr. Richard Grey, clerks, 80l each. His nephew the Dean of Durham 100l for mourning. His nephew the honourable James Montagu the elder £100. To build a schoolhouse at Newbold Verdon £30. To the schoolmaster at Newbold Verdon £20 a year. To the trustees of the Hundred of Sparkenhoe, for the relief of widows, orphans and children of poor clergy deceased 10l yearly. 20l to each of 12 exhibitioners of Newbold Verdon. He gave to the Chancellor, Masters and scholars of Oxford, the pictures of Charles II and Catharine his consort, and of James II and Mary his consort, all drawn by Riley.

By a codicil dated September 17th 1721, he gave Mr. Edward Wortley, late Ambassador to Constantinople, his silver cistern; to Mr. James Montague his gill tankard; to Mr. Ralph Trotter the picture of Dorothy, Lady Crewe. To Dr. William Lupton his picture in his baron's robes, drawn by Sir Geoffrey Kneller. To the Mayor and Corporation of the city of Oxford 12 silver plates for the use of the Corporation. A silver plate for the Altar of North? Newbold Verdon and 30l towards the Altar piece. To his secretary Mr. Richard Grey his silver seals and seal manual.

To be continued...

Names of Inhabitants Aug 77

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON, by Mary Fisher.
Names of Early Inhabitants of Newbold Verdun

Apart from the Rector and Churchwardens, and the Lord of the Manor, very few names have come down from the past. In Cromwell's time it was made obligatory on the Incumbent to keep a register of births, deaths and marriages solemnized by him. Later there are records of the names of voters at elections. There are records from 1719 to 1854. The earliest was given in detail in the parish magazines Nov. 1975 - April 1976. There are also records of the Alehouse keepers, Innkeepers and Victuallers, with their sponsors, but not of which Inn they kept. 1741. The next record of poll of which the writer has evidence, is 22 years later.
In 1719 there were twenty-two voters; 2 lived at Naneby, 1 at Rothley, 1 at Ragdale, 1 at Bruntingthorpe. In the 1741 list only 15 names but no names from Naneby are recorded. 2 from Brascote and 1 from Thringstone, otherwise from Newbold.

Adcock Richard	Saunderson Robert	Rector
Ball Nathaniel	Siddons Thomas	
Bradford John	Tomlinson William	
Crosier John	Wildman John	
Crosier Richard	Whitfield George	
Crosier William	Thirlby Benjamin	Brascote
Harris Thomas	Thirlby Thomas	Brascote
Hextall Edward		

Six names occur on both lists. These were mentioned in the earlier notes.
In 1741 Nathaniel Ball was the schoolmaster of Lord Crewe's school, standing where the War Memorial is today. He was probably an Innkeeper as well.
James Bradford was probably an Innkeeper.

 Mill Lane July 77

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

Mr. Thomas Pares & Mr. Joseph Bunney

Mr. Thomas Pares and Mr. Joseph Bunney purchased the Newbold Estates after the death of the last Wortley Montague. These two gentlemen set up what could be called the first bank in Leicester, circa 1763.

Mill Lane, Newbold Verdon was formerly known as Bunney's Lane, before a steam mill and dwelling house with bakehouse attached were built by Robert Freeman, the grandfather of the writer of these notes.

Upon Bunney's death, his half share descended to his son, Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp, and John Pares' share to his son John. He left three sons and three daughters. Thomas and John became partners in the banking business and the other took holy orders.

At the time of the enclosures John Pares bought much land. He was Lord of the manors of Brascote, Cosby, Cotes Deville, Narborough, Newbold Verdon, Merry Lees, and Noseley. He owned property at Barlestone, Frisby, Knaptoft, Saddington and Woodhouse. His house in the Newarke known as the Newarke House was formerly occupied by Joseph Bunney.

When the church was rebuilt in 1899, Sir Charles Hartopp gave nearly 600 square yards of land for the necessary enlargement.

In more recent times, the estates have passed at different times into private ownerships.

So we have a wonderful record of the Newbold Manor from Norman times until the present day.

1719 Election

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.
More Information concerning the electors whose names are on the 1719 Poll. Returns.
The Newbold electors are in alphabetical order Adcock Thomas. The descendants of this family were known to the late Mrs. Eleanor Bell who visited them at Ashby-de-la-Zouch where they kept a post office. She told the writer of these notes that their land was at the Desford end of the village.
Atterton, Humphrey.
Dunkley, Abraham. - Churchwardens.
Earlier, 1630 - Robert Atterton was churchwarden. 1696. From the rent roll of Kirkby Mallory - Humphrey Atterton £2 The Gorse Hayes £3. The Gorsehayes later known as the Middletons is now in Newbold Parish, lying at the back of the houses in Desford Road, and bounded on the east by the Kirkby Road. It now belongs to Mrs. Wibberley.
1704. John Wightman, Rector of Desford, married Ann Atterton of Newbold. In the chancel of Desford Church the following Monumental Inscriptions "In the hopes of a joyful resurrection, here lieth interred the body of Ann Wightman, wife of John Wightman, rector of this church, who departed this life June 3rd 1734 in the 37th year of her age. Here also lieth the body of the Rev. John Wightman, rector of this church, who departed this life August 9th 1735 in the 66th year of his age. Humphrey Wightman his son Sept. 20th 1738, aged 34 years. T.W. died 1710 aged 8 days. J.W. died 1707. T.W. died 1706.
1713 A.W. nata born March 23rd
renata reborn baptised March 25th
denata died April 23rd.

1719 Election

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher

Newbold Verdon, 1719. In 1719, there was an election, but, at that time, only property-holders had the right to vote. Lists of voters were recorded, and the earliest for Newbold is 1719.

The candidates were: Francis Mundy Esquire,
Lord Wm. Manners

Brascott,	Thurnby,	Thomas	Newbold
	do.	Richard	do.
Naneby,	Bradshaw,	Michael	Rothley
	Frestall,	Thomas	do.
Newbold Verdon,	Adcock, Thomas		
	Atterton, Humphrey		
	Brooks, John		
	Chapman, Humphrey		
	do.	John	
	Checkley, Thomas		
	Crosier, John		
	Dunkley, Abraham		
	Harris, John		
	Henshaw, Nicholas (deficient)		
	Holmes, Thomas		
	Mounteney, John		
	Pegg, Henry		
	Sanderson, Robert		Ragdale
	Siddons, Thomas		
	Whitfield, Francis		
	Winterton, James		Brunting-thorpe

Remarks ; Note the spelling of Brascote.
Thurnby is a mis-pronunciation of Thirlby; 50 years later, approx. 1765, Benjamin Thirlby (Churchwarden) died aged 67.
The mother of Colin Cowdrey, the famous cricketer, was ? Thirlby, belonging to this family.

To be continued.

 March 78

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.
Public Houses, Inns or Taverns of Newbold Verdon in past times.

In Anglo-Saxon times and long afterwards the national beverage was ale. Later on beer was introduced from Holland. The farmers who employed several workmen brewed their own. The writer lived for a time in an old farm-house where a large outside building was always spoken of as the brewhouse. This practice of private brewing came to an end when licensing laws were introduced, and so appeared licensed premises. The proprietors of these premises were required to have sureties who would pay the appropriate sum of money if called upon.

There are lists of names of proprietors and their sureties in the county records office, but unfortunately the names of the public houses are not stated. These lists date from 1753-1827.

1753 Four names and sureties listed.

Richard Strickland	surety Thomas Gadsby Peckleton.
Jane Carter	Richard Croshaw, N.V.
John Bradford	" " "
Samuel Cooper	Richard Cook

1754 Same names, but another name added to the above

John Ball	John Deacon, Market Bosworth.

1755 Same names

1756 Same names, but in two cases different sureties.

John Bell	John & James Swinfen, Market Bosworth.
Richard Strickland	Geo. Hextall, N.V.

1757 Same names

1758 Same names

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher. April. 78

More about the public houses of Newbold 150-200 years ago.

		Sureties
1759	Jane Carter	Wm. Wood, Merrylees
	John Ball	Richard Crosier & George Hextall
	Richard Strickland	George Hextall
	Ann Fearn	John Allen, Barlestone
1760	Richard Strickland	
	John Ball	
	Ann Fearn	
1761	Widow Carter	
	Ann Fearn	
1762	Ann Fearn	Richard Crosier
	Jane Carter	Richard Crosier & John Harris
	Richard Strickland	John Gadsby, Peckleton
		Joseph Pougher, Earl Shilton
1763	Richard Strickland	John Biggs, Kirkby Mallory
	Joseph Moss	John Kinton, Ratby
	Ann Fearn	Richard Crosier, N.V.
1764	Joseph Moss	John Earl, Desford
	John Ball	John Carter, Barlestone
		Thomas Johnson, Ibstock
	Ann Fearn	Richard Crosier
	Richard Strickland	John Wigston, Stapleton
		John Gadsby, Peckleton
1765	John Ball	Wm. Thornelow, Cadeby
	Richard Strickland	Thomas Riley, Peckleton
		John Gadsby, Peckleton
	Joseph Moss	John Gadsby, Peckleton
	Ann Fearn	Richard Crosier, N.V.
1766	Ann Fearn	Richard Crosier
	Joseph Moss	Thomas Woolaton, Desford
1767	Joseph Moss	Thomas Woollerton, Desford
	Ann Fearn	Richard Crosier, N.V.

Continued on Page 6..

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher. July 78

More about Public Houses and Publicans

	Publicans	Sureties
1776	Thomas Wrask	John Plant, Desford,
	Richard Strickland	Samuel Marvin, E. Shilton,
	Wm. Hancock	Richard Strickland and Wm. Orton, Stoney Stanton
	John Parker	Wm. Orton, Stoney Stanton
1777	Thomas Wrask	Joseph Barsby, Peckleton,
	John Parker	John Newbold, Desford
1778	Wm. Plant, Desford Lane	N. Kimberlim, N. Bosworth
	John Parker	John Owen, Kirkfield,
	Thomas Ross	Wm. Thompson, Sutton,
1779	Wm. Plant, Desford	John Cook, Cadeby
	John Parker	Wm. Wall, Barlestone
	Thomas Wrask	John Brown, Hinckley
1780	Thomas Wrask	John Parker, N.V.
	John Parker	Thomas Wrask, N.V.
	Wm. Plant, Desford	John Newbold, Desford
1781	John Parker	Wm. Wall, Barlestone
	Wm. Plant, Desford	Thomas Sansome, Leicester Forest
1782	John Parker	Wm. Orton, Stoney Stanton
	Thomas Wrask	John Wileman, Newbold V.
1783	Charles Eames	John Sansome, Leicester
	Thomas Wrask	Thos. Wood, Cadeby
1784	Charles Eames	Thomas Peers, Thornton
	Thomas Wrask	John Lord, Shernford
1785	Charles Eames	Wm. Prince, N.V.
1786	Catharine Flamson	John Whileman, N.V.
	Charles Eames	John Marston, N.V.
1787	Catharine Flamson	Wm. Wrask, N.V.
	Charles Eames	Thomas Wood, Cadeby.

Note that in 1778, T. Wrask is written T. Ross

1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, Wm. Plant, Desford - This was Hunts Lane House, used as a coaching inn.

Charles Eames was a master of the old Free School where the War Memorial stands.

From Mr. Carter's notes:

"Halfway up the main path on the left is a

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher Judg. 78

Publicans and Sureties

	Publicans	Sureties
1788	Catherine Flamson	Wm.Wildman N.
	Charles Eames	Joseph Dimnock,Desford
1789	Catherine Flamson	John White N.
	Charles Eames	Robert Jarvis,Desford
1790	Catherine Flamson	Wm.Wall,Barlestone & Nicholas Wood, £10 each
	Charles Eames	John Earl,Desford
1791	Charles Eames	John Toft, Heather
1792	Blank pages for Sparkenhoe	
1793	Charles Eames	Wm.Prince & Nicholas Wood, £10 each
1794	Thos. Brooks	John ? Bagworth
1795	Thos. Brooks	John Emery? Sutton Cheney
1796	Thomas Biggs	Thomas Hargrave, N.V.
	Thomas Brooks	William Prince,Bagworth
1797	Thomas Brooks	Thos.Biggs. N.V.
	Thomas Biggs	Thomas Brooks, N.V.
1798	Thomas Biggs	Thomas Brooks
	Thomas Brooks	Thomas Biggs
1799	Thomas Biggs	Thomas Brooks
	Thomas Brooks	Thomas Biggs
1800	Thomas Brooks	Thomas Thurman,Huncote
	Thomas Biggs	Charles Poynor,E.Shilton
1803	Wm.Barrs	Thos.Walton,Sheepy
	Thomas Biggs	Thomas Brooks
	Thomas Brooks	Thomas Biggs

Remarks Mr. Charles Eames as well as being a publican, farmed a great deal of land rented from Pares and Bunney, the owners of the Hall. This was before the time of the enclosures, but all or part may have been enclosed previously. A Mr. Henry Eames also rented a considerable amount of land from Pares and Bunney. These two gentlemen would be relatives, perhaps brothers, or otherwise father and son.

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A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.
More Publicans and Sureties

1805	Thos.Brooks	Samuel Collington, Carlton
	Samuel Bevans	Wm. Wilkes
	Thos. Biggs	Thos.Brooks
1806	Thos.Thornwell	George Wright, Cadeby
	Wm.Thornelow	Wm.Barrs, Newbold
	Thos.Biggs	Thos.Brooks, Barlestone
1808	Newbold not in the list	
1809	Thos.Thornwell	John Stone, Newbold
		Wm.Congreve, Stoke Golding
		£10 each
	Thos. Biggs	Wm.Thorneloe
	Wm. Thorneloe	Thos.Biggs
1811	Thos.Thornelow	Thos.Archer, Osbaston
	Thos.Thornwell	Thos.Freestone, Desford
	Thos.Biggs	John Beadman, Bosworth
1813	Thos.Biggs	Thos.Tibbles ? Shilton
	Wm.Thornelow	John Biggs, Newbold
1814	Thos.Biggs	Wm.Thornelow
	Wm.Thornelow	Thos.Biggs
1815	Thos.Biggs	Richard Flamson, Newbold
	Wm.Thornelow	Thos.Cowlishaw, Nailstone
1816	Richard Flamson	Thos.Cowlishaw,Newbold
	Sarah Biggs	Thomas Hargrave
	Wm.Thornelow	Thos.Hargrave & Richard Flamson

Remarks As stated earlier, this is the period when 'The Swan' came into being as a public house. In a lease dated 1/10/1823, and a conveyance dated 2/10/1823, the property is referred to as "cottage or tenement which was sometime divided into and was used as 3 dwellings, re-converted to 1 dwelling house, and is now used as an Inn or public house, known by the name or sign of the Swan."

The first publican was Richard Flamson, who was related to the Wildman and Hargrave families possibly by marriage. He also rented land from Pares and Bunney, the lords of the manor. Maybe this land was opposite the Dragon.

Publicans Sept 78

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher

Concluding names of Publicans and Sureties

1817	Richard Flamson	Thos. Hargrave
	Sarah Biggs	" "
	Wm.Wood	Wm.Ludlow, N.V.
1818	Wm. Hill	Samuel Ball, N.V.
	Wm. Wood	Wm. Barrs, N.V.
	Richard Flamson	James Hinton, Ratby
1819	William Hill	Nathaniel Ball, N.V.
	Richard Flamson	James Hinton, Desford
1820	William Word	William Barrs, Newbold
	Richard Flamson	William Stubbley, Ibstock
1821	Richard Flamson	William Stubbley, Ibstock
	William Wood	William Barrs, N.V.
	William Hill	
1822	William Wood	William Barrs, £30, farmer
	William Hill	John Elverson, £20, Grocer
	Richard Flamson	Thos. Haywood, £30
1823	Richard Flamson	Wm. Thornelow, Butcher,£20
	William Wood	Wm. Barrs, Farmer,£20
1824	Thos.Thornelow	Wm. Barrs Jnr, £20
	Wm. Wood	" " " "
1825	Wm.Wood, George & Dragon	Wm. Barrs, £20
	Thos.Thornelow, Swan	" " "
1826 & 1827	Same names	

Remarks There is no mention of the 'Mill' as an Inn, but it was brought from Syston in 1812 and used until 1901 when it was pulled down, being unsafe.

The Jubilee, built at the time of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the builder coming from Kirby Muxloe

The Engine The building used as butcher's premises today occupied by Mr. Gordon Smith.

Mr Wildman & Harris Lane.

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher
The Earliest Poll, 1719 The names Humphrey Chapman and John Chapman occur among the list of names on the 1719 poll. Two brothers? or possibly father and son? From Leicestershire Parish Registers - Marriages we find Humphrey Chapman of Newbold - Katharine Fox, by licence March 25th 1685. Another name on the 1719 poll list is John Crosier. Later spellings of the name are Croshaw, Crowshaw, and later still Crosher. From the list of Alehouse Keepers & Innkeepers and Victuallers 1753 - Richard Croshaw stands surety of £10 for Jane Carter and John Bradford and also in 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758. In 1759 a change, Richard Crosier was surety for John Ball. In 1762 Jane Carter is described as Widow Carter. 1762 Richard Crosier was surety for Ann Fearn and along with John Harris was surety for Jane Carter. John Harris's name was on the 1719 poll list, Harris Lane is named after him, the lane which today goes by Mr. Harding's house. Note - not Harry's.
1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767. In each of these years Richard Crosier was surety for Ann Fearn. In the 1775 poll list is named a George Crosier. From another source, George Crosier was the tenant of seven acres of land owned by a Miss Clark. From the same source in 1776 Mr. John Wildman owned among other lands, Crosher Brascote Closes, Green and Lanes, and Croshers Closes Heather. This latter information is taken from a Manuscript book once belonging to Mr. Thomas Hargrave.

The School

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

James Montague 1721 - 1748

James Montague held the Manor House and estates (left to him in 1721 by his uncle the Bishop of Durham) until his death in 1748, when he left them to his cousin Edward Wortley Montague, having no children of his own.

Lord Crewe left £30 for the building of a school and left a perpetual endowment for the master's salary, £20 per year. The school was built on the small plot of land, now the site of the War Memorial, on the left side of the entrance to Brascote Lane. The school was free and was called "Newbold Verdon Free School". At one end was the master's house. This school served the village for 150 years. The master's salary of £20 yearly was to be paid out of his Lordship's estate in Northumberland. The master was to be appointed by the future possessors of the Newbold Estates. Nathaniel Ball was the first master, died 1754.

The Rector at this time, 1719, was Robert Sanderson whose name was on the list of voters 1741. He followed William Gilbert who was the rector from 1693-1719. William Gilbert, as well as being rector of Newbold Verdon, was also rector of Cadeby, but at which village he resided is not stated. His name is on the list of rectors in both churches. In those days the rectory was the old thatched house in Main Street, which was very recently demolished, after serving as a fish and chip shop for some little time.

James Montague had a cousin, Montagu Bacon, whose mother was Lady Catherine Montague youngest daughter of the first Earl of Sandwich and sister to Charles Montague, father of James. She married Nicholas Bacon of Shrubland Hall, Coddenham, Suffolk. Montague Bacon born 1688 took his degree at Cambridge and had previously entered Holy Orders. He is supposed to have been curate at Newbold Verdon. However, in 1743 he was

Montague Close

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher.

The Montagus at Newbold Verdon. The name Montagu or Montague is familiar to the inhabitants of Newbold Verdon; first on account of the Montagu Charity, secondly some bungalows for older people in the area named Montagu Close have been built in recent years. James Montagu inherited the Newbold Estates from his uncle Lord Crewe 1712, and held them until his death November 8th 1748. He was Member of Parliament for Camelford in Cornwall 1715. His grandfather was Edward Montague created Earl of Sandwich July 12th 1660 who was admiral of the English fleet, and killed in a grand naval engagement May 28th 1672. He married Jemima, sister of Nathaniel Lord Crewe. They had ten children, six sons and four daughters. Edward 2nd Earl of Sandwich; Sidney of whom more later; Oliver, bred to the law, died unmarried 1693 aged 38; John, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, Dean of Durham 1689, died unmarried 1728 aged 70; Charles, father of James who inherited Newbold; James, died unmarried April 9th 1725. Daughters - Jemima, Paulina, Anne, Catharine, married Nicholas Bacon Esq. Mr. Sidney Montagu married Anne Newcomen who was the illegitimate daughter of Sir Francis Wortley of Wharncliffe Lodge; who was long separated from his wife. She inherited her father's estate on condition that her husband assumed the name of Wortley. Their son, Edward Wortley Montagu succeeded to the Newbold estate on the death of his cousin James. Much more of this gentleman will be noted later. James Montagu who succeeded Lord Crewe at Newbold was the son of Charles the fifth son of Lord Sandwich by his first wife. This James was the gentleman who left the Montagu Charity of which more will be told later. His half-brother, son of the second Mrs.Charles became the husband of Elizabeth the famous Blue Stocking. The society called in derision the Blue Stockings was started by Mrs.Eliz Montague and her friends, women who met together for conversation without the adjunct of cards or frivolity.

Free School

A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON by Mary Fisher

The Free School of Newbold Verdon.

The first school was built, with master's house attached, on the narrow strip of ground on which the war memorial now stands. Lord Crewe left a perpetual endowment for the master's salary of £20 a year, but made no provision for repairs to the building. If repairs were required the cost came from the master's salary.

Headstones in Church Yard to Masters of Old Free School.

Near East window "To the memory of Nathaniel Ball who died 1st April 1745." Stone not in original position.

Lying flat on the ground under the E. Window is another stone which has been moved, "Sacred to the memory of John Phipps who departed this life May 20th 1788 in the 54th year of his age." He was for 27 years master of the Publick School of this town.

John Phipps was succæded by the Rev. Joseph Edmundson who was also Rector of the Parish 1786-1794.

Half way up the main path on the left was a stone "Sacred to the memory of Charles Eames for several years master of the Free School in this town who died February 26th 1818.

Succeeding masters were

Richard Herrick, George Rowley, George Priestnall, and for a short time George Dean (died 1912)