

# 100 Years of the Civil Parish of COLEHILL 1896-1996



*The contents of this booklet were first used as a commemorative display for the centenary celebrations of Colehill Parish Council on 20th April, 1996.*



# ~ The Nineteenth Century ~

## The Landed Gentry:

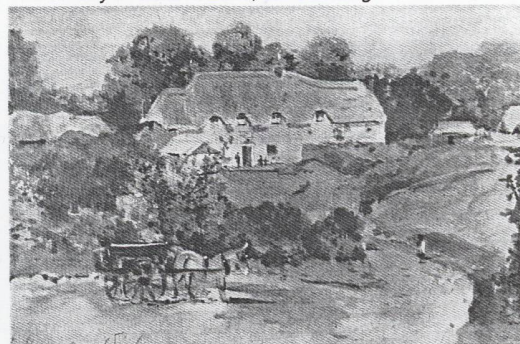
The Bankes (Kingston Lacy), Hanham (Deans Court) and Greathed (Uddens) families

## The 'Big Houses':

Park Homer (by 1861); Northleigh (1862); Beaucroft (1876); Bells (by 1883); Onslow (1884); Highlands; Rowney;



*The Smithy in Colehill Lane, still standing*



*The Horns*

## The Railway:

The Southampton and Dorchester 1847: main line from London to Poole until 1888: main line from London to Dorchester and Weymouth until 1893

## School:

Village school 1865 - the oldest surviving public building. A 'Charity' school. In 1894 125 pupils, aged 3-14 years, were charged 2d (less than 1p) or 4d (just over 1.5p) a week.

## Churches:

Little Lonnen Chapel, mud-built Primitive Methodist Chapel, (close to present Four Wells Road) approx. 1855. With Broomhill Methodists some members formed the String Orchestra 1892.



*The Iron Church (C. of E.) or 'Trotman's Tin Tabernacle' 1881 (opposite present Wimborne Road garage)*

'... a few little cottages are scattered here and there around the hill, but it has nothing worthy of notice.'  
*Hutchins's County History 1868*



*Northleigh House c.1875*

'Land and houses on Colehill ... are particularly sought after, the sites being healthy and commanding fine views.'  
*Burrows's 'Pocket Guide'*

## Colehill-based occupations:

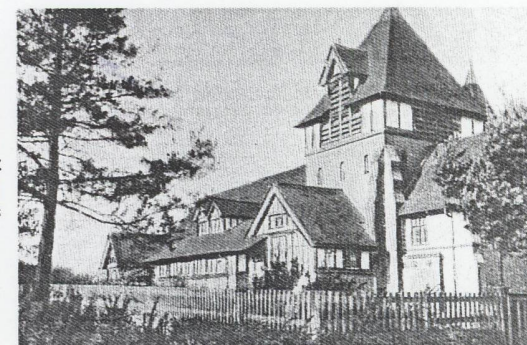
Basket-maker; blacksmith; brick-maker; builder; candle-maker; cloth-maker; cordwainer; chimney-sweep; farmer or labourer; miller; laundress; sawyer; servant in a 'Big House'; stocking-maker; rush dealer; turner; tailor; wheelwright; toll collector. (Leigh Turnpike Gate House)

## Public Houses:

The Horns (Ale-house in 1775)  
The Barley Mow  
The Horse and Jockey (Leigh Common)



*Middlehill School*



*Replaced by present church of St. Michael and All Angels 1895*

© Priest's House Museum

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# ~ The Nineteenth Century ~

## Local Government Act 1894 -

Created the system of Civil Parishes to administer, on a local level, matters in the public domain.  
Holt constituted as a separate parish and divided into two wards, Holt and Colehill  
Petition by 200 electors for Colehill as a separate parish.

**1896 Colehill confirmed as a separate Parish**

## 1896

First meeting of nine elected Councillors at the 'Glyn Arms Coffee Tavern' in Colehill Lane, owned by Joseph Guy the blacksmith - the only meeting place in the village.  
Chairman: Robert Elcock. He and John Smith were elected 'Overseers of the Poor of the Parish' and administrators of Gundry's Charity by which eight needy individuals received a shilling (5p) each a year.



*The Coffee Tavern, Colehill Lane (still standing)*

## Matters to be dealt with by the first Parish Council -



*Leigh Common and Leigh Pond (Beaucroft House on the horizon)*

## Obstruction across Roads and Footways:

'A discussion took place as to the obstruction being placed across numerous old public footways and roadways across Colehill and it was resolved ... that a committee of the whole council be appointed to consider the whole question of stopping up these old footways and roadways.'  
*Minutes of 22nd February, 1897.*

## Recreation Ground:

'Mr. Prince moved that it is necessary that the Parish Council shall provide a recreation ground for Colehill.'  
*Minutes of 22nd February, 1897*

Attempt to obtain land adjoining railway line for provision of playing fields.

## Street Lighting:

'The Wimborne Gas Company .... refuse to give Colehill the same advantage with regard to street lamps as to the Urban District and that if the Council require the Colehill roads to be lighted, the Council will have to provide the posts, lamps, erection and maintenance.'  
*Minutes of 20th April, 1897*

Argument with Rural District Council over upkeep of part of Long Lane towards junction with Smugglers Lane 'dangerous to the public.' 1897

Discussion on provision of a cemetery -1897

## Allotments:

'The Clerk stated that Mr. Cochrane had asked to be allowed 10/- (50p) for picking out docks from the grass he purchased in the Allotment Land at Leigh. The Council agreed to allow five shillings (25p) only.'  
*Minutes of 2nd January, 1899*

'Resolved that the whole Council do constitute the Committee for Allotment Purposes'.  
*Minutes of 17th April, 1899*

## Rights on Leigh Common:

'Complaints were laid before the Council that certain persons exercised a greater right of pasturage on Leigh Common than they were entitled to. The matter was left over for future consideration'.  
*Minutes of 6th July, 1896.*

## Leigh Pond:

'It was also represented that a nuisance existed, by reason of the deposits of rubbish and in the pits on the Common.'  
*Minutes of 6th July, 1896.*

## L & SW Railway Co. Purchase of land at Leigh Common:

'It was stated that the amount paid by the L & SW Railway Company for land taken from Leigh Common when their main line was constructed was at that time deposited in one of the local Banks and had not been used for the general benefit of the owners of rights on the Common. The Clerk was directed to write asking what amount had been paid, as regard this land, and to whom.'  
*Minutes of 6th July, 1896.*

## 'Endorsing a petition for a Post Office 1896'



*1897 - Post Office opened*

## Grants for Technical Purposes:

'Mr. John Smith reported that the sum of five pounds had been granted by the Technical Committee for instruction at Colehill in "First Aid to the Injured" and that classes would be formed at once.'  
*Minutes of 2nd January, 1899*

## Poor Relief Payments:

'Recipients of Poor Relief will now be paid in the Coffee Tavern instead of The Wimborne Workhouse.'  
*Minutes of 2nd October, 1899*



# ~ Into the Twentieth Century ~

## Allotments:

'A letter was read from Mr. H. O. Chislett stating that Mr. G. Hunt's cows had got over into the allotment field at Leigh and asking that the fences may be attended to. It was pointed out that the cows must have been straying on the Highway in order to get into the Allotments from the roadside and that it was Mr., Hunt's duty to fence in his cattle on his own lane. The Council however decided to have their fencing put in order.' *Minutes of 1st January, 1900*

## South African War Fund:

'The question was discussed of making a collection by the Councillors on behalf of the widows and orphans of the soldiers and sailors and the wounded in the South African War and the matter was left over until the first Monday in February when a Special Meeting is to be called.' *Minutes of 1st January, 1900*

It was resolved to arrange for a house to house collection by the Members of the Council in aid of the Funds to the widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors and the wounded.' *Minutes of 5th February, 1900*



Cobbs Road, looking towards Greenhill

## 1902

Education Act ordained Managers to be appointed to run schools

## Street Lighting:

'Mr. Guy brought forward the question of lighting some parts of Colehill, but no resolution was passed thereon.' *Minutes of 6th January, 1902*

## County Council Representation:

'It was unanimously resolved to ask Sir J. A. Hanham, Bart. the newly elected County Councillor to press forward the claims of the Parish for a separate representative for the Rural Parishes of Colehill, Pamphill and Holt as separate from the Urban District of Wimborne.' *Minutes of 21st April, 1902*

## Postal Services:

The Clerk reported that he had forwarded to the Postmaster General copy of the resolution .... asking for greater postal facilities at the Colehill Post Office. A reply had been received stating that .... Colehill Sub Post Office will be opened for the transaction of money order and Savings Bank business.' *Minutes of 7th July, 1902*



Belle Vue Terrace, built c. 1900, Wimborne Road



'The Firs', Smugglers Lane, looking from Church to Post Office. 'Granny Bloomer' 1823-1920 in foreground.

## Gravel Pits:

'Reference was made to the danger at Colehill arising from the want of protection at the edges of deep gravel pits at Colehill and the Clerk was directed to write to Mr. Lodder, (agent for the Bankes estate), stating that ... he would oblige the Council by having some protection placed around the edges...' *Minutes of 5th February, 1900*

## 1901

Census returns: Population 1,005

## Refuse Disposal:

'Mr. Solly complained of the nuisance at Colehill by persons depositing rubbish in the hollows by the roadside but no action was taken in the matter.' *Minutes of 15th April, 1901*

## Footpaths:

'From Mr. George Habgood at Greenhill: "Dear Sir, It is no use writing to me I am only the tenant and the landlord (Mr. Bankes) says there is no legal footpath. The matter must be settled with him." ' *Minutes of 1st July, 1901*



Paget Cottages, built 1891 at the junction of Wimborne Road and Kyrchil Way - 'Emily Habgood's laundry.'

## Grants for Technical Purposes:

'... reported that the Holt Local Technical Committee had decided not to arrange for Ambulance classes at Colehill as requested ... since the whole grant was to be devoted to agricultural subjects. It was resolved to write to the Secretary of the County Technical Committee complaining that these were of no practical use to the Parishioners of Colehill who are mostly artisans, and requesting 10/- (50p) may be granted and stating that Colehill's fair share of the Grants for Technical Purposes had never been received.' *Minutes of 6th October, 1902*



# ~ Into the Twentieth Century ~

## 1903

Kelly's Directory: Colehill:

- Area 1,591 acres of land;
- 10 acres of water;
- Assessable value: £3,283;
- 'Private' residents: 18
- Commercial residents: 22 - including Horns Inn and Leigh Vineries (glasshouses).
- Post Office: letters arriving from Wimborne at 7 and 11.10 a.m. and dispatched at 9 and 11.10 a.m. and 7.25 p.m.
- Local families (ancestry of some traceable back to the 16-17th centuries):-  
Frank Barrett (grocer, baker and Post Office); Henry Habgood (haulier); John Cobb and Charles Coombes (brickmakers); Joseph Guy and George Wilkins (blacksmiths); James Wareham (wheelwright); Dacombe; Welch.

## 1903-4

Colehill St. Michael's Football Club ('The Mikes' or 'The Saints') competing in the District Junior League.



St. Michael's Football Club 1905-6

## 1904

Cricket Club (associated with Young Men's Bible Class) played their first match. Formally constituted 1905.

Parish Magazine reported a stormy meeting at Middlehill School 'ending with some violence' during the General Election campaign.

## 1905

Decision to have 'a Master at the head of the School instead of a Mistress. The School had grown so much of late that it was felt that it needed now a man's authority.'



The Mothers' Union with the wife of the Rev. Kindersley (St. Michael's first vicar, 1903-1917), outside the Vicarage.

## Death of Edward VII:

The Council recorded a vote of sympathy on the death of Edward VII. *Minutes of 1910*

## Coronation Festivities:

Resolved 'the expenses of Coronation Festivities be levied by a rate not exceeding 2d (less than 1p) in the £.' *Minutes of 27th March, 1911. but...*

'Parishioners had decided to defray any expenses by public subscriptions. It was reported that Coronation Festivities had been held on 22nd June. The result had been most successful and much appreciated by the Parishioners'. *Minutes of 3rd July, 1911*

## 1912

Water main extended to upper part of village  
Telephone poles erected.

## 1913

Little Lonnen, Pilford, Glynville, Middlehill (including the Village School) and Canford Bottom transferred from Hampreston to Colehill by County Order. Ecclesiastical and civil boundaries now the same.  
New Primitive Methodist Chapel built (Lonnen Road)

## Allotments:

With regard to trespass and damage by children and others over the Leigh Allotments it was resolved that the Clerk be requested to ask Mr. Marsh to send to caution the parents of those children who have stolen vegetables from the Allotments, the names to be supplied by Mr. Prince if required. *Minutes of 2nd July, 1906*

## 1907

The Church ran a 'Coal and Clothing Club' for the poor (Coal sold at 21s (£1.05) a ton).

## 1908

The Coffee Tavern was the meeting place for many local activities and for the school's cookery classes for girls.

## Leigh Pond:

As no reasonable offer was made to clear the Pond the Council decided to allow the matter to remain over for the present. *Minutes of 20th July, 1908*

'Mr. Drake's offer of £10 be accepted.'  
*Minutes of 28th July, 1908*

## 1909

Parish Council still declined to provide street lighting (but gas mains laid for domestic purposes).

## Boundary Changes:

'Resolved unanimously that this Parish Meeting recommend the Parish Council to offer the strongest opposition to the proposal of the Wimborne Urban District Council to include in their Urban District any portion of the Parish of Colehill. *Minutes of April, 1909*



Three generations of the Shiner family, Homsley Villas, Middlehill Road c.1912



# ~ The Great War ~

**1914-1918**

Girls at school knitted socks and mufflers for soldiers.  
Children gathered acorns for Holton Heath Cordite Works  
(as a constituent for gunpowder?)

## Triennial Elections of Parish Councillors Postponed for one year because of the War.

'The Chairman on referring to the War and to the number of men who had enlisted in His Majesty's forces said that Colehill had done its duty.' *Minutes of 1st April, 1916*

As a result of a letter from Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District Council Food Economy Committee notifying parishes that the Local Education Authority was arranging for trained demonstrations in Economical Cooking, it was resolved:- 'that there is little or no use in having a demonstration of cookery in the Parish for the reason that the population is so much scattered and that the Parishioners are practising economy in every way.'

*Minutes of Special Meeting, 17th December, 1917*



Beaucroft House converted into a Red Cross Hospital for the wounded from the Front.

By the end of the War 36 men from the village had been killed.

## Proposed War Memorial:

Cross or obelisk? *Minutes of 17th March, 1919*

## Proposed Supper for Ex-Servicemen from Colehill:

'The Council are of the opinion that the proposed supper should be arranged privately.'

*Minutes of 12th September, 1919*



**1920**

War Memorial erected



c.1916 Middlehill School Class I with the Headmaster, Mr. F. M. Lodge (1905-25)

A potato sprayer, purchased for £3.00, was available for use, free, by parishioners. *Minutes of 7th October, 1918*

## Parish Accounts:

Re Report by District Auditor on inaccurate accounts of banking of collections from Allotment Holders, the Assistant Overseer (i.e. the Clerk) in his defence cited loss of assistants to War Service, his public service for 47 years (appointed 1871) the added work as the Parish grew, no holidays for 30 years and at 69 years of age no War Bonds or pension to look forward to. *Minutes of 18th November, 1918*

**1919**

Branch of the Women's Institute formed and immediately campaigned for refuse collection from houses.



Mrs. Ann Parfitt ('Granny Bloomer') of Merrifield 1823-1920. Born in the reign of George IV she lived through the reigns of William IV, Victoria, and Edward VII. George V was on the throne when she died. When she was 11 years old the Tolpuddle Martyrs were transported to Australia and Thomas Hardy was born when she was twenty. In her time she worked in the fields from morning till night for 10d. (4p) a day.