



Charity Commission

14 Ryder Street St James's London SW1Y 6AH

Direct line 01-214 8291
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J.W. DAVIS ESQ
10 DOVELEAT
CHINNOR
OXON

Your reference

Our reference 276935-R

Date 28 NOV 78

Dear Sir,

CHARITIES ACT 1960 - REGISTRATION OF CHARITIES

CHARITY: THE CHINNOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PLACE: SOUTH OXON.

The above-named charity has been entered in the Central Register of Charities and a copy of the index slip relating to it is enclosed. This letter and the index slip should be placed with the charity's papers for safe keeping.

The Commissioners should be notified of any changes in the information contained in the index slip as they occur so that the particulars of the charity entered in the Register may be kept up to date.

The reference number above should be quoted in all future correspondence relating to this charity.

It is requested that a statement of account of the affairs of the charity covering the charity's last completed accounting period may be sent to the Commissioners at the end of a year from the date of this letter, and thereafter yearly without further request.

The information required in the statement of account has been prescribed in Regulations (Statutory Instrument 1960 No. 2425). An account form which makes provision for the prescribed information is enclosed. Further copies can be obtained from this office free of charge on request at the appropriate time. A statement of account in the form normally prepared by the charity will however be acceptable to the Commissioners provided that it contains all the prescribed information.

The enclosures to this letter are detailed below.

Yours faithfully

Enclosures: Index Slip
Accounts form AC(A)
~~Deed(s)~~

Christina D. Jones

RE 16(3)

NAME OF CHARITY The Chinnor Historical and Archaeological Society		REGISTRATION NUMBER 276935
GOVERNING INSTRUMENT Constitution adopted 27th April 1976 as amended 12th September 1978		PLACE Chinnor
OBJECTS To advance the education of the public in the history and archaeology of Chinnor and district.		DISTRICT South Oxfordshire
		COUNTY Oxfordshire
		CODE 585 820
		CORRESPONDENT J W Davis Esq 10 Doveleat Chinnor Oxon
BENEFICIAL AREA Chinnor and District	INCOME £100 - £250	
REMARKS Bas 41364/1/1802 10m 9/77 TF		INLAND REVENUE REF.

RE 5

Minutes of the meeting of the Society held on Friday 7 November 1980.

Present: Mr and Mrs Lane, Mr and Mrs Mantle, Mr and Mrs Davis, Mrs Davenport, Mrs Varley, Mrs Burton, Miss Gray, Mrs Gibbard, Mr Newman, Mrs Howlett, Miss Gibbs, Dr and Master Whittle, Mrs Wright, Mr Rose, Mr and Mrs Thurston, Mr Spence, Mrs Oswell, Mr Thorpe, Mr Mills, Mr and Mrs Bell

Apologies: Mr Russey

Mr Eric Harmsworth who has lived in Chinnor almost all his life, spoke on "Chinnor in the Past", covering topics suggested by members of the Society.

Medecine - Births:

In 1924, there were two doctors who covered Chinnor - Dr Summerhayes who lived in Thame, and Dr Cooper from Princes Risborough. If the midwife found there were problems, a messenger was sent to find one of the Doctors who then saddled up his horse - by the time he arrived the problem had often been solved.

Later Dr Leverkus established a practice in the Village, but she was always known as the Lady Doctor and most men preferred to cycle to Thame or Risboro' for attention.

- Hospitals:

There were Cottage hospitals in Thame and Watlington under the aegis of the John Radcliffe. Many people belonged to the John Radcliffe Fund paying 1d per week (2s for children) to local voluntary collectors. If they had to go to hospital, they were given free treatment on production of their Membership Card. If the patient was too ill for public transport, 10 shillings per year to the St John's Ambulance Fund ensured a ride in their ambulance. The Collector of this Fund was Mr Beecham, the father of John Beecham, still actively associated with St John. It was however unusual to go to hospital except in the case of the utmost need.

- Surgeries:

Both Dr Summerhayes and Dr Cooper held surgeries in rented rooms in Chinnor on certain days of the week. Most of their patients paid them either via a Friendly Society or the Panel.

Eric Harmsworth

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- medecine:

even in 1924 when Eric became Dr Cooper's medecine boy - every Saturday he picked up the medecines required for the patients seen the previous day - there were only four kinds of medecine usually prescribed - RED for children (sweet flavour), RED plus powder (probably bismuth) for stomach ills, YELLOW for adults (bitter flavour), and BROWN for the really ill. The young Eric hoped to be paid for his pains at the rate of 3d per bottle.

- House calls:

Dr Cooper expected the front door to be open when recalled, or else he passed by. However both doctors were good at house calls. The great problem was finding them out of surgery hours.

- Funerals:

There were no specialised firms of Undertakers. Coffins were usually made to order by carpenters employed by building contractors eg Siarey of Oakley Road as part of their general duties.

Shopping: There were a good range of shops in the village then including Herbie Turner the Greengrocer, where Crickets now is Mrs Hill the Post Office where Barry's is. She also sold stationery and her husband tried, with little success, to mend wireless sets. He was however a first class photographer (and took Mr Rose's Wedding photos) He was nicknamed Dingie Hill having once walked from the Station, carrying a pole strung with earth closet pails dangling behind him. Eric was for a time a Telegraph Boy, (his father had died when he was 7, so every penny was needed to eke out his mother's pension of 15s per week). He received 1d per telegram in the village and upto 6d for a delivery to Aston Rowant or Kingston Blount. All important messages in those days went by telegram as telephones were rare.

Johnson's Stores sold china and groceries where Dillamore's is.

Mr Clements the Draper, where Glynswood Press is. He gave Blue Diamond Trading Stamps redeemable for crockery decorated with a pattern of blue diamonds. All prices of course were 1/4d off the shilling with change being given by a 1/4d pack of pins.

Eric Harmanon

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factory, cycled to work. Only one or two still worked at chair making.

Education:

The Church of England School catered for all children between 5 and 14. Children from Sydenham cycled in from the age of 7 on their VCC bikes - there was no school bus for them then. Teachers included Mr and Mrs Cuthbert, Mrs Seymour and Mrs Barrett (both daughters of the previous head, Mr Jones), and there were usual Pupil teachers also.

Those who got the Scholarship (at 11) went either to Lord Williams' or to the Girls' Grammar in Thame. Pupils here used a special school bus operated by Fred Gomme of the Crown which collected children from Watlington on to Towersey. Probably 2 or 3 children a year from Chinnor reached this peak of achievement. There was one bus for the girls and one for the boys. Both were kept in the large green shed behind the Crown.

In the 30's Lord Williams had between 120 and 150 pupils only. About half were boarders.

Housing:

There were a few big houses but most were small cottages of either 1 or 2 up and down plus a scullery and outhouses.

Some big Houses had their own DC generators but most people used paraffin or candles for lighting - a perpetual fire hazard. The wealthier often had pumps with their wells and some had thereby running water in the house. Most smaller houses either had their own well or access to a communal well drawing water by bucket and windlass. (The well in Lime Grove had its well in the "pudding bag" at the end) The loss of a bucket was frequent and infuriating particularly in winter! Rainwater was used for washing and was the only source of water in many houses uphill. Water was always precious and never wasted.

Electricity arrived in the 30's from Aylesbury initially only for lighting and rarely to be installed in bedrooms. The Company charged £1 per point of installation.

Eric Harmsworth⁵.

Entertainment:

working hours were long and paid holidays rare. Allotments took up much spare time and were essential to feed the family and perhaps have some surplus for sale.

There were of course plenty of pubs. The Men's Club met in the Reading room and boasted a Billiards table. The Silver Band (Brass until 1928), won many prizes. For the young there were such organizations as the Scouts (with two patrols, the Cuckoos and the Owls).

The Chinnor Operatic and Dramatic Society gave one major production every year in the Reading room, often Gilbert and Sullivan.

Mr Harmsworth was warmly thanked for his most interesting talk and the society eagerly looks forward to his next visit.