A HISTORY OF NEWBOLD VERDON.

Dec/71. **Some Interesting Local Names.**

BRASCOTE. is one of many lost villages. The village green with roads leading from itcan 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 a 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.

Jan/72. **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 easilyxthis could be defended. The domestic animals were driven on to the green for safety against the wild animals and enemies, especially in time of war.

In Newbold, formerly, the expression,'end' was used, eg 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)m 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 ploughland.

Feb/72. **Domesday. Extract relating to Newbold.**

The first written evidence concerned with Newbold is found in the Domesday Book. Nothing is known of happenings in Newbold throughout the reigns of the Danish Kings; Canute (Of the well known story of rebuking the waves) and his successors, or through the time of Edward the Confessor. Danes and Sacons were now living side by side, more or less peaceably. Canute, was a Christian and had visited Rome. He divided his land into four great earldoms. Newbold, being in Leicestershire, was included in the earldom of Leofric of Mercia. Earl Leofric was probably the husband of Lady Godiva famous for her ride through the streets of Coventry.

Another powerful Noble was Godwin Earl of Wessex. His daughter Edith married Edward the Confessor. Godwin's son was Harold who was acclaimed king upon the death of the Confessor and who was subsequently killed at the battle of Hastings.

Leoffic Earl of Coventry and Leicester, with his wife Lady Godiva, were at Leicester Castle at Whitsuntide 1051 for the purpose of witnessing the grant of a charter for building and endowing their monastry of Spalding. Their grandson Edwin was the last Saxon Earl of Leicester and Algitha his sister was married to King Harold.

Domesday tells us that "2 ploughlands of the Queen's fee in Newbold and Brocardescote which were valued at 5/- were worth 20/- at the general survey. The land was equal to 3 ploughs and 3 villeins had one plough each.

The queen was referred to was Edith, the queen of Edward the Confessor, daughter of Godwin and sister of King Harold.