

A Charabanc Outing

Although life in the village was hard there was always time for leisure and play.



A trip to Weymouth in a Bonfield & Son of Bridport Renault charabanc in 1921. Clearly the weather was good but how did those hats stay on during the journey? From the right the passengers are:- Charlie Crabb, George Crabb, ?....?, Ivy Collier (May), Ethel Howe, Enid Crabb (Crabb), Elsie Read, Mabel Williams, ?....?, Amy Symes (Metcalf), Doris Legg, ?....?, ?....?, Ned Eveleigh, J. Eveleigh, ?....?, and the driver (and village carrier) Steven Crabb and his family,

The Loders Mothers' Union in the 1930s



The Mothers' Union on a sunny afternoon at Loders Court. Lady Le Breton is sitting at the front, fourth from the right, with her dog. Behind and to her left is Lizzie Hyde. Sitting on the pillar (third left) is Agnes Hansford.

The Loders Women's Institute

Based on reports in the local newspapers the Loders Women's Institute was active between 1919 and 1940 as well as post World War II.

Bridport News 14 November 1919

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE SOCIAL.— To augment the fund for purchasing a piano for the Institute, a social was recently held. A good programme of songs, &c., was gone through, after which the room was cleared for dancing.

Extract from the Western Gazette 9 September 1932

The annual Flower Show arranged by the Loders Women's Institute was a great improvement on last year as it included, in most classes, entries from the whole village, other than gardeners and market gardeners. The Show was held in the Ex-Service Men's Club, kindly lent for the occasion, and all classes were well filled, especially those for flowering plants, ferns and jam.

The prizes were presented to the successful exhibitors by Mrs Le Breton, who was thanked by the President of the Loders W.I. who also expressed gratitude to all exhibitors, Committee, the Loders Ex-Service Men's Club for the use of the Club, the judges and last, but not least, the Hon. Secretaries.



Loders WI at Loders Court c1935. Centre-front is Lady Le Breton. All but three of the ladies are in smart hats and look rather grand. The picture was taken by the Bridport photographer, Percy Smith.



Loders Women's Institute at Loders Court in about 1940 as guests of Lady Le Breton. (Seated in the front row from the left) Kate Bourne, Miss Shaw and Lady Le Breton. (Second row standing) -?-, Pearl Symes, Jean Budden, Mrs Lenthall, Sylvia Hyde, Granny Crabb, Adele Hyde, Cis Gale and Mrs Lesser. (Behind the second row) Netta Taylor, Olive Legg, -?-, Edith Hinks, Marjorie Randall, Gladys Budden and Lady Le Breton's sister.

Bridport News 27 September 1940

The Women's Institute met at the Parish Room on Thursday, Mrs Lesser presiding. Sympathetic reference was made by Mrs Le Breton to the death of Mrs Greening, the oldest member, and all stood in silence. A letter was read from the County Treasurer gratefully acknowledging the Institute's donation of £2 6s to the Red Cross ambulance. Mr Lesser, A.R.P. warden, gave an interesting talk on A.R.P. work, with some valuable advice on what to do in an air raid or in a possible attack by gas. It was unanimously decided that after the October meeting (at which a war-time cookery demonstration will be given by Miss White) the general meeting should be suspended during the winter months and resumed again in the spring.

Meetings ceased some time during the Second World War. With the suspension agreed at the 27 September 1940 meeting, reported above, it is a fair assumption that the break extended to 1947 when the WI became active once again. Its 'new' 10th birthday was reported in the July 1957 edition of the Reverend Willmott's Parish Notes. The August 1957 edition contained the correction as quoted below.

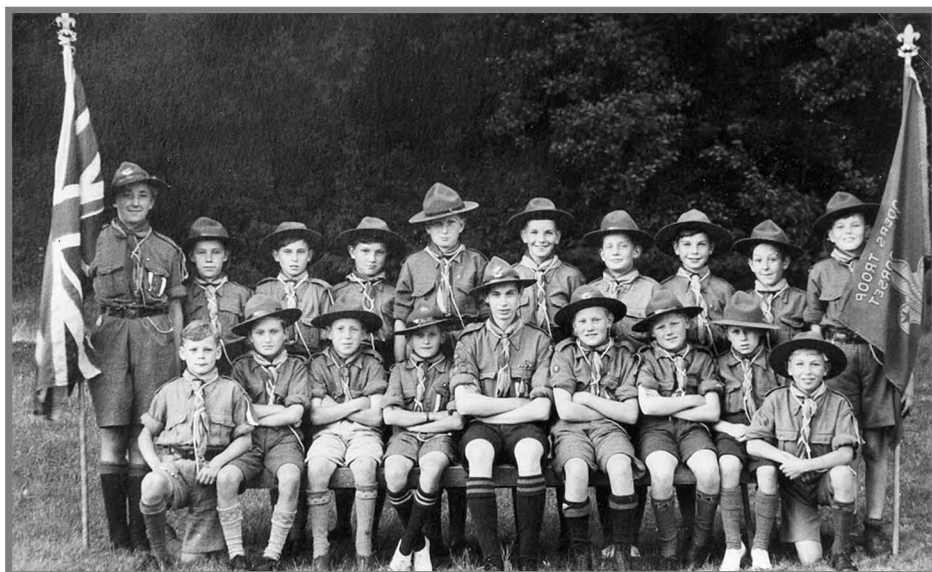
Extract from the August 1947 Parish Notes

The comment of our most distinguished reader on the paragraph last month about the W.I. celebrating their tenth birthday was: "Tenth birthday my foot! Feminine Vanity! They must be at least forty". And so, we suppose, they are, if they be dated from when they begun. The ladies prefer to date themselves from when they revived.

The Loders Scouts in 1924 and 1941



The Scouts in 1924, when they won the final of the District Boy Scouts competition and so qualified for the County finals. The winning team was Patrol Leaders Wilfred Hansford and George Hicks, Seconds Harold Saunders and Edward Crabb and Scouts Frank Crabb and Elston Paul. No doubt they are in the picture with Sir Edward Le Breton who is seated centre in the middle row.



The Loders Scouts in 1941, including boys from Bradpole and evacuees. Sir Edward Le Breton was a keen scouter and bought the uniforms for the troop. (Back from left) Vic Mears, Douglas Bugler, Horace Read, Ron Churchill, Tony Hyde, Oscar Symes, Peter Rogers, Philip Symes, Peter Lee, Dennis Yarde. (Front Row) Clifford Pitcher, Gerald Chard, Dennis Chilcott, Raymond Galpin, Scout Leader Jim Cranston, Ted Guppy, Geoff Guppy, Unknown, Wilf Crabb.

Loders Football Teams in the mid-1920s



The men in 1924 lined up as they played. (Back row) goalkeeper and two backs, (middle row) three halfbacks (front row) five forwards. The only person identified is Jack Knight, middle of the middle row. The team played in the field alongside the track to Boarsbarrow Farm and between the Bradpole road and the River Asker.



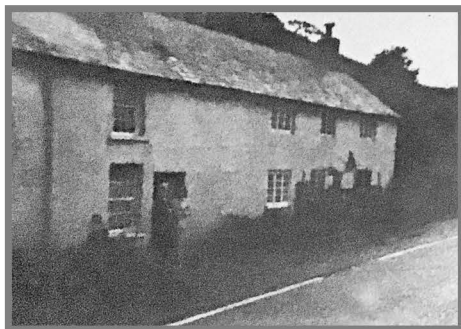
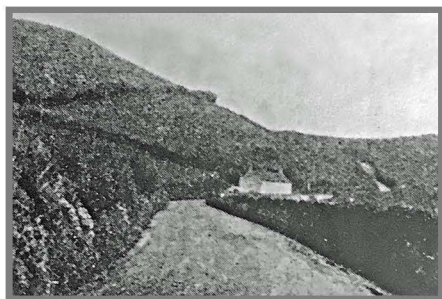
Bridport News 8 January 1926 - Girl's Sports Club - there was great excitement at Nettlecombe on Saturday, when the Powerstock and Loders girls competed in a football match against the Powerstock football team, the weather was very unfavourable, rain falling most of the time, but despite this the girls proved the stronger, winning 4-3. A collection was made on behalf of the National Institute for the Blind. Together with the Powerstock girls the following members of the club represented Loders; the Misses N Hansford, L Fry, D Bartlett, E Richards, Eileen & Ivy Read and Ena Crabb. Back row first right, is Nellie Hansford (Crabb) Jessie's mother; front second from left, is Ena Crabb (Crabb), Maureen's mother.

The Lost Public Houses - The Blue Ball

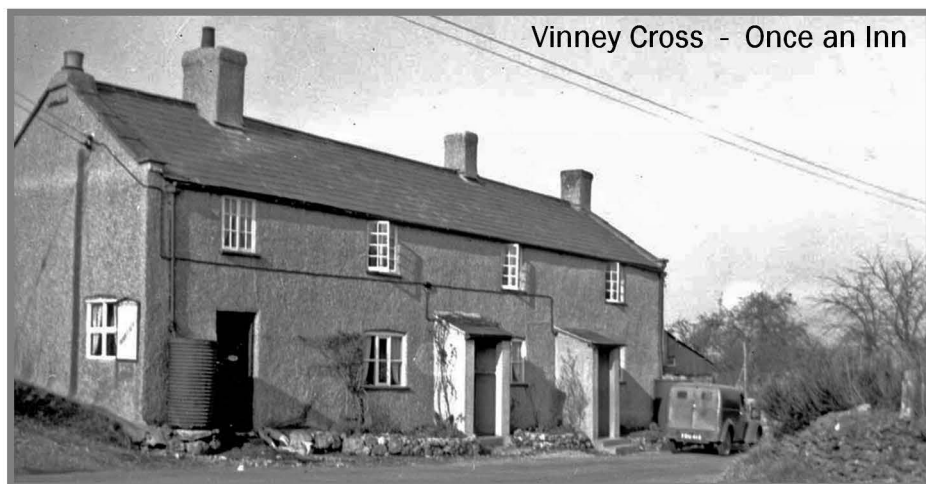


Blue Ball Cottages were located on the A35 at the bottom of the steep hill and narrow cutting at Stoney Head. This extract from the 1930 Ordnance Survey Six-inch to One-mile map shows the cottages on the old turnpike road, now the A35 trunk road, close to the junction to Shipton Gorge. The cottages had no well and water was collected from over the road which was not so busy then! On the 9 May 1868 the Bridport News reported that "*Stephen Ackerman, landlord of the Blue Ball on the East Road in the parish of Loders, was charged with keeping his house open on a Sunday between the hours of three and five.*" The Blue Ball Inn was recorded in the 1871 Census, Steven Ackerman still remained the landlord!

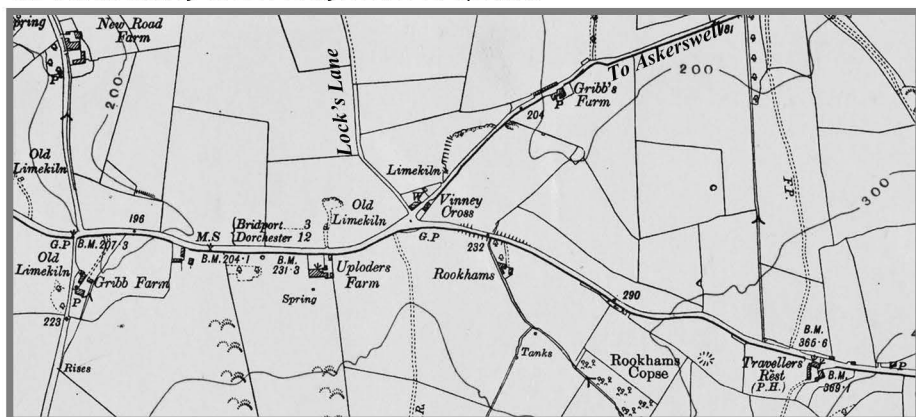
The cottages were demolished in 1972 when the A35 was realigned. They were used as site offices for the Contractor and Resident Engineer during the works. I spent several months on site supervising the works but did not take a photograph of the cottages. Luckily Philip Symes did (right). The cottages were at the bottom of the hill where a few vehicles are parked. An attractive rambling rose with small red double flowers grew at the front of the cottages. I took a cutting which rooted and thrived in our garden in Dorchester. From reports received soon after we left in 1994 it no longer exists. I really should have taken another cutting to return it to Loders!



Following publication of the first edition of this book Helen Doble kindly provided pictures of the old cottages. (above left) at the foot of Stoney Head approaching from the west and (right) as they were alongside the A35 prior to 1972.



Searching various Directories and censuses to find when the Blue Ball ceased to be an Inn, I noticed that Mathew Gill at Vinney Cross was recorded as Inn-keeper in the 1841 Census and Beer Retailer in The Hunt & Co. Dorset Directory 1851. Strangely, nothing was mentioned in the 1851 census. But, The Bridport News - September 1 1855 reported ***"FIRE - The well-known roadside Inn, at Vinney Cross, on the Dorchester road, was entirely destroyed by fire on Wednesday night. How the fire originated is not known, but it is supposed that the chimney must have taken fire in the earlier part of the day, and some sparks having at length fallen on the thatch, ignited it. There had been no fire in the fire place after one o'clock in the day. We hear Mr Gill is insured in the Phoenix Office."*** Although the house was rebuilt the Inn at Vinney Cross, sadly, never re-opened.



This extract from the Ordnance Survey Six-inch to One-mile sheet shows the layout of the roads at Vinney Cross in 1930. It is likely that at one time the main route was from Bridport towards Askerswell and Eggardon with Lock's Lane (the lane going northwards from the cross) and the Dorchester roads being the roads of lesser importance. A beer-house at Vinney Cross would have tempted those travellers who would not be passing the Travellers Rest.

The Travellers Rest and Rabbiting



Travellers Rest on the A35 is sometimes thought to be in Shipton Gorge or Askerswell but it's actually in Loders close to the eastern boundary of the parish. It ceased to be a public house in February 1998 when Ron Foot was landlord.



A very successful rabbiting party near the Travellers Rest. Rabbits were a pest. Hunting them helped the farmers and provided welcome meals for the villagers. The man in the centre with the trilby hat and looking full of importance is a Mr Hansford. The rabbits have been paunched (gutted) and their back legs split and joined to be carried on a pole. The dogs no doubt had a good morning and the flagons of cider along with the food basket made sure the men were kept suitably nourished and refreshed.

Bell - The Inn and the Lime Kiln

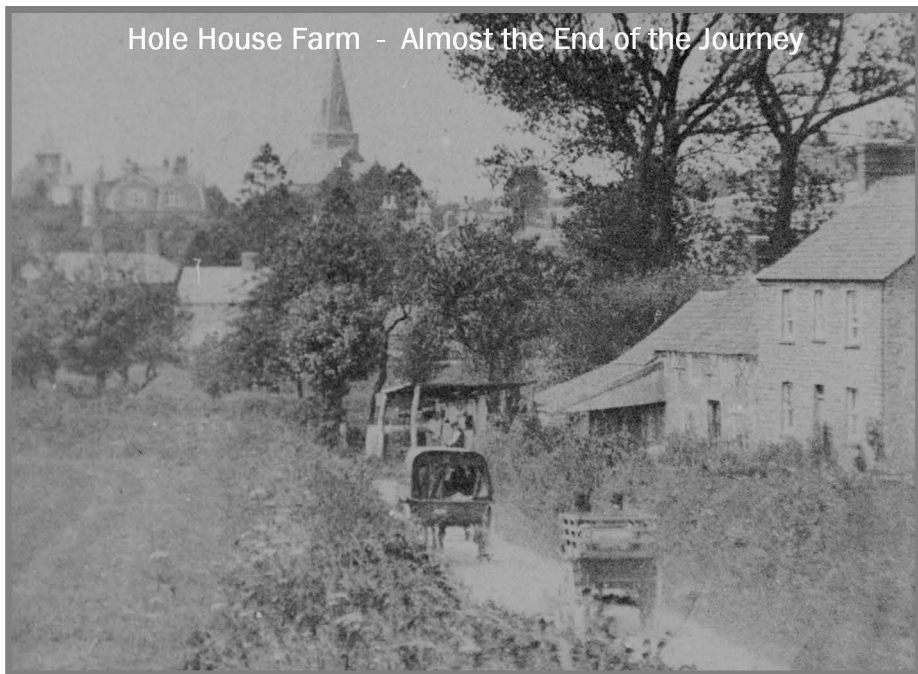


The first recorded licence for Bell was in 1749. The 1841 and 1851 censuses and the 1855 and 1859 Kelly's Directories record Thomas Hyde as Innkeeper. In the 1861 Census he was listed as a market gardener. The Inn had closed. During the construction of the Bridport to Maiden Newton Railway (1855-1857) it was a lodging place for construction workers. According to Hilda Greening, it lost its licence due to 'rowdy' behaviour of the workers on Saturday nights. They had money in their pockets. What else was there at Bell in the way of entertainment?



The lime kiln at Bell is one of several once found in the village. Others were located at Lodgers Cross, Gribb Farm, Green Hill (south of Stoney Head), Callington (Perwin Farm), Vinney Cross and Upton Farm. The kilns were always built alongside limestone quarries. Lime for soil improvement was produced by burning the excavated rock. The lime was also used in the production of mortar, whitewash and plaster.

Hole House Farm - Almost the End of the Journey



On the evening of 31 January 1888 Hole House, occupied by Mr Bond the blacksmith, and the cottage next door, (pictured above) were burnt to the ground. One of Mr Bond's daughters had left a benzolene lamp burning in an upstairs room. The lamp caught fire and by the time it was discovered by Mrs Bond the furniture was alight. The alarm was raised and a number of people soon arrived on the scene but their efforts to control the fire were in vain. Luckily, the blacksmith's shop and the cider house at the rear escaped the flames.

One Final Reminiscence

Hole House farm was a place I visited with my mother and father for eggs and a chat with the farmer, Jack Dare and his wife, Kathleen. Jack always had a barrel, or two, of cider in the barn on the left as you passed through on the way to the back of the house. The same cider barn, complete with its cider press, that escaped the flames in 1888! Jack sometimes offered my father, Bill Paull, a tipple and if he accepted Jack would say, "Would the b'woy like a drop?" to which the reply was, "He's not old enough yet".

Eventually I was old enough so Jack picked up one of the glass tankards from alongside the barrel. Like the others it looked as if it had never been washed. It was stained brown from cider and covered in bits of straw and dust. Jack turned it upside-down and shook out the debris, took it to the barrel, turned on the tap and part-filled it with the slightly cloudy liquid and passed it to me. I inspected it carefully and rather squeamishly. I wondered who had last drunk out of it and tried to ignore the bits floating on the top. I took a sip, it almost took the lining off my mouth but when it slipped down I felt a warm and pleasant glow. I had no problem knocking it all back and eagerly looked forward to my next visit!