

**ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY
OF
REDMARLEY D'ABITÔT**



By
Miss G. K. Cook
and
Miss V. Murgatroyd

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Introduction to this version of the book

This version of the book is the first to be published in digital format. It was transcribed by Simon Henning of The Inn House, Redmarley in 2023.

In 1997, the original book was transcribed to an early digital format by Graham Hale, churchwarden of St Bartholemew's, Redmarley. It was subsequently published in hardcopy. Here's the foreword Graham wrote at the time.

In November 1997 a request was received from Gloucester Records Office asking permission to check Redmarley Church to see whether all registers that were now full were available for collection. I duly met a representative of G.R.O. and it was during my search that I found a copy of this history lying at the very bottom of the chest where all the registers are kept. How it got there is not known, but, having found it and read it, I felt that it should be "brought back to life" as it is a fascinating story of the Redmarley of yester-year.

The 'History' was written by Miss Cook and Miss Murgatroyd, members of Redmarley Women's Institute, as a competition entry for a Group Rally entitled "A Parish Magazine" held in 1959 – it won first prize! From references in this copy, maps and photographs were included in the original manuscript but the former are missing and the latter are of such poor quality (early photocopying) that even modern technology in the form of computer scanning cannot reproduce them.

With the permission of the present W.I. Committee I have re-typed the contents into a computer for re-printing – a task I have thoroughly enjoyed during December 1997. It is the original transcript – nothing added, nothing taken out. All I have done is to put all quotes from minutes, logbooks and personal anecdotes in italic type (something that ordinary typewriters, unless very expensive, could not do in 1959) and put in a list of the contents so that readers may browse if they so wish.

I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I did!

*Graham Hale, Churchwarden
December 1997*

Although the floppy disks used to store Graham's original digital files are no longer usable, the advent of optical character recognition software meant the book could be re-transcribed from scans of the printed version. Thanks go to the Gloucestershire Federation of WIs, who gave permission for the book to be re-published – its treasure trove of village history can now be enjoyed by future generations living in and around Redmarley.

Simon Henning
October 2023

PREFACE

The Editors wish to record their gratitude to the many people outside Redmarley Women's Institute who have contributed to this history and especially to Mrs M.H. Smith, B.A. and Miss V. Hill of Ribston Hall High School, Gloucester. Mrs Smith did much preliminary work on written records for us and Miss Hill is responsible for the maps.

The Rector, the Rev'd B. Niblett, M.A., has lent documents of all kinds for our perusal, including his father's invaluable "History of Redmarley".

Mr R. Wilson, "Little Close", Redmarley, took many of the photographs specially for this history, in particular those illustrating different types of architecture, and also reproduced many old photographs which we have been lent.

Institute members — and their husbands and fathers! — have provided the bulk of the information which has not come from written sources, and the editors have during their year's investigations been regaled with afternoon tea or home-made wine according to circumstances, proving the truth of the assertion that the tradition of wine-making is still very much alive in Redmarley as they sampled raspberry wine or parsnip wine, mangold wine or elderflower wine — and even on one occasion when history became rather confusing — wheat wine laced with whisky!

Practically everyone who has been approached either personally or by letter has replied helpfully and an attempt to acknowledge such help has been made by referencing the source of information in the text itself.

THE VILLAGE

Redmarley D'Abitôt, the "village on the boundaries", lies on the borders of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire in the County of Gloucestershire and the Diocese of Worcester and appears in the telephone directory for Shrewsbury where no one would expect to find it! Ten miles from Gloucester and six from Ledbury, on the main Gloucester-Ledbury road, it is administered from Newent, a small town four miles to the South with neither bus nor any other source to connect it with the village, which was particularly awkward in the days of ration-books and petrol shortage.

With the Malverns to the north and May Hill to the south, Redmarley lies in an area of small rainfall. It stands on a red sandstone belt, and is bounded on the south by the Leadon, on the east by Wynd Brook, and watered by the Glynch Brook, a tributary of the Leadon.

By situation and history the village falls into two parts: the higher part, 250 feet above sea level, is centered on the Church and the area west of the Ledbury- Gloucester Road; "Lowbands" has its own chapel, village store and recreation room, and is on the other side of the main road and, for historical reasons which will be shown, has little connection with the main stream of village life.

In a village which straggles over a distance of more than four miles from north to south and nearly three from east to west, many outlying farms still exist which are isolated from the general community, and problems of transport become acute when elections are due or when other local activities are started.

The village itself has changed in several important ways during the last hundred years. The church was entirely rebuilt during that time; two chapels were built; the Upper School (1846) was enlarged and the Lower School built. A very great rise and fall in population has taken place and been reflected in building operations.

1801	689 people
1811	775
1841	981
1851	1192
1861	1,265 (the highest figure, due in part to the building of the Chartist bungalows in 1845)
1882	1000
1891	923
1901	857
1911	846
1921	722
1931	749
1956	518 (on the Electoral Register)

From 1812 much of Redmarley formed part of the huge Beauchamp estate which was broken up, for financial reasons, in 1919. All existing tenants were given the opportunity of buying their farms or cottages at low prices and from that moment a rapid change - and deterioration - in the appearance of the village took place.

Numbers of cottages, originally half-timbered (Hereford style) and thatched, have fallen into disrepair. Some of these have been bought, often by retired or professional people, and renovated and thus put beyond the financial reach of the working people who originally rented them. Many have simply crumbled away with only piles of rubble or perhaps an old chimney stack to mark their site.

In the meantime, Council Houses, with septic tank drainage and, in some cases, bathrooms and Rayburn cookers, and a rental of from 15/- to 30/- a week, have been built, six at Playley Green (1934) and sixteen behind the church (eight in 1951 and eight more in 1953).

AGRICULTURE

The changes in agriculture in Redmarley during living memory reflect the changes that have taken place in village life everywhere, for Redmarley is typical of the many small villages which once provided work and amusement for all the inhabitants but from which the younger inhabitants are now being attracted to the nearby towns.

With increasing mechanisation, the land can no longer support so many working people as it did a hundred years ago; nor do farm wages compare at all favourably with those paid by industry, transport, etc. The minimum farm wages are now £7/10/0d per week and house free, and a good herdsman can earn £12/0/0d.

The following figures show the new trend clearly:-

Occupations of those on the Electoral Register. 10th October 1956

MEN

<u>Local</u>		<u>Working out of the parish</u>	
Farming	89	Industry ²	22
Small holding	4	Transport ³	16
Gardening	7	Road maintenance	11
Timber felling	2	Clerical ⁴	10
Woodman	1	Shop assistant	1
Milk recording	1	Commercial	7
Innkeeper	1	Travelers	2
Postmen	3	Sawyers ⁵	1
Bakers	2	Dental mechanic	1
Milkmen	1	R.A.F.	1
Blacksmith ¹	1		
Carpenter	1		
Cobbler	1		
Building	3		
Butlers	2		
Kennels	4		
Contracting	2		
Clergymen	2		

¹Working at Bromesberrow

²Chiefly aircraft industry at Gloucester

³Railway at Ledbury; buses in Gloucester; cattle hauling; transport of eggs*

⁴One in Redmarley

⁵Working in Ashleworth

* Large egg packing station at Staunton employs several men & women

There are 28 retired men living in the parish

WOMEN

<u>Local</u>		<u>Working out of the parish</u>	
Housewives	199	Shop assistants	9
Domestic service	14	Teachers	4
Farming and	8	Clerical	3
Gardening		Factory	2
Groom	1	Egg packing station ⁶	3
Teachers	2		
Clerical	1		
Milk round	1		
Shop	1		
Post office	3		

⁶ plus several part-time; chicken plucking done at home.

Problems of transport made it difficult for women to do part-time work, though they can often be seen working in the fields, potato picking, etc.

From a shop assistant's wage a daily bus fare of 2/4d has to be deducted and those who have neither car nor motor cycle leave Redmarley at 8.08am, arriving back at 6.38pm and sometimes having to walk or cycle at least a mile each way as well. Domestic help is, because of these circumstances, easier to obtain in Redmarley than in villages nearer towns.

Moreover, the trades of the countryside are disappearing. A manuscript in the possession of the Rector of Redmarley shows that about seventy-five years ago there were in Redmarley six tailors, thirteen shoe-makers, the largest business being that of John Vaughan who employed four men, fifteen masons, eighteen carpenters, five thatchers and seven blacksmiths.

Today there is one shoe repairer, a disabled man, Mr Sutton, and one builder (Mr Clifford Watkins) who employs two men and two boys who act as masons, bricklayers, painters and plumbers as required and who are also the local undertakers. One old craft has been revived recently: Mr D. Wilson at Little Close has a forge where he makes wrought-iron work (electrical fittings, candlesticks, etc.)

All the corn used to be ground locally, there being three mills in Redmarley — Farm Mill, Blackford Mill and Bury Court, and others near like Payford Mill. Now only the name "Mill" survives to remind us of old customs. One other loss is the glove making trade which provided many women with congenial work. The following article by Mrs Sivell of Lowbands describes it vividly:-

"Gloving", or rather the making of gloves, was the staple trade or work for women and girls in this part of the country some years ago. My mother and her sisters obtained their livelihood in this manner and one of her sisters, Mrs G Lodge, was the agent for this district for Dents, the glove manufacturers of

Worcester. She, Mrs Lodge, would collect all the work in readiness for leaving her home at Lowbands, Redmarley, every Tuesday morning at five-thirty carrying her lantern (on dark winter mornings) to Ledbury where she would take the work to Dents' agent there and the work was then taken on to the headquarters in Worcester.

These gloves were sent from there already cut to the sizes required for the ladies. The kid was of the very best quality and the colours were various, but the chief colour being a lovely shade of brown. Well do I remember the lovely sewing of these gloves, all back-stitching, and at the age of seven I was delighted to be allowed by my mother to sew the "quirks" in between the fingers and thumbs. I must add that "quirks" in those days were known as "gussets".

The sum paid for the making of one dozen pairs of gloves, the highest price I remember was 7/6d per dozen. I must also add that the work had to be of a high standard. Then with the introduction of glove-making machines the price fell gradually to as low as 1/9d per dozen and it was not worth anybody's time to make them by hand and so was lost to the rural areas of these villages a great industry for women and girls."

Two maps are appended to show the actual changes in land and housing: fields used to be somewhat smaller and one interesting feature is the number of fields to which there was no access from a road (surely a survival of the old feudal "strip" system).

No 687 on the Tithe Map, for example (not illustrated) part of "Sixteen Acre" was Glebe land. This was sold by the Reverend Niblett in 1923 to Mr John Davies of the Heath Farm for £240 "because there was no approach to the land except over fifty yards of headland which belonged to Mr Davies and which he refused to allow the tenant to use".

The land of the various tenant farmers was much split up. Richard Brace, for example, started working at the age of ten in 1893 for Geo. Colwell of the Rock Farm. He walked sixteen miles a day — to Cherry Tree Farm, Lowbands to fetch the horse and cart, to Pelgrove to fetch the cattle and to fetch water from the spring (which still exists), etc. Nowadays, through buying or exchanging fields, the small farms are, on the whole, more compact. Most of the glebe land has been sold.

AGRICULTURAL METHODS

A hundred years ago arable farming was of the greatest importance and a Tithe Award of 1840 values 3,594 acres of cultivated land in the parish (for commutation of tithes) at annual rent. The land was divided into:-

2,324 acres of arable land
1,200 acres of meadow or pasture
70 acres of woodland

In addition, there were besides 63 acres of Glebe land. Wheat, oats and barley were the only crops taken into account in the valuation and their price is stated to have been:

Wheat — 7/11½d per imperial bushel
Barley — 3/11½d per imperial bushel
Oats — 2/9d per imperial bushel

and the yields from these crops were:-

Wheat 854.59941 bushels
Barley 1515.78748 bushels
Oats 2181.81813 bushels

Crops were grown on the arable land on the "rotation system": on the heavier soil on the low ground - wheat, peas, beans, oats, then a year fallow; on the lighter soils: barley, roots, rape. Many sheep were carried and were kept on the fields all the time, manuring the ground and treading it firm.

Fifty years later, at the turn of the century, the same pattern is clear and wages were as follows:-

Shepherd 15/- a week (and cottage); carter 12/-; under-carter 11/-; farm worker 9/-.

A boy earned from 4d to 6d a day and worked from 7.0am to 7.30pm.

Reaping was done by hand by teams of three or four who worked and slept in the fields until the job was done, sometimes two or three weeks, working until dark and starting again at 4.0am. Women (or lads) tied up behind the reaper and carried food and cider to the fields. This job was paid by the acre (9/- to 8/- per acre) which would take about two days to reap.¹

There is a record of the last ploughing by oxen in Redmarley — by Mr Robinson of Bury Court, c. 1900.

¹ *Account by Mr Dick Brace, The Lottery (aged 75 years)*

A sale catalogue of 1906 gives a similar picture, though the introduction of "self-binding mowing machines" must have speeded up the harvest considerably. On March 23rd 1906, Chapel Farm was bought by the present owner, Mr Brazington, from Mr Butler with the following stock:-

42 Shorthorn, Kerry and cross-bred cattle
114 black-faced sheep
7 capital working horses
9 pigs
6 wagons
5 carts
2 self-binding mowing machines
2 winnowing machines and an elevator
1,300 gallons of cider and casks
A two-wheel dog cart with lamps & cushions complete
(Luncheon was served at 12.00 by ticket 1/-, returnable to purchasers of £5 and upwards)

The cattle were usually beef cattle, there being no collection of milk until after the First World War. A good deal of cheese and butter were made and taken to Gloucester, Newent & Ledbury for sale.

MARKETING

Cattle and sheep were driven (by drovers who earned 1/- for the job) to Maisemore on Friday and left in a field near the bridge overnight before being driven on to Gloucester Market on the Saturday. Occasionally transport (a two-horse van) was provided for a bull.

No fruit or vegetable market existed in Gloucester and the produce of a market garden at "The Rising Sun" (acreage 9 acres – No 517) plus two acres on the allotments (No 663), all dug with a spade, was taken to Gloucester by a carrier – of whom much more later! – who toured the shops until all was sold.

1914-1918 War

This, and subsequent events caused the first big changes. With the war came the first Ford tractor, owned by William Beach of Hillfields (now Drury Lane Farm), who began to do some contracting. Agricultural contracting now provides a living for "Leslie & William Davis (Redmarley) Ltd., Contractors".

Ever increasing mechanisation is changing the whole face of farming, the combine harvester having revolutionised harvesting, haymaking being a mechanical process, and innumerable jobs from muck-spreading to hedging and from milking to fruit spraying being performed speedily and with a minimum of labour by machinery. The farm worker, in fact, must now be a skilled engineer.

1921 - 1932

These years brought the farming slump and only a bare living could be made on the farm. The change to dairy cattle began at this time — milk being the only commodity that would sell. In 1921 Cadbury's milk collecting centre was opened in Newent, milk being taken there by horse and cart. It continued operating until 1936 when, mainly due to improvements in transport, it was replaced by a new station at Marlbrook near Leominster.

In 1932 the first farming subsidy was paid — £2 per acre for corn and from that time things began to improve. The greater importance placed by the Government on agriculture and the increased prosperity of farmers was reflected in the change in the value of the land. In 1919 (pre-slump) land was valued at between £18 - £19 an acre. In 1956 it is £80 - £100 an acre.

Today, milk is the most important product of the area. It is collected by lorry and taken to Gloucester or delivered and sold in the village. The Redmarley Jersey herd at Drury Lane Farm produces 50-70 gallons of milk daily and is collected at 8.30am by Mr E J Hill and retailed in Longlevens, besides what is used on the farm.

Mrs Violet Hoare is building up a fine Jersey herd at Hillfields. She writes:

“We are at present milking 32 cows and first calf heifers, milking by machine at 6.0 am and again at 4.0 pm. I have 2 Jersey bulls. My old boy, Paxford Dragonfly Senator, is 9 years old, has given me 57 heifer calves to 16 bull calves in 8 years. The total herd is 82.

My best cow, Drury Lane Rosalind, is twice a Gold Medallist and an Order of Merit cow, as she has given three lactations running of 305 days — of 10,159 lbs of milk, 11,416 lbs and 10,268 lbs² at 6% butterfat. Last lactation she gave 9,475 lbs again at 6.5% butterfat. She would certainly have given 10,000 lbs again if she had not calved down quite so soon.”

The increase in dairying and more scientific knowledge has meant great changes in the use of the land. Ley farming is increasing, i.e sowing the field with grass, rye, Italian rye grass and lucerne as fields are sown with wheat so that there is always some fresh grass for the cows.

Kale is grown for the same purpose — marrow-stem and thousand-head varieties, but mangolds are not seen so often. Sugar beet is grown fairly extensively. Much silage of high protein content is now made from oats and vetches and lucerne (cut green in May).

Hay is treated quite differently since it is now known that baking it in hot sunshine until it is brown destroys its food value. Hay is now cut, turned twice and baled as rapidly as possible with the aim of keeping it green. In bad weather tripods make hay drying much quicker and easier than the old methods.

A further change is the growing of "cash" crops – such as peas, and of potatoes which do well on the light soil and can be seen stored in huge straw-lined earth clamps for winter use.

² 10,000 lbs = 1,000 gallons

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

To appreciate fully the extent of the changes both in the Church and in the community itself, it is necessary to go back beyond living memory and to turn to the stiff pages of a detailed History of Redmarley, written by the Rev'd Henry Morton Niblett, and now the treasured possession of his son, the present Rector.

From 1800 - 1853 the living was held by the Commeline family, a family whose descendants helped the village in certain ways that will appear later, but at that time seemed to have had little moral influence for good in the parish. The living came into the hands of the Commeline family by disreputable means:

*"Major Monro was a most unscrupulous blackguard and scarcely ever saw his wife Fanny except to fleece her. She at last got a separation, he being then in gaol at a cost of £18,000. She had the Presentation of the living of Redmarley and Presented old James Commeline. Old Commeline passed the major a cheque under the candlestick at whist one night for it for £3,000, the living then being vacant. The major, only too glad to get hold of any ready money, Persuaded his wife to Present old Commeline."*³

So from 13th February, 1800, James Commeline, M.A. held the living. In 1836 his son, young James Commeline, followed, but he was *"burnt in his bed while reading by candlelight in the rectory"*⁴. The Niblett family then began the one hundred years' service in the Church which was celebrated in the centenary celebrations in 1956.

1853	Edward Henry Niblett, B.A.	Patron - Daniel John Niblett of Haresfield, gent
1878	William Lewis Mills, B.A.	Patron - John Daniel Thomas Niblett of Haresfield
1882	Henry Morton Niblett, M.A.	Patron - John Daniel Thomas Niblett of Haresfield
1925	Basil Morton Niblett, M.A.	Patron - Rev'd Henry Morton Niblett

The one hundred and fifty years is a record, first of neglect and decay, then of steady restoration. By 1855 the church buildings had fallen into a state of disrepair, *"the walls being considerably out of the Perpendicular and the roof decayed."*⁵

³ *History of Redmarley, Rev'd Henry Morton Niblett*

⁴ *From a letter in possession of the Rector/Redmarley History*

⁵ *From a letter in possession of the Rector/Redmarley History*

The old church had a gallery at the West end where the musicians used to sit, but no vestry, the clergy robing in the tower among the ringers. The church could not accommodate more than 150 people, the population then being not less than 1,200. Moreover, the clergy could not officiate in the church with any comfort as water stood on the floor and boards were laid down for them to step on.

Vestry minutes of this period hint at lively discussions about the methods of raising money for a new building, for in 1849 Mr O'Brian (whose name only appears for a short time in the minutes) proposed that a committee should be set up to collect funds for the purpose "*provided there be no church rate levied for that Purpose*". The proposal was carried against the voice of the chairman, James Commeline, who adds firmly in the minutes: "*Be it remembered that I sign the fore-going resolution in my capacity as chairman, without prejudice to the right of any future vestry meeting to levy a rate on the Properties of the parish for church Purposes*".

In 1855 the foundation stone of the new building was laid, £1,369 having been raised by public subscription, Daniel John Niblett, the patron, subscribing £200, Earl Beauchamp £100 and a further £68 for the cost of a porch, and the new rector himself £100.

Newspaper accounts record the joyful celebrations, the church being filled for the 11 o'clock service which was preceded by a procession from the rectory of clergy and the choir from Eastnor church, "*all habited in surplices and Preceded by school children carrying banners which floated gaily in the sunshine*". On entering the churchyard they sang the 134th Psalm.

Another even more crowded service was held in the afternoon, "*much interest being occasioned after the second lesson by the baptism of the rector's infant daughter*". On the following day a school feast took place in the rectory, and after a happy gathering of parishioners in the evening, the day concluded with a display of fireworks.

In 1864 more junketings celebrated the opening of the organ, built by Nicholson of Worcester at a cost of £115. £50 was spent on the organ in 1914, and in 1957 it was again overhauled and an electric blower fitted, the cost being £183.

The hundred years from 1855 are a record of constant effort to beautify the building according to the taste of the time. In 1888, for example, the whole of the interior was coloured, it having formerly only been white-washed "*which gave the church a cold appearance*", and in 1925 the church was again re-coloured throughout, a warm cream colour being chosen and the "*florid ornamentation typical of the Victorian era*" being removed.

At the time of the centenary celebrations the church was clean and in good repair, well heated, lit by electricity and beautified by the addition of stained glass windows, many of which are in memory of various members of the Stallard family, and of a Lady Chapel which was dedicated in 1932.

As part of the centenary celebrations a pageant on the Prayer Book — "The Book Beloved" — was presented for three nights on a stage erected in the church and witnessed by many people from surrounding parishes. Representatives of all the organisations connected with the church took part and the list of them gives some idea of their variety — the Mothers' Union, the Young Wives Fellowship, the Youth fellowship, the Sunday School, the Organist and choir, Servers, Bell Ringers — and the Rector himself.

The theme of the pageant was as follows:-

"Two Pilgrims, having learnt something of Christianity, come to seek Mother Church, that she may teach them how to worship God. Having found her, she instructs them by calling in characters representing the many different Services of the Book of Common Prayer.

Each of these declares to the Pilgrims the meaning of the Service he/she represents. When all are collected, Mother Church calls for a book-binder, King Edward VI, who first gathered up the scattered services of the English church into one book. He symbolically binds the services together and Mother Church offers the Book to the Pilgrims to take back to their own land.

They say the Book is of no use unless the Church with Priesthood and Sacrament goes also. There follows a strong missionary appeal to send out the Church unto all the world. This is answered by a child from the audience who runs on to the stage offering Mother Church a Missionary Box.

The Pageant concludes with a Procession of the characters through the church and out of the door, to symbolise the Church and Book going forth into all lands. "

The pageant was repeated at Kempley by request of the Rector.

THE RECTORY

The Rectory is a fine example of Georgian architecture, and its history is given in detail in the "History of Redmarley". The author writes:-

"The old man John Pitt, before mentioned in this history, told me (in 1884) that there was once an older rectory-house in the field next but one to the south of the Present house, which goes by the name of 'Stallards Grove'. This former house had a moat round it and mounds can be distinctly seen there now.

From what John Pitt told me I put the date of the Present house at somewhere about 1744. He said that the moat originated through the bricks for building the house being dug on the spot. The moat was at one time under the dining room windows. Mr Commeline had it stocked with fish, and walls built across the part opposite the drawing room windows to tank (sic) the fish".

Considerable repairs were done to the Rectory in 1854 on the appointment of the Rev'd E H Niblett and the house reflected the status of the Rector who was very much the gentleman. The sum of £1,457 or thereabouts was spent in repairs to the house and outbuildings and in erecting the stables. Mr Francis Niblett, the brother of the Rector, was the architect, and a Mr Cholerton the contractor. The old tithe barn stood where the stables are now.

A further mortgage of £225 was taken up as a loan from Queen Anne in the year 1867 to build a new bedroom at the hall over the cellar steps, the conservatory on the south side and heating apparatus, and to drain the moat (which was full of water up to that date). In 1894 £187 was spent on "dilapidations" including a carriage wash in the stable yard.

The Rev'd Niblett maintained a beautiful garden (one of many in Redmarley in those days) and writes:

"I find that I have planted 94 fruit trees of the choicest sorts in the eleven years that I have held the living. They are placed against the stable, garden wall, in the orchard, and on the bank at the top of the summer-house garden and in the field at the back of the house".

When the Rev'd Basil Niblett succeeded his father in 1925, he was faced with the problem of obtaining an adequate water supply, for both wells had been condemned for use as drinking water. "Sir George Bullough (of the Down House) kindly gave permission to connect up with his private water main (from Bromesberrow Heath) and pipes were carried from Gloucester Road to the Rectory".

Further repairs and alterations were carried out, but with changing conditions the Rectory has become a great problem to the family, for it is difficult to heat adequately and impossible to run properly with out a staff of servants.

THE CHAPEL

The lower part of the village, especially the Lowbands district, tends to be faithful to Chapel rather than church. In 1858 the Lowbands Chapel, a primitive Methodist chapel on the Gloucester circuit, was opened.

Another Methodist (originally Wesleyan) chapel stood in Drury Lane, but that has entirely disappeared. To replace it the present chapel at Playley Green was built; it is on the Ledbury circuit, a minister travelling out weekly to hold a service there. The Lowbands chapel was closed for lack of funds at the beginning of the century and subsequently taken over as a reading room.

THE CHURCH BELLS

*"Reap wheat and sow barley
Say the bells of Redmarley"*

Redmarley Church has six bells bearing the following inscriptions:-

Treble	"Peace and Good neighbourhood" A * R 1743
2nd Bell	"Prosperity to this Parish" A * R 1743
3rd Bell	"John Jeffes & Thos. Perkins, Churchwardens" 1739
4th Bell	"The Rev'd Mr John Rodd, Rector" A * R 1743
5th Bell	"Geo. Slaughter & John Reeve, Churchwardens" 1793
Tenor	"John Jeffes & Richard Aston, Churchwardens" 1793

The sign A * R stands for Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester, the great bell-founder of the time.

In one of the account books belonging to the parish in the year 1794 is this item: "Pd. To Mr Rudhall for casting the bell £22.11.6d. " This will no doubt refer to the Tenor yet this bell does not carry the Rudhall sign.

In 1893 the bells were re-hung at a cost of £89 and again in 1955 in time for the centenary celebrations where they were restored and set to run on ball-bearings. This work cost £409. After the Centenary service on Wednesday, 6th June 1956 the bells rang out for the first time after two years silence (during which the repairs and improvements were carried out) and the Bishop (of Worcester) visited the Tower and blessed the Ringers.

The photograph (lent by Miss Cook) was taken in the Ringing Chamber by Mr Robert Wilson. It shows his father, "Boss" Wilson and John Arnall 'on the ropes'. Sitting are Sheila Matthews, Mary Arnall and (hidden) Mrs Wilson.



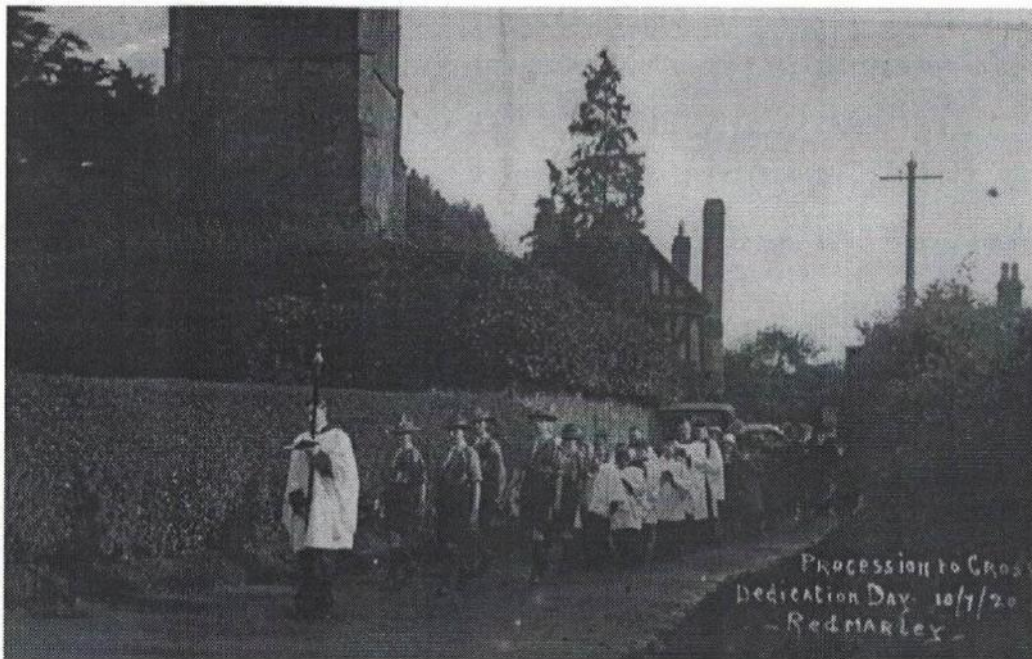
THE WAR MEMORIAL

The parishioners subscribed £266 to put a Cross at Hyde Park Corner in memory of the men of this parish who fell in the Great War. Sir George and Lady Bullough gave £100 and Mr & Mrs Barratt (late of Hillfields) £70.

Much discussion had taken place as to the form the memorial should take, and when a Cross was fixed upon it was difficult to find a site for it. The Cross itself is of Portland stone and the base is of Cheltenham stone. It is an exact copy of an old cross near Wantage. It was unveiled by Sir George Bullough on 10th July 1920 and there was a very impressive service on the occasion.

The impact of the 1914 - 1918 War can be imagined from the list in the Church of 89 men, often three or four from the same family, who served in the forces. Sir George Bullough and five other men were discharged as medically unfit, four were held prisoner in Germany, and no less than seventeen lost their lives.

During the 1939 - 1945 World War the importance of agriculture was realised and the call-up, was not so drastic. Yet, four men died with Corporal T W Priday, K.S.L.I., who fell in action on 9th December 1939 being the first British army casualty of the war.



This photograph shows the procession starting from the Church to the War Memorial on 10th July 1920. It was found in the effects of the late Harry Dawe and given to Redmarley Church by his son.

CHARITIES

A "Table of Benefactors", erected in A.D. 1750 in the Church Tower begins with three very early gifts of land *"towards the repair of the Church, and for the use of the Poor"*. (A.D. 1462 & 1469). Among these is *"one acre known by the name of Bell Acre lying in the common field called West Field"*.

With the setting up of Parish Councils a new scheme for the administration was established by the Charity Commissioners and the interest on the £857/18/2d was henceforth called the *Church Charity* and was to be used thenceforward for the maintenance and repair of the church.

Three later charities also existed:-

1. By the will of William Church, 1727, one pound a year for ever was to be paid out of an estate called *"Churches"* in the parish — in order to put poor children to school.
2. A bequest of ten shillings a year for ever, by Margaret Birchett *"to be paid out of a Messuage in this parish known by the name of The Folly, to be distributed equally by the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being to four such poor widows, as receive no relief from the parish, to be given them yearly for ever on the second day of February"*. (Will dated 1732). The recipients of these half crowns are faithfully recorded in Vestry minutes.
3. Earl Beauchamp also bequeathed in 1854 £100 for the use of the poor of this parish, which was at the same time invested in the funds at three per cent annuities. A further sum of £20/16/0d. Was added to the £100 aforesaid, arising from the sale of timber, the interest of the above being annually given to the poor on St Thomas's Day.

These, by 1896, were put together as *"The Poor's Land Charity"*, the Rector and two persons appointed from time to time for a term of four years in each case by the Parish Council, being the Trustees. Of the persons first so appointed one, to be determined by lot, was to go out of office at the end of two years from the date of the appointment but was eligible for re-appointment.

As soon as the Parish Council was formed, it took an interest in the application of the Charities, aiming at limiting the amount paid to the church and directing as much as possible to the pockets of the poor. At a meeting on 24th January 1895, a committee of five was appointed to *"thoroughly look into the old deeds of the charities of Redmarley, and the charities themselves, the committee to consist of Messrs W Robinson, I-I Bailey, T Beach, AJS Symes and the chairman of the Parish Council (Colonel Scobell)"*. Their report reads:-

"We, the undersigned, having carefully examined the deeds relating to the parish Charities report:

- (1) *that the tablet in the Church is in accordance with the deeds in which is set forth that the various parcels of land were left for the repairs of the church and the relief of the Poor. These lands were sold in 1873 to Lord Beauchamp. In 1854 Lord Beauchamp bequeathed £100 for the use of the poor. The income derived from*

these sources has been distributed in accordance with the trusts. We recommend that it should be divided giving £10 to the church and the balance of about £17 to the poor.

- (2) that we can find no evidence to show that the rent of the Bell Acre has been mis-applied — this parcel of land was not sold when the charity lands were sold.*
- (3) that William Church bequeathed in 1727 £1 a year to put poor children to school and that this should as heretofore be paid to the school.*
- (4) that the Birchett bequest of 10/- to four widows is a separate charity and is due on the second day of February.*
- (5) that there is nothing to show who has any claim on the old Workhouse, It seems to have been built on the churchyard.*
- (6) that the well given to the Parish by the late Miss Commeline should be taken over by the Parish Council. That it should be managed as at Present and new Trustees appointed.*

There was discussion at later meetings and eventually the order made by the Charity commissioners (No: B/60407) and already stated here was adopted, Wm Church's bequest, Margaret Birchett's request (The Folly) and the interest on Lord Beauchamp's £120/15/0d only being allotted to the poor.

These lands were sold in 1873 by permission of the Charity Commissioners to Earl Beauchamp, the proceeds being applied to the purchase of £837/18/2d in joint stock 3% annuities. "Bell Acre" seems to have excepted from this sale and now refers to about 1/4acre opposite the Church Hall which was sold to Mr F A Rouse for £12/10/0d.

Tradition has it that it was originally a charity for the upkeep of the bells and quite recently a minute was passed by the Church Council that the interest on this money would be put towards oil for the bells! Church accounts show an annual rent of £2 from Bell Acre until 1913 when it was reduced to £1 when the tenant changed. It was sold in 1939 "*because no tenant could be obtained*".

The Poor's Land Charity is not handled exactly in accordance with the Charity Commissioners decision at present. *Church's* bequest is paid into the school account, but through a reduction in the rate of interest on the money invested only 14/- annually is now received. Margaret Birchett's bequest is now administered by the Rector and Churchwardens and is distributed at Easter.

"The Folly" is now part of Murrells End Estate⁶ — a fact which does not make it easy to collect the annual 10/- An additional sum of money is added from the Christmas Church collection so that 5/- per person is now distributed.

⁶ *Murrell's End estate represents another new development in the life of the district, for it belongs to Col Robinson who lives in Kidderminster. The estate is run by an agent.*

The rest of the *Poor's Land Charity*, which produces an annual income of £13, together with a small sum from the rent of the Post Office is now referred to as the St Thomas's Day Charity and is administered by the Rector and two trustees appointed by the Parish Council, at present Mr Dobbins and Mr Frank Parry.

For many years a distribution of coal was made with this money, but coal rationing in the 1939 war stopped this. Now each recipient has £1. The charity has diminished considerably for where there used to be as many as 60 recipients there are now 15 (1957) and it is not easy to find people to accept the Charity.

The Fenwick Bequest

An interesting bequest was made as recently as 1901 and shows that the fear of disestablishment of the Church was still a real one.

Miss Fenwick of Hazeldine left a sum of money for the endowment of a resident clergyman in Redmarley in the event of the disestablishment of the Church of England. £10,500 was left, the income therefrom to be used by Miss Fenwick's sister until her death (1928). In the event of disestablishment not taking place the money was to be applied "*to the furtherance of active church work in four country parishes, Redmarley being one of them*".

Very little, however, seems to have been actually received from this bequest.

THE LOWBANDS SETTLEMENT

The following account of this venture by one of the original settlers appears in the "History of Redmarley":

"In the year 1845 the well known chartist agitator Feargus O'Conner and a Manchester solicitor by the name of Roberts were the promoters of the Land Society, designated the Chartist Co-operative Land Society, but the name was later changed to the National Land Company.

The objects were to purchase land in large quantities, to divide each into 2, 3 and 4 acre allotments on which cottages were to be built, the land cultivated for the reception of members and from £15 to £30 aid money given to each allottee on location subject to a perpetual farm rent charge calculated at 5 % on the outlay and thus create 40 freehold votes.

The allottees were supposed to make a good living on their allotments independent of any other employment and these promises and objects seemed to people unacquainted with farming so tempting that in the course of the next few months 70,000 members had subscribed more than £1 00,000. Farms were purchased and cottages built in different parts of the country".

One of these farms is the Lowbands estate in this parish, which consists of about 160 acres, divided into 46 allotments. The members who had subscribed £2/12/0, £3/15/0 or £5/4/0d were entitled to ballot for location in August 1847. The allottees took Possession of their cultivated farms and received the aid money promised besides a further loan of a similar amount.

In September 1848 one year's rent charge was due and demand made for it, but the great results promised by farming these small allotments had by this time proved a delusion, and no rent could be paid by anyone of the occupants from the produce of the land. The results were much the same on other estates purchased by the company, and it now became an evident failure. It appeared also that the National Land Company was an illegal association; the directors had no legal standing.

A Bill was introduced into Parliament praying for power to wind up the undertaking and an Act was passed, granting power to the Court of Chancery to wind up the company's affairs and give the allottees conveyances at reduced rent charges. Although the conveyances were given and the rents reduced about one half it failed to make the allotments a success, and at the present time very few of them are in the hands of the class they were intended for. Many of the cottages are going into ruin and the majority are in the hands of small tradesmen who work them chiefly for obtaining fodder for horses used in their trades".

So ends Mr How's account and the Rector adds: *"this is the candid opinion of one who has spent his life in Lowbands, and has brought himself to poverty in consequence"*.

In Noak's *"Guide to Worcestershire"* (1858) the following may be found:

"The importing of the Chartist colony into this parish in 1847 by Mr O'Conner had a disastrous effect on the moral and social condition of the people, and has nearly doubled the Poor's Rates. The Lowbands Settlement is still occupied either by deluded disciples of that visionary leader or their successors".

Eventually the neighbouring gentry raised a subscription to return most of the Chartists to their homes. Only a few hold on and there are now no direct descendants of the original settlers in the parish.

THE SCHOOLS

Lowbands School was the first public attempt at education in the parish. It was built in 1846 and was intended to do duty for the parish of Pendock as well as our own. The Rev'd James Commeline, Junior, was the prime mover, his donation towards it being £111. Lord Beauchamp gave £50 and the piece of waste land on which the premises were built. The Committee of Council contributed £54 and the National Society £40. There were a few other subscribers as well, the total being £302. The hauling was done by the farmers free of expense. The contractor was Mr Joseph Griffiths of Eldersfield. Two years later the attendance reached the very creditable number of 63, the scholars coming from the parishes of Redmarley, Pendock, Staunton and Eldersfield.

Next we hear of the building not being large enough for the number of children, and in the year 1868 Lord Beauchamp agreed to enlarge it at his own expense. We believe it was then made double its original size, the beam running across the centre marking where the original building ended.

No doubt it had long been felt that the Lowbands School was situated on one side of the parish, and in 1860 the Rev'd E H Niblett set to work to collect funds for building the Upper School. The cost of it is put down at £200 which was raised by voluntary subscriptions, but the list of subscribers has not been met with. It was built on a piece of Glebe land which was conveyed over and the stone of which it was built was raised in "Yew Hill", near the Gravel Pits and was hauled to the site by the farmers.

The maintenance of these two schools was not easy as long as they depended on voluntary subscriptions or the rising of a parish rate and the following extracts from Vestry minutes give quite an interesting picture of the struggle:

In 1872 that the first management committee was appointed, for by the Education Act of 1870 the schools were placed under the Education Department. Charles Stokes, Charles Cooper, J.S Stallard, Rev'd E H Niblett and Samuel Green were elected at a Vestry Meeting called for the purpose, Mr Green acting as Treasurer.

By 1876 the accounts showed a deficit of £50/8/1d. And it was decided that *"a voluntary additional rate of 1½d be called to pay off this debt, and that in future a voluntary rate of 4d in the pound be collected at midsummer instead of 3d"*.

A new master, Mr Toyne, was appointed to the Upper School at a salary of £100 per annum. He lived in *"the Clerk's House"*, paying £10 a year for rent of house and garden. A pupil teacher, John Tilley, was appointed a year later at a salary of £20 per annum. His indentures were duly signed in June and the managers agreed to present him with a bonus of £5 at the end of his first year. Much attention was paid to sewing, a mistress being appointed for this purpose, chosen from two candidates by the Rector's wife.

In September of the same year (1876) a Government report on the schools was read out at the Vestry Meeting and considerable alterations and additions were suggested, viz:

"That in the Upper School an Infants Gallery be erected, a side-door opened, a box of form and colour object cards and clothes pegs be procured. In the Lower School 5 additional desks, four maps, a box of form and colour cards, 2 dozen slates be procured and an infants' gallery erected and a side-door opened".

Another 2d rate was necessary to cover these expenses.

In 1877 the weekly fee for education went up: *"Every child in the two schools (shall) be expected from 1st April next to pay 2d each instead of 2d for the first child and 1d for every other child in the same family as hitherto done"*. It was also proposed that *"a portion of the Charity money be given towards payment of the School Children's Pence in the largest families in the parish where the parents are unable to pay for them"*.

A public meeting was also called to consider *"the heavy debt of £50 that still existed"*. A suggestion that a School Board be set up in the parish was proposed and carried on 25th January 1877 — this would have removed the control of the school (and financial responsibility) from the existing management committee.

Strong measures must have been rapidly taken by some committee members, for on 15th February at a public meeting in the school room *"it was proposed and carried by a majority of 15 to 3 that the schools be carried on as heretofore, the raising of the necessary funds to be left in the hands of the committee"*. It was also agreed that *"Ratepayers willing to be rated for the support of the schools be requested to write their names in this book and that the collector of rates be requested to take this book round for that purpose"*. Nineteen names appear. In March it was agreed that each child should pay 3d and in November it was actually found *"that a 4d rate would meet all the expenses up to the end of March 1878"*.

In May of that year a monitor, one Albert Pyer, was appointed in addition to the pupil teacher and Mr Toyne himself had to undertake the task of writing to all the landowners belonging to the Parish for their subscriptions to the schools.

No further reference to education occurs in the Vestry minutes.

Some of the older residents of the village recall the early days of the school — but without pleasure or enthusiasm!

Richard Brace of the Lottery, for example, started school in 1885 at the age of two and a half and stayed until he was ten. About a hundred children attended then he says, and there was a school master, one uncertificated teacher and one pupil from the upper classes. A nut stick was very frequently used — and the Rector's Tuesday visits to teach Scripture to the children are remembered by *"his ferocious digs between the shoulder blades for those who were not attending!"*

Mark Jones of Haw Cross remembers Mr Toyne and then Mr Brown, a man of sixteen or seventeen stone. *"It would frighten you to look at him"*. There were two girls teaching under him but later, as numbers declined (in line with a fall in population) the schoolmaster worked at the Upper School and a woman took charge of the Lower one.

The effect of an outstanding schoolmaster can be judged from the history of the Upper School from 1921-32 when great progress was made and when the two schools contributed in many ways to the life of the village. Mr Lampitt is still vividly remembered by many people and in fact visited Redmarley Church two years ago as a lay preacher⁷. Those who were his pupils have very different memories from the older generation. He himself contributed the following notes:

Redmarley Schools 1921 — 1932

1921 *Appointment of Mr F H Lampitt as Head of the Upper School and of Mrs Lampitt as Head at Lowbands – a joint appointment with the school house in Lowbands.*

Assistants *Mrs E Robinson and Miss M Lake (Upper School)
Miss J Bevan (and soon Miss Dobbins) Lowbands*

School Buildings *Much in need of cleaning and decorating. No lighting, heating insufficient, equipment and furniture very inadequate and out of date.*

With sympathetic help from H.M. Inspectors and the County Authority these defects were slowly remedied until a few years later both schools were well equipped whilst re-decorations (internal) were carried out every three years.

The managers under the chairmanship of the Present Rector became very co-operative and helpful. Good reports were received from H.M. Inspectors and several times reference was made to the happy atmosphere of both schools.

In 1930, following the Hadow Report on Adolescents, the Director of Education, Mr A W Priestley, suggested that the Upper School should be for the senior children and Lowbands for the juniors, but in view of the distance involved both schools should retain an infant class. There was no school transport but a cycle allowance of 2/6d a week was paid in certain cases.

Christmas Parties for both schools were introduced in 1922 and were very Popular with Parents and children alike. Funds were contributed by parishioners almost without exception. After the parties the children from the outlying districts were taken home by two of Mr Brewer's men in wagons lined with straw. This help and other interest by Mr Brewer of Lowbands was very much appreciated and enjoyed.

School concerts and plays were highly successful, noteworthy ones being "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Senior) and "Snowdrop and the Seven Dwarfs" (Junior).

⁷ *The Church accounts are a lasting testimonial to him, for he took charge of them, put them in "apple-pie order" and kept them in his beautiful copper-plate handwriting until he left the parish.*

The School Garden at the Upper School was on "Bell Acre", actually ¼ acre opposite the school. This had been left to the church, the rent therefrom to supply oil for the maintenance of the church bells. The garden became a noteworthy feature in the parish and one of the first in the country or county to be developed on artistic as well as utility lines⁸.

School history was made in 1926 when Harold Manns and Willis Edwards were the first pupils to gain scholarships to Ledbury Grammar School and thereafter two or more pupils passed each year either to Ledbury Grammar School or Newent Grammar School. To attempt these scholarship exams was optional as the compulsory 11 + test was not introduced until the 1944 Education Act.

In 1931 Redmarley was transferred to Gloucestershire with both schools now under that Authority instead of Worcestershire. This meant that the curriculum now had to be that of the P.N.E.U. (Ambleside) to which the Gloucestershire Education Officer was a devoted adherent. Consequently, the syllabus became the same as that of every other Gloucestershire school with little or no scope for the Head Teacher's individuality. After suffering this almost robot existence for about 18 months we resigned our appointments, Mrs Lampitt retiring from teaching altogether and I accepted the headship of a large school in Redditch and thus again, happily, came under the Worcester Authority. I believe that the P.N.E.U. system suffered a lingering death in Gloucestershire after the retirement of its forceful Director, Mr H W Household.

We both retain vivid and happy memories of our days at Redmarley and on my final retirement in 1951 we came back to the familiar country, making our home at Malvern where we are always pleased to meet old friends and former pupils of Redmarley Schools.

Addenda

- 1. About 1923 the late Rector, the Rev'd H M Niblett, the Headmaster and older boys gathered a sackful of daffodils from Payford Woods (by Permission of Mr Brazington) and planted them round the War Memorial.*
- 2. Numbers at the Upper School remained fairly constant. At Lowbands they increased to about 60. There was no building in the parish during our 11 years and the departure of Sir George & Lady Bullough from the Down House with their large staff reduced the population. Some children came from Pauntley, Bromesberrow, the Heath and other outlying districts.*
- 3. Summer coach outings were arranged for parents and children, Barry island, Weston Super Mare, Cheddar and Burnham being favourite rendezvous. Such outings were rare in those days and so very popular.*

Frank Lampitt

⁸ *The garden has disappeared, and "Bell Acre" is now part of Inn Farm – but narcissus can still be gathered there and box tree survives as a reminder of the past.*

The Lower School

At the Lower School (now the only one in use) the logbook entries begin in 1904 and affords fascinating reading. The early entries are remarkable for the number of closures of the school and again give a glimpse of the harsh conditions prevailing at the turn of the century:

- 26th November 1907 31 absent out of 56. A very wet morning. One girl sent home who had bad shoes and consequently wet feet.
- 12th December 1907 Only 18 out of 56 present — very wet and floods out. As the children present had very wet clothes they were sent home.
- 15th December 1911 Dr Mary Williams examined the boots of the children this morning, finding that 42 children present had wet boots on. She sent children home for the rest of the day.

Floods, snow and heavy rain in fact caused many closures. Influenza, measles, diphtheria and whooping cough epidemics caused the school to be closed for anything from a week to eight weeks at a time. In 1922 and again in 1924 impetigo and ringworm epidemics occurred.

On the other hand, school life and village life were closely related, and holidays are recorded for Ledbury Fair, Redmarley Races, a visit to a circus to Redmarley in 1920, Redmarley Flower Show, a Parish Tea and Sunday School treat, also the Chapel Sunday School treat, the wedding of the Squire's daughter, Miss Florence Scobell, and blackberry picking — a fortnight was often given for this or the dinner hour would be shortened so that the children could pick after school⁹.

The school building itself was criticised every time there was Board of Education inspection and improvements seem to have been incredibly slow:

- 16th April 1907 *“A creditable state of efficiency is achieved, but the use of slates should be discontinued. Moreover, the openings in the false roof do not appear to communicate with the outer air. Exhaust ventilators should be provided. Each of the closets needs sub-division for decency's sake. A guard is necessary for the stove”.*

⁹ Blackberry picking is still important in the area, 4d to 6d per pound, according to season being paid for the fruit which is collected and sent to Robertson's jam factory.

June 1908

"The schoolroom is undivided, the cloakroom consists of a recess 81 by 5 lit only by a skylight and with absolutely no ventilation except through the door into the main room. There is no lavatory basin. The offices are dark and unventilated and too near the school building. Still no apex ventilator and no guard to the stove". "Yet very good work was done" and "the children are in regular attendance".

By 1913 the inspectors state that the premises are greatly improved "except for noxious fumes from the stove".

9th — 11th Nov 1921

"Each morning the infants had to be crowded into the upper room owing to low temperature (38^oF on Wednesday, 34^oF on Thursday and Friday). In the afternoon they have been in their own room as near to the stove as possible. At no time has the temperature reached 50^oF. In addition to cold, smoke has been almost unbearable, penetrating into the upper room and causing coughing and smarting eyes".

A similar state of affairs is recorded in 1929:

January 1922

"The last two afternoons have been very dark and oral lessons had to be taken as there are no lamps in the school".

As the years went by, however, various improvements are noted: the village playing field is put at the disposal of the school (1922); a sewing machine is acquired (1925) and wireless comes to the village:

May 1927

"11.30am - 12 noon, the upper classes went out into the School House Garden to listen in to the address by the Earl of Meath and National Songs Broadcast from 2.0".

April 1928

"Standards VI and VII went to the schoolhouse for a broad cast lesson on 'Boys and Girls of other days'. It is hoped to follow these lessons every Monday for several weeks".

May 1931

"The playground was levelled and treated".

On 1st April 1931 the schools were taken over by Gloucester Education Committee. Heating, lighting and the exclusion of rain are still major problems:

23rd Sept 1933

"Heavy rain comes through the roof again and floods the rooms; school dismissed early".

6th Dec 1933

"The temperature at 9am was 36^oF; a little higher during the day".

In 1938 the roof was still leaking!

In 1935 a new stove was delivered but was faulty so:

6th Feb 1935 *"Infants' stove refused to burn".*

12th March 1935 *"Stove still out! Tried to keep it in all night. This failed".*

5th April 1935 *"Stove still smoking".*

Finally on 1st December 1937 a stove is installed in the infants' room and no more is heard of smoke.

1937 also brought the first rumours of contaminated water supply after a sanitary inspection following a diphtheria case. From then until 1954 the problem of water was the worst thing the school managers had to deal with. In July, 1939 the well water was declared unfit for human consumption and had to be chlorinated.

Following another diphtheria case in October (1939) it was decided to fetch drinking water from Lowbands farm. Nearly eight years later the problem became even more acute; sometimes boiled water was used for drinking, and again and again the Rector brought urns of drinking water. The well was cemented and pumped out again – but still the Rector carried water.

The building of a school canteen was begun in September 1949 but well water was still unfit for drinking. Actually the opening of the canteen must have brought matters to a head for far more water was needed now! Mrs Caffull's duties as Meals Attendant included fetching water in a barrel from Lowbands Farm! Five gallons of water for drinking was brought each day by bus.

Finally H.M. Inspectors declared in 1950: *"A serious handicap is the lack of any fresh water system. Drinking water is conveyed two miles in a five-gallon churn, water for cooking from Lowbands Farm, and rainwater is used for all purposes".* They added: *"The offices are of the open trough type, and though emptied once a week they tend to become unpleasant in hot weather".*

In 1952 a man from the Ministry of Health called to make enquiries about the school's water supply and on 10th February 1954 mains water was turned on. The logbook also throws some light on the effects of war, particularly the 1939 – 1945 war, on the school. Evacuees were received from Birmingham on 3rd December 1940 (19 children and 1 assistant teacher) but they drifted back to the city and the assistant returned there the following July. War time cookery classes were held at "The Rose & Crown" of all places and holidays were arranged in accordance with agricultural requirements. Large quantities of rose hips were gathered and sent to the Newent centre for making into syrup (very rich in Vitamin C).

Another interesting passage refers to the winter of 1947, of which everyone who lived in Redmarley still talks! The snow began in January and on 30th January the temperature in the

infants' room was 27⁰F. By 10th February, with deep snow, 17 children were present. A temporary thaw caused water to come in through the roof again. The following day the school bus got stuck in snow drift and the assistant teacher didn't arrive. By 5th March, after more snow, only three children were present and they had lessons in the school house to save fuel. Two had to be escorted home through a blizzard.

The following day only two children attended and from 7th to the 10th March the school was closed. Floods and water again came through the roof and it was not until 17th March that the school bus ran again. The following day the scholarship examination for Ledbury Grammar School was held, and *"as the bus did not arrive until 5 minutes after the time the examination was due to begin, the school clock was put back to 9.30am so that the papers could be worked according to the times given"*.

The effect of differing personalities on the school and children can also be gauged from the logbook. Vigorous caning, for example, was the order of the day under Miss H. On the other hand, Miss B seems to have encouraged the children in kindlier ways, taking them out to see the barley harvested or threshing done, or to watch the hunt in adjoining fields, making pancakes for the children to eat during their break on Shrove Tuesday. Miss B seems to have been born under an unfriendly star — constantly absent — the death of her mother and father, dog bites, sprained wrists, and bruising caused by someone bowling a hoop into her! She taught in the school from 1913 – 1950 when she died.

In 1937 the Upper School was closed, and the children between the ages of 11 and 13 were conveyed by motor coach to Picklenash (Council) School, Newent. The School Managers were informed that the building was no longer required as a school and a management committee consisting of the Rector and seven Church Councillors, together with two persons elected by a meeting of parishioners was set and the school was adapted for use as a Village Hall, thus supplying a long-felt need in the parish.

The school at Lowbands today, as its Headmistress proudly told us, is as fully equipped and up to date as any primary school anywhere. The classrooms are equipped with modern furniture, with a table and a chair for each child. Adequate heating apparatus has replaced the old smoky stoves. There is septic tank drainage and a cloakroom and bicycle shed have been built. The crowning glory is the canteen complete with solid fuel cooking stove and refrigerator. Meals for 70 are cooked on the premises. Sixty-six children were accommodated last year and it is interesting to note that in 1918 the same amount of space was considered adequate for sixty-four children. A third room is urgently needed and a playing field to supplement the narrow strip of playground would be a great advantage.

The staff now consists of a Head teacher, an infant teacher, a part-time clerical assistant, a cook, assistant cook and a meals supervisor. Open days are held annually. Carol singing round the village, followed by a party took place at Christmas, and an educational visit was made to Bristol Zoo last summer. A Sports Day was held on the Cricket Field. Bulb growing competitions have taken place, and a gardening competition in the tiny strip of garden, in which about 30 children took part.

Further Education

Few children from the parish went on to any Further Education. At first they had to become boarders at Malvern or Tewkesbury Grammar Schools. Later they went to Ledbury Grammar School, and later, by paying an out-county fee, some went to the Gloucester City Grammar Schools.

Hilda and Nora Rouse (Inn Farm) who went to Ribston Hall High School walked to Newent each Monday morning to catch the 8.30am train (some of the older girls cycled there), stayed in Gloucester during the week and returned home on the Friday night, sometimes walking four miles and sometimes being met by a pony and trap. The opening of Newent Grammar School eased the problems of transport enormously.

The 1944 Education Act meant the re-organisation of village education everywhere. Transport was provided to take all the eleven-year-olds to Newent, a few to the Grammar School, the majority to Picklenash, now a Secondary Modern School.

Gradually, however, these schools were amalgamated under the Head of the Grammar School Mr Peacock, and a large bilateral school now provides the secondary education for all, but is yet another factor in the breakdown of the village as the centre of the life of a community.

ADMINISTRATION

Prior to the Parish Councils Act of 1894, the administration of the parish was conducted by the Vestry Meeting and held in an upper room of the building which was originally the Parish Workhouse and is now the Post Office. Minutes of these Meetings exist from 1838 to 1894 and these show the gradual development of the local control of village affairs and the separation of church and secular functions.

The Vestry Meeting was responsible for the upkeep of the church, the maintenance of the roads and the relief of the poor (no pensions or benefits in those days!). With the opening of a school in the parish, education too became a responsibility of the Vestry until the Education Act of 1870 which created a national organisation which made the appointment of a separate board of managers for the school necessary.

Vestry Meetings were held annually to appoint Guardians and Overseers who were responsible for the relief of the poor. In addition, the Vestry would appoint Surveyors and later Waywardens who were responsible for the maintenance of the roads. The Vestry also appointed the Churchwardens and from 1844 "*Persons liable and qualified to serve the office of Parish Constables*" were nominated. Much of this work was voluntary and unpaid, but gradually paid officials were appointed, often to work alongside the representative of the Vestry Meeting, for example, in 1845 it was resolved "*that a paid officer be appointed to perform the duties of Parish Overseer and Surveyor*" and Mr James Russell was appointed at a salary of £20, raised in 1846 to £25 and in 1848 to £30.

At this period two overseers and two surveyors were appointed yearly, James Russell being one in each instance. The Vestry Meeting also had the power to levy parish rate for specific purposes such as poor relief and education. The desirability of levying a parish rate for the re-building of the church in 1855 was successfully challenged. The required sum, £1,300, was raised by public subscription and as it mentioned elsewhere, the church celebrated its centenary in 1955. Where a rate was levied, a paid rate collector was appointed to deal with the money.

Poor Relief

Extreme poverty was a real problem in those days. Ill health/sickness/accident could result in the loss of any wages and death of the bread winner could result in the family being turned out of the cottage. To combat this, poor relief was set up to help the unfortunate people who often had little or no food or housing. Poor relief took two forms — outdoor relief where people were helped with money, food, clothing, shoes, etc. or those who suffered the ultimate degradation of being put in the Workhouse. In return for food and shelter they would have to perform work of some kind. Conditions could be harsh.

An old account book dating from 1817 for poor relief contains the names of people to whom relief was given, with the amounts and also what was spent on providing the necessities for the Workhouse. In 1820 the following minute appears:

"At the Vestry Meeting convened for the Purpose of appointing a person to superintend the workhouse of this parish, and to employ the poor, and also to teach and instruct them in reading, and to collect the rates for the relief of the poor and disburse the same, and for other general Purposes, it was resolved that Mr Purnell should be appointed, the terms to be as follows: the said Mr Purnell is therefore hired by the week at a weekly wage of 8/- together with his board and lodging".

In 1840 a 6d rate was levied for the relief of the poor, but in 1842 there seems to have been no inmates in the Workhouse as it was resolved to let it to Mr Joseph Lowe, Clerk of the church and paid assistant overseer.

Twelve years later the distribution of relief seems to have been inadequate for it was agreed that Mr Stallard (of Chapel farm) should be indemnified for the sum of £4/17/6d which he had spent for the care of Ann Sparrow's children, Mr Stallard promising to pay £1 towards it and the others present at the meeting being *"willing to take their fair Proportion"*.

In 1869 a meeting was held to consider the new Poor rate Assessment and Collection Act and it was agreed *"that this Act be adopted by the Parish at 30%"*. But in 1870 the matter was reconsidered, and it was agreed that *"15% be allowed and that a further sum of 15% be also allowed to all who claim it on consideration of their undertaking to pay all rateable hereditaments of which they are the owners, whether the same be occupied or not"*.

By 1871 it was felt that *"present relief could not be much curtailed, but the sense of the meeting was that the giving of shoes and clothing should be discontinued"*. No further references to Poor Relief occur in the minutes; the last guardians were appointed in 1891 — Mr Stokes and Mr Robinson.

Under the Parish Councils Act of 1894, the responsibilities of the Vestry Meeting and the Parish Council were separated. The Vestry Meeting continued to administer for the church, appointing church wardens, etc. but it was proposed by Mr Howe: *"That the Parish Council take over the management of the old workhouse"*. The Rector, as Chairman, declined to put this motion to the meeting considering that the question of ownership could not be decided in such a way.

Lt Col Scobell then proposed that pending a decision about ownership, monies from the rent of the workhouse, after deducting the cost of repairs, and keeping a small balance, should be added to the Poor's fund for coal at Christmas. This was agreed. It was not until 1905 that the decision was reached by the Charity Commissioners that *"the old Poor House, whatever its origins may have been must now be regarded as a charity for the benefit of the poor of the parish of which the Rector and Churchwardens are trustees"*.

Highways

In 1925 the Rector wrote an article in the Parish magazine relating to an old book called *"The Highway Book of the Parish"* and he quoted as follows:

"We might have supposed that the roads were neglected then, but we find that large quantities of stone and gravel were put on them. We come across 370 tons, 64 tons, 100 tons, 200 tons and many similar quantities about the same time. Most of it was raised in the old parish quarry at Redhole (near the Gravel Pits) but some was hauled from Keysend Hill (Chasend). There is an entry in the old book under the year 1813 where at a vestry meeting convened for the special purpose of considering the best mode to be adopted for the repair of the roads, both parochial and turnpike, it was resolved that the duty required by law should be done by hire, and the surveyors are required to raise the money for the said purpose".

There is reference in the 'History of Redmarley' where we read:

"At the beginning of this century there was a wooden bridge at Payford which got into a bad state of repair. Instead of restoring it the parish paid Mr Stokes (Murrell's End) the sum of £30 in the year 1815 for the right of using the stone bridge there belonging to him as a bridle road only. Mr Stokes erected a private carriage gate at the bridge, and also a bridle gate for the use of the public".

"On the last day of the nineteenth century Payford Bridge was washed away. The river was in flood, and the structure unable to resist the rush of water. It was re-built at a cost of £429/11/0d. The County Councils of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire paid each one third, the ratepayers of the two Rural Districts of Newent, and Redmarley & Staunton finding the other third".

Perusal of the Vestry Minutes from 1838 concerned with Highways shows that a hundred years ago all roads except turnpikes were the responsibility of the parish, and also that individual landowners were still building roads to improve communications between separated parts of their estates.

The first reference is to a perambulation of the boundaries of the parish in May, 1838:

"It was resolved that deputation consisting of the parish officers and other inhabitants do meet at Sut-Mill on Wednesday, 2nd day of May next at nine o'clock in the morning, and that notice of the said perambulation be given to the parish officers of the parishes of Dymock, Bromesberron, Berrow, Pendock, Eldersfield, Staunton, Upleadon and Pauntley, in order that the best possible information may be obtained as to the boundaries of the adjoining parishes".

In 1841 notice was sent to Mr John Aston of Lowbands *"to restore a bridge and bridle path leading from the Farm Mill to Forty Green, and the other way to Grimer's Lane"*. This was probably never properly carried out, for in 1867 it was agreed that the road should be *"taken and in future kept in repair by the Parish"*.

The following year, the minutes reveal a parlous state of affairs. A special meeting was held concerning a debt of £600 to the Dowager Countess Beauchamp, a sum which had been lent in 1818 to put the roads in a good state of repair on the understanding that it would be repaid in annual instalments of £100. This had *"neither wholly nor in part been fulfilled"* and the meeting expressed their sense of *"impropriety of the debt being suffered to remain so long in the Parish"*. It was agreed to pay an instalment of £100 every two years and, since no further reference is made to the matter, this was probably done.

The roads were sometimes a source of income, for in 1855 it was agreed to sell to William Meyrick for £10 a road formerly opened by the late Mr Stokes leading from the Lottery to the Newent Road, the Vestry promising to *"guarantee to the utmost of their power the quiet and Peaceable Possession of the same to the said William Meyrick"*. In the following year it was decided to use the £10 *"and other money from the sale of timber on the charity lands"* to repairing the interior of the church tower and alterations to the belfry.

In 1862 a Highways Amendment Act was passed, and the surveyor (still James Russell at a salary of £30) was instructed to employ a competent person to measure the highways, and then to call a Vestry meeting to adjust the rate and to *"take such steps as may be required in this business"*. Shortly afterwards comes the first reference to the appointment of Waywardens, Mr Charles Stokes being appointed in 1864 as Waywarden for the Upton-on-Severn District. (This might sound strange, but it must be remembered that Redmarley lay in the County of Worcester at this time). No further reference is given to James Russell — it was Mr Stokes who gave the names of Hyde Park Corner, Drury Lane and Pall Mall.

In 1865 a new map of the parish was made, Charles Stokes arranging the cost of surveying and mapping, and the following year, at a special meeting on Highways, it was decided to make a favourable report to the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Worcester as to the state of the roads and the management of the same.

Transport of another kind was considered in 1866 for a meeting was convened *"for the purpose of petitioning the Directors of the Worcester, Dean Forest and Monmouth Railway Company to grant the Parish of Redmarley both a Passenger and Goods Station"*. It is interesting to speculate how different Redmarley would now be if this petition had been successful!

An attempt was made in 1879 to transfer *"the business of the Parish Highways away from the Upton District to that of Newent"*. In 1887 a parish meeting was held *"to consult on the new boundary act"*. It was proposed that *"Newent be made the centre for magisterial, Poor-law and other business in Preference to Upton-on-Severn"*. A memorial to this effect was sent round for signature and presented to the appropriate authority. The much desired simplification for life in Redmarley did not, however, come about until the parish was transferred to the County of Gloucestershire in 1931. The last Waywarden, Mr Browning, was appointed in 1894.

The Main Road

Through Redmarley now runs the Gloucester-Ledbury-Leominster road, the A417, a pleasant, winding road which is likely to change considerably in the near future for it is already being widened and straightened to form the approach to a new trunk road linking South Wales with the Midlands.

This road was once part of the London-Brecon Turnpike and along it a four-horse coach used to travel. *"It started from Gloucester and reached here at eight or nine in the morning. It changed horses at the Feathers in Staunton and again at Ledbury, thence it went to Hereford, and returned at night, reaching Redmarley about nine. It seems to have stopped running about 50 years ago, i.e. about 1850"*.

The Turnpike was administered during the nineteenth century by a Turnpike Trust which dealt with the road from Gloucester to Upton-on-Severn (through Maisemore, Hartpur, Ashleworth, Corse and Tirley) and the Gloucester – Ledbury road. In 1843 Joseph Stallard of Redmarley became one of the trustees of this trust and was on the committee which dealt with the building of a new toll house at Maisemore at a cost of £100. The name "Old Pike" used locally for the crossroads marked on the Ordnance Survey maps as Hethelpit Gate must refer to the existence of a toll gate there in the past.

Along this road fifty or sixty years ago cattle were driven to market, farmers and their wives trotted to town in their dog-carts, using enormous "trap umbrellas" on wet days and always arriving with "aching bones". Butter women would carry their wares in large baskets on each arm as they rode on horseback while the carrier's cart made its daily journey.

There was a weekly bus service from Malvern to Gloucester at the incredible price of 7/6d and as motor transport became more common Mr Bosley of the Oaks (Playley Green) might be seen in his (the first) motor car and soon Mr Lewis the undertaker from Lowbands was running a little motor bus from Redmarley to Gloucester. A regular service of motor buses between Ledbury and Gloucester (via Redmarley) began in August 1923 by the Bristol Tramway Company.

THE CONSTABULARY

In 1843 a Vestry Meeting was held to consider "*constabulary force questions*" and it resolved unanimously that "*the Parish of Redmarley D'Abitôt with a view to being released from the present county police rates, would be willing to unite with the adjoining parishes of Staunton and the Berrows in maintaining two paid constables, to serve the three parishes jointly, at a salary of £,25 per annum; of which sum the parish of Redmarley are willing to contribute a moiety*".

This was doubtless carried out and there is reference in 1848 to "*the Policeman of the district, George Checkers, who had to apprehend one James Skinner who had left his wife and child chargeable to the parish and to lodge him in safe custody of the proper authorities in Newent*".

In 1863 the Superintendent of Police was communicated with respecting the inconvenience of the policeman not residing in a more central situation for his beat and he was requested to remove him from "*his Present residence to this parish*". It may have been in answer to this request that the police-station in Lowbands was built; this station was used until the change-over from Worcestershire to Gloucestershire, and the room that was used as a cell can still be seen there.

To assist the paid constable two residents of the village were appointed yearly to act as parish constables. These men were sworn in at Upton-on-Severn and were in 1847 allowed 5/- each for their attendance there. Each year four to eight men were nominated as "*liable and qualified to serve the office of Parish Constable*" and one or two of them actually officiated.

The records of 1844 show the names were as follows:-

John Weston - present constable	Timothy Robinson - dealer
John Colwall - cooper	Edward Lane - yeoman
William Richardson - blacksmith	William Hodges - yeoman
Edwin Fryar - butcher	William Widden - shopkeeper

In 1872 they were:-

Robert Dobbins - miller	Elias Dobbins - farmer
George Townsend - blacksmith	Richard Robinson - blacksmith

Justice was administered far more harshly than nowadays – a boy of about ten who stole a knife and 'swopped' it at school for 3d and 20 walnuts was taken to Upton and sentenced to five strokes of the cat!

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The first Parish Council meeting took place on 31st December 1894 when all the nine people present were elected. They were:

Mr Henry Bailey, Lowbands
Mr Thomas Beach, Hanover Green
Mr William Beach, King's End
Mr William Brewer, Lowbands Farm
Mr Walter Browning, The Park Farm
Mr Thomas Butler, The Chapel farm
Mr Frank Ricardo, Esq., Bromesberrow Place
Mr William Robinson, Bury Court
Mr Alfred Symes, Haw Cross

Lt/Col S.G.T. Scobell of the Down House was elected Chairman
Mr A Brown, Capital & County's Bank, Ledbury was elected Treasurer

These held office until April 1896 – then councillors were elected annually until 1899, and thereafter every three years up to the present day. Voting appears to have been done by a show of hands at a parish meeting until 1946 if more than nine nominations were received. Nominations now have to be sent to the Returning Officer at the Newent Rural District Council offices.

A Parish Meeting is held at least once each year when the chair is usually taken by the chairman of the Parish Council. The usual business is the adoption of the Charity Accounts and any other special parish matters where the opinion of the parishioners is required. Of the many chairmen during its existence, mention should be made here of Mr William Beach who was in all chairman for twenty-three years. There have only been two Clerks – Mr W.A. Hodges (1894 - 1931) and Miss H. Rouse. The first woman to elected to the Council was Mrs Ireland in March 1934.

The main concern of the Parish Council was the management of the allotments (on the large field near the Church still called the allotments today), the upkeep of footpaths and, at first, the administration of the Poor Rate.

The Allotment Field was originally rented from Earl Beauchamp and a small portion of Glebe land from the Rector. The Parish Council paid 30/- an acre for it and sub-let it to various people in small allotments. At the property sale in 1919 the field was bought by Mr W.A. Hodges. He later sold it to the Parish Council in 1928 for the sum of £360. The whole cost of this was borrowed from the 'Public Works Loan Board' for a period of forty years, £9 principle being repaid each year. It is the duty of the Parish Council to provide allotments if they are required, though unfortunately they are not wanted at the present day and the field is let for arable farming.

The administration of the Poor Rate appears to have passed out of the hands of the parish in 1919 after which the services of the paid overseer were no longer required. However, overseers continued to be appointed until 1926 and were probably the link between the Newent Workhouse and the poor of this parish. There was also at this time a "relieving officer" who was also the registrar – one Mr Stafford.

It was the duty of the Parish Council to appoint two trustees to administer charities and the Old Poor House and one school manager – money for expenses being obtained from the Rural District Council.

All the more important business governing the life of the village is now in the hands of the Newent Rural District Council with its paid and qualified officials – District Surveyor, Rates Officer, etc. There are two representatives of Redmarley on the RDC which is responsible for housing, especially with the provision of council housing – a matter on which the opinion of the parish is sometimes directly asked – Public Health, Sewerage, Water and refuse collection. This latter item takes place monthly.

Other aspects such as Public Health, Highways, Police, Fire Service and the Library Service are the concern of Gloucestershire County Council.

THE POSTAL SERVICES

The development of the postal services can be illustrated by mention of three generations of post men.

The first, Owen, lived at Rock Pitch and went into town on three days a week to collect letters for Redmarley. It was, however, no part of his duties to deliver them and they would repose in his house until called for, the news spreading that there was a letter for Mr & Mrs So & So – if they liked to fetch it! We find from entries in the old books that 8d or 9d (or sometimes more) had to be paid before the precious document was handed over.

Ben Williams, who died in 1905 at the age of 88 was postman practically all his life. His round consisted of walking from Newent to Rock Pitch in the morning and delivering within a quarter of a mile. Then he would go to Ryton, back to Redmarley and then taking out letters as far as King's Green, the Glynych or Dr Hooper's at Hethel Pit Gate (Old Pike). Then he would return to Ryton, pick up letters there, go back to Redmarley and then to Newent. He reckoned he walked about 20 miles a day.

Archibald Priday of the Gravel Pits started work as a postman in 1905 at the age of sixteen on a wage of 1/ 1d per day. He left the Post office, having sorted the mail, at 7.40am and walked about 12 miles delivering the letters. In 1919 he had his first bicycle and his wage was raised to 7/9d per week. He is still a postman with the same round he had as a boy. One of his most vivid recollections is the burning down of the "The Backhouse" in Lowbands. The woman who lived there left the house in order to give him a letter, leaving a frying pan on the fire. When she returned the house was in flames, the frying pan having tipped up.

Redmarley was "*put into telegraphic communication with the world*" in 1908.

Today letters are delivered twice a day in the parish and once on Saturdays. There are three local postmen who travel on foot or bikes. A van comes from Gloucester and deliveries start at 7.00am. There are two collections daily, one at 10.30am and the other at 5.00pm and one on Sundays. Telegrams are still delivered by the postmistress herself on foot or bicycle but these are fortunately few and far between. The Misses Shepherd are in charge of the Post office, carrying out their duties with the utmost precision.

SOCIAL LIFE

In Kelly's Directory of 1888 a list of the more important Redmarley people appears, carefully divided into gentry and commoners, and the life of the people shows this same sharp class distinction.

The farm workers' hours were long and their wages low, but wood and milk were often supplied free, and cider was always provided. At Blackford Mill, for example, 12,000 gallons of cider were made each year and distributed to the carters and callers at the Mill. A shepherd at Chapel Farm who earned 15/- a week also had a house and garden at the Lottery where he grew his own vegetables and enough corn to make his own bread. Alan Priday, brother of Archibald the postman, was apprenticed to the blacksmith at Lintridge. He worked three years (7am - 6pm) for nothing and then got 10/- a week. After dark, when the shoeing was finished, they would melt down the old shoes to use the metal again.

The workers often wore long corduroys, fastened at the knee with a leather strap, corduroy coat and a long sleeved waistcoat. What would be regarded today as hardship was taken as part of the normal day's work. Wellingtons, for example, were not in general use so a ditcher in Lowbands is remembered to have taken off his shoes and long socks and worked barefoot in the ditch all day (he lived to the age of ninety-three!).

Many very hard ways of earning living existed – apart from the fact that all farmwork was carried out by the physical strength of man and horse unaided by machinery. Felix Freeman of Lowbands, for example, dug his five acres of clay soil with a spade, "*digging as straight as a ploughing match*". His wife sowed wheat on the land by hand and then the whole family harrowed soil it over – over 70 bushels an acre were harvested. Similarly, John Vaughan at "The Rising Sun", a market gardener, dug his nine sandy acres and two acres on the allotments besides, then marketed much of his own produce by taking it to Gloucester in his horse and cart and touring the shops with it until all was sold.

Very long distances were walked, largely owing to the scattered nature of the farms. Jack Dobbins of Blackford Mill also owned the Dingle, a good two miles away, and had to carry water by cart to the cattle there, or carry scythes there and reap the field before walking back.

Food was simple. Joe Russell, hand waggoner for Mr Holford, earned 14/- a week and spent it all on buying 28 6d loaves of bread. His children's wages supplied the rest of the food. Women, too, were not unused to really hard work – again apart from bringing up large families in very small cottages without running water, let alone labour-saving devices.

Many girls went into domestic service, earning 3/- a week and their keep, working from daylight to dusk and lucky if they got part of Sunday off. Married women worked on the land or made a meagre living selling such things as home-made faggots around the village, or trading in rabbit skins, bones and rags as Fanny Turner did, driving around with a blind pony and cart. Mrs

Meek, the midwife, in her cotton bonnet and shawl, can be remembered walking miles from case to case.

All the trades necessary for a simple life existed in the village – tailoring, shoe-making, coopering etc. At Camp Farm a wooden cider bottle can be seen hanging in the hall. It was most probably made by Charles Vaughan, carpenter, wheelwright and cooper. He made quart, 2 quart, ½ gallon and gallon casks. Each farm hand had his own and burnt his initials on it and had it filled daily with cider by his employer.

There were several busy shops in the village – William Reynolds, baker and shopkeeper at Holly Cottage, Playley Green (nearly opposite the present village store), Joseph Robinson (opposite the present Post Office) and Mrs Haskard at Lowbands. Mr Robinson's shop (which later moved across the road and became the Post Office) also dealt with two bread deliveries. Hand skimmed milk was sold there at 1d a can and there was an important trade in home-cured bacon. It was cured in the house, more in the cottages around (e.g. Redditch) and it was sent to South Wales.

An account of two old trades has been built up from the memories of Jack Dobbins, miller and now farmer and Mark Jones, for years a baker:

Milling

Very hard stone 'dressed' with a two-ended mill pick (i.e. lined and furrowed according to the purpose for which it was being used) was used for the grinding stones of which there were three sets, a fine one for grinding wheat and two rougher ones for chaff, etc.

The Mill is a three-storey building with the mill-stones on the second one and some very primitive hoisting tackle on the third. The sacks of wheat are hoisted to the top of the building; the wheat is poured down for grinding and then, as rough flour, went through a second process – "boulting" (sifting) through 7' x 3' silk boulting cloths with eye-letted edges for attaching them to the machinery. This process separated the bran from the flour. The mill cart collected the wheat and delivered the ground flour for 1/6d per sack, 1 lb in weight being allowed for loss of weight in grinding, as far away as Castle Morton, Chacely and Berrow.

Fifty years back the mill was working day and night; now there is not enough water to work it. All the "allotment houses" (Chartist bungalows) grew enough wheat to last the families the year round and had it ground at Blackford a sack at a time. Two men were employed simply fetching and delivering.

Baking

The bakery at Lowbands, run by Mr Jones, was started by the Fowler family who owned it for a hundred years or more. Mark Jones of Haw Cross began work there in 1927 and saw the beginnings of mechanisation. In his early days the brick ovens were simply heated by burning faggots in them; they were then cleaned out and the bread put in. Later a flue was put in and

now steam is used. All the processes, kneading, moulding, etc. which were then done by hand are now done by machinery.

Mark Jones both baked the bread and delivered it over a twelve-mile radius, including Eastnor, Eldersfield and Corse, starting work at 3.00am and reaching home 8.00 or 9.00pm. He worked six days a week and sometimes on Sundays and can remember working twenty three hours of twenty four on Good Friday. He earned 2/6d per day – 15/- a week. About three bushels of flour were used daily, one sack baking 200 small (21b) loaves.

Threshing (Account by Mrs Dobbins)

Threshing was quite a big event in the farm life of the twenties. The big steam engine weighed between 4 and 4 ½ tons and the threshing box about 4 tons. These were fetched by the farmer with four horses for each part, using the best horses to pull the steam engine and a great deal of shouting and encouragement was needed to get them to pull together.

Sometimes on a hill it was necessary to take two horses off the threshing box to help pull up the engine, and when that was done the whole process would be repeated with the box. The bolting tier for tying the straw into "boltings" was fetched by a single vanner type horse. One man would be employed all day fetching water for the engine.

Horse Trading (Account by Mrs Dobbins)

Most farm horses in those days were two year old, as little money was made by breaking and handling them until they were fit to work. Alan and Archibald Priday can remember breaking in colts for their father when they were boys, riding them bareback and without bridle – just hanging on by the mane. When the colts were able to be handled, they were sold, some more young ones brought in, and the boys started work all over again.

Horses which had worked on the farm until they were five or six years old were then sold for town work. Small thick-set horses were sold to work in the coal mines. Young yearling horses were docked, having a piece of flesh as well as hair being cut from their tails to make them easier to control when driving. If a horse's tail went over the reins the horse could go just where it pleased.

Many a steam roller, or early motor car was stopped by a frisky horse. In frosty weather the horses went to the blacksmith to have "frost nails" put in their shoes so that they could stand on slippery roads. Clogs with a circular or oval base were held on the feet by a leather toe-cap and leather straps at the sides tied around the ankle. Clogs as we know them came later.

When heavy wagons with 2 or 3 horses were on the roads an iron slide was put under the rear wheel to hold back the load as there were no brakes. A roller was put under the wheel when going uphill. These two implements hung on the back of the wagon when not in use.

Conditions for the poor, the sick and the aged were terrible at the turn of the century. One old man of seventy four recalled his father and mother, farm workers, who brought up twelve children. *"How they managed I don't know"* he said, for *"he earned 10/- a week and a bushel of flour cost 12/- . Mother baked all the bread and used nearly a bushel a week"*. They were offered 2/6d a week "Poor's Pay" between them and such an offer was only made to the destitute. The only alternative to this was the dreaded Newent Workhouse.

Nevertheless, the older folk in the village look back to the past without bitterness, even with some nostalgia: *"You are more contented if you've no money"* said one man who had never been to the pictures in his life, and didn't want to. *"It's all rush and go now"* said his mother!

Life in the big houses

Life in the big houses — the Down House, Hillfields, Hazeldene — was very different. Barbara Cartland (nee Scobell) gives a lively and detailed picture of her early life in the Down House in the book *"Polly, my wonderful Mother"*.

Her father, Colonel Scobell, was a real Victorian autocrat, and is still vividly remembered by the older folk of Redmarley who ruled the parish and his household sternly. A member of the Vestry committee, on the board of managers of the school, Waywarden in 1883 and 1884, he is remembered striding through the kitchen of the Robinson's shop to meetings (while the others went through the back door) and riding all the bridle paths in the parish once a year and for saying on one occasion when the school mistress asked for a rise so that she might buy a pair of shoes: *"Shoes! What does she want shoes for?"*

Miss Cartland writes:

The Down House with its pillared portico and fine Proportions is still an excellent example of Georgian architecture. Downstairs there was a drawing room, dining room, library, smoking room and morning room, all high, gracious rooms opening on to a large, marble paved hall, where a curved Regency staircase was lit by a domed light.

There were about 25 bedrooms, but the house had been built at the time of the window tax and the architect had economised on windows, building one instead of two to most of the rooms. On the top floor the servants slept in small, square dark attics which opened on to the leads which ran around the skylight. These boxes — they were little else — were suffocatingly hot in summer and in winter perishingly cold. The footman, who slept on a collapsable bed in the pantry to guard the silver, really fared better.

Every drop of water in the house had to be pumped, so it is fortunate there was only one bath in the house. Hip-baths were provided in every bedroom and water for them both hot and cold, was carried upstairs in enamel cans, while brass ones were used in the hand basins and had to be cleaned every day.

To keep up the Down House, Colonel Scobell employed eight indoor servants besides a nanny and nursery maid, a lady's maid for Mrs Scobell and later a governess. There were always four men in the gardens and six on the farm. He ran the 368 acre estate with shrewd efficiency and kept the books himself, showing profit most years of at least £,200.

George Scobell had inherited a fortune of £2000 a year from his uncle and became a gentleman of leisure, travelling widely and mountaineering, being one of the first to climb Mont Blanc. After his marriage in 1871 to an American heiress, Edith Palmiet, he bought the Down House and settled there.

Scobell had an extremely bad temper and it was very difficult for him to settle down to country life on a small estate. Six children were born between 1872 and 1878, Polly (christened Mary Hamilton in Redmarley Church) in 1876. Their life was hard, and they suffered continual changes of governesses, having thirteen in eight years, for they were all under paid. Occasionally Colonel Scobell taught the children to their terror and dismay for *"the inevitable end of every lesson found Polly, Emily and John in tears"*.

Economy, allied to Spartan discipline, was an important part of the children's lives. Only skimmed milk was sent to the nursery, the cream being made into butter and sold. They were allowed no fruit, although the walled gardens were full of it, as it was considered a luxury. Jam and butter were never permitted on bread at the same time. His birthday present to his children was half a crown until they reached the age of eighteen, after which they got nothing. At Christmas he gave each of his family a book. These he received free from the S.P.C.K of which he was a member.

As the Scobell children grew older so did their social life, as of course did that of the children born into a social strata that had money – singing lessons, piano lessons, drawing lessons, cycling, riding, tennis, cricket, crochet. At the disposal of the Scobell family were a landau, a victoria, a dog-cart, a phaeton and a pony & trap but in her book Polly writes that bicycling was a favourite mode of transport with the children. The machines had solid tyres and fixed pedals and they would cycle ten or twelve miles to visit friends. In the evenings the family would play games – very often whist. There were house parties, dances and balls and visits to Gloucester and Cheltenham.

On her marriage to Bertram Cartland, her father exclaimed: *"You're selling yourself for 7/6d!"* Nevertheless, the gates of the Down House were decorated with flowers and evergreens and surmounted by a banner which read *"Health & Prosperity"* and up the drive hung others such as *"God Bless the happy pair"* and *"Health, Wealth and Happiness"*. It is recorded that Polly disappointed the village people by leaving via Haw Cross, thus avoiding the crowds gathered in the village. Many guests attended the reception at the Down House and over 500 presents were received, many of them silver. The bridal couple left in Colonel Scobell's wedding present – a brougham. Surprisingly the Colonel wept but Polly's comment was *"What a relief. To think this is the end of rows"*.

PRICES

Prices, of course, were very different from today through changes in the value of money, though changes also reflect differences due to supply and demand, mechanisation, etc. For example, fifty years ago Tom Humphries, the one-legged blacksmith shod a horse for 3/-. This now costs £1 but there is no smith in the village and the nearest at Bromesberrow is an agricultural engineer, dealing primarily with tractors and only occasionally with horses.

A coffin cost £2/10/0d in 1911, but in 1955 the price was £14/10/0d.

In 1904 a ewe and two lambs could be bought for £4. They are nearer £11 now.

Before the 1914 war, 5 pints of beer could be bought for 1/-, 5 Woodbine cigarettes for 1d, eggs in summer were 24 for 1/- and a boiling fowl cost 1/-.

A terrific rise in the cost of foodstuffs followed the 1939-45 war (during which basic foods were subsidised). In 1938 a young wife of a farmer's son, living in a farm worker's small cottage, had 15/- for housekeeping. This paid the (low) rent and bought meat, groceries and clothes! Milk was provided by the farm and vegetables were grown in the garden, but cheese then cost 41 ½ d per 1b and 13 eggs cost 1/- in the summer; sugar was 1 ¾ d per 1b and a dozen boxes of matches could be bought for the same amount. A good pair of shoes then cost 12/-.

VILLAGE AMUSEMENTS

While the rich hunted, or played their croquet, tennis and whist, the cottagers also had their amusements and the hundred-year period shows a great change in behaviour and interests. The early nineteenth century "wakes" in Redmarley were notorious for brawling and drunkenness and disorderly conduct occurred frequently as the Rev'd Morton Niblett comments sadly in his History:

"They were the most disgraceful and disorderly scenes and were held on the first Sunday before St Bartholomew's Day on the village green (which was enclosed in 1838). There was much drunkenness and fighting on these occasions and the spectators would climb some pear trees to watch the fights. Barrels of beer were taken on to the green and tapped there, and everyone seems to have been drunk before night. Persons were then hired for hop-picking.¹⁰ "The Wakes", we are glad to say, gradually went out of favour and died a natural death.

We fear that the rectors at the beginning of this century did not set their faces against such doings. Tradition says that on the contrary they themselves encouraged fighting, and that such riotous behaviour was not confined to the village green. Drunkenness and coarse language were the order of the day at the Rectory itself at the Tithe-audits, and the ringers spent Christmas night carousing in the belfry. The immorality, too much of which prevailed, as the Registers will show, was in keeping with the times".

Throughout the nineteenth century indeed, hard drinking was common for the public houses were open all day (Lloyd George introduced curtailed opening hours of public houses in 1914 in favour of the war effort). There were two cider houses in Redmarley: "Twinnings" and "Backhouse" in Lowbands, and an inn called "The Rising Sun" which is now an ordinary dwelling house.¹¹ The present public house "The Rose & Crown" opened in 1888.

In the pre-wireless days the men of the village made their own music. "Jimmy Banjo" is remembered, and several fiddlers – Charles Preston, the shoemaker; "Pilly" Lock who fiddled at the village shop in exchange for a pint of cider and some bread and cheese and Ben Williams, the postman, who fiddled in church before the harmonium was brought in.

As the years passed and the turn of the century came, more organised entertainments are recorded. The celebrations in honour of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887 are the first:

¹⁰ No hop growing here now, but there are remains of a kiln at Durbridge.

¹¹ This seems to have been a sort of club, licensed only for members to drink at all hours. After being caught breaking the rules about members, the license was withdrawn.

"Several persons mounted to the top of the church tower one evening to see the bonfires which were lighted on most of the adjoining hills, no less than 50 being counted. On June 23rd after a church service all adjoined to afield of Mr Beach's near the village green. Five hundred persons had dinner in a large tent, a ticket of admission having been given to all the adults in the village.

Sports took place in the afternoon, including pony and donkey races. The school children were entertained to tea at six. Festivities concluded by dancing which carried on to 11 o'clock. The band of the 1st Gloucester Engineers played during the day and discoursed some excellent music. Over £60 was spent on these rejoicings and it was generally admitted that the Redmarley Jubilee was the best in the neighbourhood".

The celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee ten years later followed a similar pattern. The Rector comments *"Children to the number of 267 had tea at five o'clock and the large tent full of little ones of all sizes was the Prettiest sight that could be seen anywhere. Dancing on the green round a magnificent may-pole brought the Proceedings to a close"*.

The wedding of Lord and Lady Beauchamp was followed by an outing for the *"cottage tenants"* to Madresfield Court:

"Lord Beauchamp's tenants were invited to Madresfield on August 9th. Ninety went from our parish. His Lordship kindly provided brakes (as illustrated) to take them there and bring them back, and very happy people looked when they started off".

Wedding presents were inspected and admired and tea partaken of with Lord and Lady Beauchamp joining them at the tea-table.

The conservative Benefit Society held a one-day annual fete (pronounced locally as "feet") with races, etc. In the morning a procession headed by a band went round the village collecting funds. Other annual events were the Flower Show and the Rectory Teas, held each summer on the Rectory lawn; one or two of the wealthier people provided a table for tea and invited their friends to partake of it. All gathered on the lawn for entertainment afterwards. Many of these activities were stopped during the 1914-1918 war, the Peace in 1918 being celebrated with a firework display. The cost for this outstanding display was £8/6/11 ½ d and was met by subscription and a collection.

1920 saw the beginnings of regular social gatherings for those inhabitants hitherto not considered of the correct social standing. A Reading Room was opened in Mrs Davies's cottage (opposite the Rock) and about 24 - 30 men belonged to it. They played crib and dominoes with domino matches being arranged against other parishes. They read papers like "Punch" and "The Tatler" and daily newspapers at least two days old which were provided by the 'gentry'.

Also in 1920 six feet three inch Major Ian Bullough came to Hillfields with his second wife, Lily Elsie, who had fascinated London before the war as "The Merry Widow" at Daly's Theatre. He brought wealth to the village and with his wife made a tremendous difference to the social life of the village.

He became Master of the Hunt and in 1924 started the Football Club, buying two sets of jerseys, goal posts, etc. with himself playing centre-forward. This club was suspended, however, in the 1930s and it was not until 1946 that, after permission had been obtained from the A.F.A. that the club was reformed and entered the Ledbury League.

After a few years in this league the club entered the North Gloucestershire League. However, in 1955, owing to a lack of players, the club was closed and has not been re-formed since. There are a number of youngsters who are very interested in the sport and no doubt the club will start again in the near future. A good balance remains in the bank should that event arise.

Major Bullough not only revived the Cricket Club (an older club having died out in the 1914-18 war) but secured the present cricket club ground, formerly glebe land. Cricket matches had formerly been played on various flat fields, sometimes on Down House land, sometimes on the field opposite the Rose & Crown. He gave a large donation towards the cricket pavilion, which was built by a local carpenter, Jo Watkins, and opened by Mrs Bullough. He was also mainly responsible in the early years for a professional coach who trained the cricketers on a concrete practice pitch.

The outcome of this was the selection of Peter Jackson as fast bowler for Worcestershire. He played for that club for nineteen years in County Cricket as a fast bowler. During Major Bullough period of residence at "Hillfields" the estate could field its own cricket team and frequently played a team from the Down House which was now owned by his half-brother, Sir George Bullough.

The difference made in the district through reduction of staff at "Hillfields" on the departure of Major Bullough was big enough to be noticed in the school records where a drop in the numbers of children at school was noticed at the time.

Darts, quoits and table skittles have been the main indoor sports recently, usually played at the "Rose & Crown" but at certain times bowling has been popular. All these sports have been played at numerous fetes held at the Rectory or on the cricket ground in aid of funds for various causes. A darts team was formed for a few years after the 1939 war and played in league matches.

Tennis, too, has been a popular game since the war with two courts in a corner of the cricket field and a club was formed.¹² Lady Bullough was chairman of a social organisation which was formed for women in 1924 – "The Redmarley and Staunton Women's Unionist Association". A yearly subscription of 1/- was paid and the aim was a social evening with tea, political talk,

¹² *Information about men's sports were supplied by Mr Arnall and Mr Harold Manns.*

music, games, etc. once a month. Lily Elsie can be remembered singing at some of these meetings. Mrs Ireland, the first woman on the Parish Council and a children's Magistrate, was treasurer for the whole of the lifetime of the society.

Mrs Scott was the first secretary, followed by Mrs J Hatton from 1925 - 1930 and by Mrs Rouse of Inn Farm from 1930 - 1941. The association was wound up in 1941 with a balance of £12/9/0d which was later handed over to the present Conservative association. Women, it is obvious, were beginning to play a more active part in village life.

REDMARLEY RACES

From 1876 to 1921, however, the day of the year, not only for Redmarley but for a large district around, was "Redmarley Races", the forerunner of the present Ledbury Hunt Point-to-Point, and one of the earliest to be organised.

Much of the course was on Park Farm and the Misses Browning who still live there remember the event with lively enthusiasm. It was their father, with a group of some six or seven other farmers, who conceived the idea. No elaborate preparations were made; red flags were stuck up here and there and the riders "went for it", making their way literally from point to point. No special training was undertaken and the best hunter won.

Soon the event developed and a regular figure of eight course became the order of the day. There were 21 fences, one of them being jumped twice. The course was 4 to 4 ½ miles long and included a water jump that was as good as "Beechers".

The Misses Browning remember the preparations beforehand: gorse fetched from Lintridge Bank for the fences were made of stakes – "hetherings" – and gorse, except the last fence which was made of birch. Colonel Scobell would ride round the course to see that everything was properly done. Then all the animals on the farm were moved to the little "five acre" field and the stables cleared, for hundreds of horses had to be tied up and cared for on the great day.

Meantime, on another part of the farm swing-boats, round-about and coconut shies were going up, for Redmarley Races was a gala day for young and old, rich and poor, and the one day in the year when even the baker took a holiday! Many also travelled long distances to Redmarley, putting up for the night on the way.

And so the day dawned and people streamed to The Park on foot and by every kind of conveyance – brakes, gigs, cycles, tandems and later motor cars – but the best sight of all was the "four-in-hands" which arrived with a great flourish, the coachman blowing in fine style on his horn. The Misses Browning also remember the pickpockets who came with the rest, and threw the empty wallets and purses into the hedges where they were found later.

An account from the Ledbury Free Press of 1888 (copied from a cutting kindly lent by Capt. Calvert of Fosscombe, Ashleworth who also remembers these races vividly and who, as a child of three, was allowed to sit on the famous "Mikado") gives another impression of the scene:

"Drags and vehicles of almost endless variety were brought into requisition and lined the eminence overlooking the course. Fashion and wealth were well represented. Ladies galloped over the ground with prancing steeds, watching each event with keen interest, while horses almost innumerable, from the high mettled hunter to the old 'crock' who had had its day, moved to and fro according to the will of the riders, some even following in the wake of the

running horses, which was contrary to the wishes of the officials as announced on the card.

The races are carried out in almost pristine simplicity – no grand stand is set apart for those willing and able to pay the price for commanding positions; all there are on the same level, terrestrially speaking. A difficulty is the absence of the number of horses entered to run, and also those who are declared winners. The absence of those signals, which are so conspicuous on ordinary race courses, together with the fact that there are no special riding colours, rather tend to mystify the uninitiated. Be this as it may, the meeting evidently increases in popularity, for large numbers attend from all over the countryside, and from the continual stream of vehicles wending their way to the rendezvous one would imagine it a miniature Epsom.

The country round Redmarley Pound is excellent hunting country. The fences and its undulating character all tend to test the qualities of the horses and the abilities of the riders. The part of the winning field allotted to the spectators looked early in the afternoon like a gigantic picnic – luncheons of the most appetising kind were partaken "alfresco" and everything appeared most enjoyable.

Arrangements were under the care of the following gentlemen stewards: Lord Coventry, M.B.E.; A Knowles, esq. M.F.H. (Newent); F Ricardo, esq., SGT Scobell, esq. Starter Mr Scobell; Judge: Mr Knowles. The cups were displayed to view the whole of the afternoon in Mr Knowles's carriage".

Great must have been the excitement when the locally trained "Mikado" from Mr Stokes's stables won at Murrell's End.¹³ A cup, found in a shop in Ledbury and bearing the name "Mikado" is now used for the Adjacent Farmer's Cup at the Ledbury Point-to-Point.

Redmarley Races were held on the same course until 1921 when the sale of certain lands made it impossible to continue there. One or two other courses in Redmarley were tried, the last being round Scar Farm in 1927.

Redmarley still has close links with the Ledbury Point-to-Point and Ledbury Hunt for in 1933 kennels were built just inside the Redmarley Parish boundary on land given by the sporting squire – Tony Albright of Bromesberrow Court. So the hounds may often be seen being exercised and a Point-to-Point is generally held at Bushley, near Tewkesbury.

¹³ *Mr Stokes was a great huntsman and helped to restock the country. At one time he had 39 cubs in his barn at Murrell's End, the previous year only 7 foxes having been killed during the season.*

THE VILLAGE WELL

In the "History of Redmarley" is recorded the following:

Many of the people who lived in the village used to be obliged to fetch their water from what is known as 'the Anchor well' which is at some distance from their homes. Miss Laura Commeline, a daughter of a former rector, bought the village well for their convenience. Before that it had been private property. It is cut through the solid rock to a depth of about 45 yards. The well was not transferred to anyone after the connection with the Commeline family had ceased, and at one time was in danger of being appropriated.

There were no funds either for keeping it in repair, but those who used it were in the habit of paying 1/- a year for this purpose. In the year 1890 (shortly before her death) Miss Commeline conveyed the well and well-house to the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being in trust for the parishioners. She charged them to come upon the owners of the cottages for the funds for repairs in Proportion to the rateable value of their property.

In the year 1891 £9/ 10/0d was collected from the owners and expended it in putting in two buckets instead of one (which made it easier to wind), in laying the floor with brick, and other improvements.

In 1894 the management of the well was handed over to the Parish Council but Parish Council minutes show that the financial responsibility was never fully accepted by the Parish Council. So, although in 1896 a committee consisting of A.J Symes, W Beach and W Browning was set up to arrange for the repairing of the village well and to have the work done and to draw up regulations for the use of the well, nine years later it was resolved "*that the clerk write to the owners of the well which are accommodated with water from the village well that if they do not see to its repair so that the water can be drained, this council will be obliged to make a very strong report to the Sanitary authority*".

In 1908 the scarcity of water and the fact that "*the lid of the well had fallen in*" was reported to Earl Beauchamp's agent, for several of the cottagers who used the well were his tenants. In 1910, the Rural District Council became involved – they sent a very strongly worded letter to the Parish Council together with an analysis of the water and "*the remarks of the Medical officer of Health thereon*" pointing out that "*Parish Councils are charged with the obligation of doing what was necessary to Parish wells*".

To this the Parish Council replied that they disclaimed any responsibility in connection with it and added that "*no payment for repairs had ever been made by them*" – which indeed was true.

Two years later Earl Beauchamp's name appears again for in October 1910 a letter was received from him asking if the council would "*take over the management of the well in the village when it is first put in repair*". Again the council decided unanimously that they would not take over said management. Meantime the villagers had to obtain their water elsewhere – sometimes from nearby houses

which had their own wells and sometimes from a tank of water brought by waggon from "Hillfields" which had its private supply.

In 1913 it is recorded that *"the village well has been out of order about two months in consequence of a broken chain having let the bucket down, thereby depriving the tenants of water there"*. Still the evasion of responsibility went on and the matter was never resolved.

In the meantime a private legal battle for mains water for the village had begun. Bores were sunk at Bromesberrow and all local wells in the village were affected. The well water could not be drunk without boiling and people drew it overnight so that the sediment subsided before it was used. Mr Beach declared that a clause in an agreement concerning the bores said that if wells in Redmarley were affected mains water had to be brought into the village. Despite the recording in parish minutes that the well was closed in 1930, it was still being used in 1950!

In 1940 the sinking of a very deep well to supply water to the American troops and hospitals in Welland (which was carried out in three months) completely finished the village wells which then brought up more sand than water. William Beach continued his fight but mains water did not come to Redmarley until after his death – in fact not until 1950.

Water supply continues to be an important problem; mains water now comes from Newent pumping station and an additional reservoir is now being built in the grounds of Hazeldene to make the position safe.

THE VILLAGE TODAY

Since the World War many changes have taken place in village life. It has become easier in many ways and with increased leisure more varied means of entertainment have come into being.

Around the Church are the varied organisations mentioned in an earlier section which cater for the social as well as the religious life of the community. The Church Hall – once the Upper Schoolroom and a village hall – is used by "teen-agers" learning ballroom dancing under a teacher from Newent, sometimes by a group of ladies watching a demonstration of electric washing machines or cookers (arranged by the Young Wives Guild), sometimes a meeting for a Womens' Institute meeting or a party, every three weeks for a whist drive, occasionally for rummage sales, weddings or twenty-first birthday party and in fact any kind of entertainment that people wish to arrange.

At the "Rose & Crown" more dances and whist drives are held, and during winter months, a lively group meets there for political discussions.

The Women's Institute was formed in 1944, Mrs Murray Andrews of the Down House being the first President and Mrs AJ Smith the Secretary. Fifty-one members paid their subscriptions at the first meeting and 23 more were proposed during the first year, making a total of seventy-four.

Monthly meetings were held in the evenings at the "Rose & Crown" and followed exactly the same pattern of those of today. Committee meetings were held in the afternoon for the first three or four years.

The faithful secretaryship of Miss Ruby Davis from 1947 until her death in 1954 should be recorded. A clock in her memory hangs in the Church Hall. She was followed by Mrs Christopher until 1956, and then by the present secretary, Miss Rouse. An interesting link was formed in 1947 with Jandowae, Australia, whose branch of the Country Women's Association contacted Redmarley because their President, Mrs Kettle, had the same name as ours.

While England was still suffering from post-war hardships, the Jandowae group generously sent us parcels of food and children's woollies. Letters and news are still exchanged and every Christmas a beautiful cake from Jandowae is cut at the Christmas Party. The 1957 packets of seeds were sent as Redmarley's present to Jandowae and it was a pleasure to hear, some months later, of Love-in-the-Mist from Redmarley flowering successfully in an Australian garden.

Weekly classes are sometimes organised by the Institute; for example, a class on lampshade making coincided with the coming of electricity to the village – and a drama group exists. The most interesting feature of recent Women's Institute life, however, has been the introduction of a purely Women's Institute Produce Show – the idea of Mrs Christopher who organised the first highly successful effort. In the 1957 Show there were 200 entries and the judge commented very favourably on the quality of the produce shown. She was particularly impressed by the home-made wine – the tradition of making wine is very strong in this village.

Membership has declined somewhat recently – 62 members being 'paid up' last year – probably due in part to television which is still a novelty in the village and from which every organisation is suffering at the moment.

Electricity is the last of the services which has revolutionised life in Redmarley cottages. Mains water came in 1954 and electricity in December of the following year. There is no mains drainage and calor gas and paraffin lamps are still used in isolated places and parts of the village to which electricity has not yet come.

Increased transport since the war has been perhaps the greatest boon to the housewife. Now practically everything one requires can be bought from various travelling shops that come to the village from Gloucester, Newent, Pendock or Ledbury – from children's clothing and haberdashery to frozen fruit and vegetables. And from paraffin and all kinds of hardware to Corona fruit drinks. Ice-cream vans tour the village in summer. Bread, milk, meat, vegetables, groceries and tinned goods of every kind for human beings and their pets are all brought round.

Two other valuable services are the Mobile Library that comes every alternate Thursday and from which any book on any subject can be requisitioned, and the mobile Children's Clinic which comes once a month, bringing not only valuable advice but such services as inoculation to all who need it.

SOME REDMARLEY CHARACTERS

One of the most vivid personalities in Redmarley was undoubtedly TED WATKINS the carrier, previously groom to John Symes of Innerstone Farm.

On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays he would set out for Gloucester, leaving at 8.0am and sometimes carrying as many as twelve passengers along the sides of his open cart (covered in winter). He called at the village shop, now the Post Office, and at any house where something was wanted – from a yard of ribbon to iron for the blacksmith.

All through Staunton he continued to call for orders, never writing one down and finally reached Gloucester in his own time. "*And how our bones ached*" recalled one early passenger! After a similarly leisurely journey back, he arrived in the village about 10 o'clock in the evening and blew his coaching horn at the top of the hill. People then went out to collect their "Citizens", the only paper then delivered except those that were delivered by post.

Ted is reputed to have smoked seven ounces of 'Stanfield' tobacco a week until he poisoned himself with it! After that he took to cigars and always kept a box of fifty or a hundred under the lid of the cart. The aroma, together with the heavy dust from the roads, must have added to the joys of the journey. He had only one horse which he never failed to sponge down and give a warm mash even if it was eleven or midnight before he reached home. On "by-days" Ted would sometimes take village children to Eastnor or British Camp.

WILLIAM BEACH of the Park Farm and the Camp was another. He was born in 1869 at the Park, a born wanderer who could not be kept at school.

Sent first to Miss Mantle's private school at Cobb's Cross, he was soon removed and sent as a boarder to Dymock, where he was also a choir boy. School, however, had no appeal, and he ran away home. On the way he "*forgot the turning*" and ended up with the team at the plough. For a time he attended Redmarley School, paying his 2d a week, and then gained a place at the Crypt Grammar School, staying during the week at his uncle's shop in Westgate Street, now the museum.

Again he moved, this time to Dursley, and began shepherding. Over the next few years he travelled constantly, never stopping in a town, until at the advanced age of fourteen he became an apprentice at Fielding & Platts. This did not last long and he returned to Redmarley and settled down to farming. He made two visits to New Zealand before settling at the Camp where he built the present house. Here he developed the growing of choice fruit and was one of the earliest farmers to use a lorry to market his fruit. He planted apple orchards and his son¹⁴ remembers going with him to Tewkesbury to buy plum trees, Tewkesbury then being the place to buy such things.

¹⁴ *Information from his grandson based on a diary that William kept.*

The village boys of his day tell how he used to put out a box of apples for them to eat on their way from school, saying they could help themselves and leave the trees alone! The boys kept to the bargain.

It was William Beach who fought for forty years to have mains water brought to the village, but he died just before this happened. He took an active part in village affairs, being a "Waywarden", an Overseer of the poor, a school manager and for many years chairman of the parish council.

His death on 19th May, 1946, is recorded in the school logbook with a note that flowers and a message of sympathy from the children and teachers were sent to his daughter.

Yet another character was JACK VAUGHAN. He was known as a "recluse" and owned both the cottage known as "Fox Cottage" and the much bigger house nearby, once the "The Rising Sun", but at that time a shoemaker's shop.

He lived for a time in the cottage, then moved back to "The Rising Sun", buying a cottage on The Causeway for £60 to put in John Daniels, then living at "The Rising Sun". "Fox Cottage", however, he left empty with the furniture complete, the clock on the wall, the sheets on the bed and hams hanging on the wall. Thus it remained until it was so overgrown with ivy that many a fox "holed up" there to escape the hounds and more than one man can remember climbing in as a boy to explore the place and finding only mouldering remains. Finally, years later, it was sold for a song, almost completely rebuilt and re-sold as a comfortable and attractive dwelling house.

In 1850, there was born in Hazeldene House (now empty, its beauty spoilt by a concrete folly – an attempt at bring light industry in the shape of a biscuit factory to Redmarley) CAROLINE ALICE ROBERTS, a great grand-daughter of Robert Raikes, the pupil and then wife of Sir Edward Elgar.

Dr Percy Young's "Elgar, O.M." (Published Collins 1956) describes a little of her early life in Redmarley where, as he says, "*she devoted much time to animal welfare, with a special affection for Persian cats, and to country Pursuits*". She was also something of a scholar, a poet and (mediocre) novelist.

"Alice and her mother, living at Hazeldene, were expected to occupy part of their time in good works. They were generous in their efforts. Alice arranged readings from Shakespeare, taking care that any lack of propriety in the text was adequately and often dramatically removed". She also sang in Pearsall's glees and played duet arrangements of Rossini's overtures at village concerts.

On the death of her mother in 1887, Alice removed to rooms in Malvern where Elgar was living and in 1882 her engagement to him was announced. Alice, previously "*a lonely and somewhat frustrated woman*" had found a purpose in life. "*With determination and affection, tact and reassurance and a simple faith she made Elgar into a great composer*".

On her marriage on 8th May, 1889 at Brompton Oratory, she wrote to Redmarley:

My Dear Friends at Redmarley,

I have received your present and send you many, many thanks for your kind thought of me. I shall value the beautiful water colour deeply as a remembrance of many friends of the days and years I spent in my old home, and although I am away from Redmarley I am sure you know that I take a great interest in the place, and wish earnestly for all good to you all there. I hope I may see many of the contributors, whose names are in the frame, which I shall keep with the picture, some day, and be able to introduce my husband to you, and give you many warm thanks in person, and tell you how your present is always before our eyes in our new home, reminding us of the kind thoughts of so many old friends, although you may be sure that I am not likely to forget Redmarley. You will see that these few lines are meant to convey my thanks to you all.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

C Alice Elgar

SOME DIALECT WORDS OF REDMARLEY

Pike .....	.....a hay fork
Glat; shard .....	.....hole in a hedge
Bodkin .....	.....whipple tree <i>(the pole to which a barrow is attached)</i>
Mullin .....	....horse's head bridle/working horse
Sling/slinget .....	.....a long narrow field
Pleck .....	.....a small enclosure
Frazzy .....	.....frayed
Fitcher .....	.....a brindled cat/a ferret
Nash .....	.....tender/delicate
Chevilled .....	.....chewed
Pitch/tump .....	.....a hill
Niegel .....	.....the runt/weak one
Spreethed .....	.....chapped
Screw .....	.....a very sick animal
Tiddler .....	.....a bottle-fed lamb

SOME INTERESTING FIELD NAMES

Starve Acre
Crofters' Butts (field with a bank suitable for archery)
Cocks Croat
Grimer's Pleck
Shank of Mutton
Baregrains
Flax Field
Big Cuckoo Piece
Crab Close
Brush Bed (a field where willow was grown – 1838)
Bloomy Hill
Windmill Hill

FLORA AND FAUNA

No early notes on the wildlife of Redmarley can be found, but careful lists of flowers, birds and animals that have been observed within the last five years are available.

The varieties of flowers are lessening with the more intensive cultivation of the land, the grubbing up of hedges and the use of weed-killing sprays. The scarlet poppies no longer make the cornfields brilliant, but lurk in the verges. The spreading campanula has disappeared quite recently, and the poisonous henbane was found in a cottage garden until about five years ago. The woodlands are still lovely with violets, white and blue, bluebells and wood anemones and the special glory of this neighbourhood the wild daffodils – but fields that once were golden with these lovely flowers have been ploughed and the daffodils banished to the hedgerows where they still hardly persist.

Our grandchildren unfortunately may never know the beauty of mixed woodland as it still survives in Darkham Woods or Mr Brazington's wood near Payford Bridge today, for land is always being cleared and where re-forestation does take place, conifers are planted instead of deciduous trees. The larch and the spruce woods on Cobhill (now Forestry Commissions land) have a beauty all their own but they cannot compare with the interest and variety of the woods of native trees where wild cherry, elm, lime, beech and oak grow in glorious confusion, making the country lovely at all seasons of the year.

The flowers, too, diminish below the thick shade of conifers, even the bluebells gradually die out, and only the bramble and rose bay willow herb take their place. In the natural woods are such treasures as the autumn crocus and the brilliant orange seed pods of the "Stinking Iris".

Birds and animals change too. The corncrake has disappeared from this district, as from so many others. Curlews have however increased. Myxomatosis wiped out the rabbits, and when they had gone the buzzards regularly seen over Darkham Wood went likewise, having lost their food supply. Hawks, too, have decreased in numbers while pigeons, blackbirds, starlings and sparrows seem to increase enormously, as do recently the tits who have become quite destructive just lately. After the death of the rabbit, the number of hares seemed to increase and one frequently sees one in the headlights of a car. However, the rabbit was not completely exterminated and there are now plenty of signs that there are once more rabbits in the woods and fields, though they seem to be living above ground and not in burrows.

On the following pages appear the names of trees and flowers that have, or can still be found in and around Redmarley.

TREES OF REDMARLEY

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Common Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
<i>Betula verrucosa</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Carpinus Betulus</i>	Hornbeam
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Spanish Chestnut
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Crataegus oxyacanthioides</i>	Midland Hawthorn
<i>Euonymus cannabinum</i>	Spindle
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild Cherry
<i>Prunus insititia</i>	Bullace
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile Oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Common Oak
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm Oak
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Great Sallow
<i>Salix fragilis</i>	Crack Willow
<i>Salix triandra</i>	Almond Willow
<i>Salix viminalis</i>	Common Osier
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Tilfs vulgaris</i>	Lime

WILD FLOWERS OF REDMARLEY

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	Basil Thyme
<i>Ataxia moschatellina</i>	Moschatel
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder
<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>	Fool's Parsley
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Common Agrimony
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Allia petiolata</i>	Jack by the Hedge
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Garlic
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	Chives
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Crow Garlic
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Stinking Mayweed
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch (Ladies Fingers)
<i>Apium nudiflorum</i>	Fool's Watercress
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Burdock
<i>Armoracia rusticana</i>	Horseradish
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Cuckoo-pint
<i>Astragalus slychphyllus</i>	Milk Vetch
<i>Ballota nigra</i>	Black Horehound
<i>Barbarea vulgaris</i>	Winter Cress (Yellow Rocket)
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>	White Bryony
<i>Callum vulgaris</i>	Ling (Heather)
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	King cup
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	Campanula (nettle-leaved) (Bats in the Belfry)
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Creeping Campanula (now extinct)
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse
<i>Cardamine amara</i>	Large Bitter Cress
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bitter Cress
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckoo Flower/Lady's Smock
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Knapweed
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed
<i>Centaurium minus</i>	Common Centaury
<i>Cerastium glomeratus</i>	Sticky mouse-eared Chickweed
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	Small mouse-eared Chickweed
<i>Cereifolium temulum</i>	Rough Chervil
<i>Chamaenerion augustifolium</i>	Rose Bay Willow Herb

Chelidonium majus	Greater Celandine
Chenopodium album	Fat Hen
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	Marguerite
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium	Golden Saxifrage
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle
Clematis vitalba	Old Man's Beard
Clinopodium vulgare	Wild Basil
Cochlearia officinalis	Scurvy-grass
Colchicum autumnale	Autumn Crocus
Conium maculatum	Hemlock
Conopodium majus	Earthnut
Convolvulus arvensis	Bindweed
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's Beard
Cynoglossum officinale	Hound's Tongue
Daphne laureola	Spurge Laurel
Caucus carota	Wild Carrot
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove
Dipsacus fullonum	Teasel
Endymion nonscriptus	Bluebell
Epilobium hirsutum	Great Hairy Willow-herb
Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved Willow-herb
Equisetum arvense	Common Horsetail
Erodium cicutarium	Common Stork's Bill
Erophila verna	Whitlow Grass
Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp Agrimony
Euphorbia amygdaloides	Wood Spurge
Euphorbia helioscopia	Sun Spurge
Euphorbia peplus	Petty Spurge
Filago spathulata	Spatulate Cudweed
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Fragaria vesca	Wild Strawberry
Fumaria borasi	Fumitory
Fumaria officinalis	Common Fumitory
Galanthus nivalis	Snowdrop
Galeobdolon luteum	Yellow Archangel
Galeopsis tetrahit	Common Hemp Nettle
Galium oparine	Goosegrass
Galium cruciata	Crosswort
Galium mollugo	Great Head Bedstraw
Galium uliginosum	Fen Bedstraw
Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw

<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's Foot Cranesbill
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Cranesbill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet
<i>Glechoma hederaceae</i>	Ground Ivy
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Cow Parsnip
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	Herbane (poisonous - now extinct)
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforated St John's Wort
<i>Hypericum montanum</i>	Mountain St John's Wort
<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth Cat's Ear
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's Ear
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Inula conyza</i>	Ploughman's Spitlenard
<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Stinking Iris
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag
<i>Juncus compressus</i>	Round Fruited Rush
<i>Knautis arvensis</i>	Field Scabious
<i>Lamium alb</i>	White Deadnettle
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit
<i>Lamium hybridum</i>	Cut-leaved Deadnettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Deadnettle
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow Vetchling
<i>Lathyrus missolia</i>	Grass Pea
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Privet
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Toadflax
<i>Linum cotharticum</i>	Purging Flax
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's Foot Trefoil
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Mny headed Wood-rush
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	Hairy Wood-rush

<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Greater Wood-rush
<i>Lychnis flos cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab-apple
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow
<i>Matricaria maritima</i>	Scentless Mayweed
<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	Rayless Mayweed
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medic
<i>Melandrium album</i>	White Campion
<i>Melandrium noctiflorum</i>	Night-flowering Campion
<i>Melandrium rubrum</i>	Red Campion
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>Mentha arvensis</i>	Corn Mint
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Mycelis muratis</i>	wall Lettuce
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Common Forget-Me-Not
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Yellow & Blue Forget-Me--Not
<i>Myosotis secunda</i>	Water Forget-Me-N0t
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>	Wild Daffodil
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water Lily
<i>Odontites verna</i>	Red Bartsia
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Rest-Harrow
<i>Orchis fuchsii</i>	Spotted Orchid
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green Winged Orchid
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star of Bethlehem
<i>Ornithopus perpusillus</i>	Birdsfoot
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel
<i>Papaver argemone</i>	Ivy Prickly-Headed Poppy
<i>Papaver dubium</i>	Long-Headed Poppy
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Field Poppy
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip
<i>Pentaglottio sempervirens</i>	Alkanet
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>	Great Plantain
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid
<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	Common Milkwort
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knot Grass
<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>	Black Bindweed
<i>Polygonum hydropiper</i>	Water Pepper
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Persicaria
<i>Potentilla anglica</i>	Trailing Tormentil

<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Common Tormentil
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Tormentil
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren Strawberry
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self Heal
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Corn Crowfoot
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus celeratus</i>	Celery-leaved Crowfoot
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>	Wild Radish
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Wild Rhododendron
<i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>	Gooseberry
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	Field Rose
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Rubus sylvatica</i>	Blackberry
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	Red-veined Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sagina nodosa</i>	Knotted Pearlwort
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent Pearlwort
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Wood Sanicle
<i>Sarothamnus scoparius</i>	Broom
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Figwort
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	Skull-cap
<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Orpine
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Ragwort
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford Ragwort

<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field Madder
<i>Silene cucubalus</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Sinapis alba</i>	White Mustard
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Charlock
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Black Nightshade
<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>	Field Milk Thistle
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Spiny Sow Thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Sow Thistle
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Corn Spurrey
<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	Field Woundwort
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Betony
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	Bog Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed
<i>Stellaria neglecta</i>	Greater Chickweed
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Comfrey
<i>Symphoricarpos rivularis</i>	Snowberry
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood sage
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Larger Wild Thyme
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Jack-Go-To-Bed-At-Noon
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil
<i>Trifolium macranthum</i>	Slender Trefoil
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Dutch Clover
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot
<i>Ulex europaeum</i>	Gorse
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle
<i>Urtica urens</i>	Small Nettle
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	Marsh Valerian
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Valerian
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Mullein (Aaron's Rod)
<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall Speedwell
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brookline Speedwell
<i>Veronica chamchamoedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell

Veronica montana
Veronica officinalis
Veronica persica
Veronica serpyllifolia
Viburnum opulus
Vicia angustifolia
Vicia cracca
Vicia hirsuta
Vicia satira
Vicia sepium
Vinca minor
Viola arvensis
Viola odorata
Viola reichenbachiana
Viola riviniana

Wood Speedwell
Common Speedwell
Buxbaum's Speedwell
Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Guelder Rose
Narrow-leaved Vetch
Tufted Vetch
Hairy Vetch
Common Vetch
Bush Vetch
Lesser Periwinkle
Field pansy
Sweet Violet
Pale Wood Violet
Common Violet

BIRDS OF REDMARLEY

Blackbird
Blackcap
Brambling
Bullfinch
Buzzard (gone with rabbits)
Chaffinch
Chiffchaff
Crow
Cuckoo
Curlew
Dove (Turtle)
Duck (Mallard)
Fieldfare
Flycatcher (Spotted)
Goldcrest
Goldfinch
Greenfinch
Gull, common
Gull, lesser black-backed
Hawk
Heron
Jackdaw
Jay
Kingfisher

Lapwing
Lark (sky)
Lark (wood)
Linnet
Magpie
Martin (house)
Moorhen
Nightingale
Nuthatch
Owl (barn)
Owl (tawny)
Owl (little)
Partridge
Pheasant
Pigeon (wood)
Redwing
Robin
Rook
Sparrow (house)
Sparrow (hedge)
Sparrow (tree)
Starling
Swallow
Swift

Thrush (song)
Thrush (mistle)
Tit (great)
Tit (blue)
Tit (marsh)
Tit (long-tailed)
Tree-Creeper
Wagtail (pied)
Wagtail (yellow)
Warbler (garden)
Warbler (grasshopper)

Warbler (willow)
Wheat-ear
Whitethroat
Woodcock
Woodpecker (green)
Woodpecker (spotted)
Woodpecker (lesser spotted)
Wren
Yellow Hammer