

Quantock u3a Local History Group Meeting September 2023

Pat Woolley The History of Kilve through Pictures

Thank you so much Pat for stepping in and treating us to a fascination journey round Kilve through the last 100-200 years. Just to let the group know – I failed to get any flowers for Pat for the meeting, but have dropped some round to her today (Tuesday) to show our appreciation! I raided our spare cash to do this, and hope no-one objects!

Here as usual are my musings

- Olaf's archive (Olaf was a long standing and fascinating Kilve character who died a couple of years back – he was one of the first computer programmers in the country!)
- Millands farm and thatched cottages 1930s
- Laggar Hill? Source of name (there's a challenge...)
- Crockers were Blacksmith in 1800s
- William Cocker also postman and reverend, also dentist
- Toll house collected 6 shillings a week at its peak (1880s)
- 150 people in village
- 1891 still Crockers at blacksmith
- By 1901 it was uninhabited and there was a Crocker at Putsham farm
- 1931 Kelly directory, smithy still in use, but pictured with wickerwork for sale
- Dickinsons had an Angora farm up Pardlestone Lane
- Toll House 1965, Mrs Hurley living there, no sanitation inside. Tolls collected 1765 to 1887. Village Hall minutes...buy toll house £200, plus cost £300 to level – nope! Sold to rural district council instead.
- 1965 smithy replaced by 2 storey building, the bakery, run by the knights who built Mair's house
- Also Kilve Court chauffeurs
- In the 1980s, general and bread store on left
- 1968 Barkers, very sparse stock kept. Son Vivienne, took over and hated it. He bought land and built next to Woolley's house. His desire was to be an aeronautical engineer, apprenticed to Frank Whittle.
- Cafe Alcoves in 1970? No one recalls it...
- Pub in 1904, Chough and Anchor, 1832 the Hood Arms. St Aubins family (owned St Audries at one point in the past)
- St George's Chapel built 1807 by pub landlord, closed in 1888, sold in 1912
- Bebols, bee skeps kept in the (where gas is stored now outside stores – and that wall was not there in some of Pat's pictures, and there was a wall all round the edge of the current parking area in front)
- Petrol station outside pub. Metal covering still in front of Hood
- 2004 skittle alley still in use
- Hillside cottages in front of little Orchard. Mrs Chilcott, demolished in 1970s to widen road
- Putsham Mead built in late 70s/ early 80s
- Function room at pub – very active (village hall limited to “Reading Room”)
- Village Hall extension mid wars
- Electricity supply funded by American troops based at Alfoxton
- Opened in 1953 officially
- 1974 Wessex took over water supply to village from Luttrell estate

- Kilve Court built in 1703
- Phyllis worked there. Council bought in 1973
- Putsham farm may have been an open hall house originally – very ancient.
- Bettes house was post office, tea room
- Wheelwright where Stans house...fantastic pictures of ancient old barn.
- Burnt down in 1974
- Glebe cottage became Old Rectory (which replaced the original rectory down Sea Lane)
- St Georges was a grain store 1700s
- Retaining wall on Sea Lane is undated, but quite a construction. Sea Lane was referred to as Church Rd for most years of the censuses Pat has researched.
- Mary Evans cottage was thatched, Pugsleys owned
- The Nutshell, Green Hedges as was. Tea Room in garden. Recent renovation has revealed successive alterations to the building – from what looks like original single storey dwelling (Sarah's note: somewhere I had heard it was used as the chauffeurs house for the family that lived at Mill House – and originally beside it where the foot bridge now is there was a ford through the brook from the Mill House, the mill and farm onto Sea Lane.)
- Sunnyside was three cottages, drs surgery, store, thatched originally
- Park House, poor house farm, 6 month lease of poor house???
- Friendly society and staves in hood
- May walk from Hood to Church, men as part of friendly society
- Meadow House Hotel was the Old, old rectory
- Old rectory pond, 1989 restored to 1925?
- Calligrapher needed for church incumbents
- Box pews 1687 on one end, matches date on tower...
- 1791 yew tree, 19 feet circumference. Blown down in Sept 1950
- Phyllis Dad carved model of church from yew or oak?
- Vestry covered doorways to a chantry chapel, doorway led to a tunnel to the old chantry, now has boilerhouse behind it
- Crypt 2011, oil leak video probe discovered 4 lead coffins, may be more vaults and a tunnel
- 1820 chantry picture.
- Oil retort 1923
- 1769, lime kiln built, 1558 kilve pill condemned. Wall occasionally still exposed