

Woodbury History Society Newsletter 2023



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Chairman's Annual Report for 2023-24

The Society has continued to grow during the last 12 months and has now increased to 77 members.

We staged a very successful exhibition of Nigel Tucker's metal detectorist finds from the parish, that was attended by nearly 100 people. We also staged a mini exhibition of Nigel's fossil collection, for a class of children from Woodbury School.

We held three, well attended and interesting, Talk meetings. Our fourth talk in November, on Dartmoor Prison, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The speaker has been rebooked for a future date.

Our Chairman, Nick Burgess, stood down from the role in September after 10 years of valued service. Two long-serving members of the Society's Committee, Gill Selley and Roger Stokes, decided to step back from their roles this year.

At our AGM in February, we look forward to electing our Society Committee, including Chairman, Treasurer, Archivist, Secretary, and Events and Meetings Secretary. We are still looking for members who wish to join the Committee.

Adrian Christopher

Programme 2024

1st February 2024 - Woodbury Village Hall: 19.30: AGM: including a presentation on churchyard records by Chris Sheppard and Jim Champion. A display of finds from the recent restoration of the churchyard wall. And light refreshments

7th March 2024 - Woodbury Village Hall: 19.30 start: Talk by Charlotte Coles - Tombs and Headstones

2nd May 2024 - Woodbury Church: 18.30 start: Talk by Ian Mortimer - Medieval Devon, including reenactors.

-- **June 2024** - Event yet to be confirmed

5th September 2024 Woodbury Village Hall: 19.30 start: Talk by Andy Crabb - Early inhabitants of Dartmoor

7th November 2024: Woodbury Village Hall: 19.30 start: Talk by John Allen - Exeter Cathedral archaeological dig.

The Agricultural Labourer

by Gill Selley

The agricultural labourer was the most numerous of all workmen, especially in the large rural parishes of Devon, and most present-day people will trace their roots back to this group. These workers tended to have large families, the strongest children surviving, with many deaths through disease and hardship. This group was also the poorest paid of all workmen in the country. Though men were the predominate workers in these groups women did also work on the land, especially at harvest time. This article is a very brief history of the ag/labs (as they are normally called) from Devon and particularly from the parish of Woodbury.

In 1695 a statute was published on the wages for workers listing the pay for all types of working men. Those that refer to agricultural labourers are:



No woman labourer hay by the day shall take above threepence with meat and drink, and without meat and drink not above sixpence. In corn harvest not above fourpence with meat and drink and without meat and drink not above sixpence (except for reaping when they may take five pence a day with meat and drink and not above ten pence a day without meat and drink.

No common men servants in husbandry above the age of 16 years and under 20 shall take for his wages above three pounds year (in modern terms £130), and when over 20 years not above £4. All manner of husbandry servants shall take from Alhallowtide until Candlemas not above 5 pence with meat and drink, and without meat and drink not above eleven pence; from Candlemas until

Alhallowtide not above 6 pence a day with meat and drink and not above 12 pence a day without meat and drink (except at mowing of corn and grass when they take eight pence a day with meat and drink and one shilling and four pence a day without meat and drink, and for beating seven pence a day with meat and drink and if he find himself one shilling and two pence).



The agricultural lab was more likely to suffer from health problems than most of the community, partly due to poor diet and living conditions, and also because of the nature of the work – long hours in all weathers and damp poky cottages. Records of the Devon & Exeter hospital record the details of Woodbury men and women who attended the hospital, transported there and supported by the Overseers of the Poor. After the Poor Law Act, when the payments for the poor were in the hands of St Thomas Union, less money was expended. Men occupied as carpenters and blacksmiths and such like trades, tended to suffer injuries from cuts and breakages of limbs. The ag/labs suffered in addition from lumbago, rheumatism and ulcers, often caused by the conditions in which they had to work. Arriving home with clothes wet and covered in mud and manure they would have been greeted in a tiny cottage by a small fire in one room, no running water, lit by candles or wicks, small noisy children and wet clothes hanging in the room. One can see why

the only relief from such conditions was, after their supper, retiring to one of the village inns.

The families lived in the poorest of rented accommodation and frequently moved, either through eviction or an attempt to find a larger dwelling as the family increased. In the census of 1911 for the first time the premises in which a family lived is named and the number of rooms is recorded. Since poor people had very few personal possessions, only what they needed to survive, they were able to squeeze very large families into minute cottages. Two ag/labs lived in three-roomed cottages in Exton one with a wife and six children under ten years of age, and the other with eight children under 15. Each village in the parish also had three roomed cottages with a family six children or more. The parish supported the agricultural families by giving an allowance for the 3rd and 4th child – it was given because the wages of the ag/lab were not considered sufficient to support more than four or five persons, and this allowance was only given to these labourers.

The most usual apprenticeships in the farming community to be found are those in which the overseers of the poor bound a boy or girl, for a set amount of money, to a farmer to instruct him or her in 'husbandry' or 'housewifery'. The document of apprenticeship was a legal record drawn up before the magistrates showing that the relevant parish overseers had bound the young person to a particular master for a set term of years, and the employment to which they were to be apprenticed, often without the consent of the parents; some families would not receive their poor rate money unless they were prepared to send their children away from home. It was customary to try to place the children within in the parish, but there are several instances of them being bound in neighbouring parishes. These children became unpaid labour for the farmer and could result, in some cases, in ill treatment. The boys would live with the farmer until the end of their apprenticeship when they would be able to search for work as a skilled ag/lab. Girls were also apprenticed to farmers' wives where they would learn the skills of 'housewifery'.

Since these apprentices received no pay, just their lodging, food, and clothes, at the end of their apprenticeship their new life as an ag/lab would leave them very poor. The earliest recorded parish apprenticeship in Woodbury is in 1685 when the farmer paid £2 to be released of his apprentice. The length of the apprenticeship served would determine how much money was repaid to the overseers if the term was unfulfilled. This apprentice would then be assigned to a different master to complete his term. There were a variety of reasons for giving up an apprentice including death of the master, lack of money or work to support him, or the master or apprentice having been convicted of a crime.

Advertisements in the local newspapers give a vivid picture of three apprentices: 'On Tuesday, 23 May 1775, William Cann, an apprentice to Edward Parsons of Woodbury ran away. He is about 18 years of age and about 5ft 4 ins high, a seam in his upper lip, black hair and a hook nose; he carried away a nap kersey coat with white metal buttons, a blue plain cloth waistcoat, a brown kersey waistcoat, a pair of buff breeches, two brin shirts, three pairs of white stocking and two pairs of speckled rib stockings. Whoever harbours the said William Cann shall be prosecuted as the law directs'.

In 1837 the apprentice of Thomas Ware of Sowton (later Woodbury) ran away and he was described in the newspaper as 'aged 20 with dark hair and rather dark eyes, long features, hollow mouth and sharp chin; stands upright at 5ft 7 in and rather slight grown. Wore away a straw hat, waggoner's frock and corduroy small clothes, a good blue coat, grey corded trousers and other things stolen from the other apprentices'

Another absconding apprentice was described in Woolmers newspaper: 'Ran away from her master, Mr James Ashford, on 24 Jul 1842, Elizabeth Pearse, his parish apprentice, about 17 years of age, short with dark curly hair, left-handed and snuffles exceedingly'.



Movement to other parishes

The families who stayed for the longest period in the parish of Woodbury were the yeomen farmers or craftsmen, since their work was centred on the parish. The ag/labs needed to move to wherever employment was needed on the farms, hence young men moving to another parish would often marry a woman from the new parish, and so many of the children were born in different parishes, with some ag/labs never returning to Woodbury. The census returns for Woodbury show that many of the ag/labs were born in parishes near to Woodbury, and children in a single family could all have different birth places. Some ag/labs remained with the same farmer for many years whereas others attended the Whitsun Fairs where they would be hired for a year.

Decline of the numbers of agricultural labourers

Since the parish would have always employed a number of ag/labs in proportion to the number of farms which needed their services it is interesting to see why the numbers had dropped by the end of the 19th century. A report on agriculture in Devon was published in 1808 in which the statistics of each parish was recorded. There were 277 house in Woodbury (14 of them being vacant) with 297 families living in them; including children there were 1233 (603 males and 633 females), and of this number 976 people were employed in agriculture. Nearly 100 years later the population in the parish (including babies and children) was 1,519. The numbers employed in agriculture as ag/labs in 1911 was now 103. Many of the farms had been amalgamated and the farmers' sons were working alongside their fathers running the farms.

There were several reasons for this change in employment, which as the years progressed into the 20th century, became more marked.

Agricultural tools became more mechanised so that fewer men were needed for the work. Because all work was done previously without mechanical aid it was necessary to employ many men, even in the early 20th century, to do the variety of necessary jobs. In his account book for 1876 Walter Hallett of Gulliford Farm lists the workmen's tasks: throwing dung, cutting frith, ploughing, dragging, tormenting, sullyng, drawing turnips, loading dung, setting up gaps, stopping gaps, making hedges, garden work, making cider, stones, sheep, bullocks, cutting fruit, mending hurdles, making reed, in barn, repairing gates, binding wood, hedging, ditching, keeping birds, hoeing turnips, carpentry, rolling, chain harrowing horse hoeing, culling weeds, drilling turnips, cutting grass, sowing guano, mixing butane, hoeing beans, drawing mangolds etc... Looking at this list one can see why there were so many ag/labs!



Woodbury School pupils early 1900s

The Education Act of 1880 had made it compulsory for all children, between the ages of five and ten to attend a school. The result was that most men and women were now able to read and write, and a different and exciting world was now open to them. It had never been necessary to read or write in the past as the labouring work did not require that skill – in fact there were men running businesses in the parish who were illiterate

The advent of the railway from Exmouth to Exeter and with the spreading network to other towns had offered different employment, as well as allowing men to move to more distant areas for work. To build the Exmouth to Exeter railway large tracts of land were bought by the railway companies which, after the completion of the line, were advertised for sale. These advertisements offered the land as suitable for market gardens or houses, and it can be seen that the large number of market gardens between Ebford and Lypstone, as well as the building of large 'villas' in Exton were the result of this release of railway land. The census returns show this trend of movement to other areas quite clearly. In 1851 there were 10 people in Wales who were born in Woodbury, including three men working in the mines, and one on the railways; by 1901 there were 61 Woodbury-born men and women in Wales including 9 in the mining industry, ten on the railways, and several working in factories. The records do not show what their occupations were in Woodbury, and additionally amongst the numbers are the children who were born in Woodbury. This is not a complete list but just a sample from some of the census returns.

Haymaking at Gilbrook in the 1920s

By the 20th century many small farms had been incorporated into the larger ones, several disappearing altogether. Many young farm workers eagerly joined up in 1914, seeing an exciting life ahead of them – little did they realise that the mud and rain and cold of the farmers' fields would be exchanged for the mud and rain and cold of the trenches. Those men who had been working with horses or as waggoners were enlisted into the Royal Horse Artillery. Many died or were injured during the war and never returned to the land. Farmers' sons were exempted from joining up as their help was needed on the family farms with the absence of their workmen. I have not touched on agricultural labourers after WWII as this entails separate and quite different research, which perhaps will be written about at some time. George Wilson, whose family farmed in Woodbury Salterton over many generations, concluded in his wonderful farming memoirs: *'I miss the old-timers of a long past era. Those farm workers were the salt of the earth - a type never to be seen again.'*



Threshing at Gilbrook in 1912

Members Recollections of the Great Floods of 1960

The following are some accounts by residents who experienced the floods that have been collected together by Gill Selley and Adrian Christopher

During September and October 1960, Devon suffered a period of atrocious heavy rain. Woodbury and Exton were both badly affected, being seriously flooded four times during a three-week period. Homes and businesses were flooded, roads undermined, a cottage destroyed in Woodbury as well as the Church at Exton.

Dawn Langdon (nee McNally)

My memory of the 1960 Woodbury flood is coming home from Clyst St George primary school to see our thatched cottage (Chowns Cottage) flooded to a depth of a few feet and my birthday cake sitting on the kitchen table.



Flooding by the Arch

The rainwater had come straight off Woodbury common, down through the fields and collected such a lot of debris that the culvert at Prospect House (directly opposite our cottage) was blocked. This forced the water directly across the road, through our front door, right through the cottage and out the back door. We were fighting a losing battle trying to sweep the water out.

Whenever we had a lot of rain, we had a flood board at the front door and sandbags to prevent water entering the cottage. It took months for the smell of damp to subside and the floors and walls to dry out. Eventually the walls had to be re-plastered.

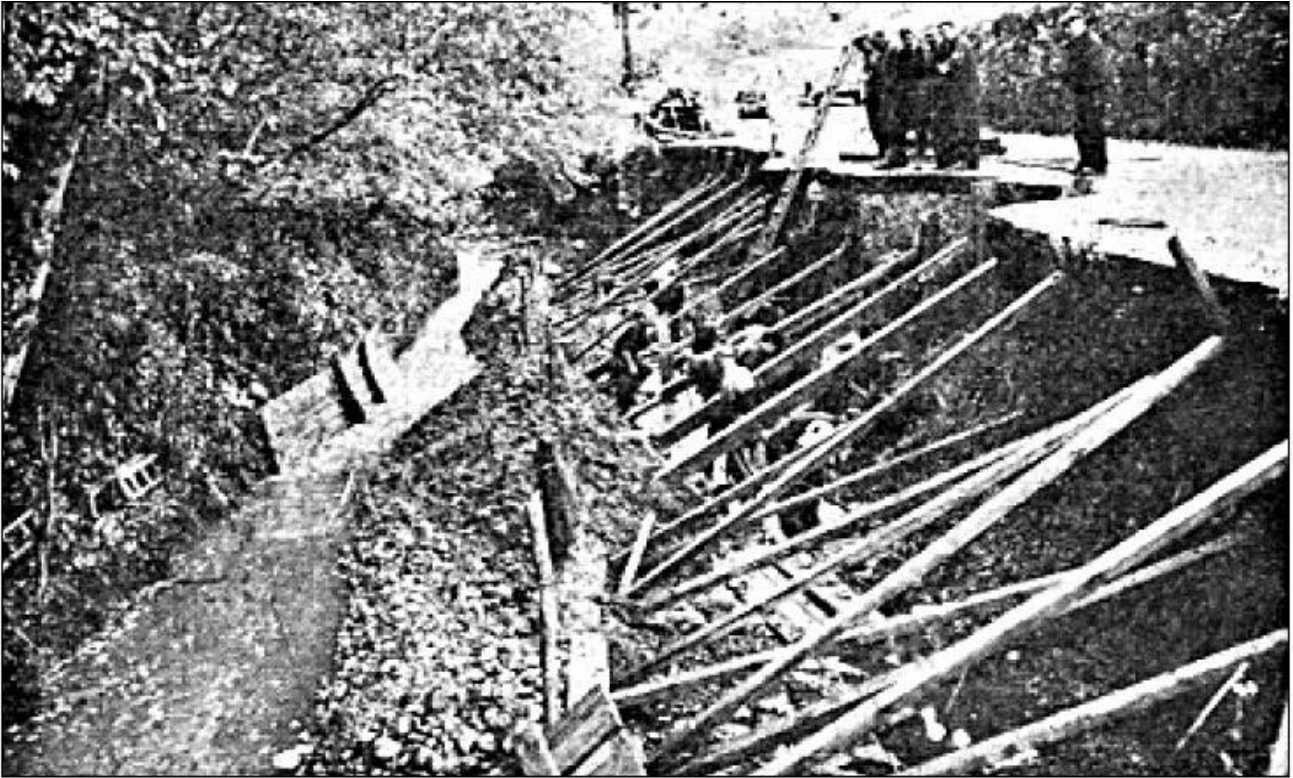
Several years later both of the Chowns semi-detached cottages' front doors were replaced by a wall and windows.

Adrian Christopher.

I was six years old in October 1960, living with my parents at number 4 Church Steps, Woodbury. I was a pupil at Woodbury Primary School. One day during a period of torrential rain, water was flowing like a stream down Castle Lane next to the school. Mr Ferris the headmaster decided that it would be safer to take some of the younger children, who normally walked to school, home in his car. This included me. Several of us piled into the back seat of his car and he drove around the village taking us home. My memory of that trip was the strong smell of leather from the upholstery on the back seat of his car, as I was unused to being in a car.

With such heavy rain the stream that crosses the road at the bottom of Bonfire Hill and continues between Webbers Farm and Church Steps was a raging

torrent. At some point a tree trunk was washed into the stream and rushed along in the torrent. The stream goes underground when it reaches Mirey Lane. The tree trunk became stuck under Mirey Lane and the old fire station. With the tree creating a dam, the rushing water had to find a different route. It did this by flowing in one direction over Mirey Lane and in another by flooding the cottages at numbers 7, 6, and 5 Church Steps, which had water flowing in the back door and out of the front door. Being on slightly higher ground number 4 was not flooded, but with the road beside the church flooded, water did lap our front step, which my mother kept brushing out with a broom until the water levels eventually fell back.



The road at Ford Water, which had been under repair from the previous week's flood, was more severely damaged and had to be shored up to prevent more of it falling in, due to the constant stream of water.



Things were so severe that the M.P. for Honiton, Mr Robert Mathew (second from right), came to inspect the scene. He is seen here with Devon County Council, St. Thomas Rural District Council and Parish Council officials inspecting the damage.

Both pictures on this page reproduced from newsprint.

Visit from the MP for Honiton to inspect the damage to the road

The road beside the church had become a fast-flowing river, rushing on past the White Hart, to the main crossroads at the Arch, and onwards down to Gilbrook. As the water surged down the road beside the church, it undermined and destroyed Mrs Ledmond's cob cottage. (The cottage was never rebuilt, and the site is now a small car park).

At the Arch, the entrance to Cyril Rowsell's hardware shop was level with the pavement. As the flood water came into the shop he placed a large block of wood in the doorway to try to stop it but it came through the floorboards, some of which later had to be replaced.

To ease the flooding workmen came and lined the banks of the brook beside Church Steps with sandbags, which stayed in place for several days. Days later more workmen came to remove the trapped tree trunk. They had to dig down through the roadway in Mirey Lane and through the floor of the old fire station to remove it. (A weed covered metal grill marks the spot today).

My father, Douglas Christopher was one of two village postmen. He was delivering mail in the post van to outlying farms. The roads were awash with water. As he drove towards one farm, a stream was already flowing over the road bridge and it was under water. As the post van turned into the farmyard a milk tanker was leaving. The weight of the passing milk tanker and the torrent of water caused the bridge to collapse. When my father drove back out of the farmyard everything looked the same as when he drove in. He was driving, unbeknown to him, over a bridge that was no longer there. The post van suddenly nosedived into the torrent. He desperately managed to grab the bag

of mail and clamber out, climb onto the bonnet and to the safety of the far bank. When he looked back only the roof of the post van was visible. He walked to Woodmanton Farm, where the farmer, Norman Bowles, gave him a lift in his tractor through the lanes to Downes Corner, where the flood water was too deep to go any further. My father waded through waist



The church at Exton

deep, back to the village Post office to report the post van as sunk. At the main crossroad at the Arch, he passed the village policeman standing in the water, who had armed himself with clothes prop to fend off floating debris, which included a floating, half full, metal coal bunker. My father then walked home to Church Steps to dry out and change his clothes.

Bryony Giles (nee Thomson), Gilbrook House.

It was the last day of September 1960, A weekday, I was seven years old and home from School ill. Dad left for work in Exeter before 8am. The level of the brook in Gilbrook came up so fast; you could hear it roaring from inside the house. Dad would not have a house phone, so Mum had gone out to the office next door in the tanyard and rang Dad at work.

Although she could not understand why he was not home yet, in fact Dad was at the other side of the bridge in Gilbrook by 9.15 am. The height of the water was already over the top of the railings of the bridge, and he could not get across.

He ended up driving up to the common and abandoning his car, and started walking and then had a lift in an army lorry to the pumping station. He then walked through the fields at the back of the house where the land was higher, carrying his shoes. He finally managed to force a back door open and get in that way. He was 6 foot 4 inches tall and the water in the hall was up to his neck.

It was now 11.30am.

Meanwhile some men from the tanyard had tried to get across to help us, using 12-foot wooden poles to balance like tightrope walkers, but it was too dangerous.

My grandparents lived downstairs and my parents, my sister and I lived upstairs. Mum had, in a panic, filled some old galvanised washing basins with books, these were now floating around inside the house. When the water was higher than granddad's boots, it was my job to sit on the stairs and keep both my grandparents upstairs.

When the water level had dropped Mr Douglas Lewis and his wife, who lived at the Beeches and it was not flooded, came to help. I remember Mrs Lewis stand on the first-floor landing and wringing out her red corduroy skirt that was so wet it was black. Somehow a lunch meant for 3 adults stretched to feed 7



adults and one child, **Castle Lane down which the water flowed like a river** like something out of the Bible. We started sweeping out the water and clay. Someone asked what colour this floor was, as everything was covered by red clay

We then had a second flood, which was higher than the first. It was higher than the bottom set of sash windows and halfway up the second set. At its highest it was 6 foot 5 inches. The house looked like it was in the middle of a roaring sea.

An enormous tree had been cut down at the Beeches and the trunk left by the house. The force of the water lifted the trunk across the garden, over the tennis court, over the brook, across our garden to where it took out the wall that ran from the end of the arched wall to the road. This enabled the water to take a short cut straight to Ham Lane and flooded the Tanyard.

We lost 2 walls from the walled garden at the back of the house, they just disappeared carried away with the water. The outside loo, the tool shed, and the coal shed backed on to the brook, all their back walls disappeared in the flood.

An elderly Neighbour later walked down Ham Lane collecting all the washed away tools, as well as bucket loads of coal, that she was selling. Dad was furious at having to buy back his own tools that were clearly marked 'Ware' or 'W', but you needed the tools and the fuel to dry out the house.

Part of the road was washed away. We lost the private wooden bridge that used to go to the Beeches. The cottage across the road also lost its bridge to the road. The only way into their cottage was over planks, where the flood prevention channel is now.

We lived upstairs for about 6 months. We had 2 industrial size dryers sucking up buckets of water from the house for weeks. Woodbury lost a cob cottage near the White Hart and Exton lost its church to the floods.

Dad always until his death in 2008, slept with the window open, whatever the weather, in order to hear how the brook as running. I remember years of standing at the bridge with Dad at night, with our macs on and gumboots over our pyjamas, using torches to see how high the brook was running.

Photos are all from articles written by Roger Stokes

The History of Cadhay House

By Malcolm Randle

Just over a mile to the north west of Ottery St Mary, near the confluence of the Rivers Tale and Otter, stands this magnificent Tudor/Elizabethan house. It is surrounded by beautiful gardens, some formal and the remainder park like. The house, which is privately owned, currently serves as a hotel and a venue for special events, in particular weddings as well as being open for public viewing. .



The tree lined approach to Cadhay House

I recall having visited Cadhay many years ago, probably in the latter half of the 1980's when it was quite different to the present day, but nevertheless a very impressive house especially for its history. Bounded by Fairmile Lane to the east and Cadhay Lane to the west, the house is best approached along the former from Ottery St Mary along the River Otter and River Tale valley. About ¼ mile from the second bridge the entrance will be found on the left along a tree lined private drive and from which a good view of the east front of the house can be seen. It can also be reached from the A30 by turning on to the B3177 and following signs to Fairmile then the brown signs to Cadhay. The house itself is well signed showing that it is open to the public from May to September on Friday afternoons plus some bank holidays.

Cadhay has a long and varied history and has had many owners during the years since the first medieval house was built. It is therefore my intention in this account to discuss those who have significantly contributed to the house as it appears today and those whose ancestors have a specific place in history.

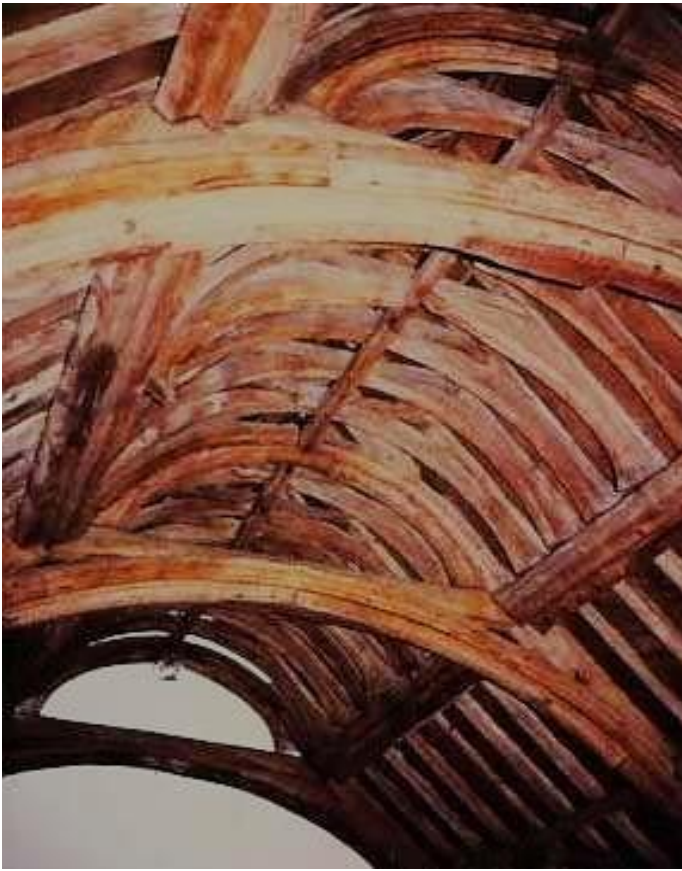


Cadhay House – the east front

The de Cadehayes

So, what of its origins and previous owners? What *is* known is that prior to the existing house, the main part of which was erected by 1550, the site was occupied by a medieval house. The house is not mentioned in the Domesday Book which was compiled in 1085-86 so it has to be assumed it was later than that. The name of the house is derived from the family who probably built and first occupied it, namely the de Cadehayes. However, despite researching all my usual historical sites online I have found only a few references to this family. The name

suggests a French origin, probably Norman but that remains unconfirmed. The earliest record found is from the time of Edward I (1272-1300) when Cadhay was described as a "*sub manor of Ottery St Mary held by a de Cadehaye*". As well as a Manor it is described as a Barton which suggests that it was also a farm.



All that remains of the medieval house - the chestnut roof timbers

In the 13th year of the reign of Edward II (1319/20) Thomas de Cadehaye is styled *Dominus* (being Latin for master or owner). More than 100 years later in the 10th year of Henry VI's reign, (1431) the deeds of the estate are shown as being in the name of Beatrix de Cadehaye and her son John. By 1454, the 33rd year of Henry VI's reign, the manor had passed to a Henry Cadhay then in the first year of the reign of Richard III (1483) John Cadhay conveyed the estate to trustees. Circa 1490 Joan, who was probably the daughter of John) was the sole heiress of Cadhay and when she married Hugh Grenefeld (or Grenville) of Ottery St Mary the ownership passed to him and so out of the hands of the Cadhay family.

Joan and Hugh had two children, named Robert and Joan. Robert married Elyn Whytyng, the daughter of Harry Whytyng but Robert died prematurely leaving his widow Elyn and their daughter, Joan Grenville, as his sole heirs. In 1527 Joan was married to John Haydon of Ebford Manor, which at that time was part of the parish of Woodbury. By her marriage settlement Cadhay was settled on Joan and so John Haydon became the new owner of Cadhay.

The Haydons

John Haydon was the second son of Richard Haydon. According to Tristram Risdon (*1580–1640 an English antiquarian and topographer, and the author of "Survey of the County of Devon"*) Richard Haydon was descended from John Haydon de Boughwood of Harpford (about half way between Woodbury and Ottery St Mary). He was known to have been living there in 1325 during the reign of Edward II. Richard was married to Joan Trent, daughter of Morice Trent of Ottery St Mary. They had two other sons, Thomas the first born and George the third born. They also had a daughter named Joan.

John Haydon's year of birth is uncertain. 1514 has been suggested but this would have made him only 13 when he married Joan Grenville in 1527. At that time the legal age of marriage for men was 14 and for women it was 12, so more than likely he was born between 1505 and 1510. I could find nothing about his early years but at some stage he must have received his legal training as he became a successful lawyer practicing in London and the provinces.

In those days, to get anywhere in life one needed a sponsor. If, as I have seen reference to, his father Richard was in fact a steward to Bishop Vesey of Exeter, then this could explain who might have given him a helping hand. Vesey was Bishop of Exeter from 1519 to 1551 and from 1553 to 1554. He was a close adviser to King Henry VIII and also a friend of Cardinal Wolsey as well being a tutor to Princess (later Queen) Mary. Vesey was described by Thomas More as "a man of deep learning with a wide reputation for holiness". He was reputed to be the most accomplished courtier of his age. Although some references give his birth date as 1451 it is a fact that he died in 1554 which would mean he lived to 103. However it is believed he was more likely born in 1465. This is based on the date he entered Magdalen College, Oxford in 1482 and the normal age for going to university being 17. Whatever the truth he did very well to survive in those times to such an age and was obviously a man of great influence. Although supposition he was certainly well placed

to give John Haydon some early support.



The remains of Dunkeswell Abbey, a source of stone for building Cadhay

John became a member, and later a Bencher, of Lincolns Inn, London's oldest of the four Inns of Court. By 1422 it was a fully functional institution. The Inns of Court were developed as a result of King Edward I's Order in Council, which was issued in 1292. A Bencher was a title attributed to a master of the bench and therefore a member of the council of the governing body. John Haydon became a man of considerable wealth whose professional services were retained by several magnates in Devon and also by the corporation of Exeter. He enlarged his estates' by the acquisition of lands in the neighbourhood of his home. On 27th November 1539 he bought some of the buildings of Dunkeswell Abbey from Baron Russell, and some of the Marquess of Exeter's forfeited estates from the crown. His wealth seems to have been derived not only from professional fees and the dividends of his various offices but also from his business as a property agent. In the closing years of Henry VIII's life he and a Thomas Gibbs were engaged in buying and selling monastic lands.

I think it most likely that in the latter years of the life of Henry VIII and during the reign of Mary I John Haydon kept a fairly low profile and he used this period to build the new Cadhay House. Using Salcombe sandstone with dressings from Beer Quarry plus materials from the former college at Ottery St Mary, and the remains of Dunkeswell Abbey, he built what has been described as a "fair new house". The style is best seen from the east facade which is unchanged since it was built. A staircase turret carries up to a six-light window and gable which forms the central feature. This is flanked by two windows on each side in the main wall, and these again by projecting bays which rise two storeys. This is surmounted by gables containing attic windows and topped by heraldic finials showing a lion on one side and a bull on the other which is derived from the crest of the Haydon family. The north facade has been updated to the Georgian style. The west flank is unchanged.



The north front and main entrance to Cadhay

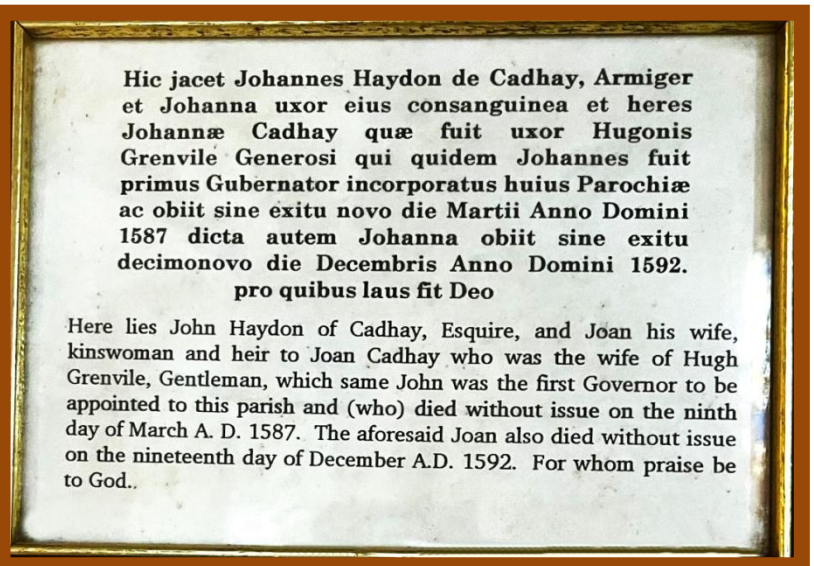
The south was left open to form a courtyard. On the north side John Haydon incorporated part of the medieval hall of the original house. This included the beautiful chestnut timbered roof which still survives although it has undergone several changes. It is generally accepted that John Haydon completed the house by 1550 and almost certainly before Elizabeth I came to the throne, therefore the house built by John Haydon was a Tudor house. Although considerable changes were made during Elizabeth's reign, these retained the Tudor style. Later, during the reign of George II, further changes were made but these were mostly interior thus the house has retained its outwardly Tudor appearance.

During the reign of Elizabeth I' John Haydon spent much time in London, where he was active in the affairs of his inn of court, in particular in its reconstruction. He also helped to negotiate the foundation of a grammar school at Ottery St Mary and became one of its first four governors.

John Haydon's single period as a Member of Parliament was probably due to his employment by the Duchy of Cornwall which owned the borough of Dunheved (Launceston) and which he represented during the year of 1558, the year in which Elizabeth I became Queen.



John Haydon died on 9th March 1587 and was buried in the church at Ottery St. Mary, where a monument was erected to his memory. His wife Joan died on 19th December 1592



Memorial tomb for John Haydon and his wife Joan

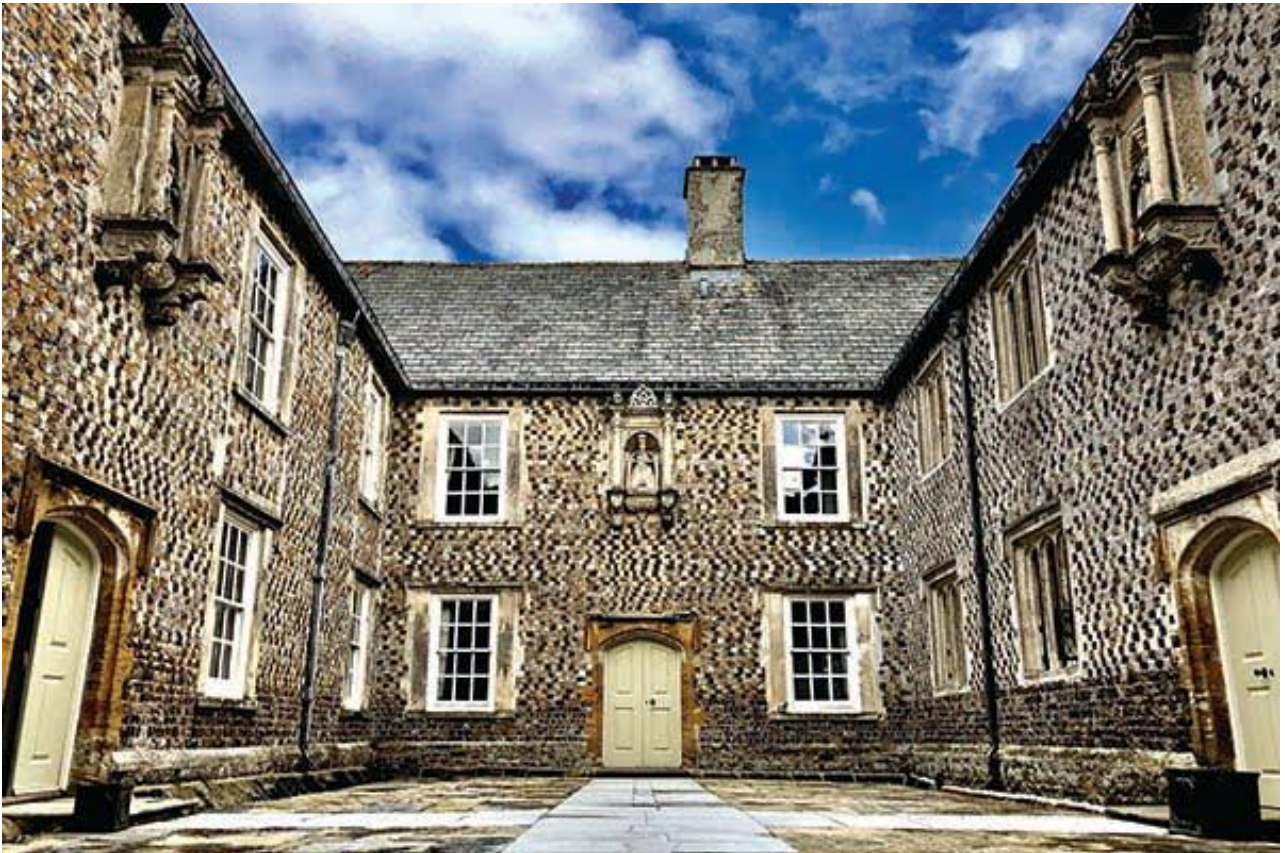
As John had no heir to inherit the house it was his great-nephew, Robert Haydon who inherited Cadhay. This was the start of a whole new chapter in the history of the house.

Robert Haydon was born in 1560, the son of Thomas Haydon. When his great-uncle, John Haydon, died in 1587 Robert was his heir and inherited Cadhay. He removed his family to Cadhay and resided there.

Robert had married Joan Paulet at Woodbury circa 1380. Joan, born circa 1360, was the eldest daughter of Sir Amias Paulet, (1532–1588) who was one of Queen Elizabeth's Privy Council and Keeper of Mary Queen of Scots from 1585 to her execution. He was knighted by the Queen in 1576 who appointed him Ambassador to Paris and at the same time put the young Francis Bacon under his charge. I will return to the Paulet family later as their descendants play a large part in the later part of Cadhay's history

The most significant contribution Robert made to the house was the creation, prior to 1617, of a central enclosed courtyard measuring about 60 x 30 feet. This was achieved by adding another wing to the south, built in an almost identical style to the rest of the house. However, the internal walls of the courtyard were faced with an irregular chequered pattern of flint and sandstone. In the middle of each wall a Tudor style doorway gives access to the house and over each doorway is a statue. These are of King Henry VIII and his three children, namely Mary I, Edward VI and Elizabeth I. Beneath that of the latter the date 1617 is inscribed. Each statue is contained in an elaborately carved

niche. The statues led to the courtyard becoming known as the Court of the Sovereigns. In the upper floor of this new wing Robert incorporated a long gallery. It was Robert's wife Joan, who was very influential in the placing of the statues in the courtyard and the design of the long gallery, now lined with family portraits, swords and chests).



The Court of the Sovereigns

Robert Haydon died in 1626 followed by Joan in 1630. Their eldest son, Gideon, inherited Cadhay and he became even wealthier as he inherited other lands and properties of the family. The house continued to be inherited by a succession of Gideon Haydons but there is not much evidence of any significant alterations to its structure or fabric during this period. The family were staunch Royalists and there is evidence of friction with Cromwell's followers during the Civil War.

Decline of the Haydons

Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1680 the Haydons' wealth declined quite rapidly and by 1682 the family's wealth had been drastically reduced. Despite the arrangement of a number of complex mortgages, land and other properties had to be sold off until only Cadhay remained. In 1736 Cadhay finally passed out of the



King Henry VIII in the Court of the Sovereigns

hands of the Haydon family when it was sold to a John Brown of Richmond. It appears likely that he had only purchased the house as an investment as a year later he sold it at a profit to William Peere Williams of Grays Inn.

Peere Williams and descendants

During the period of the Haydon family's decline the condition of the house had considerably deteriorated. The new owner set about making some significant changes which included plastering over most of the Tudor hearths throughout the house and placing Georgian work in front of them. He also replaced the oak panelling in many of the first floor rooms with the more fashionable and rarer deal (a softwood that comes from the pine tree). The main internal structural changes he made was to create a dining room by dividing the great hall horizontally and inserting a floor and a ceiling. This involved making some alterations to the medieval timbered roof by cutting back the hammer beams and curved braces to accommodate the new floor.



The dining room created by Peere Williams as it is now

The great windows were removed and replaced with two rows of sash windows. He also installed sash type windows on three sides of the courtyard.

Externally, Peere Williams' main changes were to the entrance doorway in the north face to give it its Georgian appearance and to insert large sliding sash windows. The north front has remained the same ever since. It is generally accepted that although Peere William's made considerable changes the work was of a high standard. When he died in 1766, by virtue of a clause in his father's will, Cadhay was inherited by his nephew, Sir Booth Williams. However, he didn't choose to move there so it was sold to Peere's widow, Elizabeth. who continued to live there until her death in 1792.

Lord Graves

Cadhay then passed to Elizabeth's daughter who had married Vice Admiral Thomas Graves in 1771. He was created Lord Graves in 1794 and continued to reside at Cadhay until his death in 1802.



In 1793 Cadhay was visited by the Reverend John Swete (*the uncle of Blanche Swete who was involved with Marianne Pidsley in the building of Woodbury Salterton church*). He described Cadhay as "an edifice of no common note", and commented on the groves surrounding the house which he considered 'coequal with the mansion'. Unfortunately, although he painted a great number of the notable houses of Devon, I can find no record of him having painted one of Cadhay.

North front door and windows showing changes

The 19th Century – a period of decline

Following the death of Lord Graves there was a period when none of those who succeeded to the inheritance of Cadhay chose to live there. Lord Graves' daughter, Elizabeth Anne had married William Bagwell of Ashcott, Somerset but she died shortly after without having had any children. Bagwell did not move into Cadhay but kept all the furniture, which sadly has never been returned. Cadhay was eventually settled on Elizabeth's sister, Anne, who in 1803 had just married Thomas Hare (later Sir Thomas, bt) of Norfolk. However, they also decided not to take up residence at Cadhay which was subsequently divided into tenancies. The west end was occupied by a farmer who had been the tenant of the home farm whilst the east end was occupied by a Mr Palmer, master of the barracks being built at Ottery St Mary. Later the east end was occupied for a long period by a Captain Collin and his wife.

An estate survey of 1813 noted that the House was in divided occupation and that it was badly affected by dry rot. It was recommended that the larger fishpond in the garden should be partly drained.

In 1834 Sir Thomas Hare died, his wife Ann having preceded him in 1823. Cadhay passed to his son, also named Thomas, 2nd baronet. Meanwhile the house remained divided. He carried out a lot of work to check the progress of the structural decay which had set in and when he died in 1880 the property passed to his son, Sir Ralph Hare.

Mrs Collin continued to live at Cadhay until she died in 1909.

W C Dampier Whetham 1910 -1924

In 1910 the house was sold to W C Dampier Whetham (known as Dampier). He was a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge and had been a lecturer and tutor for many years. Born in 1867 he was the author of several books on scientific and other subjects. In 1931 he was knighted and took the name Sir William Dampier. His wife was Catherine Durning Holt and they had one son and four daughters.

Dampier Whetham had found the house in a very poor state of repair and with the help of a notable architect (Henry Martineau Fletcher, who was probably known to him through Trinity College) the house was restored to a sound structural condition. In particular he uncovered the old Tudor open fireplaces and installed modern equipment such as baths. Externally he had a lot of the old outbuildings demolished and laid a new lawn to the pond on the south side. He also had external brick walls built to form a new courtyard.

When the Tudor fireplaces in the dining hall and main bedroom were uncovered the Gothic flat arches were found to be surmounted by a frieze of tracery which included coats of arms. One of these, at the left hand end, included the three swords of the Paulet family which was evidence of a connection with the family.



**One of the Tudor fireplaces uncovered by Dampier Whetham.
The Paulet arms at the left hand end and also inset**

You may recall that Robert Haydon, who built the south wing of the house in the early 17th century, married Joan Paulet, the eldest daughter of Sir Amias Paulet.

apparently it was she that was instrumental in having the coats of arms placed above the fireplaces

Dampier Whetham didn't stay long at Cadhay. However he and his family had a pronounced effect on the house and locality.

Barton William-Powlett and descendants

The next occupant of Cadhay took up residence as a tenant in 1924. His full name was Barton Newton Wallop William-Powlett. Born in 1872 at the Isle of Wight, Hampshire, he had previously lived at Caversham, Oxfordshire in 1881 then at Wembworthy Devon 1901. In 1895 he married Emily Charlotte Tyndall Reibey who was known as Charlotte. There will be more about her ancestors later.

The gardens were largely created by Charlotte during the 1920s and 1930s within a framework of old walls and incorporating the medieval fishponds.

As you may have noted, Barton had some very intriguing forenames all of which have interesting connections. Likewise, Charlotte also had a very interesting ancestor who, in an indirect way has affected the future of Cadhay. I feel that both are worthy of more detail, although it will involve making this article somewhat longer than intended. I hope you will find it justified.

Barton was a descendant of **Sir William Paulet KG**, born between 1480 and 1485. He was the eldest son of Sir John Paulet (1460 – 1525) and a cousin of Sir Amias Paulet, the father of Joan who married Robert Haydon

Sir William was arguably one of the most influential politicians of the Tudor/Elizabethan period. He managed to serve all of the sovereigns during this turbulent period holding important offices under each. It would be beyond the scope of this article to go into *all* the details of his career but suffice to say that he held 25 important posts during the course of his political life. Henry VIII knighted him in 1525 and later he was made President of the Privy Council and Great master of the Household.



Sir William Paulet, 1st Marquis of Winchester by Hans Eworth

Basing House

In 1531 Sir William had a new house built on the site of a much older motte and bailey castle at Old Basing near Basingstoke, Hampshire. The completed building comprised two linked houses. The "Old House" replaced the keep of the older

castle, so was located within a defensive ring of earthworks and walls whilst the slightly later "New House" was located outside the defences. A bridge and gateway linked the two across and through the defences. The end result was, in effect, a Tudor Palace which vied with Hampton Court Palace in size and opulence. The new house in itself had approximately 360 rooms and was built, primarily, to accommodate the multitude of people that accompanied royalty when they visited. In 1534 Henry VIII visited with Ann Boleyn and Edward VI



The Gateway to Basing House
(all that bow remains)

visited on 7th September 1552. Elizabeth I came in August 1560 and so liked the house and entertainment that she is reputed to have joked, *"For by my troth, if my lord treasurer were but a young man, I could find it in my heart to have him for a husband before any man in England."* In September 1601, at the expense of Sir William, Queen Elizabeth entertained the French ambassador, the Duke de Biron.

In 1547 when Edward VI came to the throne Sir William continued to hold his position. It is said that between 1550 and 1553 he and the Duke of Northumberland (John Dudley) "ruled the court" of Edward VI who never made it to maturity. In 1550 Sir William was made Earl of Wiltshire then in 1551 he was created the first Marquess of Winchester, a very

prestigious post. On the succession of Mary I she had affirmed him in all his offices and in 1556 made him the Lord Privy Seal. When Mary I died in 1558 he proclaimed Elizabeth as Queen although it was he, who at the beginning of Mary's reign, had personally conveyed Elizabeth to the Tower. She confirmed him as her Lord Treasurer and he retained many of his other positions. Even at an advanced age (in 1559, he was over seventy years old) he showed no signs of decline.

All in all, Sir William professed to five changes in his religious course. Starting out as a Catholic, he was quickly persuaded to see things Henry's way after the breach with Rome. Under Edward VI he became an evangelical Protestant and persecuted Roman Catholics. When the Catholic Mary came to power he announced his reconversion and commenced persecuting Protestants. On Elizabeth's succession, he once again shifted his sails and became an advocate of middle-road

Anglicanism. Once, when asked how he managed to survive so many storms, not only unhurt, but rising all the while, Paulet answered: *"By being a willow, not an oak"*.

If readers would like to read a more detailed account about this exceptional man you can find it at this link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Paulet,_1st_Marquess_of_Winchester



The descendants of Sir William Paulet continued to enjoy good fortune until 1645 towards the end of the Civil War. The 5th Marquess of Winchester, Lord John Paulet; lacked Sir William's skills of bending with the wind and being an ardent supporter of the monarchy, had all the windows at Basing House engraved with the family motto "Aimez Loyaute" (Love Loyalty). The motto can be seen on tapestries at Cadhay. He became a firm friend of Charles I's Queen, Henrietta Maria and many of her friends stayed at Basing House.

In October 1645, after fortifying Basing House and putting up a firm resistance the house was taken by Cromwell and 'razed to the ground'. Sir John ended up incarcerated in the Tower of London where he remained until the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. One of those who had

been involved in the siege of Basing House was a Robert Wallop. He was granted some of the confiscated estates and later the Wallop family became closely connected with the Paulets whose name was later changed to Powlett and more recently to William-Powlett.



An illustration of Basing House at the time of the siege in 1645

The sixth Marquess was Charles Powlett who went to Holland and accompanied William of Orange when he landed in Devon in 1688. Charles was created the first Duke of Bolton as a reward. His second son, Lord William Powlett, was

rewarded with a pair of silver salvers. His portrait, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, now hangs in Cadhay's dining room.



Sir Amias Paulet
(by Nicholas Hilliard)

The Paulet/Powlett family seat is at Hinton St George between Crewkerne and Yeovil in Somerset. For centuries it had been the home of the family, who acquired the manor by marriage in the 15th century. The medieval manor house was rebuilt in the early 16th century by Sir Amias Paulet. Improvements were made in the mid 17th century by the 1st and 2nd Lords Powlett (Paulet). Unfortunately the house is no longer a single dwelling and is divided up into separate dwellings.

In 1935 Barton was able to purchase Cadhay outright. He was able to do so because of an inheritance which came via his wife, Charlotte Reibey, whose great grandmother was Mary Reibey. Initially I intended to make only a brief reference to this remarkable lady but once I'd found out a bit more I realised it was a story which needed to be told

Mary Reibey was named Mary Haydock at the time of her birth on 12th May 1777 at Bury, Lancashire. Following the death of her parents, she was brought up by a grandmother and sent into service. She ran away, and was arrested for stealing a horse in August 1791. At the time, she was disguised as a boy and was going under the name of James Burrow. Sentenced to seven years' transportation, she arrived in Sydney, Australia, on the *Royal Admiral* in October 1792.

In September 1794, Mary married Thomas Reibey, a junior officer on the store ship *Britannia*. Thomas Reibey was granted land on the Hawkesbury River, which is north west of Sidney, where he and Mary lived and farmed following their marriage. They built a farmhouse called Reibycroft, which is now listed on the Australian heritage register (similar to being a listed building in Britain).

Thomas Reibey commenced a cargo business along the Hawkesbury River to Sydney. He later moved to Sydney where his business undertakings prospered, enabling him in 1804 to build a substantial stone residence at Macquarie Place in Sydney's central business district. He acquired several farms on the Hawkesbury River and traded in coal, cedar, furs and skins and with a partner had expanded his trading activities to China and India by 1809.

Thomas Reibey died in 1811 and Mary assumed sole responsibility for the care of seven children and the control of numerous business enterprises. She had managed Thomas' business affairs during his frequent absences from Sydney and was now a woman of considerable wealth. She continued to expand her business interests and in 1817 she extended her shipping operations with the purchase of further vessels. In the same year, the Bank of New South

Wales was founded in her house in Macquarie Place.

In March 1820 she had returned to England with her daughters to visit her native village, going back to Sydney the next year. By 1828, when she gradually retired from active involvement in commerce, she had acquired extensive property holdings in the city.

In the emancipated Society of New South Wales, she gained respect for her charitable works and her interest in the church and education.

On her retirement, she built a house at Newtown, Sydney, where she lived until the age of 78. A memorial for Mary Reibey is in the Pioneer Memorial Park in Botany Cemetery.

Mary was an enterprising and determined person of strong personality, who, during her lifetime earned a reputation as an astute and successful business woman in the colony of New South Wales. She is featured on the the obverse of the Australian twenty dollar notes printed since 1994 and its replacement design



One of Mary's grandchildren, Thomas Reibey (1821–1912), became the premier of Tasmania from 1876 to 1877.

I think most people would agree that Mary's is quite a remarkable story

Part of Mary's estate eventually went to her grandson, James Reibey and then to his granddaughter, Lottie William-Powlett. Subsequently Barton William-Powlett inherited through his wife Charlotte. A portrait of James Reibey now hangs in the dining room at Cadhay

To return to an explanation of Barton's forenames: This is rather complex so I hope it makes some sense but you might have to read it twice! The name Wallop became linked with the family following the siege of Basing House when Robert Wallop was granted some of the confiscated estates. Following this the Wallops became closely connected with the Paulets whose surname had eventually changed to Powlett.

In 1821 William Powlett, who had been a bit of a playboy and a hunting friend of William IV (when he was Prince of Wales) died childless with virtually no property.

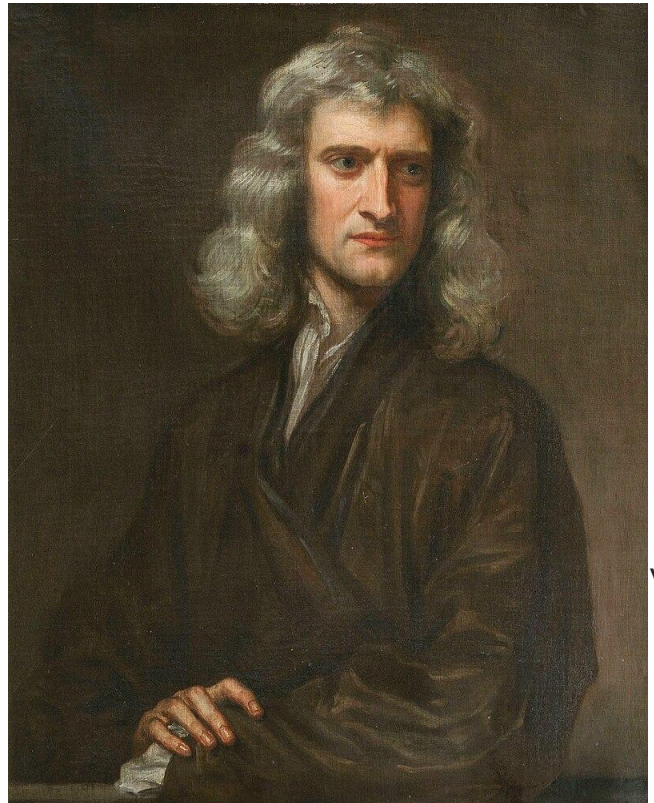
He bequeathed what he had, which included some silver, to his great nephew whose name was William Barton Powlett Wallop on condition that he added William-Powlett to his name. The latter named person was the father of Barton.

Catharine Barton and Sir Isaac Newton

The name Barton is in honour of Catharine Barton who was at one time housekeeper for her uncle, Sir Isaac Newton. He was Warden of the Royal Mint from 1696 to 1699 and from then for the remainder of his life he was the Master of yjr Mint. At the time he resided in Haydon Square which was built by a Captain John Haydon (a pure coincidence) close to an area called the Mionries and the Tower of London where the Royal Mint was housed. .

After overseeing the new coinage for the accession of Queen Anne in 1702 he also supervised the huge task of bringing Scottish coinage into line with English coinage, following the Union of England and Scotland in 1707. His responsibilities included tracking down and prosecuting forgers and counterfeiters and he was particularly noted for bringing to justice the notorious counterfeiter, William Challoner. Although remembered as a revolutionary, mathematical and scientific genius, Newton was also Warden of the Tower of London.

Catharine, who was born at Northampton in 1679, developed some influential connections and had become a bit of a celebrity. She was remarked upon by several men to be beautiful, witty and clever. Known as a brilliant conversationalist she attracted the admiration of some famous men. She was also very popular with members of the Kit Cat club, an association of early 18th-century Whig leaders that met there. Portraits of the 42 members were painted by Godfrey Kneller and the boards used for the portraits, which were of a specific size, became known as a kit-cat.



**Portrait of Sir Isaac Newton age 46
by Godfrey Kneller**

Catharine was also rumoured to

have been the mistress of the poet and statesman, Charles Montagu, after his wife had died and she became his housekeeper. This relationship was always denied and there is no evidence to support it.

Charles Montagu was made Viscount Sunbury and Earl of Halifax at the accession of George I in 1714. In October 1714 he became the Chief Minister of Great Britain and First Lord of the Treasury. He died of an inflammation of the lungs in May 1715. In his will he left a considerable sum of money to Catharine. He begged his nephew George Montagu, not to make a dispute over her legacy. and wrote that the bequest was "*as a token of the sincere love, affection and esteem, I have long had for her person, and as a small recompense for the pleasure and happiness I have had in her conversation*".

Catharine also attracted the admiration of such famous figures as Jonathan Swift and Voltaire. She was reputed to be the source of the story of the apple that inspired Newton's work on gravity as she had told the story to Voltaire who later wrote about it in his *Essay on Epic Poetry* of 1727.

Sir Isaac always maintained an interest in Catharine's health and well being. After Charles Montagu's death she returned to live with him at his home in St Martin's Street.

On 9 July 1717 she became engaged to marry John Conduitt who had arrived in England a few weeks earlier in May of that year. On 26th August they were married at St Martin in the Fields. Catharine was aged 42 when she had her only child of the marriage, a girl named Catherine, born in 1721.

Catharine and John resided at Cranbury Park near Winchester. He was a British landowner and Whig politician who sat in the House of Commons from 1721 to 1737. He succeeded Sir Isaac Newton as Master of the Mint



Towards the end of his life Sir Isaac Newton was taken in by Catharine and John and resided with them until his death in 1727. After his death his papers remained in Catharine and John's care and then passed down through her family until 1936 when they were auctioned at Sotheby's

John Conduitt died on 23 May 1737 followed by Catherine in 1739. They were both buried with Sir Isaac in Westminster Abbey. Their only daughter and heir, Catherine, married John Wallop, Viscount Lymington, the eldest son of the Earl of Portsmouth. Their son was also named John Wallop, who succeeded as second Earl of Portsmouth and it is from him that Barton William-Powlett descended.

Catharine Barton
(unknown artist)

So, to return to Barton's forenames, having established the origin of his first name, it must be clear where his second name, Newton, came from and likewise his third name, Wallop. A portrait of Sir Isaac Newton currently hangs in Cadhay.

Barton died in 1953 at Cadhay aged 81 but was buried at Dover. Following his death, his eldest son, Newton, inherited Cadhay and after his death in 1963 it went to his son Oliver. During this period considerable repair work was carried out to Cadhay, in particular to the coping stones on the north and east fronts and some of the chimneys, using new stone from the original quarries at Beer.

In 2002 Cadhay passed to the present owner, Rupert Thistlethwayte, who in fact was born at Cadhay. By this time, because of lack of funds, the house was rather shabby and had become a "sorry old place". His father was in the Army so much of his childhood was spent abroad, from Berlin to Africa, but he stayed at Cadhay during the holidays with his grandparents. After he married, the family returned every Christmas.

Rupert made a deal with English Heritage (under the Conditional Exemption scheme): and would escape the full whack of taxes if he opened the house to the public and made sure the building was constantly up to standard. A vigorous restoration project has taken several years for Cadhay to be brought back to its previous splendour, at the same time adding the comforts and necessities of modern-day living.

Many of the wonderful historic features of the house needed little work and they are what really make Cadhay so stunning.



Cadhay viewed from the south

Woodbury connections

There are other properties and names in the Woodbury parish that may have been influenced by Cadhay. Venmore Farm was originally known as Cadhayes Venmore. In 1587 it was leased to Elizabeth Cadye, wife of Robert Cadye and is again recorded in a 1605 survey as a tenement of 68 acres at the rent of 17s. 3d. Today the Woodbury Business Park shares the same location but the farmhouse is a Grade II listed building. However, the date of the building is given as 1840 so it must have replaced an earlier building. Its name, Cadhayes Venmore suggests it is possibly connected to an offshoot of the Cadehayes family from the medieval period. During the 17th century the names Cadow, Cadow, Caddew, Cadew, and Caddy appear in various records in the parish. Possibly they are derivations of the name Cadehayes?

At Woodbury Salterton there is a thatched cottage named "Cadhayes". This is also a Grade II listed building, believed to date from the 16th century. However, although I have been unable to establish a connection between this cottage and the de Cadehayes it does seem a possibility.

So that's it. My story of Cadhay is as complete as I want to take it. Although rather more lengthy than intended it has turned out to be a fascinating study for me with links to distinguished historical persons that I didn't anticipate.

I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed researching it.

Credits:

My thanks goes to Rupert Thistlethwayte who sent me a copy of the Cadhay guide book. This was most useful as he relates the story of the house and its occupants and their ancestors which pointed me in the right direction to unearth more details.

Also of great assistance was the book, written by Catherine Durning Whetham about the manor of Ottery St Mary. This included an Appendix by her husband, Dampier Whetham about the history of Cadhay up to the time of their purchase in 1910.

Finally, a thank you to Gill Selley who informed me about the Cadhays connections in Woodbury

Apart from the photos on pages 12 and 13 which were taken by myself the other photographs/illustrations are from online websites and are in the public domain.

