

Three Cottages in the High Street, Watchfield

Information so far



The Willington Map of the centre of Watchfield from 1758 shows the plot of ground where these cottages now stand to be a small paddock with some agricultural animal type pens on the south side. (No 14 below). Next door to this on the south was built the Rectory (No 80 below) but surprisingly not until around the same time as the new church of St Thomas in 1857. This was known as The Butts, historically a place where archery was practised in the mediaeval period, and for many years required by law. The building above the Butts was the old chapel, which was taken down in 1788, before it actually fell down from dilapidation due to its age.



By 1918 we have documentary evidence that the land along that side of the high street was owned by the Radnor Estate at Coleshill. We have further evidence that Lord Radnor was building new cottages in the village in 1863, and although not specific, it seems highly likely from the evidence of the 1918 Estate Sale, that these three cottages were built then.

The outlying portions of the Radnor Estate at Coleshill were put up for auction by the Hon Mrs Pleydell-Bouverie on 29th July 1918. Included in that auction were the three cottages (No 6 below). The subsequent newspaper article after the sale described Lot 6 as, *'Three stone and slate cottages at Watchfield in the respective occupations of Messrs. J. Watts, R. Simpson and J. Titcombe, was also bought after the sale by Mr A. Haynes of Stratton.'* (He also bought West Mill Farm and other property in the sale).

