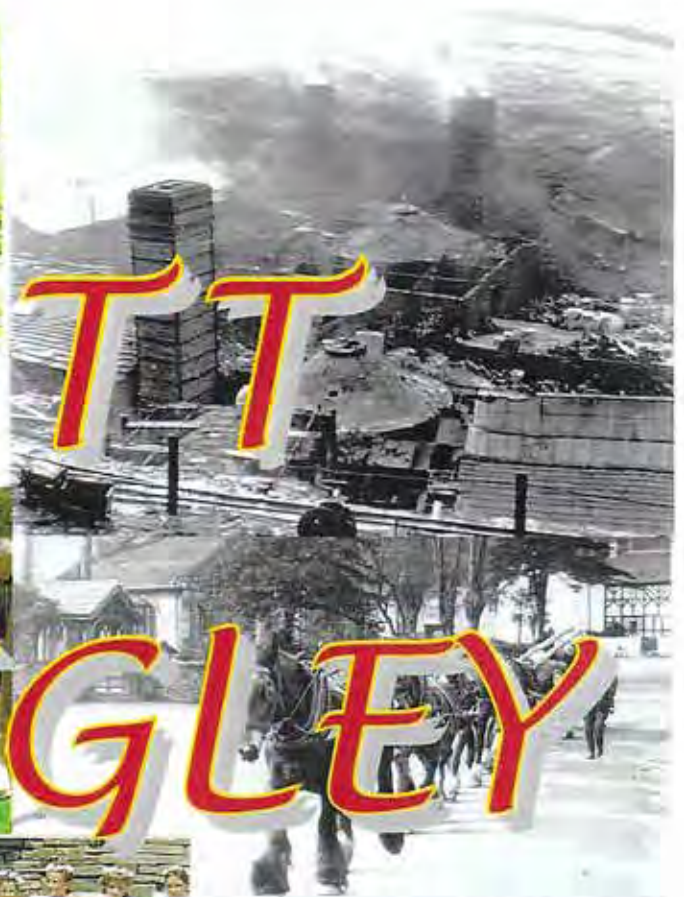


POTT
SHRIGLEY

AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

1894—2000



POTT



SHRIGLEY



and its Parish Council



1894 - 2000





Pott Shrigley Church from an old photograph

"How happy certainly are wee (Good Cosen) that in this stormy weather and world, can under the shelter of these hills lye snug and unconcerned!."

(Roger Downes of Shrigley to Richard Legh of Lyme: Early Autumn, 1674)

"I know country parishes which do just as good a work as any in the big cities."

(Reverend C. W. Aslachsen: Annual Vestry Meeting 1934)

"Some of you can recall days of long ago. Some can remember more recent times past, and many know mostly the present. In each period there has always been, and still is, the same care and solicitude for your welfare on the part of those privileged to bear the trust."

(John Brabazon Lowther: A Message to the People of Shrigley, July 1962)



Old Shrigley Hall, demolished about 1830



Green Close, about 1947

From a painting by F. Knowles in the possession of the late Elsie Beeley

Pott Shrigley

The Village and its Parish Council

Part 1: 1894 - 1970

by Tom Askey

Part 2: 1970 - 2000

by George Driver
(with contributions by others)



Published by Pott Shrigley Parish Council
in the Year 2000
to celebrate the Millennium

Editor's Note.

I am grateful for all the help I have received from Parish Council colleagues and local people. I am especially grateful to Cllr. Keith Meecham both for his contributions (see below), and for his general help with the text and reviewing, and to the late Cllr. Mike Mosley for scanning Tom Askey's text and certain pictures into the computer, also for his technical assistance and especially his moral support at a stage when I was doubtful of my way forward.

Credit for additional material is due to Cllr. Colin Bourne (The Monsoons Came to Pott, Village Roads and the Lengthsman, Nab Works), Cllr. Keith Meecham (Maundy Money, Retail Commerce, The Parish Walks, The Village Green, The Millennium), Kathleen Penney (The Lowther Family Tree, The Rose Queen), and Dorothy Stewart (The Castle).

Thanks are also due to all those who lent photographs, not least to Patrick Black, retired photographer from Poynton, who produced a set of copy negatives of the old Lowther family album, including many which I did not see elsewhere. I hope there will be opportunity sometime in the future to publish more of these. Credits for photos are at the back of the book.

We also wish to thank Macclesfield Borough for their financial contribution.

Above all, of course, we must be grateful to Tom Askey for writing his book, the research he put into it, and for letting us reprint it, and to former Councillor George Driver for the new section.

Tom Askey's text is unchanged except for some minor changes to format. Also the quotations on page 1 have been abstracted from the end of the introduction. To reduce confusion among the uninitiated, we have standardised the format of pounds, shillings and pence as £9.9s.9d. , except in direct quotations. Note that (e.g.) 9/9 meant 9 shillings and 9 pence. There were 12 pence to a shilling, and 20 shillings to a pound.

It was intended that as part of this Millennium Project we should see what interesting old photos people might be able to come up with, and include a selection in the book. As you can see, we found quite a lot, and have also included some recent ones for the record.

My job has been to put all this together into a book. It proved more of a job than I realised when I gaily asked to be given it. I have had far more to learn than I expected, and have to thank certain printers for their time and advice. The work has taken far longer than I intended, but it has been an interesting experience.

I hope those who read it will think it was worth waiting for, and that what we all put into it was worth the effort.

Adrian Bedson.

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Pott Shrigley - The Village and its Parish Council

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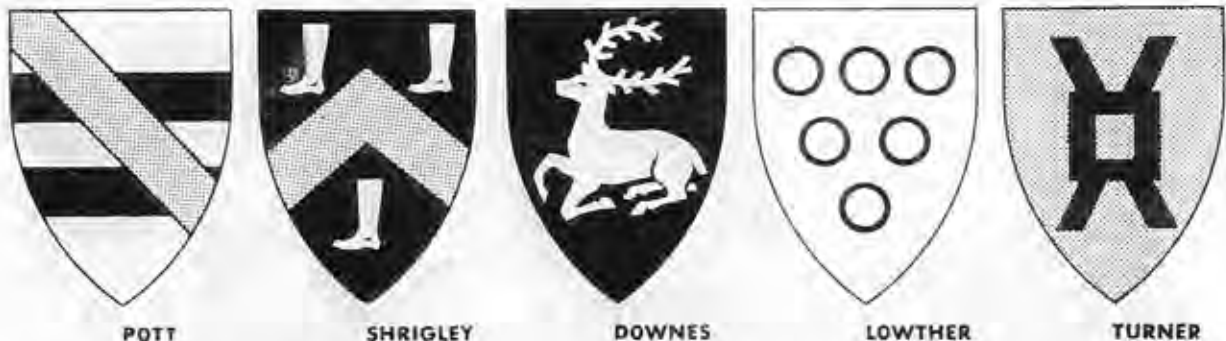
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INTRODUCTION TO PART ONE

Pott Shrigley is a small, scattered village lying on the western edge of the Pennines overlooking the Cheshire plain and largely sheltered from the east by the higher ranges of Peakland hills. Although there is some evidence of prehistoric man in the area, for example the tumulus on Sponds Moor, its social history begins about a thousand years ago. At that time, settlers arrived in the wooded cloughs dividing the hillsides, as a result of the Norse invasions that have left Scandinavian place names such as Kettleholme on the map. The wars fought during the twenty years after the Norman Conquest completely ravaged the district, and the Domesday Book (1086) bears the laconic entry "waste". In the early Middle Ages a number of settlements grew up, at Shrigley, Pott, Birchencliffe, Moorside, Berristall and Redacre. During the reign of the Plantagenet kings these lands became part of the Royal Forest of Macclesfield, held on the king's behalf by the Shrigleys, the principal family then in the area.

Although several theories have been advanced as to the origin of the name Pott Shrigley, it seems likeliest that both elements were originally geographical, becoming later adopted in the customary way by families living there. The Shrigley name signifies a woodland clearing ("ley") made by lopping or "shrigging" the undergrowth. Pott denotes a pool or pit, possibly sited in the still marshy ground by the parish church. Birchencliffe (originally "Birchen Clough") was a small valley of birch trees, a good description to this day. Berristall (once called "Beristowe") perhaps means an outlying farmstead, again still accurate. Redacre is still locally pronounced "Riddy-ker" and was formerly "Ridding-carre", perhaps commemorating an ancient nearby road and meaning the hillocks by the roadside. Pott and Shrigley families were established in the township by the 14th century, and the two largest houses in the village are Shrigley Park (formerly Shrigley Hall) and Pott Hall.



In 1313 the lands held by the Shrigleys passed by marriage to the Downes family of Taxal, Worth and Sutton, who held them for five centuries. In the 16th and 17th centuries the Royal Forest lands became their private property, waste moorland being gradually-enclosed also and cultivated. The parish church of St. Christopher has a long history: the existing fabric probably dates back to the 13th century, although almost entirely built into its present form at the end of the 15th century. Until 1880 however, it was not the church of a separate ecclesiastical parish but was the private chapel of the Downes family and their successors at Shrigley Hall and a chapel-of-ease for the villagers. The township of Pott with Shrigley, also known as Pott-Shrigley (the hyphen finally disappearing at the formation of the ecclesiastical parish), was for several centuries part of the Prestbury parish. That vast ancient parish in the 13th century stretched from Alderley and Chelford to the valleys of Dane and Goyt, although Taxal, Gawsworth and Alderley were detached by the 14th century. Even then Prestbury contained no less than 32 distinct townships and was amongst the largest in the country, be-

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



SHRIGLEY HALL, built for William Turner in 1825, and the home of his family and their Lowther descendants until 1928. Now (1970) the Salesian Missionary College, used to educate Roman Catholic schoolboys with a vocation for the Priesthood. The Hall stands on the site of the ancient seat of the Shrigleys, and later of the Downes family who lived there for five centuries from 1313 to 1819.



POTT HALL, dating back to the 15th century, originally the home of the Pott family. During the last 75 years it was the residence of the Swindells family, two of whom were noteworthy members of the Parish Council: George Swindells (1894 - 1897) and George Martyn Swindells (1937 to 1954). The matured Victorian North Wing (left) would still be new when the Parish Council was formed in 1894.

PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970

ing exceeded in Cheshire only by Great Budworth (35 townships). These Prestbury townships were grouped and Pott Shrigley lay within the Macclesfield parochial chapelry.

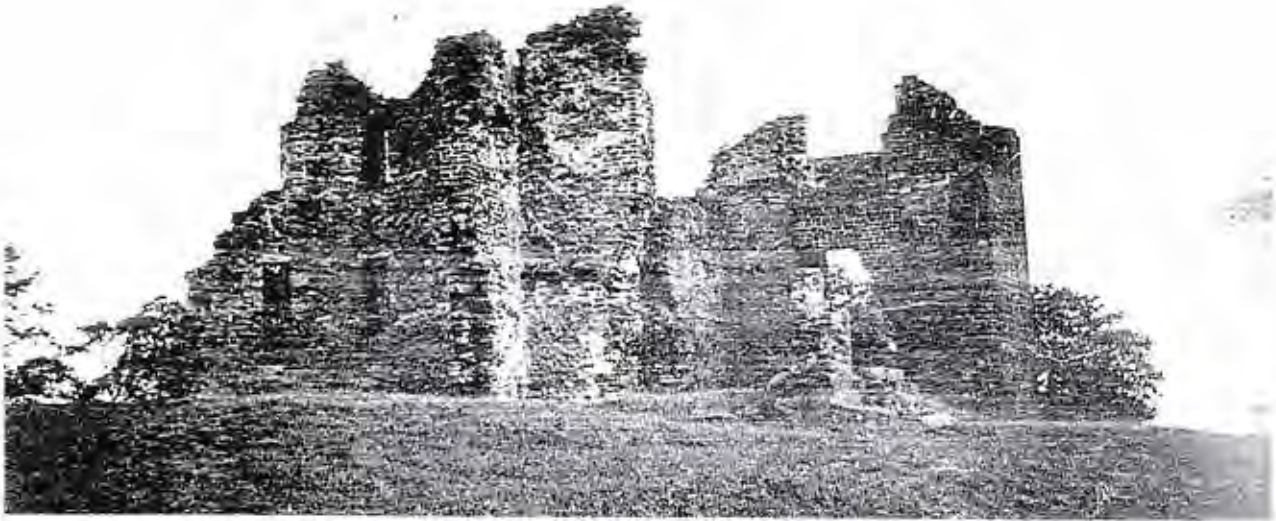
In 1819 the last Downes of Shrigley Hall sold his ancestral lands to William Turner of Mill Hill in Blackburn, one of the first two M.P.'s for that growing town after the passing of the 1832 Reform Act. By 1825 the ancient Hall of Shrigley had disappeared, to be replaced by the present Shrigley Park. The Turner heiress, Ellen, after a famous abduction and forced marriage to Edward Gibbon Wakefield (the founder of British rule in New Zealand), married into the venerable Legh family of Lyme Hall. Her daughter, also named Ellen, married the Reverend Brabazon Lowther of Disley and the Pott Shrigley township thus passed to the Lowthers. They were a junior branch of the family of Lowther Castle in Westmoreland now represented in the senior line by the Earls of Lonsdale. The last Lowther squire to reside at Shrigley, Colonel W.G. Lowther, died in 1928 and most of the estates were sold, although his last surviving son died childless as recently as 1966. Shrigley Park was purchased by the Salesian Order of the Roman Catholic Church for use as the Salesian Missionary College, a boys' boarding school.

This brief account of the Shrigley, Downes, Turner and Lowther families is essential in understanding Pott Shrigley history, because until well within living memory their history was the social and communal history of the village. The Hall was central to the life and work of the community, and the village was governed by the resident squire until at least the end of Victorian days. The owner of Shrigley Hall held the advowson of the church, so nominating the incumbent. He was also dominant in responsibility for the ancient School, which had originated in the Pott Chapel chantries in the 1400's and supported by financial benefactors at least as early as 1684. This School was for hundreds of years housed and funded by successive Downes, Turner and Lowther charity. Right up to 1967, when the present school building was sold by the Lowther estate, the annual rental charged was one shilling.

When the 1894 Local Government Act came into force, therefore, the parish was organised and maintained under beneficent Lowther patronage through two main institutions. Firstly the Vicar, with his Churchwardens and Vestry, was responsible not only for church matters but also then had wide civil authority." In those days social and community services hardly existed apart from the Church. English vestries, each a meeting of the householders of the township, were the most ancient democratic bodies in the world, with a continuous history of a thousand years behind them. They appointed civic officers such as the waywardens (delegated to ensure that the highways were kept in repair) and constables, and had responsibility for generally running and financing the parish. Their chief officers were the churchwardens. The Vestry also had powers to appoint to the village Board of Guardians, which was the second main institution, responsible for administering the education and poor laws and other social enactments. To-day the Vestry still exists as a formal shadow, shorn of all its civil responsibilities by the 1894 Act setting up Rural District and Parish Councils. After 1920 its duties were further reduced, by the setting up of Parochial Church Councils, to an assembly of parishioners and others on the Electoral Roll meeting annually (nowadays jointly with the Annual Parochial Church Meeting) to elect the Churchwardens and Sidesmen.

The 1894 Local Government Act locally set up the Macclesfield Rural District Council (in whose area the village has ever since lain) and the Pott Shrigley Parish Council. Last year (1969) saw their 75th. Anniversary and if the currently debated Redcliffe-Maud Report proposals on local government re-organisation become law, neither will see their centenary, at least in their present form. It is therefore timely and appropriate to set out now the story of Pott Shrigley, read, as it were, between the lines of the Minute Books, recording the public spirit and service of those men and women of this village who have collectively constituted the Pott Shrigley Parish Council.

The Castle



Dorothy Stewart tells us that when she was a girl, this ruin was called by the very old locals the "Edward III" Castle. It stood on the edge of the present golf course where it joins "Cooper's Brews", behind Pott Mill.

It was built of stone. The brickwork which can be seen in the picture was an attempt by the Salesian College to reinforce it. In spite of this, it was very ruinous by the 1930's, and was taken down by the Salesians, because of the danger to children playing.



Pott Shrigley Church before the erection of the Lychgate War Memorial

CHAPTER ONE: POTT SHRIGLEY 75 YEARS AGO

Some parishioners remember it, but for most a considerable effort of imagination is needed before we can picture the village in the closing years of Queen Victoria's reign. Overall, there have been few physical changes. Less than a score of new houses have been built and even they are numbered against the cottages that have since fallen out of use, resulting in a nearly constant resident population. Shrigley Hall, Pott Hall and the farms are still to be seen, and the cottages at Pott and Unwin Pool are much the same in outward appearance. The great difference in the scenery is the loss of trees and woods: only a fragment of the avenues planted along the roads and the clumps of woodland carefully planted among the fields survives. Even these are mostly decayed or elderly, and a vigorous campaign of replanting will be necessary to preserve the traditional appearance of the parish. It is easily forgotten that the beauty of the village's surroundings is largely man-made through the wisdom and foresight of bygone generations.

Let us imagine ourselves 75 years ago on the Bollington boundary, starting a walk through the parish. The views over to the left past the Engine Wood to Nab Hill, and to the right over Spuley Lane to Jackson Brow and Berristall, are little changed. The new Vicarage (1952) would of course be absent and there would be no houses between Berristall Hall and Sherrow Booth. The vicarage was then the old house to-day called Harrop Close, diminished in size since its last resident parson, Reverend C. W. Aslachsen, retired at the end of 1950. Moving up towards Pott village, Fern and Nab Cottages would be there, and beyond them was an extensive roadside wood on the left stretching towards Walkers Green. Only a few tall trees now remain; the bend in the road opposite Walkers Green Cottage has been taken out considerably in road widening. Towards Nab Hill, no Cricket Field and Pavilion would be visible: this land was then part of Nab Farm. Instead, there was the remarkable Bollington and Shrigley Golf Course on the hillside, which lasted until Edwardian days when the members took themselves off to Prestbury. The course must have been quite a test of endurance, as the 12th Green is said to have been the summit of the Nab- some 300 feet up from the roadside. Numerous hummocks remain as relics of bunkers, tees and greens. The "19th Hole" was in the Club House, Woodbine Cottage, the dining room of which was the bar. Beyond Spuley Lane end, the view to Pott Hall has hardly changed: the fine trees have of course come to maturity (there was once a companion to the splendid copper beech overhanging the road in front of the Hall), although the northern Victorian extensions to the old Tudor house would then look still new. Around the church little has altered in 75 years. The lychgate was built only in 1920: the entrance to the church was then the walk to the west (tower) door from the Village Green. The south porch was built only in 1907. The School, cottages and Pott Hall Farm were there, the main change being the conversion of the village shop on the corner kept by the Harding family into the attractive house now known as The Croft.

Up the Bakestonedale road, Pott Mill Cottages and Overheyes Farm were then much as now, although Pott Mill itself has been altered and shorn of some outbuildings to form The Homestead. Beyond this point the landscape has changed drastically. Extensive quarrying, still continuing, has removed Pott Knowl. Across the road, the round kilns of the brickyard are now decaying although then flourishingly active, and the tramway has gone leaving only the former engine shed. The quaint bridge over the road disappeared only two or three years ago, and with it the extraordinary "Low Bridge" sign on the height of the bare moorland road over the Brink to Charles Head. The residence of the Andrews family, which gave their name to the hill beyond, has vanished from the brickyard site.

Normans Hall Farm and Unwin Pool are little changed. Between them the former North Entrance to Shrigley Hall has long been disused and the fine iron gates are now almost

rusted away. They were once the principal entrance to the Hall domain. The Hall itself is externally little changed from the front with the notable exception of the beautiful church built by the Salesian Missionary College during the thirties. The interior has been adapted to suit the life of the community there and to its use as a school, but several of the principal rooms still contain their original ceilings and other features. The grand staircase and colonnade have been removed from the entrance hall, as they were found to be decayed and unsafe during restoration work some thirty years ago. To the rear of the Hall outside there have been numerous alterations including the building of a laboratory. Over the past thirty-five years the College authorities have planted or replanted extensive woodlands - the only instance of substantial planting in the parish in recent years, apart from a fine new wood planted at Keepers Cottage on the Park Moor.

The 1861 Wesleyan New Connexion Chapel at Green Close is now the Methodist Chapel but the scene there is little altered. The former grocer's shop at Needy Gate, kept by the Elsam family, is now a house and several cottages have disappeared from the Lyme Handley side of the road. Towards Brook Bank several modern houses and bungalows have been built; from this point northwards the building is brick, which is as characteristic of this part of the parish as stone is of the "Pott end". The traditional appearance of Redacre, Simpson Lane and Mitchell Fold has been largely retained. The interesting 17th century farm buildings at Redacre Hall still survive, as do the even more extensive old range at Birchencliffe. Both the Macclesfield Canal, with its aqueduct over the road, and the railway (running here for a short length through Pott Shrigley parish, although no station in the village has ever been built) were already a familiar part of the landscape in 1894.

Many of the families now living in Pott Shrigley were there 75 years ago; indeed the same names of Jackson, Wainwright, Cooper, and so on have been in the district for centuries, as the old Parish Register dating back to 1619 bears witness. The names of the houses and cottages would, for the most part, be familiar to a parishioner from last century: the entry in Kelly's 1896 Directory describes a Pott Shrigley which we are still familiar with to-day. However, despite all these similarities with the past, an observant Victorian would note a good many detailed changes in his walk around the village to-day. In 1894 there were of course no electricity overhead wires to be seen, no telephone lines or kiosks, no metalled roads, and no water hydrant signs denoting a piped water supply under the roads. There were no bus stop signs and no buses; the nearest stations were as now at Adlington and Poynton. There were no dustbins, as there was no refuse collection. There was no gas lamp on the church corner, even though this has now become an antique in its own right as being the last surviving gas lamp in use in the Macclesfield Rural District. All these services and amenities, taken for granted nowadays, were not obtained merely for the asking: they resulted usually from hard fights and long-drawn-out battles fought by the Parish Council, who were in close touch with the needs of the parishioners - there is no communication barrier or "credibility gap" between the parish councillor and his electorate! And although we are told by our senior citizens that there was once a peace and tranquility in the deep countryside that has gone for ever, the basic necessities of modern rural life have been won by the determined efforts of former and present village people who gave up leisure time to work in the service of homely democracy.



The village shop (now The Croft) in Victorian days



*(Above and on right)
Needygate Shop before the First
World War*

*The lady above on the right is be-
lieved to be Alice Wainwright, with
baby daughter Amy.*

*Opposite page, from left to right:
Sarah Greenhough, holding son
Jim (killed in First World War),
small daughter Elizabeth,
dog called Dot,
Frances Kirkham (Sarah's mother).*



POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

Plan Referred to



Plan of the Lowther Estate, 1920

CHAPTER TWO: THE NINETEENTH CENTURY PARISH COUNCIL

Few remember 1894. None of the original councillors is now alive. But the Pott Shrigley Parish Council which was born at a public meeting held on Tuesday, 4th December in that year is to-day as lively as never before. That meeting was held in the School, in the same place full of children's desks and chairs where it still meets. At first perhaps little change came about in the way the village was run. All worthwhile progress comes by evolution not revolution, and it was to be expected that those pioneer councillors included the squire and the parson.

The dominant figure at Shrigley Hall was the widowed Mrs. Ellen Jane Lowther, who presided over her family of three, William, Henry and Constance, her servants in the domain and her tenantry in the village outside. For many years this formidable matriarch, born of the valiant Leghs of Lyme, had governed the estate and (what was the same thing) the township. Many still remember her well, with her firmly held principles but often not unkindly ways. The story is still relished of how she had objected to unseemly behaviour at the village inn as she drove in her carriage to church, and forthwith closed it. Her stables by the church remain (part of the property known as Ivy Cottage and Church View Cottage) but the Lowther Arms has never resumed business: to-day it is known as Pott Hall Farm. She performed a great deal of good work for the parish, especially in helping her tenants and in promoting the life of the church and school, being able to give rapid effect to improvements now necessarily entailing long delays for planning approval or fundraising.

The parson in 1894 was the Reverend John Caillard Erck. He had accepted the Pott Shrigley living on the 14th. April in that year, having been previously resident in Ireland for some time and was earlier curate at St. Jude's in Liverpool. He succeeded the Reverend Hector McNeill, who had become Vicar of Bredbury near Stockport. At that first Parish Meeting, called to elect the parish councillors, William Brown of Overheyes Farm presided and the statutory seven members were elected from no less than 14 nominations. The founder Council consisted of Mrs. Lowther and the Reverend J. C. Erck together with Hugh Beeley (Higher House Farm), William Drinkwater (Pott Hall Farm), William Hammond (of Hammond's Brickworks), Edward Howe, and George Swindells of Pott Hall. Robert Wainwright of Redacre Hall Farm (whose son, of the same name, was later to render conspicuous service to the Parish and Rural District Councils) was elected "waywarden". This is the first and only reference to that ancient office, dating from Tudor times, in the Parish Council Minutes, although Overseers of the Poor were regularly appointed until 1925.

The new Council met nine days later and appointed the Vicar chairman and William Brown (the Assistant Overseer) clerk. They all held office until 1896, but from then till 1899 successive Councils were chosen annually. This was obviously too short a term and so from 1899 to the present day, except for interruptions in two World Wars, each Council has been elected for a three-year term. No by-elections have ever been held. These are not normally permitted by law, and any "casual vacancy" arising because a councillor resigns, dies or leaves the district must be filled by the nominee of the other councillors for the remainder of the term. This feature of parish council elections everywhere in the country has always differentiated them from parliamentary, borough, county, and even district council elections.

At the first Parish Council meeting a decision was needed as to the administration of those parochial charities which the new legislation had determined as "non-ecclesiastical". The 1894 Act required their division from "ecclesiastical" charities, all having been formerly administered by the Vicar and the Churchwardens. The Council decided that Messrs. Swindells and Howe were to be co-trustees (together with the Vicar). That was a delightful formality, as the two gentlemen were the Churchwardens. Nowadays the non-ecclesiastical charities are administered by the Parish Council as a whole, while ecclesiastical charities are

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



Horse and Trap at Brookbank

the responsibility of the Vicar and (since 1921) the Parochial Church Council.

The Parish Council acquired its first Minute Book (in use from 1894 to 1943) from Messrs. Claye, Brown & Claye "Stationers, &c." of Chestergate in Macclesfield at the cost of one guinea and one penny, and also a tin deed box costing £1.3s.6d. Mr. Henry Frost was paid 2s.6d. per meeting for preparing the room: he was the Parish Clerk, an official of the church and not to be confused with the civic office of Clerk to the Parish Council - although some clerks combined both positions. These sums were the major items on the Council's first annual budget, which totalled £4.10s.0d. Since then the sums expended by the Parish Council (under the ever-watchful eye of the District Assessor) have not been significantly greater taking into account inflation in money value over 75 years. From the start, Pott Shrigley, with thousands of other villages, has had to pay very little indeed for its primary local government: far more has always been given in goods and services than has been extracted from the rates.

From reading the earliest Minutes, one notices not only that the Parish Council has always been largely concerned with everyday and perhaps humdrum amenities that everyone takes for granted, but also by the remarkable similarity of complaints and problems dealt with then and now. Sometimes they are exactly the same. The condition of roads and footpaths is a perennial topic. As early as its third meeting, in June 1895, we find a committee being appointed to meet similar committees from Adlington and Poynton Councils "re widening road at Wood Lanes leading over Pott Field to Poynton (MS & L) station". The proposal was to convert this footpath (still maintained jointly by Pott Shrigley and Adlington Councils) into a road between Wood Lanes and Brook Bank. Unfortunately nothing ever came of it, the estimated cost being £1000, and the possibility of a useful road link (briefly revived in 1930 and 1936) was lost. Poynton station on the joint line of the North Staffordshire Railway (later London, Midland & Scottish Railway) with the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway (later the Great Central Railway and after 1923 the London & North Eastern Rail-

PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970

way) was afterwards known as Higher Poynton station and served the northern end of the parish for many years until its regrettable and strongly contested closure in January 1970.

The bad condition of the existing roads produced an anxious plea that the R.D.C. examine the culvert under the Bakestonedale road through which the Pott brook passes under the road just above the brickworks. This was done and Mr. J. Fred. May, Clerk to the R.D.C., duly reported that the culvert was safe. At the fourth meeting (1895) "Mrs. Lowther complained of the state of the pavement at the Bollington end of Long Lane as too slippery for horses". Three months later it was reported that Mr. Lawrence Gaskell of Nab Farm had complained that the Shrigley end of Long Lane seemed unsafe for heavy carts. This place was always troublesome to horse-drawn traffic, but was overshadowed in notoriety by Jack Gate Hill from the Adlington boundary to Normans Hall Farm - a constant preoccupation of the Parish Council until the road was finally realigned in 1936.



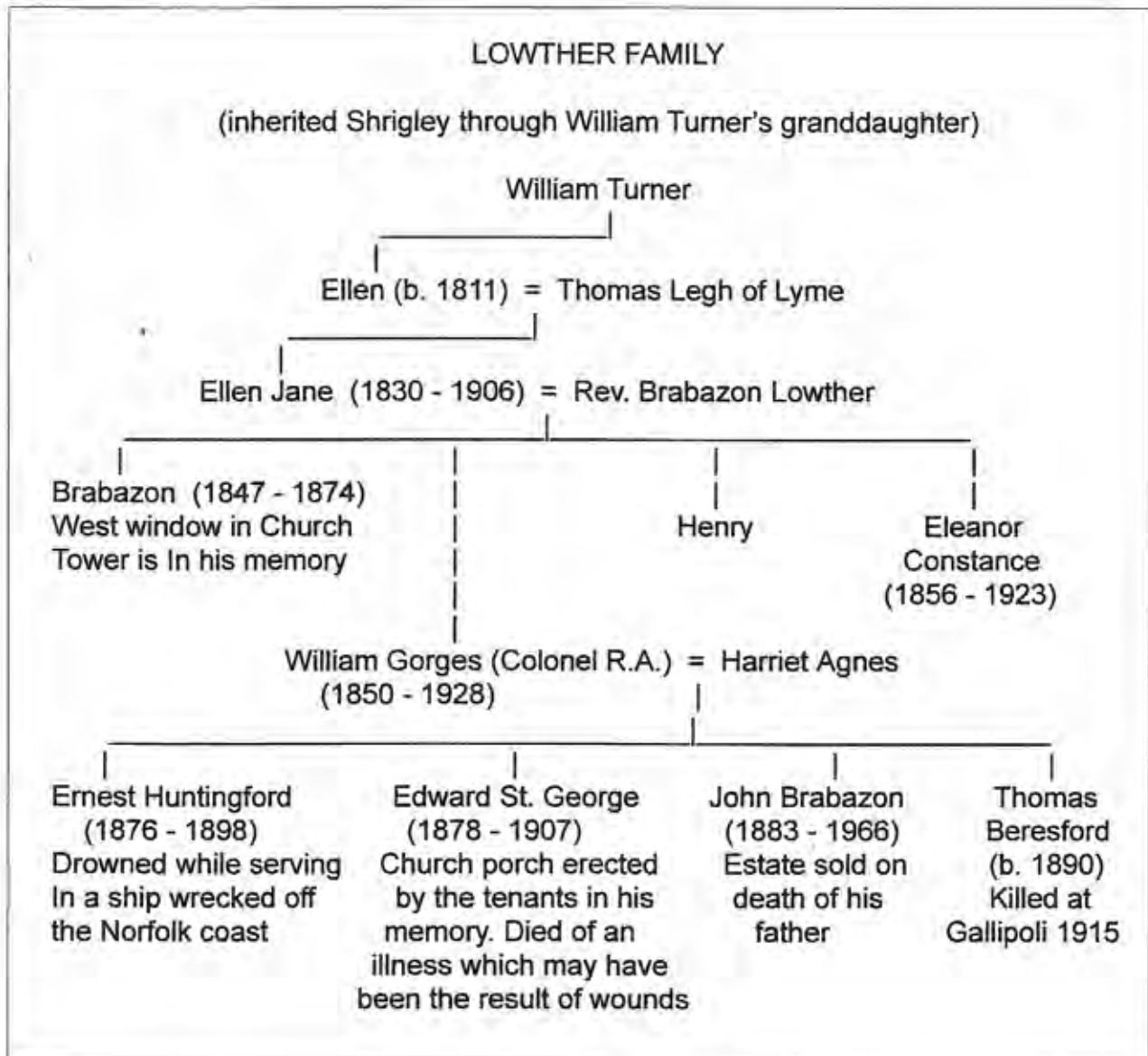
Spuley Lane and Walker's Green

The same meeting in 1895 received complaints from Mitchell Fold and Needy Gate residents about the inadequate postal delivery and collection service. The complaint was backed up by the personal appearance of Mr. Enoch Wainwright of Mitchell Fold and Mr. Elsam of Needy Gate - a reminder that aggrieved parishioners make sure that their councillors are in no doubt as to their views! For many years postal services in the parish were an almost unbelievable medley, with six different postmen making their rounds at various times during the week: Pott village was served from Macclesfield, Brook Bank from Poynton, Mitchell Fold and Redacre from Adlington (Wood Lanes), Normans Hall and Snape House from Adlington (South), Unwin Pool and Moorside from Disley, and Bower Clough and Sherrow Booth from Rainow. The Pott postman from 1864 to 1910 was Mr. Walter Bennett, who lived first at No. 3 Jackson Brow, where his son Mr. William Bennett (the present Parish Council Clerk) was born, moving to Woodside in 1906. The Parish Council was primarily responsible for the present tidier arrangement of postal services dating from 1920 by which the North End to Needy Gate is served from Poynton and the rest of the parish from Maccles-

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

field. A start was made in 1895 when 13½ year old Joseph Barton of Brook Bank was nominated postboy at 2/- a week for three deliveries weekly.

In March 1896 a Parish Meeting was held to elect a new Council. The seven nominated candidates were elected unopposed: William Jackson replaced Hugh Beeley. This second Council lasted for one year and at the election in March 1897 a contest was held between nine candidates. In the following October the first casual vacancy occurred, caused by the death of Mr. George Swindells of Pott Hall. A glowing tribute was recorded to this benefactor of the village, whose lasting memorial is the organ still in use every Sunday in the parish church. John Jackson of Moorside was chosen to fill the vacancy. Again there was an election in 1898, there being eight nominees for the fourth Council. Another casual vacancy happened during this Council's term, when the Reverend J. C. Erck resigned on taking a living elsewhere. His seat was taken by Hedley Silcock of Gib Hill, afterwards Steward to Colonel W. G. Lowther. The new Vicar was the Reverend C. W. Aslachsen, who was to serve the parish for over 52 years; he was never a Parish Councillor, his outstanding service to the community being through the Church. This fourth session was the last of the annually elected councils. The fifth Council, elected unopposed in 1899, served a three-year term in what became the twentieth century fashion.



CHAPTER THREE: VILLAGE ENTERTAINMENTS

Traditionally, Pott Shrigley has raised funds for essential community services such as church, chapel and school by voluntary contributions from socials, concerts, whist drives, coffee mornings, sales of work, etc. Even when permitted by law to derive money from the rates for such national celebrations as Coronations, the Parish Council has usually declined to do so. Over the years great sums have been raised by small separate efforts. This was as true 75 years ago as to-day.

Not always, however, were the profits as large as first reported. "The Macclesfield Courier & Herald" of 24th November 1894 printed the following account on its back page, then the usual place for rare news-worthy Pott Shrigley items, under the headline "Sketches from a Sugar Planter's Life":-

"On Monday evening a lecture under the above title was given in the Pott Shrigley School by the Rev. O.W. Darling, Vicar of Wincle. The lecturer dealt with his experiences in the West Indies, and the growth and methods of manufacture of the sugar cane. There was a large attendance, and the proceeds, which amounted to over £5, were divided between the School Improvement Fund and the Macclesfield Infirmary".

Alas for false hopes, the next issue published "A Correspondent's correction:

"To prevent extravagant expectations, kindly permit a correction. The Rev. O. W. Darling's lecture, entitled 'Sketches from a Sugar Planter's Life', though well worth £5, produced actually 16/3d. gross, leaving an insignificant balance for the schools".

Funds were however raised for the Schools (as the Village School was then called) and the Lowthers were prominent in this activity. The local press had reported during the previous September on lectures and an exhibition on "Bible Proofs from the Monuments" held at Shrigley Hall by a certain Rev. Samuel Schor ("a native of Jerusalem"). Archaeological discoveries were then beginning to support the accuracy of Biblical stories and great interest was aroused. A similar exhibition had been held in 1893.

"In the billiard room a number of curiosities from Palestine were exhibited, illustrating how tenaciously the inhabitants adhere to the manners and customs of the times of Our Lord".

Nor was this all:

"Sermons were last Sunday preached in Shrigley Church in aid of the schools of the parish. The vicar adverted in the morning to the circumstances of the Day Schools, now under Government regulations. To meet the expenses of the current year, estimated at £114, to which must be added £21 overdrawn last year, the fixed income consists only of a Government grant of £63, and voluntary contributions £13, largely supplemented last year out of the proceeds of the Palestine Exhibition given at Shrigley Hall. In the afternoon and evening stirring discourses on Daniel, and the woman of Samaria, were delivered to crowded congregations, by the Rev. S. Schor. The Collections at the three services came to the satisfactory sum of £17.11s.3d."

In the 8th December 1894 issue of "The Macclesfield Courier & Herald", details of the inaugural Parish Meeting are given. The copy also includes an account of a concert (presumably in the School), which proves that the village was not wholly preoccupied with roads and relics, postal delays and Palestine, 75 years ago:-

"On Saturday evening a highly successful vocal and instrumental concert, in aid of the parochial schools, was given by Messrs. H. Blease, J.W.Frost, F.Hulme and W.Kirkham, former pupils of the schools, kindly and ably supported by Miss

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



Shrigley Park - The Entrance Hall



The Large Drawing Room

Edith Hammond and others. There was an overflowing and enthusiastic audience. Considering the limited accommodation available, the financial results testify to the appreciation of this gratifying and thankworthy enterprise. The total receipts were £4.15s.3d leaving " a net balance of £3. 7s.8d for the schools."

Old copies of the local paper, preserved in the Macclesfield Library, report many such village events and bring life back to the pages of the Council Minutes.

PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970

Another activity, once so important and exciting and now forgotten, was the Pott Shrigley and District Prize Fat Stock Show. This was held in the week before Christmas 1894

"at the Cheshire Hunt Inn, Rainow, under the auspices of the Pott Shrigley and District Farmers' Association. There was a very large attendance, and the show was a most successful one. The judges were Messrs. S.Latharn (Rainow), Allan Carswell and J. Goulden; Messrs. Turner and Son were the auctioneers. There were 62 entries, and nearly all were sold at generally good prices. The association is to be congratulated on the success of this year's show".

Typical of those far-off days are descriptions of happy gatherings at Shrigley Hall. One report, dated 22nd September 1900, mirrors perfectly the decorous fun of a late summer garden party, where all the village enjoyed the real but temporary freedom of the Hall and grounds:

"On Saturday afternoon the pretty little village of Shrigley was in one of its gayest moods. Mrs. Lowther had opened Shrigley Hall for the purpose of holding a sale of Work in aid of the Shrigley Schools. The gardens, grounds, and the interior of the Hall, including the Library, the magnificent drawing-room, the dining-room, and billiard-room were open for visitors. Ranged round the walls of the billiard-room were curios of present and bygone days from foreign lands. Teas were served in the library and dining room. The sale of work was held in the spacious hall. There was a smallware stall, a fancy stall, and a toy stall, while outside a tent had been fixed up for the sale of dairy produce, which was very soon sold out. A large number of people were present all the afternoon, and a very successful sale was realised. The privilege of strolling round the gardens and grounds was very much appreciated. The band of the Macclesfield Industrial School was present, and played selections throughout the day and about seven o'clock struck up for dancing. At dusk, Mr.Hoyle (Pott Hall) delighted the visitors by sending up fireworks from the side of the lake. The sale, we are glad to say, realized the satisfactory sum of £60. The National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close".



E. St. G. Mother J. B. d. T. B. d.

The caption from the old family album identifies the group as (left to right): Edward St. George Lowther (died 1907), Harriet Agnes Lowther, John Brabazon Lowther, Thomas Beresford Lowther (killed in the Great War).

Perhaps it was fortunate that the Edwardian sunshine was still unclouded by the sorrows that were to overtake the families of Shrigley Hall and throughout the village after 1914. Although she had lost her eldest son two years earlier in a naval tragedy off the Norfolk coast, the "Dowager" Mrs. Lowther could reflect that Colonel Lowther still had

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

three sons to carry on the family traditions. But one died in 1907 and one at Gallipoli in 1915, and monuments in chancel and church porch could never compensate for their loss to home and village. The Hoyles, after many years of happiness at Pott Hall, lost two sons on the Western Front. The hall families were not the only ones to suffer bereavement, but the cottager tenants had much to ponder on when, years later, the Colonel's lady was observed nursing for a moment a newly born village child, under the anxious eye of a proud grandmother, silently grieving for her own grandchildren that never were, and coming as close to weeping as was seemly outside the hard walls of Shrigley Hall.

But in 1900 the Great War was yet far away. Late Autumn evenings could be convivial still - even on Rent Days! The local press recorded that:-

"Paying rent, although so necessary to the landlord, is not by any means an experience of delight to the majority of householders and property owners in this country. On Shrigley estate, however, the tenants in a way look forward to their rent day, the reason being probably that the gall and wormwood of the inevitable practice is sweetened by the prospect of an appetising dinner and a jolly evening at the hall. The half-yearly rent days were held this year on Thursday and Friday in last week at the hall as usual - on Thursday for the farmers and property owners, and on Friday for the cottagers. Two splendid evenings were spent by the tenants, and the enjoyment was heightened by the fact that for the first time in his life Mr. Henry Lowther presided at the gatherings. The menu consisted of roast beef, boiled beef, pork, veal and rabbit pies, mutton and sweets, full justice being done to all. After dinner the guests partook themselves to the smokers' room, and for the rest of the evening gave themselves up to enjoyment. On both evenings Mr. G. T. Hoyle (Pott Hall) delighted the audience with the famous reading entitled, "How Bill Adams won the Battle of Waterloo". Songs, on Thursday evening were given by Messrs. L. Roberts, senr., L. Roberts, junr., A. Booth, G. Morecroft, Thos. Heathcote, H. Silcock, Joe Bowden, J. M. Blackett, John Wainwright, J. Brisbane, James Kirkham, junr., J. Ratcliffe, G. Robson, G. Worsencroft, Willie Kirkham, and others. Early in the evening Mr. Harry Lowther, who had been voted to the chair, thanked those present for the honour they had done him. He expressed his pleasure at being amongst them that evening. It was the first time in his life that he had been amongst them on an occasion like this, but he was very pleased to think that an opportunity had at length been given him of attending the tenants' dinner at the Hall. (Applause) Before the close of the evening the health of Mrs. Lowther was proposed amid loud and prolonged applause. The next toast, the health of Colonel Lowther, Miss Lowther, and Mr. Henry Lowther, was given and responded to in a similar manner, after which Mr. Lowther, in a few well-chosen words, thanked those present for their good wishes and sentiments. (Applause) After a few more songs, the merry party dispersed with the singing of the National Anthem.

On Friday evening the same spirit of enjoyment characterised the gathering as had been felt by the guests of the previous evening. Messrs. A. Gardiner, A. Booth, William Kirkham, H. Silcock, James Kirkham senr., James Kirkham junr., J. Lowndes, J. Brisbane, G. Moorcroft, and William Jackson were to the fore with their songs, and did much to contribute to the evening's jollity. Mr. Henry Lowther, who was again in the chair, spoke a few words of welcome and encouragement and again responded to the toast of Mrs. Lowther's health, etc. Mrs. Lowther's thoughtful kindness for her tenants is greatly to be commended".

CHAPTER FOUR: PARISH COUNCIL CHARITIES

From their formation, Parish Councils were given statutory charge of "non-ecclesiastical parochial" charities". In Pott Shrigley these amounted to four separate charities, bringing in annually some £5.10s.0d. Seventy years ago this was a substantial sum and a valuable gift to deserving parishioners who had fallen upon especially hard times. Nowadays the sum is less valuable, but is still appreciated if only as a token of good wishes and neighbourliness by their fellow parishioners. Unfortunately there are considerable legal obstacles to supplementing the charities with further capital, although this has often been considered by the Council. Except for special payments in cases of urgent need, the charities have always been distributed from the December meeting of the Council each year.

For many years now, the charities have been presented as cash sums, but in the 19th. century the Parish Council sometimes bought goods for gifts instead. From 1894 to 1897 tubs of coal were presented. In 1894, for example, £5.2s.6d out of an unusually large charity account of £16.8s.1d (evidently due to accumulated payments) was spent on coals, as well as "3 Blankets 16/9½, 3 Fl.P.coats 9/3", and two cash payments of 10/-. Petticoats were given again in 1895 and flannel is mentioned in the accounts for 1896 and 1897. Coal was given until 1898, but since 1899 the records bear no reference to payments other than in cash.

The four non-ecclesiastical Pott Shrigley charities are the Peter Gaskell Charity, William Thornley's Charity, the Roger Holland Charity, and the Poor Housekeepers (or Bridget Downes') Charity. Earlier in the 19th. century there were a number of other parish charities that would have qualified for Parish Council administration but unfortunately they became lost, probably about the time of the sale of the Downes estates in 1819 to William Turner. The Report of the Commissioners for Inquiry Concerning Charities (1837) states of William Lunt's Charity (1688) - strictly speaking an educational benefaction of £1 a year on the Berristall Hall estate for educating two poor children of Pott Shrigley township - that:

"This charity and two others, which will be reported below, are all paid out of Mr. Turner's estate, and, as the lands out of which they issue have been for a long



Shrigley Park Lodge



Lodge Keeper and "Jack"

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
"HAMMOND, BOLLINGTON."

Subscribed Charities 1896
SHRIGLEY FIRE CLAY WORKS,
Pott Shrigley, *Jan* 1897
NEAR MACCLESFIELD

The Rev J C Erck
Bought of **WILLIAM HAMMOND,**
MANUFACTURER OF

FIRE BRICKS, GAS RETORTS, CHIMNEY TOPS, FLUING TILES, BOILER SEATINGS, and all kinds of Fire Clay Goods.

BLOCKS AND LUMPS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS MADE TO ORDER.
GROUND AND SIEVED FIRE CLAY.

PER M. S. & L. RLY., L. & N. W. RLY., AND PEAK FOREST CANAL.

EMPTIES AND ALL GOODS ADDRESSED BOLLINGTON STATION.

TERMS: MONTHLY.
1896

<i>Dec</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Coal</i>	<i>Mr Booth</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Mr Frost</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Mr Wood</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Mr Dodd</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Mr Bennett</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>3 Tubs each 15 lbs</i>					<i>£</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>13 3</i>
<i>Rec^d Feb 2/97</i>							
<i>By W Hammond</i>							
<i>J W Beckett</i>							
<i>Wm Hunt</i>							

PARISH COUNCIL CHARITY 1896: Receipt for coal given to needy parishioners. The coal was purchased from a village colliery. The Reverend J.C. Erck was then the Parish Council Chairman as well as Vicar of Pott Shrigley. Charities have been paid in cash since 1899, and the last Pott Shrigley coalmine closed in 1936.

period the property of the same individual, the boundaries of the different parts of which the whole estate is made up are not now accurately known. Berristall Hall is part of the estate, and contains considerably more than 50 acres. The sum of 20s. is paid every year by Mr. Turner. It is not applied to the purposes of education, but forms, with other sums from different charities enumerated below, one common fund for charitable purposes. The following is a list of these charities and of their respective amounts:-

Lunt's	1. 0. 0
Holland's	0. 5. 0
Gaskell's	1. 5. 0
Thornley's	0.16. 0
John and Eleanor Downes'	1.12. 0
Elizabeth Downes'	0.16. 0
Francis Downes'	4. 1. 0
	<u>£9. 15. 0</u>

The whole fund is distributed every year to aged poor persons and those who have large families, and who do not receive parochial relief, in sums of 2s.6d. to 15s. each".

The first and last three of these are now lost. Oddly enough, this Report omitted for some reason the still extant Bridget Downes charity of 1833.

Of the four surviving charities (each bringing in identical sums to-day as in 1837) the Peter Gaskell charity is of uncertain date. Its origin is unknown and nothing more is known of its founder. An 1821 manuscript records that the annual sum was left "to the poor of Pott Shrigley for ever, upon his estate, the Rock Disley". This is known as The Rocks Farm, Disley and was once the property of the Leghs of Lyme Hall. The charity has been regularly and faithfully paid ever since by the successive owners of the property.

The Roger Holland Charity dates from 1694. The benefactor was the Parish Clerk of Prestbury, in which Pott Shrigley then lay. He willed £6 annually "for ever, to be raised off his land in Mottram Andrew, and to commence at the decease of his wife to the several townships of the parish hereafter named, and to be distributed in manner and form following -----

To the township of -----Pott Shrigley 5s.0d. ----- which said sum is to be paid yearly for ever to the several overseers of the said townships on the first day of December". The first payment was made in 1718 by the surviving executor Thomas Whittaker of Blackden. The 1837 Commissioners' Report states that:-

"The property from which this payment is made consists of 11 acres of arable and meadow land, lying in the township of Mottram St. Andrew, of which Lawrence Wright, esq. is the owner, and Mrs. Lane the tenant. Mrs. Lane pays 10s. every year to the township of Prestbury, and deducts the same from her rent. She has expressed her willingness to pay all the townships regularly in future".

What was promised has been done. To-day the estate forms part of Mottram Hall and the charity is received from its present occupants, Messrs. Ferguson and Palin Limited.

The Reverend William Thornley in 1764 willed £1 a year in money to poor housekeepers to buy a Bible. The money was vested in a Mr. Joseph Gates by the time of



*Pott Shrigley Church Interior
before the arrival of electric lighting*

the 1837 Inquiry, but no further information could be given then. The capital was in fact invested in the Sandon and Bullock Smithy (now Hazel Grove) Turnpike funds. To-day the Charity is received from the Vicar of Bosley, but despite its clerical origin this is truly a "non-ecclesiastical charity" in law. By 1837 the annual 16s. together with a Bible was received each year, but with the rise in the cost of the latter over the years a Bible is now given additionally only about once in ten years.

In 1833, Bridget Downes, sister of Edward Downes the last squire of the old Hall of Shrigley, left in her Will the sum of £110.5s.0d in 2.5% Consols, the interest of which was to be annually distributed on St.Thomas's Day among the poor housekeepers of Pott Shrigley. This now brings in £2.15s.0d. per year and is regularly paid.

All four extant non-ecclesiastical charities are officially registered by the Council with the Charity Commissioners and a small sum, generally 9s.6d., is added as interest on the capital now deposited with the Commissioners. It is an essential condition under all the charities that the persons benefitting must be resident in the parish at the time of distribution.

Of the four charities lost after 1837, that of William Lunt was originally given by this Macclesfield alderman in 1688. He was the owner of the Berristall estate, having purchased it from the Watson family who in turn acquired it from the Shrigleys of Berristall, a branch of the ancient family of Shrigley of Shrigley Hall.

Elizabeth Downes willed in 1744 a sum of 20s. in money to yield annually 16s. for the poor. The dates of the John and Eleanor Downes charity (£40 yielding an annual £1.12s.0d.) and Frances Downes charity (£100 reduced to £90 by legacy duty and yielding an annual £4.1s.0d.) are unknown: probably all three benefactors were 17th. or 18th. century members of the Downes of Shrigley family. The due sums were paid by the new owner of Shrigley, William Turner. There had once been yet another Downes charity, an annual £1 left by Edward Downes in 1747 to be paid to the poor of Pott Shrigley on St. Thomas's Day. This had been paid for over some twenty or thirty years previously but had already become lost by the time of the 1837 Inquiry.



Shrigley Hall - The Long Gallery

CHAPTER FIVE: PARISH COUNCIL SERVICE 1901 TO 1920

The new Parish Council, elected in 1901 for three years from eleven candidates, appointed a new Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk; all of these were, coincidentally, to serve until 1907. They were respectively Edward L. Hoyle of Pott Hall, John Jackson of Moorside, and John Wainwright of Normans Hall Farm.

Among the new problems that this, the sixth Council, had to contend with was the burial of non-parishioners in the churchyard. With the gradual closure of urban graveyards there had been pressure from non-residents for burial in the picturesque yard surrounding Pott Shrigley Parish Church. Some restriction was clearly needed to prevent undesirable sprawl of the village churchyard, and the strong feeling of the parishioners was expressed by the 1902 Resolution, which is still the policy to-day:-

"—— the Parish Meeting considers that only in exceptional circumstances, such as personal or family connection with the Parish, should the privilege of burial in Pott Shrigley Churchyard be granted to non-parishioners dying outside the Parish".

Although to-day this question is within the discretion of the Vicar and Parochial Church Council, the principle is maintained, not in any spirit of exclusion but to preserve the beauty of the immediate church surroundings.

On a more pleasant note, a meeting in May 1902 appointed a Celebration Committee, consisting of Messrs. Hoyle, J. Wainwright, Silcock, J. Wilkinson, Morecroft, J. Kirkham, L. Roberts, C. Bleaze and J. Kirkham snr., to plan the festivities for the Coronation of King Edward VII. Mr. Hedley Silcock was appointed School Manager in 1903 representing the Parish Council; he held this position for many years and the Council has always been represented on the Board of Management, despite the various changes in administration since then.

In the election of 1904, the seven councillors (the number elected has remained unaltered, reflecting the substantially constant population over the years) were elected from eight candidates. This seventh Council appointed Mr. Alfred Gardiner of Rose Cottage as the Assistant overseer and Rate Collector, who thereupon relinquished his Council seat. Mr. Gardiner, who had just been elected, was eventually to render great service to the Parish Council as its Clerk for twenty years after 1920. In making the 1904 appointment, the Council firmly declined the suggestion made by the Clerk to the Guardians of Macclesfield that a rate collector acting in the same capacity in an adjoining parish be chosen: the councillors showed their persistent independence in preferring to choose a parishioner.

In 1906, Colonel William Lowther of Shrigley Hall was elected at a casual vacancy. In the following year he was elected Chairman and served in that office for the next twenty-one years. No-one has held the chair for a longer period, and the end of his term of service brought about profound changes in the life of the village.

Election contests - then conducted by a show of hands at the public Parish Meeting - had become usual, and in 1907 the seven councillors were chosen from twelve candidates. Little appears in the Minutes to show anything other than a steady undramatic ordering of parish government in those years, and the occasional alarms usually proved trifling. In 1908 the Council was summoned by the Clerk to the Administrative Sub-Committee for Education for Macclesfield and Hayfield Rural Area (a fore-runner of today's Divisional Education Executive) to send four representatives to confer with representatives of Adlington Parish Council to make a joint appointment of two managers for the new Council Schools at Adlington. In the ensuing discussion "the view was expressed that, as (Pott) Shrigley was interested in the preservation and welfare of its own

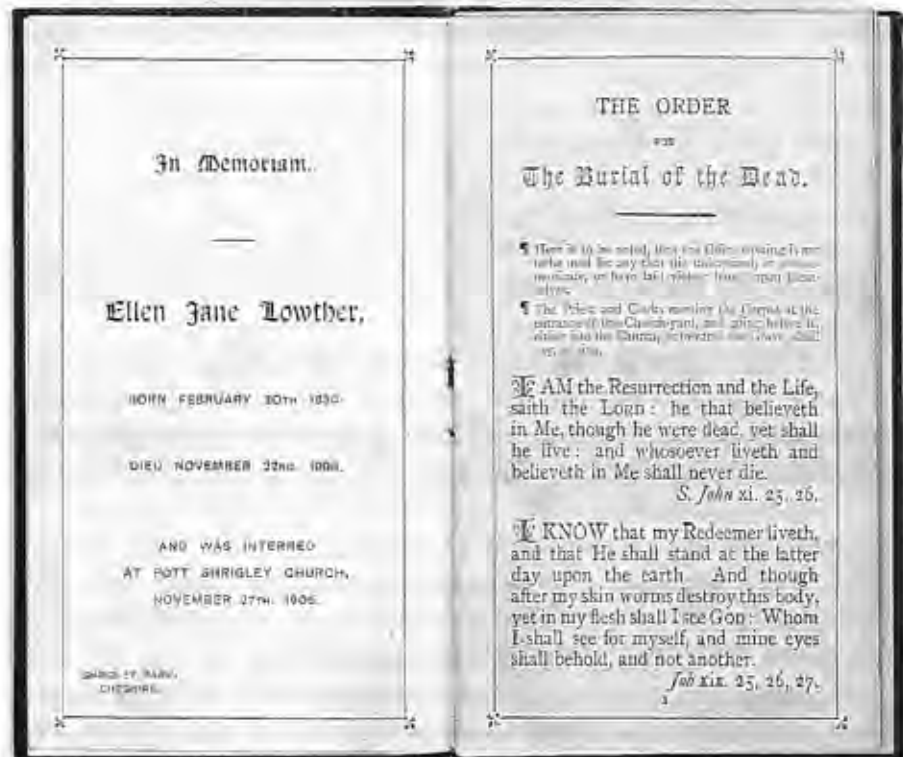
POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

School there would be difficulty in appointing anyone from this Township as manager of the outside school". (These sterling independents would surely have approved the fight for the village school won two generations later!) However, delegates were sent, but ten days later Vice-Chairman Hoyle reported back that they were unable to nominate "a Shrigley inhabitant, and, after some discussion, concurred in the election" of two Adlingtonians. He also reported "that the cost of the new School might devolve in a special degree upon Shrigley as well as upon the other adjacent Townships, that he himself dissented from this view, and undertook to seek information on this point". By the Spring of 1900 this fair-minded man was able to report that he had been "in communication with the Education Sub-Committee and been informed that an error had been made in summoning Pott Shrigley ----- and that it was Butley that should have been summoned". one can only wonder, but perhaps it is significant that Pott Shrigley School is flourishing to-day as never before while Butley long ago lost its own school.

At the 1910 Election, a curious and unique result occurred, The voting was: A. Harding 9, E.L.Hoyle 9, J.Wainwright 8, William Watson 7, H.Silcock 7, G.H.Morecroft 5, J.Jackson 4, L.Roberts 4, J.Beard 3, T.Shuker 3, T.Heathcote 3, William White 2. The seventh place tie was resolved, after a further vote on the two names had produced another tie, by the Chairman's casting vote for Mr. Roberts. (The turn out shown by these figures is the lowest recorded, and in general parish council elections in Pott Shrigley have aroused much interest and attention).

A modern problem first raised its head in 1910 when the Council decided to ask the "Motor Union" to erect "danger signals to motorists at the approach to the Church corner". (They were put up in 1912). Later in 1910 there was a discussion on "the roads in the Township which from the effect of the heavy traffic recently introduced have got into a very bad state". Also in 1910 the suggestion of having a gas lamp at the church corner was raised. Eventually this was fixed as a standard lamp in 1914 at a cost of £6: it survived until 1964 when it was demolished by a lorry and was re-erected (by kind permission of the owner) on the garden wall of The Croft.

In 1911 another Celebration Committee was appointed, this time for the Coronation of King George V. In 1912, the Clerk, Mr. Hoyle announced his departure from Pott Hall and his resignation from the Council. He moved to Holme Hall in Bakewell and was succeeded a year later by Mr. William Watson of the Homestead. The incoming



In Memoriam card for Ellen Lowther, November 1906

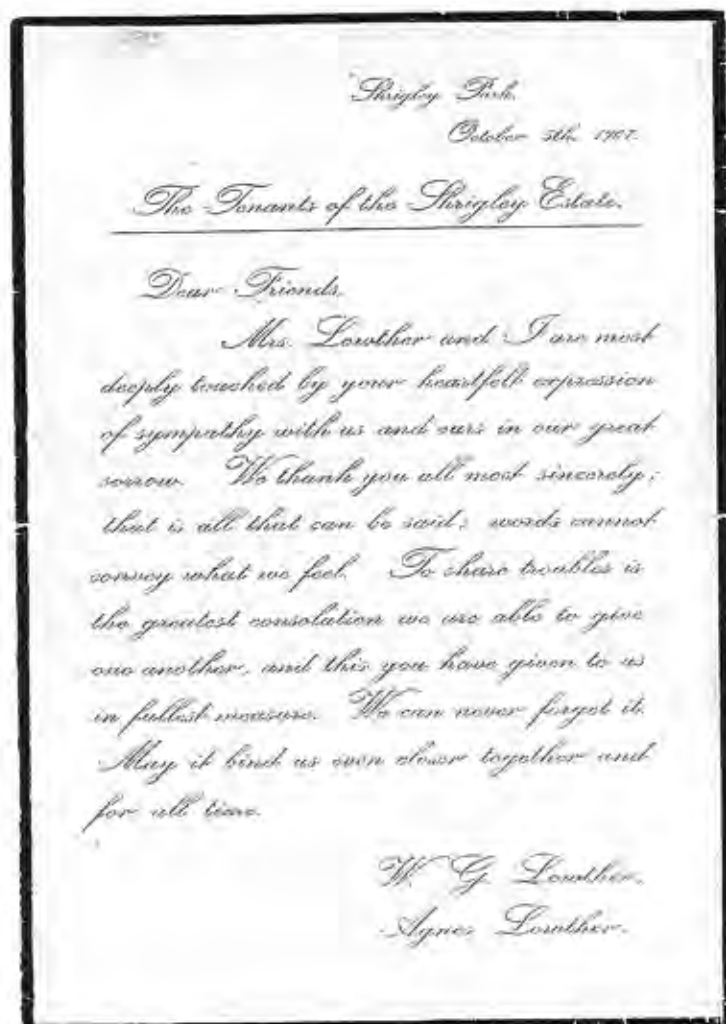
PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970

occupant of Pott Hall, John Audley, joined the Council at a casual vacancy in 1914, as did Thomas Shuker of Higher House Farm and William Wainwright of Mitchell Fold. The new Council of 1913, due to serve three years, in fact lasted until 1919, as no elections (and indeed few Council meetings) were held during the First World War. As in villages all over the country, several of the Parish Councillors served in more arduous and wider responsibilities in Flanders and in France.

Among those who gave their lives were three from Pott Shrigley: the squire's youngest son Tom Lowther, the parson's son H.S. Aslachsen and a popular young village boy Jimmy Greenhough. In recent years the Parish Council has taken up again the befitting duty of remembering them (and others who served and returned) with gratitude on the village's behalf by laying a Remembrance Sunday wreath in a ceremony at the War Memorial.

In 1919 the proposal to have a War Memorial was the subject of much discussion. A Special Parish Meeting (a rare event in this village) was called, and on 10th. July 1919 the parishioners considered "the question of raising a fund for the purpose of recording and commemorating the names of those who took part in the War". As to the form, six suggestions were put forward:-

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. An altar | 2. A chancel screen | 3. A carved oak tablet |
| 4. A lych gate | 5. A parish hall | 6. A lectern |



Acknowledgement to the Tenants, October 1907

"The question of the parish hall was discussed at length, but the cost was felt to be beyond the scope of our small parish and on a vote being taken the Lych Gate was decided upon by eleven votes". A later generation has had cause to regret the timidity of that meeting in turning down the idea of a parish hall, which was afterwards much needed and which is still lacking. However, at that time spare money was unusually scarce and we should observe the clerk's disappointed note in the Minute that only "a fair gathering" was present, commenting further "not as many as might have been expected by considering the importance of the purpose". However, it was a good choice to opt for a lych gate to replace the simple gate in the stone wall which had become the main entrance to the church since the re-opening of the south door and building of the porch there in 1907. Fund collectors were appointed: Messrs. Shuker and Wainwright (Far Shrigley), Messrs. Brown and Kirk (north side of the parish) and Messrs. Gardiner and Harding (south side).

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

On 21st. December 1919 another Parish Meeting gathered to consider the proposed lych gate. "Only a moderate attendance" studied the two tenders received: from A. Howe for £175.15s.0d. and from In. Bannister for £200. The first was unanimously accepted and the site selected was "the East End", facing the road to Bollington". A committee was chosen to see the project carried out: Mr. Arthur Harding (Committee Chairman), Mr. Arthur Clayton, Mr. Alfred Gardiner, Mr. Tinsley and Mr. A. Brown together with the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk. The collection was taken in January 1920 and two of the three collectors' books survive still.

The site thus chosen was directly facing the School and it was soon realised to be a mistake. The committee decided in May that it was unsuitable, expensive and "would not look well". After another Special Meeting, a majority of 13 to 9 voted for a new site, promising further subscriptions and manual assistance. The Clerk, Mr. Alfred Gardiner (who had been acting in that capacity during Mr. Watson's serious illness) was instructed to apply for a diocesan faculty to erect the lych gate "at the South entrance to the church-yard and that the cost of same to be paid by the Memorial Fund". The old stone wall was set back from the road cutting off the churchyard corner and the new lych gate was eventually built in this new length of wall. Permission to proceed was given in August and the following wording agreed:-

"This Gate was erected by the Parishioners of Pott Shrigley in 1920 as a Memorial of the Great War 1914 to 1918 and to commemorate all those belonging to the Parish who served their King and Country".

After careful inquiry, the following was agreed to be placed on the two stone tablets enshrined in the side walls of the wooden lych gate:-

Lt. Hector Shields Aslachsen	Killed in Action
Lt. Thomas Beresford Lowther	" " "
Corp. John James Greenhough	" " "
Pte. Alfred Barton	Severely Wounded
Pte. John Henry Dodd	" "
Pte. Joseph Taylor Harding	" "

Served:

Wm. Henry Bennett	William Leigh
Harry Booth	Wilfrid Lamas
Ambrose Broadhead	Llewellyn Roberts
Henry Downes	Harold Sigley
J.H.Ardern	Walter Silcock
J.Henry Forrest	George Albert Tinsley
Cecil Gardiner	Frank Tinsley
Herbert Hooley	Edwin Wainwright
Arthur Howe	Matthew H. Wainwright
George Jackson	Walter Wainwright
William Jardine	Walter Wesley Wainwright
Charles Heathcote	Allen Wainwright

The memorial gate was consecrated at a service on 11th. October 1920 by by the Bishop of Chester, Dr. H. L. Paget.

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J.B. Lowther in the Music Room



Hammonds' horses and cart on Pott Levels, decorated for a fete

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

SILVER JUBILEE OF KING GEORGE V 1935

THE VICAR EXPRESSES THE VILLAGERS' THANKS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN -

*Shrigley Memo to
May 16. 1935 -
Mr. S(h)uker -
Will you kindly excuse
our being present at your
meeting this evening -
I am sure I shall be voting
the thanks of every one
who so enjoyed the Jubilee
festivities - when I say
how we appreciated the
the interest you showed
in organizing the same*

"My dear Mr. S(h)uker, Will you kindly excuse our being present at your meeting this evening ——— It was delightful to see such unanimity on all sides. And what was perhaps most gratifying was to see so large a congregation assemble in the Church. It speaks volumes that nearly all the people should assemble in Church first of all before God before entering in the secular part of the celebration. Everything was just as it should be, and everyone was thoroughly satisfied with everything: and therefore sincerest thanks are due to you and everyone who took part in arranging the Jubilee celebration.

Yours very truly,

C.W.ASLACHSEN."



Drawing timber from Shrigley Hall grounds in 1923 to Burdin's (later Needham's) yard in Bollington. In the picture are Messrs. Bradley (in front) and Burdin. The Lych Gate can be seen on the left.

CHAPTER SIX: PARISH COUNCIL SERVICE 1921 TO 1937

Another modern problem became noticeable by 1921: that of the unsightly dumping of litter. The first of many representations to the R.D.C. had been made in the Council's request to have rubbish removed from the village green (the small hedged area north west of the churchyard). This was done but nothing came of the suggestion of placing a seat around the large tree there, nor of a later request that the land be transferred to the Council. Since that time the Parish Council has always been vigilant to prevent rubbish dumping. In recent years there have been many flagrant cases of townspeople bringing refuse in cars and throwing it on the roadside or on spare ground. Once this happens, others seem to regard the spot as a tip and the mound rapidly grows. It is difficult to see how this abuse can be curbed other than by immediate local information and the Parish Council is always ready to prosecute anyone dumping their refuse in the parish against whom evidence can be brought - and there is very little indeed that goes on in the village that is not brought to the attention of at least some members of the Council !

The 1922 Pott Shrigley election was again contested, there being 13 nominations. From 1920 to the death of Colonel Lowther in 1928, nearly all the council meetings were held at Shrigley Hall, no doubt out of consideration for the Chairman's failing health. (It was therefore fitting that, forty years later in 1968 and 1969, meetings were again sometimes held there by kind invitation of the Salesian College authorities, during the period when the School building was out of use.) This, the twelfth Council, was especially concerned with the perilous state of parish roads. The old narrow, winding country lanes were becoming a public danger with the advent of modern motor transport. The R.D.C. were urged "to give their immediate attention to the Hill known as Jack Gate which owing to the increase in Motor Traffic &c is too narrow and dangerous, several minor accidents having occurred; also to the state of the road from Pott Shrigley boundary to Shrigley Church, and the very sharp corner at Needy Gate". Persistent pressure led to many road improvements now taken for granted.

In 1926 the Council supported Adlington Parish Council in asking the L.M.S. Railway to install a weighing machine at Adlington station as "there are no facilities for weighing Coal, Manure, or Farm Produce". In mundane aspirations such as this we are forcibly reminded of how drastically the life of the district has changed since 1926- manure-weighing farmers (the few that still survive) would hardly be welcomed among the throng of to-day's commuters into town and their expensive cars!

The Council lost a valued member in 1928 in the death of Mr. Peter Higson of Pott Hall, a barrister-at-law. His place was taken by his widow Elfrida Higson, the first lady councillor in 27 years. Since she left the Hall and village in 1932, only two other ladies have served (Mrs. E. Wainwright and Mrs. E. Hulme), both during 1963 to 1964 and both widows of deceased councillors. Another loss in 1928 was, of course, the death of the Chairman, and with the passing of Colonel Lowther and the subsequent sale of the Shrigley Hall Estate (practically the whole parish) the life of the village had reached a turning point.

Those who to-day enjoy the independence and rural beauty of the village with the minimum of interference from outside local and national authorities, should remember with especial gratitude the Lowther family and their predecessors who had for so long cherished Pott Shrigley and everything and everyone in it. They should also be thankful that the then Parish Council, in office from 1928 to 1934, sought to continue in that tradition of care and service at what was a particularly difficult time for them. Apart from the internal disruption in parish life as the lands and cottages were gradually sold off and as the community learned to stand on its own feet after six centuries of rule from

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

Shrigley Hall, there were serious threats to the preservation of the community spirit from outside. The Council rebutted detailed and carefully drawn-up proposals in 1929 to bring the village into the Bollington Urban District - "Pott Shrigley are unanimously in favour of still being under the jurisdiction of Macclesfield Rural District Council". Shortly afterwards the Lyme Handley Parish Council proposed amalgamating with Pott Shrigley. After consulting the R.D.C. Clerk (Mr. Harrison) as to the advantages, Pott Shrigley fought for its independence again, and finally won after Chairman Thomas Shuker had attended a County Council inquiry on the proposed union at Crewe. In 1934 amalgamation was again briefly raised and again roundly rejected.

In the early 1930's, preservation of the countryside came to be regarded increasingly as worthwhile and the movement to stop wholesale building out of character in yet unspoiled parishes such as Pott Shrigley began. This was ultimately to lead to the inclusion of a large area of the parish in the Peak District National Park after 1948. Among the modest beginnings, the Council Minutes note the attendance at a Buxton meeting in 1933 of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. By 1934 we find the Parish Council beginning to watch over footpaths, it then finding that none had been stopped up. Nowadays the more frequently used footpaths and bridleways are becoming adequately signposted by the well-designed familiar green fingerposts; the success in this has been largely due to the Parish Council and members have personally made themselves responsible for ensuring that some of the less-frequented paths remain available by regularly walking them.

At this time too proposals were first put forward for bringing an electricity supply to the village. To-day it is hard to believe that thirty years ago this essential public service had not been brought in throughout the parish. A deputation went to see the Electricity Company in August 1934 with their plan for a line beyond the Salesian College to the Methodist Chapel and Brook Bank. No objection was raised to having overhead supply cables through the fields but the Council wanted underground cabling through Pott village. Eventually they were successful in getting this done in accordance with a 1935 agreement with the County Council, but their plans for underground cables elsewhere were thwarted by the Electricity Company's already having erected overhead lines from Bollington to the Breck Quarries at Long Lane and then eastward to the Salesian College without permission either from the Parish Council (for the lines in their territory) or from the R.D.C. The Parish Council therefore decided to drop its objections to a still further overhead extension proposed from Pott Mill to Hammond's Brickworks in Bakestonedale. However agreement was reached to put the electricity cables underground between Holme Wood and Pott Hall, but permitting overhead lines at the rear of the houses from Harding's shop (now The Croft) to Vale Cottage. In 1937 overhead lines from Brook Bank on the Poynton boundary to Cophurst Knott were approved.

In April 1935 a committee was appointed to arrange the celebration of King George V's Silver Jubilee. Those elected to serve were: Mr. Shuker (Chairman), Mr. W.H. Bennett (Secretary - making his first debut on the official village scene, although not yet a member of the Council), Mesdames Aslachsen, Harding, Kirk and Tinsley, Misses Milner and Dickenson (the schoolmistresses), the Vicar and Messrs. Roberts, Allen Wainwright, George Cooper, John Jackson, Hudson and Wright. In the following month it was agreed to call on the R.D.C. for £20 precept to cover expenses, then equalling a fourpenny rate. This is the only occasion on which a national celebration was funded from the rates, although this is permitted by law. Two years later, at the King George VI Coronation celebrations, another £20 precept was rescinded by an incoming new Council, as voluntary contributions were sufficient. A varied programme of events was organised for Jubilee Day, 6th. May 1935. Wireless was laid on in the School to hear the BBC

PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970

broadcasts: "listening in" was still a novelty. 72 Commemorative mugs were presented, with sweets and chocolates, to the children. There were sports for the young and a whist drive for the less active. The whole village was gaily decorated with flags and bunting. A memorably happy day was enjoyed by all, and the Parish Council's cup was filled to overflowing by their having actually made a profit (on total receipts of £45.9s.4d) of £1.2s.2d!

Road widening became again necessary in 1935 because of the ever-increasing traffic volume and speed. However the Council was anxious that such widening should not unduly damage the village's appearance and a resolution was sent to the Town Planning Committee about the church corner:-

"That the south side of the road, i.e. the grave yard unconsecrated portion be taken off first and the north side left until the last. That the widening of Spuley Road at the junction of Shrigley Road at Walker Green be effected on the East side instead of the West. That the proposed Cemetery be deleted from the plan".

The roads were duly improved in accordance with the parish's wishes, without destroying any of the fine old roadside trees. However both roads mentioned are without side footpaths and are so dangerous to pedestrians, especially as no speed limit has ever been enforceable through the village. In the following year the R.D.C. were asked to schedule all woodlands and avenues for preservation, any felled trees having to be replaced.

In 1937 a decision was reached not to buy the Cricket Field. This question was first raised three years earlier and the Parish Council have since then always been anxious that this field, owned by the Lowther Estate, should be conserved as an open recreational space for the use of the Cricket Club and others. The price asked in 1937 for the 4.25 acres of the field was some £250 and it has been subsequently regretted that the offer was not accepted. Thirty years later it became necessary for the County Council, at Parish Council request, to prepare a compulsory purchase order for the land. Fortunately the forced acquisition has not proved to be necessary to ensure its continuing use for recreational purposes.

At this time of our history, national celebrations came close together. Hardly had the excitement of the Silver Jubilee subsided when preparations began for the King Edward VIII Coronation. But the long shadow of the Abdication Crisis reached Pott Shrigley by 7th. December 1936, when the Clerk noted that:

"The question was raised in respect to the Coronation Festivities that owing to the present Crisis it be left on the table".

Not for long, though. In the following February another working committee was chosen: Mrs. Harding, Mrs. Kirk, Miss Milner, Miss Tilston (the new assistant teacher), and Messrs. Shuker, Harding, Boond, Pine, Kirk, A. Wainwright, Jackson, Bennett (Secretary) and A. Gardiner. The crowning of the new King George VI was worthily celebrated by the village in May 1937.



POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



Jackson's Brow between the Wars



Vale and Woodside Cottages about 1930. The children are (left to right): Dorothy Snape, Dorothy Bennett (now Stewart), and Mary Snape. The cat is called Nibby.

CHAPTER SEVEN: THE PARISH WATER SUPPLY BATTLE

One of the major problems in the way of development in the parish, even the desirable kind of development in character to preserve and even enhance the village, is in the absence of a satisfactory water supply. This seems remarkable at first sight, as the surrounding hills are full of soft water. But these supplies have to serve an area wider and more populous than the parish, and even to-day there is no spare water in unfailing quantity for the existing population, still less for many new houses.

By 1937 the Pott end of the village had generally satisfactory supplies from neighbouring springs and wells, although piped water was still rare and several cottages had to use the now ruined well in the field west of the church. The Shrigley end was however less fortunate, and the brook separating it from Lyme Handley parish had become unusable. In 1935 the Parish Council had begun to press for a satisfactory water supply for the whole parish, but not until 1937 was a definite scheme presented. In June of that year the R.D.C. Clerk (Mr. Wain) and the Water Engineer (Mr. Walters) addressed the Council on a comprehensive plan. The scheme was to extend an existing piped supply from Higher Poynton into the parish as far as Unwin Pool and Cophurst Knott (and if required, to Normans Hall), to be linked with another extension from the southern end from Bollington to serve Jackson Brow, Pott village, Shrigley Lodge and Pott Mill Cottages.

Clearly however this would not be without cost to the village. In October 1937 the Parish Council considered cutting out the central portion between Cophurst Knott and the Lodge, thus obviating the need for an expensive booster to pump water over the intervening 708-foot contour. Next month the Council agreed to give the R.D.C. the necessary resolution but urged the County Council to reconsider the 3% extra charge on the rates, as this was thought to be more than could be borne: instead a special grant was requested.

Nothing was done by either Rural or County Council, and the water difficulties became serious. In June 1939 the following resolution was sent to the R.D.C.: "Resolved that the Pott Shrigley Parish Council view with anxiety the urgent need of a water supply for the Parish, and urge that a movement be effected to place the whole facts before the Ministry of Health". The problem had become acute, not least because of pollution of watercourses by effluent from farms and fields and from the increasing number of campers in the area. In July 1939 the Council despairingly expressed the necessity of a permanent water supply for the Parish in view of the fact that applications to the Macclesfield Rural District Council have been acceptable but dealt with in a very belated & contemptible manner over a period of two years. We therefore appeal to the Ministry of Health to hold an inquiry ---".

The Parish Council came to the brink of success, but national events overtook them. Within a few months the only water schemes effected were the provision of stirrup pumps at strategic locations. But from time to time, the higher authorities were reminded of the parish's needs.

In 1943 and 1944 the supply scheme was taken up again, especially with postwar housing development being planned for the village, but no pipes got laid. In 1945 the MP.'s help was sought and eventually in 1946 a new draft R.D.C. scheme arrived. This was carefully considered and helpful improvements suggested. Piped water eventually came to Brook Bank by extension from Higher Poynton in that year and piping gradually extended southwards in stages, each stage being prompted by the urging of the Parish Council. The new borehole in Bakestonedale came into use, but had by then to meet the needs of surrounding parishes also. Although even to-day the water shortage re-

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mains, the supply that the village has was only made possible by a sustained and determined battle with higher authorities over a period of some fifteen years.

With the same determination the Council achieved for the village the provision of its two telephone Kiosks. One was erected at the church corner in 1937; the other planned near the Methodist Chapel but was never put up and the present kiosk near the Aqueduct came into use instead only in 1957. Since then, G.P.O. proposals to remove them as being uneconomic have been strenuously and successfully resisted. Although obviously not used so much as those in towns, the Council has always regarded the kiosks as being a vital service not only for the residents but also for visiting drivers and walkers.

During the Second World War, the Parish Council, like thousands of others, organised the collection of substantial sums for war charities. These included the Victory Aircraft Fund, Warships Week and Red Cross Aid to Russia (all in 1941) and the London Air Raid Distress Fund (1942). But it was later that the village really got into its stride, by achieving targets of £1,750 for the Wings for Victory Campaign (1943), £1,600 for the Salute the Soldier Campaign (1944) and £1,250 for Thanksgiving Week (1945). Salvage collection was organised in 1942. Waste paper collection points were: "East end of the parish the School; central part Miss Farond, Unwin Pool; West end Mr. Thompson's residence. Also to communicate with the R.D.C. asking them to arrange removal of metal already accumulated in addition to iron rails in the Church yard".

In June 1941 a heavy storm caused severe flooding and damage in the village. The Parish Council requested an immediate examination of tunnels and culverts from Bakestonedale to Walkers Green, and even to-day the problem of safely carrying away storm water is not fully solved. At the end of the same year, the village suffered again from air attack, this time in the form of a large tonnage German bomb dropped during the Manchester blitz. It fell by Normans Hall Farm, and fortunately no one was seriously hurt, although some damage to buildings occurred. Even though near to the Manchester conurbation, the parish was officially in a "safety area" and played its part as host to evacuee children from the nearby cities and towns.



Snowdrifts at Green Close, early Forties

PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970



Sunday School Sermons, 1938



Pott Shrigley School, about 1950

CHAPTER EIGHT: POSTWAR DEVELOPMENTS

As early as 1943, the Council had been considering the question of postwar housing, as part of a regional plan. In March 1945 outline plans emerged and the Parish Council became anxious over the siting of some of the proposed houses. Not until VE Day had been duly celebrated (with tea and sports in traditional style paid for out of £25.17s.9d subscribed) were detailed proposals submitted by the County Council. Immediately the local expert knowledge of the Parish Council proved invaluable. Several "sites" for new houses actually lay between the church and the eastern boundary of the yard in a space occupied by a few graves and the beautiful mature lime trees which grace the scene. Another proposal was for an estate of houses on the Show Meadow adjoining Pott Hall. These schemes would have been visually disastrous, and fortunately the Parish Council were able to find other sites, including the Spuley Lane, by the Homestead Farm, between Harrop Brow and Higher House Farm and in the Brook Bank area.

The Parish Council has always supported plans for new housing and other buildings in the village where the proposals would have been in character and especially housing for village people. They have however firmly resisted "speculative" building and try to strike a balance between large-scale development on the one hand and complete fossilization on the other. Since 1945, the County Council plans for the parish have drastically changed. Pott Shrigley is now categorised as a parish where no new development is permitted, the only new building being replacement or renewal and even here stringent controls are exercised.

The new Council, coming into office after the contested election of 1946, worked hard at the water supply scheme and at trying to improve public transport. Although the southern end of the parish has long been well served by buses running from Macclesfield through Bollington, northern Adlington to Poynton and Stockport, as well as the Pott village service from Macclesfield, other parishioners have been far less fortunate. Brook Bank residents have to walk to Higher Poynton or to Wood Lanes for buses, while Unwin Pool only briefly had a bus service.

Throughout 1946 the Council urged the North Western Road Car Company to run a service through the whole village from the church, through Unwin Pool and Brook Bank to Higher Poynton. There were said to be difficulties in running buses between Normans Hall and Brook Bank because of the winding lanes and the narrow passage through the Aqueduct, and the N.W.R.C.C. finally refused this through service in October 1946. Thereupon the Parish Council approached a private firm in Macclesfield and joined with the Poynton, Prestbury, Adlington and Butley Parish Councils in applying for a licence to run the following services:-

Route I: Pott Shrigley - Unwin Pool - Brook Bank - Higher Poynton - Waterloo Road - Dickens Lane - Skellorn Green - Booth Green - Brookledge Lane - Normans Hall - Pott Church - Macclesfield.

Route II: Macclesfield - Prestbury - Mottram - Butley - Dean Row - Adlington - Whiteley Green - Bollington.

The licensing authority refused to grant permission, but the N.W.R.C.C. did extend its service to Pott Church as far as Unwin Pool.

Unfortunately this was not successful (the timings were not as convenient as the Council wished) and it was difficult to turn the buses around at Unwin Pool. The extended service was withdrawn in 1949, and an attempt to revive it in 1953 was unsuccessful.

In 1946 the Parish Councillors promoted the collection of household dustbin refuse by the R.D.C. To-day most of the parish is served by a weekly collection and stringent



Pott Shrigley School in 1947

[Macclesfield Express]

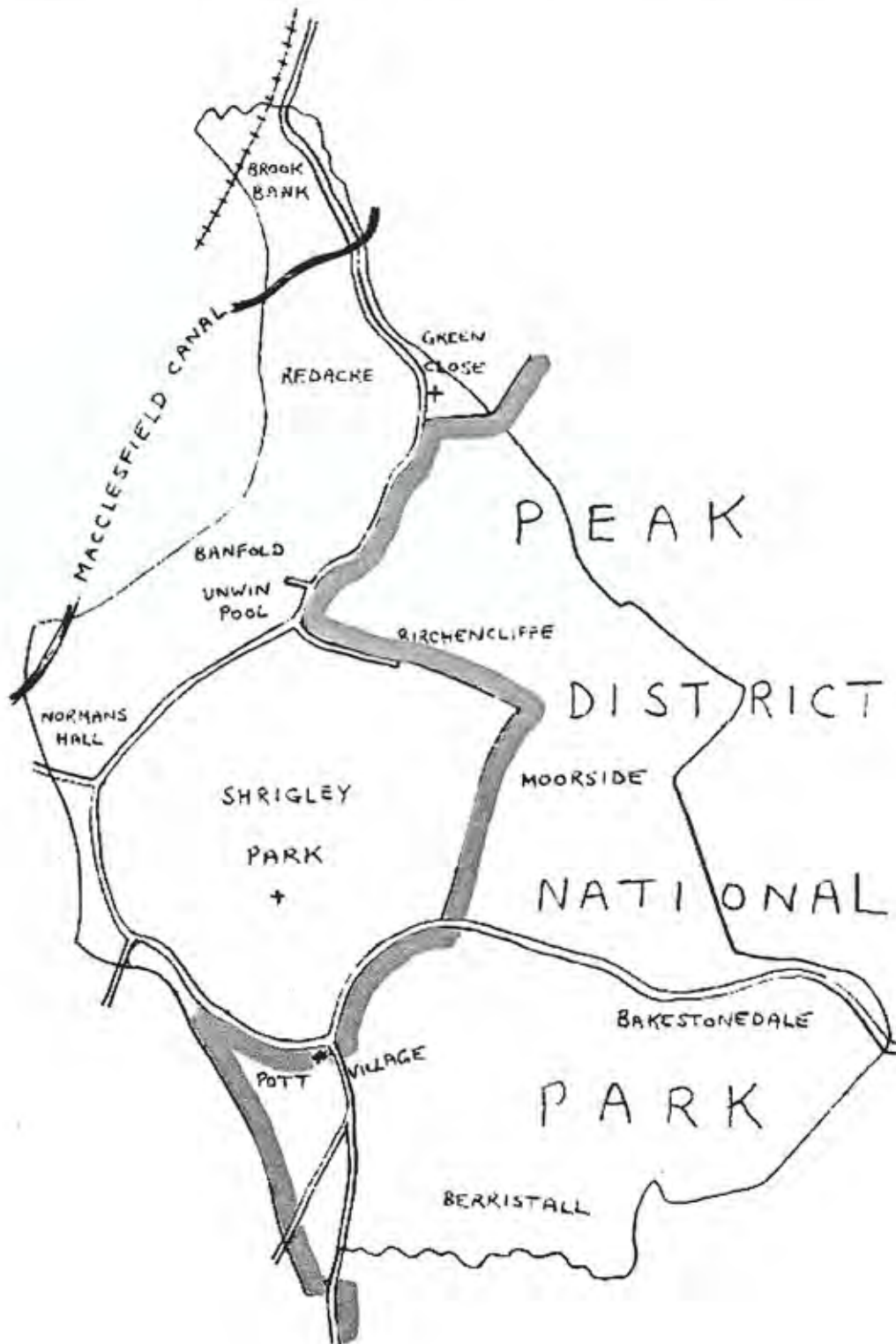
control on tipping within the village is enforced.

In 1947 the Parish Council became founder members of the new County Palatine of Chester Association of Parish Councils, and also of the Macclesfield Area Meeting of the Association when this was formed in 1950. During the last 23 years the Council has welcomed the advice and assistance of the Association on numerous occasions and the successive Secretaries, Mr. N.Cottam, Miss Sheila Chaplin and Major R.Bonner, have greatly helped to cope with increasingly complex new countryside legislation. In turn the parish has served the County Association well: several councillors have worked on the Executive Committee and the parish has provided both chairman and secretary for the Area Meeting in recent years.

By 1950 the Peak District National Park had been formed and its westernmost boundary divided Pott Shrigley parish. The purpose of setting up the Park and its Planning Board were not well understood and there was a natural fear in the village that inclusion meant nationalisation of property and the transformation of farming land into recreational grounds. Pott Shrigley joined with the other parishes affected in the Macclesfield Rural District (Rainow, Kettlethulme and Lyme Handley) in fighting against inclusion within the draft boundaries, and finally a Ministerial Public Inquiry was held at Buxton in March 1951. The result confirmed the border lines but excluded the land to the north of the church containing the Shrigley Hall Estate. Since those days, relations with the Peak Park have become friendly and co-operative. The Park Planning Board

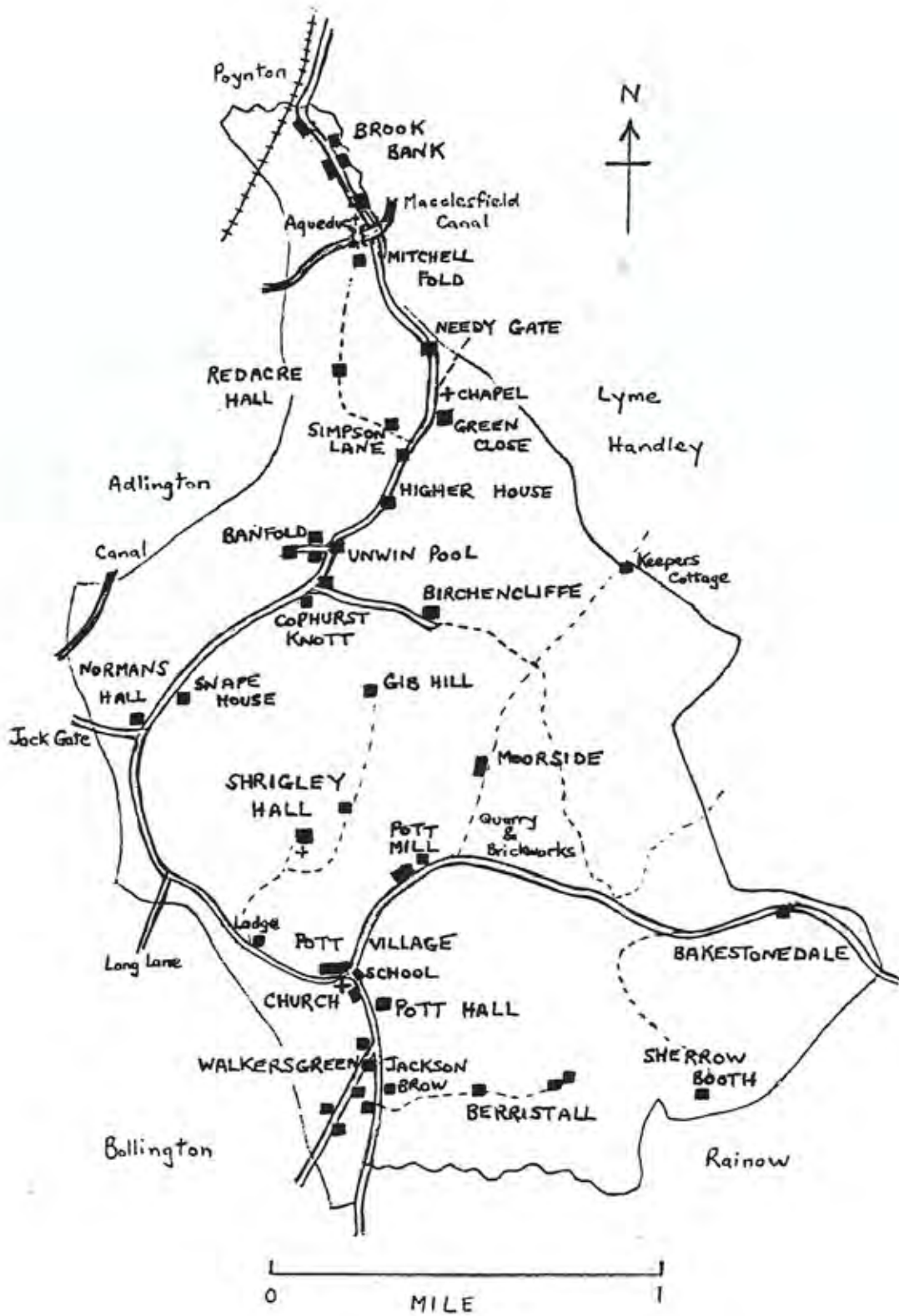
POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

has made its aims clear and has preserved valuable amenities in Pott Shrigley, without unduly harming village life and work. At present the Parish Council is trying to have the boundary line extended so that all the parish - or at least all east of the Macclesfield Canal - is comprised within the National Park. The Board have offered the village one of its famous millstone boundary markers from Stanage Edge and the Parish Council hopes to find an agreed site on one of the village frontiers shortly.



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POTT SHRIGLEY PARISH



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1958 RECEPTION FOR ROBERT WAINWRIGHT, Chairman of Macclesfield Rural District and Chairman of Pott Shrigley Parish Council.

Pictured left to right are Parish Councillors G.Harding, J.Gibson, I.Cooper (Vice-Chairman), F.Barlow, Major J.P.Metcalf and F.Hulme, seated Mr. H.W.Abbott (Clerk to Macclesfield R.D.C.), Councillor R. Wainwright and Mr.W.H.Bennett (Clerk to the Parish Council).

Pott Shrigley has provided three R.D.C.Chairmen: Mr.T.Shuker, Mr.R.Wainwright and Mrs. R.Natzio (the present Chairman).

CHAPTER NINE: THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The parish has long needed an adequate parish hall for meetings and social events. For over a century all public jumble sales, bazaars, coffee mornings, concerts, plays, sing-songs, council and committee meetings, election polling, whist drives, dances, socials and other gatherings that constitute rural community life have had to be held in one or both of the two small classrooms at the village school. This 19th. century building, still to-day housing Pott Shrigley School (itself dating back almost five centuries), therefore serves the active life of the village well. Indeed the modern idea of combining school and community centre is nothing new to Pott Shrigley! But the drawbacks of using the classrooms for both social and educational purposes have long been appreciated, and we have already seen that one form of War Memorial proposed and rejected in 1919 was a Parish Hall.

In March 1953, Parish Councillor Frank Hulme asked the Council to consider providing "a Parish Hall for the social side of the Parish and a Memorial of the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II". This coronation, like its predecessors, was splendidly celebrated in the usual village style (without a penny charged to the rates) except for the novel feature of a television set in the school for villagers to watch the ceremony. But the idea of a permanent reminder of the Coronation prospered, and a "Parochial Hall Committee" was set up by the Council in March 1953, consisting of Messrs. Hulme, Mostyn, Stewart and Wainwright. By the following July, Mr Hulme was able to report that the committee had begun its work of providing "a suitable building to be in keeping with the amenities and to provide suitable social recreation for the parish". For various legal and technical reasons it became clear that the proposed hall should be planned, financed and managed by a body independent of the Parish Council, although the Council continued to sponsor the project. An "Edwardian Village Wedding" was arranged by Mr and Mrs Hulme to raise funds, and the resulting pageant through the village (with practically the whole population arrayed in fashions worn when the Parish Council originated) not only raised the first £23.17s.0d for the hall but also attracted favourable attention to the project from the surrounding area.

Plans went ahead and a site was selected on the Village Green to the west of the church. By the end of the next year the site had been offered by the owner, Mr. J.B. Brabazon-Lowther and planning advice given by the R.D.C. Clerk (Mr. Abbott); furthermore £41.14s.10d. had been banked for the hall funds. In March 1955 the Peak Park Planning Board ruled that there would be no need to provide expensive additional car parking space. The Annual Parish Meeting in May discussed the scheme and the setting up of a working committee. However voices began to be raised against the village hall idea, perhaps fearing a liability on the rates. A Special Parish Meeting was therefore convened in June 1955: only 30 people attended and it was therefore resolved to take a referendum as to whether the hall had the Parishioners' support. The result was 137 against the hall project, 57 in favour, with 5 spoiled papers.

This decision not only cut short the efforts of an enthusiastic team trying to fulfill a real social need in a financially responsible way, but also stopped the movement at the crest of the wave towards what would now have undoubtedly been a valuable community asset in a prime position. Never again was there to be a favourable convergence of the decisions on ownership and planning permission with willing teamwork that are necessary to ensure success. Nothing further was done for nearly nine years and the Parish Council had to content itself with improving as best it could the facilities at the school. In 1956, for instance, the 17 parishioners who bothered to attend the Annual Parish Meeting agreed to buy some new chairs and an electric boiler; the money was raised by a raffle drawn on prizes donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ruddin, Mr. and Mrs. Hulme, Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Stewart, all active supporters of the original parish hall scheme. No doubt these improvements were appreciated by

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

future fund-raisers such as the organisers of the Whist Drive held later in the year for the RDC Hungarian Refugees Appeal. In 1957 the Pavilion on the Cricket Field was planned and built. This has continued to serve the Cricket Club, but is generally thought to be too remote from a hard road and lacking in main services to be useful more widely as a parish hall.

By 1962 the need for proper accommodation became pressing. A number of local organisations, including a thriving Amateur Dramatic Society, were seriously handicapped by lack of a hall. At a Parish Meeting in November of that year, a proposal by Parish Councillors K.W.Penney and B.Stewart was unanimously carried rescinding the 1955 resolution against the hall project. Before anything concrete could be done, the originator and champion of the scheme, Mr. Hulme, died suddenly in May 1963 and the village and Council lost a true friend. In the following November the Parish Council were appointed trustees of what had become (on paper) the "Lowther Memorial Hall". A delegation went to London to see Mr. J. B. Brabazon-Lowther to negotiate for a site, and in the following month a Parish Meeting was held which set up a working committee, the "Village Hall Committee", consisting of representatives of all village organisations.

During the next few years a number of sites were considered and surveyed but without success. Eventually a plot of ground behind the school was offered by the Lowther Estate, but the Village Hall Committee were legally advised against purchasing because of a number of attached conditions of sale which would have restricted use of the premises. Another site considered was on the Cricket Field to the north of the playing area and outfield, and roughly on the spot annually used for the November Fireworks Display. In January 1968 the Village Hall Committee, together with the Managers and Parochial Church Council, responded to an invitation from the Cheshire Community Council to consider with County and Diocesan officials the possibility of building a new combined school/community centre on the Show Meadow. A

Parish of Pott Shrigley



Dear Sir or Madam,

Some time ago a circular letter was received regarding to what purpose the Parish were prepared to commemorate the Festival of Britain Year, 1951.

A joint meeting of the Parish and Parochial Church Council agreed that the installation of electricity throughout the Church would mean a great improvement in the lighting, and it was felt that such an undertaking would appeal to all parishioners and friends.

To complete this project the sum of £350 is required.

We are sure our appeal to you will meet with a ready response.

The Church is our heritage.

St. Christopher's, Pott Shrigley
1498=1951

G. M. SWINDELLS, Chairman.

W. H. BENNETT, Clerk to the Parish Council.

useful conference was held and the proposals received much favourable comment, but nothing came of the plan eventually because of national financial stringency on grants. Immediately afterwards the village organisations became involved in a prolonged and ultimately successful fight, through all ranks of local authorities up to the floor of the House of Commons, to save the historic village School as an institution of continuing vitality to the life of the community. In 1968 the owners of the school building decided to sell and the Village Hall Committee bought it with their accumulated funds and without having to ask for a grant which would have been available, preferring to reserve this for building their hall. Following the Government decision to allow the School to resume in its old premises after approved restoration at no expense to public funds (and pending money becoming available for building a new village school in due course), an Appeal Committee was formed to raise £1,500 for repairing the structure. This Committee consisted of representatives of the Village Hall Committee, the Parent-Teachers' Association, the Parochial Church Council and the School Board of Management. The target was reached by a concerted and sustained effort by the entire village and its friends by early 1970.

In this way, the Village Hall Committee acquired property and it reconstituted itself as a parochial charity registered with the Official Charities Commissioner in London. The School Management have now a lease of the premises for educational and social purposes similar to that held from the previous owners, the Lowther Estate. However, although the School has been safeguarded, the village still lacks an adequate public hall and it is to be expected that the Committee still have some very busy years ahead if their service to the parish is to be crowned with the success it so richly deserves.

The Parish of



Pott Shrigley

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

June 2nd, 1953

- 8-30 a.m. *Holy Communion in the Church.*
- 10-0 a.m. *Television programme will be showing in the School.*
- 2-15 p.m. *The Coronation Queen: Miss Eva Whitehead, will tour the Parish.*
- 3-15 p.m. *Crowning of the Coronation Queen on the Cricket Field, Pott Shrigley, by Mrs. O. W. Lloyd.*
- 3-45 p.m. *Sports for Juveniles.*
- 4-30 p.m. *Tea for the Children.*
- 5-0 p.m. *Tea for Adults.*
- 6-0 p.m. *Presentation of Souvenirs to the Children by Mrs. J. Kirk.*
- 6-15 p.m. *Continued Sports Programme and Dancing. The Coronation Queen will present the prizes.*
- 10-30 p.m. *Lighting of the Bonfire in conjunction with the Adlington Committee on the Nab.*

W. H. BENNETT,
Hon. Secretary

CHAPTER TEN: RECENT HAPPENINGS

In 1965 the parish received the honour of being elected Cheshire's Best-Kept Village in the annual competition organised by the Cheshire Community Council. The competition is divided into four classes and that won by Pott Shrigley was for villages of population under 600 residents. A Commemorative Tree is presented by the Community Council and the Parish Council chose a red chestnut to be planted on the Cricket Field by the Pavilion. Naturally some ceremony had to be devised and the idea of planting commemorative trees caught hold of the imagination and others were offered and gladly accepted. A Service of Recognition was held after Morning Prayer at the village church on 6th November 1966, during which the following nine trees were planted:-

The Red Chestnut Tree: planted by Mrs.S.Harris, Chairman of the Cheshire Community Council;

Six Flowering Cherry Trees: in memory of Mr. A.G.Harding (a former Parish Councillor) planted by Mr. I.Cooper, Mr.John Harding, Mr.Wilbraham Barton, Mr.G.Taylor, Mrs.D. Bevan, and County Councillor E.A.Rhodes;

Two Copper Beech Trees: in memory of Mrs. Alice R.Leigh, planted by Councillor Mrs. R. Natzio and Mr. H.Wrigley.

On several other occasions the village has been a finalist in the Best-Kept Village Competition and there is a class open only to previous winners. The parish entered for this after its success in 1965 and duly became Cheshire's Champion Best-Kept Village in 1967. On both occasions the blue-and-gold winners' sign was proudly displayed for twelve months in a prominent position at the churchyard corner. Another ceremony was held to commemorate the second event by planting the prize tree at a Service in 1968. This time the scene was on the roadside green at Unwin Pool, and representatives of all three Christian denominations in the parish took part in the Service. Again the Community Council's tree was planted by Mrs. Harris, and the following other trees presented by the parish were planted:- Red Maple (by Mrs. N.T.Hill), Red Thorn (by Mr. B.R.Battersby, J.P.), Weeping Ash (by Mrs. K.Penney), Laburnum (by Councillor Mrs. R. Natzio), Red Thorn (by County Councillor E.A.Rhodes), and Weeping Willow (by Mr. I.Cooper, the Parish Council Chairman). The Community Council tree was on this occasion a Copper Beech. At the same time an oak seat was presented by Mrs. E. Wainwright and dedicated to the memory of her husband Mr. Robert Wainwright, who had been a parish councillor for 22 years as well as serving as Chairman both of the Parish Council and Macclesfield Rural District Council.

After 1964 the Parish Council grew concerned by the activities of the quarry operating at a site adjoining the brickworks, and efforts were made to co-operate with the management to secure operating so as to give the minimum nuisance to village residents. By 1967 it had become apparent that the Quarry wished to remove the ancient bridleway linking Rainow and Lyme Handley where it ran by their workings and the Council were eventually able to come to an agreement on a diversion route acceptable to both parties and to the Peak Park Planning Board.

During 1967 and 1968 the Parish Council met in the homes of the councillors, this highly unusual arrangement being necessary because of the closure of the school building at that time. The Annual Parish Meetings were held at Shrigley Park, by kind permission of the Salesian College authorities, so affording a pleasantly nostalgic reminder of the early days of the Parish Council. Since the restoration of the school building, the Council has resumed its meetings in the traditional place. The members of the Parish Council felt in 1968 that some reminder of the approaching 75th. Anniversary of the formation of the Council should be provided and it was decided that this should take the form of a Chain of Office for the Council Chairman. A badge was designed incorporating the shields of the families of Pott, Shrigley,

PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970



Brookbank Stores was operated by the Misses Margaret and Theresa Harrington up to the mid-60's. Seen in 1964 with Theresa. Now known as Brookbank House.



Harrop Brow from the South in 1967



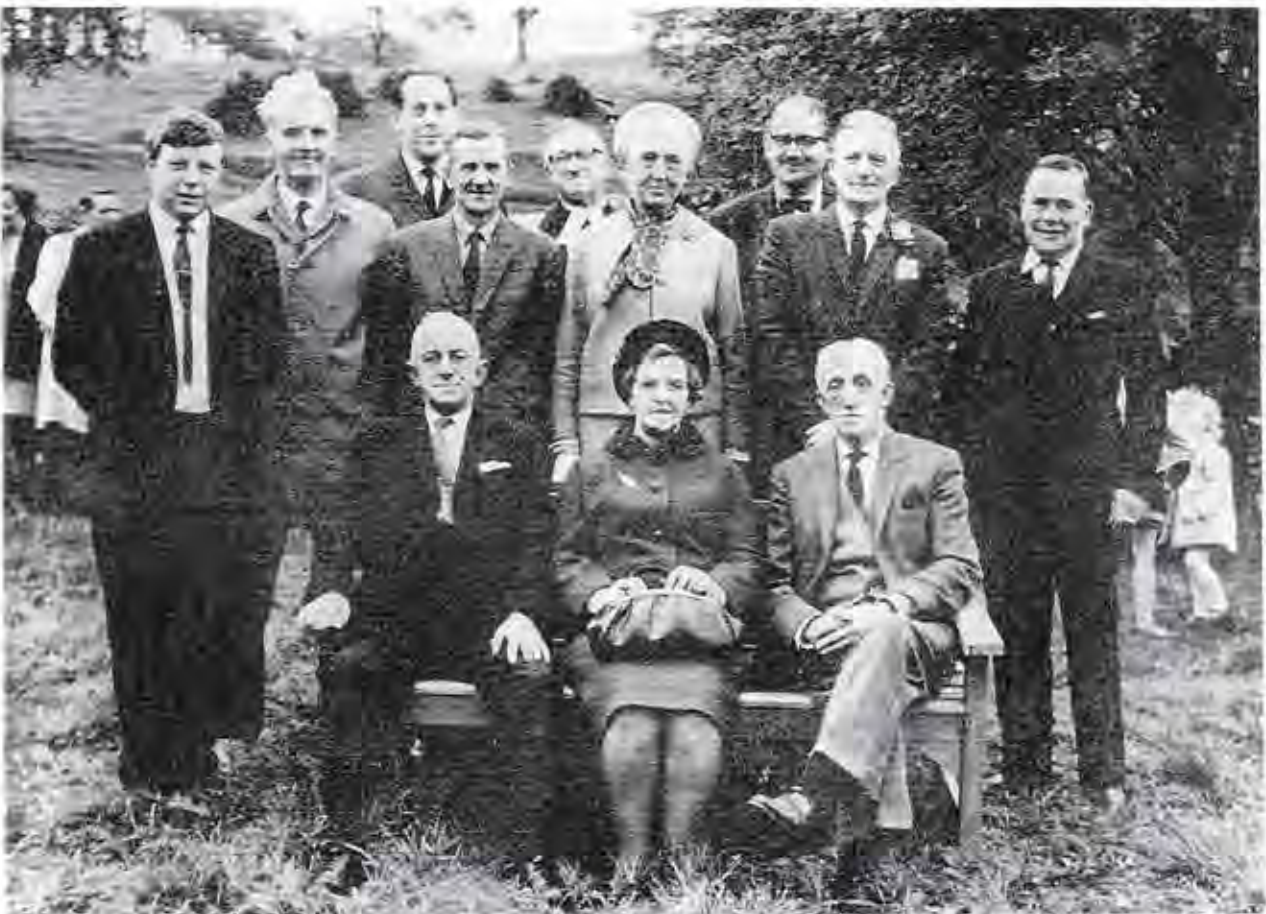
Redacre Hall Farm Building (former Carriage Shed) in the 60's

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

Downes, Lowther and Turner, and the Chain of Office was commissioned from Messrs. Fatorini of Manchester. It was paid for entirely by money raised or donated through voluntary efforts without charge to the rates, and so this was also in keeping with the Council's traditional way of marking an event.

Since the announcement of the Redcliffe-Maude proposals for local government re-organisation in 1969, and especially since the publication of the Government White Paper in 1970, the Parish Council has naturally been much occupied with these proposals and especially with their effects on the village. Through the Cheshire Association of Parish Councils it has supported various improvements in detail, while agreeing with the almost universal wish in the country to reform local government. Broadly stated, the Council supports the view that any new system of local government should provide an adequate voice for rural communities and for a fuller participation by parishioners in real decisions affecting planning, education, amenity and other matters which directly concern them. The Redcliffe-Maude proposals are that Pott Shrigley parish should become part of the Stockport District which is itself to be part of the Manchester Metropolitan District. Some future for the Parish Council seems to be assured, although probably in a new guise such as a Local or Community Council. It also seems likely that, in order to take on further responsibilities, some kind of grouping of parishes will be necessary: if this is so, the Pott Shrigley Council would prefer to be grouped with other hill-country parishes with which it has had a long community of interest.

Whatever the future holds, it will surely continue to require the corporate services of village people who are prepared to give up time and energy for the betterment of the community. Pott Shrigley has always been extraordinarily well served and it deserves the generations of loyalty that the future will have to provide to match the labours and devotion of the people who have constituted its Parish Council over the last seventy-five eventful years.



**Order of Service : Tree Planting Ceremony :
Pott Shrigley Parish Council :
at Unwin Pool on Sunday, 20th October, 1968
Commencing at 3 p.m.**

Introductory and other prayers : THE VICAR

HYMN : "Glorious things of thee are spoken" (*Tune : Austria*)

LESSON : Psalm 104 (Read by Mr. Herbert Walton, Shrigley
Methodist Church)

HYMN : "Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God" (*Tune : Richmond*)

PLANTING CEREMONY : Planting of the trees

1. Mrs. S. Harris (Cheshire Community Council)
2. C. Cllr. E. A. Rhodes (Cheshire County Council)
3. Cllr. Mrs. R. Natzio (Macclesfield Rural District Council)
4. Mr. I Cooper (Chairman, Pott Shrigley Parish Council)
5. Mrs. M. Hill (President, Parent-Teachers' Association)
6. Mrs. K. Penney, (Headmistress, Pott Shrigley School)
7. Mr. B. R. Battersby, J.P.

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL SEAT TO THE PARISH : In memory of the late Mr. Robert Wainwright, a former Parish and Rural District Councillor for Pott Shrigley, Chairman of Macclesfield Rural District Council and School Manager.

Presentation by Mr. H. W. ABBOTT (Clerk of Macclesfield R.D.C.) Acceptance and prayers of dedication : THE VICAR

HYMN : "The King of love my Shepherd is" (*Tune : Dominus regit me*)
(During the singing of this hymn, a collection will be taken for parish funds)

ADDRESS OF THANKS to the Visitors and BLESSING : THE VICAR

(NOTE : The three hymns are respectively Hymns 545, 705 and 197 in the Standard Edition of "Hymns Ancient and Modern".)

(Opposite page) 1965 - TREE PLANTING AT UNWIN POOL

Left to right are pictured Parish Councillors N. Birch, K.W. Penney, T.C. Askey, and G. Harding (Vice-Chairman), The Reverend C.I.H. Siviter (Vicar of Pott Shrigley), Rural District Councillor Mrs. R. Natzio, Parish Councillor Dr. R.O. Payne, Mr. W.H. Abbott (Clerk to Macclesfield R.D.C.), Cheshire County Councillor E.A. Rhodes; and sitting on the Robert Wainwright Memorial seat are, left to right, Mr. W.H. Bennett (Clerk to Pott Shrigley Parish Council), Mrs. E. Wainwright (Donor of the Memorial to her husband), and Mr. I. Cooper (Chairman of the Parish Council).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This short history is based on events recorded in the Parish Council Minute Books, and thanks are due firstly to the Pott Shrigley Parish Council for permission to examine and quote from their documents. The encouragement of the gentlemen presently embodying the Council has been greatly appreciated, particularly that of Mr. Isaac Cooper whose great experience and local knowledge has been of untold service to the village's Council for over thirty years. Especial thanks are expressed to Mr. William Bennett, who has given unsurpassed devotion to Pott Shrigley, not least as Clerk to the Council since 1940. From the generous recesses of his memory and his archives have come facts and photographs that brought the formal Minutes to life again. Thanks are also due to other Pott Shrigley people who have retold their tales of days gone by. In compressing between these slim covers all the vitality of 75 village years omissions and errors have no doubt been made: information (and especially the loan of documents and pictures) to fill out and correct the story would be welcomed. The maps in this booklet are based on the area Ordnance Survey by permission of the Controller. The unknown photographers whose work forms the illustrations are gratefully thanked. The pictures of Shrigley Hall and Pott Hall are by the kind courtesy of "Cheshire Life".

Woodbine Cottage, Pott Shrigley.

June 1970

Chain of office for Pott Shrigley P.C. chairman



PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970

POTT SHRIGLEY PARISH COUNCILLORS

(with dates of service on the Council)

Ellen Jane Lowther	1894 - 1901
Edward Howe	1894 - 1900
Hugh Beeley	1894 - 1896
William Drinkwater	1894 - 1899
George Swindells	1894 - 1897
John Caillard Erck	1894 - 1898
William Hammond	1894 - 1897
William Jackson	1896 - 1901, 1902 - 1907
John Brocklehurst	1897 - 1899
John Jackson	1897 - 1910
Hedley Silcock	1898 - 1899, 1901 - 1913, 1916 - 1918
Joseph Wilkinson	1899 - 1901, 1907 - 1910
John William Frost	1899 - 1901
Matthew Wainwright	1899 - 1901
Edward Lascelles Hoyle	1901 - 1904, 1907 - 1913
William John Robson	1901 - 1903
George Holt Morecroft	1901 - 1904, 1907 - 1922
John Wainwright	1901 - 1913
William White	1903 - 1907, 1913 - 1914
George Frederick Williamson	1904 - 1906
Alfred Gardiner	1904
Thomas Shuker	1904 - 1907, 1914 - 1931
William George Lowther	1906
Thomas Heathcote	1907 - 1910
Arthur Harding	1910 - 1937
Llewellyn Roberts	1910 - 1916, 1922 - 1925, 1931 - 1937
William Watson	1910 - 1920
Charles Gardiner	1913 - 1914
William Wainwright	1913 - 1921
John Audley	1914 - 1919
Archibald George Brown	1919 - 1937
John Kirk	1919 - 1949
William Leigh	1921 - 1922, 1931 - 1937
William Corbishley Boond	1921 - 1937
Thomas Cadman	1922 - 1928
Peter Higson	1925 - 1927
Sarah Elfrida Higson	1928 - 1932
Hubert Wilkinson	1928 - 1931
George John Cooper	1934 - 1937
George Martyn Swindells	1937 - 1940
John Catrall	1937 - 1949
Frank Barlow	1937 - 1952, 1954 - 1961
William Henry Bennett	1937 - 1940
Isaac Cooper	1937 -
Oswald James Challener	1937 - 1946, 1949 - 1953
Harrow Sackville Thompson	1940 - 1943

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

Robert Wainwright	1940 - 1963
Allen Wainwright	1943 - 1946
George Herbert Hetherington	1946 - 1949
James Arthur Gibson	1946 - 1964
Frank Hulme	1949 - 1963
Thomas Vincent Ruddin	1949 - 1955
Geoffrey Harding	1952 -
James Pritchard Metcalfe	1955 - 1958
Kenneth William Penney	1958 -
Bryan Stewart	1961 -
Emily Wainwright	1963 - 1964
Elsie Hulme	1963 - 1964
Arthur Grenville Harding	1964 - 1966
Walter Holden	1964 - 1967
Cecil Isaac Hill Siviter	1964 - 1967
Thomas Cyril Askey	1966 - 1970
Neville Birch	1967 -
Robert Orlando Payne	1967 -
Brian Ratcliffe Battersby	1970 -

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

George Swindells	1895 - 1897
John Nield	1895 - 1896
William Drinkwater	1896 - 1899
Edward Howe	1897 - 1901
John Jackson	1899 - 1904
Edward Lascelles Hoyle	1901 - 1913
George Frederick Williamson	1904 - 1905
Hedley Silcock	1905 - 1918
William Watson	1913 - 1919
Arthur Harding	1918 - 1922
Archibald George Brown	1919 - 1925
William Corbishley Boond	1922 - 1924
John Wright	1924 - 1925

(This Office was abolished in 1925)

PART ONE: 1894 TO 1970

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

John Caillard Erck	1894 - 1898
John Brocklehurst	1899 - 1900
Edward Howe	1900
Edward Lascelles Hoyle	1901 - 1907
William Gorges Lowther	1907 - 1928
Hubert Wilkinson	1928 - 1931
Thomas Shuker	1931 - 1940
George Martyn Swindells	1940 - 1954
Robert Wainwright	1954 - 1963
Isaac Cooper	1963 -

VICE - CHAIRMAN

Edward Howe	1894 - 1900
John Jackson	1901 - 1907
Edward Lascelles Hoyle	1907 - 1913
William Watson	1913 - 1914
John Audley	1914 - 1918
Arthur Harding	1922 - 1925, 1928 - 1937
Peter Higson	1925 - 1927
George Martyn Swindells	1939 - 1940
Frank Barlow	1940 - 1947
Robert Wainwright	1947 - 1954
Isaac Cooper	1955 - 1963
Geoffrey Harding	1964 -

CLERKS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

William Brown	1894 - 1895
Edward Howe	1895 - 1898
John Brocklehurst	1898 - 1900
John Frost	1900 - 1901
John Wainwright	1901 - 1907
Edward Lascelles Hoyle	1907 - 1913
William Watson	1913 - 1920
Alfred Gardiner	1920 - 1940
William Henry Bennett	1940 -

WAYWARDENS

Robert Wainwright	1894 - 1895
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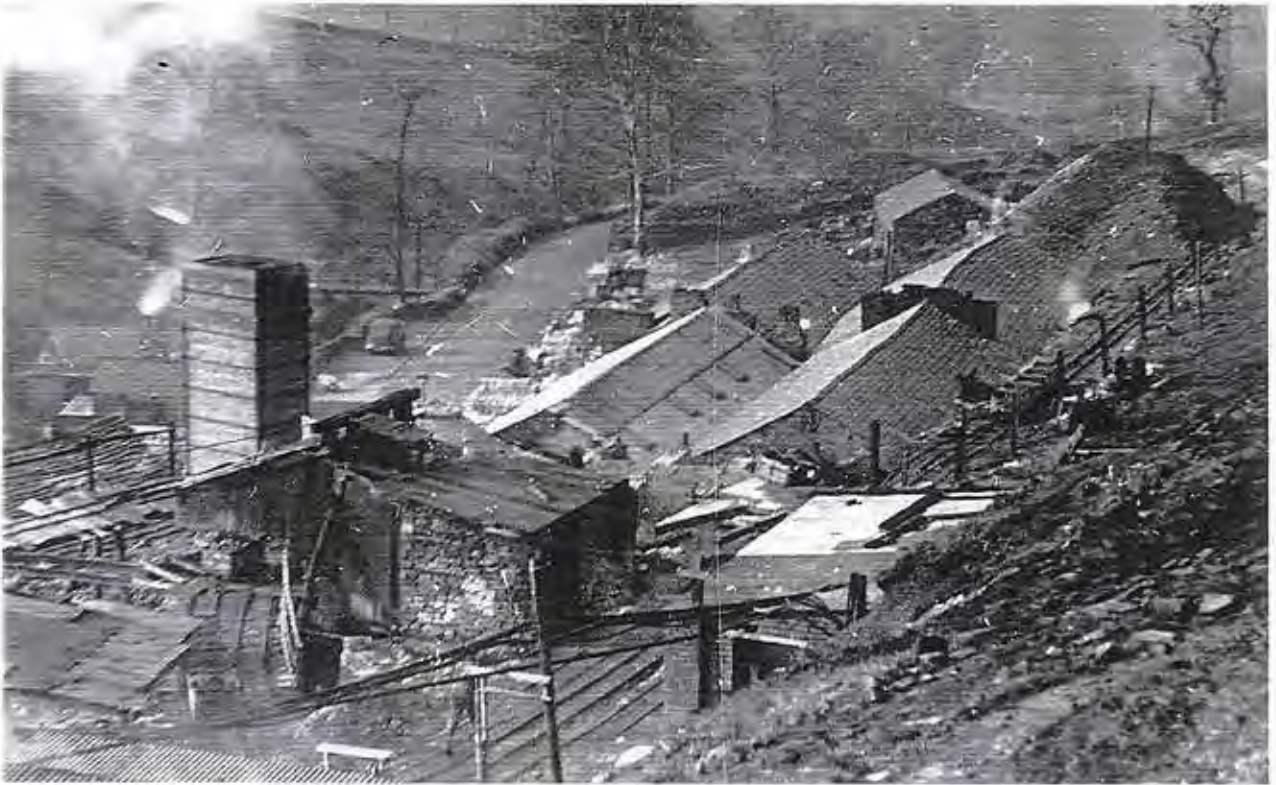
(The Office was apparently then abolished)

ASSISTANT OVERSEERS

William Brown	Before 1894 - 1904
Alfred Gardiner	1904 - 1925

(The Office was abolished in 1925)

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



Hammonds' Brickworks about 1950



PART 2: 1970 TO 2000

Pott Shrigley and its Parish Council

Part 2: 1970—2000

INTRODUCTION TO PART 2

In 1970 Mr Tom Askey published his account of the Parish and its Council, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of modern parish councils. The present account covers the period from then until the end of the millennium, and is a part of the Parish Council's contribution to the millennium celebrations.

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



Shrigley Hall, May 2000



Pott Hall, May 2000, as conversion to apartments commences

CHAPTER ELEVEN: POTT HALL AND SHRIGLEY HALL

Both halls have seen great changes since 1970. In 1983 Pott Hall ceased to be a private residence and in 1984 it was sold to become a private home for the elderly. The major visible change has been the removal of the rhododendron thicket from the front of the Hall, and the felling of the magnificent copper beech which was such a conspicuous feature of the Village (it was said to be dangerous). There are more, utilitarian, changes at the rear, but the front is unchanged, displaying its assorted periods.

In 1999, after unsuccessful attempts by the owners to obtain planning permission for considerable conversion, the home for the elderly closed, and the hall has been bought by developers, who are converting it to three separate dwellings, and have planning permission to convert the outbuildings to a further two.

Shrigley Hall and its park have seen much greater change: the Salesians eventually had difficulty in recruiting sufficient boys to train for the priesthood, and broadened the scope to become a boarding school, but that was not successful and they decided to sell the Hall and the estate. The best offer, by far, was from an extreme religious sect, which created local alarm. To the great credit of the Salesians the offer was rejected, and in 1984 it was sold to become a hotel, and in 1986 a golf course. Another use, which received planning approval, was for a private burial ground and crematorium.

The hotel and the golf course have undergone great changes, some good and some bad. The main building is now in much better shape and, cleaned and floodlit, it can be seen across the Cheshire Plain at night. The interior has been well restored, particularly the entrance hall and the main staircase, which had been removed by the Salesians, and the Hall is now once again a fine building. The unsightly asbestos cement laboratories and other buildings at the rear have disappeared - a very great improvement. A 100-bedroom extension, built in 1989, is not as bad as it might have been.

It is the Chapel, a listed building of the 1930's, which is the real loss. It is still there, but alas, the interior has been gutted to make a fitness centre. The eight altars and the high altar have been removed (each altar and its surround was clad in a different exotic marble donated by Salesians from around the world).

The marble alcoves have each become a different health or beauty facility. There is a miniature swimming pool in the nave, and a mezzanine floor has been slung across the interior to provide a restaurant and ballroom. The exterior is linked to the Hall by an incongruous covered walkway.

The magnificent landscaped parkland is pockmarked with greens, tees, bunkers and hardcore tracks for golf buggies.

The later administrative separation of the golf course from the hotel has resulted in a separate clubhouse. The combination of golf course and hotel, both with frequent commercial events, has produced a great increase in traffic on the narrow local roads.

Gibb Hill Farm has ceased to be a farm and is now private dwellings, while its land

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

has been largely absorbed into the golf course. Several of the ancillary buildings of the Hall – the craft shop, shippens etc. – were converted into staff accommodation, but have now become private residences, whilst application has recently been made for more staff accommodation.

The Holme Wood, which dominates the landscape of Pott Shrigley, and which is protected as a part of the Conservation Area and by a Tree Preservation Order, is at present in limbo. It apparently escaped the clutches of the Official Receiver when the first hotel company went bankrupt, and it has recently been sold privately (it was offered for sale to the owners of the adjoining property but there were no offers). The new owner has negotiated an agreement with the Forestry Commission, which will control its future.

This has generated considerable alarm in the village, with fears of over-felling spoiling the appearance, increasing water run-off to the houses at the foot of the hill and carrying concomitant risks of subsidence. However, the work carried out so far has produced a great improvement in the appearance of the Wood.



*When the rains came—1987
Collapsed culvert in the School Yard*

Left, front to back: Margaret Allerton (Headmistress), her husband Roy, Diane Mavers (class teacher)

Right, back to front: Brian Buffey, Geoff Harding, David Wainwright

CHAPTER TWELVE: THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE SCHOOL

It is difficult to separate the history of the Village Hall from that of the School. Not only are they the same building, but construction of the Village Hall arose from the need to preserve nearly 500 years of primary education in the village, at a time when the school fabric was in danger of collapse. The teaching was transferred to St. John's school, Bollington in 1968, to allow strengthening of the south (playground side) wall.

The village hall committee then reviewed its scheme to build a new village hall with the money left over from the locally collected Festival of Britain fund many years before. In an inspired plan to save the school from closure - a common practice for small schools at that time - they turned instead to buying the school building, in its sad state of repair, and drew up plans to extend it, creating a village hall as a public amenity and at the same time providing a necessary assembly hall for the school. By 1969, the £1,500 needed to repair the building had been raised locally, augmented by grants specifically for a village hall. The village hall trustees became the landlords of the school, the school paid a nominal and uneconomic rent for the premises and shared some of the running costs.

The County Council agreed to reopen the school as soon as the repairs were completed, and children returned in September 1969, after the building was certified safe. Construction of improvements then started. To provide an amenity otherwise unavailable in the village at that time, the trustees applied successfully for a licence to sell liquor on the premises, and the Pott Shrigley Village Hall Social Club was created in the former schoolmistress's flat and stable, with a small bar and replacement toilets. There was a terrace above, leading from the infants' classroom. The combined school assembly hall, kitchen and village hall was then completed and opened by Councillor Natzio in 1973 making Pott Shrigley unique in having a primary school with a licensed bar in the basement, (but not operating at the same time). The school has survived several subsequent threats of closure: such threats in 1988 and 1993, led to vigorous protest by the village and, inspired by the action taken at Rainow & Kettlethulme in similar circumstances, the school managers successfully applied to the Department of Education for conversion to grant-maintained status. This has now reverted under the new government, and to help maintain its establishment into the twentyfirst century, an extension has recently been completed to accommodate pre-school children. Further work is now being prepared to consolidate the school and hall safety requirements and possibly make a more permanent replacement for the 1969 repairs.

The village hall achieved charity status and the social club opened at least two evenings a week for a variety of activities, including chess and draughts, darts, dominoes, table tennis, a dramatic society, folk group, Scottish country dancing and whist drives. The hall and club provided a meeting place for bellringing, choir and cricket groups, Parish Council and PCC meetings and various annual events, such as a hoe down, quiz night, Christmas fair, senior citizens' party, jumble sales, etc. and shared in such activities as the annual sponsored walk, bonfire night and Rose Queen festival. Over the years, evening activities have dwindled, probably mainly due to the rise of television influence. Nowadays, the club only opens on a Saturday evening and for individual occasions, the few remaining activities and annual events. The Scottish country dance group remained the most active group within the village, and the junior branch of the Bollington Festival Players, (Bollington Arts Centre) have loyally rehearsed in the village hall,

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

virtually every Sunday afternoon for the past six years. The club also now plays host to a local branch of the vintage motorcycle club. The hall is occasionally hired for private functions.

A fire broke out one night in the social centre, shortly after VE Day 50th anniversary celebrations in 1995. Amazingly, although the fire must have burned fiercely for some time, it was discovered the next morning, completely extinguished. As far as could be established, the fire raged until it burned through the pressure hose carrying beer from the pump. The beer spurted out under pressure, and put the fire out! The curiously misshapen blob of plastic on the wall is all that remains of the clock, and commemorates the fire. Sadly, the time taken to repair the damage led to some, mostly younger, members going elsewhere for their entertainment, and they have not (yet) returned.

The combined use of the building as village hall and school has been very successful. However, inevitable disagreements have arisen over the years, partly over shared use of the facilities, but mainly over the financial arrangements. In spite of the time (over 20 years) it took to finalise the lease and licence agreement between the Chester Diocese and the Village Hall charity, it was felt that this agreement was not entirely satisfactory. The School's desire to expand to accept nursery entry enabled the whole matter to be reviewed, and in the comparatively rapid negotiation over four years, amendment to the lease and licence has allowed the recently completed extension and a more equitable balance of the rental agreement. The final construction of all planned alterations to the hall and school will offer a great improvement of facilities to both organizations.

In 1992, the school and parish celebrated the 500th anniversary of the introduction of education by Geoffrey Downes of Shrigley Hall. It is extremely rare for a primary school to have such a long history, and as part of the celebrations, the Rose Queen Festival that year was attended by the Bishop of Birkenhead, being Diocesan head of education, and two former vicars of the parish: Rev. Cecil Siveter and Rev. Herbert Watkins. It included a pageant illustrating the history of education in Pott Shrigley.

WHEN THE MONSOONS CAME TO POTT

It's amazing how our memories soon fade as the years slip by, especially when there are few visual objects to remind us of an event. An example is the storm in June 1987. This left the village cut in half, as all the torrential rain fell on the surrounding hills and brooks, collecting into the stream which flowed into the old Victorian stone culvert under the school playground. This was all too much for it to take. It simply washed the culvert away, leaving a huge hole in the schoolyard. There was even more devastation where it passed under Shrigley Road. Mrs. Luckhurst of Pott Hall Farm was having her baby, and unfortunately the ambulance was unable to reach her house. The ambulance approached from the Bollington side, and she had to be carried across to it.

Margaret Allerton, who was the headmistress at the time, remembers it all too well. She has very kindly loaned us some of the many photographs taken at that time, also during the time when the remains of the old culvert were dug out and replaced with large bore concrete pipes. These we hope will last forever. The road and the playground have been resurfaced, and the culvert is quietly carrying on with its work, unseen by all the traffic passing over it.

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Rose Queen, 1968



Pott Shrigley School, May 2000, with new extension on right

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

THE ROSE QUEEN

In 1931, Mrs. Higson, then owner of Pott Hall, suggested that the village hold a Rose Queen Festival and Fete. A girl from the village school was chosen as queen, and all the other children took part. Mrs. Higson herself funded all the dresses and costumes. The venue chosen was the Cheshire Hunt Inn.

Several years later, in the mid-forties, a similar event took place, and became, with very few exceptions, an annual event. Since then the event has normally been arranged by the School, and for about the last forty years the maypole has been a feature.



The First Pott Shrigley Rose Queen, 1931

Left to right: Doug Jackson, Lilian Heaps, Mary Webb, Eileen Bennett, Sarah Cooper, Ivy Bradley (Queen), Margaret Preston, Audrey Lomas, Margaret Wainwright, Alice Cragg, Ronald Bradley, unidentified scout.

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CHAPTER THIRTEEN: THE CHURCH AND THE CHAPEL

Apart from the acquisition of new bells, (see below), the church has been involved in three major development proposals: extension to the graveyard, the replacement of the pipe organ by an electronic one, and construction of an extension to house office & toilet facilities.

Although a little space remained, the church was fortunate in being able to acquire nearly an acre of extra land. Apart from allowing a considerable amount for burials, a tiny triangular garden has been cleared and paved. In this garden, on June 25th 2000, a millennium yew tree was planted by the newly crowned Rose Queen.

After the organ had a second major overhaul in 1979, the church organists found the keyboard increasingly difficult to manipulate, and a faculty was requested to replace the whole organ with a modern, electronic one. This led to considerable dispute among parishioners, some of whom felt that the traditional pipe organ should be completely overhauled, albeit at about three times the cost of a new electronic organ. Eventually, after advice and discussion, it was agreed to leave the pipe organ in place, in case funds could be found to repair it later, but to buy a new organ, to be operated at the east end of the north aisle, with speakers placed for best total effect.

During work to eliminate rot etc., a closed doorway in the north wall was revealed, (incidentally, showing remains of a fireplace) which at present provides an attractive alcove. With new regulations concerning care for elderly & handicapped, plans were drawn up to provide an office and toilet on the north wall, opening into the church through the recently revealed north doorway. Again, this has led to dispute, and fears that an extension will detract from the appearance of this listed building. Fears were also expressed on the cost of such an extension.

New plans were drawn up in 2000 for a considerably more modest extension, opening from the north door, whilst a small balcony extending from the organ loft in the tower will allow room for administration etc., after relocation of at least some of the organ pipes. Funds are being sought in 2000 to make this modified extension.

The Green Close Methodist Church, (usually known as the chapel) which celebrated its centenary in 1961, enjoyed a regular, but dwindling congregation by 1990. It was then decided to renovate the interior of the building and replace the long pews with chairs (and tables) to allow greater versatility and a pleasanter atmosphere. This has helped considerably to renew interest and expand activities in the chapel.

THE CHURCH BELLS

Pott Shrigley has three pre-reformation bells, the oldest in Cheshire, although one was recast as recently as 1607. The other two date from around 1439. In 1968 all three were taken down, cleaned, repaired and re-hung by Taylors of Loughborough, in a new steel frame.

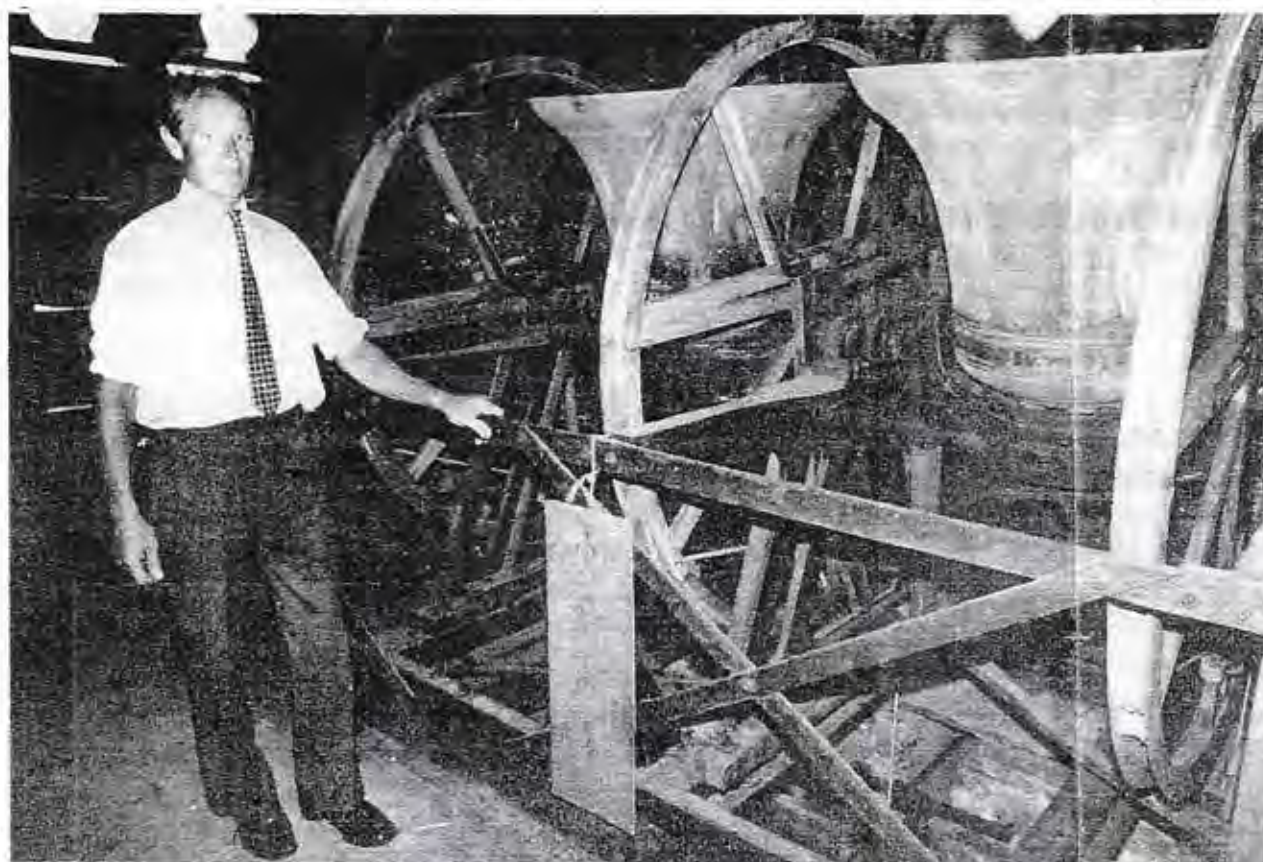
The bell ringers, being ambitious, pressed for a frame to hold six bells, but the Parochial Church Council was not in favour, as it could foresee expense. Intense and per-

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1968—Rehanging the three old bells after restoration work by Taylors of Loughborough. The smallest (treble) was welded (a new technique) in Cambridge.

From left: Eric Fowler (bell hanger from Taylors), Tom Askey (with child), Leslie Hadfield (churchwarden) at back, Mrs. Siviter (behind winch), Billy Bennett (in waistcoat), Rev. Siviter, also other Taylors' men. [Stockport Express]



Mr. Brian Schofield pictured with the bells at Pott Shrigley Church [Macclesfield Community News]

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sistent lobbying resulted in an eventual change of mind, and in 1983 the PCC gave permission for an increase to six, provided that the bell ringers paid for it.

A committee of six was then set up, and by 1986 it had raised £11,500, and collected a lot of bell metal. Two bells were supplied and hung by Eayre and Smith (and cast by Eigsbouts in Holland under the eye of Brian Schofield, the Pott Shrigley Bell Captain, and his wife Muriel). The third bell came from a redundant church at Lockington in Derbyshire. One new bell and its fittings were donated by Dennis and Doris Warren in memory of their son. All three of the additional bells were lighter than the originals.

The new six was dedicated by the Bishop of Chester on 26th September 1986, and has rung for all church services and weddings since then, as well as on many other occasions chosen by the bell ringers. They have of course rung for the year 2000 and will again ring in the new millennium.

MAUNDY MONEY

The parish was honoured by the nomination in 1994 of Vernon Peers, churchwarden of thirty years' standing, to receive the Maundy Money from Her Majesty at the annual ceremony, held that year in Chester Cathedral.



Green Close Chapel in the 1990s

CHAPTER FOURTEEN: INDUSTRY

FARMING

Farming in the Parish has seen many changes since 1970, largely as a result of the EEC and its Common Agricultural Policy, but also as a result of an ageing farming population with a dearth of successors and the BSE problem. In 1970 there were around 13 farms in the Parish of which 8 produced milk. Eight farms have disappeared, none now produces milk and three new farms have started.

The advent of the EEC (now EU) stimulated milk production with subsidies designed mainly for French and German subsistence farmers, resulting in vast surpluses of dairy products. That led to the introduction of milk quotas for farms, and these quotas became commodities, which could be bought and sold. Sizeable capital sums could be made by going out of milk production and cashing in the quotas. This happened across the whole country and in the Parish.



Haymaking in the Sixties—Les Wood at Green Close

The obvious switch to beef production has been complicated by the BSE affair, which could well turn out to have been a disease of European politics, rather than of cattle. Farming in the Parish has yet to stabilise itself. There has been a considerable increase in the sheep population of the Parish as a result of EEC subsidies involving the 500ft contour, although recent sheep prices have also hurt parish farmers.

QUARRYING

In 1970 there were two other industries in the Parish: quarrying and brickmaking. Both were carried out just off the Bakestonedale Road.

The Moorside Quarry produced sandstone, principally as roadstone, but this proved to be unsuitable as a foundation for modern heavy-duty roads. Its declining years and the events following its closure occupied a lot of Parish Council time and effort.

In 1969 the then owners, Sneyd Refractors, had been refused planning permission for an extension, but they won their appeal against this refusal at a public enquiry in 1970. The Parish Council was opposed to the extension, and was represented by an architect at the enquiry at a cost of £74. Shortly afterwards, an error in blasting (involving

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2,446lb of explosive) caused considerable damage to property in Moorside, confirming the Council's concern.

In 1977 the Peak Park Planning Board, despite strong protests from the Parish Council, approved a further extension to the quarry. The Peak Park officers said that they had been unaware that the new quarry face would be visible across the Cheshire Plain as a scar on the otherwise green foothills (but the Parish Council had advised them verbally and in writing!). In the event it stood out like a sore thumb from the M56 when the evening light was on it.

The Peak Park applied a string of conditions to the permission, particularly on the eventual restoration of the site, most of which proved to be impracticable and were eventually abandoned.

In 1978 output was limited to 118,000 tons p.a., while in 1982 there was another error in blasting, which was felt as far away as Redacre Hall, two kilometres away.

The quarry was finally closed in 1987, as there was no demand for its product, and in 1988 it was sold, together with all the responsibility for the restoration conditions, to a local man. Thus the owners very neatly evaded some very expensive restoration work.

By 1989 there were complaints about tipping in the quarry, also about motor cycle scrambles and four wheel drive weekends, together with an application for a dry ski slope. Major tipping, involving 60 monster lorries per day, which were incapable of climbing Brookledge Lane, occurred in 1990 when, without planning permission, over 100,000 tons of motorway spoil was tipped.

The Peak Park moved with its usual lack of urgency, but eventually the situation was brought under control, and some restoration was carried out. However, most of that laid down by the planning authority was abandoned as being impracticable. Later the quarry became a part of a Countryside Commission Stewardship scheme, with some concessionary paths in it. It is now greening over quite well.

Meanwhile however, the formerly tiny (0.7Ha.) wooded ex-quarry on Nab Hill, at the border of the parish off Long Lane, was reopened as a brick-making centre using the sandstone from Moorside Quarry. Although most of the quarry lay in Bollington, a small part, including the only exit and all commercial access, is in and through Pott Shrigley Parish.

After a short time, the brickmaking was discontinued (the material proved too wearing for the machinery), and the quarry lay idle until it was bought by a Congleton firm. This led to other industries springing up, with little restriction on huge expansion to 4.5Ha. 17 organisations function there, in spite of being in the North Cheshire Green Belt and in an area of special County Value for Landscape, as defined in the Macclesfield local plan of 1984 and draft Borough Plan of 1994. Planning permission has not always been received, nor conditions imposed adhered to. This has led to noise, smell, fluid and chemical pollution, with sanitation and drainage problems, and physical disfigurement of the area and occasionally its surroundings, when materials have been scattered over

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



Nab Works

neighbouring areas after a storm. With the concomitant traffic increase on this narrow road, these industries have been entirely to the detriment of the village, with no compensating benefit.

BRICKMAKING

The most spectacular industrial loss has been the brickworks: a trip down Bakestone-dale Road, after dark, was like a descent into Dante's Inferno. There were old-fashioned beehive brick kilns glowing red and belching black smoke and flames alongside the road.

The principal product was firebricks for furnaces, and the raw materials, coal and shale, were produced on the site. Some building bricks were made at one time, and there is a house in Shrigley Road, Bollington built with the whitish Pott Shrigley bricks.

Brick production ceased in the early 1970s, and the last coal mine (it was a drift mine) in Pott Shrigley closed. For some years shale continued to be extracted on the site and carried to Jackson's brickworks at Middlewood. In 1970 an application to extend the shale quarry into a further 8 acres was refused, but an appeal in 1972 allowed 4 acres to be used.

By 1973 there was pressure from the Parish Council to tidy up the site as some unattractive organisations were moving into the buildings (car breaking was one), and the stream was being polluted by dyestuffs from the site. There is now a tidy, well run, small industrial estate in the old buildings and the brick kilns have disappeared.

RETAIL COMMERCE

By 1970, general retail outlets were reduced from at least four to one—the former Brookbank Stores at the north end of the village. This was altered in the mid-60s to more or less its present form by its new owner, Miss Purdy, who continued to run it on a reduced scale. Its present owners, the Daveys, ran it as a sweets and ice cream shop for some years, and now operate a canoe hire business. The only outlets now are retail elements of the industrial sites (car repair and restoration, coal, furniture and joinery, general metalwork and welding, paving, etc.).

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There are two contrasting catering establishments: Shrigley Hall Hotel (see above), and the Coffee Tavern. The latter was built (of corrugated iron) as the Village Reading Room under the auspices of Mrs Eleanor Constance Lowther of Shrigley Hall, in 1887, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. She intended it to be a library and centre of spiritual refreshment, arranging for religious tracts to be available and read. Monthly services were also held there.

This did not prove to be as popular as Mrs Lowther had hoped, and it ceased to be a reading room well before the first world war. It reopened as The Coffee Tavern for a time. This did not thrive, but ceased operation, and the building remained a dull red, rusting eyesore for well over 70 years. It was used for a time as a bombed goods store. Different entrepreneurs tried in vain to gain permission to convert it or replace it as a private dwelling or for other use. By 1984, the Coffee Tavern became a listed building, on the premise that it was a typical building of its time.

In 1994, nearby neighbours, the Buffey family, gained permission to reopen it - as The Coffee Tavern—this time as a commercial catering establishment, with little spiritual emphasis. The appearance of the building was vastly improved with renovation, and change of colour to a forest green. Inside, it was tastefully decorated, and quickly established itself as a very popular stop for hikers, cyclists and motorists, as well as the local population.



The Coffee Tavern

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



Service at the main Altar, Salesian College, 31st January 1982



Trees, Shrigley Road, May 2000

CHAPTER FIFTEEN: HOUSING

The Parish is in the Green belt, in an Area of Special County Value for Landscape, and is partly in the National Park. The planning policies for the area therefore preclude housing except in very exceptional circumstances.

Despite this, the housing stock has increased since 1970 by about 25%. Six new houses have been built, and there have been 16 barn conversions, with another approved and not yet implemented. The six new houses have all been for agricultural workers and sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture during the decline of the industry.

The saga of Birchencliffe, where eight of the conversions have taken place and where there is a planning consent for 14, is worth recording as it may puzzle future readers. Birchencliffe was one of the two home farms of Shrigley Hall (Redacre Hall is the other). Its buildings (but not the farmhouse, as at Redacre) are 'listed'. They were in a very poor state of repair, although the farm was still a productive dairy farm.



Birchencliffe Farm Yard before rebuilding

It was discovered, in 1988, that a full planning application was about to be submitted to the Peak Park Planning Board to convert the farm buildings to 21 dwellings (including the refurbishment of the two existing cottages). The applicant was a newly formed body called the Peak Park Trust, and it was in no doubt about getting planning approval. This confidence was not misplaced, as the Trust was virtually a subsidiary of the Peak Park Board.

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There had been no local consultation, not even with the occupants of the two cottages. It was a very dense, urban type development in a very remote rural area at the end of a narrow farm road with a very difficult access.

Fortunately one of our local worthies at that time was the late Brian Redhead, a nationally known broadcaster, and the Chairman of the National Parks Association, who was campaigning to prevent the Lake District having its remote areas swamped by holiday cottages. Accordingly, Birchenccliffe had great appeal to him. Brian remembered that he was a member of the Peak Park Trust, and yet he knew nothing of the project.

It turned out that the Trust had no intention of carrying out the development, but intended to sell the planning permission and use the money in more favoured parts of the Park. The battle lasted only one day, with Brian Redhead threatening to go national with what he thought was a scandal. The application was withdrawn.

Unfortunately it left its shadow: two would-be developers, one from the Village, one from Macclesfield, in some way heard of the application, and saw possibilities, as they apparently knew the planners had agreed to approve the scheme.



Birchenccliffe Farmhouse after rebuilding

They offered the farmers considerably more than the agricultural value of the farm, signed a contract to purchase, and paid the usual 10% deposit. The farmers departed to Wales, where they bought another farm with a bank loan.

There were difficulties over the planning application, particularly over car parking and access onto Shrigley Road, but eventually consent was given for 14 additional dwellings.

It turned out that the developers had not intended to carry out the development, but like the Peak Park Trust they had intended to sell the property with planning permission. This proved to be difficult: the market had slumped, while the farmers were pressing for completion because of their bank loan. The project was abandoned, with one developer

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going bankrupt, and the farm being abandoned.

The National Park Authority had a lot to answer for. Eventually the farm was sold to the present owners, who are carrying out a much more modest scheme, and restoring the buildings. Eight dwellings are now successfully completed and are occupied, with permission for a further six to be converted from the existing derelict farm buildings.



Needygate Farm

The farm buildings, of which a corner can be seen, received planning permission in 2000 for conversion into two dwellings.

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

CHAPTER SIXTEEN: ROADS AND PATHS

VILLAGE ROADS AND THE LENGTHSMAN

In better days and until the late 1960's, the village had its very own gentleman whose job was to keep all the roads and verges spick and span. The last of these Knights of the Road was Mr. Taylor, resident of 'Woodlands', his house next to the canal tunnel.

His local knowledge of where all the roadside drains and gulleys were could never be bettered in this age of computers. He knew all the local residents, and was able to give directions to lost visitors. It was a great pleasure to see him at break times, sat in his wooden wheel barrow, the handles on the floor and its wheel pointing skywards, drinking his tea from a battered old brew can. This gave him a new bout of energy to continue his task of keeping the roads and footpaths neat and tidy. At the end of each shift he could be seen, a little weary after a hard day's graft, trundling back home, pushing his barrow laden with firewood he had gathered from fallen branches.

During the severe winters, many of the roads became blocked with snowdrifts for weeks in the past. The only way of shifting this was by strong men with large shovels. All the locals would turn out to help and pray for an early spring.

What a different picture we have today. Roads potholed, the unkempt grass verges gouged and rutted by heavily laden juggernauts, speeding along country lanes, some taking a shortcut through the village, others bound for the industrial estate at Nab Quarry. This has brought about a feeling of disgust at the misuse of the countryside, which has become littered with rubbish from passing motorists. Now the only hope is the annual spring clean up by volunteers. It is the norm to collect enough discarded drink cans, bottles and rubbish to fill a one ton pickup.

ROAD USE

Another manifestation of modern times has been, of course, the huge increase in traffic density. This has been more than the national average, owing to the 150-bed hotel and the 17-industry site at Nab Quarry. In addition, some through commuter traffic has taken to these minor roads, to avoid congestion on the direct routes. To this must be added the need for parking vehicles for church and school, and at starting points for visiting walkers. As a result, the three principal roads of the village often become heavily congested and occasionally impassable, with unsuitably heavy vehicles unable to pass each other. After years of agitation by the Parish Council, the Highway Authority put a weight restriction on Bakestonedale Road to stop heavy lorries using it, but as the restriction is never enforced, it is useless.

Attempts by the Parish Council to improve the situation, and reduce danger to inhabitants, have produced a 30MPH speed limit near the church, and Police signs to ban parking on Chapel Brow (the road from Needygate past Green Close Chapel). Both are ignored by many. Different suggestions to minimise the danger of accidents at the

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church junction have all been refused—usually on the grounds that emergency vehicles might be slowed. Pointing out that the old bridge at Walker's Green should have a weight limit resulted in the unwanted and expensive strengthening of that bridge, to allow even more huge vehicles to pass through the village.

FOOTPATHS

In 1976 the Parish Council on behalf of the County Council, which was then preparing the Definitive County Footpath Map, surveyed all the footpaths in the Parish.

When the map was issued it became clear that the path from Birchencliffe to the Village via Shrigley Hall had been omitted. This appeared to be a result of a private arrangement with the Salesians who were worried about the possible impact of female hikers on their seminarians. Parishioners were welcome to continue to use the path.

The arrangement did not anticipate the Salesians selling the estate, and so the path was lost. The Parish Council discussed the reopening of the path in 1984 but was inhibited by the possible legal costs.

In 1986 the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society requested the co-operation of the Parish Council in getting the footpath put on the Definitive Map. After the Society had done considerable work in collecting affidavits and other evidence, the



The Donkey Bridge, on the parish boundary near Hedgerow

Parish Council backed off (the reasons are not recorded), to the great annoyance of the Society. The line of the footpath is still clear and complete with stiles, but it is blocked at Gibb Hill, with notices at Birchencliffe.

In 1993 the Parish Council entered into a Footpaths Partnership Scheme with the County Council, and that led to major improvements to the path from Green Close to Keeper's Cottage. The path from West Park Gate to Shrigley Road has been resurfaced, and through the generosity of the landowner, made much safer by means of a concessionary path, which avoids the dangerous exit on to Shrigley Road.

New, concessionary paths have been created in the Moorside Quarry under the Countryside Stewardship scheme, and new stiles have been constructed on other footpaths.

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

THE PARISH WALKS

The annual village sponsored walks, introduced in the mid-1960s, usually covered about 20 miles, although of recent years, this has been reduced to around 15 miles. They are organised by the joint committees of the school and village hall, with those setting the walk, leaving instructions and walking the route beforehand to flag the way. Others arrange for checkpoints, refreshments, lifts home for those who don't want to (or can't) finish the whole walk and "sheepdogging" - following the last ones home.

These have always proved popular, particularly with the schoolchildren and their parents, raising funds for the school and hall. They are usually held in April/May each year, with typical British anxiety expressed beforehand, as to the weather. The walk has however, never been cancelled.

A later introduction of Parish walks is held every autumn. They are organised by the Parish Council in association with the Cheshire Conservation Trust, and are usually considerably shorter (some 7-8 miles). These are publicised in the county and attract visitors from a considerable distance.

A third series of walks is arranged by the village hall committee at irregular intervals, starting early in the day and finishing with a hearty breakfast. Most of these walks start and finish within the parish, which is fortunate in offering views over much of the county and beyond.

STREET LIGHTING

The Village is probably unique in having private, gas street lighting (one lamp). The lamp was provided and fed from Bollington gas works, but in 1971 the lamp was reported as being 'irregular'. In 1969 the gas board had wanted the sum of £10 to maintain it, and this had been considered excessive. There now arose a public benefactor, Trevor Hill, who lived at The Croft, to which the lamp was attached. He offered to have the lamp repaired and to provide it with gas at his own expense in perpetuity. He has now departed from the Village, but left a Charge on the property to maintain the lamp.

Street lighting at the other end of the Parish is more mysterious. In 1969 the Parish Council decided to provide a street light at Brookbank on the northern fringes of the Parish, and made a contract with the electricity board to install one, at a cost of £24.5s. There were the usual delays, but it was installed in 1972, only to be reported by the Parish Council to be in the wrong position. Despite this the Parish Council handed over £19.25 for the work.

It is remarkable that in three years the cost had fallen, but it is the whereabouts of the lamp which intrigues the present writer. At that time he had only lived at Brookbank, or thereabouts, for a little over 20 years, so he was not yet privy to Parish Council affairs, and it is all a complete mystery to him. Was it put in the wrong parish, is there another Pott Shrigley, is there another Brookbank, why did the Parish Council pay for a lamp which apparently does not exist?

The absence of the lamp has not been a great problem, and there have been no protests.



In the Woods, 1997



Looking South across Bakestonedale, 1993. The line of an old pack horse way runs from upper left to middle right. This is said to have once been the "main road".

The Parish Walks



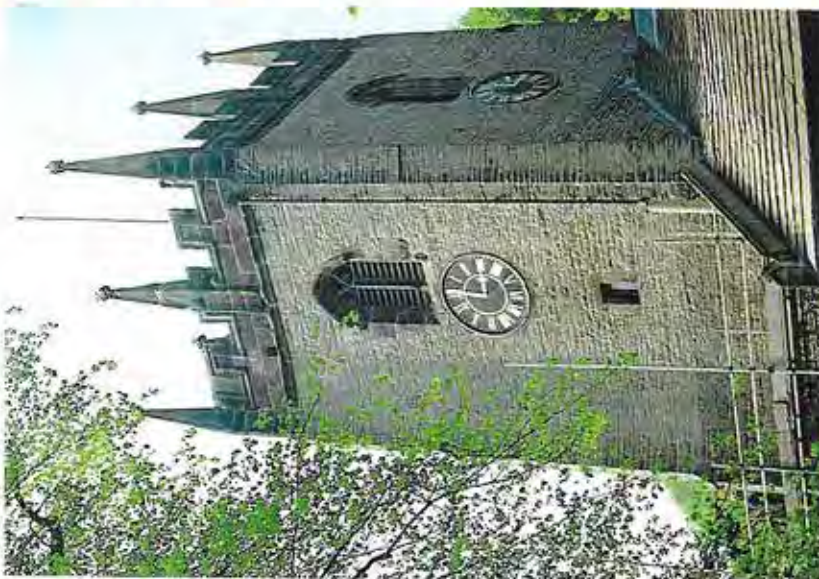
Pepper Pot, 1997



A Lyme Park Stile, 1997



In Norman's Hall Fields, 1999



Repairs to Church Tower, May 2000



Hassocks made by local ladies have become a feature of Pott Shrigley Church

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN: PLANNING AND CONSERVATION

THE CONSERVATION AREA

In 1979 the Pott Shrigley Conservation Area was established by the two planning authorities – Macclesfield Borough Council and the Peak Park Planning Board. It raised high hopes in the Village, though they did not last. It covered the village core, the Nab Wood and Spuley Lane. Almost immediately a cottage was re-roofed in incongruous materials, and it was discovered that the new status gave no control. Nor did it offer any control over the inappropriate parts of the Pott Hall Farm barn conversion, nor preserve the Holme Wood tree preservation order, nor allow heavy traffic through the Village to be controlled. On the positive side it did result in the tidying up and paving of the area outside the lych gate.

The Parish telephone boxes are worth a short note here: that by the church became a Grade 1 listed building in 1988, and was to have been one of the few of that design to be preserved (the design was by Gilbert Scott). Since then the 'few' seems to have increased.

The other telephone box, which was outside the Brooklet Cafe, near the canal aqueduct, has had a more interesting history. In 1982 the then owners of the site asked to have it moved from their land, so it was moved to the sharp corner in the road a little further north to the consternation of the highway authority and the Parish Council. Eventually after much discussion it was expelled from the Parish, and reached its final resting-place just outside the Parish boundary at Higher Poynton, where there is a car park.

The Parish Council has taken full advantage each year of the generosity of Macclesfield Borough Council in supplying free daffodil bulbs. This started in 1987 when 3cwt were planted by the Parish Council.

RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Mr Askey's account of the parish relates the opposition to inclusion in the National Park, the requests that if it was to be included then it should cover the whole parish, the dismay when the draft boundary map split the Parish but included the whole of the Village, and finally the shock when the final boundary map split the Parish. This excluded Shrigley Park, and consequently produced a boundary which ran up the Village Street excluding most of the houses. Thus the Church and Church Cottages are within the National Park, while the houses on the opposite side of the road are not.

One interesting example of the problems arising came when the incumbent of a cottage in Green Close applied for an extension to house a toilet and bathroom. The only place for the septic tank was in the extensive cottage garden across the road. It took a great deal of correspondence for nearly a year, to persuade the Peak Park Planning Board to approve the extension, as they could not accept the existence of a septic tank outside their jurisdiction.

This was not an auspicious start, and it was complicated by the fact that most local

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authority services continued to be provided by Macclesfield Borough Council and by Cheshire County Council. Only planning, and that for a small part of the Parish, was controlled by the National Park.

Remoteness has proved to be a major problem: the offices and the officers of the National Park are on the other side of the Pennines, and, even more important, the political centre of the National Park Board is somewhere near Derby city.

The affair of the Peak Park Trust can only be regarded as sleaze: the Trust wanted to make a quick profit to use nearer home. Details were given in Chapter Five, when discussing Birchencliffe Farm.

The conversion of Pott Hall Farm barn to a residence, and all its deviations from the planning permission, produced apathy, incompetence, and gross incompetence on the part of the Planning Department - when looked at charitably.

In the first place the barn was not convertible – it required a complete rebuild. When that was done there were several serious deviations from the planning consent (and several minor ones). The Parish Council reported all these as they were happening but no action was taken.

The construction of a large raised garden over the right of way to the cricket field, without planning permission, and the construction of the double doors in the wrong wall of the barn, have left the Village with a legacy of problems which could have been avoided.

Eventually the Parish Council managed to get a site visit by the Planning Committee, which was appalled at what had happened, and which retired to Bakewell to issue five enforcement notices. The officers never served them in spite of frequent reminders.

The Peak Park Board failed completely to prevent over 100,000 tons of motorway spoil being tipped at the Moorside quarry, with the consequent traffic of very heavy lorries through the Village, and through Adlington, where there was serious damage to grass verges.

On the other side of the coin, the National Park Authority is accused of excessive attention to detail in minor house extensions and the like, so that we have Keeper's Cottage, a traditional limewashed stone cottage, with an extension in natural stone which must not be limewashed, giving a piebald effect.

It must be said that much of this was some years ago. At the present time, the Peak Park Board appears to be making an effort to take heed of the views of local councils and local people when trying to reconcile the conflicting pressures upon it.

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



Woodside and Vale Cottages, May 2000



Holme Wood, May 2000

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN: PARISH PROJECTS

TREE PLANTING

The comprehensive survey of the Parish by the Manchester University Town and Country Planning students raised questions about the Parish's ageing tree population, and about its past tree losses. It was decided to start an extensive tree-planting programme during the 1980's, and great help was given by the Cheshire Conservation Trust.

The first planting was done in the field by the side of Simpson Lane, where there had been a good stand of ash, and volunteers and school children planted ash and oak. This was followed by the planting of 25 ash, oak, and birch alongside Shrigley Road at Needygate Farm, in place of some old lilac bushes. Then, to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee, 120 oaks were planted on land off Bakestonedale Road.

The 500th anniversary of the founding of Pott Shrigley School was marked by the planting of 500 trees nearby, in a wood which was in advanced decline. The other plantings had flourished, but this one did not. Everything conspired against it: the soil was very poor and stony, there were two hard winters and two exceptionally dry summers before the trees became established, so that only 90 trees survived.

A further 150 beech have been planted by the Cheshire Conservation Trust, and they now appear to be well established.



Tree Planting off Simpson Lane, 1991



POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

Two large whitebeam supplied by the Borough Council have been planted on the green at Unwin Pool, to augment the ornamental trees already there.

Another only partially successful planting scheme took place at the Holme Wood in 1980. The Borough tree officer produced a scheme for the rehabilitation of the wood. It involved the clearing of restricted areas and the introduction of new, young trees. It was envisaged that when the trees had become established, further clearing around them would give enough light for them to flourish. Alas, that was not to be, a change of ownership and an uncooperative new owner prevented any further work, and many of the trees have not done well.

THE WILD FLOWER MEADOW

This is one of the Parish Council's failures. The idea came about in 1996, when the Countryside Commission was promoting the re-establishment of wild flower meadows, which were fast disappearing across the country.

Pott Shrigley appeared to have an ideal candidate and a willing landowner. The field was the triangle of about two acres which lies alongside Shrigley Road and below Green Close Chapel. It has the road on one side, a public footpath on another while another footpath and a stream run along the third side.

The Cheshire Conservation trust sent an ecologist to survey the field, and he issued a most enthusiastic report: the field was already 'species rich' in the jargon of the trade, and had outstanding public viewing potential. It was decided to go ahead with the proposal, but it disappeared into the depths of the Cheshire Conservation Trust despite frequent reminders.

It later transpired that the Trust was occupied with larger projects. In 1998 it reported that grants were no longer available and the Countryside Commission had dropped the scheme.

Some time later the Parish Council discovered, from another source, that the scheme was still alive and well, but had been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture, and there was an officer at Crewe with specific responsibility, because East Cheshire was a target area.

New difficulties then occurred: this was a skilled bureaucracy! Applications could only be considered annually, in May, and no discussions could take place until an application had been lodged, but that could not be done before May!

As there were a number of critical questions to which both the landowner and the Parish Council required replies before making an application, the project was regretfully abandoned.

PART 2: 1970 TO 2000

THE VILLAGE GREEN

When Pott Shrigley was owned by the Shrigley Estate, the piece of land that was called the village green was a small rectangle of land, verbally allowed for village use during the time of the lord of the manor, Colonel Lowther. After he died, the estate was sold off. The public concession to the use of the village green was ignored by the trustees, who sold it privately with the nearest cottage, Rose Cottage. The only piece of public land left in the village was then the space between Pott Hall Farm and the church, locally known as the "village square", which was tidied and cobbled in 1975. This has, however, become a full-time car park for local residents and visitors.

A generous offer was made to the church in 1991 by a retired farmer, Geoff Barber of Norman's Hall. His family have lived in the village for generations, and many of his family chose St. Christopher's as their final resting place. Both Geoff and Claire, his now deceased wife, wanted to give a little thank you to the village by way of a piece of land adjoining the church, so securing its future land requirements. To their surprise this was not accepted, possibly owing to lack of clarity over access.

Geoff's desire to give the land to the village did not diminish, however, and in 1997 he suggested giving approximately one acre of land adjacent to the churchyard, as a village green, with an option for the churchyard to be extended, if ever this would be required. The village green was to be administered by three trustees, to be subject to election every five years, one from the Village Hall, one from the Cricket Club, and one from the church, so as to strike a balance from all walks of life.

This offer led to an *ad hoc* committee being set up to examine the means of creating a village green of much more generous proportions than before. Plans and view concepts were drawn, to illustrate the possible effect of the conversion. In effect there was to be very little physical change, beyond tidying, possible tree planting, and a path with seats. Initially, this can allow the present grazing of sheep to continue when the green is not in use for a major village event.

A public meeting was called at the Village Hall in 1998 to promote awareness of the project. This led to acceptance of the project *nem con*, albeit with some misgivings, particularly over the parking requirement for the occasional major activities to be held there, and possible nuisance factors by undesirable elements.

Approach was made to the national Millennium Greens Project, who indicated their willingness to fund the project generously, but insisted that the land be given, without qualification, to the Project. The owner had, however, already indicated that the land should be permanently leased, freely, but on condition that if the village ever decided, for whatever reason, to relinquish use of the green, then it should pass back to Mr. Barber's heirs and successors. This was, understandably, to obviate any possibility of future trustees deciding to change the use of the land, or sell it. Agreement could not easily be reached on this point. Other requirements by the Millennium Greens Commission indicated that they were viewing the project in a more grandiose way than the committee had favoured, so the application was dropped.

A humbler scheme was presented to the local Borough Council, who have indicated their willingness to consider financial assistance for it. A promise of a £2000 grant from

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

Rural Action was also obtained. However, application for change of use, from agricultural to social amenity, was refused by the Peak District National Park Authority, mainly because of access problems. When the application was resubmitted, with no reference to access, change of use was approved. Unfortunately, as a result of all the unforeseen delays, the £2000 grant from Rural Action is no longer available.

The village now has – if it wants it – a village green again. Informal approach has been made to the church, which bought (for £14) the small piece of land with access to the west gate of the churchyard, for a right of way over the few yards beyond the gate, to the green. Response to this approach indicates the necessity for the church to charge for this right, and for drawing up an agreement for it. The cost, simply to survey this tiny area to determine the church's charge, is in excess of £100. None of this appears to take into account the offer of possible churchyard expansion.

Care is being taken to make this an acceptable amenity for the majority of parishioners, with minimal change to the overall appearance of the site. At the time of writing (October 1999) a draft constitution is being prepared for the village green in trust. This will be presented to parishioners at another public meeting, for their consideration and any modification. After incorporating any agreed modifications, the *ad hoc* committee will ask for a decision to accept or reject a new village green and then, if the concept of a village green trust is accepted, resign in favour of a number of trustees, elected by parishioners.

It is hoped that the village green will provide an amenity for daytime rest and relaxation, possible educational facilities for the schoolchildren, in the form of a wild flower area, or possible cultivation, a centre for traditional village activities and annual events, if, for example, a wedding reception in a marquee was required by a parishioner. All these things, and no doubt others, would be subject to consideration by the trustees, who would balance use, maintenance, and overall desirability of the facility.

(Opposite page, from top)

The Pageant 1992: *The Rose Queen, a Victorian school class, the children picnic in the meadow, the Maypole.*

The Parish Council, Spring 2000, left to right (top): Mike Mosley, Madeline Punch, Geoff Barber (Chairman), Mike Wray, Colin Bourne, *(bottom)* Keith Meecham, Adrian Bedson, Irene North (Clerk).

Geoff Barber receiving a cheque from Macclesfield Borough Council towards the cost of the Parish History Book, presented by Macclesfield Mayor Carolyn Andrew.

PART 2: 1970 TO 2000



THE
PAGEANT
1992



CHAPTER NINETEEN: THE PARISH COUNCIL CHARITIES

Mr Askey reports on the history of the charities and their state in 1970. Several had been lost by then but four non-ecclesiastical charities remained. As the income had been fixed when they were established mainly in mediaeval times, it was not worth much in 1970 but the income accumulated so that every few years half a dozen 'poor parishioners' could be 'relieved' by being given a pound.

With inflation in the 1980's, collecting them became a major problem for the Parish Clerk and a considerable expense for the Parish Council. The manager at Mottram Hall, for example, had difficulty in taking seriously a demand for 25p and the Vicar of Bosley one for 80p. The Charity Commission, having no sense of proportion, insisted that they be collected, and sent complex multi-page forms each year for the accounts of each charity.

In 1986 the Parish Council proposed to the Commission that it give the Bridget Downes Charity to the Church where it could be combined with that Bridget Downes Charity, and that it abandon the others because of the cost of collection. This proposal was viewed with extreme horror by the Commission and vetoed (but of course only after a long delay as that is how the Commission works).

After only a further three years of correspondence, the Commission agreed to the redemption of three of the charities, provided that the proceeds were deposited with the Commission. It then played its trump card: the Bridget Downes Charity could not be wound up as it was derived from land, but the proceeds from the redemption of the other three charities could be combined with it in a 'newly modernised' charity, which was to have three trustees: the Vicar of Pott Shrigley, and two nominees of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council now receives £2.68 per annum from the combined charity, but it also receives each year a complex multi-page form, obviously designed for Oxfam or the like, with terrible penalties. It also receives, from time to time, similar forms for the defunct charities! It is not much better off for its considerable efforts.

CHAPTER TWENTY: THE PURCHASE AND THE SALE OF THE CRICKET FIELD

The Cricket Field was provided by the Lord of the Manor, Col. W G Lowther, in 1919, on a part of what had been the Pott Shrigley golf course. Cricket has flourished there ever since. By 1971 it was about all that remained of the Lowther estate, and it was offered by the Trustees to the Parish Council, the Estate having rejected offers from the Cricket Club. The reason for the choice of Parish Council as the purchaser is not clear, but relations between the Club and the Estate (and the Parish Council) had not always been smooth, mainly because the Club was essentially a Bollington organisation.

The Parish Council purchased the Cricket Field and the right of way to it from the Lowther estate in 1972 for £700 which was borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board at 7.5%. The Club requested a long lease as it wished to carry out major improvements to the ground, and in 1973 a 28-year lease was agreed, with a right to renewal. It took two years before it was actually signed, and it took until 1984 before the rent was finally agreed.

Very soon a chain of events started which led to the sale of the Cricket Field to the Club in 1995. The trouble began with the purchase, by a local entrepreneur, of Pott Hall Farm which owned the access to the Cricket Field. He converted the barn at the rear into a dwelling and then built a large raised garden across the access to the Cricket Field. He assured the Parish Council that the access track was now along the new garden wall, and he allowed the Cricket Club members to use it and to park their cars in his field outside the Cricket Field whilst he renovated the Barn. All was well until he sold the converted barn, the land, and later Pott Hall Farm, with assurances to the purchasers that the right of way was for a footpath only.

The new owner of the Barn naturally objected to cars being parked on his land, and some members of the Club were less than tactful. The row escalated and was joined by the new owners of Pott Hall Farm.

The Parish Council found itself, as the Cricket Club's landlord, in a four-sided dispute. The Council had access to several sources of good legal advice, which it could not have paid for, but the source it had relied on, the Association of Parish Councils' legal department, was a complete failure: the solicitor there advised the Parish Council to consult a solicitor!

A proposal to appoint an independent arbitrator was tabled, but this was not acceptable to all the parties to the dispute. The Parish Council therefore appointed a solicitor to collaborate with the other parties' solicitors to examine the facts to see if there was any way out of the problem, but it soon became clear that an agreement could not be reached.

Soon the Parish Council had spent £900 without making any progress, while the Cricket Club was being threatened with expulsion from its league because it could not guarantee vehicular access to the Cricket ground. The Cricket Club had an insurance policy, which could cover legal fees in a right of way dispute, but technically it was not a party to the dispute.

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

To avoid extinction, the club offered to buy the Field with its problems. The Parish Council agreed, subject to a number of conditions to protect various Parish rights. The sum of £17,500 was settled on very quickly, with conditions that parishioners and the school children could use the field when cricket was not being played, and that, in the event that cricket ceased to be played on the field, then the Parish Council would have the right to purchase the field for the £17,500 (that money is locked away in government securities against that event). There are also other, restrictive, conditions.

Now arose a complication which exceeded all that had gone before. One of the landowners offered to buy the field for £2,000 more than the Cricket Club was paying, and subject to the same conditions. Other parties suggested that it should be put on the open market, although who would have bought it at that price and with those conditions and with most of a 28 year lease yet to run was not explained. Anyway the Cricket Club could well have expired in the meantime.

Some older inhabitants believed that the Parish Council was selling their birthright. It all culminated in a Parish Meeting, requisitioned on the signature of six parishioners, to propose a vote of no confidence in the Parish Council, with the allegation that it had acted illegally.

The meeting on Wednesday 31 May 1995 was stormy. There were a lot of conflicting views, however the Chairman of the Parish Council announced to the assembled parishioners that the papers relating to the sale of the Field to the Club had already been signed prior to the meeting, with two Parish Councillors objecting, and so the meeting was unnecessary. The announcement caused uproar, and the meeting closed without any further resolution.

The Cricket Club was generous in the terms of the contract, for example: contrary to Village mythology, the children at the school had never had the right to use the Field. Parishioners had had that right, but an overwhelming percentage of children at the school were not of the Parish! The capital raised by the sale now produces £1,398 per annum for the use of the Village, which now has rather more rights to the field than it did before the sale.

Since then there has been comparative calm around the Cricket Field, with parties to the right of way dispute trying to resolve the matter peacefully, and without the considerable expense which would be incurred by all sides if the courts has been asked to interpret the wording of all the Registered titles. A burden has been lifted from all concerned, including the Parish Council. It must be remembered however, that the dispute has not been resolved, and all parties should be aware of the need to respect the wishes of their neighbours, and keep the peace in perpetuity.

CHAPTER TWENTYONE: THE MILLENNIUM

In spite of the national fever associated with millennium change at the new year, the parish celebrated this event relatively quietly, after a short church service, with an even shorter firework display, in misty conditions, followed by a post-midnight feast of home made comestibles at the village hall social club.

At the instigation of Derek Brookes of the Cricket Club, the various bodies of the parish: the Cricket Club itself, the School, Village Hall, Church, Village Green Committee and Parish Council, agreed to celebrate the passing of the Millennium approximately half way between January and December 2000, when the weather was more likely to be favourable, with a weekend of festivities associated with the usual Rose Queen Fete and the annual cricket match between the Club and the non-cricketing parishioners.

Apart from these activities, other cricket teams were invited to both senior and junior matches, barbecues were available for the weekend, a marquee was hired, the church was decorated with flowers and organists gave recitals between services. The newly crowned Rose Queen, Miss Nina Woodward, officially planted the millennium yew tree in the churchyard garden. A jazzband concert was staged on Saturday evening followed by fireworks, and a brass band concert on the Sunday ended with an evening open air service and blessing. Photographs of the parish for the past hundred years were collected and displayed, with a craft fair, classic vehicle display and a tug o' war between the Pott (South) and Shrigley (North) end of the village. The Parish Council, apart from producing this book for every house in the parish, contributed £500 towards preparatory costs of the celebrations.

The whole celebration was a happy example of parishioners' and neighbours' efforts for the benefit of the parish as a whole.

Mention should be made of the Holliday and Mosley families, occupants of the houses next to the cricket field, who own the land through which access is allowed, who very kindly cleared and made their open lands available for the celebrations and car parking. This facility in no small measure made a great contribution to the success of the weekend. The whole celebration was a happy example of parishioners' and neighbours' efforts for the benefit of the parish as a whole.



The Tug of War

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL



CHAPTER TWENTYTWO: THE PARISH RECORDS

When the Clerk, Mr W. H. Bennett, died in 1987, the early minute books and the other older parish records could not be found. Eventually the Declaration book and a minute book starting in 1943 turned up in his affairs. A thorough search by the County Records Office and by the local libraries has proved to be negative and there is no record of the Parish Council authorising their storage outside the Village. Thus the Parish archives covering the period 1894 to 1943 are lost. The Church has a similar problem.

THE PARISH SURVEY 1991

In 1991 the final year students of the Town and Country Planning Department of Manchester University carried out a detailed survey of the Parish, lasting several weeks. This gives an excellent, and professional, record of the Parish at that time. It showed, for example, evidence of prehistoric activity in the area, and of medieval ridge and furrow farming practice where farming is still carried on today. There is a copy in the Parish Council archives.

EPILOGUE

In Tom Askey's earlier book, he remarked that an observant Victorian would notice many changes. In the last thirty years, there have been several more. There are certainly more traffic notices, including of course, the 30 mph speed limit which took many years of request and negotiation with the Borough and County councils.

The village is identified at its borders by roadside signs, which again took many years to arrange at a reasonable price. The seat by the Lych Gate was purchased with the residue monies from the Jubilee Fund, and dedicated to the memory of Jack Challener and Geoffrey Harding. It is a very welcome addition to travellers, as is the reopened coffee tavern - now a licensed restaurant.

Perhaps however, the most welcome sight is the paucity of changes to "modernise" the village. Many of the changes - and many of the elements that have not changed - have been won, as Tom said earlier, by the efforts of the inhabitants and well-wishers ". . . who gave up their leisure time to work in the service of homely democracy."

MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

Poynton Junior Band

Retiring Rose Queen: Laura Matheson
Rose Queen: Nina Woodward
Rose Bud: Sarah Key

The Cricket Field - Schools Cricket Match

Members of the "Parish" Cricket Team,
From left: Stuart Simmons, Colin Bourne,
Keith and Audrey Meecham, Barbara Reeves,
Madeline Punch, Phil Whatmough.

POTT SHRIGLEY AND ITS PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCILLORS 1970-2000:

Isaac Cooper	1937 - 1973
Geoffrey Harding	1952 - 1971
Kenneth W. Penney	1958 - 1976
Bryan Stewart	1961 - 1996
Neville Birch	1967 - 1974
Robert O. Payne	1967 - 1980
Brian R. Battersby	1970 - 1980
J. Martin Collins	1973 - 1984
Brian Schofield	1976 - 1980
Jack A. Challener	1976 - 1988
Dr George W. Driver	1976 - 1999
Mrs Patricia Thompson	1980 - 1984
Geoffrey Harding	1980 - 1992
Colin G. Bourne	1980 -
Mrs Kathleen Penney	1984 - 1996
Brian Schofield	1984 - 1999
Peter J. S. Woolfenden	1988 - 1996
David F. Wainwright	1992 - 1996
Michael D. Moseley	1996 - 2000
Geoffrey E. Barber	1996 -
Keith Meecham	1996 -
Mrs Madeline Punch	1996 -
Adrian J. Bedson	1999 -
Michael Wray	1999 -

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMEN 1970-2000

Geoffrey Harding	1970 - 1972
Kenneth W. Penney	1972 - 1973
Neville Birch	1973 - 1974
Bryan Stewart	1974 - 1980
J. Martin Collins	1980 - 1983
Jack A. Challener	1983 - 1988
Colin G. Bourne	1988 - 1996
Dr George W. Driver	1996 - 1999
Geoffrey E. Barber	1999 -

PARISH CLERKS 1970 - 2000

William J. Bennett	1940 - 1985
Mrs Caroline Gibson	1985 - 1989
Mrs Madeline Punch	1989 - 1996
Keith Griffiths	1996 - 1996
Mrs Irene North	1996 - 2000
Stewart N. Bradley	2000 -

VICARS 1970 - 2000:

Rev. Cecil I. H. Siviter	1960 - 1974
Rev. Leslie D. T. Kelly	1974 - 1978
Rev. Herbert E. Watkins	1982 - 1987
Rev. Marcus W. Wigram	1978 - 1982
Rev. Geoffrey H. Greenhough	1987 - 2000

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