

## A History of Hartley Wintney and its Commons

The village of Hartley Wintney today is largely an 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century development straddling the main A30 road, quite a distance from its historic centre. The old village of Hartley Wintney was situated near the Priory, Church and three-field system of agriculture it supported on a ridge between today's village and the M3 motorway. Historically the Manor of Hartley Wintney consisted of a number of small settlements surrounded by large areas of common and heathland. These settlements were close to St. Mary's Church, at Hartford Bridge, near The Lamb on the corner of Hunts Common, Diple Green, Hazeley Heath and at Phoenix Green. There was a later development at West Green. Over the centuries the land between these areas of habitation has diminished by encroachment and small enclosures, which over centuries has reduced the scale of the commons. Today the remaining commons are known as Causeway, Cricketers, St. John's, Phoenix, Hunts and West Green as well as part of Hazeley Heath, but originally all but the outlying commons were an extensive band of poor or marginal land known as the waste of the Manor. This mixed woodland, rough pasture and heathland extended from Bears Green, near Murrell, through Phoenix Green, all the way to the River Hart at Hartford Bridge and beyond this to Hartford Flats.

The early village settled around its Cistercian Priory. Geoffrey FitzPeter who is named as the '*fundator ecclesiae nostra*' (1) (our founder) of this 12<sup>th</sup> century nunnery was Lord of the Manor of Hartley Wintney. He gave an island of land, known as Winta's, surrounded by the marshy banks of the River Hart, to the Cistercian nuns, who came under the jurisdiction of Waverley Abbey near Farnham. The Prioress became Lord of the Manor. The name Hartley Wintney is variously described as 'deer pasture of the nuns' or Hartley as 'Hart wood or clearing' (2). For almost 400 years the nuns held the Manor of Hartley Wintney with its wastes, or commons and their peasantry held rights to the use of this common land. In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, after the dissolution of the monasteries, Edward Zouch, who had built the present Bramshill House held the Manor, which was heavily mortgaged and by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the last of the Zouch family died, the estate was in Chancery; bankrupt. It was managed for many years by James Field until purchased out of Chancery by Paulet St John in 1754. It descended to his grandson Sir Henry Paulet St John Mildmay of Dogmersfield and was held by this family until sold to Lord Calthorpe of Elvetham in 1915 (3). The Manor had several demesne farms including Wintney and Grange, let to tenant farmers. The Little Manor of Hartley Wintney (4) centred on Causeway Farm, had been known as Glassners in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This manor had also been owned by the Priory and then by Zouch. In 1837 it was owned by Lord Calthorpe. (5) Adjoining land at Hazeley Heath belonged to the Manor of Putham and had been owned by the town of Basingstoke from 1227/8 (6). It was sold by the Corporation of Basingstoke to Charles Shaw Lefevre of Heckfield Place in 1818 (7).

Although the village had likely always been a place to rest on the roads from London to the West Country and from Reading through to Odiham, travellers would have endured journeys across sandy or muddy routes across the commons. These tracks would have varied according to time of year and weather. Travellers would have to slough through a quagmire of thick mud; requiring early construction of a causeway across the section known as the Lake. Heathland areas were easier to traverse as they dried very quickly. Charles Kingsley's daughter Rose, wrote in 1892 about Hartford Flats '*Where can you find such roads as ours, level, clean, and dry as any garden path, made of the fine hard gravel of the Upper Bagshots? Half an hour*

*after a shower.... Mud is unknown .... For the sand is sharp and porous, drying up as soon as it is wetted'* (8). That was unless you hit a quagmire or bog as she called it. *'And the horror of the bog with its quivering hummocks of tussock-grass remained one of the delightful terrors of their childhood, more specially as a stray cow on one occasion, and a reckless hunter's horse on another, had to be dragged -half dead - from its depths by men with cart-ropes from the neighbouring farm'* (9).

Following the establishment of the Hertford Bridge, Basingstoke and Odiham Turnpike Trust an Act for the partial re-alignment and repair of an existing road between Odiham and Hartley Wintney was passed in 1739. This was for the section between Hartford Bridge Hill and Odiham. (10). It allowed the trustees to *'divert, turn, alter the Course or Path of any Part or Parts of the said Roads, so as to shorten or improve the same through any Moor or Waste Grounds'*. The roads from this time were established routes through the centre of the village, built with drainage ponds. They included several along the east of what is now the High Street, at Hunts Green and another near The Grange at Phoenix Green and can be clearly seen on Isaac Taylor's map of 1759. These ponds, along with others, may have existed prior to the road being surfaced and strengthened, but with the run-off from this harder and less-permeable surface they were likely to have been enlarged. This was most likely the date when an all-important brick-built bridge was erected over the River Hart at Hartford Bridge, replacing what was believed to have been a clappers-bridge (11). The cost of this work was paid for by a toll and a gate was erected at Phoenix Green for the collection of this charge.

On Christopher Saxton's map of 1575 the settlement here is marked as 'Hertley Row', although if a row of properties existed here at this time little remains of them. A few businesses had prospered here prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century but these appear to have been inns to service travellers. In addition to The Lamb there was the Blue Anchor, which had been owned by a William Jeblett prior to 1666 (12). This may have stood opposite The Lamb where a building here contains late mediaeval fabric (13). Also in 1754, on the site of or next to the later brewery, was a house owned by the Willmer family, sold to Thomas Caesar a blacksmith (14). The stabilisation of the turnpike route would have created more favourable circumstances for the establishment of new businesses. In 1759 (15) there is little shown next to the road and this may have been because the Manor, including all its commons, were in Chancery until 1754 and any potential developers would have to apply to the Lord of the Manor for permission to enclose. The Baptist Church had been built here amongst a proliferation of inns and some distance from the established church in June 1807. In almost all cases at this time chapel members were tradesmen (16). Mostly self-employed, they enjoyed a freedom from the influence of the political and doctrinal views of an employer. They would have encouraged men to leave the temptation of alcohol, gambling and rough living and join their congregation. The close proximity of their chapel and the availability of land alongside a main thoroughfare would have been an incentive for many to set up trade here. More men would have arrived with the establishment of the Hartley Row Brewery. In 1828 Jonathan Mackenzie purchased 5 acres of manorial waste from Lady Mildmay behind his house in Hartley Row (17). This house had been part of the property owned by Thomas Caesar the blacksmith and was purchased by Mackenzie in 1822 (18). In 1836 Mackenzie, then noted as a brewer, sold the business to William Cave of Elvetham (19). This business flourished under Cave's ownership, with opportunities for work and the arrival of labourers the need for artisans' dwellings increased. Many of these cottages may be seen surrounding the central commons. Hartley Wintney's prosperity and growth was

enhanced on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1838 when the railway arrived with a station on recently enclosed waste at Shapley Heath (later named Winchfield Station). Initially this was the final stop on the route to the west with coaches available from here to Hook and Basingstoke. The railway had brought employment to the area initially for labourers and later for platemen, postmen, delivery drivers and office staff. Shapley Heath was a late replacement for a preferred site at Elvetham, but in the event, after much debate, Fleet Pond and Shapley were chosen. Elvetham was favoured by some, as with Cove heath it formed *'a very large tract of land (formerly waste land) now, and for many years past, has remained in its original state of heath.... it is said there are upwards of 10,000 acres of land, all which would require to be first worked with the spade, which, at £5 an acre, would be the causing of £50,000 to be spent amongst the labouring cultivators, independently of what would be expended in the employment of bricklayers, carpenters', and various other tradesmen'* (20). At a time when the burden of the poor on the country was very high this was a compelling argument but it is likely Lord Calthorpe of Elvetham would have opposed the building of a station on their newly enclosed land. On the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1839 the line was fully operational as far as Basingstoke.

In 1842 the entire village consisted of 80 houses including Hazeley House and Brackles Farm, now the Manor House, and others which had shops, beer-houses and workshops attached. There were 30 cottages, 12 farms and four mansions including West Green, Dutch House, The Grange, the newly built Vicarage, St. Mary's Church, the Baptist Chapel and the brewery. There was also a malthouse and tanyard at Dipley, the Union Workhouse near Hartford Bridge and several public houses, including the White Lion at Hartford Bridge, The Lamb, The Crown and King's Head in Hartley Row and the Phoenix at Phoenix Green (21). The total population was 1,370 men, women and children (22).

The west side of the road was developed first, followed by the east, so that by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century much of the route was lined by shops, houses, and one farm known as Clark's. The population rose from 761 in 1801 to 1,945 in 1871 and this nucleus village, built entirely on former waste of the Manor, was still known as Hartley Row. The large houses shown on the first OS map were Bracknell's on the corner of Bracknell Lane, with Beckett's next to it, Witney Villa (now The Limes), Hartford House, Monachus House and Kenward House. Hartley Wintney is still shown on maps as a separate settlement next to St Mary's Church.

## **The Commons General**

The commons or wastes were not used for the main agricultural purposes of growing crops and grazing stock. Arable land and pasture was anciently held in strips in a three-field system near St Mary's Church and Dilly Lane. Those fields were named 'Well', behind the church, 'Brick' on the south of Dilly Lane and 'Higher' on the north of Dilly Lane near Grange Farm.

The Lord of the Manor owned all title to the waste and commons within the manor but was often willing to enclose pieces of land in return for services or to those willing to purchase it. These people became freeholders. In feudal times the Lord also had serfs or peasants living on his land who worked for him and in return for their service were in part rewarded by being able to use commons and waste for grazing or collecting wood, or fuel. In time these rights were made law within that Manor, and became known as Common Rights, which were administered by the freeholders at the Manorial Court. The copyholders or those who held their property through the right of

the Lord had to apply to the Manor for permission to pass on their property after death, or to sell it and each time a heriot would be paid to the Lord; usually a cow or other valued possession. At this court any common rights would be recited.

No evidence for these early rights exists for Hartley Wintney but in Odiham the Customs of the Manor were laid out in 1588. These include details of laws which prevented the overuse of these valuable rights or their sale to people outside the Manor. To keep the commoners in order the Manor appointed an official known as a Hayward. In Odiham in 1588 they recorded *'The homage say that there is and time out of mind Hath been an officer within this Mannor called an Hayward which officer hath been usually chosen by the homage of this Courte upon information of the rest of the tenants of his sufficiency for that office. And the Haywards office is to walke the wood & ffields of this Mannor to see that hedges bee well kept in reparation the woods from spoyling & that the common be not surcharged And to Impound such Cattle as he shall find within the waste of this Mannor whose Owners have no Interest of common there'* No commoner could *'surcharge the common ... but use his common only according to the rate of two sheep for one acre... to penn & fold their sheep on their ground when they shall see cause... the homage doe presente that no man within the parish shall putt any sheep into the common .... unless they be printed with the Towne print upon payn of ten shillings & the print to remain with the Hayward'* Other laws dealt with the size of timber which could be taken and the number of cattle which could be grazed; usually only as many as could be kept on their own land during the winter. (1) The Hayward was also responsible for the Pound which in 1842 was situated behind the thatched school. (2) Here straying animals or pigs found without rings through their noses would be impounded until the owner paid a fine. This fine went to the parish to support the poor. When the new school was erected here in 1876 the pound was moved to a site along Green Lane nearer Phoenix Green. The common rights invariably included Common in Pasture (grazing), Turbury (turf and peat), Estovers (wood) Piscary (fish) Pannage (grazing for pigs) and in Soil (soil, gravel and sand). In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century there are a number of properties in Hartley Wintney entitled to the right of common in pasture for cattle and sheep. Other animals grazed would commonly have been geese and donkeys or asses. There is a case of theft from the commons in 1801 when John Hanmore was prosecuted at the Old Bailey for stealing the property of James Field who stated *'I live at Hartford-Bridge: on the 27<sup>th</sup> November I lost two asses from the common close to my house'*(3).

The rights were attached to the property, not the person and in Hartley Wintney manorial court documents between 1774 and 1827 (4) about twenty copyhold properties changed owners, with the common right being confirmed in the court rolls. In all but one, including John Bird's tanyard, they had right to common in pasture. One or two properties also had right of turbury, including the home of James Sherwin and one of William Toovey Hawley's properties at West Green. In 1777 an example of illegal encroachment was dealt with at the Court Leet when Jonas Lawrence who had erected a drying shed for leather and a bark barn upon part of the common was told both had to be removed (5). While the Lord of the Manor may be happy to sell common land he would not allow encroachment.

However in 1802 it seems William Toovey Hawley of West Green House did buy the right to the whole of West Green common outside his home from those who *'are seized or entitled to a Common or right of common upon the piece or parcel of land called West Green'* (6); twenty men signed away their rights. The actual sum of money paid to them is missing from the document, which means it may not have been made law at that date, but if paid it was to go the parish for the benefit of the poor.

This may have been around the time the poor allotment, a one acre site, still just about visible on West Green, was passed to Hartley Wintney Overseers of the Poor to allocate land to the needy for growing produce for their own use. In 1832 Alfred Jasper was paid to measure these and allotments at Kiln Corner, Phoenix Green for the parish (7). Why he was not asked to also survey the allotments next to the workhouse is unknown.

In 1842, when the Tithe Map was produced, the commons in Hartley Wintney included 19 acres west of the Turnpike (Hunt's Common), 51 acres at Phoenix Green, 31 acres at Schools & Vicarage Commons, 47 acres on The Lake and The Street (now the Golf Course and part of Causeway), 43 acres at West Green, 2 acres at Stoaten, now Stoken Green, 5 acres at Diple Green and 100 acres at Hazeley Heath. In addition there was a considerable acreage of common land along the roads throughout the village. In all the wastes and commons in 1842 amounted to just over 341 acres (8).

Hartley Wintney had no General Enclosure Act, although there appears to have been a couple of attempts to enclose land. In May 1832 John Goodchild wrote to Lady Mildmay that *'I have only mentioned to Mr Hawley and Mr Husband about the inclosure who have put their names, If your Ladyship required all the Freeholders I think they would do likewise but I should be glad if that could be dispensed with, because my mind is not to lend myself to any encroachment'* (9). No more is known about this venture. In 1846 there was an attempt to enclose almost all the commons. An advertisement appeared in the Reading Mercury on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1846. It advertised a meeting to be held at White Lion on the 26<sup>th</sup> to consider the proposal to enclose *'Diple Green, Stoaten Green, West Green, Hazeley Heath, the Lake and Cricket Green, New Lodge Green, School Common and Vicarage Green, Phoenix Green and Turnpike Common'* (10). So great must have been the objections that no more was heard of this proposal, which would have deprived the Hartley Wintney residents of all but a few acres of their commons and the village would have become a vastly altered place. This proposal was likely to have been made by Henry Carew St John Mildmay, eldest son of Lady Jane Mildmay, who took his own life on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1848. Although it appears the residents and manorial tenants were happy with small encroachments and enclosures which ate away at the commons, and gave the Lord a constant income, wholesale enclosure depriving them of all their rights and open space was a step too far.

In 1866 the only enclosure of any size took place. Covering just over 30 acres of land it provides a perfect example of how those with common rights were compensated. Today this is the site of the Golf Club but the area had been known as The Lake and Moor Hill and was part of the common known in 1842 as the Lake and Cricket Green (11). The name lake is an indication of how boggy the ground would have been, and why centuries earlier a causeway would have been built over it to aid travel over this well-used route through the old village.

In 1866 questions were asked about the use and rights relating to this land which Lord Calthorpe required to provide a carriageway leading from his estate to the Turnpike Road (A30), although he described it as *'benefitting the residents of Hartley Row with increased productiveness of the land and employment of labour'* (12). The population of Hartley Wintney at this time was 1,746, of which 80 had common rights. These rights were for *'cattle levant & couchant'* as this would have been some of the better, meadow-like land within the commons. The language was picturesque: the right was limited to the numbers of beasts levant (getting up) and couchant (lying down) on the farmer's holding in the winter months (13) Calthorpe paid £60 an acre to buy

their rights, a small percentage of which went to the Lord of the Manor and the remainder was shared between them.

In 1899 Hartley Wintney RDC drew up a scheme for the regulation of the commons, which were to be managed by them despite still being owned by the Lord of the Manor (14). They were to appoint officers, stop encroachment and allow public access for recreation. They were entitled to fence in ponds or pits and any cricket greens to stop animals straying onto them or prevent accidents. As society became more aware that these open spaces were of general benefit for leisure activities laws were enacted to prevent their demise. It became more difficult for the Lord of the Manor to sell off land as he had to prove any enclosure would benefit the village as a whole. This effectively stopped the development of Hartley Row. All commons registered by 1<sup>st</sup> January 1926 were protected (15).

Today there are still properties with common rights. At Hazeley Heath they include an assortment of rights registered in the 1960s after many decades of use with very light regulation. These rights have been established by smallholders and house owners over several generations, but some of the rights exercised today have no historical basis. Bracken, berries, nuts and leaf mould would have been garnered but these would not have been written into the law of the Manor. (See appendix 1) There are also a few with rights to the central commons. (See appendix 2)

### **Encroachments on the common**

It could be said that almost all of the village of Hartley Wintney today is an encroachment on former common land. Certainly all of the dwellings on the road through the village and some of the other landmarks within it would have been subject to the need for manorial approval. The village Workhouse built prior to 1791 on the Lake and Moor Hill Common was enlarged when it became the Union Workhouse in 1835. The Vicarage, 1840, and St. John's Church, 1870, were built on part of Oak Common, as was Oakwood School. The first village school was erected in 1831 at a cost of £617 on the Cricket Green. The Victoria Hall, 1898, and Police Station were both built on part of Phoenix Green. The Gas Works was built on Hunts Common in 1861. There were numerous small enclosure acts which show how common land was gradually absorbed by development.

The earliest known encroachment was in 1275 when the *'Prior (Warden) of Mertone College made an encroachment upon the King's demesne in Heysole, containing three acres of the common pasture'* (1). This implies the area known today as Hazeley Heath was in part cleared by early settlers and managed to provide pasture for cattle and sheep. It has since been proven that researchers made an error when translating this extract from the Hundred Rolls entry and it was Merton Priory which held the land from the King (2). Merton held this land from 1209 when *'a charter of John de Port granting to the Prior and convent of Merton (co. Surr.) in free alms one hide of his land in Heckfield, a wood, a meadow, common of pasture for their cattle with his demesne cattle, pasture and mast for their pigs in his wood without pannage, and sufficient wood for firing and repairs'* (3). Merton retained the land until the Dissolution in 1558. In 1347 Sir John Foxley was licensed to enclose 2,500 acres in Hazeley and Bramshill to make his park, now the Bramshill estate (4). In 1399 a case of trespass in the manorial court shows crops grown and animals raised here at Hazeley (5). The claim and counter-claim by Stephen Banaster and Thomas Aylyerd were for damage to Stephen's oats, and for the damage to Thomas's pasture and pannage by Stephen's pigs. Thomas also accused Stephen of *'entering a certaine croft*

*of his...and lopping divers trees of different kinds and carrying away the wood'* (6). Sadly it does not identify the trees growing here.

It is not until many years later that we have further evidence of enclosure in Hartley Wintney. In 1795 the Rev William St John was granted four acres of land lying near his mansion. In 1801 the house had been sold to John Anson Smith and the land was described as '*all that piece or parcel of land (four acres) lately fenced in and enclosed by William St John from the waste of the Manor*' (7) When it was decided St. Mary's was too far removed from Hartley Row for most parishioners the Parish applied to the manorial court for permission for St John's Church to be built. On the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1869 – *we present that an application having been made at this court on the part of The Hartley Wintney Church Building Committee for permission to enclose a certain piece of Land being a parcel of the Waste of this Manor & Hundred situate near the Parish Schools in Hartley Wintney containing one acre*' (8). Part of the money to fund this Church came from the sum Calthorpe paid for enclosing former common in 1866 (HRO 50M63/C32) Many of these applications were for small plots to enlarge the estates outside the main village. Henry Singleton of Hazeley House was granted permission to enclose a parcel of the waste of just over two acres in front of Hazeley House between the house and the public highway. There was also an application for a mausoleum in the garden (9). A strip of land just over an acre in size was sold to John Measure of Sherwoods House on the road to Diplely from West Green. Each of these applications would have meant money in the pocket of the Lord of the Manor. The Lord was not averse to cashing in even when it was for the good of the village. When the parish approached him for land for a reservoir in 1885 he received £125 from them for two acres of land at Hazeley Heath, where they could extract water from four springs and by means of newly laid pipes store it in the reservoir they had constructed (10).

At Hartley Row as houses and shops were built there were enclosure applications for land in front of their properties. Two applications have survived; one in 1869 for Lord Calthorpe relates to a house occupied by Mr Rogers and a shop leased to Mr Charlton, consisting of 109 foot of frontage. The other was Mr Goodchild's. He already had a small apron of land in front of the shop but wished to enclose a further parcel 19 foot in width, probably the whole width of his butcher's premises, and from 13-19 foot in depth (11). These applications were probably made to keep vehicles away from the front of their property and to display goods but can still be seen today in the unusual width of the pavements in Hartley Wintney. The reason why the north and south of the street had such a wide strip of land between them is unknown, unless initially it had been utilised by the Turnpike Trust. After the railway arrived toll-gates were seen to slow down travel by road and were a disadvantage to trade. In the 1860s many were in decline and during the 1870s Parliament dissolved many of them. With the Local Government Act of 1888 all responsibility for main roads devolved to County Councils.

In 1985 District & Parish Councillors finally decided to tackle the problem of vehicles damaging the Cricket Green by providing a tarmac car park. It had been a perennial problem. In 1899 it there were complaints that the Cricket Green was being cut up and damaged by carts driving across it, but although various ideas had been raised over the decades, including the erection of posts and the digging of trenches vehicles still managed to pull on to it. This tarmac car park opposite The Cricketers was the site of the former Fire Station (12) It has been stated that the Parish Vestry funded the first volunteer fire brigade in 1830 (13) but a letter from Lord Calthorpe to Mr Hawley at West Green House, suggests an earlier date. In July 1823 he wrote '*The*

*Parish of Hartley Wintney have raised £120 for a fund for a fire engine, an excellent engine has been purchased and a house to receive it. The fund is at Odiham Bank* (14). They had a shed erected on the edge of the cricket green to house their equipment and by 1884 they were still relying on a bugler to raise the alarm. *'When a fire broke out a rush to Henry Bailey's house started the procedure, he would sound the alarm with his bugle alerting the driver of the pump, Mr Elkington, who lived near Hatton Pond. He would then have to borrow a couple of horses, most likely from the brewery, before they could even move from the pump from cricket green headquarters. It is no wonder that few people had faith that the team would turn up before the fire ran out of control'* (15). No documents relating to any enclosures at Hunts Common, Dipley or Stoken have been seen.

### **Turf, Gorse and Heather**

The heathland areas of the village of Hartley Wintney were also considered waste of the Manor but they were very productive 'waste'. Unrecognisable from the heathland we see today at Hazeley and Warren Woods, they were open land covered in heather and broom, interspersed with fir-trees. The name Bramshill is taken from an earlier name; 'Hill of Broom' (1) and in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Sir William Cope of Bramshill described the view from his home. *'The scenery of the Park is, as I have said of great beauty. Situated on the lower Bagshot sands, the ground is much broken, and clothed in the wilder parts with fern and heath. The former in some seasons grows to a very great height....the Scotch fir too here grows self-sown, in great quantities...the wild heather blooms in rich and luxuriant beauty on the velvet turf, as though the foot of man has never been there to trample on its blossoms'* (2). This rather romantic view of the area was not, as Sir William knew, the truth, as man has shaped this land over centuries. Rose Kingsley wrote *'Over the moors, throwing out their scouts before them like a well-disciplined army, advance from year to year the blue-black ranks of the great fir-tree invasion. It is war to the knife between heather and fir-trees. But steadily, surely, the advancing force has made its way eastward since the day that James the First planted his groups of Scotch firs at Elvetham, at Bramshill, and on Hartfordbridge Flats'* (3). Postcards showing the road through Hazeley Heath in the 1920s show an open almost tree-free landscape, which would most-likely have been how it looked for hundreds of years.

Both heather and gorse were used for both household and trade use in ways long forgotten; gorse was planted as it was such a valuable commodity. It is likely turf and peat would have been cut from Hartley Wintney for centuries. Rose Kingsley described the process in 1892 as *'A "turf" is a circular sod of heather some eighteen inches in diameter, with three inches thickness of soil and matted roots, besides the heather tops eight to fifteen inches in length. The turf- cutter uses a heart-shaped, pointed spade turned up almost at right angles from the stout handle- This he pushes before him under the surface roots of the heather-leaving only bare gravel below'* (4). There was no coal in the locality and wood was always in short supply; owned by the Lord and only meted out to those with rights as small sticks or branches for kindling or repairing hedges. In 1699 an agreement stated that 20,000 peat a year could be cut *'out of ye marsh & upon ye Grange'* (5). The marsh referred to here is now the site of Causeway Pond and the golf course. Both peat and turf, which is really the same product, are produced from the roots of plants or semi-submerged plants, especially heather, which over centuries rot down to produce a product suitable for burning. Usually taken from the wettest part of the heathland where acid water allowed for the



slow-formation of peat providing a thick mass of dense material most prized for giving heat. At a rate of 20,000 a year about seven homes could be serviced. Cut from the heath in spring or early summer in a chequerboard pattern to promote root re-growth and stacked to dry before being carted to the house, it is estimated that each property required 3,000 turves a year for fires and cooking plus gorse to liven up their fires. The right to cut turf was known as Turbury. Generally it was a slow-burning fuel but if the top heather was left on there could be a flare of flame, quite dangerous to householders. Today remaining heathland areas are covered in trees which would not have been tolerated when villagers depended on turf, as the heath was managed primarily to allow for the annual cutting and all trees would have been pulled as saplings and used for kindling (6).

Heather was used to thatch houses and to make heather brooms or besoms. In 1841 there was still one traditional broom-maker left in Hartley Wintney. James Sartin made a living from this ancient trade where long heather was used for the head of the broom and saplings or coppiced wood for the handles. Although James was living in the middle of the village much of his time would have been spent on the heathland cutting heather and stacking it to dry. Whilst living on the heathland broom-makers traditionally made their shelter from turf sods, with a heather roof.

Mr Phillips' family made good use of the heather at Hazeley Heath when living at Mushroom Cottage in the 1890s they grazed one donkey a pony and two goats and their chickens ranged on the heath outside the cottage. They collected firewood, bracken and acorns for their pigs and their pig-house was made from wood, turves and heather from the heath. This use of heathland products for housing animals was common practice when families living on a marginal income were able to house their valuable livestock from their common right to the produce (7).

Gorse and Broom were also used for thatching hay-ricks, for lying on muddy roads to provide traction for carts and for making brooms (from which they get their name). Broom is a beautiful plant described as '*the handsome butcher's broom with its glossy leaves and red berries growing close against their grey stems*' (8). Gorse was especially valued for providing a fierce heat so essential when baking or firing a kiln. Bracken was also a very valuable plant. The variety in the growth of the plant was described in 1892. '*The bracken hides the heath all round with its graceful fronds, green in summer, rich bronze or pale gold in autumn. It is a capricious plant, this bracken - the only fern of our moorlands- and grows dwarf and stunted on the upper ground ....But on the sheltered slopes of the moor, and down in the oak wood that join it, the bracken thrives, growing often five or six feet high*' (9). Primarily used for animal bedding, pigs would also eat it. Again it was useful for 'quickenings' a fire, both domestic and commercial and for strengthening roads. Affidavits taken in 1974 regarding the use of Hazeley Heath confirms that almost all the local residents cut the bracken for litter. Examples of this practice include Cornelius Williams who bought White Cottage in 1919. He turned out 20 cattle and horses at this time to graze ...he tethered up to 5 or 6 goats and a pig and cut bracken for litter and pea and bean sticks. John Albert Smith was born in Hazeley Heath in 1920. His father used to get bracken as litter for pigs, pea and bean sticks and dead wood for burning on fire. His son cut bracken until about 1950 (10).

### **Clay, sand and gravel extraction**

One of the traditional 3-fields being known as Brick Field indicates an early association with the brick-making trade. Brick Field, situated south of Dilly Lane, was

likely to have had a kiln and was one of several sites where this former village trade took place.

In March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1699 Edward Zouch demised to John Smyth '*a cottage in H/W with a quarter of an acre of ground thereunto belonging with another parcel of land called Great Clarkes with all commons ---commodities thereunto belonging liberty to dig clay to make bricks and tiles on ye premises or on any part of ye commons belonging to Hartley Wintney*' (1). This land was part of Little Hartley Wintney Manor. Great Clarke's field stood on the road towards Elvetham east of Vicarage Hill and it is quite likely the cottage was on Vicarage Hill itself as this was all part of that small Manor (2). Rights to extract clay from any part of the commons of Hartley Wintney may account for the numerous ponds on the central commons. One, near The Vicarage and Oakwood Infant School, was partially filled-in quite recently to form a small car park. In 1842 a large field between St. Mary's Church and Vicarage Hill was known as Kiln Field (3).

The majority of references to the extraction of clay relate to land in the Manor of Putham at Hazeley Heath, just over the boundary with Hartley Wintney. In October 1656 a kiln with 25 acres of land was let to Abraham Attwater (alias Hill) (4) In 1629 this was a small acreage of recently enclosed waste, let to Henry Inwood of Heckfield providing he would act as tithing-man for Hazeley (5). In 1713 the Mayor Burgess and Aldermen of Basingstoke, owners of the Manor Of Putham let this now extensive business premises to John Smith of Bramley and Thomas Smith his son. It was described as '*All that brick kiln and edifice or building – all houses, outhouses and a close of land....all that piece or parcel of waste ground parcel of the heath call hazell heath* [Hazeley heath] *lying before the mouth of the said brick kiln... with free liberty ...to dig clay in the said heath near unto the said kiln for the making of bricks and tiles*' (6). It is unclear whether the John Smith at Hazeley was the John Smyth who rented the property near Vicarage Hill due to Smith/Smyth being a very common name in the village. In 1747 the interest in this kiln was let to John and William Cooper (7). In 1801 it was leased to brickburner Benjamin Read and his wife Mary (8) and two years later William Bailey of Bramshill was added to the document, where they were still entitled to dig clay from the heath near to the kiln. The clay pit can be seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS map of 1870 just north of the brickworks, It covered a site almost as large as the brickworks and outlying buildings; an indication of the amount of clay taken from the heathland here. No later leases have been seen but by 1851 (9) Thomas Smith was a tile maker at Hazeley Bottom and John Knight and his nephew William Tyler were brick makers here. In 1860 the brickworks was owned by the Pool family. They were still operational in 1938 when the OS map was produced and the buildings occupied a site to the north-west of Hazeley House.

When William Hellhouse of Hartley Wintney died in 1692 he left bricks and tiles in his kiln worth £12 although this appears to have been a secondary trade for him. He was also a farmer and his crops were worth six times more than his clay goods (10). It is not known where his kiln was but it may have been on the corner of West Green Road and London Road near where Victoria Hall stands today. The land given for this hall was, according to David Gorsky, formerly the site of allotments. Kiln allotments as they were known were slightly west of the site of the building, where Kiln Gardens stand today. They were named after an area known as Kiln Corner which extended on both sides of the main road in 1898 when the hall was built. Where the kiln actually stood here is unknown.

These kilns probably produced rough bricks and tiles, made from clay dug each summer and overwintered to enable frost to break it down before being hand-

formed and kiln-dried. A similar operation at Elvetham was assessed for profitability in 1821 <sup>(11)</sup> Each week they made 4,500 building bricks, 4,500 large draining tiles, 1,000 smaller tiles and 1,300 plain tiles and 200 bushels of lime giving an income of over £38 against a cost each week of just over £20. They employed one man to make the goods, another to set the kiln and two assistants for tending the kiln which had to burn 24 hours a day. They purchased wood to use in the kiln but also 1,000 furze bavinS (sticks from furze or gorse) each week for which they paid £2. The use of furze in kilns was essential as it produced a very 'quick and lively' heat. What is unusual here is there is no mention of that other produce of local heathland, the turf, although as this exercise in profitability came some years after the enclosure of Elvetham heath and at a time that it was being planted with trees, turf may have been in short supply.

Sand and gravel were extracted from the locality until the last gravel pit was closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 1966 <sup>(12)</sup> when Hartley Wintney Rural District Council's contract with Foster Brothers of Hook expired. The various sites of these pits can be seen on Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prior to the formation of Turnpike Trusts each village was responsible for the upkeep of their roads and gravel would have been dug for this purpose. Later side roads would still have been made up using this valuable material. There are few documents relating to its extraction as it was such an everyday event but we can have an idea of where the material was dug from a couple of extant documents. In 1914 Mr Wilson of Hare's Farm was hauling sand and gravel from Hazeley Heath for the contractor building the sewage works in Hartley Wintney <sup>(13)</sup>. From the rear of Hare's Farm there was a track up across Hazeley Heath to the gravel pits. From affidavits given by local men in 1974 it appears that some of them were used to taking sand and gravel from Hazeley Heath Pits. Richard Williams born at White Cottage in 1920 stated his family dug sand from the sand-pit near a cottage called Winchcombe and John Albert Smith used to collect gravel until 1965 <sup>(14)</sup>.

It is quite difficult to be sure whether some of the ponds and undulations on the central commons are from clay and sand extraction, an attempt to drain the land for road-making or if they have always been there. In 1832 John Goodchild, was praised by Richard Smith, Surveyor of the Turnpike Road for having filled in pits '*protecting Coaches, Carriages and Travellers in general from getting into the sand pits which was made so near the main road... the more dangerous especially in A dark Night*' <sup>(15)</sup>. This would not have pleased all parishioners as some would have collected sand from here, especially as this was a time when there would have been many houses under construction.

There were numerous ponds often filled with rubbish and brackish water. In 1866 the Inspector of Nuisances for Hartley Wintney district made an application for an order '*to abate nuisances on the Waste at Hartley Row... a stagnant pond opposite Mr Rogers called Prince's Pond [Hunts Common] at the entrance to Hartley Row, a pond called Dance's Pond [Hatton], two ponds on the common near to the cricket ground and another near Mr White's cottages, which were very filthy and injurious to health. An order was made to cleanse Dance's and Prince's and to fill up the other three*' <sup>(16)</sup>. Another was filled in when the brewery was extended by William Cave in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century <sup>(17)</sup>. In 1990 there were still eleven ponds in the village, eight of which were in the centre of the village <sup>(18)</sup>.

When the last gravel pit closed on Hazeley Heath the land had to be filled and footpaths reinstated; this work was carried out in January 1967 <sup>(19)</sup>. A 3-acre site nearby had been used by Hampshire County Council for storage of highway materials since 1958. The lease with Lord Calthorpe expired in 1965 and on the '29<sup>th</sup> September

1966 all the commons at Hartley Wintney, including Hazeley Heath were transferred to the Council by the Lord of the Manor' (20). With the transfer of this land to Hartley Wintney RDC they proposed that the HCC site was used for a refuse tip. A letter in March 1967 states *'this site is located in the centre of the existing controlled tipping area and it is, therefore, most desirable that the tipping should be extended to that area in due course so that the contours generally can be raised to the same level and the whole area reinstated'* (21). This implies that post-extraction gravel pits were used for tipping prior to the 3.245 acre site, opposite Hazeley House and adjacent to the B3011, being utilised for this purpose. According to Janis Harvey (22) there was a problem with gipsies who camped here and the tip closed 1976. The tip is now located at Springwell Lane. There was a short-lived proposal to re-open the gravel pits in 1970 to supply material for building the M3 motorway. The main objection cited to using Hazeley Heath pits was the disruption caused by the heavy vehicles needed to take the material through the centre of the village to the site of the motorway (23).

### **Trees and the planting of heathland**

Most of the commons today are covered in trees but historically, unless planted by the landowner, these were generally managed to provide common rights. This did not include the use of large trees, unless it was for the fruit of those trees; especially the acorn. Annually the acorn crop would have been gathered by local families as described by the Vicar of Hartley Wintney in 1868 as *'in the acorn season the poor live al fresco, old, young, and middle-aged all work at it, even toddlers of two or three years old'* (1).

In 1868 they were probably collecting a harvest from the oaks set out in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century by Lady Mildmay. This initiative, prompted by a call from Admiral Collingwood for oaks to be planted for the building of ships, was noted by William Cobbett in 1821. *'I perceive that they are planting oaks on the "wastes," as the Agriculturasses call them, about Hartley Row; which is very good; because the herbage, after the first year, is rather increased than diminished by the operation; while, in time, the oaks arrive at a timber state, and add to the beauty and to the real wealth of the country, and to the real and solid wealth of the descendants of the planter, who, in every such case, merits unequivocal praise, because he plants for his children's children. The planter here is LADY MILD MAY, who is, it seems, Lady of the Manors about here. It is impossible to praise this act of hers too much, especially when one considers her age. I beg a thousand pardons!-I do not mean to say that her Ladyship is old; but she has long had grand-children'* (2). What few had considered was how important acorns could be for the poor. In 1868 in Odiham (no figures given for Hartley Wintney) they were able to collect *'between 60-100 bushels of acorns per family for which the payment of 1/- (5p) a bushel'* was a sizeable bounty when the average wage for a labourer at this time was 11/- (55p) a week (3).

As large houses were erected on the commons it was essential to guide visitors and tradesman to their door. Usually this entailed providing an avenue of trees to designate tracks to their homes. When the Hampshire Field Club visited Bramshill in 1897 it was noted that Lord Zouch had the Scotch Firs planted at Bramshill in 1610 (4). In 1890 Sir William Cope refers to this avenue of trees almost 1 ½ miles long leading towards Eversley, which *'is named the Fir avenue, and is of extreme beauty and grandeur'* (5). He goes on to say that he believes Zouch was an eminent horticulturalist and that these were not common Scotch Fir but an uncommon variety possibly from Lombardy (6). According to the Oxford Dictionary of National

Biography Zouch had a physic garden in Hackney and at Bramshill where *'besides designing the house, he also designed the gardens. A keen collector of shrubs and trees, he imported Scottish firs....The reduction of Zouch's wealth and patrimony was due largely to his passion for horticulture'*. Cope also refers to the double row of elms to the bridge and then of oaks on the road from the house to Hazeley Heath and that *'Some remains of oaks of great size stand on the south-eastern side of the house, and from the way in which those which still exist are disposed, they seem to have formed an avenue to that side of the original mansion'* (7) (Here he is referring to the house which stood here prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> century) Evidently Charles Kingsley had referred to the trees here as *'James the First's gnarled oaks up in Bramshill Park, the only place in England where a painter can see what Scotch firs are'* (8). Other examples exist within Hartley Wintney. Isaac Taylor's map of 1759 shows an avenue of trees near the pond by The Grange leading across the turnpike and through Phoenix Green in the direction of the old Priory. This pond is believed to be the fishpond attached to the Priory. When Henry Hawley had his causeway across West Green built it appears he lined it with trees and when Lord Calthorpe purchased The Lake common in 1868 and made his new drive to his mansion he planted a row of Wellingtonia trees, some of which still stand today.

In almost all areas within north-east Hampshire and north-west Surrey land, once enclosed, was either utilised for plant nurseries or planted with trees; usually fir trees. These gave the new owner of the land a cash-crop, but extinguished much of the former heathland within Surrey and Hampshire (9). Although there was no large scale enclosure in Hartley Wintney there was a general enclosure of all the commons (but not its open fields) at Elvetham in 1813. In 1818 Lord Calthorpe's Agent, James Harris, reported *'As the planting season is drawing near I trouble you with this to inform you how we are going on in the common and likewise the favour of your further instructions. We have at this time about 100 acres ready for planting and shall I believe get about 30 acres more finished before spring. Of this I think from 20 to 25 acres should be planted with Scotch Fir and the other part might grow underwood'* (10).

The land enclosed included Star Hill and land south of the Hartford Flats, including one section known as the 'Black Bushes'. Much of it was former heathland and it is interesting to note the quantities, costs and all the varieties they planted here. *'Quick we have not more than 100,000 of all descriptions fir for this season, but as you mentioned your intention to sow a great part I am collecting all of the seeds I can for that purpose. I can procure plenty of acorns but am fearful I shall not be able to get enough Ash, Birch, Alder and Sycamore. Hazel nuts I must buy at Weyhill Fair and I am in hopes of getting a quantity of Beech masts out of Oxfordshire. I have made enquiries of the different nurserymen round here of the price of plants in case you should think it right to purchase which are as follows, Alder, Ash, birch, Withy and Oak plants 18 inches high 20/- per thousand. Bedded Scotch fir for the same price- Two year Scotch seedlings 5/- per thousand-the last I think likely to suit our purpose they might be properly sorted and the strongest I would plant out this season'* (11). The land known as Black Bushes was also planted, but with potatoes. In 1838 they harvested 300 bushels and by 1839 900 bushels (12).

It is likely that estate purchased at least some of their plants from John Armstrong's nursery at North Warnborough which although bankrupt in 1815 was purchased by John Shilling whose main nursery in Hartley Wintney was twenty acres known as Grange Moor north of Fleet Road. It was owned by the Mildmay's but surrounded by Elvetham Estate. John Shilling traded here until 1842 when he passed

it on to his sons Stephen and Joseph and despite trying to sell off many of the plants Stephen was also declared bankrupt and the business was sold in 1864. In 1862 when Stephen Shilling had offered his surplus stock for sale it included large evergreens, deciduous trees, American plants (rhododendrons) stock and dwarf roses and quick and fruit trees (13). At this time he still had a nursery in North Warnborough as well as Hartley Wintney, but due to a land swop between Mildmay and Calthorpe in 1859, the nursery had been moved to Vicarage Hill (14). From 1871 until his death in 1885 Charles Shilling, not Stephen's son but possibly a relative ran this nursery from a thirty-acre site near The Elms in Hares Lane between the High Street and the Gas Works, known as Hill Nursery. He also retained the nursery at Vicarage Hill.

In 1881 the nursery in Hares Lane was almost destroyed when the Reading Mercury reported *'Heath fires have been very prevalent around Hartley Row during the late rough and windy weather hundreds of acres has been burnt. The most serious fire occurred on Tuesday on the heath, just above Mr Shilling's nursery. The flames appeared in several places at the same time, and owing to the high winds the fire raged with great fury until it had burnt itself out. At one time it seemed as though the flames would have destroyed Mr Shilling's nursery and two cottages. A large number of persons were on the heath, but they were powerless to arrest the flames'* (15). In 1891 his son Charles Robert Shilling is a seedsman, nurseryman and florest with a shop in the High Street next to Porter's. It is not clear if he still had the land in Hares Lane but by 1911 he is living at the nursery in Vicarage Hill. Heath fires were of course dreaded by the local population and fir-trees were blamed for starting some of them. *'In the month of May, when turpentine is rising and oozing from every crack in the rugged red bark of the firs....a white column of smoke is too often seen to rise on the moor. The heath is on fire. Some passer-by has dropped a lighted match or knocked the hot ashes out of his pipe, or the fir-woods have been fired by some incendiary to spite their owner for an old grudge. At night these fires are a splendid sight. We have seen a great bog turned into a seething cauldron of flame half a mile across. But in the clear sunlight of noonday the effect of the line of fire running along the ground and leaving black desolation behind it, is even more ghastly. The worst of all, however, is when the fire gets hold in the fir woods. Out of the dense white smoke come the shouts of men for every one in the parish leaves his work and turns out to fight a big fire, the ring of the axes, the roar and hiss of the flames, the crash of falling trees cut down to stay their progress and the sharp crackle of burning furze. Round the outskirts man, woman, and child are armed with fir-boughs, and beat down the tongues of vivid flame that lick up the heather about the fir-roots. And now and again the fire catches a big fir, and with the report of a cannon rushes up to the topmost branches, turning it into a tree of living flame'* (16).

There is no indication whether the land south of the A30 near Blackbushe Airport was forest or scrub prior to WW2. But with Rose Kingsley's descriptions of bog and heather, fir and gorse it seems as if it was mostly heathland. In 1892 she saw an amazing variety of plants here. On the dry heath were *'that strange, leafless parasite, the lesser dodder which lives on the heath and almost smothers it in its tangle of crossing red threads. In one or two favoured spots ...the dark blue head of Gentiana pncumananthe rises through the pink carpet of heather'* Near bogs she noted the *'snowy silk tassels of the cotton-grass; orange late into the autumn in places with the seed spikes of the bog asphodel.... the sweet-scented lesser butterfly orchis or the spotted orchis, we brush against a bush of bog myrtle, the 'Sweet Gale' that fills the air with aromatic fragrance. The pink Pedicularis grows in wet grassy places. The slender trailing stalks of the bog pimpernel strung with its fairy bells of the most*

*delicate shell-pink, creep over the surface of the damp black earth. And beside it we find that strangest of all bog plants, the little carnivore, with its cruel red hairy hands and exquisite two-inch spike of minute white flowers, the sundew or fly-catcher.* (17) In 1942 when the airport was established as a base for the Free French it had two runways. One north of the A30 as it is today and a second on the south. To build a stable surface for planes to land limestone was imported to the site which has altered the makeup of the land here especially after the runway was abandoned and gradually disintegrated. Today the site is overgrown and few, if any of the plants Rose saw can be seen today.

### **Army use of the Commons**

In addition to selling off parcels of land the Lord could also gain income by allowing use of the commons; generally these included shooting, military manoeuvres, the sale of larger trees and coppicing, brick and tile-making and charcoal production. In Hartley Wintney the use of the local heathland by military forces, especially Hazeley Heath and Warren Woods was extensive. The reason that large areas of common or heathland were so popular for military training is that the Army was not as popular or as well-funded as the Navy and there was no permanent 'home' for them before Aldershot became a permanent camp in 1853. The only way they could practice was to have mock battles at camps held in the summer when men from all over the country would be able to travel to a suitable site. These areas had to be free of growing crops and without fencing, making the commons in and around Hartley Wintney particularly valuable.

The earliest known use was during the Civil War when in May 1644 '*The Royal Army of 6,000 foot and more than 4,200 cavalry had been more than three weeks inactive... Waller was about Hartford Bridge and Basing*' (1). On the 10<sup>th</sup> May '*Waller hovered about it and Hartford Bridge in considerable force, marching towards Basing on the 21<sup>st</sup> in company with Colonel [Richard] Norton, who was in command of the Hampshire contingent which consisted of a regiment of foot and another of cavalry*' (2). According to Sir William Cope (3) when remarking on the size of the upper floors at Bramshill he said that; '*there is a tradition a whole troop, or a regiment, was accommodated in this vast attic*'. What the residents of this community felt about having these men in Hartley Wintney or Bramshill is unknown, but according to Tristram Hunt (4) '*As the fighting ground on, so the plunder, the destruction, the murder and misery continued. Across every county at war, crops were lost; houses burnt, and loved ones butchered. For the millions of agricultural workers who survived on a precarious economic base the loss of a horse, or one year's harvest, or a working son could be disastrous*'. With the local population estimated at around 5-600 residents, living in just 78 dwellings (5) the effect on their lives would have been enormous.

In 1679 and again in the 18<sup>th</sup> century there are examples of baptisms and burials of military men or their children at Hartley Wintney; not sufficient for evidence of an annual summer camp but enough to be sure the land was used regularly for military purposes. In 1721 General Henry Hawley purchased West Green House from the estate of William Shipway (6). He was already Shipway's tenant and would have known the area was suited for military purpose. The legend that Hawley's troops were trained at Hartley Row and that he had a causeway across West Green common to the house of General Ligonier rings true, as they were both preparing for the Jacobite Rising of 1745. John Ligonier, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl Ligonier was born in

France in 1680, a member of a Huguenot family of Castres in Southern France. He emigrated from France to England in 1697, and it's believed he moved to Dutch House c1740. This same year on the 10<sup>th</sup> May the London Gazette reported Major General Henry Hawley was promoted to Colonel of the Regiment of Dragoons lately commanded by Charles, Duke of Marlborough. The men were neighbours but also comrades-in-arms. Two letters between the men have survived. On January 21<sup>st</sup> 1745 Hawley wrote to Ligonier from France *'the French are making scaling ladders at Ypres; their most likely target is Ostend'* (7) an indication perhaps that they were likely planning a campaign. In February 1746 Ligonier wrote to Hawley from Perth during the Jacobite uprising; *'we are all becalmed here and dare not move forward for fear of starving'* (8) General Hawley was buried at Hartley Wintney in 1759.

One of the greatest disruptions to daily life would have been the encampment of 1792 when a wide area of land stretching from Hartford Flats to Warren Woods was set out for a grand military manoeuvre. This site was the second of a three-phase military exercise. Led by the Duke of Richmond and Colonel Montcrieff the first stage was held at Wickham Bushes near Bagshot, the second at Hartford Bridge and the third at Caesars Camp near Aldershot. There were three days of manoeuvres when it was estimated that 50,000 people turned up to watch the troops (9). These spectators would have travelled by coach, horse or on foot and many slept overnight in their carriages near the camp. Given the population of Hartley Wintney was very small the village must have been overwhelmed. Due to widespread uncertainty about the situation in France the Defence of the Realm Act (10) passed in 1798 gives an exact account for the numbers living in the village in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century; total men able to serve their country aged 15-60 given as 132; on horseback 20, on foot 50, 20 willing to act as pioneers or labourers, 14 willing to act as servants with cattle, 11 as servants with teams, 8 to act as guides. They could bring the following arms for their defence; 10 swords and 5 pistols and they could defend the village or take with them 6 felling axes, 46 pick-axes, 50 spades, 20 shovels, 30 bill-hooks and 12 saws. A glimpse of just how few lived in the Parish and how this camp, right on their doorstep must have affected daily life.

There were also large numbers of journalists present. Popular magazines gave their verdict on the event. The Lady's Magazine reported that when they arrived *"they may indeed be warranted in asserting to their friends that they saw a great deal of smoke, much dust, and many soldiers – but at a great distance"* (11). An indication of how much of a spectacle it became was a report that the Duke of Richmond was attended by two footmen; both were dressed in white which was most unsuitable given the terrain. According to newspaper reports in the Public Advertiser and the Sunday Gazette the King and Prince rode over daily from Windsor to observe the proceedings. The weather was extremely wet and their visits to the second phase of the camp at Hartford Bridge were curtailed and the troops moved back to Bagshot. Unfortunately a heavy rainstorm when the troops made the night march to Hartford Bridge meant the camp-site was a swamp and officers and men were ill from the effects of the weather and by drinking contaminated water. This did not deter the production of a new comic opera entitled 'Hartford Bridge or the Skirts of a Camp', no doubt a reference to the ladies accompanying the troops, described in the Lady's Magazine as *"well-dressed sprightly females"*. It played at Covent Garden (12). and must have had wide appeal as the opera was staged 36 times in 1792 with Elizabeth Clendenning or Clendillon playing the lead role as Clara and it replayed in 1793/4 (13).

When Aldershot became the permanent home for the British Army in 1853 this did not lessen the need for training grounds further afield. Indeed part of the



training of military personnel was sending men across unfamiliar terrain to test their map-reading skills and then to have skirmishes between various battalions. Throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> century long reports appeared in local and national newspapers about these manoeuvres. In September 1871 the Times correspondent wrote *'this morning I rode the whole length of the Hartford Bridge encampment. What was a few days ago only a faintly defined track, but is now a well-worn road, wet and deeply rutted where the firs stand close, runs along the whole south of the Camp, leading quite up to Bramshill. The best way to see the Camp is to follow this road without stopping going on as far as Hazeley Heath, where the Cavalry are, and then to ride back slowly through the whole length of the tents. Riding towards Bramshill I came to where a summer or two ago a fire had run through the firs, burning the heather and scorching the trees, some of them to death. These were being cut down and split up into firewood, which was stacked in cords by the roadside ready to be carted away. Excepting the tents, the scene reminds one of an Australian or New Zealand bush'*. This was a large camp as another correspondent wrote *'General Caroy's division consists of 11,977 troops – Cavalry 1,137; Royal horse Artillery 164; Royal Artillery 328; Royal Engineers 153; Infantry 5,607 – total 7,839. Reserve forces – Militia 2,757; Volunteers 1,831 total 4,588. The infantry lie along Eversley Common while the cavalry are at Hazeley Heath...the Artillery and Engineers at Bramshill Park. Here his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales arrived on Saturday night ...he is expected to stay throughout the manoeuvres'* (14).

It wasn't just large number of troops engulfing the village as there were also camp followers and spectators. In 1889 this was described as *'the whole of the morning heavily-loaded carriages traps and vehicles beyond description were driving along the country roads, already thronged with pedestrians on their way to the scene of the operations. By 12 o'clock the open expanse of Hartfordbridge Flats – which is a common covered with heather and furze, lying between the villages of Blackwater and Hartley Row, and admirably adapted for military manoeuvres was fringed by lines of spectators assembled some four or five thousand strong....The Hampshire Battalion and the Yeomanry Cavalry concentrated at Fleet and the remainder at Hartley Row'* (15). While this would have been good for business it would have been problematic for the common land. Large numbers of vehicles passing through and over the land, horses, people, fires and the digging of wells and cesspits would have left their mark. Maps of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century show few features used by the military except for a rifle range near Warren Heath, used by volunteers, an area marked as Marking Bull Butt and a Danger Flagstaff.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the land was still in use although not reported in newspapers. During WW1 it is likely that men would have been trained here and many used it during WW2. The local Home Guard unit, once formed, had a lookout at an old disused tower on a ridge behind Hares Farm, then known as Pigeon Post, as this was where clay-pigeon shooting took place (16). There is a locally famous photograph of Private Hazell of the Home Guard with Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke who lived at Witney Court during WW2. The Times in 1940 (17) shows soldiers relaxing as they watched a cricket match at Hartley Wintney. According to local reminiscences Causeway Farm was requisitioned and the 51<sup>st</sup> Highlanders and a Canadian Regiment were based in the village leaving the cricket green damaged by army trucks (18). The Royal Engineers were based near the entrance to Purdie's Farm at Hazeley Heath where the remains of their camp can still be seen in the woodland (19). There were also Nissan huts and other buildings erected on the Central Commons. The land was requisitioned from the Elvetham Estate in 1942, although it appears it

was used by the army earlier in the war by an informal agreement. The requisitioning took place to ensure that any land would be re-instated post-war but there was a real struggle to get the WD to agree to restore it. In 1948 the Clerk of the Council wrote asking them *'to not only remove the defence works but also the remainder of the rubbish left behind'* (20). In a longer letter sent in January 1948 he had explained the problem as *'throughout the war period the portion of the Hartley Wintney Commons near the Hartley Wintney Senior School was requisitioned and numerous buildings were erected ...[they] have now been removed, but their concrete foundations and rubbish of all kinds have been left behind....This particular portion of the common is used by the children attending the school as a playing field... the Council are most anxious for the rubbish and debris to be removed'* (21). The WD had stated in 1947 that they had no labour available for the removal of concrete bases and suggested the Council settle the matter by compensation, but it seems that either no compensation was paid or that the Council were adamant that the WD clear it. There is no correspondence showing how the matter was resolved.

The same problem seems to have occurred at the Tank Testing Station site in Hazeley Heath. In March 1943, a further 6 ½ acres of additional land, formerly a gravel pit, was requisitioned from Mrs Scott Murray of Heckfield Place, just on the boundary with Hartley Wintney. The Training Establishment REME used the southern section of the land while OCTU (Officer Cadet Training Unit) RAC stationed at Sandhurst used the northern section. The gravel pit was to be used by both sections (22).

In August 1946, local MP Mr Skeffington-Lodge asked the Secretary of State for War whether he would make a statement on the proposal to acquire Hazeley Heath, as a training area for tanks. He replied *'The only portion of Hazeley Heath which the War Department proposes permanently to retain is a small area of approximately one acre, where special equipment, constructed at a cost of £13,000, has been installed for testing armoured vehicles'* (23). In 1947 they listed the buildings erected at Hazeley Heath as two corrugated asbestos-type Nissan huts, one 55 foot long and the other 33 foot, a brick-built cookhouse 16 foot by 14 a small store and two latrine blocks; one of which was used by the ATS. They had been valued at £127 and were offered for sale to Mrs Scott Murray (24). Hazeley Heath ceased to be a training area for troops from Aldershot on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1947 and it was noted *'every effort will be made to ensure all hulks and any other equipment are moved to the new training area...it is essential that the heath is clear in order that the WDLA...make arrangements for the release'* (25) In January 1947 the War Department Land Agent wrote in a letter headed 'Restoration in the Public Interest' that *'the normal process of de-requisitioning and payment of compensation is unlikely to suffice to restore this land to civilian use'* He continued *'The land referred to comprises two areas, one amounting to 6 ½ acres at map reference 20775 and another approximately 7 ½ acres at map reference 205773. Approximately one acre of the latter area is to be retained permanently by the W.D. owing to a permanent installation which has been erected there...The land consisted of gravel workings before the war, to which access from hard roads was possible. Intensive tank recovery training has considerably churned up the ground and it is considered that areas should be levelled preferably with a bulldozer and that access should be levelled and consolidated'*. The letter also posed several questions including whether the restoration was in the public interest and whether they would be required to restore the remainder of Hazeley Heath in the future (26). These letters leave a lot undecided. Did Mrs Scott Murray purchase the hutments, which is unlikely, so were they sold to

another purchaser? As all but the Nissan huts were brick-built were they bulldozed in along with the concrete foundations when the site was levelled? Did the OCTU and ATS units use other areas of Hazeley Heath during WW2? Local resident David Hazell recalled the *'whole of the Heath up to Bramshill Drive was used for recovery training. Basically, find a bog, put a tank in it, and then drag it out. The whole area was really chewed up. At the end of the war everything but the concrete ramp was removed. There is a rumour that much of the rubbish-old tanks, hawsers etc. were just bulldozed into the bogs'* (27).

Today the remains of what appears to be the foundations of these military hutments can still be seen above ground within the former requisitioned site. One can see clearly why this sort of debris scattered across the central commons near the school would have caused Hartley Wintney RDC to pursue the WD for full restoration of the area. In 1954 when the Clerk to Hartley Wintney RDC, was asked about the army's use of Warren Heath he replied *'some of the common land in this district is used occasionally by the military for training purpose...so far as I am aware Warren Heath is not used'*(28). This letter confirms that for a period of almost 300 years the heath and common of Hartley Wintney had been used for military purposes.

### **Gipsies and travellers**

Generally, throughout Hampshire and Surrey the commons and heathland provided suitable sites for gipsies' wagons to be drawn up and benders erected for protection from the elements. The benders were made from saplings bent over and pushed into the ground to provide the framework and overlaid with heather, matting was made from local materials or tarpaulins (1). They made wooden-pegs and flowers to sell at the door and gathered heather for small posies to sell on the street. According to local resident Mary Feltham *'they had painted caravans, very gaudy, and campfires with tripods and saucepans hanging from them. Nice smells, too. They used to come round the houses selling pegs, cotton and lace. No artificial flowers then. They often used to bring real flowers, cowslips'* (2).

It suited a gipsy's way of life, to move along their traditional routes according to the seasons finding work as they travelled. Pea picking came first, followed by hay, then corn and wheat followed by fruit, hops and beans. The most important of these to local travellers was hop-picking. As the corn trade fell away after 1720 hops became a more profitable crop. Initially in this area they were grown on a narrow ridge of greensand in Farnham's common fields. As their profitability grew the crop was grown in a wider area from Alton to Hartley Wintney. Until the early 20th century there was no shelter provided for workers, which is why it became ideally suited to gypsies who had their wagons. The hop harvest was usually the first week in September and post WW1 they picked at Hazell's hop-field, now the football pitch and Memorial Gardens and why Hopfield Close is so named (3). The hops were traded at Weyhill, near Andover.

With large areas of common-land Hartley Wintney historically provided a number of places to camp for a few nights. Almost all suitable pitches would have been used by travellers over the years but more regulations meant fewer sites. In the late 19th century they used part of Hunts Common where there was a small pond for watering their horses opposite the gas works (4). This was ideally situated for another aspect of their trade. Travellers provided the side-shows and travelling fairgrounds which appeared at least twice a year in Hartley Wintney. Each summer on June 29<sup>th</sup>

there was a pleasure fair and races held on Hunts Common and each 4<sup>th</sup> December there was a cattle show on the same site. They provided opportunities for travellers to earn some money as large numbers of people attended. In June 1830 the local paper reported that *'Hartley Row fair on Tuesday was most respectably attended. Some prizes were given, to be run for by Galloways and ponies, but, being unequally matched, they caused but little sport'* (5). It is difficult to imagine so much livestock in one small area or how important a fair it was as in 1848 *'a greater number of every description of lean stock than has ever been brought here before at any fair or sale. More than 1,000 Devon's and Hereford's, nearly 2,000 Black Cattle and over 1,000 other breeds- Although the day was very stormy and inclined for rain, there were many purchasers from Berks, Bucks, Oxen, Surrey, Sussex etc who bought freely and many rather extensively'* (6). How the common survived so many people, cattle stalls and camp-fires is unknown but it must have been very churned up and damaged. In 1860 Hunts Common was referred to in sale catalogues as the 'Fair Ground' (7).

Local people did try to limit the events held here. In 1899 Charles Seymour of Winchfield wrote to James Brooks, the agent for the Mildmay's that *'the next occasion which the shows etc will come here will be on Nov (This was actually December) 4<sup>th</sup> as Blackwater Fair is on the 8<sup>th</sup> they will probably stay here from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> - The Sergeant of police has been interviewed by the Hayward and says he is powerless in the matter These shows come in such numbers and at such unknown times that I doubt if we can keep them off Hunts Common. I am in communication with Mrs Blagden and Lord Calthorpe on the subject and will do all in my power to keep them off. I yesterday received from the Board of Agriculture a copy of the new regulations they have drawn up under the Act of last session. We must take action under that Act as until that is done it is impossible to deal effectively with these shows'* (8). The same year Hartley Wintney RDC established a scheme for the regulation of the commons which included measures to avoid some of the problems, including *'the prevention or regulation of travelling shows, whirligigs swings shooting ranges and galleries....removal and apprehension if necessary of gamblers card-sharper's gipsies squatters vagrants sellers and exhibitors'* (9).

The Pleasure Fair was not advertised after 1868 but the Cattle Fair was still an annual event until 1927 (10). David Gorsky interviewed Arthur Hazell who recalled *'the whole of Hunts Common was covered with bullocks and horses unloaded by train from Devon and Wales at Blackwater and Winchfield stations....all would be in position on the common by 8.30 am surrounded by drovers and lads at 2/6d and 1/6d a day-some lots of over 100 were sold..... If not sold, back to the meadows and then on to the next cattle fair at Blackwater.... There were roundabouts, swing boats and stalls at the village end of Hunts Common where the horses were sold. I saw Billy Matthews, who owned the roundabouts, purchase a horse and pay for it in golden sovereigns which he took from a long black stocking -the last thing they ever sold at Hartley Wintney Fair was Ebenezer's donkey- he was an old gypsy that always camped on the common'* (11).

As they were forced to abandon camping on Hunts Common and other open sites gipsies were most likely to be found at Hazeley Heath and Warren Heath. In 1965 letters were received from the owners of Netherlands at Star Hill and Hazeley House, complaining about the vans parked near their homes, but there were few measures the authorities could take, despite attempts by the Public Health Inspector to move them on. However there was optimism that the two sites they had earmarked for semi-permanent 'rehabilitation centres' would help the situation. The first of these was at Monteagle Close in Yateley, which opened in 1965 (12). In December 1966 the

Council earmarked the site of a former sawmills at Star Hill as suitable as a temporary home for them. In January 1967 Lord Calthorpe's agent complained there were families camped here illegally but by February the Council was asking the District Valuer if a price of £25,000 for the purchase of three acres of land here from the owners Hillrain Investments was good value. In April there were fifteen families on the site which at this time had no sanitation or hard standings. A further six acres was purchased from the Elvetham Estate and in August 1967 funding was agreed for facilities to be provided for twenty families (13). In 1968 they were being offered contracts to rent a space at 30/- a week including water and rates. This did not please everyone as letters complaining that by providing sites at ratepayer's expense the Council was encouraging more travellers to arrive in the area. The provision of these sites did not deter families from Hazeley Heath. The Council tip on a ten-acre site near Hazeley House was their focus as they would trawl the tip for metal and other salvageable materials. There were examples of police being called in 1966 when the Council's employees here were threatened by members of the travelling families (14). The answer to keeping the vans off the heath was to ditch the perimeter of vulnerable sites but this did not deter some. In May 1973 a family of travellers cut down gorse and filled in a trench to enable access (15). The only measure the Council came up with was more trenching and to press Hampshire County Council for permanent sites, but in the end the only answer was to close the tip in 1973.

### **Sport and Leisure Pursuits**

Hartley Wintney Cricket Club is believed to be one of the earliest in Hampshire, formed in 1770, just after Odiham is known to have played a team from Bramshott in 1764 (1). In May's book 'Cricket in North Hampshire' he notes that *'Although the actual date when cricket began in Hartley Wintney, or Hartley Row as the village distinct from the parish is called, cannot be determined, it was probably before the last decade of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, for W. G. Grace says that about the year 1790 'Hartley Row, Godalming and Farnham' which seem to have had a combined team 'were a thorn in the side of Hambledon'* (2). It is likely May's book was erring on the side of caution as Eversley Cricket Club holds an article which states *'A Match at Cricket was played on Odiham Down on 30<sup>th</sup> July 1772 between the gentlemen of Frensham and five or six parishes including Heckfield, Eversley, Elvetham and Hartley Row'* (3). This mention of Elvetham is of note as one of the finest bowlers at Hambledon, believed to be the earliest cricket club, was David Harris born in Elvetham in 1754. He played for Hambledon in 1787, but was likely to have been a player at his home village or at Hartley Row or Odiham where he worked as a potter (4). Several of the earliest players for Hartley Row also played for Hampshire and at Lord's. The best-known of these were Thomas Charles Howard born at Hartley Row in 1781, who first played for Hampshire at Lord's old ground in 1803 and for Marylebone Cricket Club in July 1806. John and James Thumwood born 1784 and 1790 who lived at Causeway Farm in Hartley Row were also fine players, and also Henry Holland the Hartley Row blacksmith. They all played for Marylebone Cricket Club. In 1821, just seven years after the current ground was established, a team from Hartley Row played at Lord's alongside one from Godalming and another from Farnham (5). It was a game where huge sums of money were wagered on the result, which meant good players were poached or given money to play for other teams, perhaps accounting for the fact that many of the early players in the area were working-class men. Most matches were played against local sides and were often

made up of different sections of the community. In 1835 eleven married men played eleven single, and in 1842 a team from Phoenix Green played Hartley Row (6). To celebrate William Cave's birthday a cricket match between the men working at his brewery was organised in July 1858 (7). In the early 1870s the club had *'got into low water, but towards the end of 1873 there arrived in Hartley Wintney a most enthusiastic cricketer'* Dr Maturin who lived at Oaklands had *'made a name and fame in the cricket world before settling down in Hartley Wintney'* (8). and under his care the club revived. A number of excellent players arrived in the village including the new Curate Rev C Nepean a wicket-keeper who had played for his university. Since this period the club has had good times and bad, especially when Frank Walkinshaw of The Grange played here as he organised events to raise funds for the club. No cricket was played during WW1 as it was generally considered inappropriate, but during WW2 there were matches here when it was enjoyed by military men stationed nearby. Situated as it is on the flattest part of the central commons implies it was sanctioned from the outset by the Lord of the Manor, but no documentary evidence has been found to establish their right to this encroachment. Initially their pavilion stood next to The Cricketers, but in 1954 the Clerk to Hartley Wintney Council wrote to the Ministry of Agriculture for permission to erect a pavilion on its present site. It states *'Cricketers Green has been used as a cricket ground from time immemorial and both the Council and the Lord of the Manor raise no objections'* (9). With the registrations of the common here in 1929 the Ministry had to sanction the erection of any buildings on these commons. The pavilion was not new, but a structure which had been erected opposite the White Lyon at Hartford Bridge, which had probably been used for military purposes during WW2 (10). In the storm in 1987 a tree fell on this pavilion and virtually destroyed it. The present pavilion was ready for use in October 1989.

One of the earliest surveys of the area, Isaac Taylor's map of 1759, shows the position and size of the racecourse at Hartley Wintney. Known as Hazeley Heath Racecourse it was situated on the high ridge of land rising up from Hartley Row towards Bramshill. It is not known when it was established but given its proximity to Bramshill house it is likely it was the Cope family who had it laid out. They had purchased Bramshill from the Henley family in 1699. It is believed the family also owned the Harrow Inn, a beer-house which served the racecourse clientele, now the site of Hazeley House. As this land was within the parish of Mattingley and the heathland here under the jurisdiction of the Manor of Heckfield owned by the Sturt family at this time, they would have to have given permission for the encroachment, although no documentation has been seen. Hazeley Heath Racecourse was an important date in the racing calendar and widely reported in local newspapers. In 1830 the *'Hartley Row Races were held on the 29<sup>th</sup> – and from the fineness of the weather they attracted a large concourse of people. The racing was very good and the subscriptions this year were more liberal than heretofore. The Marquis of Douro was one of the subscribers and many other gentlemen in the neighbourhood; and if they come forward next year with the same spirit of liberality, we have no doubt but the Hartley Row Races will re-assume that importance which in former years characterised them'* (11). Of course it also attracted some less welcome visitors and in 1838 the celebrations planned for the Coronation of Queen Victoria were held back a day *'in consequence of the races ...as a great number of loose and exceptional characters attend'* (12). The racing here was by 1830 declining in importance and by 1857 the Reading Mercury reported *'In years gone by Hartley Row was the scene, and indeed could boast of some capital races, and some which far excelled many in its*

vicinity, but the course which was then lined with people and carriages of every description, is now no longer so. Monday last, the 29<sup>th</sup> was the day on which the races were to have taken place, but although the people present did not see any racing, yet they were able to witness an interesting and well-contested game of cricket between Hartley Row and Odiham' (13). Cricket may have been enjoyed by this group but there were other sports they could also have witnessed.

It seems Hartley Row was also a training ground for boxers in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, although as far as is known there were no matches held here. In 1827 the Morning Chronicle reported that two boxers who had been training at Hartley Row were attacked with a bludgeon after 'they drank tea at The Star' at Hartford Bridge (14). They were walking back to their accommodation at The Phoenix when they were attacked. The men Dick Curtis and Young Dutch Sam were to fight Gypsy Cooper and Barney Aaron on a stage set up near the main road about 60 miles from London. No exact place was given although at this time bare-fist fighting or prize-fighting was not illegal. Young Dutch Sam is believed to be the son of Dutch Sam of Whitechapel, who was a famous fighter who died in 1816. Dick Curtis was born in Southwark in 1802 and had the nickname 'The pet of the fancy'. He won his fight against Barney Aaron, who came from Aldgate, on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1827. Gypsy Jack Cooper was a Romany whose brother fought under the name 'Iron Age Cabbage'. As none of these men were local it seems likely that either a local Romany family was engaged in training these men or perhaps the landlord of The Phoenix.

In January 1859 'The annual and first Pigeon shooting match came off on Monday last on Hazeley Heath – sportsmen were in good attendance and an agreeable evening was spent at The Lamb' (15). How the pigeon-fanciers felt about the pigeon-shooters in the village is unknown but according to Ken Turk the local fanciers' had their race-clock set up next to The Cricketers and pigeon owners would run across the cricket green to clock their birds in. This practice must have caused mayhem when a match was in place! (16) The right to shoot on common land was by licence of the Lord of the Manor. In 1970, when HWRDC owned the commons they were asked to transfer the right to Mr Hazell which had been issued by Lord Calthorpe to Sir Harold Templar-Smith. This right had been for West Green and Stoken Green (17). From 1966 to 1971 they gave permission to shoot on Police Station Common and Hazeley Heath but refused an application for shooting rabbits on Hunts Common. They did require the applicant to have insurance cover (18).

In January 1859 the newspaper reported 'Hare coursing took place on Hartley Heath on Thursday last... the weather was unfavourable but some fair sport was exhibited... five hares were caught' (19). There were also local fox-hunts, which were supported by the Cope family at Bramshill and the Mildmay's at Dogmersfield. The earliest organised fox-hunts in Hampshire took place as hunting stags and hares became less fashionable especially so after George IV changed from staghounds to foxhounds in 1793. Mr Paulet St John of Farley Chamberlayne and Dogmersfield is said to have established his pack at least fifty years before this date, but it is not known if they hunted near Hartley Wintney (20). In hunting terms the area was known as the Garth and South Berks country and the Rev. Henry-Ellis St. John was believed to be the first to hunt with a pack of hounds here. He was Rector at Winchfield Church from 1800 until 1819 and related to the St John family at Dogmersfield. When he died in 1841 his pack of hounds was inherited by Sir John Cope of Bramshill and kennels were made for them here (21). They may have arrived here slightly earlier as there exists a painting of Sir John Cope with the hounds at Bramshill painted by Edward Havell in 1837 (22). The first Wednesday hunt of each year was held at

Bramshill and the Calthorpe's at Elvetham also supported the sport and were no doubt happy to have them hunt across to their estate. It is said the brewer William Cave was *'a very good sportsman, and well mounted, always ready to help the master'*. (23) The hunt met either at the turnpike gate at Phoenix Green or at Hartford Bridge. The later Garth Hunt took its name from Mr Thomas Colleton Garth, who became a member of the hunt when run by Sir John Cope, later set up kennels at Haines Hill, Twyford (24). Even so they met regularly on Saturday's by 1872 and Wednesday's by 1885 near Hartford Bridge (25).

Hartley Row Football Club was formed in 1897 and retained this name until 1939. According to David Willoughby (26) the first players were stable-lads from the Elvetham estate and they played on land attached to Causeway Farm. In 1947, when they were known as Hartley Wintney Football Club they won the Hampshire County Cup at Fratton Park (Portsmouth). The club played at Causeway Farm until 1953 when Sir Richard Calthorpe gifted land in Green Lane as a memorial to those who died in WW2 (27). His obituary in Hartley Row Journal in 1985 recalled *'Sir Richard Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe died February 1985 aged 76 after a long life of service first in the army, then on Hampshire County Council of which he was Chairman from 1967 to 1974. He presented the Memorial Playing Fields to the village after the last war, where the Football Club now plays and the children's swings are sited'* (28).

Post-WW2 the North Hants Motor Cycle Club had four scrambles a year on Hazeley Heath. In 1955 there are a number of letters and reports regarding these meetings. It is believed they used the old tank-testing site at Hazeley Heath for their races. Local objections to the level of noise prompted the club to look for another ex-military site. In 1957 it was agreed that they would move to Tweseldown Racecourse, providing they avoided dates when the racecourse was in use (29).

Hartley Wintney Golf Club was founded by Lord Calthorpe for his workers on common land formerly known as The Lake and Moor Hill in 1885. In 1891 the Hartley Wintney Golf Club was formed by a group of local enthusiasts and in 1902 with the agreement of Lord Calthorpe the club extended membership to those living in the village (30). Initially some of the cottages which were clustered around the old village workhouse remained on the site and in 1909 one of these was utilised as a clubhouse. The site retains some of the original Wellingtonia trees planted along the new drive from London Road to Elvetham House, which was laid out post-enclosure in 1866.

## **Fetes, Fairs and Celebrations**

In 1838 the village celebrated the Coronation of Queen Victoria and a tea-party was held on the common opposite the school. It was described in the Hampshire Advertiser as *'Thursday last was indeed a glorious and joyous day, and the older inhabitants never witnessed such a gay, animating and cheerful display .... At an early hour most of the houses in the street were decorated with garlands and flowers and from the windows, waved in the breeze, a beautiful and elegant display of flags and banners, with appropriate devices on each. An excellent band was in attendance. An ample fund was raised by subscription amongst the gentry, farmers and tradesmen towards providing a dinner for the children ... amounting to 400 in number. The widows and widowers afterwards partook of the good things provided for the occasion. The children, preceded by the band walked in procession from the school-room to the residences of John Singleton Esq., the Rev Bricknell--- and A H Bradshaw Esq. and then down the street and returned by 3pm to the green opposite the school*



where the tables were laid. After grace the children partook of roast beef, mutton and plum pudding'. It was not just the children who sat down to tea as 'The Queen's health was drunk by the children and then the old people sat to eat... there was wine and punch provided by him available in a tent erected for the occasion. There was a fashionable party in a beautiful marquee on the green at dinner Henry Singleton, Rev Ellis St John of West Court and his three sons, the Rev John Hawley etc, The band was stationed opposite the marquee and played for several hours and praise is due to C T Howard for arranging and promoting the day which closed with splendid display of fireworks' (1). This is the first report of many celebrations of this nature which were held on the central Commons over the generations which continued into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. In August 1881 a Local Foresters Court known as the 'Oaks of Hartley Wintney' was founded and alongside other societies including the Hampshire Friendly Society and the Hartley Row Ark of Safety Lodge, they organised events which usually took place on the commons. In 1884 eighty of their members had lunch in a tent on what was known by then as Vicarage Meadow, the site of the WI hut area, followed by dancing. In 1892 they marched behind their banner to St John's, had lunch and danced to the Hartley Wintney Brass Band. The last time they marched was the Queen's Jubilee in 1977 (2).

Firework displays had generally been held at Hunts Green after a procession through the village starting at Phoenix Green. In 1880 the Reading Mercury reported 'the usual demonstration and motley gathering took place on the spacious common at Hartley Row – an unusually large number of shows, caravans, shooting galleries, stalls, together with a steam yacht and other novelties were erected and at the evening the common was lighted up in all directions; while, it was a perfect Babel of noises. Later in the evening an immense bonfire was lighted and burnt freely, illuminating the country for some miles round. A quantity of crackers and a variety of fireworks were discharged, while a number of 'guys' were paraded about and then burnt. Notwithstanding the noise, nothing occurred to require the interference of the police, who were on duty in the neighbourhood. Many of the shows and stalls remained on the Common the following day (3). David Gorsky's interviews with local residents Jack Cranham and Charlie Sumner reveal that 'they used to set a tar barrel with an iron bar through it and they had tar balls of wire netting with rag waste dipped in paraffin. The band played in front from the Royal Oak to Hunts Common. It was Hartley Wintney Band, they kept well in front. They barricaded the windows up all along the village street. They had a wagon at Hunts Common to let the rockets off. We made them all ourselves. Meal powder, ground glass, steel filings, all mixed up together, rammed down with a wooden block, then one paper, then the gun powder, another paper and then put the pitch on it. The for the touch paper: tissue paper with three pennorth of salt-petre from down the chemist and put in the oven to dry. The tar barrel used to come down last, roaring down like the clappers of hell and go straight up on the bonfire. Never an accident though. Blokes used to get more hurt making the fireworks. There was always an effigy of someone unpopular, someone you could recognise on the bonfire. The last one was Mr Henry. He wouldn't subscribe for the bonfire. So they put him on the top' (4). How the common looked after all this merriment is easy to imagine. After WW2 the local Toc H group organised bonfires on the central commons until at least 1971, but they were required to tidy the site after use (5).

It seems the commons were central to every celebration that took place in the village. May Day, Fireman's Day or just a sunny day when a family played games or had a picnic was enjoyed all the more because these beautiful open spaces have been

preserved for our use and our joy. The local historian David Gorsky described Hartley Wintney as different from all other places in that *'the beauty of this village lies in its commons and the relationship of the buildings to these greens'* (6).

Mary Ann Bennett 2014

### **Appendix 1-Common Rights at Hazeley Heath**

A Goodall, 90 Hazeley Bottom - 1968	Estovers
J Harness, Bournemouth- 1968	1 donkey, 2 horses, 2 goats, 5 geese – estovers, turbury, (leaf mould) gravel, sand chalk and clay, bracken, berries, nuts
F Ratky, Moor Place Farm- 1968	30 cows, 4 horses, 60 pigs
P Denton, Red House - 1969	30 cattle, 4 horses – estovers
E Moore, Old Farmhouse - 1969	2 ponies, 6 geese – estovers
F Marks, Stevens Farm-1970	15 cattle – estovers – turbury
D Young, Sirrah Cottage, Hazeley Lea-1970	1 pony
W Wakeley, Brickmakers, Hazeley Bottom 1971	1 goat, 1 pig- pannage for 1 pig – estovers

### **Appendix 2-Common Rights on Central Common**

Harold Frederick Greening (11th September 1968)

Avonhurst, Hartley Wintney 2 horses and right of estovers – it was withdrawn 16.2.1971

Dr David H Malan (27<sup>th</sup> September 1968)

Parker's Close, Thackhams Lane

Right of estovers – it was withdrawn 17<sup>th</sup> December 1971

Major Greville Wyndham Tufnell (22 July 1969)

Green Lane House

2 donkeys, 2 ponies, 2 goats, 12 geese and 24 chickens over the land comprised in this register shown verged red – also right of estovers

The Hon Barbara Van der Noot (12<sup>th</sup> January 1970)

Oak Cottage

Phoenix Green

1 pony or cow – 24 geese or chicken – 4 pigs – right of turbury and estovers

Major Michael Victor Anthony Westropp (14<sup>th</sup> January 1970)

Hatch House

Phoenix Green

1 pony – this was transferred to new owners  
Derek & Sally Green 28.10.1974

Davis Ernest Hazell (15<sup>th</sup> January 1970)  
Causeway farm

12 cattle – piscary over pond and for the use of  
ducks and geese

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