



## Winterbourne Down Carnival Treasure Hunt 2021 - Village History Walk

The origin of this walk comes from researching some of the village life. In 1996, a local villager George Newman, wrote about life in the village 1927-1935, and he explains at the end of his memories "*Why not retrace my path around the village to see what has and has not changed and what names are now given to some of the roads.*". We have taken up his idea, and created a walk around the village, using his memories and other sources of information. *We have quoted Georges memories throughout, these are shown in blue text.* How much can you see that has changed and not changed around the village? What has changed for the better and what has changed for the worse? (that's a very subjective question!)

There are many residents who are new to the village, but there still remains a good number of villagers born and bred here. We can see this with the family names within the churchyard. We must thank the knowledgeable villagers who have provided the information for this walk. I'm sure that we've missed out a lot of information and places of interest along the way. Please do get in touch and tell us about your stories and memories if we've missed something, it can only enhance the walk for the future.

Firstly, a word about the recent history of the village (just the last 200 years anyway). In 1825, an act was passed to sell off parts of Winterbourne Common under the Enclosure Act of 1825, as many people were fencing off sections for their own use. At this time there were very few buildings on the land, much of it used for grazing and it was inhabited by 'a number of squatters on quasi-common land, in poor cottages with or without legal title – some were Hatters, the greatest part were colliers. The place had a rather bad name for manners and morality' (F.W.Greenstreet).

On 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1827, 31 lots of land in the area were sold by public auction at The George & Dragon pub in Winterbourne. One such lot of land was purchased by Thomas Cooksey (he was a Mason) – the original Conveyance for this auction lot can be seen as below:



We shall look for his grave within All Saints Church yard later.

To get a map view of the area in 1880's, click on the link below, where you'll see many of the features of the village still present, with a lot less buildings:

[View map: Gloucestershire LXVIII.SE \(includes: Frampton Cotterell; Stoke Gifford; Westerle... - Ordnance Survey Six-inch England and Wales, 1842-1952 \(nls.uk\)\)](#)

[Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland]

Much of the village has remained the same over the past 100 years, the main roads through the village are the same as shown in the 1844 map, the only additional through road is Station Road. Whilst the population has grown, the natural boundaries of the village has meant that it can't grow in physical size too much. The boundary of Winterbourne Down is bounded to the north by the railway line; the River Frome and Mill Road.

In the 1841 census, there were approx. 470 people (adults and children) reported living in Winterbourne Down, rising to 780 from the 1901 census, 800 from the 1911 census and 1684 from the 1981 census [ 1981 includes Hambrook too]<sup>1</sup>. Recent records show the number of residents in the parish of Winterbourne, so difficult to know the exact number now, but it's thought to be currently around 1000 adults<sup>2</sup>.

We begin our village adventure at All Saints Church.



**All Saints Church** was built and dedicated in 1858, instigated by Revd Greenstreet, who saw that the local villagers weren't represented well. At that time, this area was part of the parish of Frenchay and Winterbourne and this didn't represent the local villagers, many of which were Quarrymen and Stonemasons.

When the separate parish constitution occurred on July 25<sup>th</sup> 1861 by Order in Council, the final 'e' was missed off of Winterbourn, so strictly speaking we should spell our village "Winterbourn Down". Despite many attempts to spell it this way, we appear to have continued to adopt the 'e', the same as our parent Parish of Winterbourne.

The views from the terrace are magnificent as you look west towards Filton, to the south towards Bristol and to the east towards Westerleigh and Bath.

In the late 1940's, the church roof began to leak and required replacing. At this time the bell turret was on the eastern end of the church (above the altar). During the roof repairs, the bell turret was moved to the west end where it's currently positioned. This is where it should have been from the beginning. Whilst the bell was being moved, it was positioned on a wooden frame outside the church doors – still being able to be rung when the Priest or Choirmaster requested it to be. On one occasion, a worker stepped back off of the scaffolding, luckily to land in a holly bush and survived.

In the summer of 1989, George Newman foiled an attempt by burglars to strip the church roof of its lead. See the link below to read about this from the local newspaper.



Note the cedar of Lebanon tree at the west end of the church which was planted by the eldest daughter (Kitty) of Father Greenstreet (the first vicar of the church) around 1870.

Look directly below the tree for the **gravestones of Frederick Waters Greenstreet** – it's a 'coffin shaped stone' directly under the tree, **also for Thomas Cooksey** close to the path back towards the church that we mentioned earlier (and you will hear more later).

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<sup>1</sup> Source "A guide to Winterbourne Down" by Winterbourne Down Women's Institute 1982

<sup>2</sup> Source Winterbourne Parish Council



Refer to <https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/all-saints-church/> for more details and more of the history of All Saints.



Walk down the church path, to Church Road.

As you walk down this path: -

- **To the right** is the vicarage – this was built in 1952, to reduce the overall costs to the church. It was sold privately in approx. 2008. The original vicarage (and still called ‘The Old Vicarage’) in Mill Road, built at the same time as the Church, was too expensive to keep going and was sold mid 1950’s.
- **To the left** was a small quarry employing about 6 men. The house, now built on this site is called ‘Quarry Lodge’ *“It is said that the stone for the steps in the first Trust Burial Ground came from here. Reference to this can be found in the trust burial ground records.”*

You are now on Church Road. Did you know that this road was originally called Moorend Road? – according to the Abstract Titles of 1827 and old maps of the area – interestingly Moorend Road is now from Whiteshill Common down to Moorend bridge. I wonder when this change was made?

As you walk up Church Road to the Old Post Office situated on the right, think of how local roads were maintained in the early 1900’s:

“I wonder if any older residents can remember Mr. Charlie Maggs, the Stonecracker? His work was very important for the upkeep of our roads. A pile of boulders would be brought by horse and cart to a piece of land opposite the lower Church entrance in Church Road, he would crack them into small pieces with a steel rod, the top was shaped like an egg with a very sharp point. Later the roadmen would strew them across the roads followed by the water cart and then the Steam Roller would roll them in” – extract from ‘Down Memory Lane’ in Parish magazine by Mrs. E. S. Penton.



**Post Office** – The first Post Office in Winterbourne Down was established in 1871, a general shop and Post Office combined, and on the site of the Old Post Office that finally closed on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2005.



Refer to <https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/post-office/> for more details of the history of the Post Office.

*"[Opposite the Old Post Office] where the church hall now stands were allotments owned by Miss Tuck and worked by Mr & Mrs Matthews of Station Road. This was later owned by Mr Don Moore, a member of the choir who sold the land to the church, for the erection of the church hall. (The first chairman was Mr Richard Evans)."*

The church hall was built in 1963 and is owned by the Parochial Church Council

4 doors up from The Old Post Office at No. 32 is 'Idas Cottage'. Ida Cox was a local villager that was brought up by her Auntie & Uncle in this house. She lived there until 2013 at the grand old age of 102 yrs old. She was a Market Gardener and with her family grew a lot of vegetables and flowers locally, they would load up their truck each week to go to market for selling. She was the village May Queen in 1922. More photos of her story can be found in the Post Office link above.



**The next section is down Mill Steps and along the river, which may be difficult for some. If you feel that you are unable to manage this section, please carry along Church Road to the top of The Dingle (Reference No 7).**

Otherwise, walk back down the road, noticing the lane to the left – Frome Glen, but do not turn down here. This road/footpath goes behind the row of houses to a cottage. If you walked down this path, you would arrive at the metal bridge you'll cross later. This path down to the river was locally called the 'Plank', since at the riverside was a narrow wooden plank where the locals crossed the river. Later on, it was replaced by stepping stones and then the metal Jubilee bridge (See later)



Carry on down to Mill Steps and walk down this footpath.



**Beware, when the footpath is wet, it can become slippery. Also beware of the cars on this busy junction at the bottom of the steps!**



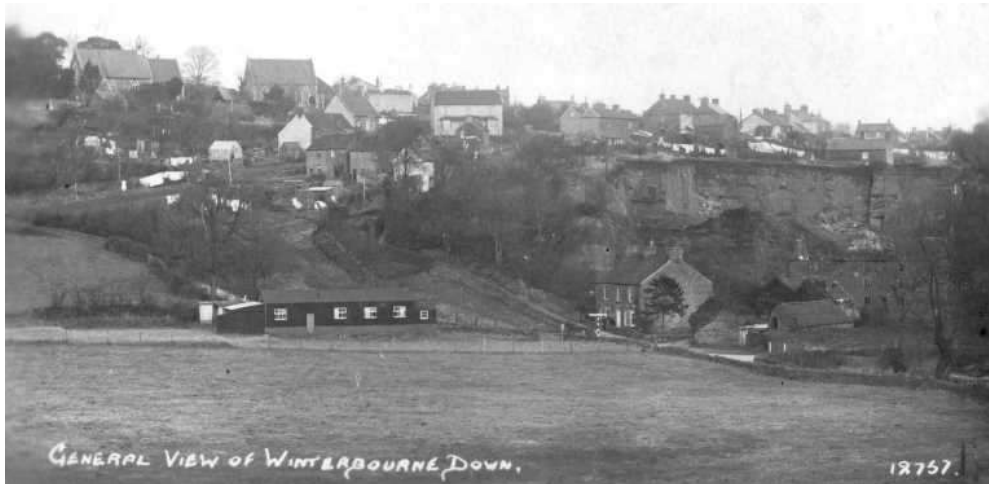
As you reach the bottom, look across the road and you will see 'Riverside View' bungalow. This was the site of the **Parish Hall**, it was built with voluntary labour, opened in 1921 and included a tennis court and a large garden at the rear where, in later years, was used for growing vegetables. It can be seen in the photo below taken from Worrell's Lane as the dark building at the bottom of the field. It was a wooden structure which, we're told, always smelt of creosote. This building held a lot of events – children learnt tap and ballet; it was a Picture House watching films such as Flash Gordon and once per month a tea dance.

*"During the war a dance was held every Friday night, music was supplied by the Vic Roper Band from 7.30 to 11pm. The hire of the hall was 5/- and the band was paid 15/- (5/- each member) 80 to 100 people attended, entrance was 1/- . Refreshments were available, usually sandwiches and cakes and of course Eiffel Tower Lemonade<sup>3</sup> and tea."*

*"In 1947 Mrs. Greenstreet sold the hall to Mr & Mrs Newman in the hope it would be able to continue as the village hall. Shortly after, the floor gave way and the roof leaked and it had to be closed. Mr & Mrs Newmans son, with the backing of the vicar applied for permission to build a bungalow there, but was refused on the grounds of green belt land. The hall and ground was sold as such. A year later, a bungalow was built there."*

<sup>3</sup> [Eiffel Tower Lemonade Crystals - Do You Remember?](#)

**Village Walk Author:** Current local villagers suggest that the Parish Hall was still there in the late 1950's when it was demolished and a caravan was sited there, the Ayres family lived in it. It was after this that the bungalow was built.



In 1930's, there was no running water at the church hall, so had to be carried from the 2 cottages at the bottom of Mill Steps:

*“it was from these [houses] that water was carried for use in the Church Hall until Mr Walter Newman, my father and I myself dug a trench to carry the water pipes across the road and into the hall.”*

From a photo thought to be from late 1950's, looking down Worrell's Lane, you can see huts on the right – these were workers huts for those who put the sewers into the village. The barn in the field on the left burnt down many years ago.



On the left at the bottom of Mill Steps was a mill – **Winterbourne Mill**, often called ‘Englands Mill’ or Jones’ Mill, after the previous owners. Compare the photo on the board at this location, taken late 1890's to what you see now.

The photo shows:

- A sign at the bottom of Mill Steps (where the current ‘Winterbourne Down’ sign is now). Whilst only half of it can be seen on the photo, we believe that it says “Please loosen bearing rein going up hill” – referring to

horse and carts ascending up Mill Lane and ensuring that the reins are loosened to allow the horse to use its shoulders to pull the cart up the hill.

- An additional extension is now built where the lean-to greenhouse was
- The shop and buildings either side of it, have now gone. The shop carried out shoe and boot repairs.
- The 4-storey mill is shown in the background. Only a small piece of this still exists today. (See the link below to view an animation of where the mill once stood)
- On one of the signs outside the shop, it says 'Good Boating' – perhaps related to the fact that the river upstream of the weir (see next section of the walk) it was deep enough for boats to travel up.

**From the Village Design Statement:** “At Mill Bridge there stood a four-storey water mill for corn and later cider. It was demolished in the early 1950s. However, the water wheel had an adjoining room which was spared along with the blacksmith’s building.”

The Mill operated a pump as the quarry floor got flooded by a spring. Those living in the cottage recall hearing the clank of the pump in the 1930’s.



Refer to <https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/mill-steps/> for more details of the Mill and animations of where the mill once stood in relation to the current buildings.

Behind the mill was a quarry, you can see this in the photo of this area in 1970’s. The house on the top of the hill to the right was demolished to make way for the Tudor style house there now.



There were many quarries in this area – some large, some small. A common occupation noted in census’ of 1800’s was Quarrymen and Stonemason. Maybe this is why we all have stoney soil in our gardens!



For more information about Quarrying in the area, visit:  
<https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/quarry/>



Turn left over the bridge and river.

The bridge that you are walking over required major repairs after the 1968 floods, when it lost its stone parapet. The current bridge now has metal railings. This is a picture of the 'new' bridge in 1975 – the area has definitely overgrown since then.



Turn immediately left over the bridge. As you pass through the metal gates you now are entering a section of the Frome Valley Walkway.

The River Frome has its source at a spring in Dodington, and meanders for 18 miles entering the River Avon at Castle Park in Bristol, although the last real sighting of the river is behind Ikea, where storm drains take a lot of the water underground to the River Avon. For more details of the Frome Valley Walkway, See the reference section later.



Immediately on your left was a **weir**. This kept the depth of the water upstream at a level to serve the mill. This was partially washed away during the floods of 1965 and completely collapsed around 1972. We're told that prior to this, the depth of the water was deep enough to allow small boats to travel up river.

The weir would have been in the location as shown in the photo shown at this location, with the water channelled to the right of the weir (towards the white house shown on the photo) to a large water wheel, a tunnel under the road and coming out downstream of the bridge took the water away from the mill.



To look at photos of the actual weir, the old bridge and more, visit:  
[https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/river\\_weir](https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/river_weir)

At this same location, there's a path with a gate across leading up to the right. All along this path was Englands Quarry. This was a large quarry (for this area) that was filled in by landfill in the late 1990's. If you look closely as you walk along here, you may see items of landfill rubbish. Close to this gate was the site of the dynamite store where all of the explosives for the quarry were stored. There is no evidence of this left now, and may have even been buried in the landfill.

**Wildlife:** Keep an eye on the river bank and if the river is low, any stones protruding in the water. You may be lucky and see a Dipper (The UK's only aquatic song bird), Grey Wagtail or a Kingfisher as you walk along the path.



After about 5-10 minutes of walking along this path, you'll approach the metal bridge that was erected at the time of the Queens Silver Jubilee in 1977. Prior to this, children made a crossing of stepping stones at around this same point – previously it was a 'plank' across the river, hence the name of this route.

*"Down the 'Plank' to the river past a mountain of stone from an old quarry. About 1933, the children carried stones and made a crossing which is where the bridge now is. This also made the river deep enough to try and swim in it."*

When the foundations of the bridge were being built, the local children would go down and demolish them in the evenings, since they didn't want their crossing to be replaced by a bridge.

It was at this time that the Frome Valley Walkway became a proper path along this stretch of the river – it had become overgrown with no defined path along here, but it was cleared and now provides a very popular walk through the Frome Valley.



Walk over the metal bridge.

**Training Walls:** As you walk over the metal bridge, look upstream. Do you notice that much of the river is lined with a brick wall? (especially upstream of the metal bridge, and down below Mill Bridge towards Moored) These are known as 'training walls', which are used to keep the fast flowing water on course and not erode the river bank to take its own path. This is a common practice in rivers and estuaries.



As you cross the bridge, the path leading to the left takes you up to Frome Glen – this path was locally called the 'Plank' (see earlier comment).

Once over the bridge, take a right and walk up the hill following the Public Footpath. At the brow of the hill, step behind the 1<sup>st</sup> gap in the wall on the right and look straight-ahead behind the taller wall. Here you can see the remains of a small cottage.



There were **3 cottages** along this stretch of the path, the owners were Quilla+Elija Monks, Bill Jones & Francis Pincott. You can see some of the walls and a fireplace remaining. They were compulsory purchased by the council early 1960's as there was no sewerage nor running water provision there.



At this location was the cottage of Quilla & Elija Monks and was the first to be built. This had an old tin roof, they lived there until they died. You can still see the footings of 2 rooms and a doorway, and if you look at the wall on the path side, you'll see what probably was their front door (now bricked up).

Further along on the main path on the right, was Bill Jones' cottage and was the grandest of them – you can still see the remains of fireplaces and rooms here.



The last of the cottages, situated on the left of the path into the rockface (just prior to a gate in the wall on the right), was owned by Francis Pincott. It was built in 1902 – it's said that the build took a day, smoke came out of the chimney and it was theirs! The toilet was up in the rocks, next to a lovely Victoria Plum tree. In this 1 bedroom cottage house lived 13 people at one time! Nothing exists of their cottage now – just the empty overgrown space in the rockface. A gate to their garden on the right side of the path still exists, pigs were kept down here too.

60 years ago, the river around this point was deep, many locals learnt to swim here. In the garden of the Pincott cottages was a big manhole covered up with a big wooden 'wheel'. The Pincott children used to roll it down to the river, sit on it to ride down the river. (I wonder how they got it back up stream back to the man hole?)



Continue along this path until you arrive almost at The Dingle.

The last part of this path that you have walked along was much wider in the past, it's just the garage on the end that narrows the path – Hollisters used to drive around the streets selling everything, mainly items such as oil lamps, and would drive their van along this path to the 3 cottages. Mr. Node the coalman would also deliver coal along here, as well as Palmers Bakery.

Just before the garage, on the right are metal railings – it was here that there was a path leading down to the river, with stepping stones across the river. This was the main route for locals at The Dingle, and maybe for the Quarrymen too.



A stile was erected at the side of the garage, but mysteriously got removed – no one knows by whom – you can see the 3 wooden posts in the ground that still exists, but without the stile!

As you arrive at the end of the path, the house on the right No 38, 'Justa Cottage' "was owned by Mrs. Hooper, who sold Reckitts Blue, Robin Starch & Sunlight soap. I can and often wondered how much she sold" – extract from 'Down Memory Lane' in Parish magazine 1998 by Mrs. E. S. Penton.



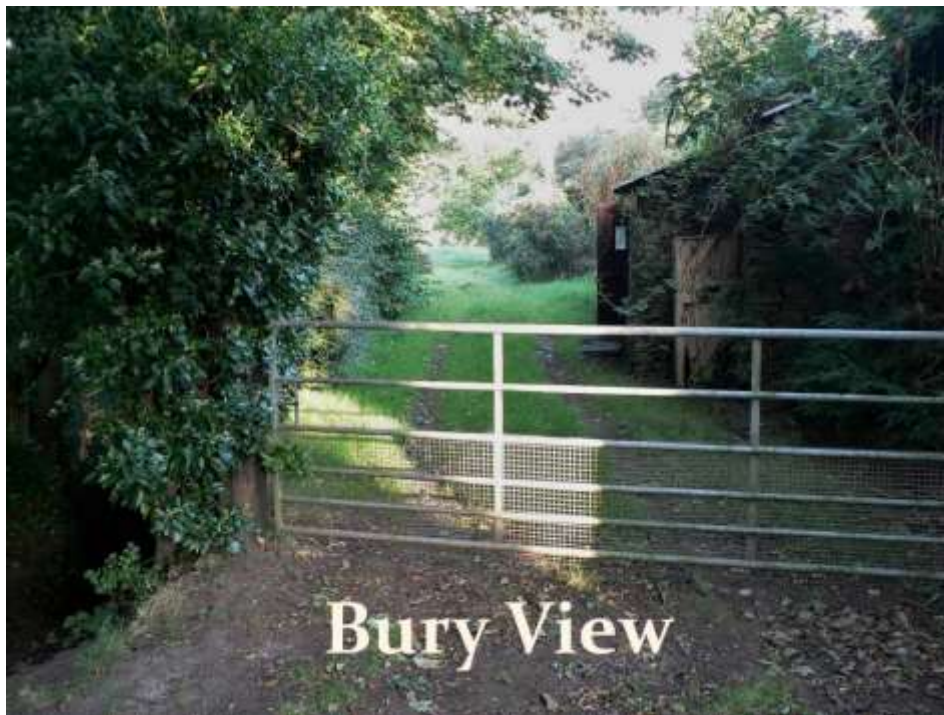
Turn left up The Dingle – here's a picture of what it looked like in 1963



As you reach the top of **The Dingle**, the private road to Bury View is on the left. This used to be a small track to a Kennels, and **Basils Cider house** (the open door with the white sign on it behind the gate on the photo below). It now leads to 4 new houses built approx. 15 years ago.



Refer to [www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/ciderhouse](http://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/ciderhouse) for more photos of Basils Cider house.



Prior to the house now present on the corner of The Dingle and Bury View (Grove House), was a general store / sweet shop, owned by Mrs. McGowan.

Associated with this shop/house were orchards that went behind this house and along as far as 32 Stone Lane. Below is a photo of the house before it was demolished early 2000's – at this time, it was a residential house.



On the left of the path down into Bury View if you walked down the private road, were a couple more shops. Some people say that there was a Butchers shop there, but very little is known about this shop, then a Fish and Chip Shop. The living accommodation was above the shop, and those living there would look out of their window at people queuing for their chips. (Imagine the smell rising from the chip shop into their house!)

*“was a hut in which the owners kept a pony and trap and various things rather like a junk shop. Also a small rank of shops leading down to the “Plank”. In these shops was a ladies dress shop, next a butcher then a shoe shop which also repaired shoes and sold leather and nails for home repairers and finally a fish and chip shop. Their fish and chips were really good. There were 3 stone steps to reach it. First home from school earned a bag of chips and 3d for peeling 2 or 3 buckets of potatoes.”*



Continue up the road along Stone Lane, and walk towards Church Road. As you meet the 3 way junction, look left to this building – Down House, 76 Church Road.



“This was a **village shop** for a long time, initially Mrs England and her daughters Hilda, Philippa & Violet, who sold grocery, china etc” – extract from ‘Down Memory Lane’ in Parish magazine 1998 by Mrs. E. S. Penton.

We think that a Mr & Mrs. Lucas owned it afterwards, then Mrs. De Gay, who sold everything – fruit; vegetables; confectionary; paraffin etc and opened for very long hours. It was later taken over by ‘Porters’, and at that time still a village shop. In later years, the general store turned into selling Horse and Saddlery items. It is still locally known as ‘Porters’ today. The photo below (approx. late 1970’s – early 1980’s) was taken when the store was a General Store. Note how little has changed for this part of the road.



Continue to walk up the back lane, observing the houses on the left.

‘Yonder Cottage’, set back off the road must be one of the oldest surviving cottages in the village. The right side of the house can be seen on the initial Tithe maps of 1827. It was thought to be a ‘1 – up ; 1 – down’ house at that point, typical in this era in the village. It was probably built as a Quarryman’s house and in 1850’s believed to belong to a Quarry Manager – at the rear of the property was another small quarry. Planning permission wasn’t required then, often the land was claimed by building on the land within 24 hours.

The photo below shows the original part of the house during renovation works in 1986/7, the left side was demolished as it was beyond repair, and rebuilt at this time.



Original Cottage, part of which dates back to 1820s during renovation works in 1986



Back garden used as a tip

In this house many years ago lived 3 brothers, who were well known in the village and fond of a drink. At this time, there was an orchard where Nos 70A and 70 are now. It is said that they sold off the orchard belonging to the cottage for extra money to spend in the pub. Locals have also said that you'd often find cider bottles hidden in bushes around the village – they would take a swig and hide them in the bushes and come back to them later on. They were often loitering around Palmers Bakery when Mr. Palmer was at the back of the shop baking, calling out for him to throw to them a couple of bread rolls. A 'service' offered by these brothers was to offer the garden for use as a tip – this was mainly household rubble tipped over the back into the old quarry.

**Village Walk Author:** I am unsure which specific house this next paragraph refers to, but it's close to Yonder Cottage (if not the same one) and it makes an interesting read:

*"[Here] was a house owned by a Mr. Baker who was a Postman. Next to this, was another cottage owned by Mr & Mrs Bill Close. Once a week Mr Toogood the Dentist would come to this house to take out teeth for anyone who needed him for 6d. a tooth. (No fillings for him). Bill Close was the Grave Digger for the church."*



At the top of the slight incline, known as 'Bakers Hill', on the left was an off-license – **The Masons Arms** (one of many in the village), in the 1900's run by Mrs. Eliza Hayward. To the left of the Off-license was a lane that led down to another abandoned quarry overlooking the river.

*"the Off License was kept by Mrs. Turner (I could tell some tales about that and the church warden of the time!)"* If only we knew some of those tales!



Continue along this road, looking at the **barn** on the right. This kept the piglets and was a slaughterhouse for the pigs, the meat being sold in Palmers Shop, hung and cut in their cellar. To the right of the barn to the side road was an orchard (where 56 and 58 Down Road is now).

*"Next was a slaughter house and then the orchard where Alf Palmer kept his donkey and John used to fly his kite that he made himself."*

Before we turn right back onto Down Road, look down Church Road – below is a picture unknown date. Whilst some of the houses have been knocked down and rebuilt, you can see the Post Office and Telephone Box in the distance and still a recognisable view. Many people still take the 'National Speed Limit' sign to its word along here!



Also, to the right of this location were 2 bungalows, demolished separately in the last 15 years to make way for 4 detached houses. (Photo taken from along Church Road – 50m from the spot that you are now standing)



Turn right at this junction onto Down Road.



You are now standing outside Salon 52 Hairdressing Salon, originally **Palmers Store**, and was the last village store to close in 1992, having been in the family for generations (since 1862). There are records of it being a village store, selling groceries since 1840's. For a large part of this time, it was a bakery also, baking at the rear of the property.



The land where the shop and houses 52 - 58 inclusive now reside, was purchased at the George & Dragon public auctions of 1827 by Thomas Cooksey, the Stonemason (*hopefully you looked for and found his grave in All Saints Church*) for £25. The total size of this land is '2 roods' ( or ½ acre ). How land prices, especially in Winterbourne Down have increased since then!



Read the board shown outside the shop. An additional write up of the history of the shop showing more pictures is shown at:  
<https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/palmers-village-shop> .



Continue on down Down Road, crossing the side road to the right.

The first house on the right was the site of another village store – Frys. Mr. Jack Fry seemed to have a few market gardens in the village to grow his crops.

On the opposite side of the road is Quarry Lane. The 3 cottages above Quarry Lane (named Victoria Cottages) are on a piece of land following up the left side of Quarry Lane almost to the top. This piece of land, we believe, sold for £40 in 1827. We think that this auction "lot 20", was 1 acre 3 roods 11 perches in size. The lower of the cottages was owned by Mr. Wheeler – a well known Strawberry grower of the village.



The **Cross Hands pub** has been a key part of village life for over 100 years, and I'm sure over the years has many tales to tell. The pub dates back at least to 1841.

The Mummers Play (See references) is performed outside the pub each Boxing Day, as well as other locations around the village.

At the Cross Hands junction, the previous house on the corner of Church Road and Down Road (where the new red brick houses Nos 76-79 are now) lived Mr & Mrs Bowden and their 2 spinster daughters (Olive & Bertha). They sold flowers there and at Christmas, baskets with dried flowers. When they sold the house, Mr. Smith bought it, and would sell flowers (for all occasions, including funerals) and still sold the flowers from their front room. Prior to the Bowdens, it was a Butchers shop, with floor to ceiling tiles in the kitchen / dining room where the meat was stored.



Refer to [www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/crosshands](http://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/crosshands) for more details and old photos of the pub and this junction.



Cross the road, and go up Harcombe Hill.



**Beware! This is a busy junction, so be careful crossing this road**



**Harcombe Hill** previously was known as Station Hill (since it was ¼ mile from Winterbourne Railway Station at the top of the hill)

*“Continuing to the Cross Hands, turn [left] for Station Hill, now Harcombe Hill which was ¼ mile from the station. At the bottom of the hill, on the right, lived Miss Lamb, church treasurer. In later years, I can remember being told off by her, for wasting church money by using 100Watt bulb instead of a 60Watt. The turning before Miss. Lambs house [we assume that this is now the lane to the stables, and no access to the river now] led across the fields to the river at Pendock Corner. This was our swimming pool where the river at been cleared by the children making it deep enough to dive into. During the summer, we would spend all day there, and mother would bring us sandwiches. If we were thirsty, we would take our bottle to the “Rina”. This was a small brick tunnel in the bank near the river. The water was always icy cold, coming we were told from Coalpit Heath pit. “*



The view hasn't changed up the hill much during this time. Many views of Harcombe Hill are available – Refer to: <https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/harcombehill> for more pictures of this hill throughout the years.

We believe ½ way up on the right hand side, there used to be a school here in the 1900's.



Walk to the top of the hill and before you turn left into Station Road, you may wish to look at the building behind the gated path on the right, just in front of the '10MT mgw Weak Bridge' sign.





The **Great Western Railway** line passes along here, and is the north boundary for Winterbourne Down. The building that we were referring to above was the Railway Station. Winterbourne had its own Railway Station until the Beaching cuts of the 1960's.



Refer to <https://www.winterbournedowncarnival.co.uk/great-western-railway/> for more details of the station and the viaduct.



Turn left into Station Road.

*“the first house belonged to Bob Ford, a builder. Next was the Greenstreet's whose family founded the Church. Father Greenstreet who was the curate of Frenchay thought the miners of Winterbourne Down should have their own church and he became the first vicar. .... Next in Station Road was a field with pigs and a lane leading down to Quarry Lane.”*

As you walk along Station Road, you'll see Greenstreets Orchard on the left. Just prior to this is an old cottage, lived in by his daughter Kitty, and after a period of ministerial work in other parts of the country, F.W. Greenstreet returned to Winterbourne Down 30 years later to retire. As we saw earlier, he is buried under the Cedar Tree in All Saints Church.

A lot of Station Road even up to 1950's had few houses. The land in between the houses was used for keeping pigs, chickens and horses.



Continue to walk along to the end of the straight part of Station Road.

*“At the corner of Station Road just before the hill, was another milkman Frank Mann. He used a bicycle for his milk cans and I can remember his fingers were crooked with rheumatism. This was the Frank Mann, who with Sylvanus Moseley, ran the Band of Hope in the chapel every Monday night. One of the children would start the evening by repeating the pledge:- “I promise, with God's help, to abstain from all intoxicating drink and beverages”. They also used to make the guy (with eyes that were lit by batteries) which was carried around the village ending at the top of Manns field, near the station. In later years, the bonfire was held in Hendersons ground, where the Beacon used to be built.”*

As you bear round to the left, there's a cream house on the left with brown framed windows after the pavement ends. This was the King David Off License.

Just down the hill a little on the right, at the entrance to 'Cairn Gardens' is an old house – The Cairn.

“Mr. Hamilton, who lived in the Cairn, owned the first motor car in the village” – Mrs. E. S. Penton wrote in an old Parish Magazine. (I wonder what year that was and what car was it?)

*“Opposite on the right was The Cairn, where Mr Jones the School Master lived. He had been a Wireless Operator in the Navy and was a strong disciplinarian. He always carried a cane as thick as a finger and about 18” long, which he used on the spot, I know !! The Cairn was later bought by Mr and Mrs Kinslingbury. Mr Kinslingbury was Church Warden and Treasurer for many years and at the end of his service was designated Church Warden emeritus. Mrs Kinslingbury was for many years enrolling member for the Mothers Union and also President for the WI. “*



At the bottom of Station Road, turn right, but before this look to the opposite side of the road.



On the opposite side of the road is **Camp View**. In the early 1900's it was called 'Turners Alley', maybe because Mr. F. Turner ran his business at No. 1 as a Monumental Mason. After this, Mr Bert Saunders had a cycle repair shop there before turning into **Hendersons Salon**.



*Henderson Salon looking up Camp View*



*Barbara Hendersons children outside the salon*

Mrs. Barbara Henderson started the salon in the mid 1950's, when it was an unused building on the side of Mr. & Mrs. Pullin's house. At that time there was no running water, so she used to go next door and fill a bucket to wash clients' hair. Gradually over the years she improved the salon as an when she could afford to. It was open 5 ½ days per week and was often still busy at 9pm in the latter days of the week. The family lived 5 doors down in Camp View and she would take her daughter up to the salon while she worked every day. A successful hairdressing salon, she had 4-5 people working there. The salon finally closed in 2013, and the building has now been converted into residential flats.

To the left of Camp View is 'Brow Cottage' #46. "*Miss Tuck the 'Paper Lady' lived here and sold the Evening World and Evening Times.*" From this house down to the side road near Palmers Shop, this was just a field and a cow shed in the corner. Until approx. 2010, there were 2 bungalows on the site of the 4 new houses on this land (we saw photos of these cottages earlier from Church Road).



Continue up Down Road to Bethesda Methodist Church.



Bethesda Methodist Church opened in 1879. On this site was an Infant School room, built in 1840 that held 'Cottage meetings'. It was recognised that a place for religious meetings was

required, and the chapel was built. For the first 20 years, the singing at the Chapel services was led by a flute<sup>4</sup>.



*A Gathering outside the chapel in 1942*

The grass where the pre-school now use, was a barn attached to a farm. Bethesda then purchased it as part of their grounds to be used by the hall.

Above the pre-school grass area within the Methodist church is a white house, 'Hillside'. This stands on ground known as 'The Roundabout' as it was here that showmen used to pitch their tents in former days. (From Ref 1 Page 20) This was one of the Village Shops – originally Holman's shop, then Curtis then Whites.



You have completed the walk; we hope that you've enjoyed it and learnt a little about the history of the village.

We're sure that this isn't the only information that we could have shared, and there's many more memories and photos that could be used. Due to COVID-19, we were unable to visit many people or records offices that may have had information to pass on, so we hope, in time, that more can be learnt. Maybe you have something that we could share with others? Please let us know.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** This would not be possible without the help of many local villagers sharing their stories and photographs. Many thanks especially to those who have contributed to this information: C.Buccan, M.Parker, R.Worgan, K.Palmer, S.Daniels, C.Jones, H.Issac, K. Walsh, T. Martin, F.Smith, E. Pincott, J.Cannard, F.Williams, P.Hughes, Frenchay Museum, along with others who have provided photographs.

All efforts have been made to ensure that the information is accurate and photographs have been authorised and credited for use within the village history walk. Should this not be the case, please let us know, and our apologies in advance for the error.

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<sup>4</sup> Source "A guide to Winterbourne Down" by Winterbourne Down Women's Institute 1982

# References:

1. **A Guide to Winterbourne Down** – Womens Institute - An insight into village life as it was in 1953, and updated in 1982.

**Frome Valley Walkway:** [www.fromewalkway.org.uk](http://www.fromewalkway.org.uk)

- A documented 18 mile walk all the way along the River Frome (including our section) is shown at [http://www.fromewalkway.org.uk/frome\\_valley\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.fromewalkway.org.uk/frome_valley_booklet.pdf)

**Frenchay Museum:** <http://www.frenchaymuseumarchives.co.uk/>

- Useful information on the local area, both online and in person at Frenchay Museum.

**Know Your Place Website:** <https://maps.bristol.gov.uk/kyp/?edition=southglos>

- You can explore old maps of the area, superimposing a current map on top of an old map to compare over time.

**Village Design Statement:** <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/Winterbourne-Down-VDS.pdf>  
(Last updated November 2012)

- Compiled by Winterbourne Down Society and is used by Parish Council to ensure that the aspirations and future of the village are represented in planning applications and any other aspects of village life.

**Parish Council Assets and History:** <http://www.winterbourneparishcouncil.org.uk/pcAssets.php>

- Under the section 'Winterbourne Down and Hambrook' you can read about the assets and history of the village.

**Winterbourn Down Mummers:** [www.winterbourndownbordermorris.co.uk/mummersplay.html](http://www.winterbourndownbordermorris.co.uk/mummersplay.html)

- A group of men who perform their play around the village every Boxing Day. The play died out at the onset of World War 1, but was revised in 1979 and performed ever since (apart from Christmas 2020 due to COVID19 pandemic, when it was an online performance)

**Winterbourn Down Border Morris:** <http://www.winterbourndownbordermorris.co.uk/index.html>

- Village Morris Dancers performing at various events throughout the year