

# LOOKBACK



Official Journal of the  
Andover Local History Society



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ANDOVER  
HISTORY



LOCAL  
SOCIETY

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**LOOKBACK**

**NO 2**

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### EDITORIAL

#### KEEP THOSE COMMENTS COMING.....

The Publications Committee of the Andover Local History Society was extremely encouraged to the response met by the first issue of "Lookback".

The magazine sold quite well and gave us a small profit to help finance further issues, and reader reaction was really tremendous.

I don't think there was a single article in the issue which did not prompt some comment, either spoken or written. These comments were in some cases, flattering and appreciative of the magazine; some were informative: one was even critical.

Criticism is something we expect, and, providing it is constructive, do not object to. It means that people are interested in what we publish, and that, after all, is our main aim.

Please keep you comments coming – good, bad or indifferent. Many of the letters received on our No. 1 issue have been included in this number. This is both healthy and encouraging, and I trust will continue.

We are always on the look-out for new articles, long or short, providing they have some local historical interest. There must be a million sources yet to be tapped in the area.





## OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Since the publication of our first issue of "Lookback", the Local History Society has received the most welcome news that the Rt.Hon. Lord Denning, of Whitchurch, has agreed to become the Society's first president.

No more fitting person for this office could possibly have been found. Lord Denning, senior judge in England, is Master of the Rolls, and part of his duties include the care of the ancient court manuscripts of this country.

His title is not always readily comprehended by all, and it is on record that there was an occasion when a person wrote to Lord Denning asking about his motor car: he believed Lord Denning was head of the firm of Rolls Royce!

Born in Whitchurch and educated at Andover Grammar School, Lord Denning has always taken a keen interest in local history, and we are extremely fortunate to have such a man as our President.

Not only has he agreed to accept this office but he has also offered to come and speak to the Society at one of our meetings. For this generous gesture, too, the Society is most grateful to him.

## WEYHILL FAIR – from 1900 onwards.

By Sidney C. Butler.

It was rough and tough, but lots of fun, especially if you happened to be a small boy, as I was in the early years of the present century, when I was first taken to Weyhill Fair.

As I was born in 1900 I can't remember the cheese and hop fair there, but I remember the sheep, cattle and horses which were all part of the attractions which brought people to Weyhill and Andover from all parts of the country.

In its earlier days Weyhill's was one of the biggest if not the biggest country fair in England, and it lasted for a fortnight. Later the period was cut down to only a week, and, as time went on, it dwindled away to virtually nothing, as more and more towns began to hold their own cattle markets at regular intervals either weekly or monthly.

On the opening day of Weyhill Fair (October 10th) horses and traps would line up outside the old Town Station and the line would stretch up as far as Grafton House (now a filling station).

They would be all waiting for the 8.45 am train from Southampton which had picked up farmers en route, to take them up to the fair, sixpence a time, per head.

Throughout the night thousands of sheep would be driven through the town to be penned on the fairground. The yard at the Junction Railway Station was full of cattle trucks which would be waiting to take the sheep back to the farms of those who had bought them at the fair.

The two auctioneers I most remember at Weyhill were Fred. Ellen and Allan Herbert, both of whom had their own auctioneers businesses in Andover, and both still exist today although Ellen's now trade under another name.

Fred Ellen would take breakfast at the Star and Garter and then drive to Weyhill in his own horse-trap dressed in bowler hat, check jacket, breeches and gaiters, carrying a big ash ground-stick. Allan Herbert would be similarly attired in bowler hat, but he always favoured a long black coat as opposed to tweed jacket. Both men were real gentlemen and it was very interesting to we boys to see these two battling away selling the sheep at the highest price they could get, trying to get rid of them all before darkness descended.

Then there were the horses to be sold as well, some heavy, some light, some that could gallop and some that couldn't, but whatever their capabilities old Harry Black always carried something in his waistcoat pocket which would make them jump all the hurdles on the fairground!

The other side of the fair was the selling booths which stretched away along both sides of an avenue. Here one could buy a new suit of clothes, harness, horse medicines and many other useful articles handy to the farming trade.

October 10th being Michaelmas Day, all the farm workers were paid Michaelmas Money around this time – a sort of yearly bonus – and out of this they would buy themselves a working suit to last them until the next Weyhill Fair came around.





*Weyhill Sheep Fair just after the turn of the century.*

Photograph courtesy of Howard's of Andover Ltd.

It was indeed a day out for the farming fraternity and their families, and more or less their annual day's "holiday" for the year. Wages were so very low then – 25s to 30s for a top man per week so none of them could afford to go away for a holiday as people do today.

The way they got to Weyhill Fair was by walking, sometimes many miles, with the wife pushing one of those old prams, with fish baskets hung on the handle and a gaggle of kids trailing behind, all as happy as larks, looking forward to perhaps one ride on the roundabouts as a special treat (1p a ride), and maybe taking home some ginger-breads to eat.

This was also the time of year when farm hands changed their jobs – at least those who wanted to seek new employment, or those no longer required by their former employers. To advertise they were "for hire", the men wore favours in their hats: a carter would wear a piece of whip cord, a shepherd a piece of wool, and so on.

The farmers would stroll around the fair on the look out and if one liked the look of a man wearing a favour – he engaged him on the spot.

It was amusing to see the farming folk when moving day came around, with all their worldly goods piled up on an open farm waggon, mother and children perched up at the front of the cart, probably carrying a bunch of firewood to make a cup of tea when they arrived at their new cottage; the family rabbit in his hutch on the top of the pile of furniture and the dog tied on to the back axle and trotting along behind, and, of course, father leading the procession at the horse's head.

Father would be all right until he reached the first pub on the road, where he would probably decide the horse needed "a rest", but sometimes the horse had too many "rests" and father would finish up slumped in the cart with mother taking over the reins to complete the journey!

The pleasure fair was a big attraction at Weyhill with all rides a penny a time. Another major attraction was the boxing booth, and this was a pretty rough place where, if you couldn't use your fists, you kept your mouth shut. I remember seeing Joe Beckett fighting in the booths at Weyhill – and he finished up heavyweight champion of England.

Rough? That was hardly the word for it: at times it was sheer slaughter. Hundreds of gypsies used to attend the fair; they would arrive in their "clans" and would sleep in the hedgerows all over the place.

Weyhill, like today, had three pubs – The Star, The Sun and The Bell – and naturally, all three were crowded out during the whole period of The Fair. Beer was tuppence a pint and it was strong stuff in those days. The gypsies would get drunk and, outside the pub, the men would strip off to the waists and start fighting. Whips and sticks would be brought into action (but no knives) and the blood flew in all directions.

My word, but those fellows could fight! And not only the men either, for the gypsy women would also get involved and indulge in their share of hair-pulling and screaming.

Throughout the duration of the fair it needed a large police force on full time duty. Inevitably the policemen were big, hefty men – and they had to be, for it was their job to go in and sort the fights out, with no holds barred.

To accommodate those arrested the Fair had its own police station on the ground and I believe it still exists there today, used as an office by Dunnings. The police would bundle the offenders into the Fairground "cells" and keep them there until they could be transported into the court room at Andover.

This, then, was Weyhill Fair as I remember it – rough, tough, but immensely enjoyable.

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## ON THE WAY

Books on local village histories are in course of preparation. "Chilbolton" by Eleanor Lockyer, is nearing completion and "The Clatfords" is now being researched.



## THE YOUNG LADY OF ABBOTTS ANN

by ALASTAIR GEDDES

These notes are based on a diary in the possession of Mr. Thomas de Paravicini of Abbots Ann. The book is inscribed – “Journal Book from July 20, 1814 to July 14, 1817.” Unfortunately the last forty odd pages have been torn from the book, and in two other places 5 and then 18 pages have been removed. A total of some 50 pages remain.

Possibly more sadly still, we do not know the name of the diarist. Internal evidence makes it clear that the writer belonged to “gentlefolk”; was not a member of the Errington family at Red Rice – they were “called on”; and that the writer was a young lady.

The family, consisted of “Papa”, “Mama”, “Uncle and Aunt”, and sister Charlotte. There may have been others; a Lucy appears from time to time. It seems very possible that the family were the Burroughs who held the Rectory of Abbots Ann from 1799 to 1830. Church seems to have been a matter of absolute regularity which is not necessarily so in Regency England. Further, Papa’s visits to London and Salisbury on “business” and the fact that while staying in London they worshipped at the Temple Church suggests a connection with the Burroughs family as Sir William Burroughs was a Lord Chief Justice.

The diary contains no scandals and no revelations, but it does tell us quite a lot of the daily life of a young lady of the time. Indeed, to judge from the daily entries there is a clear answer to the question, “What did she mostly do?” That answer is, she *walked*; in the woods and fields, around the village, to Monxton, Weyhill, Thruxton and Andover.

At the end of a holiday at Eastbourne, after a two-day drive home, and having left Chichester at 6.30 a.m., arriving back at Abbots Ann at 4 p.m., she adds, “In the evening we walked up to Parsonage Field and saw Uncle’s lambs.”

The diary opens with a record of a two months holiday in Eastbourne, from which the family returned to Abbots Ann on 14th September. They left Eastbourne at 6 a.m. travelling via Brighton, Arundel, Chichester, Havant, Wickham and Winchester arriving home at four in the afternoon, on the 15th, having made an overnight stop at Chichester, Wherwell Hill and Portsdown Hill were both walked up !

Life at Abbots Ann – although there was no sea for bathing – was much as elsewhere. The walks perhaps have even greater emphasis here. Sometimes a general statement suffices – “we walked out” or “we walked in the wood to see the hares, etc.” On October 4th she went “up to the Down Farm to pick Plantain for our birds in the Winter”, while a week later “Mama, Charlotte, Nanny, Lucy and I went nutting in the woods.” At other times by herself, as with others of the family she walks to Clatford, Ampport, Monxton or Andover. Considerable interest was shown in historical remains. Bury (spelled “Berry”) Hill was examined, but “it is not certain whether it is a Danish or a Saxon camp”. A little later she and her mother went up to Cowdown, about two miles from Abbots Ann, “where it is certain there was anciently a religious house and the remains of foundations are still visible particularly a large well that was only filled up a very few years ago.” Reference is also made to a great many pieces of Roman brick there.



St. Mary's Parish Church of Abbots Ann



On other days, – “we rode” to Monxton, the Wallops, Clanville, Hurstbourne, and Andover, and also to see the entrenchments at Quarley and Danebury. From these walks, these visits and from social calls, a gradual group portrait emerges of the gentry of Andover and district in the early 19th century, many of whom we have met before. The Pollens of Redenham, Ralph Etwall of Reform Bill fame, the Iremongers of Wherwell, the Blunts at Wallop, the Erringtons nearby at Red Rice, Dr. William Goddard who built Andover church, and others.

A little distanced perhaps, but by no means remote were the Portsmouths of Hurstbourne Park. On the 19th September the family joined a party of some twenty people there. After breakfast the gentlemen went out shooting, while the ladies looked at the gardens, shrubberies and hot-houses containing pineapples, peaches and grapes. After dinner there was “some music” for which she and her sister helped to make up a quartet. The two stayed the night, slept well, and “neither saw nor heard anything of the ghost said to walk in this house sometimes.”

The next day was not entirely successful: “We went to breakfast at ten o’clock and afterwards nobody did anything but sat waiting and kicking their heels most uncomfortably”. Later, however, she went out riding through the park and woods. She estimated that she had ridden nine miles in about an hour: “When we got home I was in such a heat that I could not take off my habit for near an hour.”

Only a few days later, the diarist, Mama and sister Charlotte accompanied Father to Salisbury where he had “business”. Having had breakfast in the city, she went to the cathedral: “It is a beautiful building on the outside more elegant than most cathedrals but there are few interesting tombs except William Longspere or Longsword, Henry 2nd’s son by Fair Rosamond.” Evidently – and this to some extent accords with the popular doctrine of “the picturesque”, a lack of ancient memorials was something near being an offence!.

From Salisbury the party went on to Amesbury, the road “not enlivened by a tree or a hedge most dreary and dismal is it, and it happened to rain most of the way here to make bad worse”. The carriage was left in Amesbury and the party walked the 1½ miles to Stonehenge where details of the size, disposition, etc. of the stones is given, most effectively. “When you come near it appears like nothing anyody ever saw before. Our party was satisfied it is a Druids Temple.”

For gentlefolk with any enjoyment of music – and perhaps for others whose primary motive was sociability, an annual joy to be greatly anticipated was the Winchester Music Festival. Its pattern at this time back scarcely changed for at least fifty years. The diarist writes a precise and cultivated account: 13th October: “Dull day. We, that is Uncle and Aunt, Papa, Mama, Sister and I, left Abbots Ann in the two carriages to go to Winchester which is about 16 miles from us. The road that we go is through Upper and Lower Clatford and Wherwell, from the latter the road is dull in the extreme not a house and very few trees to be seen. Winchester is a large and very old City, it is said to be very dull but now it is all in a bustle from the Music Festival.”

After the party had obtained rooms at the George, they walked the mile or so to St. Cross of which details as to function and buildings were recorded. Back at the George they dressed for the concert, dined, and attended at St. John’s House at 6.30 p.m. The orchestra was duly classified by London standards; it was: “something like the Hanover Square room one but not so large.” The concert was over by 11 o’clock, which perhaps to

us sounds a little late, but after this, by tradition, there was a dance: “About 45 couples stood up in two sets and danced four dances, we only danced two. Sister and I danced with two brothers, two Mr. Whites, who were introduced to us by Mr. Poulter. We went away before two and went to bed as soon as we got home.”

“Home”, in this case was the George Inn, and on the following day, after first visiting the home of Mr. Poulter who held a prebend at the cathedral, they visited the cathedral and remarked on “some curious tombs” including those of “6 Saxon Kings whose bones are preserved in as many chests round the choir.” The performance was “The Messiah” which in so fine a place as this Cathedral and performed by such capital singers sounded most beautifully”. Individual airs – “Comfort ye my people”, “I know that my Redeemer Liveth” – and others, are mentioned, and the soloists – from London – such as Braham and Catalini were praised. “In some of the choruses artificial pauses were made and then the echo rolled down the aisle in a manner truly sublime.”

A very different annual festival at about the same time of year, espically for those living in the Andover area was Weyhill Fair. The day before the Winchester Music Festival the diarist and her uncle rode to Weyhill on their way back home from Andover. The sheep, horses and hops are mentioned as well as shows of all kinds and “some good booths of trinkets, etc.” However the pleasure part of the fair “was very dull, from the Winchester Music Meeting begining tomorrow few people choose to tire themselves with going to the fair first”.

Three days later several of the family went over to Weyhill again – on horseback or in the carriage – but were again disappointed:- “The fair was not quite over but was most amazingly stupid. Ourselves, Mr. Everett and Col. and Mrs. Duke were the only gentlefolk there.”

Maybe the round of family friends sometimes palled on the young lady. On two successive days the following year she visited the fair. “11th; Dull day, we went to Weyhill Fair met all the neighbourhood.”

12th; “Cold dull day, we went again to the Fair and there saw the same people that we did before.”

It would be quite mistaken to think of this young lady as spending most of her time among the felicities or miseries of the Hampshire countryside. Having spent two months at Eastbourne in this year 1815, she leaves Abbots Ann for London on Nov. 4th. After staying some months there she visits Littlehampton the next summer, visits the north of England between two and three weeks in late summer, and goes to Blandford in Dorset, where the Burrough family had connections, for a few days in October.

Of the first London visit referred to above, details are sparse. We are not told where she stayed, and no excitement – if it occurred – is allowed to colour a lady-like composure. The paying and receiving of calls seems perhaps an even more dominant motif than it had at Eastbourne or at Abbots Ann. The name of the Best family occurs here, both as people who were called on, and also she “went to a little dance at Sergeant (a legal, not military term). Bests. It was a children’s dance but I went to help play on the piano.”

The paying of calls was perhaps more often enlivened than at Abbots Ann and is indicated by entries – “we had some music” or “we played at Commerce” or just “at Cards”. Several dances were mentioned; “In the evenings we went to Mrs. Dealtoys



Dance. There were 7 dances while we were there all of which we both danced and came home about three. There were two sets and about 30 couples, a great many more Gentlemen than Ladies."

At one stage in the journal (or diary) a little extraneous interest appears. In September 1815 it is recorded that while out walking she "Saw the P. Regent and the Duke of Clarence with the Marchioness of Winchester."

The following day was very hot and: "We waited in hopes of seeing the Prince Regent, but did not see him."

But then: "Saw him afterwards on his way from Red Rice. The bells rung when he went through the parish."

A little later it is recorded that on October 7th Aunt and Mama, and on October 13th, Uncle, Papa and Sister Charlotte, called on Mrs. FitzHerbert at Red Rice.

This of course is the lady with whom, many years before, the future Regent and King had entered into a morganatic marriage. Those who like the gossip of history may well wonder why the diarist was not included on either visit. Was she thought to be too young?

Thoughts of Jane Austen, particularly "Pride and Prejudice", and, to a lesser degree, Thackeray's "Vanity Fair", inevitably arise when reading this diary. It is valuable to read a small book which directly records something of the life of a young lady at the time of Waterloo, whose life was certainly active, if not in a wider sense, and remarkably significant.

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## GENEALOGY

The Library of the GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF UTAH, Chetwynd Rd., Southampton is open on Wednesdays from 1.00 till 5.00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. They have access to the microfilm of any Census taken in the British Isles and will obtain it for you to consult on their premises. The cost is at present £1.50 per reel, but there is a waiting time of 2/3 months. They do however hold all the Computer File Index (C.F.I.), and the Hampshire Censuses, in stock.

Anyone interested in tracing their ancestry is invited to write for details of the Hampshire Genealogical Society to Mr. J. Baker, 36 Carmarthen Avenue, Cosham, Portsmouth or contact their local organizer Mrs. M. Gilmour, Yew Tree Cottage, Chilbolton, Stockbridge.

The Society issue a quarterly Journal and hold regional meetings. Subscriptions are £4 for one or two members of the same family.

## "A HAPPY DAY FOR APPLESHAW AND CHUTE"

by D.J. Tempero.

The year 1782 was a popular one for the inhabitants of Appleshaw, Biddesden and Chute Forest for it was in that year that they incurred the pleasure of George III who agreed, in an Act, that the inhabitants of these three places should be exempt from paying tolls at the turnpike or toll gates erected in Appleshaw or Redenham Lane.

The terms were given in an Act "to enlarge the Term and Powers of an Act paffed in the Second Year of His prefent Majefty, for repairing and widening the Road from the Turnpike Road at Wey Hill in the County of Southampton, to the Turnpike Road at Lyde Way, in the County of Wilts".

The Act gave long, complicated details of the materials to be used and how the money was to be repaid over a period of 21 years.

It then continued "Particular Exemtions from Toll – And it be further enacted that from the paffing of this Act, no Inhabitant of the Village of Applefhaw, in the County of Southampton, or of Biddefden and Chute Forreft, in the County of Wilts, fhall be liable to any of the TOLLS by the faid required Act granted, to arife or to be taken at the prefent Turnpike or Toll Gates erected in Applefhaw or Rednam Lane, in the faid recited Act mentioned, or at any Gate or Gates to be erected in Applefhaw or Rednam Lane aforesaid, for any Horfes, Cattle or Beafths, his, her, or their Property, paffing to or from their Dwelling Houfes, Lands, or Hereditaments, in Applefhaw, Biddefden, or Chute Forresft, aforesaid; nor fhall any Inhabitant of Rednam be liable to any fuch Tolls at the prefent or any future Turnpike or Toll Gate to be erected in Rednam Lane aforefaid, or any of the Horfes, Cattles, or Beafths, paffing to or from their Dwelling Houfes, Lands, or Hereditaments, in Rednam, aforesaid".

The Act then went on to say that certain toll fees would be reduced – in future sheep or lambs would be paid for at "Six PENCE for an Hundred, an fo in Proportion for more or lefs than an Hundred, except that any Number under Seven fhall pay for fuch Toll, One Farthing"

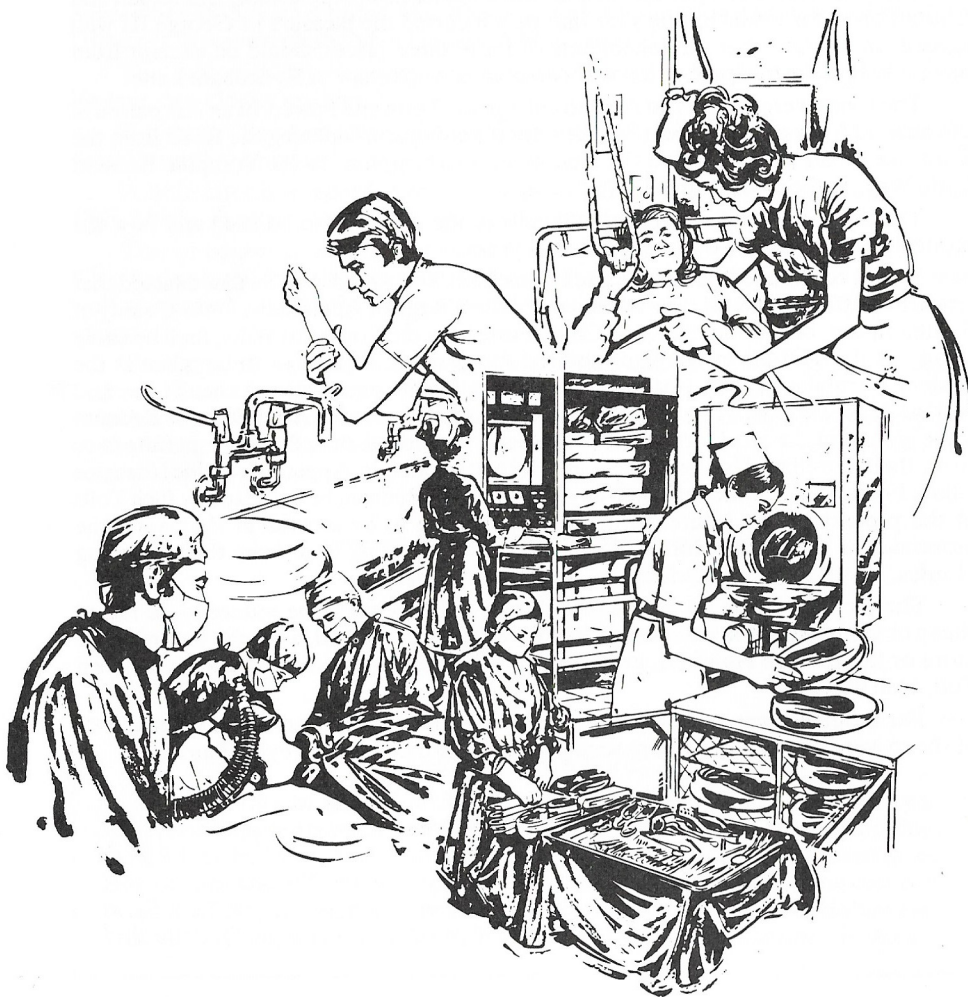
The reduction was probably brought about by the fact during this period thousands of sheep were driven along this particular stretch of road for the Weyhill Fair.

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## TO BE A MEMBER . . .

Membership of the Andover Local History Society can be obtained from Mr A. C. Raper, secretary, c/o Public Library, Chantry Way. Subscriptions are: Ordinary membership £3; Family (two adults, two children) £5; Subscriber (no vote at A.G.M.) £2, and Juniors £1. All members get two free copies of "Lookback" per year.





*Some of the modern hospital aids manufactured by Dent & Hellyer in Andover.*

## UNDER EIGHT REIGNS

The History of DENT & HELLYER Ltd.

The following article, on Dent and Hellyer Ltd of Andover, tracing their 250 years of history, is, we hope the first of a series of the histories of local businesses. They all have an interesting story to tell: each in its own way has made a contribution to the life of the people in this area.

The story of Dent & Hellyer starts on the 28th day of December in the year seventeen hundred and six, when William Dent, son of William Dent, of Rumbalkirks in the county of York, Husbandman, put himself to apprentice to Robert Hopinstall, Citizen, Plumber of London, for eight years. Having served his apprenticeship, William was joined by his brother Joseph Dent and together they set up in business as plumbers at 260 The Strand. They became pioneers in the field of sanitation and were joined by William Dent, Junior and Launcelot Burton, whose son also followed the family tradition, going on to become Master Plumber in 1788 to succeed his father in the Strand. In 1791 the business moved to Newcastle Street, which was rented at the princely sum of £250 per annum.

In 1830 yet another William Dent entered the Company. Wages were 5s. a day and working hours 7 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., including Saturdays. In 1841 the Firm of Burton and Dent was formed to later become Beard and Dent in 1857 when George Beard joined the Company as partner. By this time the business had already gone into export in 1847 with an order for lead to go to Messrs. Binney & Co., in Madras, to the value of £410. They were at the time casting lead sheets and making lead "D" traps in various sizes.

On now to 1862, when Samuel Stevens Hellyer, the first of that name, entered the firm and quickly made his presence felt, as he was soon recognised as a leading authority on plumbing. He planned and carried out the sanitary work for the great Railway contractors of the 1860's, namely Lucas Brothers and Lucas and Aird, to whom he largely owed the initial steps in his career. It is worth recording that at that time plumbers received 6s. 4d., per day.

Mr. Hellyer became a partner of William Dent in 1874, when the firm first became known as Dent & Hellyer. Mr. Hellyer put into practice the improved methods of sanitation which he could see that the age demanded for the health and well being of the nation. In 1871 when the country was full of anxiety for the life of the future King – later King Edward VII – who was suffering from a serious attack of typhoid fever, the whole nation became alarmed when it was discovered that from palace to cottage, sanitary arrangements were to a very large extent in a deplorable condition and required a thorough overhaul and reconstruction.



Mr. Hellyer made the subject of domestic sanitation his special study, and besides planning and executing innumerable sanitary works both in town and country, from Royal Palaces to modest country homes, he invented and patented numerous sanitary fittings and appliances, which are still regarded as standards. He was honoured by being appointed Royal Warrant Holder to Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V. We have it on good authority that he was recommended for a knighthood but it was in keeping with his general modesty that he declined this honour. In 1908 he handed over the business to Bertram and Raymond Hellyer, his sons, and he died in 1916.

Included in the outstanding works carried out under his personal supervision were the temporary sanitary arrangements at Westminster Abbey in 1897 on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and the sanitary arrangements for the coronation of King Edward VII in 1902 and later King George V in 1910.

After the death of Samuel Hellyer, and with the advent of war, the company opened a machine shop, where work was carried out for use in factories, motor transport, tanks etc. A great number of lathes and machines were installed for making shell fuses for HM War Office. Although many thousands were accepted for "service abroad" the Directors of the time describe this particular diversification as an "Adventure on our part, which unfortunately resulted in a very heavy financial loss."

They decided to stick to sanitation and after the war, business boomed, with rebuilding and a much higher standard of sanitation. New hotels and hospitals were built, all requiring hot and cold water in the bedrooms; radiators took the place of gas fires and bathrooms became almost standard in private houses. It was during this period that Dent & Hellyer was approached by the Architect, Frederick J. Wills, to design a plumbing system that would satisfy the requirements of the London County Council, and yet be simple to install. We are proud of the fact that the firm was the first to design and install the One Pipe Plumbing System in the new Cumberland Hotel. This system has since become the recognised standard.

Also during the 1930's, the firm branched into a totally different sphere, making ice-cream biscuit machines at a machine shop in Theobalds Road. This was also the start of the Bed Pan Washers. The first models were called the B1 - B5 and the latter was still in production until 1960. It was just before the war, under Bertram and Reginald Hellyer, that the Company started producing Sterilizers. These were the small boiling type, mainly bowl and instrument and water sterilizers, and in 1939 sterilizers were manufactured in Ormonde Close.

At this time the premises at Red Lion Square had one of the finest showrooms of sanitary fittings in London and with continuous business from the Government and Housing concerns business was flourishing. Plumbing was still the major activity, and Dent & Hellyer were considered number one where quality was concerned. Apprenticeships were much sought after. Besides their machine shop and showrooms, the company maintained a lead shop for their fittings and a carpenter's shop for lavatory seats.

In May, 1941, the premises at Red Lion Square were totally destroyed and the Company was forced to work almost solely for the Government with its remaining limited resources. By 1946 the Company was again in financial difficulties. Bertram

Hellyer died, leaving the major shareholding in the Company to his daughter, Pearl, who shortly thereafter, sold the Company to John Bolding and Sons. The manufacturing side of the business was accommodated in premises at Britannia Street, Kings Cross, London.

The plumbing side of the business, known as Dent and Hellyer Sanitation, was given by the Chairman of Boldings to his son-in-law, and was subsequently taken over by Holland, Hannen & Cubitts. It was found that the premises at Kings Cross, although sufficient to accommodate the thriving Bed Pan Washer/Rack business, were not large enough for the manufacture of Sterilizers, which were temporarily moved to the top floor of the Bolding premises in Mayfair. After a year, the Sterilizer Department moved to Blackwell Street, Brixton where they remained until April 1966 when Boldings moved into their new factory at Andover. Boldings were subsequently bought out by Ashbourne Developments in 1971, having previously bought the manufacturing rights of the Sterilizer Department of Matburn Surgical. Dent & Hellyer went on to buy the Sterilizing Department of Manlove Tullis, only to be taken over yet again in 1974 by InterMed, Thomas Tilling's International Health-Care group.

## RAIL CRASH AT ANDOVER 1916

Although situated as it is, on a main railway line from Waterloo to the West Country, Andover, fortunately, has experienced very few railway tragedies.

Here, however, is a reminder of one serious rail crash which occurred in the town on October 5th, 1916 and involved one fatality.

The following is an extract from the Andover Advertiser of Oct 6th 1916, reproduced by kind permission of the Editor:-

### "TRAIN SMASH AT ANDOVER One Fatality"

Early yesterday morning a fast market goods train from the West of England came into collision with several goods waggons during shunting operations at Andover Junction Station and as can be imagined, there was a terrible smash. This fast goods, a non-stop from Salisbury to Nine Elms, was loaded with every conceivable sort of produce collected at great towns down west for despatch to the big London markets. The produce ranged from honey to animals, live and dead. There were rosy eating apples and cookers by the cwt., boxes of rabbits, and crates of poultry, cheeses of all sort and pure fresh butter, potatoes, hams, sides of bacon, and whole mutton and pork carcasses. The effect of the collision - for the 100-ton engine pulled over 50 trucks, and was travelling at 50 miles an hour - was to rip off the roofs of the trucks as though they had been cut open, and tear out the sides, so that the tons of carcasses were left exposed to view.





It looks as though the big engine first came into contact with the other waggons 20 yards on the station side of the Charlton Road arch. It cut through them along to the other side of the bridge, and then the heavy monster turned turtle, reposing its massive weight on the soft soil of someone's allotment, as though it had been carefully lain there. Had this been hard ground instead of allotment the possibility is that the engine would have tumbled down the embankment and out into the neighbouring field. The sudden stop caused the forepart of the train to buckle up, so that the waggons in the rear jumped on the others and made heaps in places three deep.

The biggest surprise of all is that the driver, fireman and guard escaped with their lives, seeing that the engine cleared the rails and turned right over. The driver, William Norman, from Nine Elms, was the only one who suffered any injuries, and they fortunately were slight, a few minor cuts and bruises, which were attended to by Dr. Gillett prior to the man being taken to the Cottage Hospital. The fireman, Harry Smith, also from Nine Elms, crawled out through the handrail and footplate and escaped unhurt. His bottle of tea, curiously enough, was undisturbed, except that it had rolled out on to the bank. There was one fatality, however, though not as a direct result of the collision. A fast goods train from London had already left Whitchurch, and a mile or so from Andover it was stopped by hand signals. In accordance with his instructions, the guard of this train, George Aggett, of Trodescant Road, South Lambeth, was walking along the line in order to 'guard' his train, when he dropped dead presumably from heart failure. An inquest will be held today.

The frightful crash in the night was heard for a mile around, and by daylight a crowd of curious people had gathered to see the result of the accident. Some carcases, baskets of apples and sundry pieces of iron which had been wrenched off were hurled over the bridge into Charlton Road, while the scene on the railway was almost indescribable. The mighty engine had twisted rails like wire, ploughed up yards of the permanent way, and then as if satisfied with its cruel work of destruction had buried itself in the aforesaid allotment. The way was strewn with splintered carriages, which successfully blocked the up and down lines, the Southampton branch alone being clear. Three breakdown gangs were soon busy, and it was not until the cranes had pulled the battered coaches apart that it was possible to gauge to what extent damage had been committed. As the waggons were wrenched apart with a creak, a lot of the produce came tumbling down through the bottom, and all through the morning men were collecting what produce they could and stacking it on the bank for particulars to be taken, a not very easy thing when it is remembered that cheese, butter and other things were almost unrecognisable. When all the carcases had been taken out they made quite a decent pile, but much of the meat was spoiled. The only live stock in the crash were a couple of crates of poultry, the fat cattle in the rear of the train not being affected. The stuffy atmosphere proved too much for some of the birds and the weakest went to the wall. The strong ones, by the way, made a feast off the baskets of apples.

By night time the down road was practically clear and a new way put down very quickly.

This accident is identical with the one which occurred the other side of the Junction on Oct 13, two years ago. The wreckage was then piled up in heaps, and the produce was strewn everywhere, but fortunately there was no loss of human life.

*From the 'Andover Advertiser' October 13th, 1916.*

#### **INQUEST ON GUARD**

Inquest on Friday evening held at the Junction Hotel:-

**VERDICT:-** 'Death from heart failure, accelerated by excitement and shock from a railway accident happening to a train, but not the train in which the deceased was travelling.'

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### **BACK COPIES**

Copies of Lookback No. 1 are still obtainable, from the Secretary, Andover Local History Society, c/o Andover Public Library, Price 80p.



## THE NEW MUSEUM

by MARTIN MILLETT  
Curator, Andover Museum.

Andover now has a museum again after a gap of some twenty-one years since the former Borough Museum closed. As many of you already know, the museum is situated in the former Headmaster's house of the Grammar School in Church Close. The building, a very fine Georgian house built in 1742, has now been restored and work is already in progress in preparing the galleries. This work will not be completed for several years, but it is intended to open the museum in April, when three rooms (the Tasker Gallery, the Temporary Exhibition Room, and the Aquarium) should be ready for the public. Further galleries will then be opened as they are completed.

The Museum is jointly financed by the Test Valley Borough Council and the Hampshire County Council, and is run by the County Museum Service. The Service has its central headquarters and stores at Chilcomb House near Winchester. As a Service we are able to provide much more than most local museums. The galleries in the Andover Museum are being designed by specialists who are also available to identify objects brought into the museum. My own specialism is archaeology, and I have been recently working on field work and excavations in North-East Hampshire. I am looking forward to extending this work into the Andover area.

The Museum will eventually contain eleven rooms. On the *Ground Floor* will be separate rooms for *Geology*: A display to illustrate how the landscape of the Andover area has evolved and the result of its geological background. *Natural History*: Areas of flora & fauna will be illustrated according to environmental zones, and will include the chalklands, the wetlands of Test Valley and a special display to illustrate the natural history of a cereal field. *Aquarium*: Ten tanks and text will illustrate and explain the natural history of the chalkland streams and a *Tasker Room*: Where the history of this important local company will be illustrated, with objects from Taskers in there and in the reception area. The Museum Service was presented with a collection of Tasker Engines and Machinery when the firm closed its own museum.

The *First Floor* will comprise: *Temporary Exhibition Area*: This very fine, large gallery will house a series of temporary exhibitions, each of which will be on view for a month or so. The programme will include a mixture of local and travelling exhibitions. The Programme for 1981 is: Opening Exhibition of Local Artists (Dates to be arranged) "A Painter and a Potter" – Martin Bright (Painter) and Inge Skov (Pottery) – 25 April to 23 May. "The Work of a New Town Artists – Chris Stevens – 30 May to 27 June. Pottery – Mary Davies – July. "Contemporary Chairs" – Southern Arts Touring Exhibition – 6 August to 3 September. "Texts" – Southern Arts Touring Exhibition – 5 September to 29 September. "The Garden" – Victoria and Albert Museum Touring Exhibition – 5 October to 2 November. "New Forest Photographer" – Richard Kraus – 7 November to 5 December.

The Opening Exhibition & "The Painter and the Potter" Exhibition are likely to run concurrently, in different rooms of the museum. In addition we hope to have the delftware exhibition currently touring the County, on display in another of the rooms for the first few months of the museum's opening.

*Four Rooms of Local Archaeology*. The final arrangement of these rooms, and the decisions about the contents of each have yet to be made. Two rooms will probably be set aside for the Danebury Collections, and the other two for other important sites in the area. Some of the important material from Kimpton, Portway and Bawksbury and other local sites will undoubtedly be used in these.

On the *Second Floor* there will be two rooms of *Local Town & Village History*. The layout and contents of these rooms has yet to be decided, although they will cover important things relating to the development of the town and villages. Some space will undoubtedly be used for civic history, but I hope also to include trades and life in a market town, and the activity of the Wherwell area.

The Museum is naturally in an early stage of development, and its completion will take some time. In the meanwhile, however, I hope to encourage people to use the museum and become involved with it. As I have said elsewhere, I want this to be a community museum, which means involving you and getting your ideas. We also need your help in securing exhibits and informing us about things in the area.

We particularly need objects for the local history section of the museum, and to increase our reserve collection of Andover material.

I am particularly anxious to obtain objects associated with local crafts and trades in the town and its surroundings because these are rapidly disappearing. We cannot say that everything given will be displayed, but we can guarantee they will be kept and preserved for future generations.

---

## ANDOVER WAS . . .

" . . . Andover is a borough and market town in the Division of Andover, Hants, 63 miles from London, and contains 657 houses and 3,304 inhabitants, being 1,458 males and 1,846 females, of whom 1,257 were returned employed in various trades, etc. It stands on the small River Ande, and its Saxon name was Andefaran, i.e. 'over Ande'. It is a healthy and populous place carrying on a considerable traffic in shalloons, malting, etc., particularly since the Canal from hence through Romsey to Southampton has been cut."

This extract comes from Oldfield's "Representative History of Great Britain & Ireland" published in 1816.



# Olla Podrida

## HIGH FEES!

Motorists may well complain these days when they are charged dearly for parking cars when attending functions, or even at the high fees they pay to park in some town centres.

But the horse drawn carriages which brought patrons to Stockbridge race meetings in the mid-19th century had to pay equally high fees for the privilege of entering – costs proportionately as high as those of today – as the following extract from a bill-poster of June 1863, advertising the race course rights to be purchased, will show:-

### STOCKBRIDGE RACES

17th, 18th, 19th, JUNE 1863.

To INNKEEPERS & Others:

TO BE LET, By Auction, by Mr. F. ELLEN,  
At the GRAND STAND, on Stockbridge Race Course,  
On Tuesday, JUNE 9th, 1863, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

1. The right of serving Refreshments in the Grand Stand during the three days Races.
2. The whole of the Ground between the Betting Enclosure and the Road, except a certain space near the Grand Stand and sufficient approaches thereto, which will be reserved for Carriages setting down and taking up at the Grand Stand. The highest bidder for this Lot will have the privilege of charging for all Vehicles entering upon the ground let to him at a rate not exceeding 3s. for each Coach, Omnibus, Van, Break, Landau, Britzka, four-wheel Cab, Chariot, or Fly ; 2s for each ordinary four-wheel Phaeton, and 1s. each for two-wheel Vehicles.

He will also be entitled to underlet the ground for *Snuff-boxing Sticks*, &c.

- \* “Snuff-boxing sticks” apparently, were walking sticks with snuff-boxes carved in their handles. They could thus be used to offer a pinch of snuff to a friend who was beyond normal arms reach!

## WHERE WAS THE CROSS?

c. 1270–1280

“Release from Robert de Eldene and Joan his wife to John Gode, for the sum of 20½s., of all their right in that plot of land in Andevere which they formerly had by the gift of John Horn, son of John Horn, on the W. side of Winchestrestret, opposite the Cross, between the mess, wh. was Will. Gode’s and that wh. was Roger Jurways’, extending W. to the bank and E. to the highway. W. Thos. Spircoc, Stephen Wulfel, John de Wimled(on), Will. Ingulf, Thos. de Celano, Philip Flehan, John Picard, John Robin, Geoffrey Garlic, Thos. Gode, Small fragment of seal.”

(Magdalen College Archives, Oxford). Where, we wonder, was “The Cross?” – Ed.

## IMMORTAL HOPE

by Constance A. Edwards

### ANDOVER GRAMMAR SCHOOL SPEECH DAY

1945

Each of the past six years has left a scar  
Upon this school. Boys that we knew have laid  
Their future at our feet, and some have made  
A total sacrifice. No faultless star  
Invades the heavens to record their name;  
In honour of their deeds no flag is flown  
Today, nor are there any bugles blown.  
But we, who saw them go, we know the fame  
They would have wished to earn. They were too young  
To be deceived by praise. Their fame is here –  
Within our hearts, and in the words we’ve sung,  
In work and games, in all that makes life dear,  
We are the vital hope for which they died  
And in our purpose lies their selfless pride.

## ARREARS OF RENT

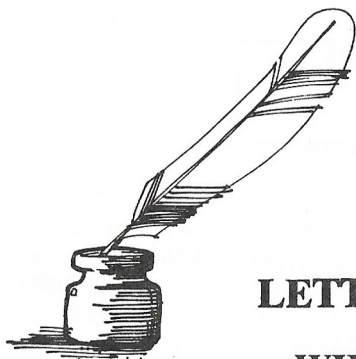
1443 ‘21 Hen. VI

Statement of the arrears of rent due from Robert May of Enham, “gentilman”, [to the town of Andover] in Andovere Cherletone & Enham, after the last burning (“ult. cremacionem”), of the town of Andovere 16 Hen. VI to 21 Hen. VI, amounting in all to £4.4.7½.

Will. Barell and John Crowcheman, bailiffs,	16 Hen. VI.
Will. Lobet and Will. Wythyg	bailiffs, 17 Hen. VI.
Rob. Underwode & John Ive	bailiffs, 18 Hen. VI.
John Poole & John Andrew	bailiffs, 20 Hen. VI.
John Morant & Thomas Dowce	bailiffs, 21 Hen. VI.

(Magdalen College Archives, Oxford)





## LETTERS AND QUERIES

### WHY THE ANGEL?

In the recent issue of LOOKBACK you print a letter under the heading 'WHY THE ANGEL?', in which there are several confusions and mistakes.

(1) Winchester College owned two inns called 'The Angel', one at Alresford and the other at Andover; these have been confused.

(2) The 'Angel' at Alresford was indeed built by Thomas Wolfhow, carpenter, under a contract which survives as Winchester College Muniments no. 1811 and the full Latin text of which has been printed in L.F. Salzman, BUILDING IN ENGLAND (1952-1967), at pages 493-5. The real date of the document is 6 July 1418 (not 1218), and work was not finished until 1424 (see my ENGLISH MEDIAEVAL ARCHITECTS, 1954, p. 300, where a short account of Wolfhow is given, based in part on College accounts). Wolfhow, whose name also appears as Wolf and Wolfo, did not come from Andover, but from Petersfield. The inn, which had previously had the sign of the 'Angel', was in 1424 after the rebuilding re-named the 'George', when a sign of St. George was painted for it by Thomas Draycote, a painter from Basingstoke.

(3) The 'Angel' at Andover was rebuilt for Winchester College rather later, under a contract of 4 March 1444/45, by two carpenters in partnership: John Hardyng of Southampton, and Richard Holnerst (or Holnehurst) of Romsey. This contract, in English, was also printed in full by Salzman (*op. cit.*, pp. 517-190) and further details about Hardyng and Holnerst will be found in my book of 1954, pp. 122, 137. The contract is Winchester College Muniments no. 2522, and bonds for its fulfilment survive as nos. 20090-93.

(4) Winchester College was not responsible for naming the Alresford inn 'The Angel', as it only acquired the property in 1414 and, as mentioned above, re-named the inn 'The George' as soon as it had been rebuilt. The Angel at Andover had presumably been so named while it belonged to the alien priory of Andover, subject to St. Florence in Anjou.

Yours faithfully,

John H. Harvey  
(formerly Archivist to Winchester College, 1949-1964)

32 CHRISTCHURCH STREET EAST,  
FROME,  
SOMERSET, BA11 1QH.

## BODLEIAN ANCESTOR

I read with much interest Clive Burton's notes on the Bodleian Library as I can claim my ancestor Thomas James D.D. B.D. M.A. B.A, fellow of New College, was its first Librarian, from 1600-1620 and compiled the library's very first catalogue in 1605.

He received a salary of £5.13.4d. (paid quarterly). Records reveal that he was one of the first who threatened to strike unless his salary was increased to an annual stipend of £34.4.0d. per annum, (so it has taken 400 years to reach the stage which is commonly known nowadays as the 'British disease', - i.e. the 'strike weapon'!)

Sir Thomas Bodley was very strict regarding celibacy among his employees but because of his high regard for James, he made an exception in his case!

Thomas James was born in Newport I.O.W. in 1573 and died in Oxford 1629 where he was buried at New College Chapel.

Yours sincerely,

Audrey Thorley

Crossway House,  
Andover.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO GILMORE?

You will see from the enclosed form that I have converted my deposit subscription into an ordinary member one for the Andover Local History Society. To judge, however, from this first copy of 'Lookback' it is likely to be my last. The publications of the former archives committee always emphasised the wealth of local research material available and one has only to compare R.A. Jones 'Andover Priory' with any of the contributions in this antiquarian booklet 'Lookback'.

H.W. Earney repeats the story of 'The Tasker Riots of 1830' but fails to tell his readers that John Gilmore of Andover, in spite of the judge's remarks, had his sentence commuted to transportation for life. (1) What happened to him? According to Hobsbawm and Rude, 'for lack of records, this remains mere speculation'. (2) Although he was pardoned, together with other Andoverians, in New South Wales on 1st January 1837. (3)

Yours faithfully

W.H. Boorman B.A., F.P.S.,

7 Newbury Street,  
Whitchurch,  
Hants. RG28 7DW

1. E.J. Hobsbawm and George Rude *Captain Swing*; (1969)  
Lawrence and Wishart, London p. 261
2. Idem p. 276
3. Idem p. 273



## MARISCO

Thank you very kindly for sending me the two copies of 'Lookback', which I have enjoyed reading. May I offer my congratulations on such an excellent publication.

I was interested to read among the names of those mentioned in the grant of land c. 1270, that of 'MARISCO'. The only other time I have seen it mentioned was in connection with Lundy Island. The Marisco's are said to have lived in the Castle there many centuries ago and the Inn on the Island is the 'Marisco Tavern'.

When doing some family research near Pembroke, I visited Rhoscrowther. Among the graves in the Churchyard was one for 'WILLIAM JOICE of AMPORT, HANTS. DIED 29 AUG. 1847: Age 57 – 'of KILPAISON in this Parish'. He was far from home and I wondered if he had been the local parson?

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Jones

89 Woodland Drive,  
WATFORD  
Herts.

The Marisco family were of some importance in the Andover area for several centuries. Indeed, Ricardus de Marisco was one of Andover's two MPs who attended Edward II's Parliament at Northampton in 1307 (the other was Johannes le Poer). Other mentions noted whilst researching other material occur in undated documents (12th century) were of Adam de Marisco, Bailiff (Mayor); Thomas de Marisco, son of Peter de Marisco; John de Marisco (1291/2) and Walter de Marisco, not dated but 12/13th Century. The family held land, largely in the Shepherds Springs/Enham area and numerous references occur in records of Magdalen College to whom the land (eventually May or Mayes Manor) devolved – see also next item. – Editor

## CHURCH CHANDELIER

Mr. R. Sherlock of Barnstaple, Devon writes to say:

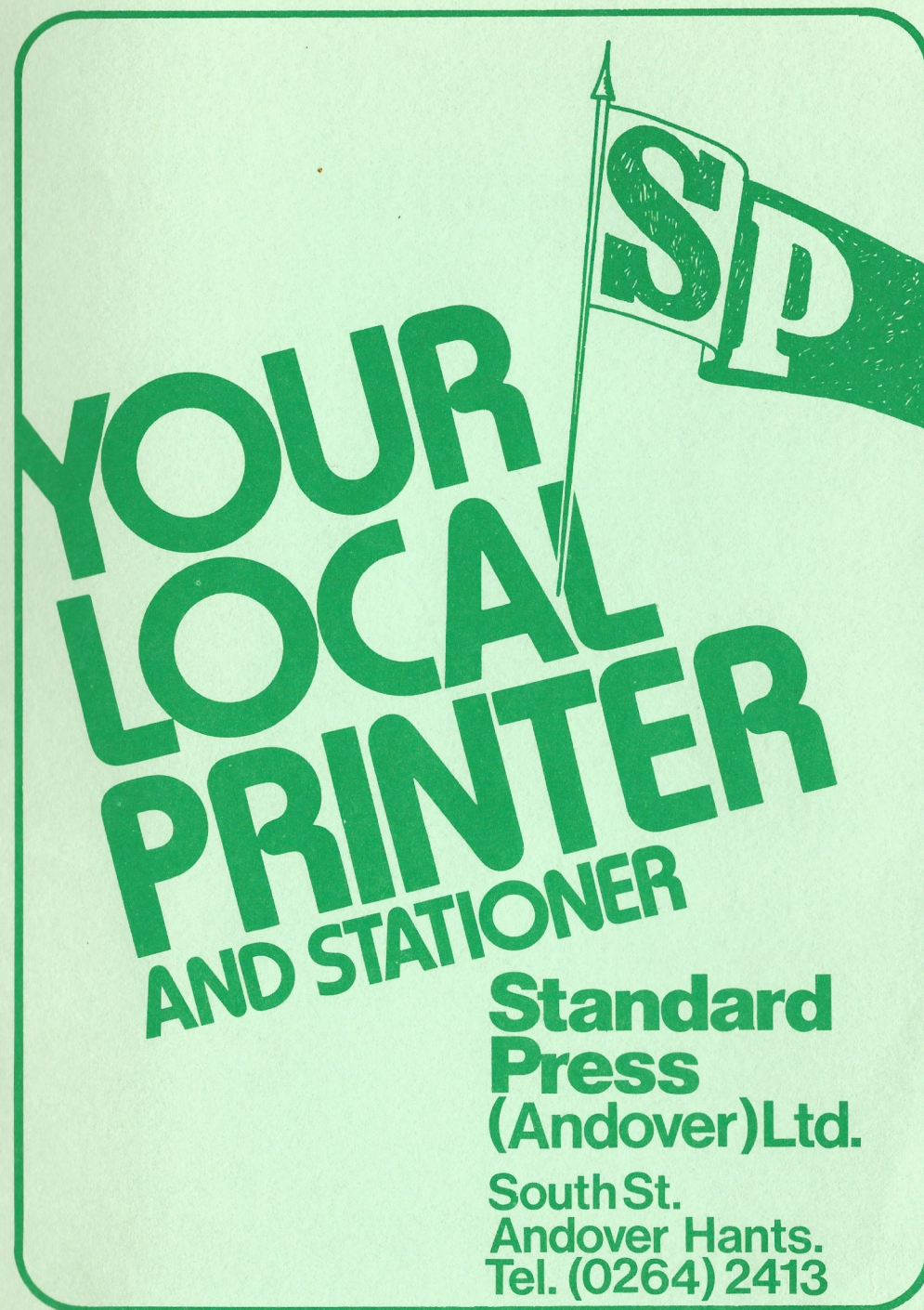
"As part of a national study, I am interested in a brass chandelier that hangs in Abbotts Ann church".

Mr. Sherlock believes that the chandelier was originally donated to Andover church by Miss Mountain in 1784 and when the old Andover church was demolished the chandelier was given to Abbotts Ann church by a relative of the donor, Mr. Harry Footner. All of this is confirmed by the Andover historian, the late Arthur C. Bennett, in his book "Brief Notes relating to Andover Church", but Mr. Sherlock would welcome further information if anyone could supply it.

Please reply to the Editor of 'LOOKBACK' if you can supply any information.

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