Notes on Newbold de Verdun

collected by Thomas Carter

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Prepared directly from Carter's notes including marginal annotations
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Chapter I

The de Verdun Family

Newbold Verdon or, to give it its correct name, Newbold de Verdun, was so called from the Verduns (Burton) one of whom, Bertram de Verdun, came over from Normandy with William the Conqueror and assisted him in the conquest of England. As a reward he received from the Conqueror, together with others of his chief nobles, grants of land in the conquered country.

From the General Survey made by William when he was firmly seated on the throne, we find that Newbold or Newboldt as it was then called was one of the 67 manors given to Hugo Grentmaisnelle, Earl of Leicester and Hereditary High Steward of England by William. He seems to have sublet it to Huard, as we find this entry in the Domesday Book:

"Huardus tenet in Newbold - 2 caracutes *(about 2 acres)* "terre"

The name Newbold or Newboldt seems to suggest an older residence as the term bold means 'house'.

Grentmaisnell fell under the displeasure of Henry I and his estates were confiscated. It is uncertain how long the land remained in possession of Grentmaisnell. The Manor came into the possession of the Verduns from Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby.

Nichols says Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby gave this town to Bertram de Verdun in frank marriage with his daughter Maud. 1

Frank pledge was a system of suretyship by which the members of a tithing were made responsible for one another.

The Verduns already held lands in Leicester: 3000 acres at least as well as large possessions in other counties.

Dr. Rounds records as part of the Leicestershire holdings 1124 -1129

		Temp Domesday
In Loddington Hundred		
In Skeffington	*81/2 caracutes*	*Rex*
In Tokebia (Tugby?)	*6 do.*	*do.*
In Tittern Hundred		
InHalstead	*2 314 caracutes*	*Rex*
In Belton Hundred		
In Belton	*6 do.*	
In Stanton (Harold)	*3 do.*	
In Dresworth Hundred		
InDresworth	*11/2 do.*	
In Skeffington Hundred	*21/2 do.*	

1 Nichols seems to have been wrong here. The representatives of the family now living do not know how the manor and lands came into the possession of the Verduns. The Newbold given to Bertram de Verdun is no doubt the Newbold near Worthington.

Chapter II

After the de Verduns

From 1317 to 1574 very little is known about the village.

In 1356 John Crophull and Margery his wife had license to enfeoff Ralph Crophull in the manor.

In 1360 Elizabeth de Burgh, wife of Theobald de Verdun, held the manor.

In 1371 Thomas Crophull held the manor and John Crophull gave £20 for license to grant to Thomas, his son, and Sibil, his wife, the manor excepting a knight fee and the Advowson, 80 acres of wood, a steid and 16 oxgangs of land.

In 1381 Thomas Crophull and Sibil, his wife, held the Advowson.

In 1382 William Furnival and Thomasina his wife, held the Advowson.

By the heirs of Crophull in 1401 the manor passed to the Deverauxs as parcel of the Barony of Verdun.

In 1435 Agnes, wife of Thomas Marbury held the manor extent.

In 1453 John Talbot Earl of Shrewsbury held the Advowson.

In 1559 Walter Deveraux, Viscount Hereford, (afterwards Earl of Essex) held the manor.

In 1574 Walter, Earl of Essex alienated this lordship to Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, to whom succeeded George, brother to Earl Henry.

Frances, eldest son of the said George married Sarah, daughter of Sir James Harrington, and, dying in the life time of his father Henry, his son became successor to his grandfather, who sold part of the said lands in 1608 to William Mountney, gentleman, and the manor with the rest of the lands in 1610 to Nicholas Hearne and he sold the same to Sir Thomas Crewe in 1625.

Newbold was a very small village at that time as in 1564 there were only 16 families and two in Brestcote (Brascote).

William Mountney, a merchant of the staple, came over from Ireland with the Earl of Huntingdon. He was a descendant of Thomas Mountney of Mountney's Plain, Norfolk.

The family, which was a large one, resided here for over 170 years and became extinct in 1780, by the death of John Mountney, bat, who resided here upon a small independent fortune, he being the last known heir of the Mountney family.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Powers of Barlestone and Peckleton were the only descendants.

There are stones erected on the south side of the church close to its wall

bearing the name of Mountney and Atterton.

In 1630 Sir Thomas Crewe was Lord of the manor. The other freeholders were William Mountney, Gent., John Chapman, John Houcke and Robert Atterton.

The chief seat of the family was at Farnham, now called Farnham Royal in Buckinghamshire. It was given by the Conqueror to Bertram de Verdun in reward for his services. His name appears in the Domesday Book as the owner of Farnham.

He came over from Normandy with the Conqueror - fought at the battle of Hastings and his name is inscribed on the roll of knights in Battle Abbey. [2] He was present at the coronation of William.

He held his estate from William, not, as most other knights did, by promise of military service, but on condition of presenting, at the king's coronation, a glove from his right hand and supporting his right arm on that occasion during the time that he held the royal sceptre, and today a glove bearing the arms of Verdun is still presented to the king at his coronation.

Bertram was succeeded by Norman, who married Luciline de Clinton, daughter of the Chamberlain and Treasurer of Henry I. He built Castle Brandon in Warwickshire and Lutterworth church.

His son Bertram married Maud, daughter of Robert de Ferrars, Earl of Derby, and received as dowry Worthington and Newbold. 3

"Worthington and Newbold 1/2 a fee her father gave her in frank marriage".

His principal seat was in Staffordshire but it is likely that he had his residence for the greatest part of that king's reign either in Warwick or at his Manor house at Belton which was his ancient inheritance. He was Sherriff of that county from 1155 to 1169.

In 1176 he was sent by the king as Ambassador to the King of Spain.

In 1190 he attended King Richard I to the Holy Land and when Acre had been taken, it was committed to his custody, the Queens of England and Sicily as also the daughter of the Emperors of Cyprus being then resident.

His chief seat in Staffordshire was the castle of Alton.

He founded Croxden for Cistercian monks and plentifully endowed it with lands and resources.

He bestowed on the monks of St Mary's, Axby, York the church of Bos worth and 2 hides of land.

He died at Joppa in 1192 and was buried at Acre.

On the death of Theobald de Verdun in 1317 all the English estates passed into the hands of four other families, as he left only daughters; Joan married Thomas de Furnivall; Elizabeth, Margaret married Sir John Crophull whose grand daughter married Sir Walter Deveraux, ancestor of the Earl of Essex.

The Earl of Shrewsbury was descended from the Furnivall family. This will explain how the Advowson of the Church came into their hands.

The Newbold estate was held by the Verdun family for about 170 years.

The Irish estates of the family appear to have remained in the hands of Nicholas, a relative of Theobald and continued to do so, or what was left of them until about 1660 when, owing to political troubles everything went, and the fortunes of the family were at a low ebb, and they had to seek them elsewhere.

In 1764 Theobald de Verdun came to Cheshire and the family has been there since with the exception of Sir Joseph Verdun, who bought the Garnstone Castle estate which embraces the Weobly Castle site, one of the numerous possessions held by the Verduns up to 1317.

W.H. Verdun Esq. DL resides at Darnall Hall.

[Bertram died 1139 AD. Bertram de Verdun had his chief home at Alton, Staffordshire. It is now in ruins and is known as Alton Towers. He had large possessions in Leicestershire and owned the manors of Misterton, Cottesbach, Bittesby and Cotes de Val as well as Lutterworth which he had bought.

Norman, his son owned the manors 1139 - 1192. He was the founder of Lutterworth Church.

Bertram was Sherriffofthe Counties of Leicester and Warwick.

His second wife was named Rohesia.

Nicholas built Warwick Castle and it was he who most probably built Newbold Verdon parish church as the first rector was presented by him in 1209.

Rohesia, his daughter, founded Gracedieu Nunnery in 1240.]

2 Verdonne. 3 This Newbold seems to have been Newbold near Worthington not Newbold Verdon. How the manor came into the de Verdun family is not known by the present representatives of that family. Nichols has evidently made a mistake.

These were troubled times for England. There is no record of the induction of any Rector from 1626 to 1690 a period of 64 years - and including the latter part of the reign of CharlesI, Cromwell, Charles II and James II.

In 1690 in the reign of William II and Mary II in the same year as the battle of the Boyne John Corbet was instituted.

Sir Thomas Crewe was a Sergeant at Law. John Crewe, his only son a successor in the property of Newbold Verdon, gave Newbold to his second son John, who gave it to his brother Nathaniel, third and last Lord Crewe 4, Bishop of Durham who bequeathed it to his nephew by marriage James Montague.

"James Montague, by the gift of his uncle, had the seat and estate of Newbold Verdon, where he spent the remainder of his days with such cheerfulness, freedom and hospitality to the rich and charity to the poor that he was generally beloved, but, coming to town, fell sick, whereof he died and on November 8th 1748 was carried to be buried in the church belonging to his seat at newbold Verdun." (Nichols)

The vault was under the Chancel floor close to the south wall - at the time that the church was restored in 1898/9. The Chancel was then enlarged but the vault was left intact.

In the Chancel wall is a brass tablet, evidently in memory of his wife:

"Mary, the wife of James Montague
Esq. dyed, July 5th 1735

Montague Charity 1749"

He had no issue, and gave this Lordship to Edward Montague[5], grandson of the first Earl of Sandwich, whose son, the celebrated Edward Wortley Montague conveyed it to Thomas Pares Esq. and Joseph Bunney Esq. both of Leicester.

It is interesting to notice that these two gentlemen established the first bank in Leicester.

The Journal of December 31st 1763 announced it thus:

> "We are credibly informed that Mr. Joseph Bunney and Mr. Thomas Pares, both of this place, purpose taking upon their notes, payable to bearer, any sum that shall be offered to 'em, and will allow £2 per cent per annum, for every sum amounting to £25 and upwards, from the end of thirty days after the time of its being advanced."

From these gentlemen the Lordship passed to their successors and representatives Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp[6] (only son of Mr. Bunney) and John Pares.

These gentlemen owned the property in 1810, at which time the waste lands were enclosed.

The owner is, at the present time (1916) Sir Charles Hartopp.

4 Lord Crewe's Charity: see 'School' 5 Edward Montague was the husband of Elizabeth Montague "the last of the blue stockings. In 1744 when Newbold was in possession of her husband's brother James, Elizabeth Montague gave a glowing account of the place in a letter to the Duchess of Portland. She describes it as 'one of the most charming and pleasant places I ever saw. The gardens are delightful, the park very beautiful, the house neat and agreeable, and everything about it in elegant taste. My brother has made great improvements. It was a very bad place when Lord Crew left it to him and had no ornament but fine wood; now there is water in great beauty, grand avenues from every point, fine young plantations, and in short everything that can please the eye.'

6 who in consequence of an alliance with the Cradock family took the name of Cradock Hartopp.

Chapter III

The Church of St. James

In 1801, at the time of the first census, there were in Newbold 80 houses, 90 families, 167 males, 172 females, in all 339 persons.

Eighty-nine were employed in agriculture and 116 in trades and manufactures. In many of the cottages could be heard the sound of the hand frame stocking machine.

The village now contains over 1000 persons. The men and boys are employed chiefly at the Desford Bagworth and Nailstone Collieries.

The history of a village seems to centre round the Manor House and the Church.

I mention the manor house first, because it was generally the Lord of the Manor who built the church and endowed it either with land or tithes.

There can be no doubt but that we are indebted to Nicholas de Verdun, or to his father Bertram for our first parish church - the present tower being a part of the old edifice.

In the list of Rectors we find that in 1209 AD Elyas was presented by Nicholas de Verdun, instituted by the Archdeacon, the see (Lincoln) being vacant. The Rector must have received tithes, as tithes were paid up to 1810, when common land was enclosed and the Rector received a grant of 316 acres in lieu of tithes etc.

The church therefore dates from the very beginning of the 13th century. In 1832 it was enlarged and restored and in 1898/9 it was practically rebuilt.

Very little of the old church remains except the tower.

The window at the west end of the North Aisle is no doubt Early English and formed a part of the original church.

The large and beautiful window now in the North Aisle east end, before the restoration of the East window (chancel), is a fine specimen of the Perpendicular. At the rebuilding, when the chancel was taken down two windows were found covered up in the chancel, south wall, in the same style, but the stonework was so decayed that they were destroyed. A long narrow lancet window was also found, the top of the present piscina being all that is left.

The tower's lower portion and walls were built of rubble, the north and south sides of the chancel and upper part of the tower of brick.

The Hall and the older part of the property in the village are all built of this kind of brick. It almost seems as if the church had been partly ruined and then restored.

The original church consisted of a chancel, nave, tower and south porch.

The floor was evidently on the same level as the present floor of the tower and the seas were ordinary benches.

Up to 1830 the old octagonal font was in use, but it seems then to have been taken down. It has not been destroyed, but is considerably damaged.

In the old tower are two bells of different dates. The date on the large bell is1663, the third year after the restoration of Charles II and the inscription is very significant viz. "God save His Church". This was immediately after Cromwell's death, who had done his utmost to destroy both Church and State. In 1650 during Cromwell's protectorate the Rector was reported to be "weak and scandalous".

The smaller bell bears the date 1754 and the inscription "The Churchis prais - We sound all ways"

The church had only seating for 69 persons. There is a good print of the north side of the church dated 1792 in Nichols' history.

Towards the beginning of the 19th century, however when the collieries had been commenced, the village seems to have grown much larger and the church inadequate for the needs of the village - but funds were small and nothing very great was attempted.

In 1832 the church was considerably enlarged; the total cost, however, did not exceed £700. Two hundred pounds of this was given by the Incorporated Society for promoting the building, enlargement and repairing of Churches and Chapels and the remainder was raised by private subscription. A loan recovery list of subscribers was placed on the north wall of the old church. It is now in the tower vestry.

The chief alterations were:

New North Aisle.

The north wall was taken down and rebuilt farther towards the north (the present wall, lower part, is a remnant of that wall) with new windows of Attleboro' stone.

The south wall was raised (see old print) and covered with a new roof of Swithland slate.

A gallery was built across the west end of the church.

The Tower arch was bricked up.

A new door was made for the belfry (inside).

The old door was removed from the south porch. It is now the outside tower door.

The floor was raised one and a half feet.

The outside walls and tower were stuccoed from top to bottom.

New pews (deal) were high ones with doors and narrow straight backed seats.

The old octagonal font was taken away and its place supplied by a

small marble basin on a wooden support.
A new pulpit with reading and clerk's desk, commonly called a three
decker, was erected of Norway oak with a sounding board of mahogany and Norway oak.

The woodwork was done by Mr. J. Gilliver, grandfather of the present Mr. J. Gilliver.

The present Holy Table is made of part of the wood of the old pulpit.

This enlargement provided for 225 additional seats which were declared "free and unappropriated for ever" but so much having been done at so small a cost nothing had been attempted except what was absolutely required.

The Church remained in this state until 1898. It was neither handsome nor convenient. It was very cold in winter and there was no lighting except candles, therefore there was no evening service in winter.

On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria when so many things were done in different parts of the country to commemorate the event, it was proposed by the Rector, Rev. W.G. Cole said that the parishioners should perpetuate this event by rebuilding the church in such a way as to be better suited for worship and more in accordance with what a church should be.

A meeting was called and the Rector explained what he wished. The suggestion was eagerly adopted. Promise of substantial help was given and eventually work was begun.

Plans for rebuilding the church, including a new Vestry on the south side, and an extension of the north aisle to the east were obtained from Mr. H. Goddard, Architect, Leicester - the material being syenite from the quarries and the estimated cost £2,786.

Towards this amount a generous gift of £1,000 was made by the Rev. H.E. Hulton of Boreham Manor, an old friend of the Rector, £500 was contributed by the Parishioners and their friends and the remainder was made up by the Rev. W.G. Cole and his sister.

The Architect was Mr. H. Goddard, Market Street, Leicester, and the contractors Messrs. Scurr & Jowett of Barrow on Soar.

The Church was opened and consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough on 1st August, 1899,

The generator and fittings for lighting were fixed some time later at the Rector's expense.

In 1910 the parishioners suffered a great loss in the death of the Rector

who had done such good work for the parish, and the removal of his sister to Lincoln.

[1916
The restoration of the Church Tower has been taken in hand at the lowest estimated cost of £500, towards which the sum of has been collected, including a donation from Miss Cole (now deceased) of £100. In this year Miss Cole bequeathed to the rector and churchwarden a further sum of not more than £200 to complete the £500 required.

Miss Cole also bequeathed in 1915 to the rector for the time being the three cottages belonging to her in Newbold, adjoining the rectory grounds, the rents to be in augmentation of the benefice, the said property to be under the supervision of the Commissioners of Queen Anne's Bounty. The rents in 1816 amounted to £32 per annum.]

Chapter IV

About the Church

The East Window

This memorial window was provided mainly by the relatives and friends of the late rector, assisted by the President and Fellows of Trinity College Oxford and the Parishioners of Newbold Verdon.

The design and execution of the work have been carried out by Messrs. Burleson & Grylls, 36 Great Ormond Street, London.

The window reminds the onlooker of the dawn of Christianity in these islands.

In the centre is seen our Blessed Lord in the Glory of His Transfiguration, with Moses and Elias and the three chosen disciples, one St. James the Patron Saint of the Church.

In the tracery above, the same subject is developed. Angels in glory bearing the words - "This is my Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased."

In the side lights of the window we are reminded of the beautiful legend of the visit to this country of S. Joseph of Arimathea with the Holy Grail, and the dawn of actual history in the figure of S. Alban - one of the most notable of the early martyrs in Britain.

The two remaining figures show the main sources of the Church of Christ in England - S. Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, the Apostle of the south and S. Aidan the great Missionary of the north.

Underneath is the following inscription:
"To the Glory of God, and in memory of William Gordone Cole, Rector of this Parish 1869 - 1910."

The Dedication Service was held on the 6th January, 1912. The sermon was preached by the Rev. A. Titley, Barwell, a friend of the late rector and the window was unveiled by Mrs. Thomson, Groby.

As the inscription on the window was partly hidden by the reredos, a tablet has since been placed on the wall of the chancel baring the following inscription:

To the Glory of
God and in
Memory of
William Gordon Cole M.A. Rector of this Parish 1869
-1910, by whose efforts this church was rebuilt
The stained glass in the East Window was

dedicated by his friends and parishioners.

On the wall of the North aisle near the Reading Desk is a brass plate. It is the remains of a handsome mural stone tablet which has been unfortunately destroyed, most likely when the Church was restored in 1832 as Nichols has an outline drawing as it appeared in 1792.

The following is the inscription which is very quaint:

Hoc
To the memory of the truly pious and vertuous Mrs. Mary Price, Daughter of Thomas Price Gentleman, Who departed this life the 30th June Anno Dom. 1667

Devotum
Mettals may serve to blazon common
worth Bu t she exceeds all tearms to set
her forth
Let this suffice to say she had a mind
Contained the quintessence of
womankind.

The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

Nothing more is known except this record from the Register -1667 Mary, the daughter of Thomas Price, Gent, and Faith, his wife, was buried July 2 1667.

On the South Chancel wall is a brass tablet of the Montague family
-Mary, the wife of James Montague Esq. dyed July 15th 1735

On the South wall is a tablet in memory of Mr. Geo. Arnold, a son of Mr. Thomas Arnold of Brascote House who was accidentally drowned on his way and not far from Clondyke *(sic)?*

The East end of the North aisle has been converted into a Chapel for special services. It was first used on Saturday evening 5th October 1912.

The Font

This was the gift of the Rev W.E. Hutton. It was removed from its position close to the South door to the present North West corner and was used in its present position for the first time on Sunday 6th October 1912.

The Choir Vestry

On Christmas Eve 1911 the choir, surpliced, met in the Choir vestry for the first time.

Previously a new floor had been put in the bell chamber and the belfry had been panelled by members of the Church Council Messrs. W. & G. Statham and W. Elverstone.

The Clock

The Clock, which has had a long rest of nearly 40 years has been repaired and set going by Mr. W. Statham. It is very old, but keeps good time. The one hand only marks the hours, but the sound can be heard for some distance.

7 "In loving memory of George William, third son of Thomas and Mary Arnold, accidentally drowned in the Hoolalinqua River, Ukon, Canada June 30, 1898 in his 21st year. Thy Will be done."

The Rectory

The present Rectory was built by the Rev. W.W. Greenway in A.D. 1820 at a cost of £1,500.

Church Music

Up to about 1860 the music was sustained by male and female voices accompanied by stringed and other instruments.

In 1850 these consisted of oboe, J. Raven, Clarinette - T. Smith, German flute J. Brown, Bassoon (2) Jas Raven & Jas Bailey. Bass Viol Jas Raven Jr. Violin with now and then cornopean by Thos Wesley, Desford.

The instrumentalists used to sit in the front seat of the gallery at the west end of the church.

About 1860 the parishioners decided to have a harmonium. The present one was bought for £30, raised by subscription and supplid by Mr. McEwan, Hinckley.

It did good service till 1911 when the present small organ was bought from the Thornton Church. It was built by Pistor, London. Repaired by J. Robson. St Martin's Lane, London and repaired and revoiced when it was set in its present position by F.W. Buras, Nuneaton.

It was used for the first time at the Harvest Festival 1911.

Chapter V

Gifts to the Church

Flagon	}		
Chalice	}	plain 1697 - 1698	Britannia Standard
Paten	}		

Embossed Chalice with cover 1698 -9

Flagon	}		
Chalice	}	plain 1704 - 1705	Britannia Standard
Paten	}		

NB The flagon, chalice and paten came from the same silversmith and were probably given by Lord Crewe.

Large Alms Plate

NB The large alms plate was bequeathed by Lord Crewe in his will (Nicholls Leicestershire)

1875 Altar Cloth
Rev. T.W. Wayte B.D. President of Trinity College Oxford

1877 Glastonbury Chair
Rev. W.G. Cole, Rector

1 Holy Tables, Lectern, Font & Pulpit from All Saints' Church, Dumsden, Berks. Rev. H.E. Hulton & Rev. R.H. Hunt-Davis.

2 Altar Candlesticks. Solid rosewood. 20 ins.
Rev. W.G. Cole

1899 Font Cover
Messrs. Goddard & Paget

1899 Altar Cross
Miss Cole

1909 Hymn board, Two vases, Two kneelers
Miss Cole

8 Original Holy Table still in church (oak)

Chapter VI

The Church Registers

Cromwell, Secretary to Henry VIII in 1538 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."

This order was promptly obeyed in this parish for the church Registers date from 1542.

They have been exceeding well kept and in an excellent state of preservation. The writing in the earlier books is, as may be expected, rather difficult to read, not because of poor ink, but of poor schooling.

A copy of the earlier registers was made at the end of the 18th Century. It is kept with the originals, but the ink seems to have been poor and the writing has become almost illegible.

The registers include other items of interest besides births, etc.

1599 Humphrey Wolfreston baptized July 8th 1599

Note: In 1591 John Abel was Rector and he was presented by Humphrey Wolfreston, Gent., of Newbold Verdon, whose son was baptized on that date.

1633 The Parish of Newbold Verdon gave towards the repair of St. Paul's Church, in London the 3rd day of September 1633 the sum of twelve shillings as a benevolense.

Cuthbert Nicholson	Rector
Robert Wilkinson	}
Humphrey Atterton	} Churchwardens

Another sum of five shillings and sixpence was given in 1635.

Note: These sums seem very small, but when we remember that at this time, that besides the Lord of the Manor, there were only four other freeholders and also that the value of money has greatly altered it will be seen that these sums represented liberal gifts.

1645 Elizabeth Tomson, daughter of Thomas and Anne, baptized April 6th and the mother of her was buried the next day, which Anne was the daughter of Cuthbert Nicholson, parson, and lieth buried in the Chancel on the South side of the Holy Table.

The wife of Rev. W.W. Greenway, Rector was also buried in the Chancel. The Rector, himself was buried in the churchyard in the ground he, himself, gave to the Church.

Although many other Rectors and members of their families must have been buried here, there is no record except that of our late Rector the Rev. W.G. Cole.

1660 The Parish of Newbold Verdon gave unto the the fire at Fleckenham in the County of Norfolk nine shillings and three pence.

The Parish of Newbold Verdon gave unto the fire at Mountsorrel in the county of Leicester two shillings and nine pence.

There are numerous other records of contribution to the rebuilding and repairing of churches and to fires in all parts of England.

1665 That our Parish gave the first fast day, which was the second of August to those whom it hath pleased God to visit with pestilence the sum of ten
shillings and ninepence.

This was the Great Plague of London. Then followed the Great Fire of London and again the Parish was not behind.

1666 That our Parish gave to the relief of those distressed citizens of London by reason of that late dreadful fire, the 10th day of October, the sum of Two Pounds, fifteen shillings and three pence.

1669 That our Parish gave into the distressed captives in Algiers, Sally,and in other parts of the Turk's Dominion this 18th of July the summe of five
shillings and sixpence.

Humphrey Atterton the Elder }
and Abraham Dunkley the Younger } Churchwardens

1670 That our Parish gave unto the distressed captives in Algiers this 23rd day of October the sum of fifteen shillings and fourpence.

1676 William Massey of Ibstock and Jeane Gilliflower of this Parish married by me.

1759 Christopher Statum of St. Martin's Parish Leicester married Dorothy Smith of this Parish.

In 1775 the name was spelled Stathem and in 1791 Statham.

[1916 This is interesting as showing of this, the most common family name in Newbold.]

Chapter VII

The Church Yard

The old Church Yard lay chiefly on the south side of the church between the church and the road and at the east and west ends of the church.

For 600 years this ground had been used for burial. It must have been used over and over again.

The Rev. W.W. Greenway, during the time he was Rector, gave a large piece of ground on the north side of the church and again in 1899, when the Church was rebuilt Sir Charles Hartopp gave nearly 600 sq. yards for necessary enlargement.

The cost of fencing and other necessary expenses was £32.8.0. This was advanced by the Rector the Rev. W.G. Cole.

The collection taken at the Whitsuntide Club service was used to repay the loan. At the Rector's death a sum of £9.10.0 still remained unpaid which sum the Rector's sister generously cancelled when she left Newbold.

Chapter VIII

Education in Newbold

The Free School

Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham was Lord of the Manor in 1720 and the inhabitants of Newbold owe much to his generosity and munificence.

He not only built the first school and left a public endowment for the master's salary but he also founded twelve exhibitions to Lincoln College, Oxford, the exhibitioners to be chosen from amongst the natives of Durham, and Northallerton in the York, but particularly of Newbold Verdon in Leicestershire and of Oxford, each exhibitioner to be allowed £20 annually for eight years successively.

The exhibitions have lapsed, but the original sum of £20 is still paid towards the salary of the master of the church school, but as the County Council pay the salary now they claim the £20, the ratepayers receiving that amount in reduction of rates.

In 1720, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham gave £30 for the building of a school. It seems such a small sum that one can scarcely believe it possible to build one for that amount. It was built on the small plot of ground, now a garden, on the left side of the entrance to the Brascote Lane, and at one end was the master's house.

The school was free and was called the Newbold Verdon Free School.

It served a very useful purpose up to 1875, a period of 150 years.

During the later part of this time there was another school founded by Lady Byron of Kirkby Mallory which was a centre for the older boys not only of the village, but of the villages of Peckleton, Kirkby Mallory, Desford and Cadeby.

One of the chief features of the school was the teaching of gardening, now coming to the fore in most village schools. From this it was called Newbold Verdon Agricultural School. Over an acre of ground adjoining the school was divided into plots of about 100 sq. yards. These the older boys cultivated, tools being provided free by Lady Byron and marked N.A.S.

Fees were charged at this school.

The old room still exists as part of the farm house occupied by Mr. John Hill.

Owing to depreciation in the value of land, a notice was received by the Managers in 1892 that, for the future:

"The Trustees of Lord Crewe's Benefaction will only be able to pay £20 per annum, the sum originally left by Lord Crewe."

This £20 was regularly received by the Managers until 1904, when it was claimed by the Education Committee of the Leicestershire County Council.

It 1884 it was found that the school was much too small as the average attendance had greatly increased.

It was enlarged during the Summer Holidays by adding to the south end at a cost of £171.16.7.

The money was advanced by the Rector free of interest and paid back by instalments from Lord Crewe's Benefaction if any remained after all expenses had been met.

In 1894 Cloak rooms were provided at a cost of £70. This amount was also provided by the Rector and paid back in a similar way.

In 1907 three ventilators, Boyle's, were fixed in the roof and the school was painted, varnished and coloured throughout at a cost of £65.11.8.

This was paid by the Rector and Thos. Cope Esq. Osbaston Hall.

In 1910 the playgrounds were refaced, the offices made more convenient and the old gallery in the infants' room removed at a cost of £50.

In addition to the initial cost of the school £350 at least had been expended in enlargements and improvements, these not costing one penny to the ratepayers.

The Parish owes a great debt of gratitude to the Rev. W.G. Cole for the interest he took in the school.

Council School

The village had now grown so much that the school was exceedingly overcrowded - H.M. Inspector had complained for several years.

As there was no room to enlarge the Parochial School the Education Committee of the Leicestershire County Council purchased a plot of ground in the Dragon Lane and erected a school for the junior children - Standard I and Infants.

The school is built to accommodate 140 children.

It was publicly opened on 21st March 1910 by Alderman Thos. Cope Esq. M.A., J.P., and Chairman of the Education Committee Mr. C.F. Winfrey C.C. of Kirby Muxloe presiding, but it was not actually used till 4th April when Standard I and the Infants were transferred from the Parochial School.

Masters of the Church School

Mr. Handscombe	December 1875 to May 1876
Mr. C. Deane	June 1876 to December 1881
Mr. W.S. Llewellyn	January 1882 to June 1884
Mr. Thos. Carter	July 1884 to May 1914

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Masters of the Old Free School

The first master of the Old Free School was Nathaniel Ball.

In the Churchyard there are stones in memory of three masters - with the following inscriptions:

Near East Window

To the memory of Nathaniel Ball who
died
the 1st April 1745
He was the first master of the Publick School
founded and endowed by Lord Crewe

The stone is not in its original position.

Lying flat on the ground under the East window is another stone, this too has been moved.

Sacred to the Memory of John Phipps, who departed
this life May 25th 1788
in the 54th year of his age. He was for 27
years master of the Publick School in this town.

John Phipps was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Edmondson who was also Rector of the Parish from 1786 to 1794.

Half way up the main path on the left is 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

The succeeding masters were:

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

The younger children attended a Dame School until they were old enough to go to the Free School. This Dame School was held in a cottage and the children were taught by Mrs. Gilliver, who had received some training under Canon Fry of Leicester who did so much for the education of that town. When the new church school was built Miss Gilliver was offered and accepted the post of teacher of the infants until her decease.

1870 saw the introduction of Mr. Foster's new Education Act. Education was pushed forward and much larger grants were given by the Education Department for this purpose.

The old Free School (there was no provision for repairs) had become quite unfitted for educational purposes - and something had to be done towards providing a more up to date building.

The result was the present Parochial School - which was built in 1875 - 6 at a cost of (not including the site) £1,234.

The first meeting for the purpose of endeavouring to provide funds for a new school by voluntary subscription without having recourse to a rate was held 3rd November 1870.

The Committee thus became entitled to assistance from the Government. (They afterwards received £188.6.10) which they would not otherwise have obtained, as no applications for a grant were entertained unless they had been made before 1st January 1871.

The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education required, as a condition of making a grant of money towards the building of a school that the site should not be less than a quarter of an acre.

The site of the school built by Lord Crewe was of nothing like that extent, and it having been found impossible to acquire any of the adjoining land so as to make it of the size required, the Rector, the Rev. W.G. Cole obtained the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese, the holders of the advowson to exchange a quarter of an acre of Glebe at the opposite corner of the Brascote Road for the old site.

Sufficient funds having been subscribed - see list of subscribers in school -the school was built in 1875 and opened on December 2nd of that year.

The first master was Mr. Handscombe.

Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, bequeathed to the Parish of Newbold Verdon in 1720 the sum of £20 per annum, as the stipend of a schoolmaster.

The Court of Chancery, having under consideration the distribution of the surplus income of Lord Crewe's Charity Estate, gave its sanction in 1875 to a scheme, which among other things provided for the increase of Lord Crewe's Bequest of £20 by an augmentation of £40 if any surplus income remained after certain payments had been made.

So much of this augmentation of £40 as the Trustees of the Charity think fit is to be given in the shape of Exhibitions to deserving scholars under such conditions and in such manner as the Trustees shall from time to time deem best calculated to promote Education in this Parish.

From 1884 to 1892 the augmentation was thus used. £20 was taken for the general expenses of the school and the other £20 in money prizes to the children. These prizes were given to encourage regular attendance and perseverance.

This was in the days of School Fees and Individual Examination.

The eldest child in a family paid 3d per week and the others 2d. They

also bought slates, pencils and copy books.

All who passed at the Inspector's visit received a money prize graded according to the class in which they were examined.

Free schooling was given to a certain number who had attended most regularly.

The distribution of the prizes took place in November of each year. Managers and parents were invited to be present and after the distribution had been made songs learned in school by the children were sung. 9

[9] The last distribution was on 4th November 1892.

Chapter IX

Other Buildings of Note

The Chates

In 1712 William Mountney, Grandson of William Mountney who came to reside here in 1608, sold to Ralph Trotter, Gent, part of his land, which is a little farm, and upon which he built a small house called the Chates House - thus the house and land have been in possession of the family 200 years. Mr. Ralph Trotter is now the tenant.

The houe was at one time much larger than it is at present.

Lord Crewe bequeathed to Ralph Trotter a picture of Lady Crewe (Dorothy).

Poole House

This is on a farm of 27 acres enclosed by Mr. Thomas Hargrave, Auctioneer in 1781. It takes its name from the Great Gabriel Pool, an old fish pond belonging to the Parish which was quite close, but on the opposite side of the present road. It was kept full by the brook which now crosses the field by an underground drain.

A very large part of the parish was open and waste land at that time and it is very interesting to know from Mr. Hargraves' own writing much about what was necessary to be done to gain permission to enclose.

Here are his own words: -

9th September 1781

I went to Barlestone, Bagworth and Thornton in the morning and put up a Notice on Barlestone Church Door, two upon Bagworth and two upon Thornton and heard them read in Thornton Church after the second lesson; no service at Bagworth. I also put up a notice upon Newbold Church door and heard the same read in Newbold Church after the Afternoon Service.

16th September

I went to Barlestone in the morning, and read the same Notice upon that Church Door as I put on the Sunday before and In the afternoon I put on a Notice upon Newbold Church Door, and heard the same read in that Church after the Second Lesson. Afterwards I went to Thornton and Bagworth and read the Notices upon those Church Doors and likewise heard them read in each Church after the Second Lesson.

23rd September

I went to Barlestone, Bagworth and Thornton in the Morning, and read the Notices upon the Barlestone Church Door, and the Notices upon Bagworth and Thornton Church Doors, and heard them read in Thornton Church after the Second Lesson. No Service at Bagworth. In the afternoon I read the Notice upon Newbold Church Door and heard the same read in that Church after the Second Lesson.

£80 was paid besides the expenses of clearing and fencing. The ground now forms a compact small farm.

This is well-named for it is pannelled from floor to ceiling with black oak.

Facing the back entrance is the dining room door. To reach the Dining Room from the great Hall one must pass up three shallow steps to a raised floor. The roof is supported by three archways the pillars of which are rectangular.

On the left of this hall, is the 'staircase hall' containing the 'grand staircase' made of solid carved oak. The cornice round is massive and exquisite.

Near the foot of the stairs is the 'Drawing Room'.

Two flights of stairs contra to each other with a landing between, lead to the upper rooms.

One large room over the dining room was most likely the "Ball Room".

The beautiful carved fireplaces have been removed, but the cornices still remain.

The storey above was evidently at one time the servants' rooms. It is a maze of solid oak beams of great thickness divided into rooms and these rooms are approached by a separate staircase.

The lower story which contains the cellars is partly underground. The ceilings are groined.

Behind the house are four substantially built brick buildings, most likely the kitchens and stables. They are now used as stables and barns.

One is still called the Laundry, another the Granary. The very large fire place has been removed from the Laundry, but the solid stone door frames still remain.

The field between the house and the Market Bosworth Road is still called "The Walks".

About midway is the old fish pond (now dry). At the beginning of the 19th century, the stone pillars surmounted by large stone balls still remained of the main entrance.

There is an ornamental moat forming three sides of a rectangle.

On one side is a splendid row of old yews. The path goes by the name of "The Yew Walk" and what was evidently a trim yew hedge is now a row of tall trees.

There is a tradition that a road ran from Newbold Verdon Hall to Cadeby Hall. The remains of what appear to have been a road can still be seen. That part near the Hall passes through an avenue of yews. Several of these are now standing.

The Hall in its prime must have been a magnificent residence.

[283 acres]

Connected with the Hall is the name of Lady Mary Montague, who for a time, resided there. (This is not established, but her husband Edward Wortley Montague conveyed it to Thos Pares and Joseph Bunney). She was one of the most beautiful and accomplished ladies of the time of George I.

She was the daughter of Evelyn, Duke of Kingston and was born about 1690 in the reign of William and Mary.

In August 1712 (Queen Anne) she married Edward Wortley Montague, grandson of the Earl of Sandwich.

Soon after the accession of George I, Mr. Montague entered Parliament. He obtained a seat on the Treasury Board and his wife by her brilliant conversation and beauty gained great reputation.

He was afterwards Ambassador to Constantinople and his wife

accompanied him.

It was during her residence here that she first became acquainted with inoculation as a means of destroying that great scourge, small pox.

It was through her that the system was first introduced - see letter - into England, and thence into the rest of Europe.

She was a great writer.

The latter part of her life she spent apart from her husband.

She died in 1762 of cancer in the breast.

In connection with the introduction of inoculation as a safeguard against smallpox the following, written by Lady M.W. Montague from Adrianople April 1st 1717 to a friend Mrs. S.C. is very interesting:

'7am *going to tell you a thing which will make you wish yourself here. The small-pox, so fatal and so general amongst us, is here entirely harmless by the invention of''ingrafting', which is the term they give it. There is a set of old women who make it their business to perform the operation every autumn, in the month of September, when the great heat is abated. People send to one another to know if any of their family has a mind to have the small-pox; they make parties for this purpose, and when they are met (commonly fifteen or sixteen together) the old woman comes with a nut-shell full of the matter of the best sort of small-pox, and asks what vein you please to have opened. She immediately rips open that you offer to her with a large needle (which gives you no more pain than a common scratch) and puts into the vein as much matter as can lie upon the head of her needle, and after that binds up the little wound with a hollow bit of shell; and in this manner opens four or five veins.*

The Grecians have commonly the superstition of opening one in the middle of the forehead, one in each arm, and one on the breast, to mark the sign of the cross; but this has a very ill effect, all these wounds leaving little scars, and is not done by those who are not superstitious, who choose to have them in the legs, or that part of the arm which is concealed. The children or young patients play together all the rest of the day, and are in perfect health to the eighth. Then the fever begins to seize them, and they keep to their bed for two days, very seldom three. They have very rarely above twenty or thirty in their faces, which never mark; and in eight days' time they are as well as before their illness.

Where they are wounded, these remain running sores during the distemper, which I don't doubt is a great relief to it. Every year thousands undergo this operation, and the French ambassador says pleasantly, that they take the small-pox here by way of diversion, as they

take the waters in other countries. There is no example of any one that has died in it; and you may believe I am well satisfied of the safety of this experiment, since I intend to try it on my own dear little son.

I am patriot enough to take pains to bring this useful invention into fashion in England, and I should not fail to write to some of our doctors very particularly about it, if I knew any one of them that I thought had virtue enough to destroy such a considerable branch of their revenue for the good of mankind. But that distemper is too beneficial to them, not to expose to all their resentment the hardy wight that should undertake to put an end to it. Perhaps, if I live to return, I may, however, have the courage to war with them.

M. W. Montague "

Lady Mary Montague did introduce it into this country in about 1721. It was very slowly adopted, and it was not until it had been practised on six criminals (whose liberty was promised them if they recovered, which they fortunately did), that it was generally received.

[See B. Frittis: Highways & Byways of Nottingham & Leicester Macmillan]

[There is a book called "Lady M.W. Montague and Her Times" by George Paston (a daughter of John Addington Symonds)]

Chapter X

Enclosure of Open Fields and Waste Lands

In the year 1810 there were in this Parish 900 acres of open fields. These open fields were common property. The rich and poor alike could turn out what stock they pleased on these open fields.

In this state the land was practically of little value.

It was thought by the owners of property in the parish that it would be better if this land were divided amongst those who could prove any claim to it and application was made to Parliament for power to do so.

The Preamble of the Bill is so interesting that it has been copied. It runs thus: -

Preamble of Bill for inclosing the Open Fields ofNewbold Verdon and Newbold Heath.

"Whereas there are in the Parish of Newbold Verdon in the County of Leicester, sevveral open Fields, and Certain Parcels of Meadow and Pasture Land, Commonable Places and Waste Lands used and enjoyed with the said fields reputed to contain three hundred acres or thereabouts, and also divers antiently enclosed Lands and Tenements. And there are also in the said County of Leicester, certain Open Commonable and Waste Lands known by the name of Newbold Heath, containing by estimation six hundred acres, or thereabouts whereon the Owners and occupiers of certain antient Messuages and Cottages, Scites of Messuages and cottages, Lands and Tenements, within the Parish ofNewbold Verdon aforesaid, and within the Hamlet or Chapelry ofBarleston, in the Parish of Market Bosworth in the said county, are, or claim to be entitled to have and to enjoy a Right of common

And whereas Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp Bart, and John Pares Esq are Lords of the Manor ofNewbold Verdon aforesaid, and as such claim to be entitled to the Soil of the Said Waste Lands, and George Greenway, Gent, is Patron of the Rectory ofNewbold Verdon aforesaid, and the Rev. Giles Prickett, Clerk, is the present Rector thereof

And whereas the Right Honourable George Harry, Earl of

Stamford and Warrington is Lord of the Manor ofBarleston aforesaid (As parcel of His Honour of Winchester) and, as such claims to be entitled to the soil of Part of the said Waste Land, and Eleanor Frances Pochin, Widow, is Patron of the Rectory of Market Bosworth, to which Barleston is a Chapelry, and the Rev. Thomas Wright, Clerk, is the present Rector thereof,

And whereas the said Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp and John Pares and Mary Sneap, Widow, John Kirkman Esq., William Holmes, Clerk, George Hood, Gentleman, and others are the Proprietors of the said Open Fields and Parcels of Meadow and Pasture Land, Commonable Places and Waste Lands used and enjoyed therewith, and of the antiently enclosed Lands and Tenements in Newbold Verdon aforesaid

And whereas the Lands in the said Open Fields are intermixed and otherwise inconveniently situated for the respective Proprietors and Occupiers, and the said Open and Commonable Grounds and Waste Lands in their present state yield but little Profit, and it would be very beneficial to the several Persons interested in the same respectively to have the same divided and inclosed, and allotted unto and amongst the several Persons interested therein respectively, according to the several Rights and Interests therein; and it would be advantageous and convenient if such compensation as hereinafter provided were made in Lieu of Tithes, Moduses, and Ecclesiastical Payments as with in respect of the inclosed estates in the Parish of Newbold Verdon aforesaid as of the said Open Lands and Grounds; but such Division, Allotment or Enclosure and Compensation, cannot be made, and effectually established without Aid and Authority of Parliament,

May it please Your Majesty etc etc"

The Bill was passed and Commissioners appointed to carry out what was proposed. Great care seems to have been shown.

Thus we find that in a few years the ground was fenced in and new roads made. The new fences may be known by their regularity, the old fences were very irregular.

With regard to the last part of the Preamble the land was relieved of Tithes which had been no doubt paid since 1209.

Three hundred and sixteen acres of the waste land was given to the church in lieu of these tithes. This land is in several different parts of the Parish except what is known as the Halifax Farm, a compact piece of land [of acres], *(sic)*

Two of the fields are actually in the Parish of Barlestone.

With the consent of the Lord Bishop of Peterborough and the President and Fellows of Trinity College, Oxford who hold the Advowson the Halifax Farm was sold by the Rector, the Rev. J.H. Jacques, to the Desford Colliery Company in 1915 for £46.12 per acre.

[For Newbold Verdon Town Land see "Charities"]

The land was inclosed in 1820 in the reign of George III.

Since that time many hundreds of square yards have been appropriated along the roadsides by residents in the Parish. They seem to have been allowed to do this. These strips, being along the road side, form valuable building sites and many cottages have been built on them. Others are used as gardens. There is practically no waste land in the Parish.

Chapter XI

Places of Interest

The Great Gabriel Pool

This was a large pool of water on the right side of Bagworth Road. It was supplied with water from a brook which now runs beneath through a covered drain. It was surrounded by a belt of trees. It belonged at the time of the inclosure to the Lords of the Manor Sir Cradock Hartopp and John Pares.

It eventually got into such a bad state that the owners gave permission to Mr. Thos. Moore of Brascote House, on the condition that it should be drained, to claim possession.

The Act for Inclosure reads -

"And be it further enacted

That the said Sir Cradock Hartopp and John Pares and the Lords of the Manor for the time being, for ever, shall and may continue to hold, and enjoy, an antient Fish Pool or parcel of land covered with water, called the Great Gabriel Pool, situate on Newbold Heath aforesaid, together with a Border or Margin round the same and of the width of three yards from High Water Mark, and convenient access to the same and that such pool shall not be deemed or considered by the said Commissioners as part of the Land or Ground authorized by the Act to be allotted."

The Gravel Holes (opposite large fox cover)

A hundred years ago when the ground was inclosed the roads were in a wretched condition. We who are used to such splendid roads now can form no conception as to what they were in those days.

To insure that the roads, as made then, should be kept in good repair not more than two acres was to be left, from which to obtain gravel to mend the roads.

Now the old system has been altogether discarded, this land which is in two plots, one on the right of the Bagworth Road (first field) and the other in Fox Cover Lane, is let. It still belongs to and is claimed by the Parish.

The Act runs thus:

"And be it further enacted That the said Commissioners shall, and are hereby required, as soon as conveniently may be after setting out Publick Roads and Highways as by the said recited Act directed, to set out and allot for the Surveyors of the Highways of the several Parishes and Places, or Parish and Place, within the said lands and grounds hereby directed to be inclosed respectively lie, so much and such Part or Parts of the said Grounds and Lands,

not exceeding Two Acres in the whole, and in such places as the commissioners shall think proper for getting Stone, Gravel or other Materials, for the Repairs from time to time of the Public and Private Roads and Highways within each respective Parishes or Parish and Place,

in case there shall be land found yielding such Material, but not otherwise, and such land shall be, and is, hereby vested in the said Surveyors of the Highways for the time being of such respective Parishes or Places or Parish and Place in trust for such purpose aforesaid, and the Herbage arising therefrom shall belong to the said Surveyors or such other Person or Persons, or be disposed of in such a manner as the said Commissioners shall, by the Award which they are by the said recited Act required to make, direct, or appoint, which Direction they are hereby rquired to make."

Newbold Gate

For very many years the Atherstone hounds have met at Newbold Gate.

The gate has gone but in the time of the old "turnpike gates" there stood in the corner formed by the Market Bosworth and Barlestone roads the toll collector's cottage and two gates, one across each road, barred the way to any vehicle until the driver had paid the "toll".

The Mill Inn

This small house takes its name from an old windmill which stood close by until 1901, when it had got into such a dilapidated state that it was never used and was pulled down.

It was brought from Syston in 1812 so that it had stood there for nearly 100 years.

The Sun Inn

The Sun Inn, now divided and let as cottages stood at the corner of Dragon Lane, opposite the Old Swan.

Notice of Sale by Auction

To be sold by Auction by P. Hargrave on monday, December the 28th 1812 at the House of Thomas Biggs, the Sun-Inn, at newbold Verdon, in the county of Leicester, between the hours of four and six in the Afternoon according to conditions then and

there to beproduced

A House, Garden

[remainder of notice destroyed]

The Old Swan Inn

This is the only Fully Licensed House in the village. In its old, long and low club room (now rebuilt) the Magistrates used to meet in the time of the Rev. W.W. Greenway, who was one of their colleagues and dispense justice.

The village stocks stood conveniently opposite at the corner of the Dragon Lane. Many of the older parishioners recollect them in their youthful days.

The Pavement

This is the name given to the road along by the Church yard up to the Hall gates. It was used to be paved all over with cobble stones.

Here, twice a year, the stock from the open fields was brought to be branded. The men were supplied with bread, cheese and beer.

It would form a very convenient pen.

Brascote

This is a hamlet belonging to Newbold Verdon. It was "antiently called Brocardescote". It contains about 230 acres.

It is mentioned as a village in the Roll of "Nomina Villarum" made in the time of King Edward II1307 -1327.

The only freeholder in Brascote in 1630 was Ralph Geary, Gentleman.

Newbold Verdon Baptist Chapel

This building which was erected in 1833 stands back from the road near the centre of the village - middle-end - and was opened on Tuesday 22nd October, the service being continued on Sunday 27th October.

The building Committee consisted of Messrs. Poyser, Kirkman, Deacon, Massey and Statham.

The opening Services on 22nd October were conducted in the morning by the Rev. T. Oaton, Hugglescote and in the evening by the Rev. Joseph Goadby, Leicester.

The Chapel stands on the site of some old houses.

The cost of the building was about £220. Since 1870, a new school room and outbuildings have been added and the chapel renovated.

The schoolroom was again enlarged in 1903 at a cost of £200.

The Hall

This is a very solidly built building of brick. A Leicestershire Directory of 1846 says that the present building is only one third of the original which must have been a magnificent country residence.

When or by whom it was built is not known. Neither is it known when the alteration was made.

It seems probable that it was built somewhere at the beginning of the 17th century, as it contains so many windows. Glass was very scarce and valuable at the end of the 16th century.

Sir Thos. Crew came to live here in 1630 and possibly it was built for him.

The Hall - and all the old property in the village - is built of the same kind of brick as also is the upper part of the Church Tower.

The outside is very plain, but the interior is decorated in a lavish style.

The main entrance facing the Market bosworth Road leads into a large diningroom.

The entrance from the back is reached by a flight of eight stone steps. The door is set in a massive stone door frame and leads into a spacious and lofty hall paved with large slabs of black and white stone laid alternately. On the right of this hall is a large fire place and beyond that on the same side the entrance to the 'Oak Room'.

Chapter XII

Old Customs Past and Present

May Day

This Festival is still ushered in with garlands and singing.

The children, who have gathered their flowers beforehand, arrange them, often very tastefully on trays, and go round the village in little groups singing songs they have learned at school. They are astir early in the morning and their visits are plentifully rewarded with coppers.

One old rhyme which has been sung for as long as the oldest can remember is still heard. It runs thus:

A drig and a drag on a haytey fine flag on a matey pole
A garland of roses, a garland of posies,
And please will you give a copper or two.
Let your money be large or small
We have a box to hold it all
Fairy May, fairy May
Queen of the seasons, bright fairy May.

The Pancake bell is still rung on Shrove Tuesday from 11.00 to 12.00.

Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday, it used to be the custom for men and boys to parade the Parish and the boundaries of the parish were marked by letters dug in the turf.

The stock, feeding on the open grounds was driven up to the road against the Church known as The Pavement" and the owners were then required to claim and mark their own.

The first bake house established in the village was in a house opposite the Old Free School kept by a Mrs. Bott Gilbert about 1850-60.

When the oven was ready, she came out and blew a horn and in place of our bread carts, she had a donkey whose duty it was to carry the bread in panniers to the lady's customers.

During the time of the Rev. W. W. Greenway the children used to go to the Free School on Holy Thursday, and each one received a

twopenny loaf and a piece of cheese.

ChapterXIII

Charities

Lord Crewe's School

The following is copied from a book in the Old Free Library, Leicester, close to St Martin's Church.

"Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into certain Charities in the Parish of Newbold Verdon.

1838 Lord Crewe's

School

There is in the parish a school-house and school with a small garden, containing in the whole eight perches, which was purchased with the £30 given by Lord Crewefor the purpose.

A schoolmaster resides in the house who was nominated by Sir Edmund cradock Hartopp bart. and the late John Pares, esq., the joint Lords of the Manor.

The capital messuage and manor house now belong to Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp, bart. The master receives the annuity of £20 a year from Lord Crewe's Trustees, out of which he is bound to do the repairs, as there is no other fund for the purpose.

The buildings are now - 1837 - in a very bad state.

The master teaches reading, writing and accounts.

The children who attend are very young and few innu mber. "

Montague's Charity

By indentures of lease and release, dated 12th to 13th June 1749 between Walter Barrs, of the one part, and Edward Wortley, Esq., of Newbold Verdon, Joseph Cardale, clerk, rector, and Benjamin Thirlby, yeoman, of the other part reciting, the said James Montague, by Will, gave to the use of the poor of Newbold £100 and directed the same to be laid out in the purchase of lands, and that the said Edward Wortley and others had agreed with the said Walter Barrs for the purchase of the lands thereinafter mentioned, at the price of £114, the parish advancing £14 to make up the purchase money; it is witnessed that the said Walter barrs, in consideration of £100, the legacy aforesaid, paid to him by the said Edward Wortley, executor of the said James Montague, and the sum of

£14 paid by the said Joseph Cardale and Benjamin Thirlby, being the public money of the said parish, granted and released to the said Edward Wortley and others and

their heirs, all those nineteen lands or parcels of ground containing by estimation 2 ac 200 19 per of arable land, lying in the fields of Newbold, in a place called the Little Field; also a close in Newbold, called the Bridge Close, reputed three acres; also nine lands, containing by estimation 4A.OR.10P lying in a field in Newbold, called Whichlow Field; also eight lands or parcels of ground, containing by estimation 3A.OR.2P. lying in Newbold, in a field called Fortway Field; also two parcels of meadow ground, containing by estimation 1A.1R.30P. in Newbold, lying in a place called Hollingar Meadow, to hold the same to the said Edward Wortley and others, their heirs and assigns, on trust, to permit the churchwardens and overseers to receive the rents and profits thereof, and apply the same, to the use of the poor of Newbold, according to the directions of the Will of the said James Montague. 10

On account of the application to be yearly audited by the said Edward Wortley, and his heirs, lords of the Manor of Newbold, the said Joseph Cardale and his successors, rectors of Newbold, and the churchwardens of Newbold, and their successors on the Monday in Whitsun week.

By indentures of lease and release, dated 19th and 20th October 1789 George Cardale, clerk (nephew and heir of Joseph Cardale, clerk, late rector of Newbold Verdon, the survivor of the trustees named in the above indenture) conveyed to Edmund Cradock Hartopp and Thomas Pares, lords of the manor of Newbold Verdon, Joseph Edmondson, clerk, rector and Henry Sneap, George Hood, John Garland, John Wildman and William Wildman all proprietors of lands in Newbold, and their heirs, all the aforesaid premises, and by the same description (except the last mentioned two parcels of meadow are stated to contain only 1R.30P), to hold the same into the use of the said several grantees and their heirs, upon the same trusts, verbatim, as in the former deed.

Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp was the surviving Trustee, and his heir-at-law is Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp of Knighton in whom the appointment of the new trustees is vested.

The open field has since been inclosed, and by the award, dated 2nd day of December 1820, the Commissioners appointed by the Act of the 50th Geo. Ill allotted to the "Trustees of Newbold Verdun Town Land" a parcel of land lying in the Brascote Field (No. 88) containing 8A.OR.14P bounded on or towards the south east by an old inclosure belonging to Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp and John Pares, and towards the west by the Brascote road, being in lieu of lands belonging to the said trustees in the open fields. The land is now tithe free.

10	Little Field	2	2	19
	Bridge Close			300
	Whichlow Field	4	0	10
	Fortway Field			302
	Hollingar Meadow	1	1	30
	Total	13	0	21

The parishioners built some cottages upon the bridge meadow part of the original purchased land, and which was most affected by the inclosure, from which time the rent and application of this charity is intimately connected with the following -

Donor Unknown

In the returns for 1876 it is stated that the Churchwardens and overseers were in possession of £25, the donor of which was unknown.

At a vestry meeting, holden 19th April 1792, in the presence of the rector and parishioners, it was ordered that £25 money left to be distributed among the industrious poor, should be applied to the building of four houses for the use of the poor upon the bridge meadow, subject to such rent as the inhabitants should agree, the extraordinary expenses attending the building to be advanced by levy, but to be repaid as the rent of the poors land should advance and become due. From this time 40 cwt of coals were given away as the interest of the £25.

By accounts afterwards entered £86.9.4 1/2 appears to have been the total cost of the building.

In the year 1792 an oven etc was added, at the expense of £18.8.9 1/2.

The cottages were let at £4 a year to the parish, and the meadow and lands at £11.

In 1811 the cost of the inclosure is entered at £60.11.0 which was paid by the tenant and repaid to him by instalments retained out of the rent until the year 1825.

From the time of the inclosure, the rent was raised to £16 per annum for the lands, and the cottages remained at £4 per annum.

After paying the instalments, and interest, and property tax, there remained about £10.6.0 per annum to be distributed among the industrious poor, which was done according to the directions of the trustees. This residue gradually increased as the debt to Mr. Gilbert decreased.

In 1825 two new cottages were built adjoining the others, for which Mr. Gilbert advanced £25 which was added to the residue of the whole debt, to be repaid by instalments as in the former instance. This debt was finally liquidated in 1835.

The property was let to the same tenants from 1811 to 1836 when Mr. Thomas Gilbert died, and it is now in the occupation of his son, Thomas Gilbert, at the same rent.

The sum of £4 has continued to be paid by the parish, until the payment was refused by the Auditor of the Board of Guardians formed under the New Poor Law.

From 1832 to 1835 inclusive, a sum varying from £15.4.0 to £18.11.0 was given away in money amongst the poor of the parish in sums varying from 3s. to 7s.

In 1836, £16 of the rent of the land was distributed, together with

£1.14.6 in hand from the previous year.

The six cottages have small gardens and will average to let about Is. or ls.6d a week each, the rents of which must in future be carried to the account of the charity, from the funds of which they were built.

The 'Poor Houses' as they were called were pulled down in 1910 after standing, at least four of them, for over 100 years. They had become so dilapidated that they were unfit for habitation, only two being let.

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It was at first the intention of the Trustees to have them repaired, and for some years, only a small portion of the rents received was distributed, but ultimately it was decided that money would be wasted in any attempt to repair, and the site was too bad for new cottages, as there was not water.

The charity Commissioners advised the Trustees that, as the money accumulated, which now amounted to £ , (sic) could not be distributed, it would be best to invest the amount and add the interest to the rents.

This was done. The money is invested in . (sic) In 1915 the
total amount disbursed was £ . (sic)

The old material of the cottages was sold to Mr. Thos. Prime for £7.0.0.

£40 was paid to Mr. George Ball by the Trustees, for possession of a house and garden left to him by Will of Mr. George Wrask, a late tenant who had claimed possession owing to non-payment of rent.