

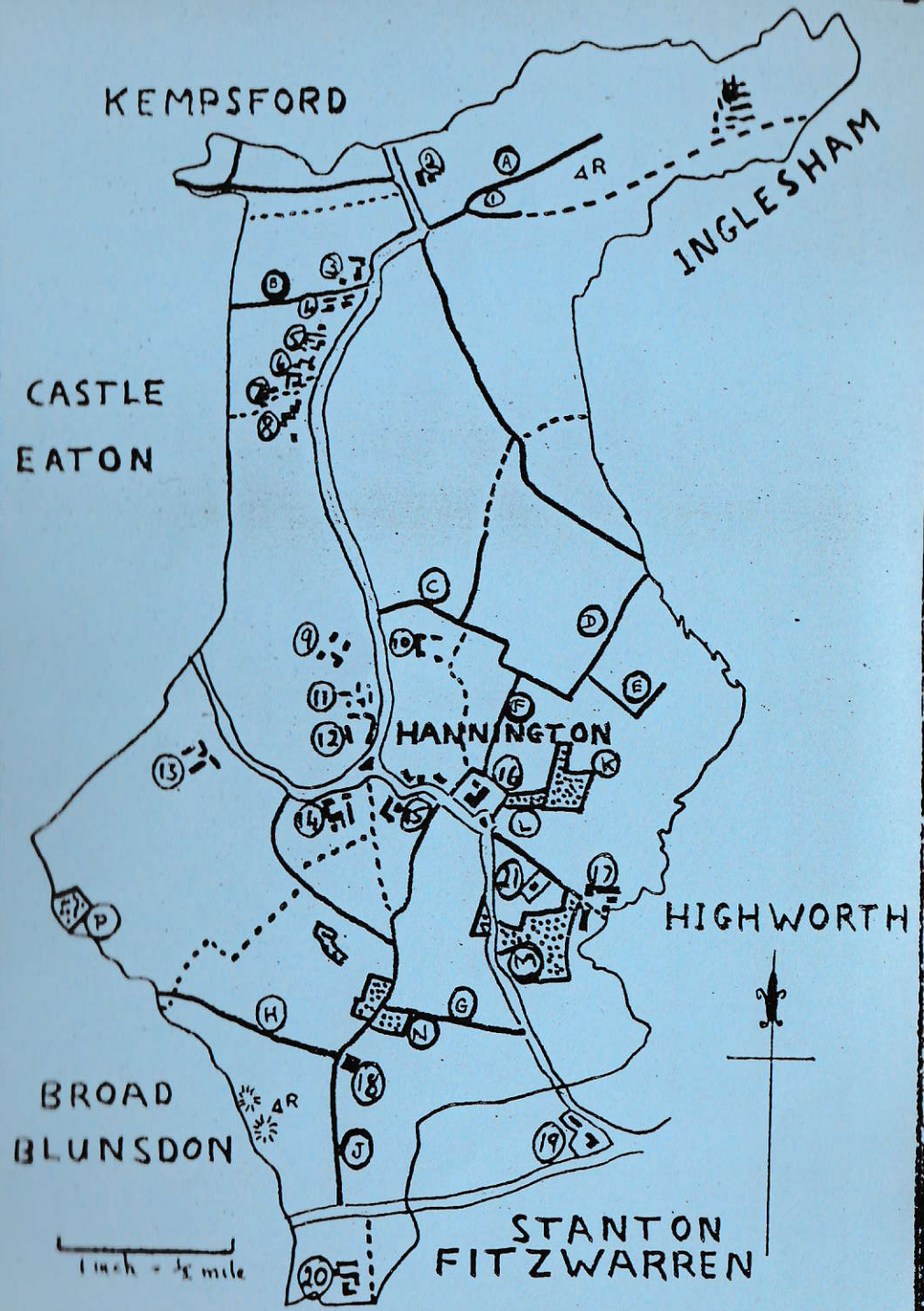
A  
GUIDE  
TO  
**HANNINGTON**  
WILTSHIRE

COMPILED BY

THE HANNINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

1981





1. STERTS COTTAGE
2. BRIDGE FARM
3. VIEWTREE FARM
4. SYCAMORETREE FARM
5. MANOR FARM (HANNINGTON WICK)
6. CHERRYTREE FARM
7. POND FARM
8. BOXHEDGE FARM
9. LOWER FARM
10. NELL FARM
11. THE OLD POUND
12. HILL FARM
13. GORE FARM
14. MANOR FARM
15. JOLLY TAR
16. HANNINGTON HALL
17. BYDE MILL FARM
18. STAPLER'S FARM
19. FREKE ARMS
20. OXLEAZE FARM
21. ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CHURCH

- A. NELLANDS FARM
- B. WATERY LANE
- C. MIDDLE MEAD LANE
- D. BURFORD STONE LANE
- E. BEDLAM LANE
- F. PARSONS LANE
- G. STAPLER'S LANE
- H. LAWN LANE
- J. OXLEAZE LANE

- K. QUARTERS COPSE
- L. FLORENCE COPSE
- M. BYDEMILL COPSE
- N. JUBILEE COPSE
- P. CRABTREE COPSE

- == Public Roads
- Parish Lanes
- - - Foot Paths and  
Bridle Paths
- △ R Sites of Roman  
Dwellings
- ☀ Earthwork Sites



## THE PARISH OF HANNINGTON

Hannington in Wiltshire is one of three so called in the country. Hannington was not its original name; in the Domesday Book it is called Hanindone. Apart from several variations it did not become Hannington until 1521, although as late as 1767 the name Hanindone occurs. The parish boundaries started in the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1, were described as follows:-

"that the boundarie of the said mannor verie aptlie beginneth on the north parte thereof at a bridge called Themes Bridge, at a doble tressell there, from thence along the river there eastwarde called Themes, which devideth this mannor and Kempsforde untill ye com to a brooke called Bidebrooke which devideth this mannor and Inglesham, and so followinge the saide brooke to Westropp Field, thence contynuinge the same brooke southward to GossPELL Corner deviding this mannor and Staunton, from which corner along by the quick-sett hedge called Berreton hedge southwestwarde to the end thereof, to a mere there, following the same mere to the end thereof, thence retorninge northwestwarde by the merestones there to a quick-sett hedge of Walter Becketts, following the saide hedge northwarde to the river Themes and soe followinge the said river eastwarde to the aforesaide bridge where it first beganne".

In 1980 Swanborough was added, consisting of two cottages and the Freke Arms and two fields. The new boundary on the Hannington - Highworth road continues over the Byde Mill Brook to the junction with the B4019, and follows that road towards Blunsdon until it rejoins the brook near the old level-crossing.

The village is built on the upper part of the Parish, 375 ft. above sea level. The Parish consists of 2,518 acres, of which 10 are water, and 73 roads and lanes. Situated on the northeast of Wiltshire on the Gloucester border, it is mostly grazing land. The population in 1675 was 233. It is now 207.

## HANNINGTON PARISH LANES

The Parish Lanes date from the time of the Enclosure Agreement 1632 of the common fields. They comprise together a considerable area, which formerly provided good grazing, and there used to be keen competition to secure the right to pasture cattle in them. The Lanes, however, gradually deteriorated through neglect and became overgrown with bushes, and for some years only nominal sums have been offered for most of them.

The terms of the letting of the lanes have varied over the years; but the present terms of letting are in accordance with an agreement dated 1731.

The letting of the lanes takes place annually by auction at a Parish Meeting, usually held in March. The lanes are divided into eleven lots, and no person is entitled to rent a lot who is not an occupier of land in the Parish to the value of at least £40 p.a., and no person is entitled to sub-let his lot, except to a person qualified in the same way. The lots may be used to feed any kind of cattle or sheep, or for cutting grass for fodder; but pigs must not be grazed in the lanes.

Some of the lanes form part of public footpaths; some are bridle paths, and some come to a dead end, their purpose being only to give access to fields, and the lane towards Kempsford is the public road.

## EARLY BRITISH AND ROMAN REMAINS

In 1934 one of the earthworks visible from the air in a field on Oxleaze Farm close of the Blunsdon border was excavated, and a cut through the pond made. This exposed the remains of a small Roman house. Pottery and nails were also found. The chief evidence of Roman occupation is in Hannington Wick where in 1890 remains of Roman dwellings were discovered in a field on the east of Sterts cottage. A piece of pavement was found, some large stones, and a number of small artefacts.



## HANNINGTON CHURCH

Hannington Church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, but records of 1317 suggest that it was previously dedicated to St. David.

This is not the first church on this site. The south doorway and the porch are the remains of an earlier building of around 1160 A.D. The porch itself appears to be 14th century with a curious niche in its east wall.

The nave was built not later than 1230. The north and south walls throughout and the buttresses are of that period, with the exception of the diagonally placed buttresses at the eastern end which were built in the 15th century, as were the adjoining windows and the staircase to the rood-loft. On the north wall one window was filled in and a door placed there, which is still visible on the outside. There is a 13th century coffin slab on one of the south buttresses.

The chancel is perpendicular in style and dates from about 1450, but a small priest's door on the outside of the south wall looks like 13th century rebuilt. The east window is a three-light pointed one, set unusually high, and has probably been raised. The buttressed tower is about 1430, and rises in three stages to the battlemented parapet with carved gargoyles at the corners.

The oldest monument - 1290 - is situated near the lectern and is the recumbent figure of an anchoress, or female recluse, who probably lived in a stone cell in the churchyard at the end of the 13th century. She is represented in the religious habit of a recluse; the neck is bare and the loose hair is kept in place by a broad band joining another passing under the chin, and forming an early wimple. The hands appear to hold a small heart. The feet, in painted shoes, show below the gown, and rest against a lion. There is a record of her being granted a supply of wheat by Edward 1 in 1286.





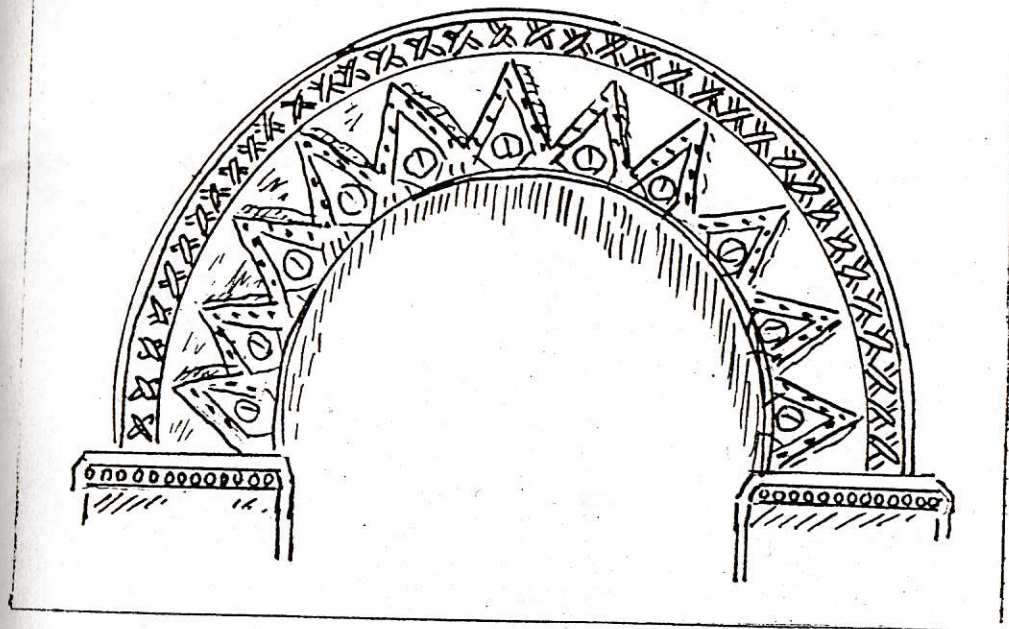
The font was originally a plain octagonal one of the 15th century. There is a drawing of it in the British Museum. In 1851 it was restored. The plain surface was carved, and the original stem replaced by a new one. The old one was given to Stanton Fitzwarren church.

Like many others, our church was "restored" in Victorian times. The three stained glass windows were put in in 1856. In 1871 the vestry was built and the inside of the church considerably changed. The reredos which is Victorian was probably put in then. The firm responsible for the work was Slater & Carpenter who also designed the rather interesting, but not so obvious, spiral staircase in the tower. The organ was also probably put in in 1871: it was reconditioned in 1956. The nave walls were stripped of their monuments which were moved back under the tower, together with the floor slabs marking the burial places of Raufe and William Freke in the chancel. The old pulpit and seats dating from the early 17th century, were removed and the floor was tiled. In 1927 the Freke memorials were replaced in the nave, and the rood-loft staircase door, which had been blocked up, was re-opened.

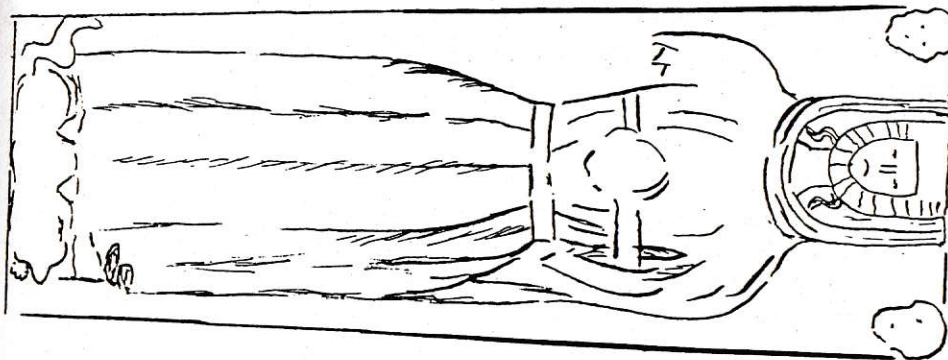
There is a peal of 6 bells - 5 dating from 1639. One of them was recast in 1919, and they were all rehung on a new cast-iron framework in 1958. The sixth bell was added in 1967.

Wood from the old timbers was used to make the bowls and crosses to be seen in the church. There is a theory that the now isolated church was once surrounded by the village, but that its people, like many others at the time, moved to a safe distance and burnt the village in an attempt to stop the Black Death.

The key of the church may be obtained from the Verger, No. 5 Queens Road, or from Hannington Hall.



SOUTH PORCH



EFFIGY OF ANCHORESS



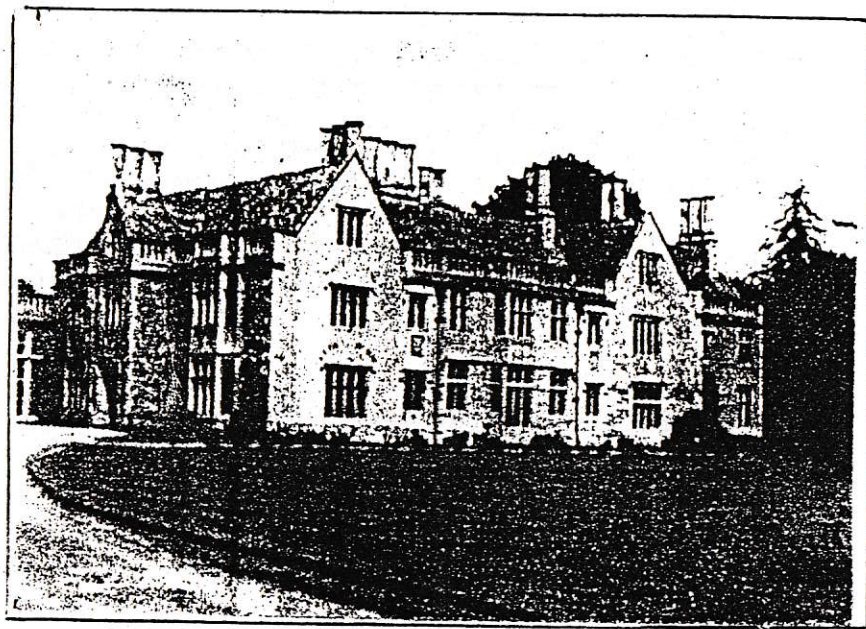
## HANNINGTON HALL

The house was built in 1653 in the Elizabethan style by the brothers Raufe and William Freke, although it seems probable that the entrance and two rooms on either side on the south were part of an older parsonage depicted on a map of 1647.

The stone came from local places, including Snells Bridge and Eastrop in Highworth, but the accounts show that some also came from Barrington and cost £10 a load. This was probably required for the balustrade and chimneys. 2,000 nails cost 2/6d., and the workmen seem to have been paid 1/- a day. On the east side the 1653 house reached as far as the recess.

The brothers - who had married Culpepper sisters - placed their arms on the bow window in the centre, and surrounded them by Psalm 115 in Latin - "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory". They also put a plaque with the date of the house on it - 1653 - and "With concord little things grow greater", and another with their names and their hands dipping into a common purse and stating "The more in common, so much the better", and below "always the same". Under the parapet of the house they wrote the first verse of the 133rd Psalm, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity". The drainpipe was added by Thomas Freke in 1693.

The house remained much as it was until it was altered by Col. Henry Freke who inherited it through the female side in 1836. He then added the porch and the two bow windows on the south side, and built the French Drawing Room and the Orangery, writing on the latter and continuing on the parapet the words "Henry Freke, C.B. 1836 built this wing mindful of his ancestors", and "May brotherly love abide in you". He also placed his coat-of-arms with those of the



Sneatons (his wife's family) over the new bow windows. The motto "Non Nobis Nati" roughly translates "not born for ourselves", and "Vota Vita Mea" "My life is dedicated". The present staircase was also put in at this time and the glass dome above it, as well as the plaster ceilings in the two south rooms.

Col. Freke's only daughter married Mr. Ambrose Hussey-Freke from Salisbury in 1862, and it was then that the names were joined together. They added the wing on the east side of the house in 1863, composed largely of servants quarters, as was the fashion of the time. It originally extended another 20 ft. and back north as far as the shed. The arms are those of the Hussey family and the Frekes quartered, and the plaque with the initials of Ambrose and Florence was replaced on the north side when most of the wing was demolished in 1963 by Ambrose Hussey-Freke, their grandson.



Mr. Claude Fry bought the house from Raufe Hussey-Freke in 1923. He put in the panelling in the dining room, and the plaster ceiling. He also acquired the Elizabethan chimney piece from a house in Bristol and placed it in the hall. During the 1939-1945 war, Mrs Fry remained in occupation in the front of the house, while A.T.S. girls were billeted in the remainder. These girls were being trained in conjunction with men at Coleshill to form an underground movement in readiness for a possible German invasion.

In 1957 Mr. Ambrose Hussey-Freke bought the house back.

### THE GARDEN

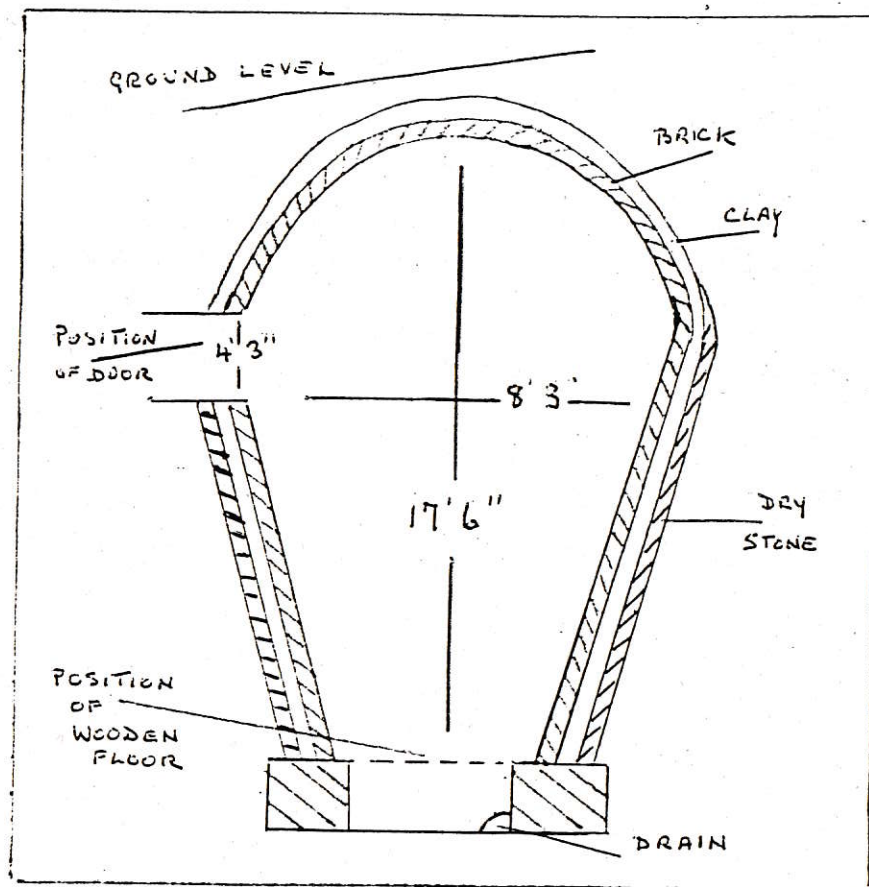
The garden is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres - the terrace facing north east is long enough for a full archery range. The yew trees seem old enough to have been planted when the house was built.

A map of 1758 shows an avenue of elms leading from the house. These died of disease in 1976 and broad leafed limes were planted. The walled kitchen garden was probably made by the Rev. John Freke as there is a stone in the wall inscribed "J.W.F. July 12th 1787". It is possible that he also built the ice house which is situated east of the house. It was used to supply ice for domestic purposes such as preserving game, cooling wine and keeping dairy produce fresh. It is domed shaped and built of brick with cavity walls. The entrance is 4ft.3ins. high and has a heavy door, then a short tunnel and another door; these were opened at night and closed in the morning. The ice house had to be dry as well as cool, and the ice was packed around with straw, a thick layer of it being placed on top when the pit was full. In some houses every 2ft. layer of ice was sprinkled with water saturated with salt, and in these cases the ice would still be rock hard in the following summer and require a pick-axe to break it.

The present stable block was built in 1864 (the previous one having been where the herbaceous border is). The arms are of the Freke and Hussey families.

The clock was made either by Dent or Benson. The bell was cast by Warner, who cast the bell of Big Ben.

The Donkey House had a well in it, and the donkey walked round and round pumping up the water.



ICE HOUSE



## ARCHBISHOP MARSH

Narcissus Marsh was born on the 20th December 1683, in Hannington in a house at the bottom of Nell Hill close to Lower Farm.

The house was apparently destroyed by fire in 1673, but ruins were still standing in 1721. The land was afterwards named Burnt House Close, and is marked in a plan of the village 1758.

He wrote in his diary that he was "born of Honest Parents". Narcissus was the youngest of three brothers, the other two being named Epaphroditus and Onesiphorus.

Narcissus did well with his studies with several ecclesiastics locally, and at the age of 15½ was entered commoner in Magdalen Hall in Oxford where he took his degree, having studied Old Philosophy, Mathematics and Oriental Languages. He eventually took up an important appointment as Provost of Trinity College, Dublin. He became Archbishop of Dublin in 1694. He died in 1713 at the age of 74, and is buried in St. Patrick's Churchyard beside his beloved library. He never married.

## THE RAILWAY

The Highworth Branch railway line ran through the south of the parish following the course of the Byde Mill brook. It was opened in 1883, and there was a station where the road crosses the brook at Swanborough. It closed in 1962.

Byde Mill Farm The mill is mentioned in the Doomsday Book, and derives its name from the Byde family. In 1391 Rose de Byde was party to an indenture securing possession to her of a cottage for life, paying for it yearly with one red rose. Richard Byde owned the mill in the 15th century. The present house and mill were built in the middle of the 19th century, and the mill ceased to work about 1896. Two millstones are in the garden, and the old mill race runs through as a brook.

Glebe House After Hannington Hall was built a house on the site of what is now Glebe House was converted into the Vicarage. This was pulled down in 1723 when the present house was built. The last vicar of Hannington was the Rev. C.V. Hawkins 1938-39.

Yorke House This is reputed to be the oldest house in Hannington, and is named after the Yorke family who were copyhold tenants of the Manor in the 16th and 17th centuries. Humfrey Yorke was Churchwarden 1641-47, and his name is on the fifth church bell. Kate Light, whose bequest still provides for an annual outing for the village children, lived and died in this house.

The main road was originally called The Street, and was renamed Queens Road in 1953. Skinners Close is so named from the field.

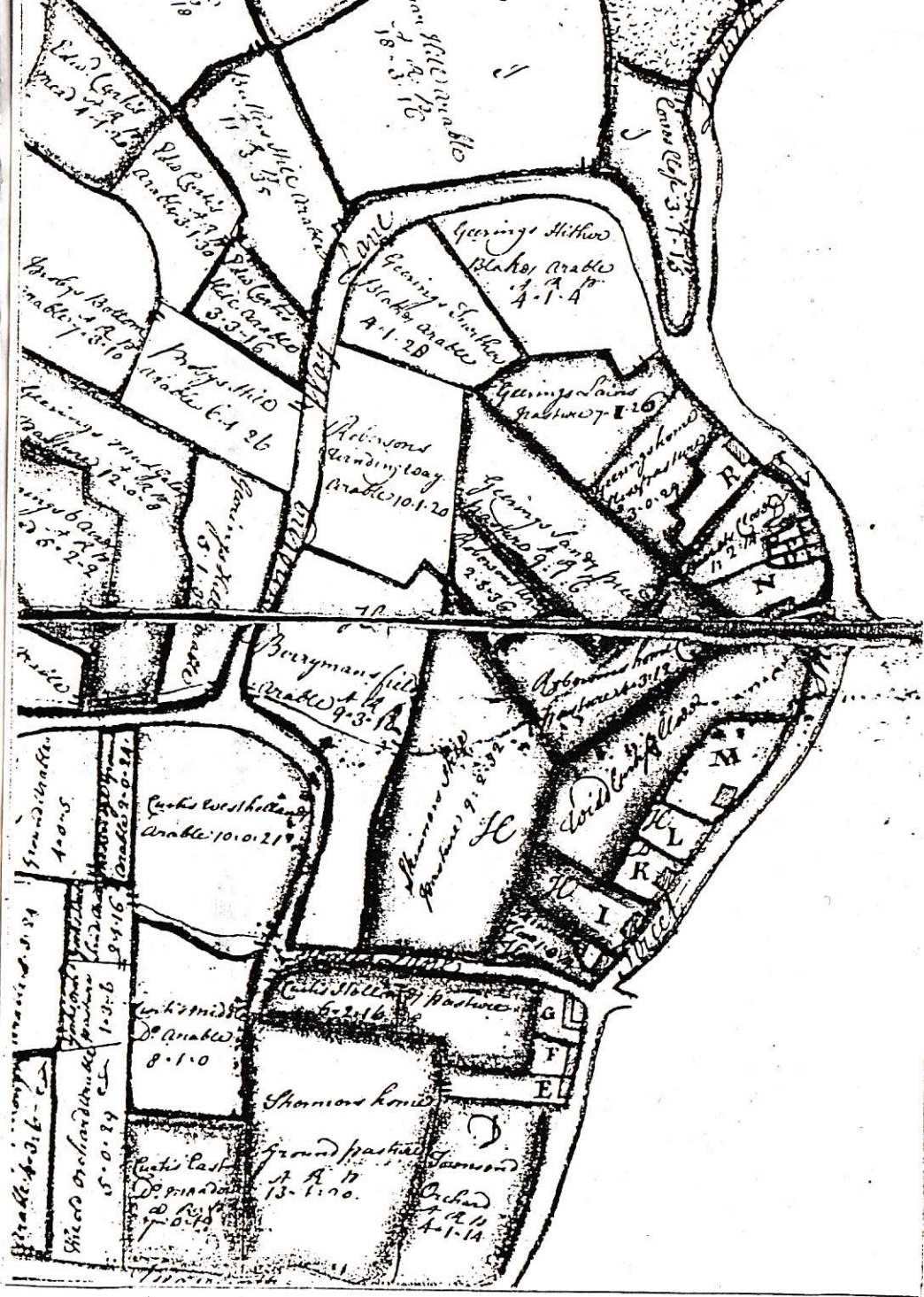
The old village pump is situated in the hedge on the north side of the Jolly Tar. It went out of use in the early 1920s.

The junction of the Castle Eaton and Kempsford roads, marked on the 1648 plan, and still known as "The Cross", was the site of the village stocks which were still in use in the last century. They were repaired in 1801 on the orders of the Manor Court.

The old Church of England School at the top of Nell Hill was built in 1875 from the stones and panelling of a chapel that used to be situated near Pond Farm at Hannington Wick.

The Pound on the left at the top of Nell Hill was referred to in the records of 1361, and now forms part of the garden of "Bethany".





- References to the Houses
- A Bride Mill
  - B Richard House or Cottage
  - C Mr Freche D.
  - D The Church Yard
  - E Thomas Shermers
  - F John Bakers
  - G Henry Custifs's
  - H M<sup>r</sup> Freche
  - I D<sup>r</sup> The Cell
  - K Old Demure
  - L A. Messuages Decayed
  - M Widd. Custifs,
  - N Widd. Robertsons
  - O John Wellarise
  - P Widd. Dares
  - Q Towm House
  - R
  - S Good Homestall
  - T Henry Dun
  - V Widd. Yeats

A Map  
of the South part of  
the Manor of Hanning  
ton in the County of Wilts  
to Bride mill upp Church  
Lane, thro' the Street  
and Sushill Lane  
1750



References to the Houses,

- A The Mansion Homestead
  - B John Thomas a College
  - C Henry Dun D<sup>r</sup>
  - D The Vicarage
  - E M<sup>r</sup> Yorks
  - F Mr Freches late Nicks Batsons
  - G D. A small piece of pasture ground
  - H John Hummers
  - I John Edmonds
  - K Samuel Day
  - L Samuel Panting
  - M Jeffery Thomas
  - N William Daws
  - O John Daws
  - P Thomas Copes
  - Q Samuel Alexander
  - R Ann Tillins
  - S William Panting
  - T John Finch
  - V Mr Virgil Parker
  - U The Pound
  - W Mr Freches
  - X Mrs Baltons
  - Y John Reason
  - Z Mr Freches and John Papals
- f, g, h, k. Edward Hebbles and Lords.

A Map  
of the Middle  
part of the Manor  
of Hannington in  
the County of Wilts  
from Church Lane thro  
the Street and Tushill  
Lane down to  
Deal Lane





## HANNINGTON WICK

According to the Oxford Dictionary "Wick" means "Hamlet", but a book on English Place Names defines it as "Dairy Farm", which is more appropriate for this land. It is about a mile from the centre of the village on the road to Kempsford. The 1648 plan shows a cross at the junction of the Kempsford Road and Nellende Lane.

The bridge has been in existence for at least 500 years. The original structure was wooden, but was later replaced by stone. There was much argument between Kempsford and Hannington about responsibility for maintenance over the years, and in 1574 two citizens took the matter to court. Judgement was given in their favour, and Kempsford was deemed responsible for the major part.

The Manor House was built in 1640 of Caen stone brought from France. Its special feature being the central chimney piece. There are four bedrooms on the first floor and very large attics which were probably used as bedrooms for workers in the early days. The house was originally panelled in natural pine. The present woodwork was done in 1947 when the present owners moved in. There was a small part of original panelling in the drawing room. On one of the beams upstairs there is a mark in the shape of an ancient blunderbus. There is a cheese room over the present garage.

In the extreme north east corner of the parish stood Sterts Farm, now a ruin. The old English word Steort means "tail", and the map shows that this could well be the origin of the name. It is still perpetuated in Sterts Cottage.



## THE INNS

Nearly opposite Glebe House stood the Cat Inn - spelt "Catt", and marked on a plan of 1758. Manor Courts and Vestry meetings were held here. It was closed in 1852.

At the road junction by the telephone box what is now a private house was previously the Dog Inn, and later the Post Office.

THE JOLLY TAR - originally a farmhouse, replaced the old Cat Inn in 1852. It was probably so named by Captain Willes Johnson, RN who married Col. Henry Freke's widow, and was then living at the Hall. It serves snacks every evening, and also has a Steak Bar which is open each evening with the exception of Sunday and Monday.

THE FREKE ARMS was a private house and seems to have been built in the late 18th century, with red brick alterations done about 1830. It serves hot and cold bar snacks every-day except Wednesday evening and Sunday lunchtime.



## CHARITIES

Church and Bridge Lands This is the oldest charity; the origin is unknown, but it is referred to in the Enclosure Agreement of 1632. It now consists of 7 acres of land at the corner of Stapler's Lane, and the income goes to the repair of the church.

Freke and Norton Lady Norton, daughter of Raufe Freke, died in 1731 and left £800, the interest of which was to be used for 'putting of placing out poor children'. £300 was to be paid to '12 poor housekeepers who attended to hear the Mortality sermon'. This sermon to be preached every year in October, and for which the vicar to receive 5/12th of the income of the charity.

Thos. Freke died in 1721 and left his land at Stratton St. Margaret for the benefit of the poor of Hannington generally.

The Charity Commissioners drew up a scheme in 1907, and the joint charity is administered by three trustees. The Lady of the Manor ex officio, one trustee nominated by her, and one to be appointed by the Parish Council every four years.

Mary Matthews Mrs. Mary Matthews, who died in 1751, left £20 to the vicar and churchwardens to be distributed yearly on St. Thomas' Day to "poor widows not in receipt of poor relief". She also left £100 to be applied for apprenticing boys and girls of the parish.

Sarah Wills Mrs. Sarah Wills left the sum of £100 for the benefit of the poor of Hannington, the disposal of the dividends being in the charge of the vicar. The first distribution was in 1892.

Kate Light Bequest (1950) Mrs. Kate Light of Yorke House left a gift to the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance, the income to be paid to the vicar and churchwardens, and to be applied annually for an outing for the school children of Hannington and Hannington Wick.

## HANNINGTON BUS SERVICE

### Hannington Depart

Tuesday 10.06 a.m.  
Friday 10.06 a.m.  
Saturday 9.53 a.m.  
1.46 p.m.

### Swindon Arrive

10.30 a.m.  
10.30 a.m.  
10.15 a.m.  
2.08 p.m.

### Swindon Depart

Tuesday 12.20 p.m.  
Friday 12.20 p.m.  
Saturday 11.45 a.m.  
4.00 p.m.

### Hannington Arrive

12.42 p.m.  
12.42 p.m.  
12.07 p.m.  
4.22 p.m.

## HANNINGTON POST OFFICE & GENERAL STORES

Times of clearing Post Box:-

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.  
Saturday 10 a.m.

Available:-

Postage Stamps  
Registered envelopes  
Television Licences  
Motor Car Licences  
Old Age Pensions

Money Orders and Postal  
Orders from 20p to £10  
Cards for Saving Stamps  
Family Allowances

Chequest will NOT be accepted as payment for T.V.Licences

Groceries - Some frozen food as well as ice cream  
Stationery and Greetings Cards

There is a Public Telephone at The Cross



## CHURCH SERVICES

1st Sunday in month	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (1662)
2nd " " "	10.30 a.m. Matins
3rd " " "	10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (ASB)
4th " " "	10.30 a.m. Matins
5th " " "	10.30 a.m. Matins

The church key may be obtained from The Verger, 5 Queens Rd., or from Hannington Hall

Vicar - Rev. Richard Dent, Highworth Vicarage. Tel: ~~762206~~ <sup>763862</sup>

## AMENITIES

### Village Hall

This consists of one good sized room and W.C., and a kitchen with hot water; a calor gas cooker; two electric urns, and 48 cups and saucers. It can be hired - the rates being:-

- £2 for village meetings
- £10 for private parties
- £2 for the hire of chairs and tables

Electric space heaters are on a slot meter.

The County Council Mobile Library stops every other Tuesday at the Jolly Tar at 2 p.m.

The W.I. meets at the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 p.m.

A Fish & Chip van visits the village every Monday at 5 p.m.

Doctors' Surgery - Newburgh Place, Highworth. Tel: 762213

## REFERENCES

HANNINGTON

C. B. FRY

MARSH'S LIBRARY

MURIEL MCCARTHY

THE LAST DITCH

DAVID LAMPE

THE HIGHWORTH BRANCE

T. M. SMITH and  
G. S. HEATHCLIFFE

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA

WILTSHIRE ARCHIOLOGICAL MAGAZINE

DEVIZES MUSEUM LIBRARY

Vol.XXV Roman Remains & Vol.XLVII re. Earthworks

WM. FREKE'S ACCOUNTS OF THE BUILDING OF HANNINGTON HALL  
BODLEIAN LIBRARY

MANOR COURT ROLLS

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY

CHURCHWARDEN'S ACCOUNTS

COUNTY RECORD OFFICE  
TROWBRIDGE

MAP OF c.1647

MAP OF 1758

ENCLOSURE AGREEMENT 1632

IN THE POSSESSION OF

A. F. HUSSEY-FREKE

## OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO VILLAGE

1965 W.I. SCRAPBOOK

1976 SURVEY OF HANNINGTON HALL

TITLE MAPS, WILLS AND OTHER DEEDS

PHOTO COPIES AT  
COUNTY RECORD OFFICE,  
TROWBRIDGE

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS 1880

DEVIZES MUSEUM  
COUNTY RECORD OFFICE  
TROWBRIDGE

PARISH REGISTERS

(copies with Society of Geneologists)