

PREFACE

In 1974 Enid and I decided to look for a house of our own as I was due to retire in 1976. Gloucestershire we knew was a nice county in which to live. We had certain connections with it. On our days off we frequently toured the Cotswolds, we were then living in Henley-on-Thames. Added to this, in about 1910 my father considered buying the practice at Northleach and so becoming its local doctor, however, he went to Weobley in Herefordshire. His father, James Strachan Clarke who died in 1976 aged 45 or 46 had been a tenant farmer at Ashwick Grange, Marshfield and apparently the Land Agent of the people living at Ashwick Hall. Unfortunately, the records of ownership of the Hall were destroyed in the Bristol blitz during World War II so I know nothing about them. In the parish church there is a brass plate concerning him. The name is incorrect, he is called James Stephenson Clarke, this was an error on the part of my Aunt Agnes, his eldest daughter. In 1775 a certain John Clarke married Jane Stephenson, she is alleged to be the beauty of the Clarkes (though I would think, judging from the pictures, that my wife Enid, runs her a close second and is probably ahead of her). The name Stephenson became attached to the Clarkes until the present day.

After a long search we saw a photograph of our cottage in the premises of Bloss, Tippett and Taylor of Bourton-on-the-Water and in 1976 bought it from Mr. and Mrs. Gamble. We discovered that Anne Gamble had been at school with Enid, Enid being some 4 years her junior. It was not till many years later that we discovered that we were living amongst the Upper Ten in the village! When the number of houses in Lower or Nether Dean (in some old documents styled Thurkedene Inferior, Upper Turkdean being called Turkdean Superior) was reduced to five, part of the parish was known as the Lower Five, houses in Upper Dean were said to be living in the Upper Ten. As I am always interested in local history I decided to write a parochial history. So far as I know there is no single volume relating the history of the parish. I am indebted to many authors for the information I have collected and to many local folk, mostly residents of the village. I have tried to be accurate. So it was that in November 1980 I started to write.

J.S. Clarke
The Cottage
Turkdean

THE VILLAGE

The civil and ecclesiastical parishes of Turkdean share the same boundary. The village is some 13 miles North North East of Cirencester, 22 miles from Gloucester and 8 miles from Stow-on-the-Wold. It is said to be noted for its healthy air, sound sleep and sweet mutton – at its northern point it is some 740 feet above sea-level. Its nearest town with shops is Northleach. In the Domesday Book (Book of Judgement) which was compiled between 1080 and 1086 in the reign of William the Conqueror it is stated to be in the Hundred of Bradeley, later spelt Bradley. An Hundred was a small Geographical administrative area, perhaps large enough to contain 100 inhabitants with their property. In those days the name of the village was spelt Turghedene and Turchedene. At the present time the road through the village divides the Cotswold from the Heythrop Hunt, the Cotswold being to the west of the road. A notice in the church records that the origin of the name was derived from a family called La Torque (The Boar) but I can find no evidence for this. The Saxon word 'Dene' means 'Valley'. Mr. Arthur Mee in his book 'Gloucestershire' states that the name is older than the Saxons and is derived from an ancient British word meaning 'Boar'. Professor Smith suggests that the origin is the Welsh word 'Twrch' (Boar). From Kelly's Directory 1923 can be learnt that the parish contains 2,178 acres, the soil is stone brash, subsoil rock and clay; and that at that time it had a rateable value of £1,500. The chief crops being wheat, barley, oats and roots. The Cotswolds as well as other parts of the country are renowned for their sheep. In order to encourage this form of farming in 1667, the Burying in Woollen Act was passed, and not repealed till 1800 by which time it had fallen into abeyance. It forbade corpses being buried in anything other than sheep's wool. Amongst other things, the motive was to discourage the import of linen from abroad. As Mr. Ulric Daubenny narrates in his book 'Ancient Cotswold Churches' by 1678 before a funeral a certificate had to be produced stating that the corpse was wrapped in wool. The penalty for disobedience was £5 to be divided between the Informer and the Poor of the Parish. In 1683 Mrs. Mary Coxwell of Turkdean was 'buried in linnen' contrary to statute. The informer, Mr. Rowland Corbett was rewarded with 50/-.

The southern part of the village proper begins with the little bridge at the foot of the hill known as the Beeches, the finest Beech avenue in the county and for miles around. Under the bridge is a stream known as Turkadina. Ascending the Beeches as one turns right, on the left may be seen a track leading down to Lower Dean which is called The Snicket. In Yorkshire the word means – a cobbled street or alley (passage-way) between two buildings. In the Snicket are signs that the pathway was made of stone. In Somerset a similar passage-way between stone walls is known as a Drung because it is alleged that the echo from a person walking sounds like drung, drung. In parts of Devon a snicket is called drungway. Just beyond the Snicket is a trough at which villagers used to do their washing and no doubt where animals were sometimes watered. Inside the entrance to Turkdean Manor can be seen the base of a stone cross, the site of the Manorial Court. Kelly's Directory 1931 gives this information adding that the manor was built in 1588 by a member of the Baynstree family. Outside the Manor is a triangular piece of land with a tree on it, this is the Village Green, the only piece of common land registered in the parish. Colonel Henry King of Lower Dean reports that it was registered and the ownership vested in the (civil) parish council at a meeting of the Common Land Commission held in the Shire Hall, Gloucester in September 1976. Proceeding farther up the hill on the left opposite

Turkdean Wood can be seen across the valley a curious land formation on May bush Hill in a field called Strip Lynches. At first sight it might be thought to be a piece of the strip field method of agriculture but this is unlikely to be so. It has been contended that it is the remains of a vine-yard made in Roman times (there is the site of a Roman Camp at Hasleton). Again this is unlikely bearing in mind the compass direction to which it faces. Mr. Wilfred Mustoe of Manor Farm suggests what is far more likely to be the truth namely that the land was laid out in this step formation so that fleeces could be laid on it for drying purposes and his theory is supported by the fact that Fullers Earth can be found nearby. Fullers Earth is any clay with natural absorbent qualities. The name is derived from the fuller who used it to remove grease from the wool. Today it is used as a bleaching agent in refining mineral oils and vegetable fats from which to remove any unwanted colours. It is also used in medicine. The substance comes from spherical grained limestone particles acquiring concentrated layers of calcium carbonate. I think Mr. William Smith (1769-1839) 'The Father of English Geology' first realised the value of what came to be known as Fullers Earth. Between Midford and Monkton Combe, near Bath, can be seen the old canal beside which are the remains of Fullers Earth works and there is a cottage recording that William Smith lived there.

There have been many changes in the village at one time there were two or three shops and a bakery. Now there are no commercial premises but there is a telephone kiosk. Cottages have been pulled down, some have been made into larger houses and in 1951 six Council Houses were built. The school went out of commission in 1950. According to Mr. W.J. Monk in his book 'Northleach and Around', in 1801 the population was 143, by 1871 it had reached its peak – 337. By 1901 it had declined to 187. The 1977 Diocesan Year Book puts the figure at 70 adults. Willow Bank House, Lower Dean, the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.E.E. Welton is alleged to have been an inn called 'The Old Thatched Inn'. A previous owner dug up a model in the garden which she thought was of the house when it was an inn, on it was the date 169- to 1697. Next door where the afore-mentioned Henry King and his wife Moyra live in a lovely house called 'Castle View' (though where the castle is or was no-one seems to know) was allegedly once 'The Tiddlewick Inn'. There appears to be more evidence for this having been a public house as there are indications of storage space for barrels. Henry did tell me that there was a slight smell of beer around the place but as I said to him – this is not positive proof that the place once was a pub! With the help of Mr. Michael Whitbread who with his wife Helen dwells opposite at the Gray House, a splendid house formerly Blanche Farm, I have researched the matter. I can find no evidence that the houses were once inns. They may have been establishments in which beer and cider were sold. My next door neighbour Mr. Paul Mustoe, son of the above mentioned Wilfred has reported that his Great Uncle Herbert who lived in the village in about 1882 had no certain knowledge of the inn's existence.

THE CHURCH

It is believed that the present Parish Church was built on the site of an 8th Century one; if this is so our church must have been built on one of the oldest ecclesiastical foundations in the Cotswolds. The ancient church would have been a St. Frideswide foundation. Her name means 'Bond of Peace'. The Oxford dictionary of the Christian Church informs us that she died in about 735 and is the patron saint of the city and university of Oxford. She was reputed to be the daughter of Didanus, a Mercian prince. She took a vow of virginity to avoid marrying a neighbouring King Algar and took refuge in Oxford she founded a nunnery over which she became Abbess. A monastery bearing her name and occupied by secular canons is known to have existed in Oxford before the Conquest. This monastery was suppressed about 1524. In the 12th Century the Augustinian canons occupied the premises. The monastery was situated in the West of Oxford at Osney being founded by Robert D'Oilgi the nephew of the builder of Oxford Castle in 1129. It became a priory and later an abbey becoming very wealthy, little remains of it. For a while it was a cathedral but when Henry VIII (1509 – 1547) founded 6 new bishoprics of which Oxford was one, the seat of the bishopric was transferred to Oxford in about 1542, the abbot of Osney became the first bishop of Oxford – Robert King (1542 – 1558). The Oxford Handbook of Religious Knowledge states that the Austin canons were originally a community of priests serving in cathedrals and parish churches bound to live under the Rule of St. Augustine bishop of Hippo in North Africa. He died about 430 and is not to be confused with St. Augustine the first Archbishop of Canterbury who died in 604. The canons were called Austin, Regular and Black canons, the latter name because they wore black habits. They were introduced into England by St. Birinius in 636.

Our present church was built by Robert D'Oilgi (de Olgie, Doilie and Doyley being alternative spellings). He fought with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings (1066) and was made Constable of Oxford. He built the castle there, was created a baron and given the manor of Turkdean. The motive for building the church was a self imposed penance for a life of cruelty and greed. In his 'History of Gloucestershire', the Reverend T. Rudge who wrote in 1803 states that the church was dedicated to St. Mary. Later the dedication was changed to All Saints but I cannot discover when. Mr. David Verey in his book 'Gloucestershire – The Cotswolds' (last published in 1970) reports that the original Norman Church comprised the chancel and nave hence the shape was oblong, the tower being a later addition in the 19th Century. The surviving features are mainly in the walls. In the 19th Century the North Wall was rebuilt. The south aisle was added in the Perpendicular style of architecture (14/15 Centuries). The lower part of the tower was made from carved Norman stones, a diaper slab (Diaper work is surface decoration of square and lozenge shapes). There is a half enriched doorway in the North wall. On the south wall of the chancel, upper portico of Norman doorway with diapered tympanium (space between lintel or doorway and arch above it) abaci (flat slabs on top of capital i.e. head of column) and hooded mould (projecting above an arch or lintel to throw off water also called a dripstone or label). The porch is 15th century, nave windows Perpendicular. The Arcade (range of arches supported on piers or columns) has three bays dating back to about 1375. The chancel arch is Norman.

The Font is a 19th Century replacement of a 14th Century one, the pulpit is 15th Century. In its heyday, Turkdean church was said to have been one of the most beautiful churches in the district but owing to redecorating the walls only a few of the frescoes can be faintly seen. Once the Ten Commandments and a Cross could have been seen in the nave above the North door and the Royal Coat of Arms above the chancel arch. The foundation stone is alleged too be on the East wall but I cannot identify it. Under the altar (now covered by the carpet) lies the Consecration Stone. In the early days of the Church Holy Communion was celebrated on Altars of stone. With the help of the church cleaners, Mrs. R. Castle and Mrs. E. Saunders I have inspected this stone which measures 4' x 2' and is much defaced. The usual carved crosses, one in each corner and one in the center can just about be seen. These two ladies are making gallant efforts to keep the church tidy, but despite a splendid effort some years ago to raise funds for repairs and decorations and to keep out damp, success has not really been attained and plaster is crumbling. The work of the cleaners is formidable and they are fighting a losing battle but like Horatius in Macaulay's 'Lays of Ancient Rome'

'And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds
For the ashes of his fathers
And the temples of his Gods'

So far as I am aware they have had no mishaps as took place in a church in Surbiton some 60 years ago in which an uncle of mine was a churchwarden. The cleaners were cleaning the Rood Screen which was similar to the one in our church except that the two saints had haloes made from metal discs. Below the screen was a wooden lectern in the shape of an eagle, unfortunately suffering badly from woodworm. One of the cleaners knocked off an halo which in dropping to the floor decapitated the eagle. In great distress they came to my uncle saying we have had a terrible accident, we knocked the hat off St. Peter and in falling it cut the head off the goose!

(Actually the Altar is not situated due East, but I have referred to it as if it were).

Mr. Richard Holsworth in 'Gloucestershire, Notes and Queries' (written in 1913) calls attention to the doorway on the South wall of the nave which is now blocked. It would appear that when the nave was widened the doorway was replaced in the wall. He states that in 1897 a new rood was built, he points out that the walls are not at rightangles to each other. In 1897 much restoration work was done which cost £964 11s 10d. A new wooden floor was added to the nave and chancel and during excavations in the South Western corner of the nave, the old altar stone was found measuring 9' x 2' and 9" thick (compare my figures given above). Some tombstones were removed from the center of the nave to its Southern side. In 1859 new altar rails were fixed and a wooden altar given by The Honourable John Dutton. A Glastonbury chair was given by Dr. Middleton and a cross placed over the gable of the Chancel by Miss Biscoe, the Vicar's sister. In 1839 a new East window was built, the font renewed and the high square pews replaced by low ones. Inside the church there are several interesting features. There is a pleasing East window. In the North wall of the chancel is a stained glass window depicting St. Peter and St. Paul beneath which is a brass plate both in memory of Frederick Biscoe and outside by the South Gate to the churchyard a number of tombstones of the Biscoe family. The Reverend Frederick Biscoe was Vicar of Turkdean 1837 – 1881. The screen designed by Peter Falconer is oak painted white with vivid colours and has on top of it a crucifix flanked by two saints.

On a plate on it is indicated that it is in memory of Arthur Edward Moss of Leygore Manor, died January 28 1943; also Frederick Dominic Main, Chaplain R.N. husband of Judith Moss, died July 23 1949 serving in H.M.S. Defiance. In the nave where the pews were restored in 1857 and 1884 much restoration having been carried out in the church in 1839 there is, on the North wall, a memorial to the Reverend George Hornby who was the vicar between 1807 and 1838. At the same time he appears to have been Perpetual Curate of Aldsworth (some 5 miles away 'as the crow flies') yet seemingly not very unusual in those days. Today there is virtually no distinction between a Rector, Vicar and Perpetual Curate as landowners do not have to pay tithes to the clergy. Formerly monasteries became Rectors, later other people, male or female or colleges and institutions. The monastery had to provide a pastor (vicar) to conduct church services. Rectors did not have to be clergymen they received the rectorial tithe and were responsible for the repair of the chancel. Vicars were always clergymen who received the Vicarial Tithe. Perpetual Curates were those ministers who did not receive tithes as part of their stipends. They are to be distinguished from what we call Curates, who are really assistant Curates helping Vicars.

On the South side is a window of stained glass in memory of Dame Julia Bolton who dies on October 10 1924 aged 78 (of whom more presently). She, it was who gave us the Bible on the Lectern in 1907. On the floor of the nave's South side are the memorials of the Bannister and Coxwell families who later in this narrative will be mentioned. On the West wall is a plaque in memory of Oliver John Turner of Turkdean, 1/5 Gloucester Regiment who died in the Great War, June 1919 aged 28 years. On the West end there is also a painting of our Lord with an inscription at the base of it in Greek, some call it Dog-Greek meaning not classical. Two of the scholars I asked to translate it could not do so. The other four gave not quite the same translation though the gist was the same.

To digress for a moment, it may come as a surprise, even shock, to some professing Christians that we cannot be absolutely sure what Jesus of Nazareth actually said. The Gospels recording the same saying of his do not always use exactly the same words. Actually this is an encouraging fact for it means that the writers who wrote between 30 and 50 years after the Crucifixion wrote what they remembered, they did not 'gang up' to use the same words. Almost certainly Jesus spoke Aramaic; He knew some Greek in which the Gospels were written and understood the Old Testament which was written in Hebrew, though possibly He used the Septuagint – the Greek version of it. Moreover the Scriptures have been translated into numerous languages; at first they were hand-copied which would make for errors in translation from one language to another. Even in English there are many translations and who can say which is the more accurate? The main and vital thing is that we have got the gist of what the Lord said.

So far as our text goes the late Reverend H.R. Bettinson, who gained a first class degree and died in Northleach a short while ago, translated thus: 'Left by Adrian the priest for blessed memory of his father the priest'. Peter Walker, the present Bishop of Ely, (a scholarly man) translated: 'The gift of the priest Adrian (or Andrew) in blessed memory of his father (or the wise priest)! An Oxford Classicist, Thomas Lowry, who is young enough to be my son: 'The gift of the priest Adrian in blessed memory of his father the wise priest'. My son, Christopher, a Cambridge classical scholar: 'The leaving (or memorial) of Adrian the priest in happy memory of his father the most wise'.

Our vicar the Reverend James Hughes has shown me our plate. There is a silver chalice and paten dated 1717 made by Edward Vincent and an Almsdish which has attached to it a stand. Indeed it may be a Paten, made by Gorney. Hallmarked 1754-55 inscribed 'Ecclesia de Turk-Dean ad Com Glorie Legavit Anne Coxwell AD MDCCXXXV..' There is a Sanctus Bell inscribed Edward Neale, Burford made in 1663, and in the Tower three bells:-

1. John Humphry, Thomas Paine Churchwardens 1641 Edward Neale.
2. 2. Eternis annis Resonet. Compana. Ionannis (The bell will sound for eternity, John).
3. Com and pray heare and obay J. Humphry. T. Paine CHW.

The church registers date back to 1572.

The credence table in the Sanctuary was given to the Church on permanent loan in 1947 when the Vicar of Farmington, Geoffrey Graham also became vicar here. In 1736 a Yewtree was planted in the churchyard of which now there are no signs.

Incumbents

The list is copied from the one in the church. It may have been compiled by the Reverend C.D. Rees (1950-1954).

1289	Robert de Bourton	1648	John Lewis
1341	Thomas Tehufflays	1654	Thomas Wild (resorted)
1400	William Davy	1673	Toby (surname Welles)
1428	John Wakefield	1681	Thomas Price
1436	Robert Gibbis	1707	George Islas
1438	John Rutherford	1751	Henry Massey
1440	William Freeman ?	1757	Thomas Bower
1458	John Wakefield ?	1798	George Illingworth
1465	John Heddington	1807	George Hornsby
1470	John Jeffe ?	1837	Frederick Biscoe
1488	Thomas Hobbynton	1881	John Lechmere Tudor
1488	William Lavender	1903	John H.N. Barton
1501	Maurice Jones	1907	John H.B. Greening
1532	Joseph Gunter ?	1918	Frederick T. Shellard
1534	John Coventry	1938	Marianus Hay
1534	John Sukehouse (Stackhouse)	1947	Geoffrey N. Graham
1536	Richmonds	1950	David Cooper Rees
1572	Gyther Hodson	1954	William Dale Chapman
1633	John Dutton	1964	No Vicar
	Thomas Wild	1968	James Webb Hughes

Alternative information:

1578	Gilbert Hudson	1578	Thomas Wild
1672	Thomas Price	1731	Henry Massey

The first recorded vicar may well have come from Bourton-on-the-Water. It is interesting to note that the man who became Vicar of Northleach in 1374 was Thomas Turkdean, he apparently omitted to put 'de' before his surname. Robert de Bourton appointed or presented with the benefice by the abbey of the convent of Osenage but where that is I cannot discover unless Osney is correct. Mr. W.J. Monk in 'Northleach and Around' states Osenage. John Wakefield is reported to have started his ministry here in 1428 and possibly 1458. Whether this means that he became vicar twice or there were two of the same name or there is an error in dates is not known. John Jeffe is stated to have been appointed in 1470 but on the list in the church is placed between

1488 and 1501, it looks as though there was some error here. Thomas Wilds is recorded as being made vicar in 1633, though there is a question mark after his name. Against 1654 he is said to have been restored, perhaps due to the Civil War. The list states that Henry Massey was appointed in 1751. This date is probably wrong and should be 1731. We learn this from our church records and in fact in 1732 he rebuilt the vicarage now called 'The Glebe House' where Mr Geoffrey Milne lives. The last vicar of Turkdean, that is he who was sole vicar, was Marianus Hay 1938 – 46/7, then Geoffrey Graham Chapman, Rector of Farmington also held Turkdean in plurality. This plurality was severed in 1967. From 1964 to 1967 our present vicar James Webb Hughes, Vicar of Cold Aston (formerly called Aston Blanc) and Notgrove conducted services at Turkdean, there being no rector of Farmington then. In 1967 Turkdean was united with Cold Aston and Notgrove.

Every vicar has to be appointed to his benefice, the appointer has what is called an Advowson, the right to do so and the appointer is called the Patron. The patron may be an individual clerical or lay, a college, a corporate body, an institution and so on. At one time it was possible to buy the advowsons that might have been expected but Episcopal jurisdiction exists and no one can appoint a cleric without taking notice of what the bishop says. In the early days of this parish the priest in charge of it was appointed by the Abbot and convent of Osney, the Black Canons. If there was a small monastery where Rectory Farm now stands maybe he lived there; we are not absolutely certain when the Vicarage, (now the Glebe House), was built. When the monasteries were dissolved in the middle of the 16th Century the college at Oxford called Christ Church obtained much property in this area and the advowson. In 1964 the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church exchanged the advowson of Turk Dean (as the Church Commissioners still spell it) with the Bishop of Gloucester for Upper Swell.

Turkdean is now in the Rural Deanery of Northleach, such groups or parishes are called 'rural' even when they are towns. They have persisted for very many years. In days gone by, we were in the Deanery of Stow-on-the-Wold, this comprised around 40 parishes around Stow. However, Northleach, Farmington and Hampnett were in the Deanery of Cirencester. In 1870 the Northleach Deanery was created; it was divided into two, North and South Northleach but having only one Rural Dean. In 1876 it became plain Northleach and comprises just under 30 parishes administered by 7 vicars. In 1977 the largest parish had a population of 1,220 and the smallest Charlton Abbots, 55.

SOME RESIDENTS AND RESIDENCES

At the northern end of the village are six council houses built and complete in 1951 by W.H. Cook and Son of Northleach. Of the original residents only Mr. & Mrs. Acock at No 5 remain. Mrs. Acock, Edith, with her husband John, came here in 1952. She was born in the village and her greatly loved mother Mrs. Loving, who lived at 3 Upper Dean passed on in 1980. Edith is the senior inhabitant, having been born in the village, though far from the oldest person living here. South of the council houses are two cottages belonging to Manor Farm at one of which Mr. Malcolm Mustoe lives with his wife Tina whose parents Mr. & Mrs. Little live in one of the council houses, and their family. Outside the cottage is a lane going up to Cold Aston formerly known as Aston Blanc. The lane is called Bang Up Lane. No one has yet been able to tell me why. South of this is Turkdean Manor.

In Saxon times, in the days of King Edward the Confessor, Turkdean Manor was held by Osgot, then Siward and then Goisfrid and as the Domesday Book records William the Conqueror, shortly after 1066 gave it to Robert D'Oilgi. Subsequent owners were in approximately these times: 1202 Robert de Tormion, 1274 John Langley, 1399 Walter Langley, 1428 John Raleigh ? Thomas Raleigh? Walter Raleigh, then the College at Westbury on Trym near Bristol. Mr. E. George of 30 Cote Lea Park, Westbury on Trym has supplied me with these notes: Westbury was once 692 in the diocese of Worcester and the church in Westbury was founded in 716/7. By 961 was found the first settlement of Benedictine monks. In about 1544 (at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries) the Manor of Turkdean passed to Ralph (or Rafe) Sadler. In 1907 the college and its property were given to the National Trust and the site became a place for housing elderly people.

In 1608 Thomas Bannister became the owner (the reference 1604 (next page) would seem to be incorrect). Sir Robert Atkyns, in a book he published in 1786 'The Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire' printed a number of Coats of Arms of various notable county families including the Bannisters. From ecclesiastical records between 1611 and 1666 I have discovered that there were 12 Bannisters christened at Turkdean church, 3 marriages between 1665 and 1710 and 10 burials between 1604? and 1720. In the South East corner of the nave are several tombstones in the floor. As luck would have it through Lady Macleod, wife of the present owner of the Manor, I met Mr. John Bannister of 37 Darlaston Court, Meridens, Nr. Coventry who has supplied interesting information.

It has been pointed out that Robert D'Oiligi fought at Hastings serving William the Conqueror. A member of the Bannister family also did. In those days the name was spelt Banastre. The family became one of the most important in England after the Conquest; the most distinguished member probably being Sir Thomas Banastre K.G. He fought in the Holy Land, France and Spain and was one of the founders of the Order of Knights of the Garter in 1348 when Edward III was King of England. This Order rates first amongst the European Orders of Chivalry except later for the Victoria Cross. The first Banastre in this country is recorded on the Role of Battle Abbey as he was one of the principal followers of William I. For his services he was granted land at Englefield in the county of Flint where he built a castle at Prestatyn. The heads of the family remained there till the 12th Century when Owen Gwyneth overpowered the Normans and the Banastres retreated to Lancashire. Prestatyn castle was destroyed; today a mound marks the site. Since then the family has spread over

many parts of England. The Latin form of the name is Balneator hence the inference that it might be a title of office in connection with the Ceremony of the Bath used when conferring Knighthood. In the Glossary of Ducenage it is stated that Banatre, Banaste, Benate, words used in France answered the medieval Latin Bonasta, Banastrum or provincially Banaste – meaning basket or creel which when used in pairs could be slung over a donkey's back as dossers or paniers. Alternatively, Banatre could be a corruption of the Italian Balastro (Latin Balstarius) meaning – one who manipulates the balastra or machinery for hurling stones against a fortification. From Balastro the name changed to Banastre and was later altered to Balister (the hand rail of a staircase) also becoming Bannister.

It is believed that Turkdean Manor was built in about 1558. William Banastre was the first Lord of the Manor of his family in the reign of Hames I (1603-25) and he died in 1604 (1608) and was succeeded by his son Thomas who died in 1633. His brother George inherited; followed by George's son William and William's son Sir William who died in 1720. He was buried 'in woollen' in Turkdean church as were many other members of the family. Sir William was a barrister taking his Degree of Coif in 1706 and becoming a judge in South Wales, he was created a Baron of Exchequer and dubbed a Knight in 1713. His wife's name was Elizabeth and being a Knight's widow styled herself Dame Elizabeth, James I permitted this. It is not quite certain when the family left Turkdean. What is certain is that Mr. John Bannister lives at Meriden and that he has two sons, the elder Michael now a bout 13 years of age, so the family still continues.

By 1884 Mr. Edmund Waller owned the Manor; he was succeeded by General William Noel Waller. In 1902 the property passed to Mr. W.H.Rixon who enlarged the house. Mr. Rixon died in 1948 and was succeeded for a year by his nephew Sir Noel Arkell. In 1950 it was in the hands of Milne Trust and from 1951 to 1954 the owner was Mr. Burrell, then 1954-59 Mr. E.E. Scott, 1959-65 Mr. Sangster, followed by Sir John Macleod the present owner. He was, immediately after the Second World War, National Liberal member of Parliament for Ross and Cromarty.

Mr. Rixon was an artist and qualified Civil Engineer. He built a reservoir or tank in the parish in about 1928. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Turner of 146 London Road, Cheltenham once worked for him and remembers hauling pipes from Notgrove station. He also believed that the Snicket was formerly called the Church footpath. Mr. Rixon married the widow of Sir Frank Bolton who was responsible for lighting the Great Exhibition in 1851. As a Knight's wife she was permitted to style herself 'Dame' though she was not a member of either the Royal Victorian Order, which started in 1896 nor of the Order of the British Empire, 1917. She retained her title after her second marriage. In the church is to be seen her memorial window and she gave the Lectern to the church in 1907.

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Descending the hill there are five cottages on the East side, homes of: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mustoe, Enid and me, Mr. & Mrs. Crawforth, one belonging to Rectory Farm and Miss Joan Dearnley. Paul's was built in three stages, the second stage in 1783 by George Draper reputed to have come here from Cold Aston. Paul added the third part due to the blocked middle up-stairs window which now looks like a dove-cot which it never was. Today it is known as Drapers Cottage. We live next door at No. 10. Some years ago some presumptuous person called it 'The Cottage'. Like others there have been additions. Once it was known as 'Jock's Cottage', Jock being a shepherd and 'Ivy Cottage' (now called Tye Cottage). There are numerous springs in the village and several hydrants. In days gone by

cottages had their own wells – I think we are the only one left with one. Roger and Sandra live next door to us on the down hill side. Before 1925 Mr. Harris lived there; he was a hurdle maker. In process of time it became the village store; there are conflicting reports as to how long it served as such but it was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Dick. Her maiden name was Ricketts. He, Mr. Ricketts, is believed to have been the last haywarden at Northleach whose task it was to take cattle from where they lived to and from their grazing grounds. In Northleach it may be noticed that some of the cottage doors are wider than might have been expected and that there are stone floors. This was because the cattle spent the night on the cottagers' properties; Mr. Ricketts collecting them in the mornings and bringing them home in the evenings. Next door to Roger the cottage belongs to Rectory Farm. The last cottage on this side is No. 14, after which the road goes down to the Beeches. It is known as Wrights' Cottage. The late Mrs. Goodall of Sherborne was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wright; they were not the first occupiers of the cottage but, because Mrs. Wright was so much loved and respected, the cottage was so called. Mrs. Wright was the church cleaner, the school cleaner and renowned for her neighbourly activities. Mr. Wright was the blacksmith; the building opposite, in the grounds of Mrs. Cory's house 'Torque Wood', was the forge. Between the churchyard and Wright's Cottage there is now a shrubbery, formerly there were two or three cottages here, one reported to have been a shop. Beyond is the Glebe House where Geoff Milne lives with his sister Mrs. Seccombe. This was, until 1948, the Vicarage. And further on Rectory Farm. According to legend originally the present site of Rectory Farm was that of a small monastery belonging to the Black Canons. The significance of underground passages, both here and at the Glebe House, has not been discovered. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th Century the property came into the hands of Christ Church, Oxford. The land then amounted to just over 600 acres; later some 200 acres were sold. In 1881 the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church rented land to Mr. Ralph Asshelton of Downham Hall, Clitheroe, Lancashire. By 1910 Mr. W.A. Rixon was the owner. There is a report that before then a Mr. F.E. Lawrence owned the property. From Geoff Milne and the present owner Mr. J.G.U. Daniels, I have learned that the owners and tenants were 1933-38 Mr. Young and Mr. Coombes and in 1947 they were Geof and Mr. Johnstone. The following were the owners: 1956 Mr. D. Summers, 1960 Mr. W.H. Johnstone, 1961 Mr. P. England, 1968 Mr. Giles Daniels.

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Now coming back to the main road on the North side is 'Torque Wood' where Mrs. M. Cory lives, from the balcony of which is a fine view looking across Lower Dean. Next door (up hill) is 'Rosemullion', 1 Upper Turkdean, the home of Dr. and Mrs. A.D. Rowlands. This is another home enlarged from cottages. In former days there was a piggery on the site. Although there were no commercial premises in the village ample compensation is made by having a resident doctor, although he has just retired from practicing. David is the good old fashioned dedicated doctor, held in great esteem by his patients. There are two cottages belonging to Rectory Farm next door and beyond that Yew Tree Cottage (5 Upper Turkdean) belonging to Mr. Rodney Howe and his sister Diana. In my research I discovered that there was a John Howe ('Jack') who was a Member of Parliament for Cirencester in the Convention Parliament in the days of Charles II (1660-1685). Around 1700 he bought the estate of Stowell. He had been a Whig but became a Tory. He is introduced into this narrative because Lord Macaulay described him as 'tall, pale and thin with a haggard eager look' in fact, rather like Rodney although Diana doubted whether there was a family connection. In 1711 his son, John, who died in 1762 was Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire.

The last house on the North side is Manor Farm where the aforementioned Wilfred and Violet Mustoe live. In days gone by this was the farm of Turkdean Manor and the house is believed to have been at some unspecified time a bakery. The farm is now in the region of 700 acres. In about 1932 Wilfred and his father took over the farm. Mr. Mustoe, senior, died in 1943 and Wilfred continued on his own. Across the valley, on higher ground than Lower Dean Manor, is Castle Farm, sometimes called Castle Barn Farm, Crow's Castle and Coxwell's Barn Farm where Mr. Martyn Mustoe lives with his family. Previously this farm had been farmed by Geoff Milne. Fairly recently it was sold to Wilfred who now farms this one and Manor farm with his two sons Martyn and Malcolm. Mustoe is the predominant surname in the village. 'The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames' states that the meaning of Musto, Mustoe, Mustow is an occupational name. It means the hundred meeting place; a hundred being a small geographical administrative area. Literally the moot-stow. Stow means an assembly place, or religious site and moot a discussion. The moot stow bell referred to the man who tolled the bell to call together the assembly; or the musterer, the man who traveled before the king to assemble the folk. The surname was first found in Sussex in Lewes. They came over with William the Conqueror. Our Mustoes came to Gloucestershire and a glance in the telephone directory shows that there are many of them. So far as we are concerned Mr. William Mustoe (1774-1852) was the first of the family to come to the village from Temple Guiting. His son George (1853-1920) lived at Yew Tree Cottage. He had 3 sons: William Wallace, Ernest and Herbert who is still living in America aged 96. Wilfred is the son of William Wallace and is now at Manor Farm, having been born at Northleach. Because we are keeping to the surname only, sons are noted since daughters will probably marry and change their names. Wilfred had three sons: Paul (Draper's Cottage), Martyn (Castle Farm) and Malcolm (Manor Farm Cottage). Paul has one son Richard born in 1971. Martyn's son, James was born in 1975, Malcolm's twins are Andrew and Barry born in 1979.

So far as I know, amongst us there is only one regular member of the Fighting Services by which is meant someone who is a career person and has served for at least 20 years. He is Mr. Alfred Castle of 3 Council Houses, he was a soldier. The hope for the future is Marion Radban who lives with her Mum at No. 1. She wasn't so become a member of the Woman's Royal Naval Service but since it is said – All the nice girls love a soldier – the converse is probably true – All the nice men love a Wren. My guess is that she can't serve for 20 years! Mr. & Mrs. Partridge live at No. 6. Many villages have in them what is described as a 'character' who is a person to be remembered, since he or she is not a 'run of the mill' personality. A character worthy of this title may well be the ever cheerful Lionel.

From Mr. W.J. Monk's book 'Northleach and Around' it is stated that a part of the village in 1284 was called Gunkede but I cannot find out where it is. Also that in 1100 a family called Basset settled in Gloucestershire after the Conquest. One of the family became Justiciar in the time of Henry I (1100-1135) and another Bishop of London. Crockfords Clerical Directory records Fulk Basset as Bishop of London 1242 – 60. The family had a capital mansion in Turkdean.

Turkdean Church of England School No. 334.
(1874 – 1950)

The sources of my information are the school's log books, 1874 – 1904 which the authorities of the Shire Hall Gloucester allowed me to read; the second one loaned to me by Geof Milne. Also information given by Violet, Mrs. W. Mustoe, whose aunt, Miss Annie Kirby, was at one time headmistress, and the late Mrs. Goodall of Sherborne the daughter of Mrs. Wright. The land on which the school was built through a conveyance between Mr. Edmund Waller of Farmington and Mr. William M/ Waller of Turkdean under the authority of an Act of Parliament of 1842 to the Minister and Church-Wardens of Turkdean extending 66' x 52' to the West of the church, to hold for a school for the poor promoting education on the principles of the Established church. It was not to be used as a public Elementary school but only as the Vicar and Church-Wardens advised. It is believed that there was a clause stating that if the building ceased to be a school it and the land were to revert to the heirs of the Waller family. In point of fact, Geof bought it.

The school opened on January 5th 1874, Mrs. Newman being the headmistress, there were 34 pupils amongst whom were James Tea and Harriett Wright and in 1876 – Hemming. These names are mentioned because their descendents are recorded as being still in the teachers were married or single so that only names can be given, and sometimes it is not stated whether the teacher was headmistress or mistress. James, George and Clara Mustoe were among the pupils. In 1880 the number of children rose to 60 but the number soon began to reduce. Miss Sturdy joined the school as a teacher in January 1883 and in October Emily Freeman resigned from being a teacher. In 1883 Minnie Robinson became a paid monitor. By the middle of 1884 Emily Sturdy was in charge of the 2nd class and in the summer of 1890 Gertrude Mustoe was a monitor. In January 1891 Mary Buller started to be a paid monitor. In 1897 the monitor was Winnie Parker (monitors were often senior children who generally helped with the running of the school). On September 5th, 1899 Selina Galverley was appointed Headmistress. Nellie Hughes joined the staff in February 1900 and in October of that year there were 17 children on the register. By 1904 the 471st child was admitted to the school. (It seems a bit difficult to believe these figures of pupils, the school began with 34, rose to 60 and fell to 17, yet over 30 years the average on the register was just over 15).

There seems now to be a bit of a gap in the Log; the 2nd one called the Minute Book starts its relevant information in 1907, when the headmistress was Miss Nellie Hughes who retired in June of that year, her place being taken by Miss Ethel A. Finch for a short while. Then Miss E. Benett takes charge of the school (October 1908). In 1908 there appears to have been a disappointment as the policy of the County's Educational Department was not to supply books for religious education. In 1912 Miss Williams became headmistress and there was talk of closing the school because there were so few children, indeed only 12. The pay of a teacher was 25/- a week and 13% of the population of the village were old age pensioners. In 1913 the County agreed to wait for 2 years before closing the school. In 1915 the matter was again raised and in January 1916 the school was closed for the duration of the war.

In 1919 a determined effort was made to re-open; Mr. W. Mustoe made a tender of £51 to carry out repairs and in September of that year the school re-opened. Mrs. Wright was to be re-engaged as caretaker. In 1921 Miss Swathen was headmistress, unfortunately she became sick and Miss Annie Kirby was appointed as a temporary mistress at an annual salary of £161. I have found no figures as to how many pupils there now were. In 1925 the subject of school dinners was raised but only 7 children wanted them. Miss Kirby was headmistress from 1921/2 to 1933 when Miss Silvester of Farmington took her place. In 1939 shades of the 11 plus examination faintly appeared, it was agreed that school children be sent to the school at Bourton-on-the-Water when they were over 11 years of age. In this year Mrs. Loving, who passed away a short time ago, became the deputy cleaner to Mrs. Wright (the notes are not quite clear here, she may have been the deputy for some while before). By 1942 Mrs. Loving was cooking the school meals. In 1943 the Home Guard was allowed to use the school. The last headmistress was appointed in 1946, Miss Doris Jane Crook. By 1947 school dinners presented a problem as a cook could not be found, dinners had to be sent up from Northleach. The school was now a 'Controlled School' meaning that out of the 6 managers, 3 were appointed by the Local Education Authority. Children over 13 were being sent to a senior school. March 1949, there being only 13 pupils from 3 years upwards, it was decided to close the school. 1950 the school was dissolved and local children were sent to Northleach by bus.

LOWER DEAN

Descending the hill called the Beeches and over the bridge crossing the Turkadina, on the right can be seen a new house called Blanche House, the property of Mr. & Mrs. J.R. Fleming. His mother lives at Leygore Manor. Originally the house was a barn belonging to Blanche Farm now called The Grey House, the home of Mike and Helen Whitbread. Before the Flemings arrived it formed four cottages known as Newtown.

Turning back right handed from coming down The Beeches, the road leads into Lower Dean. The houses on the right have previously been mentioned in the notes on the Old Thatched Inn and the Tiddlewink. Opposite the latter, now called The Woodside House where Henry King lives, his son David lives at the Old House. Formerly it comprised three cottages known as Pearce's buildings in one of which lived Miss Kirby the school teacher. David married the daughter of Arthur Dodd the present vicar of Chedworth. They have two daughters.

Bearing left handed, on the right is Lower Dean Manor. The present owner is Mr. Stephen Winwood. In 'The Times' (January 24 1981) there was a long article about him by Mr. Richard Williams and a shorter one by Mr. Anthon Denselow in 'The Observer Magazine' (January 25). Steve is a remarkable young man, a professional rock musician who came into prominence in 1964 with the Spencer Davis Group. He formed the Traffic Group. Recently he has produced an album called 'Arc of a Diver'. He has his own studio in his home – has a nice voice and can play almost every instrument in the band. Amongst other things he is the organist of the parish church, affectionately known to some of the Church folk as – The Minstrel – because when the organ was dedicated a short while ago in the Service the organist was referred to as The Minstrel. He kindly allowed me to read the Deeds of the Manor; 'read' is the operative word as they were difficult to decipher. However, our churchwarden the beloved and indefatigable Geof Milne came to the rescue, with his help plus certain other sources it has been possible to obtain an outline history of this manor.

As far back as I can get when the Domesday Book was written between 1080 and 1086 the owner was William Leurie. He was succeeded by Richard Poney. By about 1136 it was owned by Llanthony Secunda, the monks having their house in Gloucester near what are now the docks. It was a gift from Richard Poney. Mr. J.M. Lewis of the Department of Archaeology in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, told me that a Charter of King John (1199-1216) confirmed that land at Turkdean had been given by Ricardus Poneii to Llanthony. The source for this information can be found in Dugdales 'Monasticon Anglicanum'. The Reverend Peter K. Price who is the vicar of St. David's which church is in the grounds of Llanthony Priory in what used to be called Monmouthshire midst the Black Mountains has supplied much helpful information and put me in touch with a book called 'Llanthony Abbey' by Wallis Savage Lander. Mr. Price informed me that 'Llan' followed by a name usually indicated a district where a saint worked or witnessed. Llanthony is a compilation of LLAN-DDEWI-NANT-HONDDU and means the Llan of St. David on the River Honddu (St. David died about 601, was said to be Bishop of Caerleon and uncle of King Arthur). Llanthony Priory started as a settlement of two hermits William de Lacy and Erniscus who in 1103 became a Chaplain to Queen Maud. She is usually called Matilda, was daughter of Henry I married Geoffrey of Anjou and their son became Henry II, her brother having died. The first church was consecrated in 1108 and 10 years later became the House of Augustinian Canons. Unfortunately there were political disturbances between the Welsh and the Normans which resulted in Llanthony Secunda being formed in

Gloucestershire and which eventually overshadowed the Mother House in wealth and prestige. In 1538 the old Priory surrendered to Henry VIII, at the time there were only 4 monks, Llanthony Secunda was dissolved in 1539. Lower Dean Manor in 1544 was held in trust by Richard Andrews and Nicholas Temple. After these owners were: 1588 John Walter, followed by his son Lord Oliver St. John of Bletso. There is a gap in the record but John Rich had it from 1665. He apparently bought the property for £2,000. It was then left to John Coxwell. 1687 Henry Coxwell, 1716 Sir Montague Nelthorpe who married a Miss Coxwell. 1718 Henry Coxwell repaired the property, he left it (date not known) to Thomas Pierce who in turn left it to John Pierce, the elder, who owned it from 1731-57. Then John Pierce the younger bought it and held it till 1768. Sir John Nelthorpe bought it in 1767 staying here till 1790 when Edward Waller made the purchase. From 1799-1829 Thomas Williams or Willan was the tenant. It was then conveyed by trustees to Thomas Taylor a brewer from Northleach. He was succeeded by Thomas Taylor the younger, his dates being 1851-1900? In 1904 Judge Grainger bought it; for how long he was here is uncertain but until 1910 a Mr. Malden had it. Mr. Rixon then bought it and it remained empty. Geoff's brother David Milne was the owner from 1917 to 1968 when it was bought by Stephen Winwood. Mr. David Milne told me that the room on the right of the front door probably dates back to the 15th Century and at the house there is a fine 15th Century fireplace.

About a mile South of the church is Leygore Manor, on the demesne there are five houses in which live people who work on the estate, except for one. North of the Manor at Leygore Mains lives Mr. Jackson, the farm manager. 'Mains' is a word used in Scotland for 'The Home Farm'. Opposite the entrance to the Manor are three cottages in which at No. 1 lives Mr. Spalding, No 2 Mr. Wittke, who is on the farm staff and at No. 3 Mr. Shanbow who is the shepherd. Farther south, up the hill and taking the first turning left, on the left is an area which was Turkdean Cricket Club's ground. The house adjacent to the Fosseway (in olden days spelt Foss) is 'Fosseleigh' the home of Mr. Regent who is the major domo of the Manor. Ascending this hill south of the Manor is a thicket on the left side of the road in which is a tombstone commemorating Mr. Arthur E. Moss of Leygore Manor who died on 25 January 1943 aged 73 and his wife Norah, who died 14 December 1950. According to legend since he was a fox-hunting man he wished to be buried in a cover where foxes went. The screen in the chancel of the church was given in memory of him (the actual day of the month of his death does not tally here with that on the stone in the thicket) and of his son-in-law Mr. Main. This century the Manor has been owned by two families. For just about the first half Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Moss and then Mr. and the Honourable Mrs. Richard Fleming. Charm became a widow a short while ago. Before Mr. Moss owned the manor, it was quite small. He made considerable enlargements and built a ball-room using some of the stones from the demolished cottages in the shrubbery between the Old School and Glebe House. Later the ball-room was demolished and some of the stones were used in the construction of Blanche House at the bottom of the hill called the Beeches, where Charm's son lives. Apparently before the time of Mr. Moss the house was known as Leygore, he added the word 'Manor'. The original house was built in 1600. No one locally whom I have met seems to know what 'Leygore' means. My research, greatly assisted through Mr. Smith's book 'Gloucestershire Place Names' leads me to believe that it is a combination of two probably Saxon words 'Laege' and 'Gara'. 'Laege' means 'Fallow'. Evidently it was originally uncultivated land. 'Gara' means 'A gore of land' according to Blackie's Dictionary the meaning of 'Gore' 'A point or corner of land' or 'Triangular', 'Spear shaped'.