

A photograph of a cemetery path leading to a stone building with a dark arched entrance decorated with colorful bunting. Two people are visible near the entrance. The scene is framed by large trees.

BURGHILL HERITAGE FLOWER POT TRAIL

11TH & 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021





Map No.		Page No.			
			12	Rookwood (The Court)	31
1	Church of St Mary the Virgin	1	13	Home Farm Barns	35
2	The Grange & Dovecote	9	14	Home Farmhouse	36
3	Church Cottage	12	15	Old Telephone Exchange	40
4	The Forge	14	16	Lauristina	41
5	Old Telephone Box	17	17	Parsleys Fold	42
6	St John's House	19	18	The Cedars	45
7	The Manor	21	19	Daimor	47
8	The Latchetts	23	20	Pyefinch House	49
9	Old Court Cottage	25	21	Broadband Box	51
10	Lane Cottage	27	22	The Villa	52
11	White Hall Cottage	28	23	Simpson Hall	56



INTRODUCTION: THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN HERITAGE DAYS



The Events group at the church has organised Heritage days over the past few years, in order to bring the village community together to enjoy a day of fun whilst learning a little local history.

In 2020, we planned to hold a Heritage trail round the village, but unfortunately in March 2020 the Covid pandemic changed all our lives, and many of our planned events were postponed.

Fortunately, we managed to keep the church and village community together by regularly contacting everyone by e-mail and telephone, continuing to publish our Community magazine, and although the church building was closed, our Vicar Rev Phill Brown recorded services and held discussions online throughout lockdown.



Eventually we were able to hold the much delayed Heritage trail in September 2021, with historical houses marked by flowerpot people or animals, and a brief history of the buildings. Also included were several places associated with the history of communication in the village, which was appropriate, considering our complete reliance on so many forms of communication during the pandemic. These ranged from the first Post Office, through to the superfast broadband box.



1

THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN

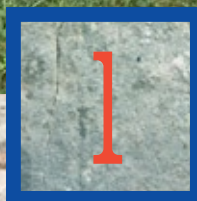
The church dates from the 12th century, though evidence exists of an earlier building, apparent in the north wall of the chancel. During the 14th century the chancel was widened and a north chapel and vestry were added, The Church was entirely restored in 1824.

The building houses a very fine 15th century rood screen which was restored in 1897, an ancient figured metal font, a 15th century alabaster altar tomb to Sir John Milbourne and family, and some ancient brasses. One dates from 1619 and commemorates the death of Robert Masters, noting that he sailed with Thomas Cavendish on the second only circumnavigation of the globe in 1588.



The ladies on the craft stall were Christine Child, and Nora Ellis. They had made most items themselves. Deborah Bristow had the holistic Therapy stand. Geraldine Jeffery, Penny Ager and Kris Perruzza were in charge of the refreshments: delicious strawberry teas.





RAINBOW, BROWNIE & GUIDE UNITS

The girls made their own flowerpot Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows, and arranged them round a 'campfire' in the churchyard. Guiding in the village has been running since the 1960's, though there was a Guide Unit in existence in the 1920's.



THE CHOIR

1



The church choir practices on most Friday evenings from 7.00pm to 8.00pm in church.

We enjoy singing choral music and sing during Sunday morning services. We always welcome new members.

Contact our choir master and organist Jason Walker 07402862046

THE TOWER & BELLS

The present tower, built in 1812 of local sandstone, replaced an older structure which collapsed in 1810. The pinnacles and battlements were built in 1953 to a design by the architect E. A. Rosier. The font, dating from 1180, was damaged by the 1810 collapse, and eventually restored in 1881 by R. Morgan of Kington.

The tower has a ring of eight bells in the key of G major. The tenor bell weighs over 10 hundredweight.



Five of the bells were cast by Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester in 1704, and were augmented by three further bells in 1894, cast at the Whitechapel Foundry. The bells are considered some of the best in the diocese.

The tower underwent restoration work in 2018.



BURGHILL & TILLINGTON

HANDBELL RINGERS



The village also has a handbell group which started originally with an old set of handbells belonging to the tower in 2007, but soon bought a larger set of new bells as the group's musical skills and repertoire increased.

Today there are fifteen members playing four octaves of handbells, and regularly play for various events including concerts, carol services and weddings.

They meet on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.



2

THE GRANGE & DOVE COTE



THE GRANGE & DOVE COTE

The Grange is early Georgian and dates back to the 17th century, but additions to the house are from the 18th century with 20th century alterations. It has extensive gardens with a large fishpond.

The Dove Cote dates from 1717 and is octagonal in shape, with a glazed lantern.

‘Grange’ is an old word meaning granary and it is thought that the Grange is on the site of a granary once the property of the Bishop of Hereford.



2

THE GRANGE
& DOVE COTE





3



Church Cottage

12



3

CHURCH COTTAGE



The original part of the building dates back to the late 17th century, with the addition on the right being added on in the 18th century.

The extension at the rear was added in 2002 by the previous owners.

Church Cottage was the first Post Office in the village, from 1833 to 1937. This was the first of three Post Offices, the second being at Kingston Cottage, and the third being at the Forge.



4

THE
FORGE

The Forge was originally two cottages. The false front door was the entry to a post office, telephone exchange and sweet shop, now a sitting room!

The two garages were a barn. The old beams can still be seen.

Bob Lloyd was the last blacksmith to live and work here. His wife, Fanny, ran the Post Office. The Forge was off the barn. Some tools are still there.



THE FORGE



Some in the village can still remember horses being shod, and gates and hurdles being made.

Bob died in 1974, Fanny in 1994.

Both are buried in Burghill Churchyard.







Before telephones and the internet, the Royal Mail was the main way to communicate over distances.

From 1853, post boxes were installed all over the country. The ER on this box shows it dates from after 1952.

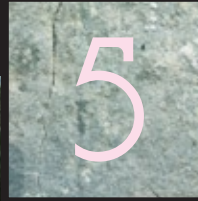
The telephone was invented in 1876. By the 1930s some people had phones in their homes, but they were expensive, so most people had to use a public pay phone.



COMMUNICATIONS: OLD TELEPHONE BOX



COMMUNICATIONS: OLD TELEPHONE BOX



The first public telephone kiosk, K1, (made of concrete!) was introduced in cities 100 years ago, in 1921, but was soon replaced by the iconic red phone box.

When British Telecom (BT) took over running the telephone system from the Post Office in 1985, many of the red telephone boxes, including the one which stood here, were replaced by this new design which was lighter, better ventilated and more vandal-proof (but not so attractive).

Phone calls went through a local exchange - see number 15.

Mobile phones have now largely removed the need for pay phones, so many, like this one, were decommissioned. It sat empty until last year, when, during lock-down, it was turned into a community Book Swap Kiosk, which is very popular.

So far, it has raised over £700 in donations for the church.

ST JOHNS HOUSE

6



St. Johns House was built in the 16th century, originally as a black and white timber framed house. It was mentioned in the church fence list in 1594.

It spent some time as a school during the 17th century.

During the 1960s and 70s, Mrs. Hall ran a little village shop from the entrance hallway.

6

ST JOHNS HOUSE



There was an orchard on the land belonging to the house. A large section of this was sold in 1967 for 'Vernwood' to be built on and with a garden at the back.



20



THE MANOR

7



Once a farm, the house and outbuildings, 120 yards south west of the church, date from the 17th century, with additions and alterations carried out over the next three centuries. The house is of two stories with attics, the walls are timber-framed, but were cased in later brickwork, and the roofs are slate-covered. To the rear is a late 19th century embattled tower.

Part of a u-shaped barn on the corner, named the Black Barn, burned down in a spectacular fashion in 1968 and the event can still be remembered by older residents.



THE MANOR

7

The note with this basket reads:

Meet my little friends Pippin & Perry. As part of the Bulmer family I have a strong heritage in rural Herefordshire. The stunning countryside that my family once worked constantly inspires me and it is still very much my family home.

- Caroline Bulmer



THE LATCHETTS

A late Victorian cottage, believed to be the first red brick built property constructed in the village. It was used by the coachman and his family who worked at Burghill Court.



THE 23
LATCHETTS



THE LATCHETTS

The house would have been spacious for a working man at the time, boasting four good sized bedrooms. The original entrance would have been to the front of the property, the porch was a later addition.

The house still retains some period features with its quarry tiled floors, pantry cupboards, picture rails and open chimney flues. The later addition of the orangery conservatory at the rear is sympathetic to the period.



9

OLD COURT COTTAGE

Old Court Cottage was built in the late 1700s with a more modern 19th century single storey extension. It is of oak frame construction with brick and rendered panel infill. It has a large stone inglenook fireplace in the main room and superb views across to Hay Bluff from the bedrooms.



OLD COURT COTTAGE

The chimney stack was far more ornate than the modern replacement one, and a good six feet taller too. The roof would almost certainly have been originally thatched, as can be seen by the steep roof pitch and round purlines in the roof construction. It was probably slated in the early 1900s.





LANE COTTAGE

Lane Cottage dates back to the 17th century and was a timber framed thatched dwelling up to the early part of the 20th century. It is reputed to have had the village well sited next to it.

The picture below left of Lane Cottage was taken in 1925 and the little boy standing in the garden emigrated to Australia as a young man, but his sister still lives in Marden. As can be seen, the house was still a black and white, two up two down cottage with single storey sheds at either end. By the 1960s almost all of the original framework had been removed and the present brick walls and tiled roof were in place. Generation after generation have left their mark on the building, making it less and less like the original.





WHITE HALL COTTAGE

11

We live in a Georgian cottage, built in 1773 but with a history stretching back to 1623, and surrounded by our garden of about one third of an acre.

The garden comprises an herbaceous border, hidden behind the red brick wall, to the west of the property, and lawns to the south, which are edged with shrub borders.

The property also enjoys the benefit of a very productive raised bed vegetable garden and a variety of fruit on the eastern side.



11

WHITE HALL COTTAGE



In addition, there is a 19th century barn that houses an original cider mill and press, and which the owners regularly used to make traditional cider.

In the past, our garden has been open several times for both our Church and for St. Michael's Hospice.

We have a small patio area that is well supplied with plants in pots and containers throughout the year and affords us a chance to sometimes sit and relax, BBQ and enjoy the fruits of our labour.

WHITE HALL COTTAGE

11





12

ROOKWOOD (THE COURT)

Rookwood is one half of a house originally named Burghill Court. It was built around 1773-76 for the Reverend Benjamin Biddulph, who died before it was finished. The architect was probably Anthony Keck, who designed some fifty houses and other buildings in this part of the country, including Moccas Court and the Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Originally, there were further buildings at the back of the house, including a dairy and a bakehouse which are no longer there, but the current rear extension and the front portico were added in the nineteenth century.





12

ROOKWOOD

In 1926, the house became notorious when it was the scene of a double murder. The victims were sisters Elinor and Martha Woodhouse. The Woodhouse family were wealthy wine shippers from Liverpool and Elinor and Martha's parents had bought the house and estate in 1874. By 1926, the sisters had inherited and lived in Burghill Court with their cook, two housemaids, a kitchenmaid and a butler, Charles Houghton. He had been with the family for over 20 years, but since his return from the First World War, he had started drinking. The Woodhouse sisters sacked him on 6 September 1926 and the following day, he took a shotgun and killed them.



These terrible events and the subsequent trial and execution of Houghton made headlines in all the newspapers. The sisters' funeral in Burghill Church was attended by over 1,000 people and their favourite pony came to the churchyard pulling a carriage filled with wreaths and flowers.

After this, the house was bought by Colonel Harald Swayne, an avid sportsman and naturalist who hunted and catalogued wildlife throughout Africa and Asia. The Swayne's Hartebeest and Swayne's Dik-dik are both named after him.

In 1936, the house was divided into two parts, Rookwood and our neighbours Court End.

Neither household employs a butler.



Footnote: Elinor and Martha had a brother, Gordon. He married Violet Gwynne, a renowned pianist and harpsichord player, who was friends with some of the most famous names of the day, including George Bernard Shaw, Siegfried Sassoon, Radclyffe Hall and Sir Osbert Sitwell. (Violet: The Life and Loves of Violet Gordon Woodhouse by Jessica Douglas-Home is a fascinating read.) Her disdain for her provincial in-laws and her unconventional marriage to Gordon

caused a rift with his family. The estate was entailed, meaning that Gordon could not be disinherited from the house, but his mother left the family fortune to his sisters on her death in 1923. They bought the house from their brother and intended to leave everything to a cousin. However, at the time of their deaths, their wills had been drawn up but not signed, so Gordon inherited again.

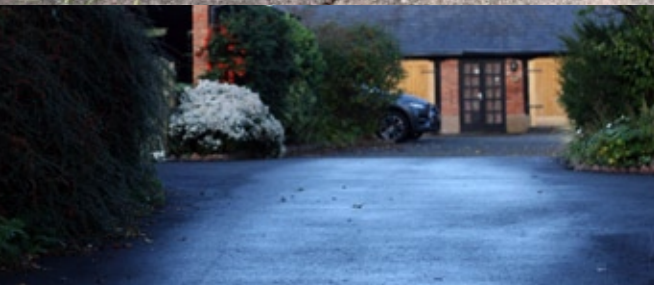


13

HOME FARM BARN S

These homes used to be part of the extensive farm buildings, belonging to Burghill Court Estate. They comprised a stable block and numerous barns, situated in this part of the village. The Old Stables were used for the horses and carriages belonging to the Court.

The Barns were last used as farm buildings by John Bourne, who lived at Home Farm, and were converted to modern dwellings in 1999.



HOME FARMHOUSE

14



Home Farmhouse, Burghill, dates back to the late 1700s or early 1800s and probably came under the control of the Burghill Court. It was the principal farmhouse for the Home Farm Estate. The converted farm barns opposite formed part of the initial farm buildings.

Little is known of the owners until the early 1900s when the Bourne family farmed the surrounding land. The farm was then purchased by the Prudential Insurance Group in 1977 but the family of John Bourne continued



HOME FARMHOUSE

to live in the house and presumably work the land. In 1999 the 'Pru' sold the land to the Duchy of Cornwall but the farmhouse and barns were sold to private owners and were extensively renovated.

Interestingly, villagers still remember John Bourne in later years operating an antiques restoration workshop (from what is now the downstairs loo!) and a hair dressing service from the kitchen in Home Farmhouse!!





14

HOME
FARMHOUSE





14

HOME FARMHOUSE

Whilst the outside of the house is largely original the inside has been renovated and improved by the immediately previous owner, Colonel Henry Worsley and his wife Joanne in the late 1990s. Sadly, Henry, who was a great adventurer and most famous for his training of Prince Harry's team of disabled soldiers to walk to the North Pole, died a few years ago when attempting to walk solo to the South Pole. The gardens have been extensively re-laid and planted by the present owners, who have hosted charity events for The City of Hereford Rotary Club, the village Open Gardens and also for St Michael's Hospice in them.





15 THE OLD TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

The Telephone Exchange was built in the 1950s and converted to a private house in the 1970s. Before this telephone exchange was built, the exchange was situated in the post office at the Forge, where Mrs. Fanny Lloyd pushed and pulled the plugs in and out of a switchboard, connecting the calls.

There were very few private phones before the 1950s, and most were party lines (shared lines).

The present owner moved into the Telephone Exchange in 2005, enlarging the building and developing the garden.





LAURISTINA

16

Lauristina House was a farmhouse for almost 400 years, dating back to 1680. A half timbered and brick construction, it was part of the Burghill Court Estate until it was purchased by James Probert in 1880. The farm had hop fields, a hop kiln and cider apple orchards. There was a cider mill in the barn, which can now be seen in the front garden.

James Probert's son, Ivor, sold the farm after the Second World War. It then changed hands several times and was altered extensively.



41



PARSLEYS FOLD

17

Mr. Parsley lived at Burghill Grange in the 1700s, and this was the site of his sheep fold, known as Parsley's Fold.



42



17

PARSLEYS FOLD

When Burghill Court was built in the 18th century, these three houses became their Estate Offices, and were known as 'The Offices'. There was a sawpit and various other trades located in the yard.





17 PARSLEYS FOLD

In 1945, the building was divided by the local carpenter, Mr. Edwin Morris, into three dwellings, and became known as ‘The Cedars 1,2,3.’ Daimor was built in the grounds next door.

We changed the name of our part of the building back to Parsley’s Fold when we moved here in 1987.



18

THE CEDARS

The house was constructed in circa 1656, followig the time of the Civil War between the Roundheads and King Charles 1st.

The construction is of oak beams with brick infill on a sandstone plinth.

Later 19th century addition is of a brick covering to the front of Parsleys Fold, next door, (back view seen in white here), and 20th century rendering to Cedars.



18

THE CEDARS

Parsleys Fold to the left was originally known as the Cedars, and was the offices for Burghill Court Estate. The property now known as the Cedars housed workshops and saw mill to the Burghill Court Estate, and was converted to a dwelling in 1943.



Originally the land on which our house stands belonged to Burghill Court and the Woodhouse sisters. The plot was part of the land belonging to the 3 offices and stores. The sisters were murdered in 1926. (Their large tombstones are beside the back entrance into the Church).



DAIMOR



Subsequently the land was sold to Mr. Morris for £450.00 and then planning for the plot on which Daimor stands submitted and approved in 1932 and building commenced soon afterwards. Much of the original house still exists. We are the third generation to own the house. Mr. Hopkins (my wife's grandfather) purchasing the house in 1964. The house has been extended several times since then with the last main alteration being in 1979 when the current kitchen was added. Janet and I purchased the house in 2007 when we extended the current annex together with joining this up to the main house.



19

DAIMOR

On moving from Sutton St.Nicholas we decided to make the back garden easier to manage. Consequently on Easter weekend 2008 we completely cleared the back garden and redeveloped with a new design. In that summer it was then open to the public for the NGS for the following three years. A bore hole sunk in 1966 for £84.00 still supplies spring water for the three properties which we use to water the garden. We also have a large rain water storage

tank area built with the house, situated under the main tarmac drive. Recent work has involved removing the conifers from the front garden as they were both intrusive and dangerous. The garden is not at its best now but we welcome you to have a stroll around and try out some croquet. We are currently constructing an oak framed garden room ready for the next lockdown!



PYEFINCH HOUSE



Previously known as Pyefinch Farm, the house was built late in the 16th or early in the 17th century.

It was originally owned by John Pyvinche, who sold the farm in 1605.

It is timber-framed with painted brick infill on a sandstone plinth, and has 19th century additions and 20th century alterations.

Inside the building is a re-set 16th-century panel carved with a woman's head and scrolled dolphins.

20

PYEFINCH
HOUSE



50



WHAT'S IN THE GREEN BOX?



High speed broadband came to Burghill 5 years ago.

The green box is like a mini telephone exchange providing FTTC broadband.

FTTC (Fibre To The Cabinet) is also known as superfast broadband. Fibre optic cables, which use beams of light to transport more data in less time, run from the Hereford telephone exchange to this box.

Copper cables from the box, or cabinet, connect your home to the internet.





22

THE VILLA

Perseverance Villa, according to a date scratched into a brick on an internal wall, was built in 1895; a time when external walls were not erected as cavity walls for thermal efficiency!

The Gilbert family moved into this house in 1953 at which time it was a three-bedroom house with an upstairs bathroom with a cold water supply only. The toilet was outside the back door! Water was pumped up from a well - outside the back door - until the 1980's. Electricity was already in place. The first thing Ethel did was rename the Villa by omitting the title 'Perseverance'!

Ivor removed the bath from upstairs, installing a new one downstairs in place of the large pantry. The original bathroom became a fourth bedroom. He re-built the lean-to across part of the back of the house to protect the well and for storage of coal and fire wood. The toilet remained outside, until main sewage was installed, along with water in the 1980s, when a new toilet was installed next to the bathroom. The 'conservatory' across the front of the house was erected about 1990. The stairs were narrow and wound around at the bottom, with a door in to the kitchen. A step to the left at the top took one straight



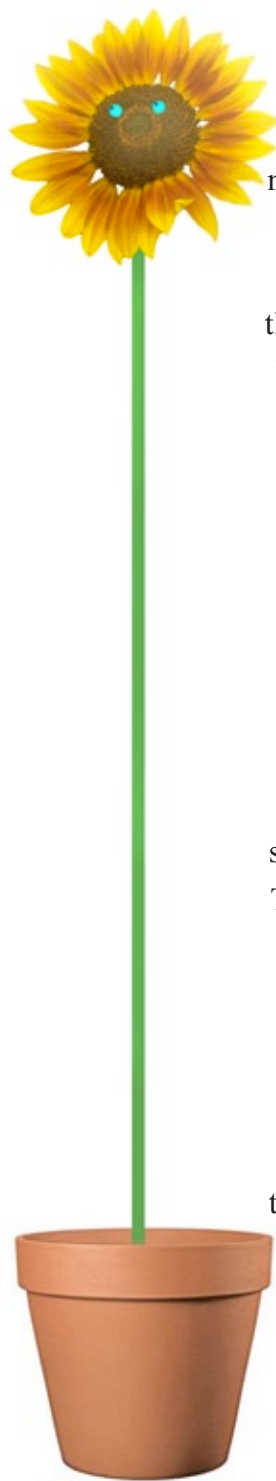
22

into a small bedroom and a step to the right took one onto the landing leading to the other three bedrooms. Graham returned to The Villa in 2007; he installed double glazing in 2010 and had the roof renewed in 2012.



In 2016 we decided to make The Villa our home together and our aim was to have it all done by Autumn of 2017. Work finally got under way in May of 2017 - demolishing the lean-to and removing all the plaster from the internal walls, ready to install insulation.

Builders turned up in late August and the shell of the new extension- replacing the old lean-to - was erected. Downstairs



ceilings were removed, and plumbers and electricians laid new piping, wiring etc. Graham completely redesigned the interior of the house so that the 'lethal' stairs were replaced by a wide, straight staircase in an entirely new position! We had one bedroom converted into two bathrooms - one family bathroom for guests, and an en-suite bathroom for the master bedroom. The long 'conservatory' was divided into two separate rooms, each opening into adjacent living space via folding glazed doors. The original bathroom became an en-suite for the lounge/ occasional guest room and the former toilet became a pantry.

The major landscaping of the back garden, a new wall along the pavement and the reroofing of the 'conservatory' with a front porch have lately been completed.



22

THE VILLA





SIMPSON HALL

Albert Simpson originally came from Lancashire, but settled in Herefordshire over 100 years ago. He was High Sheriff of Radnorshire and a JP for both Hereford and Radnor.

He lived at Burghill Grange as well as in Eardisley. He was very generous to Burghill Village. In 1890 he gave the parish money to buy the land and build the Men's Club. He also presented a new organ to the church in 1905 and land for a cricket field in Burghill.





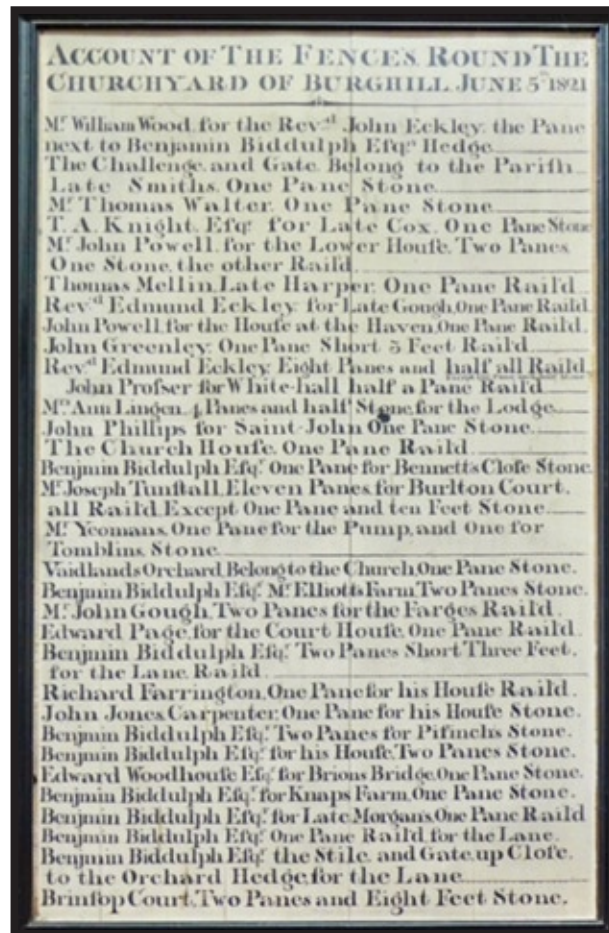
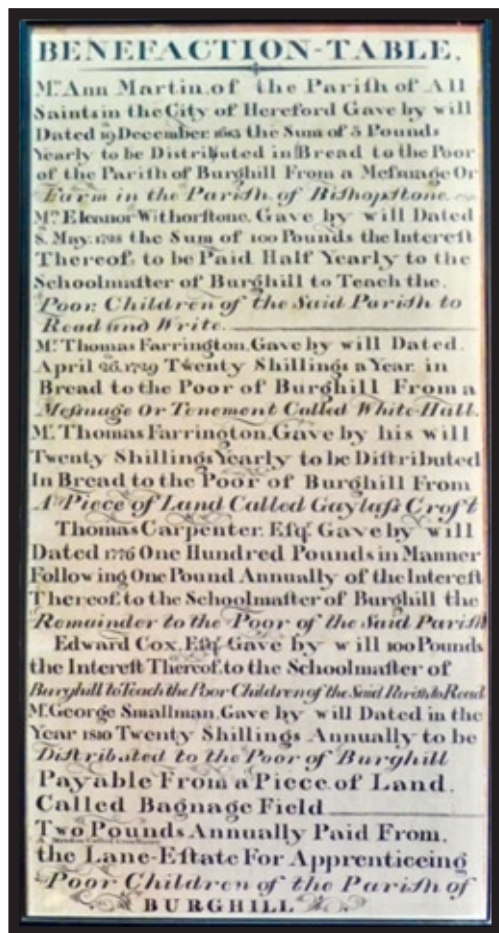
Albert Simpson was concerned that the only recreation the local men had was to drink in pubs. He provided a Men's Club which included a billiard table and an Upper Reading Room, where men could go and relax without drinking alcohol. In recent years through grants from the National Lottery a large extension was added. In 1974 the Men's Club was renamed The Simpson Hall.



23

SIMPSON HALL

It is run by volunteers who generously give their time to the upkeep and management of the Hall. Over the years many improvements have been made but it was John Simpson's original gift that allows us to hold so many events here today. John Simpson felt so strongly about the evils of alcohol, there was a covenant that prohibited any alcohol from being consumed in the hall until as recently as 2016.



he Church there hang two large historical records: ‘Benefaction Table’ and the ‘Account of the Fences Round the Churchyard of Burghill. June 5th 1821.’

Many names of people and properties from around the parish of Burghill are mentioned in both hangings, with some of both the names and the properties surviving to the present day.

Among those mentioned are two connected with ‘White Hall’, now known as White Hall Cottage.

The Benefaction Table states that Mr. Thomas Farrington gave by Will, dated April 26th 1726, ‘Twenty Shillings a Year in Bread to the Poor of Burghill from a Message or Tenement called White-Hall.’

The Account of the Fences states that John Prosser for White-Hall half a Pane Rail’d, meaning that he had to look after a certain length of the Church wall.

Messrs Farrington and Prossers were both separately owners and occupiers of White Hall in 1698 and 1798 respectively, and dying in 1729 and 1837.

