

## DAWLISH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

# Newsletter

March 2014

Website: [www.dawlishhistory.org.uk](http://www.dawlishhistory.org.uk)

Dear Members,

Well Spring is now on the way and so is our **Annual General Meeting**. We will be hoping to fill our current vacancies and we have some prospective candidates. However, we will need someone to manage the **book sales**. This requires the use of a car and storage space. The role involves selling books via the website and at meetings as well as manning stalls at local events with some help. Please fill in and return the nominations form if you can help.

As ever, can I encourage you all to consider producing items for the newsletter—long or short—on any topic which is likely to be of historical interest to our members.

Regards, Mike Ralls - acting Editor

### Charlton House & Bucklands - Maurice Criddle

Having been born and brought up in Dawlish and been around the town all my life, I think I am right in saying that Tricia wasn't quite correct in her article about East Cliff Road in the last (January 2014) Newsletter. Charlton House Hotel was run by Henry Buckland and Ron Ward, and later by Henry and his wife. Tricia mentioned Buckland brothers but they were builders. Henry Buckland and the two Buckland brothers are the uncles of Toby Buckland the TV gardening expert, who is also a native of Dawlish.

Henry and Ron were acting members in the early days of the Dawlish Repertory Company and appeared in quite a lot of productions. Henry was also joint founder (with Jim Holman) of the Dawlish Arts Festival which still exists today after more than fifty years of providing Music and Drama in the town.

### WWI Project - Sheila Ralls

We are working with the Museum, the Shaftesbury Theatre, the British Legion, the URC and Town Council to create a programme of events, which will be spread over the coming four years to commemorate the centenary of WWI. This will include: displays at the Museum telling local stories and recreating life at the time; a display about the Jackson family in the Manor House, where they lived then; and the Shaftesbury Theatre will be putting on a production of "Oh What a Lovely War" in August this year. The British Legion is planning a themed Summer Show.

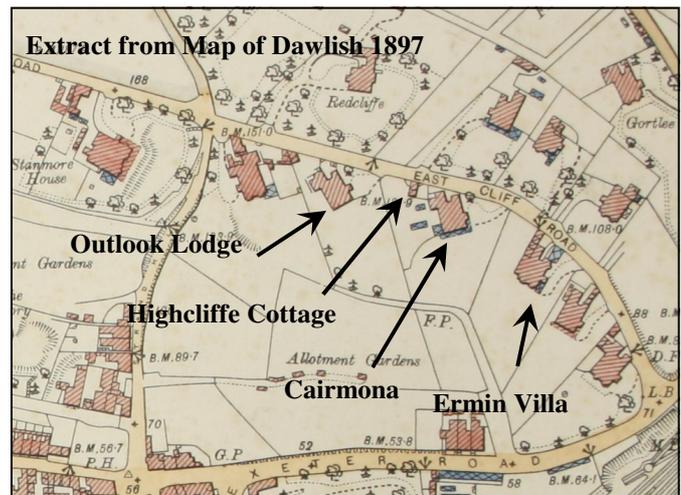
**Our next meeting will be on  
Tuesday 1st April,  
2.00pm AGM at The Manor House.  
Followed by History of Force & Sons  
by David Force**

We have members working on researching the background of the names on the War Memorial and will publish a booklet of the results. We also hope to take part in an exhibition next year, which will display photos and documents relevant to the period. If you have any stories of local families involved in WWI, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

We are currently waiting to hear if our bid for funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund has been successful.

### East Cliff Road (2nd Instalment) - Tricia Whiteaway

ERMIN VILLA (HURST) (and PIPER OAK) had 14 rooms. It seems Peter Ermen, a cotton manufacturer from Lancashire but actually born in Holland, was the first owner at least from 1861-80 as he named this house. In the 1880s his brother moved into the newly built house Derncleugh in Holcombe. William Jones was there in 1901, then from 1910-30 it was Edward Augustus Salmon. During WWII a whole school called Clyde School was



evacuated from St Leonards-on-Sea and this name was briefly taken by the house. It was a co-educational boarding and day school run by Miss Harvey, with a uniform of grey and blue, but a great number of local children attended as well. They would walk in crocodile to Whickham Lodge for lunch or dancing classes. More details in the booklet 'Dawlish Schools'. The school return to St Leonards by 1946. In 1963 there were plans to convert the house into 3 flats with garages, and the following year for a 8-storey block of flats. This obviously didn't happen.

The coach-house belonging to this house retained the name CLYDE COTTAGE when it was converted into a dwelling about 1947 for Mr. Whitehouse.

CAIRMONA – HIGH CLIFFE (1885): had 16 rooms. The Collins family, an Exeter family, lived here from 1861 to 90, latterly the Misses Lucy & Marian Collins. For a few years from 1891-1902 it was Edward Pardoe, his wife and six children, followed in 1910-1 by William Carnegie Barnes (previously from Charlton House?), then a Miss Robinson 1923-6. Having moved from The Clint where he lived in 1926,

Albert Amos and his family Alice, Joyce, Nellie, Violet, Winifred moved in here until at least 1951, with a servant Eliz Lamb, when it was a hotel. He was here during WWII



and, probably due to his influence, Jewish evacuees were installed in Ivy Croft. In 1959 there was an application for a house or bungalow with garage to be built

adjacent to Highcliffe Hotel for Frank & Rosina Ruth Leonard – but was refused. However, in the mid 1970s a house was built in the grounds (No.9) which in 2014 is due to be demolished for yet another block of flats. About 1976 Highcliffe House was demolished for Highcliffe Flats.

HIGHCLIFFE COTTAGE, originally the coach-house for Cairmona built around 1860 then was probably converted to a dwelling in the late 1940s. Owner Mr Leonard Barron died in 1962, and his wife moved on as in 1965 there was a proposal for alterations to make a bathroom and an extra bedroom for Mrs Marjorie Nicol. Around 1987 Mrs Eliz Sharman, originally from Shaldon, moved in and added two rooms for a dining room with bedroom over. She was followed in 1999 by the author, Mrs Patricia Whiteaway.

LA QUINTA – IVY CROFT (1930)– OUTLOOK LODGE (1980) 14 rooms: On the 1861 census only servants were in charge so there had been a previous occupier, and in an advert that appeared in October that year was for the sale of “costly and handsome furniture made of mahogany and rosewood. The house to be let unfurnished.” Presumably Chris Millman came here as he is listed between 1866-70. Then in 1871 it was Colonel Richard Germon, followed by Carolyn Lydia Williams 1878-82. in 1883-92 Mrs Harriet Popham, then 1902 Mrs Esdaile (from Clevelands in the High Street), 1910 Mrs Caroline Jones, 1919-23 Major Salmon followed by his widow Annie Salmon till 1935. During WWII it was a hostel for the Jewish Beth Habonim school who returned to London in 1945. It was then purchased by Exeter as in 1947 it was the

Royal Western County Institution Nurses Home and later in the 1980s it was used as a day centre for youths with special needs. By 2007 it was demolished for 15 Outlook Flats.



**DAWLISH BROOK and its BRIDGES – Muriel Bradshaw (1st Instalment)**

To visiting holiday makers Dawlish Water or The Brook, may seem an innocent stream draining the inland hills, and gracing our public places: home of the black swans and other

exotic birds, and delighting us with a series of waterfalls before gently reaching the sea to compete with the incoming tides. Those of us who live here know better!

Sometimes the sea wins: an easterly gale and very high tides can cause the Brook to ‘back up’, flooding the Lawn and roads. Or a sudden and prolonged rainstorm will send a surge of water raging down from Little Haldon Hill sweeping huge amounts of mud and debris before it. Until the early 19th century the area where the Lawn is now was an unhealthy and treacherous marsh, crossed safely probably only by going down to the beach or travelling a mile inland. In 1787, Mary Ann Galton of Birmingham recorded in her journal that she had visited Dawlish, then a collection of thatched whitewashed cottages built by a stream crossed by a “crazy wooden footbridge”.

We think this bridge was where the Station Road Bridge is now. Before the making of the Turnpike road from Exeter to Teignmouth (1840) an old road ran from the Coastguard House down to the beach, along where the station car park is now. To be able to cross the Brook outlet here on foot or on horseback would make good sense and of course this crossing has been maintained and developed ever since, “come wind or weather”. It became known as the Strand Bridge.



The Brook was a barrier dividing the social life of the two sides of the town. All felt the need for safe bridges: building and maintaining them was high on the list of public works, but coping with the sudden violent floods was a big problem as the parish account books (from 1597 onwards) show. For example:

*1597: paid for mending of the bridge at the higher end of the New Haie....vjd (six pence)*

*1764: paid for repairing of Strand Bridge and for rails, furze and stakes and binders used in turning ye waters 15s 6p.*

Early in the 19th C the population of Dawlish was growing fast, and building land was much sought after. In 1803 a wealthy gentleman called John Edye Manning made a development plan. He had bought up a lot of the land on both sides of the marsh and then undertook the building of The Strand, Queen Street and Strand Hill. This involved a massive amount of earth moving to create level building sites. Where would he put the spoil? Into the marsh, of course! This was all part of his entrepreneurial plan to make the town into a more healthy and pleasant place. So the Brook was channelled and the marshy ground drained and made firm. Useful bridges could now be constructed. It is recorded that 8 new plank footbridges were set in place and a fine Arched wooden bridge was built in 1810. It was where the Jubilee bridge is now.

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