

Train services were also available for those wishing to travel further afield. Motor Coach services and tours were also provided to all parts of the country Towns, Rural areas and Seaside. Many are now curtailed or cancelled, and all "Services" liable to sudden strikes. Hence the popularity of owning one's own form of transport, cycle, car, van or lorry if possible.

Following is a poem about LODERS written by a former Member of the Loders Scout Troop.

LODERS by Wilfred H. Brown, Bradpole, Bridport.

LODERS, a very pretty place, How peaceful it all seems.

Surrounded by the wooded Hills, With little lanes and many streams.

This lovely Village away from the Town, Where many old-fashioned Houses are seen,
Seems to add homeliness to those living there, And a life so simple and clean.

The everyday life of these Loders folk, Has always been friendly and kind,
And though many places change with the years, It has'nt changed here you will find.

For the people here seem to follow along, And in many homes we would see,
The work that was done by their parents, now gone, Of Bridport's great net industry.

Yes, the nets that they braid in this Village here, Have gone to many great lands,
And Loders can feel that the works that they do, Are done by very skilled hands.

So if we visit this little place here, In this Village how welcomed we feel
How pleasant to walk through those lovely lanes, Or to sit upon Boarsbarrow Hill.

When we enter this Village those large chestnut trees, And then Loders Court can be
Seen

And standing next, so many years' old, the lovely Church of St. Mary Magdalene.

and the adjacent Villages of ASKERSWELL and BRADPOLE.

ASKERSWELL.

This beautiful village of Askerswell, That's kissed by the noonday sun,
A little remote from Bridport here, Under the shadow of Eggardon.

But this is a lovely old village, That's set in the valley there,
Away from the rush of everyday life, With the beautiful, pure, country air.

The beautiful Church of St. Michael and all Angels, The sound of her beautiful bells,
Is carried into the silent skies, As it rings through its valleys and dales.
Whenever you come through Loders, maybe out for a little spell,
Perhaps on a Sunday evening, Then come to Askerswell.

You'll be enchanted by this lovely Village, That's away from the noise and the din,
You'll enjoy an evening's outing here, And you can call at the Spyway Inn.

You can rest here and be welcomed, Enjoy the tales that are told.
And if you care, on your homeward journey. You can come back by the Dorchester Road.

You will not forget very quickly, you will have so much to tell,
Of the friendliness of this lovely place, And those people of Askerswell.

BRADPOLE.

This lovely Village of Bradpole, with all its homely charm,
The kindness and the friendliness, From Cottage and from Farm.

The people of this lovely place, Are well connected with the Town.
For many of them work in the Shops and the Mills, And on the Farms around.

In particular the Mills at Pymore, the great Netting Industry,
Has helped towards the bringing up, Of many a family.

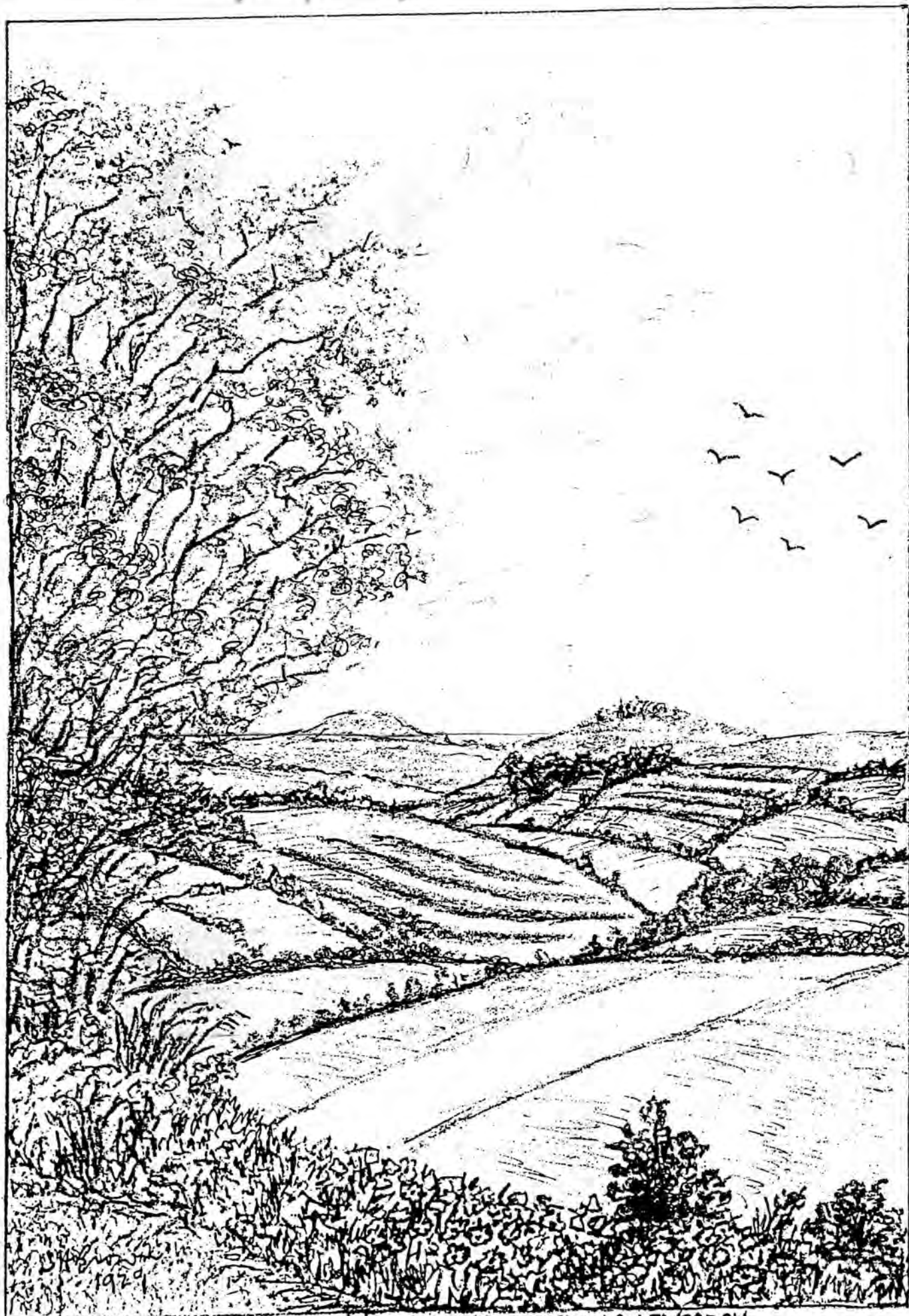
The lovely Church of Holy Trinity, Standing on the Mound,
We see the College, and the Vicarage, Just by this Holy Ground.

We see the Forster Institute, That by the Vicarage stands
And beyond this lovely setting, We can see Newfoundland.

In the lower part is Middle Street, And also Fishweir Lane,

And then we see the Railway crossing, And going through the train.

How lovely, on an evening, when the twilight softly dims,
To sit beside your window, and hear those Church bells playing Hymns.



LODERS - NEW ROAD VALLEY, WITH PILSDON & LEWESDON.
& WADDON FROM SHIPTON HILL. 1929.

LODERS AND ITS ENVIRONS.

POST GREAT WORLD WAR 1.
From 1920. ,by S.H.Brown.

The first World War upset the whole of village life, all young men called up for Service or transferred to munitions making and engineering, which also employed girls and women.

The farms had Land girls, and the older men, with many soldiers who had some disability. Machines of all kinds began to appear. Horses were in demand for Cavalry and Artillery, and the whole of the village life changed.

Gradually the farms became almost completely mechanized, with milking machines, grass cutting and turning machines, balers, combine harvesters, tractors, excavators dung spreaders, etc. all needing few men and no horses.

The Forges closed down and were in two cases demolished being Riverdale, and one next Loders Arms. Others were converted into dwellings. The Corn Mills eventually closed down and were converted into picturesque dwellings.

Tradesmen from Bridport, Bakers, Grocers, Greengrocers, Butchers and Fish Merchants, Milkmen and the Net Factories all ran their own motor transport and vied with each other for delivery services to customers through the Villages.

No village carriers were needed, and some local stores closed down. The roads were taken over by the County Council and more mechanization took place, and the village length men disappeared. Village roads and main roads were tarred and sanded, or treated with tarmacadam, or gravel and bitumen to make them suitable for the rubber tyred vehicles of all types using them, but the Green lanes were neglected.

Many green lanes became overgrown and footpaths too, until in 1949 the Public Rights of Way Act required all Parish Councils to prepare maps and schedules of all their Rights of Way, Green Lanes, Bridle Ways and Footpaths.

These maps and schedules had to be completed in six months 1950-1951, and were later published for public examination, referred to Parish Meetings and County Council Meetings and Public Enquiries, and finalized in 1964 as the Provisional Maps. They are subject to constant review, and some sign posting has taken place, and now Waymarking by the Liaison Officers appointed by the Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in each Parish, entails considerable work in walking and checking paths, making sure they are maintained and open, and contacting Owners or Authorities concerned if there are any obstructions or problems.

Ideally each Right of Way should be traversed by members of the Parish Council each year, which is done in Loders, where the Liaison Officer arranges Village walks over the rights of way periodically.

As motor transport has become more common it is interesting to find that the young people are using Footpaths and Rights of Way more and more, also there is an increase of Pony and Riding Clubs, and the opening up of Bridle Paths and Green Lanes is requested.

Loders had forty three Rights of Way listed 7 March 1951, reduced after Meetings and Enquiries to 38, being twenty three Footpaths and fifteen Bridle Roads, which the present Council find it difficult to maintain.

Many paths have been diverted, to allow for removal of hedges to make the fields bigger and more suitable for the large machinery now required for agricultural work. It is sad to lose Hedges with their numerous Trees, Shrubs, Flowers & Wildlife.

It is essential to keep as many Rights of Way available as possible for access to the Countryside, but the Public must recognize the Farmers' problems when attested herd areas are affected by misuse by some people and dogs, which should be on a lead when on field footpaths where animals are in the field.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, has produced maps of all Rights of Way available at County Council Offices, and Libraries, and all Parish Councils also have Official copies available, and many can be seen in Church porches or on Public Notice Boards.

The one inch and other Ordnance Survey Maps are useful types to use for walks and rambling with full information given, also there are many booklets available.

In Loders there are Rights of Way through lush flowery meadows and lanes, across open fields and over the hills and downs to the magnificent view points at Shipton Hill, Bunkers Hill, Lockshill, Waird Hill, Necklace or Nicholas Brow, Waddon Hill, Bell Hills, Coneygar and Boarsbarrow Hills, then Loders, and Stoney Head Hills, Knowle Hills and Happy Knowle, Weathercock Hill, and many others from heights 500 feet and lower.

Many Rights of Way run through attractive woodland, copses and the deep tunnel ancient British lanes.

Further modern changes affecting Village life occurred after the Second World War, as Education became more centralized. The Grammar Schools and Elementary Schools, many of them Church Schools, became State controlled Schools, Primary, Secondary and Comprehensive.

All tended to centralize, to the detriment of the Village Schools, which closed in many Villages, and the pupils had Public transport provided to convey them to the central Schools, which catered for hundreds of pupils.

Gone was the friendly family atmosphere, and one became just a member of a big group. Loders, however, was lucky, its' School was retained for pupils up to age 11, from Loders, Askerswell and other adjacent villages and hamlets.

Pupils at the School included up to sixty-four children and three full time Teachers in 1978. Plans are under consideration for a new Village School in Loders to accommodate more pupils from other adjacent Villages, at a site above High Acres, to be approached from Smishops Lane.

Other Welfare facilities also became more centralized, and Bridport Hospital and local Doctors which used to cater for Bridport and District had new Centres and Hospitals in Bridport, Dorchester, Weymouth and Portland, necessitating more and more transport with fleets of Ambulances.

Unfortunately this made it more difficult for people to visit friends or relatives in Hospital, as instead of all being at Bridport, they might be at Dorchester, Weymouth or Portland, or even Yeovil, all very difficult for visits, especially in winter, Public transport, Buses and Rail having been considerably reduced since World War 2, due to popularity of private motor transport, each family having their own one or more cars.

As the traffic and transport problems grew, roads had to be widened, passing places provided, by-passes made and Trunk Roads and Motor Ways made. These were often the old Turnpikes, widened and straightened, and made into three, four or more lanes highways or motor ways. In many cases however, new By-passes had to be built, new routes cut through the Hills, all at great cost, and with considerable loss to agricultural land, many farms being cut in two or destroyed. This happened with Loders Trunk Road, the A.35.

Roads of lesser importance were classified A, B, C or D, and then the Green Lanes, Bridle Ways and Footpaths.. Special tests were required for driving vehicles on the Highways, and the Highway Code was a vital book to have with the key to road use of all kinds, and the signs running into hundreds, to guide or restrict the use of highways.

Parking facilities became a problem everywhere, and dwellings new and old, had to provide accesses and turning spaces, with parking places or Garages to plans approved by the Town and Country Planning Acts. Towns and Seaside resorts found it necessary to provide many Car Parks, or Tower Blocks to accommodate the workers and visitors' vehicles.

It was no longer safe for children to play on the roads, so they had to keep within their own dwellings or gardens, or in playing fields, Recreation Grounds and other controlled group centres which were provided.

There was an amusing song about modern living in boxes, moving around in boxes to visit other boxes, having reference to the flat roofed modern style box-like buildings, and cars.

The Seaside became more and more popular, as being the wide, the fresh, the ever free, and Loders is lucky to be within three miles of open unspoilt seaside at Burton Bradstock and Bridport Harbour at West Bay.

These have all boating and fishing facilities, golf, tennis, ^{cricket} football and all organized games available, both indoor and outdoor in Bridport area. There are also all kinds of Seaside resorts and entertainments from the smallest to the largest within twenty miles radius, and of particular interest wildlife areas at Abbotsbury Swannery, Tropic Gardens and Poole and Brownsea areas.

Many Camping sites are available, screened and controlled by the Public Health and Planning Acts. Factories, both large and small are also available being within similar radius, to provide employment of all kinds, most important being nets, twine and ropes, boat building, engineering and light industries of all kinds.

There are also many Building firms and depots for materials of all types from local stone, to steel and concrete. Brickyards, tile, slate and asbestos roofing, also local thatch is still available in the district, either corn thatch or Abbotsbury reed, and most important of all, skilled Thatchers.

Plastic goods factories are also near at hand, and the agricultural and the horticultural businesses continue to flourish, although the Market is now centralized on Dorchester or Axminster. The farms are extended with new intensive culture, these food factories, being with horticulture, our oldest and most important industry.

All Industries are, however, strictly controlled by the Area Planning Authority and the Housing, Public Health and Building controls. Many Towns and Villages are protected as Conservation Areas, with Buildings of Historic or Architectural value. The Loders list is included.

Almost the whole of the Dorset Coastline is protected, and also the inland country area and villages and towns of the County of Dorset, as being an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and with large areas protected by the National Trust. Full details are contained in Dorset Structure Plan surveys and Reports 1980/81. prepared by the Dorset County Council.

Mr. H.J. Massingham in his section on Dorset in "Counties of Britain" says "Dorset is the most diversified of all Counties of England, a kingdom for its' size, more various in its' soils and styles of landscape than any other in the world. The reason, of course, he says, lies in the complexity of its' geological strata, a score of which crowd and jostle and tumble together along the littoral between Studland in the East and Lyme Regis in the West".

"They are so confusingly superimposed one upon another as to present a drama of change in headland, bay, cliff, stack, ledge, pinnacle and Estuary, unequalled by any other shore line in Britain. Each one of these strata, epitomized in the paint box of the coast line, expresses its' own distinctive landscape over the length and breadth of the County", and LODERS is in the centre of all this.

A serious loss after the Second World War was the resident Village Policeman, who advised all, and controlled the young folk with a strong, firm hand. No vandalism, noisy gatherings or mass meeting problems in the old days.

This service again, was centralized, with a travelling visit on occasion, by car or motor cycle police patrol, usually once a week.

We still have our house to house delivery of letters and post, though now curtailed on weekends, and still a daily delivery of milk and other dairy goods, though this service is also being curtailed at weekends.

Nowadays the milk from the farms is collected in huge lorry containers, and transported to Central Depots for Pasteurization and other treatment, and then returned to local Dairies for bottling and delivery. More traffic and transport often on narrow unsuitable roads, using monster vehicles.

Yet another loss was the Railway service, the branch from Maiden Newton to Bridport, through Bradpole, Loders, Powerstock and Toller to Maiden Newton. Originally there was a Station at East Road, Bridport, and the line continued to West Bay, almost on the beach.

The Railway had been in constant use since November 1857, and during some heavy snow falls in Winter was the only link with the villages of Powerstock, Toller and Maiden Newton, which provided the link to all Railway centres.

In the old days Excursions were regularly run to London and other centres for National events, all the Exhibitions, Shows and Sports events. One arrived in London about 11 a.m. and returned at 6 p.m. or sometimes 11 p.m. from London if wishing to attend evening entertainment.

Frequent Excursions were also run to Dorchester, Weymouth, Poole and Bournemouth. So reliable, warm and comfortable, and not subject to sudden strikes and upsets in the old days.

An even greater loss now is the local 'Bus service, affecting all villages. Loders used to have eight Buses a day, from early morning till late at night, from Bridport to Bradpole, Loders and Askerswell. One could go to the Cinema or Theatre or evening Games or Study and return by Bus.

After the second World War when Television became usual in every House, the Cinemas and other forms of entertainment in Bridport and other towns were not so well patronized, and the early and late Buses were discontinued.

The Village service was reduced to six a day, and now to only two a day, to provide School and other transport is available, with extra two on Wednesdays and Saturdays, the busy shopping days. A revised timetable hopes to provide four Buses a day from 1980.

We seem to progress backwards with public services, all constantly reduced, yet costs in rates and taxes increase.

So many changes due to two World Wars, and now the Villages becoming in some cases residences for the Elderly and used also for Holidays Homes, with consequent loss of population. Loders is now around 500, whereas in 1900 it was around 1,000.

However, the peace and quiet of the Villages like Loders, with its' wild life, and lovely rolling Hills, quiet streams and byways, is a joy to all who wish to get away from the bustle and noise of the towns and cities.

May it long remain, and keep the happy family feeling and neighbourly concern that still prevails. Efforts are being made to revive local use of the Village Hall for Dances, Socials, Youth and other Groups, as well as Entertainments, Binges and Jumble Sales and an Annual Flower and Vegetable Show. We hope they are all successful, and that no vandalism will occur.

After the first World War the Scout and Guide Movements, Womens' Institutes and Ex-Service Mens' Clubs kept the spirit of sharing and caring, which was so prevalent during the War. The Scout movement started by a Mr. Garrard, and later taken on by Sir E. Le Breton, was a wonderful thing for village youth in Loders, and opened up wide fields of interest, especially with the Annual Camps, some to Jersey, London Empire Exhibition, and the World Jamboree at Liverpool.

The Scout Banners are kept in the Church, and on the occasion of the 1924 Jamboree, at the Empire Exhibition at Wembley, London, Loders had won the County Banner, and were in the Stadium Grand Parade each day of the World Jamboree.

Thanks to Sir Edward Le Breton, Loders Court Tennis and Squash Courts and a Club Room ^{and Library} were available for all, also tennis Courts at Uploders House, and Matravers House. A Football field and Club Hut was provided in a level field of Boarsbarrow Farm, also a Cricket pitch.

The Annual Fete, Flower Show and Gymkhana involved all in the Village, and contributions from profits were made to all Village organizations. The Second World War stopped this, but it has luckily been revived as an Annual Church Fete. Now follows present List of Loders Natural Treasures and Rights of Way with Map prepared by the Parish Council and issued by the Dorset County COUNCIL.

DORSET COUNTRYSIDE TREASURES.

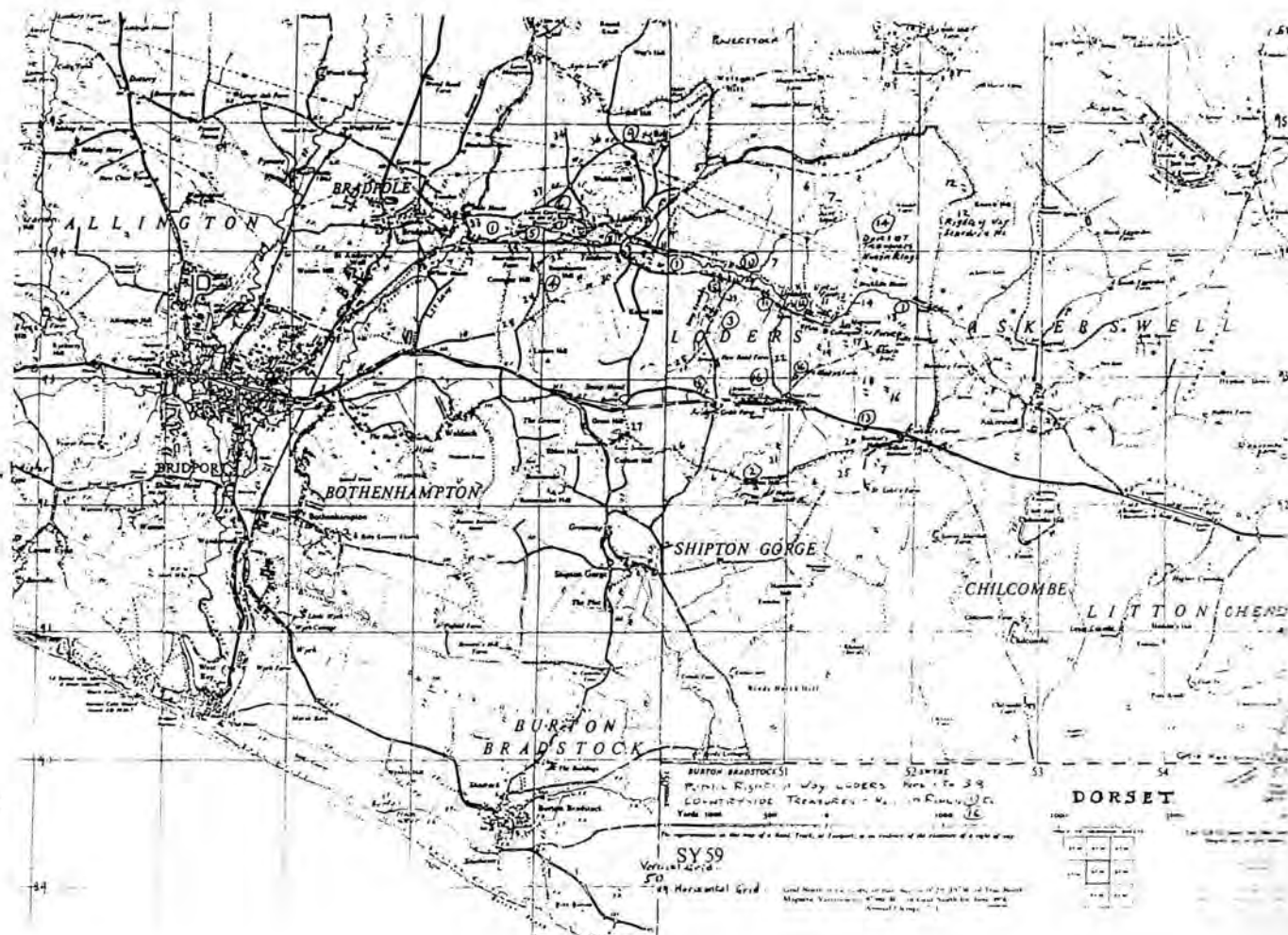
Loders Parish.

7 January, 1977

Return by S.H.Brown. Clerk for Loders Parish Council as Approved Details for List

A. Categories.	B. Map Ref. DORSET TREASURES.	C. Name, Location and Description.	D. Access.
a. Points of vantage, commanding views of beauty	(1)	Asker River Valley, through whole Village, Lower Loders and Uploders, with most Hills having Lynchets, Streams in Valley. Hills 300 to 500 feet high. The Village Road has many Green Lanes, Bridle and Foot-path accesses to Hills.	Road. B.R. F.P.
	(2)	Shipton Hill, 500 ft. Fine views to coast, hills and vales. Bridle and Footpaths and Green Lanes access off Shipton Lane, Trunk Road A.35. Icen or Sturthill Lane.	Roads B.R.21 F.P.6
	(3)	Uploders and New Road Valley and Hills 300 ft. with Lynchets. Fine views. Access from New Road & Village. also from Stoney Head Roads, and Knowle Lane & Hill.	F.P.23 24. 25
	(4)	Boarsbarrow Farm and Hill, 300 ft. Fine views. Green Lane, 10 and 28. Bar Lane 29 and County Green Lane.	B.R.29
b. Effective groups of trees and water with buildings & Bridges.	Map Ref. (5)	Loders Mill and Grounds. Thatched House and Mill. Waterfall and Streams. Listed.	B.R.
also	(6)	Loders Court and Park. (Georgian.) Gardens, Rivers. Fine Trees and Shrubs and bulbs.	and F.P.
c. Attractive reaches of rivers and streams. Waterfalls. Ponds.	(7)	St. Mary Magdalene Church. 12th. Century and Earlier also 13th, 14th and 15th. Centuries and Glass.	Road
	(8)	Lower Loders Village. Conservation area. Dorset Thatched Houses 30 listed (some with old grape vines) Water Shoots (2) at Yondover, being old village water collecting points from springs, each with carved stone bowl and spout.	Road.
	(9)	Smishops Lane. Old tunnel type Celtic lanes leading to Bell and Welcome Hills, High Acres Estate & Cemetery.	Roads.
	(10)	New Street Lane and old Thatched Millhouse. Lane was old Roman Road from Eggardon Fort to Exeter. River Asker, Mill Streams and waterfalls. Road to Uploders. Then B.R. and F.P. to Askerswell, Eggardon, Powerstock.	Road. B.R.11 and 10 F.P.7.
	(11)	Uploders House (Georgian) and Grounds, stream and Waterfall. Fine trees, shrubs and bulbs. Walled garden.	
	(12)	Uploders with Upton Farm dated 1655. Dorset thatched Farmhouse and Buildings. Old Sheepwash. Pump for row of Cottages. Rights of Way to adjacent Hills. B.R.22.	F.P.7 B.R. 10.
d. Woodland of beauty or interest.	(13)	Traveller's Rest Inn and Bunkers Hill Wood (Preservation Order) Scotch Pines. Fine Views. F.P. 18 and 20.	Icen Lane.
	(14)	Bridle Road 10 and 14 to Powerstock from Matravers to Sheepwash, across Leazes Fields, with Ten Acre Copse Oak wood with anemones, and Whinhill Copse with coniferous and deciduous trees, and rides carpeted with primroses. Matravers Farm has old pump and Blackhut Woods with blue and whitebells and orchids. Cowslip Fields, etc and adjacent pond, woods with wildlife.	B.R. 16 F.P.13 17 and Roads.
e. Historic sites. All in Village.	(15)	Uploders Methodist Chapel. 1827 (Classic) Georgian with Footpath to Happy Knowle Hill. Fine Views. Row of Thatched Cottages near all listed, have fire Insurance marks.	F.P.24 and 25.
	(16)	All Hills have tumuli and excavations, Paleo and Neolithic, also Roman roads, etc. Village built with stone from six hill quarries, all with old Lime Kilns, Bell, Upton Loders Cross, Vinney Cross, Stoney Head and Uploders Farm. Quarries have fossils, ammonites, belemnites, etc. Most Hills have Lynchets, Celtic and Saxon ploughing.	Road

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Relevant date in relation to the preparation of the Provisional Map. 1 Jan. 1953.
Statement annexed to Definitive Map in respect of Bridport Rural District. 1964.

FP. Footpath. BR. Bridleway. Path Number of Provisional and Definitive Maps.
followed by Draft Map Number, (in brackets) as
prepared by Lodders Parish Council. Description of
Path followed by National Grid Map Reference.

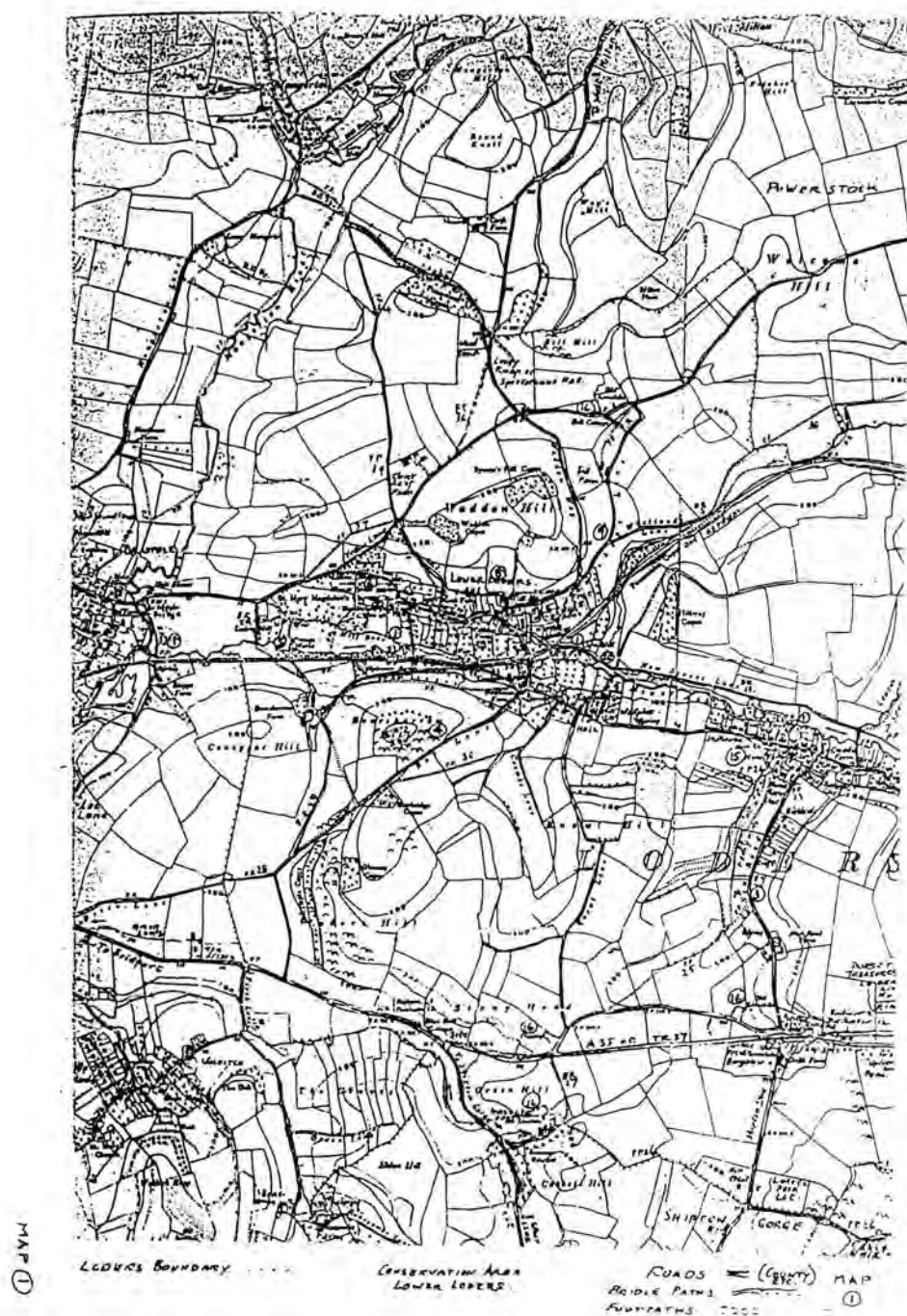
COMMENCE FROM			
BR. 1.	(33) Yellow Lane	492.945	TO Smishops Lane 495.942
BR. 2.	(-) Church Farm	493.942	Join Path No. 1. 493.943
BR. 3.	(34) Road opposite Farmers Arms.	493.942	Join Path No. 1. 493.943
FP. 4.	(37) Smishops Lane.	499.947	Bell Cottages. 498.948
BR. 5.	(36) Whetland's Lane.	502.945	Powerstock Parish Boundary. 506.948
FP. 6.	(42) Path No. 7.	511.944	Ditto and Mappercombe. 511.947
FP. 7.	(24) The Forge, Uploders.	506.937	Join Path No. 14 at the old Railway Line. 515.946
FP. 8.	(28) New Street Lane.	497.941	Bridge at Yondover. 496.940
FP. 9.	(26) New Street Lane.	499.940	Yondover, Wellplot. 499.938
BR. 10.	- Path No. 11 at Upton Manor Farm.	513.935	Join Path No. 14 near Brick Kiln Store. Upton Farm. 514.936
BR. 11.	(22 & 23) New Street Lane Lower Lodders.	499.940	Matravers, Uploders. 514.935
FP. 12.	(21) Askerswell Parish Boundary, Knowle Hill.	524.944	Parish Boundary with Powerstock. To Nettle- combe and Powerstock. 521.949
FP. 13.	(19) Matravers.	515.934	Folly House, Askerswell. 521.932
BR. 14.	(20) Matravers Northwards.	514.935	Upton to Powerstock Parish Boundary and Nettlecombe. 517.949
BR. 15.	- Road to Upton Dairy opposite Callington or Perwen.	512.934	Join Path No. 11 at Upton Farm. 513.935
BR. 16.	(14) Cuckolds Corner on Bridport to Dor- chester Road.	519.925	Join Road Vinney Cross to Askerswell at Blackhut, Matravers. 516.932
FP. 17.	(16) Road at Matravers.	514.931	Vinney Cross Road. 514.933
FP. 18.	(15) Bridport to Dorchester Road, opposite the Travellers' Rest.	515.926	Vinney Cross Road. To join 17 FP. at Matravers. 515.932
FP. 19.	(17) Vinney Cross Road near Moens Farm.	512.931	Road at Callington, now Perwen Farm. 513.934
FP. 20.	(13) Travellers Rest Inn, Main Road.	516.926	Bunkers Hill, Shipton Gorge Parish Boundary. 515.924
BR. 21.	(12) Bridport/ Dorchester Road near Uploders Farm.	509.928	Shipton Gorge Parish Boundary at Shipton Hill. 509.922
BR. 22.	(18) Vinney Cross.	509.928	Uploders. Locks Lane. 509.935

Rights of Way, LODERS. List Continued.

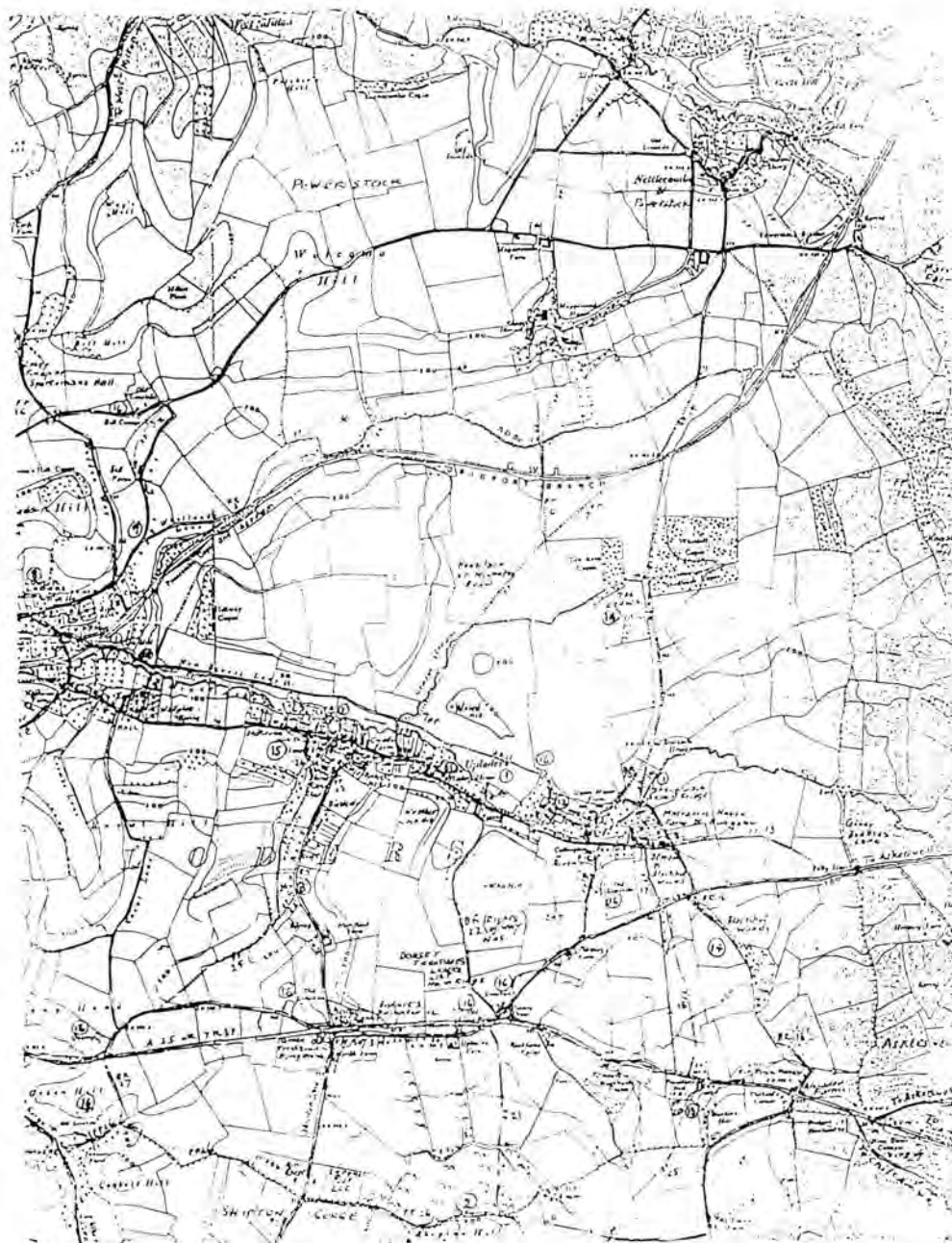
32.

FROM		(Page 2.)	TO	
FP. 23	(10)	New Road near Old Parish Hall.	504.936	Join Path 24. Happy Knowle. 503.936
FP. 24	(10)	Chapel Lane, Uploders.	503.938	Join Path 25. Happy Knowle. 502.932
FP. 25	(9)	New Road. North of New Road Farm.	503.932	Bridport Main Road near Stoney Head. Butchers Bottom. 498.929
FP. 26	(39)	Shipton Gorge Road	503.922	Join Path 27. Green Hill, Innsacre. 497.925
BR 27	(11)	Road at Stoney Head via Green Hill.	496.927	Parish Boundary near Innsacre, Shipton Gorge 495.925
BR. 28	(3)	Green Lane at the Bradpole Parish Boundary. Main road Bridport to Dorchester.	486.933	Bar Lane and Boarsbarrow or North to Yondover, or South to Bridport to Dorchester Road. 488.934
BR 29.	(2)	Road near Loders Mill via Boarsbarrow Farm.	487.942	Join lane to Bridport to Dorchester Road and Green Lane, Bradpole. 488.934
FP. 30	(7)	Bar Lane.	491.936	Coombe Lane, Yondover. 497.939
FP. 31	(30)	Yondover.	496.939	Join Path No. 32 (Bar Lane to Vicarage Lane, Loders) 492.940
FP. 32	(30 and 31)	Path No. 29 at Boarsbarrow Farm.	489.938	Road near Vicarage, Loders Vicarage Lane. 492.942
FP. 33	(1)	Road opposite Hole House Farm.	483.942	Bradpole Parish Boundary to Stepps Farm and then to Lee Lane. 484.940
FP. 34.	(32)	Yellow Lane.	492.945	To Presswood and Mangerton Powerstock Parish Boundary. 490.955
BR. 35.	(38)	Lower Mangerton.	488.955	West Milton Road at Bell Hill. Presswood. 495.951
FP. 36.	(40)	Junction of Path No. 35 and West Milton Road.	495.951	Yellow Lane. Cloverleaf Farm, Loders. 493.946
FP. 37.	(32)	Junction of Path No. 34 at Yellow Lane, Loders.	492.945	Loders to Bradpole Road by Loders Mill. 488.943
FP. 38.	(-)	New Street Lane to High Acres, Loders.	497.942	Smishops Lane and Loders Cemetery. 498.943

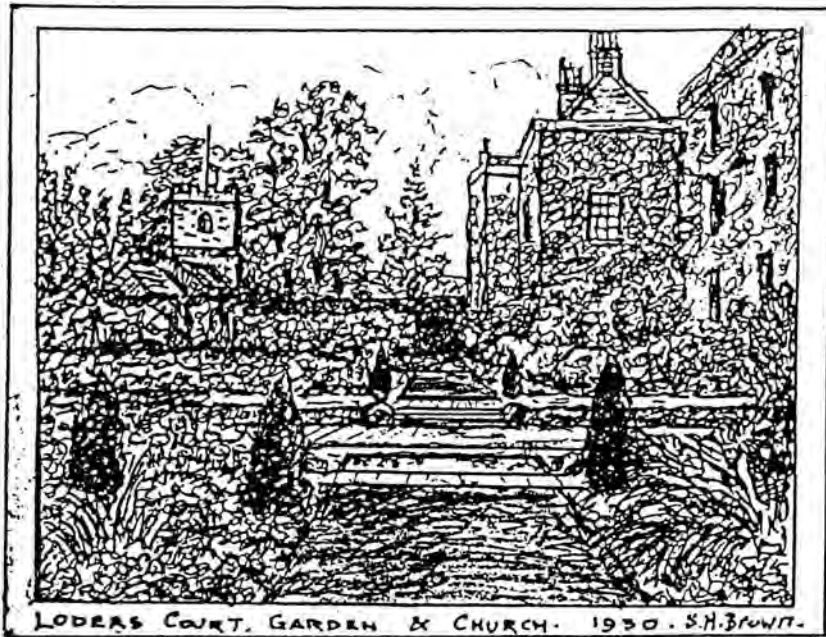
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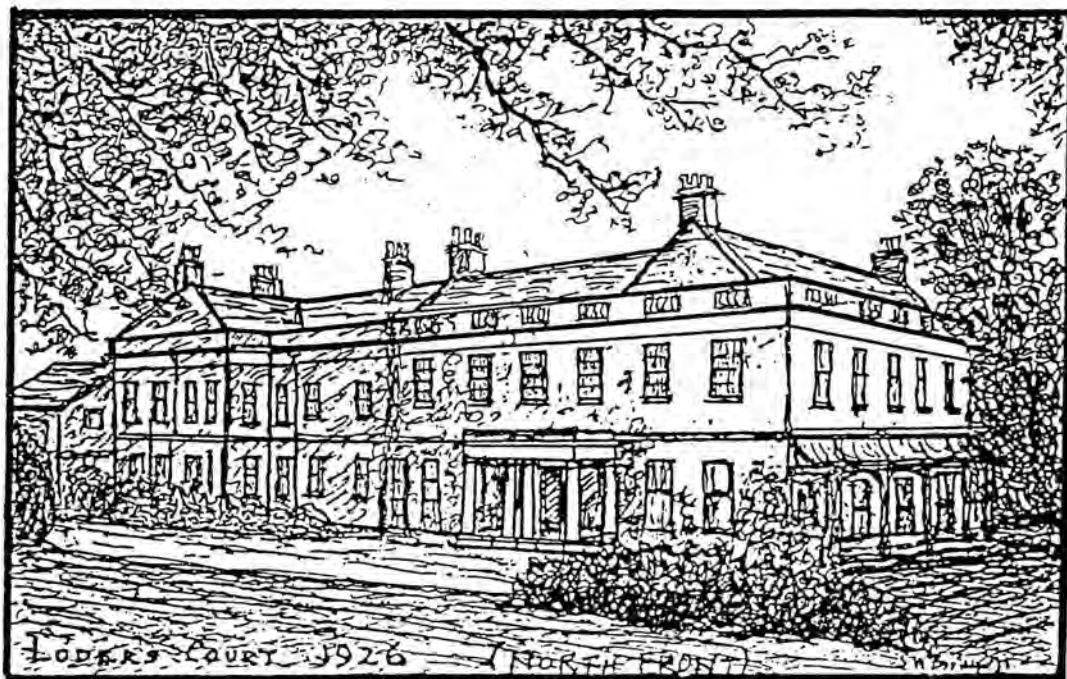


LODERS.



LODERS COURT, GARDEN & CHURCH. 1930. S.H. BROWN.

THE PRIORY, THE CHURCH, AND
THE MANOR.



LODERS COURT 1926 (NORTH FRONT)

BY SIR E. P. LE BRETON.

LODERS. The Priory. The Church and The Manor.
By Sir Edward Le Breton, Loders Court.

Loders is a place of some antiquity. In 1930 an overturned tree on Boarsbarrow Hill disclosed a deposit of human bones which the archeologists consider to date from about 1800 B.C. and there are numerous barrows in the Parish.

Within three hundred yards of the Church there is a large deposit of chipped flints, probably a Neolithic workshop, while the Roman road from Eggardon is believed to have run along the South wall of the Churchyard.

The surviving written records, however, give no record of the state of the village before the days of Edward the Confessor (c.1004-1066) the Anglo-Saxon King who immediately preceded the brief reign of Harold the Second.

In King Edward's time it was taxed for eighteen hides and there was land for as many ploughs. The actual amount of land covered by the term "hide" is still a disputed point, but it is, I think, fairly generally agreed that the pre-Conquest "hide" in Wessex included about fifty acres, and we may reasonably assume that some 900 acres of land were under cultivation in Loders in King Edward's time.

In 1066 the Manor (or principal Manor) of Loders belonged to King Harold. We know that many men from Dorset followed the Dragon Standard to Hastings.

We believe that here, in Loders Church, the men who left the harvest of 1066 to follow the last king of their race, came to be shrived before they set out on the road that ended at Senlac.

Here those of them that returned to Loders must have gathered in the opening days of that anxious November to give thanks for their escape and to pray that the new Lords of England would deal kindly with them and theirs.

Here still in each November the men who came back from the last Great Wars meet at the annual Armistice Service, now Remembrance Sunday.

"THE KING" says Domesday Book, "holds LODRES" and the Kings held Loders till, in the early years of the twelfth century Henry the First gave the Manor to Count Richard de Reviers (or Redvers) Earl of Devon, and probably the greatest man in the West Country.

Count Richard came from the country round Caen, but he also had a Lordship in the Contentin, which had brought him into touch with the Abbey of St. Marie de Montebourg.

The Abbey was suffering from a financial crisis, and Count Richard gave them the Manors of Loders in Dorset, of Axmouth in Devon, and (rather surprisingly) of Week, or Wick in the Isle of Wight.

In order to arrange for the administration and government of these new and distant territories, the Abbott of Montebourg founded the Priory of Loders as a "cell" subordinate to the mother Abbey. Fortunately for the local historian, all the Charters of the Priory of Loders have been preserved (with very many other Anglo-Norman charters and documents) in the "Dépôt des Archives" at Saint-Lo in Normandy.

From this great deposit of ancient documents the Charters of Loders were extracted many years ago by a French monk, one Dom Guilleriau. The excellent Guilleriau copied them out and published them in a small book, entitled "CARTULAIRE DE LODERS (DORSET). Priuré dépendant de l'abbaye de Montebourg". This book never became a best-seller; its circulation would have been a disappointment to the late Mr. Edgar Wallace. It was, in fact limited to one edition of fifty copies.

Most of this edition had probably long ago been used for lighting fires or wrapping butter, but one copy is in the Dorchester County Archives. The book is written partly in French and partly in Latin, and it will of necessity be referred to occasionally in this Chapter, which is a copy of a pamphlet written by Sir Edward Le Breton of Loders Court, and included here by kind permission of his daughter Lady Laskey.

The earliest of these Charters was granted by Richard de Redvers himself, and confirmed by the King. It is witnessed by almost everyone of importance in the Kingdom, Queen Matilda, Rannulph the Chancellor, Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Winchester, Salisbury and Exeter, Richard, Abbott of At. Albans, and many other princes, peers and prelates.

Like most early Charters it is undated, but, fortunately for the historian, the careers of some of the witnesses supply this deficiency.

William Giffard was consecrated Bishop of Winchester in 1107. Rannulph became Chancellor in 1107 or 1108, while Archbishop Anselm died on 21st. April 1109.

Anselm, or perhaps I should say St. Anselm, for he was canonized in 1494, had been indulging in one of his periodical feuds with the Crown during the whole of Henry VII reign, and had been reconciled to him only in 1107.

Ramnelinus, or Reinhelm, Bishop of Hereford, another signatory, was consecrated only in 1107, while a further witness, Count Simon de Senlis, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, died in 1109.

There can therefore be no possible doubt that this first of the Charters of Lodors Priory was executed between the beginning of 1107 and the Spring of 1109. I have set down these facts in full because, for some curious reason, this simple method of dating the earliest Charters has been overlooked.

In a modern window in the Church the date of 1130 has been inserted above the Arms of St. Marie de Montebourg, and this has been accepted incorrectly as the date of the acquisition of Lodors by that Monastery. There are of course many later Charters mentioning the grant of Lodors to the Abbey, but these are all definitely confirmatory Charters, and state they confirm the older ones.

The second Charter, for instance, which may date from 1130, though I cannot find any method of fixing the date accurately, was granted by Count Baldwin of Exeter, and says: "I have confirmed the grant to God and the Abbott of St. Marie de Montisburg and the Monks there..... which my father Richard de Redvers made".

In the early days the connection between Lodors and Montebourg was very close. The Prior of Lodors had to attend the Annual Chapter-General at Montebourg to pay his dues and to submit his report on the state of Lodors Priory.

The Abbott, in right of his English possessions, was a Canon of Salisbury Cathedral, and had an official house there.

In 1260 Alexander the Fourth issued no less than three separate Bulls to excuse the Abbott of Montebourg from having to go into residence at Salisbury to carry out his duty as a Prebendary of the Cathedral.

The Priory seems to have flourished during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. In the month of March 1265 they acquired (by a curious coincidence from William Le Breton, son and heir of John Le Breton) an estate in and near the towns of Woolley, in Berkshire, and the Monks and Priors of Lodors may well have felt that the future of their House was assured for many generations.

Some thirty years of comfort remained for the Priory, till, in 1295, Edward the First retaliated on all French monasteries in England for the action of Philippe le Bel of France in seizing Guienne.

From then on life became harder for the Monks of Lodors. Whenever England and France were at war (their normal condition in the fourteenth century) the King forbade the foreign priories to remit their annual dues to the Mother Monasteries in France. Generally he arranged to take over any such dues himself.

During such short periods of peace as might occur, the Abbott of Montebourg would demand not only the tribute for the current year but also any arrears which might have accumulated. The fact that these arrears had already been paid to the King of England was not, the Abbott held, of much practical use to him.

These and other similar difficulties, due to increasing dislike in England of all foreign institutions, made deep inroads on the prosperity of the Priory, but the revenue was still assessed at £80. when, on the 21st of May 1399, Richard the Second without any shadow of rhyme or reason, seized the whole income of Lodors Priory and conferred it on his own new Carthusian Convent at Coventry.

We do not know what the unfortunate Prior and monks of Loders did during that summer of 1399 - possible they found shelter at Forde Abbey; but before the autumn had set in a new dynasty was on the throne.

Institutions founded by Richard were out of favour, and Henry the Fourth's new crown did not sit tightly enough to allow him to ignore French opinion.

The gift to St. Anne of Coventry was cancelled, and the property restored to its rightful owners on the 30th. of September, 1399.

It seems that the Lady Chapel of the Church was built in the opening years of the new century as a thanksgiving for the return of the monks, but the end of the Priory of Loders was drawing very near. In 1414 Henry the Fifth decided to dissolve all foreign monasteries in England, and three hundred and seven years after its foundation the doors of the Priory of Loders closed for the last time.

The property passed into the hands of St. Saviour's, Syon, at Isleworth, and for a century the Parish and Church of Loders suffered from the neglect common to the outlying properties of a remote collegiate or monastic institution.

The exterior of the Church, and much of the interior, remains as the monks left it, but they would find it hard to recognize their Priory under the Georgian façade of Loders Court

The Priory buildings descended to the status of a farmhouse, but became again a Manor-house in Stuart times. When Charles II. fled through the Parish on his way from Bridport to Broadwindsor the Manor was held by that stalwart Parliamentarian, Denzil Holles, Earl of Clare.

They were remoulded into the present Georgian Manor-house of Loders Court in 1799, when the Estate was purchased by Sir Evan Nepean, a distinguished public servant, who held among other posts, at various times, the Governorship of Bombay and the Secretaryship of the Admiralty. Nelson is said to have stayed more than once at Loders Court in Sir Evan Nepean's days.

The South wall of Loders Court is in places nearly thirteen feet thick, and is probably the only remaining wall of the original Priory. There is also still in existence the entrance and the first few feet of an under ground passage which seems to have led from the Priory buildings to the Church.

The majority of the older Cottages in Loders village date only from the end of the eighteenth century. No doubt they replaced the original huts of the peasantry during the wave of prosperity which came to the inhabitants of rural England as the immediate consequence of the enclosure of the commons.

The Farmers' Arms Inn is, however, an older building, and has some attractive mullioned windows, especially on the South side, while in Uploders - Matravers, Uploders House, and Upton Farm House all include portions of very ancient buildings.

APPENDICES. Appendix 1.

The following are some of the more interesting features of the Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Loders.

OUTSIDE.

Starting from the West Wall of the Tower, the first thing of note is an ancient and much-worn stone Calvary built into the wall close to the door. The work is in some ways of unusual delicacy, though the hands of the central figure give it an archaic appearance, owing to their disproportionate size.

I am inclined to think that the kneeling figures on each side of the Crucifix are those of the benefactors of the Church, who originally provided the Calvary, or who, for some other reason, were considered worthy of commemoration.

I hesitate to guess at the age, and I think it possible that it has at some time been moved from elsewhere to its present position.

Passing round to the South side of the Church there are two small "dials" scratched in the stone of the Porch, which may be "Mass Clocks", while on the inner side of the entrance arch there may still be seen a "Mason's mark".

The Gargoyles on the Tower and the Lady Chapel are particularly attractive, and include one of an imp putting out his tongue at parishioners as they come up the path to the Church, and a rather unusual one representing a very small Dentist drawing the tooth of a very large patient.

The small fretted stone pinnacles on the Lady Chapel are typical of Churches in West Dorset - the Tower of Beaminster Church is infested with them, but used in reasonable numbers (as they are here and at Askerswell and other churches in the neighbourhood) they form a singularly graceful ornament.

The North wall is older, though of less artistic interest than the South. The North wall of the Chancel is undoubtedly the oldest part of the present Church. Some of the stonework, is, in all probability, Saxon, and there is a very early Norman window.

Besides the other Transitional and Perpendicular windows which have been, at various times during the Middle Ages, inserted in the ancient walls, there can be seen two doorways and one window which have been walled up with stone. One of these doorways is considerably below ground-level, and may have communicated with the underground passage of which the other end can still be seen at the Court.

It is of some interest to note how very little certain knowledge of the strength of materials was possessed by the Mediaeval builder. All the windows and most of the doorways were cut through the walls at some date posterior to the original building of the Church.

The optimistic builders made no provision for taking the weight of the walls and roof over their windows, except the actual stone frame of the window itself. Other more cautious craftsmen reinforced the frames with more or less massive relieving arches. In one case an unusually timorous man has inserted two immensely strong arches over the small opening for a former door in the North wall. Wild elephants could dance on the top without overstraining the doorway - a contingency against which it should not be necessary to provide in West Dorset.

The Weathercock on the top of the Tower is worth a glance. He is a finely moulded solid bird, the feathers of the tail being separately cut. Many of the weathercocks in this part of Dorset are solidly moulded birds (as distinct from the less elaborate flat stamped silhouette), but the Lodgers bird is an especially fine specimen.

On the lead roof of the Church, recently replaced, it was for many generations a custom for the parishioners to punch little outlines of their feet, and to scratch in the middle the date on which they performed this rather childish trick.

Some of these outlined footprints carried dates going back to the earlier part of the eighteenth century, and the shape of the shoes then worn is curiously similar to that of the shoes still made and worn in the villages of the North of India.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

The inside of the Church has been rather sadly restored, but there is still much of interest remaining. Under the Tower, behind the Organ, is a room used by the Bellringers; on the South wall of this is a small door leading to the stairs which give access to the top of the Tower.

This door is probably contemporary with the Tower. It has some pleasant early iron strap-work on it, presumably made by local Blacksmiths.

The Bellringers' chamber communicates with the Nave through a beautiful and lofty arch, partially filled up by a modern screen, and almost completely concealed from view by the back of the Organ (in itself a fine instrument, originally made for Exeter Cathedral).

On the West wall of the Nave, on each side of this arch, some remains of the Mediaeval frescoes which covered the walls can still be seen. To the North of the arch is a portion of a figure of "Time" with a blue scythe-blade; to the South part of a dancing skeleton. The shin-bone of this figure is shown by the simple-minded artists with a bulge in the centre like the calf of a leg.

The Font is of Purbeck marble, on a pedestal of local stone. It has an attractive design of round arches carved on its outer edges, and it probably dates from the eleventh or early twelfth century.

The pedestal is, in my opinion, rather later. It is similar to the pedestal of the font at Powerstock.

If I may be permitted a digression here I would strongly advise anyone interested in our beautiful Parish Churches to visit Powerstock Church. There is a small but very beautiful little stone Madonna in the porch which is alone worth a visit. One would like to know how it escaped destruction by Oliver Cromwell's unattractive followers.

To return to Loders. After passing the Font, the visitor's attention will probably be attracted by a small door in the South wall of the Lady Chapel. This door leads to a narrow spiral staircase, which climbs to the roof of the Lady Chapel, passing on the way the door into the Priest's Chamber. Both this staircase and the one in the Tower have the right-handed spiral which made it possible for a defender to stab downwards without exposing more than his face and right arm.

In the palmy days of the great Monasteries the monks were often unwilling, and in the case of foreign Monasteries often unable, to minister to the wants of the English parishioners.

To get over this difficulty they allotted a small portion of their tithes for the support of a native priest whom they called their Vicar.

No doubt this room was built for one of those English Vicars, who did the parochial work for the Priory of Loders. It would make a pleasant dwelling-place for a single man.

The Priory retained for its own uses a portion of the tithes, which they called the Great Tithe, the Vicar's portion being called the Vicarial Tithe. At the Dissolution these Great or Rectorial Tithes were considered as being part of the secular property of the Priory, or Monastery, as the case might be.

They were accordingly confiscated and given to lay owners. Where in an ancient Parish the Parish Priest is styled Vicar, and there is a Lay Rector holding the Great Tithe, and personally responsible for the repair of the Chancel, as is the case at Loders, this may be taken as proof that the Church and Parish formerly belonged to some monastic body.

The earliest Vicar whose name has survived was John Irlande who was appointed in 1327 by Prior Hariel.

At the top of the windows of the Lady Chapel are still some small lights of pre-Reformation stained glass, and some more brightly coloured but less interesting figures of Apostles which may date from the eighteenth century. On the South wall is a Memorial to Sir Evan Nepean, a man of note in his day.

The Chancel was the property of the Priory (the Nave being the Parish Church proper). It had to accommodate the monks, and is consequently considerably larger than is usual in a church of this size and date. Its upkeep is still the responsibility of the Lay Rector, the Vicar and Churchwardens being responsible for the maintenance of the Nave and Tower.

The stone stairs leading up to the old Rood Screen, which divided the Chancel from the Nave are still in existence. No doubt the Rood Screen was a wide one, from the top of which sermons could be delivered to the Chancel or the Nave, or to both; but in the early days at any rate, it is probable that a sermon preached in English to the villagers in the body of the Church would have been incomprehensible to the French monks in the Chancel.

On the steps of the Chancel stands an ancient Bell, cast in 1641 by Thomas Purdew. For many generations it called the parishioners of Loders to their Parish Church, rang for their Festivals, and tolled for their passing souls.

Unfortunately, when the bells were retuned and rehung it was found impossible to bring it into line with the others without recasting it. It was therefore replaced by a modern bell, and placed in the Chancel of the Church it had served

The fine columns which flank the Chancel arch have been cut away at the bases either to permit of a stage being erected for some Mediaeval mystery play or an Ecclesiastical trial, or possibly to make room for the supports of the old Rood Screen.

To the North of the Altar stand two features of great interest, an Easter Sepulchre, and an ancient oak Chest. (now in the Lady Chapel)

Easter Sepulchres are rare in English churches; they were built for a ceremony in Holy Week. A full-length effigy of the Body of Our Lord was placed in the Sepulchre on Good Friday, and removed before dawn on Easter Day.

The Easter Sepulchre in Loders Church was walled up at the Reformation, and was re-discovered only some four hundred years later. When it was reopened the smoke of the tapers used, and of those who used to fetch the Body away, still lay thick upon the inside of the arch. A small portion of this is preserved under a glass plate let into the roof of the Sepulchre.

The Chest, or Hutch, in which the Parish Registers are still preserved, has been remade at several periods, but the panels in front and at the sides are probably of fifteenth century workmanship.

The presence on the front two middle panels of the Royal coats of arms of France and of the Sovereign Duchy of Bar make it probable that this chest was made for the estate of Marguerite of Anjou, Queen Consort of Henry the Sixth, and co-Foundress of Queens' College, Cambridge.

The Queens Consort of England not infrequently owned parishes in this part of the country, and it seems likely that this Chest was at some time brought to Loders from one of these. The two end panels show very early examples of the well-known "linen-fold" pattern.

The newest "archeological" feature in the long history of the Church are the metal hooks at the tops of some of the windows. These had to be inserted to hold up the curtains which covered the windows of all lighted buildings during the Great War to prevent their becoming a target for enemy aircraft. Let us hope they will be henceforward only an interesting memento of that dark time.

E.P.Le Breton.

This hope was not realised, they were used again in World War II.

APPENDIX II.

PRIORS of LODERS under the ABBOTT of MONTEBOURG ;

1109 to 1209. Unknown. Baldwin occurs 1209.

Thomas, 1287

Guillaume de Carenton, 1312.

Roger Hariel, 1320

Robert Dore, 1361.

Sampson Trigal, 1363.

William Burnell, 1401 to 1414.

VICARS of LODERS from 1327, before which date it is possible that the monks performed the duties :

John Irlande, 1327.

Henri de Whirferd, 1353.

Henri de Daunte.

Hugh de Kymington.

Richard Money.

John Newman, 1383.

Thomas Mere, 1384.

Walter Cletheman, 1386.

John Shaftesbury, 1400.

Robert Gybbon, 1410.

John Chulsagh, 1443.

John Acculshawe.

John Dremow, 1467.

John Kepe, 1472.

John Lane, 1494.

APPENDIX II Continued. VICARS of LODERS from 1327. Continued.

John Walbef.	At some date unknown, John Samson.
Richard Whittock, 1506.	
Richard Parker, 1533.	Also Vicar of Bothenhampton.
Silvester White, 1559.	Ditto.
Richard Justice, 1579.	Ditto.
William Odel, 1596.	Ditto.
George Reeves, 1611.	Ditto.
John Legg, 1660.	Ditto.
Thomas Darby, 1670.	Ditto.
William Dean, 1674.	Ditto.
John Sutton, 1692.	Ditto - From 1730 Bothenhampton became a
Robert Brown, 1733.	separate Parish.
Nathaniel Templeman, 1754.	
John Jones, 1783.	
Houlton Hartwell, 1813.	
Samuel Wallis, 1820.	
Francis Macarthy, 1835.	
Francis Dollman, 1848.	
William Curphey, 1859.	
Alfred Edersheim, 1876.	
John Stewart, 1883.	
J. Maclean, 1886.	
David Thomas, 1887.	
Arthur Bertram Hutton, 1914.	
Leslie Beardmore, C.F., 1935.	
Rev. C. Palmer, 1939.	
Rev. Oliver Willmott, 1947 - 1982.	

According to Hutchins DORSET. (The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset)
by John Hutchins, 1774.

The Manor has been held at various times by the families of Holles, Browne, Larder, Nepean, also since then by Beadnell, Colville and Le Breton and now Viscount Hood.

The Patronage of the Living is exercised alternately by the Lord Chancellor and the Lord of the Manor, and to quote from the History "The Liberty of Loders and Bothenhampton or Baunton"

This Liberty consists of Lower Loders, Upton, Baunton and Yandover, and belongs to the Bishop of Sarum. In the Inquisitic Gheldi, Lodre is reckoned among the Hundreds, but it seldom or never occurs in any other record.

TITHINGS, Loders, Baunton. LODERS, Lodres, Lodre, Lothers, Long Lothers, is a very large Parish, Extending from Askerswell to Ottery. Near Bridport, about six miles in length.

It is situated for the most part in a vale, encompassed by hills, that rise gently above it, and may derive its name, as some suppose as Loder or Lowther in Westmorland does, from its relatively lower situation. The Church is distant three miles South West from the extremity of the parish near Askerswell. Loders seems to be the general name of the parish, which comprehends two or three hamlets of that name. In Speed's map it is called Long Loders from its length. It is an inclosed country, and the soil consists chiefly of arable, pasture and orchard. "Much hemp and flax grow here, as in many placed about Bridport" says Hutchins, "and the inhabitants, invited by a rich soil, and fond of possessing their ancestors' estates, frequently give twenty years' purchase for three lives".

LOWER LODERS is the principal part of the Parish. Hamlets and Farms belonging to this Parish. LODERS MATRAVERS, a Manor, Tithing and Hamlet in Eggardon Hundred, consisting of two or three Houses, situated a little West of Askerswell.

UP-LODERS anciently a Manor, now a Tithing and Hamlet about a mile from Lower Loders. INSACRES or Jusacres, part of the lands called by this name belong to this Parish and part to Shipton. PYMORE lies about a mile and a half North-west from Lower Loder and was anciently a Manor. BILSHAY. Here are two Farms. COLHEY consists of two Farms. OTTERY or Dottery a little West of Pymore where are the remains of a Chapel. UPTON anciently a Manor, a member of Lower Loders. YANDOVER or Yondover, anciently a Manor, now a Farm, a member of Loders, and belonged to the Priory. BAUNTON and the Hamlet, The Hyde or Hide.

* Westmorland now part of Cumbria.

NOTES BY Rev. O.L. Willmott. Vicar ^{for} 35 years. 1947 & 1982.

As far back as the seventh Century A.D. THEODORE, Archbishop of Canterbury, founded the parochial system of the Church of England by persuading Lords of Manors to build and endow Parish Churches, and giving those Lords in return the right of nominating the Parish Priest.

Theodore's system may clearly be seen in Loders. The Church stands close to the manor house, hemmed in by the manor grounds, and lay patrons still exercise the right of nominating the parish priest. It is the custom of the lord of the manor and his family to take up position with the Vicar in the chancel for divine service, a bit of old England which intrigues visitors at a Loders Service.

Saxon work in the North Wall of the nave and chancel makes it certain that there was a Saxon church on this site. Sir Nicholas Pevsner, the author of a monumental work on the parish churches of England, has no doubt that the walled up doorway opposite the porch is Saxon. The recorded history of the church begins early in the twelfth century when the manor belonged to Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon. He, having an interest in the Abbey of St. Mary de Montbourg in Normandy, which was in financial trouble at the time, presented the manor of Loders to the Abbey.

Thereupon a small contingent of French monks from Montbourg took possession of the manor of Loders, bringing with them, it is alleged, the art of cider making, for which they grew their apples in what was known as Priory Orchard, to the south-west of the Church, over what was the railway line.

It is likely that the chest, now serving as an altar in the Ladye Chapel, belonged to the monks from France. It has been repaired, but the panels are original, and one bears the Royal Arms of France.

The Chancel became the Priory Church, and the Nave remained to the Parish.

If the monks from Montbourg thought their existence in lovely Loders, well away from the Lord Abbot, was going to be peaceful, they were to be disappointed. Fighting France was the chief English hobby of those days, and whenever the two were at War the English King would not allow the monks of Loders to pay their dues to the mother house of Montbourg. He insisted on their being paid to him instead.

When peace broke out, as it occasionally did, the Abbot of Montbourg demanded all the arrears, so the hapless monks of Loders were frequently having to pay their dues twice over.

In 1295, Edward 1 annexed all the dependencies of French Abbeys in England, and in 1399 Richard 11 presented Loders Priory to the Carthusian Monastery of St. Anne at Coventry of which he was patron. Henry 1V, wishing to conciliate France, restored to their original French owners many of the properties annexed by Edward 1. Loders Priory returned to the jurisdiction of Montbourg, and to celebrate this the monks built the Ladye Chapel, which is a beautiful specimen of the new Perpendicular style of architecture of the period.

The chapel connects with the chancel through an ambulatory, now partly walled up, which is sometimes mistaken for a hagioscope. The joy of the monks was short-lived; for Henry V, hero of Agincourt, suppressed all foreign religious houses in England in 1414. Loders Priory passed into the possession of the Nunnery of Syon at Isleworth in Middlesex, but the Abbey of Syon came itself to an end at the general dissolution of Monasteries in 1539. It is presumed that Loders Priory was either sold or given to one of his supporters by Henry VIII.

The present Georgian Manor house, known as Loders Court stands on the site of the old Manor. In the Church a vault beneath the chancel houses the bodies of former occupants of the manor. This vault was last opened to receive the bodies of Sir Molyneux and Lady Nepean, who died within four days of each other in 1895. Some of the old inhabitants of Loders recall the occasion. They say that access was had to the vault by lifting the stone with the black border in the chancel floor. A flight of steps is beneath it.

The new Vicarage, built in 1981, is on the site of Loders Priory. The old Vicarage is prized for being a tasteful Victorian adaptation of a Tudor building. Its Dining Room is late 15th. century.

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In the sixteenth century Loders suffered, like most other churches, from the iconoclastic zeal of the reformers. If a local tradition be true, it seems that Loders people were slow to comply with parliamentary orders for the destruction of statuary and painted glass in their church, and this gave the neighbouring parish of Powerstock, for whom there was no love lost, an excuse to come and do it for them. The vandals of Powerstock are charged with smashing all the medieval glass except the few panels which remain in the apex of the South windows of the Ladye Chapel.

Powerstock is now under the same incumbent as Loders and Askerswell.

Theological emphasis moved, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, from the Sacraments to the Word. Consequently the centre of gravity moved from the altar in the Chancel to the new "three-decker" pulpit in the nave, and by the Nineteenth century, the exterior of the Church was unaltered, as it still is, but the interior had become a preaching house. Box pews were focussed on the "three-decker" pulpit, the walls were covered with lath and plaster to give them a uniform appearance, and then they were whitewashed. Outwardly the church remained a church, with even its medieval gargoyles intact, but inwardly it had become very like a dissenting chapel.

By the end of the nineteenth century the church had fallen into disrepair. The infiltration of damp and the undermining of the floor by frequent burials inside the church, had made the building unsound. A Vicar of the 1870's the learned Dr. Edersheim, got a builder to report on the Church that it was in a dangerous condition. The Vestrymen, fearful of a rise in the Church rate, produced the report of a rival builder that the church was in apple-pie order. Dr. Edersheim publicly absolved himself of any blame that might be his if the Church should cave in on the sleeping congregation and nothing was done.

This delay was a blessing in disguise, for had the restoration been done in the mid-nineteenth century the Church might have been demolished and entirely rebuilt on the bad architectural principles then prevailing, as happened at Askerswell.

When the restoration was begun in 1899, architects had a new appreciation of old Churches and sought to restore them to the original state rather than alter them. Loders was fortunate in its architect Mr. C.W. Ponting.

In seeking the original Church lying hidden beneath the eighteenth century lath and plaster, he made some exciting discoveries, described at the time by the Bishop as "the most numerous relics of bygone ages discovered in any church in this diocese".

At the East end of the North wall of the chancel was uncovered a large recess, which proved to be an Easter Sepulchre. In the medieval rites of Easter this recess would have represented Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. The pavement beneath the recess was opened and disclosed a grave, containing a skeleton so decayed that only the lower leg bones were intact. This may be the first Prior of Loders, who can tell?

The architect had the bones enclosed in a lead casket and re-buried, together with a box of contemporary coins and a copy of the "Bridport News". Digging beneath the floor of the nave brought to light the lid of a stone coffin, and the putative tombstone of a French monk who became Prior of Loders in 1363. The Latin inscription on this tombstone reads:

"Here lies Dom John Sampson, sometime Vicar of this place".

Both the stone and the coffin lid may be seen in the North wall of the Chancel.

Removal of plaster from the portion of the North Chancel wall, nearest the chancel arch, exposed a lancet window, a pillar, and a doorway, all of the Norman period: the latter with an inverted head of a Saxon window, forming a lintel. The plaster on the North wall of the nave, near the chancel arch, was concealing another architectural treasure - three narrow doorways, one above the other two, all connected by a spiral stairway. These were the entrances to the medieval pulpit and to the Rood Loft which had once spanned the chancel arch. It was the architect's opinion that no other church in Europe could show a combination of pulpit and rood loft like this.

At the West end of the North nave wall, opposite the South porch, he uncovered a walled-up Saxon door, leading into the North part of the Churchyard, which had an area of 148 ft. by 18 ft., and was reserved for Bothenhampton burials, Bothenhampton being at that time part of the parish of Loders.

When Bothenhampton was made a separate Parish, the then lord of the manor took the opportunity of purging his western view of tombstones (having already a view of tombstones on the South), and incorporated the Bothenhampton burial plot in his pleasure. By courtesy of the present lord, Church fetes are now held over the Bothenhampton graves and this accords perfectly with local sentiment towards all "foreigners".

The stripping of the wall of the tower arch exposed some wall paintings in poor preservation. Opinion seems evenly divided between its being pre- or post-Reformation. The painting North of the arch is part of a figure of Time with his Scythe, and the South painting is of Death, represented by a dancing skeleton.

The bowl of the Font is of Purbeck marble, and dates from about 1150. Its stem is later. The fifteenth century Calvary group in the East wall of the Ladye Chapel was dug up from beneath the pavement of the Chapel. It was the habit of some reformers to relegate altar tops and Calvaries to the floor, so that they would be trodden upon and desecrated. There is another old stone Calvary on the external wall of the tower, North of the door. This has not been mutilated like the one in the Ladye Chapel, but is beginning to weather.

A door in the South wall of the Ladye Chapel leads up a spiral stairway to a priest's room over the South porch. This room was used later for meetings of the Parish Vestry.

The Bell on the Chancel steps, put there in 1927, elicits more enquiries from visitors than anything else in the Church. When the peal of six was re-hung, this bell could not be brought into tune with its five sisters, and to save recasting it the lord of the manor presented a new one and had this placed on public view. It was cast in 1641. The tenor bell in the tower, was cast in 1626, weighs almost a ton and is inscribed :

"Ay may I sounde glory to God on hie, Thankes to my frends in swetest harmonie".

The interior door to the spiral stairway was noted recently by the Ancient Monuments Commission. It is a strap door with fleur de lys dating from about 1250, and is thought to be one of the oldest doors in the country.

The Church registers date from 1636. They contain the records of 4,004 burials in the Churchyard. If the previous burials of which there is no record are added to these, it is probable that the Churchyard holds the remains of over 10,000 bodies.

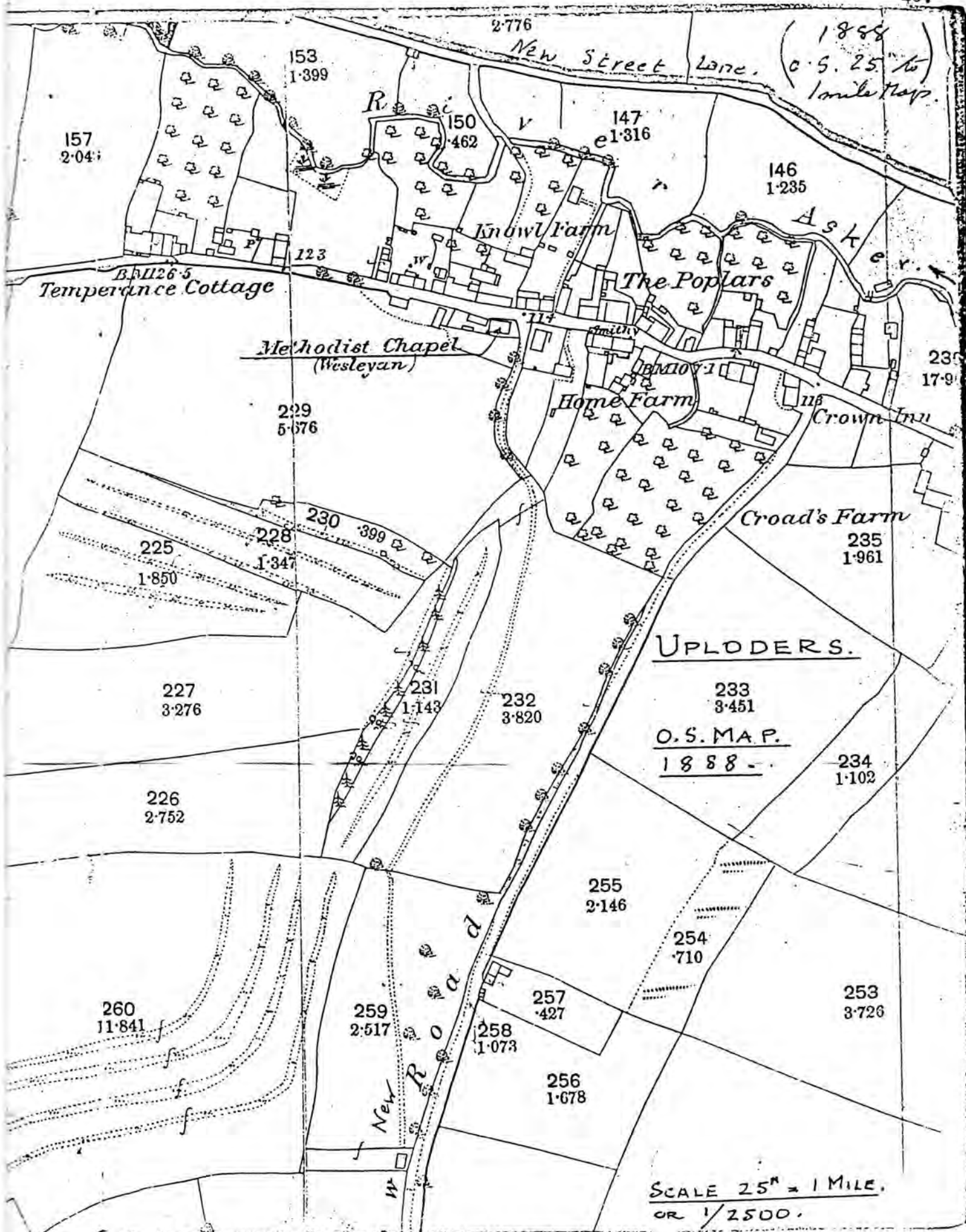
The Registers disclose that in 1883 the population of Loders was 1,105, today it is about 500.

On the North Wall are the Memorials to the men who gave their lives in the two World Wars. 1914 - 1919 - being -

A. Travers 1914
F. Travers 1914.
W. Russell 1915.
W. L. Fry. 1915
S. Brown. 1915
T. Taylor 1915
W. J. Lee. 1916
A. Clark. 1916
A. E. Samways 1916.
F. Hyde. 1917
F. J. Bartlett 1918
W. J. Read. 1918
F. Clark. 1918
L. Clark. 1919

and in the World War 1939-1945

T. S. Norman	1940	Army
G. W. Holmes	1940	Air Force
F. D. Symes	1943	Navy.



The Uploders Chapel, built 1827 is cared for by Mr. J. Morris as Steward, and has regular weekly services by local Ministers and Lay Preachers from as far away as Sidmouth.

In a Book "The Mighty Oak" the story is given of the Devon and Dorset Mission, (Now Sidmouth and Bridport Circuit) by James H. Temple, compiled from Records, Deeds and Documents for the Circuit Exhibition in May 1974 at Axminster.

Extracts from it are as follows :

The Uploders Society Chapel is named Loders in the Axminster Circuit of 1813 and was formed in 1811 in the Kitchen of Farmer John Wallbridge.

The Chapel was opened in 1827 by the Rev. John Newton of Weymouth to seat a 100 people, having a small Gallery.

Sunday School classes were started in 1839, but no premises were ever added to this inadequate site, though there is now open land adjacent where there were two buildings alongside at one time as on 1888 map.

During the last century the organ was sometimes lifted into the Gallery in order to make more space for the congregation.

The present clock was presented by Doctor Giles Roberts in 1828, and is in constant use. It is a pendulum Clock and has recently been overhauled and restored. Dr. Roberts made gifts to many Churches and Chapels in the area from his Bridport home and business there, and used to preach as well on the ships in West Bay.

There is a Chapel Bell, an 1834 Life of Christ, and a report that Dr. Thomas Coke preached in a house here before he became a Methodist.

Since the second World War the chapel has had many enthusiastic wardens and helpers. During the present wardenship of Mr. J. Morris the building has had a complete overhaul, and repairs and improvements made from 1970 onwards.

External repairs and painting, internal decoration and new heating, special new fittings and new Altar Cross and Pulpit have been provided, and there is a bronze of the Last Supper presented to the Chapel in 1975.

A team of supporters from the Village of all denominations has kept the Chapel and its' good Christian work flourishing over the years.

Before the first World War mention must be made of the devoted work of Miss Willoughby, of Temperance Cottage, Uploders, at that time. (The Cottage is now Myrtle Cottage). Miss Willoughby was a staunch warden for many years, also Miss Sarah Platt, who had a great liking for Pontefract cakes during the service.

Since World War 1 Mr. Pope, now of Bristol, (late Carpentry Master at the Colfox School, Bridport) and Mrs. L. Bradshaw, of Yondover, Loders, together with the Eveleigh family of Uploders, have been great workers for the Chapel.

It is interesting to note that many local connections with Wesleyan Methodist History are in nearby Bridport and District. The old Tudor pulpit from Charmouth Church (originally from Netherbury) is now in the United Church, Bridport.

From this pulpit the Rev. Bartholomew Wesley (born in 1600) preached. The 1739 founder of Wesleyan Methodism was John Wesley, and his Grandfather, also John Wesley was the son of Rev. Bartholomew Wesley, and John had been Vicar of Winterborne Whitchurch and then of Melcombe Regis in Dorset.

Dr. Giles Roberts, one of Dorset's most distinguished sons, who gave the Uploders clock, was the Methodist Doctor whose story provides the vital link between the Dorset and Devon Circuit (Now Sidmouth and Bridport Circuit).

He was born at the Ship Inn, West Bay, 1766, and later ran the Chemist and Druggist business in East Street, Bridport, famous for the Ointment, "Dr. Roberts' Poor Man's Friend". He married Phoebe Brown of Shipton Gorge.

Dr. Roberts became a local Preacher in 1803, and supported foreign Missions and helped towards the purchase of many Chapels in the Bridport area.

Outdoor preaching, or use of rooms in Houses was first practised. Then Chapels were built, and it is interesting to note that the Bridport Chapel was built in 1838 as a united effort, with subscriptions from all five denominations in the town. Dr. Roberts is buried in Bridport Churchyard where a large Memorial tells of the indebtedness of the town to his many works.