



VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Chadlington

4. Social History

Social Character and Communal Life

The Middle Ages

Chadlington's three 13th-century manors emerged from the breakup of much larger landholdings, and though they may have initially shared a single field system they developed their own physical communities at Chadlington's various 'ends', each with its own manor house and watermill. A unifying factor was the church at Eastend, despite its downgrading (under pressure from Eynsham abbey) to the status of a dependent chapel within Charlbury parish, as confirmed in 1292. That cemented Chadlington's long-lasting ecclesiastical connection with Charlbury, even if its social ties with the town were always somewhat looser. In addition a few medieval inhabitants attended Charlbury's manor courts, whilst others owed suit to those in Shipton-under-Wychwood and Spelsbury, reflecting pre-Conquest tenurial connections.¹

The parish's social structure was typical of the area, with a mix of villeins and freeholders by the 1270s.² The royal servants Reginald the archer and Siward the huntsman, who each held 2½-hide estates in Chadlington in 1086, had presumably been settled there in return for assisting the king when he hunted in Wychwood forest,³ and Siward was conceivably the progenitor of the Hunt or Hunter family recorded in Chadlington in the 13th and 14th centuries.⁴ Several inhabitants were prosecuted for poaching deer from Wychwood in the 1250s–70s,⁵ and John de Honyngton, who held a part of Chadlington East manor, was one of the jurors who perambulated the forest in 1300.⁶ Presumably his family came from Honington (Warws.), and other inhabitants' bynames suggest immigration from within Oxfordshire, including from Marsh or Toot Baldon, Charlbury, Marsh Haddon (in Brize Norton), Hanwell, Radford (in Enstone), and Wheatfield.⁷ The spread of wealth in 1316

¹ Above, landscape etc.; landownership; econ. hist.; below, relig. hist.; local govt.

² *Rot. Hund.* II, 736–7, 738, 747; above, econ. hist. (medieval farming).

³ DB, f. 160v.; *VCH Oxon.* I, 387.

⁴ *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 247–8; TNA, CP 25/1/188/10, no. 33; *ibid.* E 179/161/9 (*Hunte*); *Rot. Hund.* II, 738 (*Venur*); *Cal. Inq. p.m.* V, p. 408 (*Venour*).

⁵ Schumer, *Oxon. Forests*, 22, 66, 69.

⁶ Schumer, 'Perambulations', 27; above, landownership (East).

⁷ TNA, E 179/161/8–9. For Whitfield and Haddon, cf. R. McKinley, *The Surnames of Oxfordshire* (1977), 11, 81, 86.

(when Shippenhull manor had almost twice as many taxpayers as Wahull or Eastend) was typical of the area, with most tax payments ranging from 8*d.* to 6*s.* 3*d.* The exception was the lord of both Shippenhull and Wahull manors John de Hadlow (paying 15*s.*), who owned several manors in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and whose house in Chadlington (perhaps on Wahull manor, since that was where he was taxed) was looted in 1322 as part of wider attacks against the supporters of Hugh le Despenser (d. 1326), Lord le Despenser.⁸

The Martins, Radfords, and Whitfields were among the Chadlington families who survived the Black Death, despite an overall fall in population and rents.⁹ Some of Richard Whitfield's sheep were stolen in 1380,¹⁰ other occasional misdemeanours including an inhabitant prosecuted for hunting and keeping greyhounds in 1387, while in the same year two inhabitants were hanged for felony.¹¹ More positively John Fairford (fl. 1399) probably gave land for the upkeep of the church, together with a church house which was presumably used for church ales.¹² Amongst late medieval lords, John and Margaret Appleby, the first owners of the combined Chadlington West manor, were commemorated in window glass (now lost) in the church's north chapel, and in 1389 Margaret acted with six other leading parishioners (in her widowhood) as a trustee of the new churchyard cemetery.¹³ John Osbaldeston, who obtained the manor through marriage, was a Lancashire knight who served with Henry V in France, and whose son John was resident by 1437.¹⁴ The wool merchant Thomas Fermor or Ricards (who acquired Chadlington East manor) lived in Witney, though his son Laurence may have occupied the Eastend manor house,¹⁵ and in 1487 allegedly evicted a family of four from their farm, probably to expand his sheep farming.¹⁶

1500–1800

Chadlington West's lord John Osbaldeston was Oxfordshire's high sheriff in 1522 and the parish's wealthiest taxpayer in 1523, when he paid £4. The farmer Thomas Cross paid £1 6*s.*, 11 other men 2*s.*–9*s.*, and 11 more 12*d.*–18*d.*, while two paid the basic servant's or

⁸ TNA, E 179/161/8; *Cal. Pat.* 1321–4, 162, 169, 319; *VCH Oxon.* V, 61.

⁹ cf. TNA, E 179/161/9; *Eynsham Cart.* II, pp. 178–80; above, econ. hist.

¹⁰ *Cal. Pat.* 1377–81, 545.

¹¹ E. Kimball (ed.), *Oxon. Sessions of the Peace* (ORS 53, 1983), 60, 75.

¹² TNA, E 178/1819; below (1500–1800); relig. hist. (church estate).

¹³ *Eynsham Cart.* II, pp. 178–80; below, relig. hist. (Middle Ages).

¹⁴ *VCH Lancs.* VI, 321; W.W. Longford, 'Some notes on the family of Osbaldeston', *Trans. Hist. Soc. Lancs. & Cheshire* 87 (1935), 72, 76; TNA, CP 25/1/115/311, no. 438.

¹⁵ TNA, PROB 11/7/277. For the Fermors, J. Bolton and M. Maslen (eds), *Calendar of the Court Books of the Borough of Witney, 1538–1610* (ORS 54, 1985), pp. lx–lxi; *VCH Oxon.* XIV, 76, 78.

¹⁶ I.S. Leadam (ed.), *Domesday of Inclosures 1517–1518* (1897), I, 360–1; above, econ. hist. (medieval farming).

labourer's rate of 4d.¹⁷ Osbaldeston's will shows that he lived in some luxury at Lower Court, employing servants, and surrounded with household goods including gilt cups and salt cellars, fine clothes, several featherbeds, and hangings in his 'new chamber'.¹⁸ His daughter Jane married Sir Wiliam Rainsford (d. 1557) of Great Tew, while another daughter (Margaret) married William Farmer, probably the lord of Chadlington East.¹⁹ John's grandson John Osbaldeston (Chadlington West's lord 1539–93) was accused c.1540 of wilful neglect of his wife Susan (née Newport), allegedly owing to her infidelity,²⁰ and a later John Osbaldeston (perhaps their younger son) occupied Upper Court in 1582, before moving to Burford where he was buried in 1614.²¹



Royalist cavalry sword of the 1640s found concealed in the thatched roof of a Brookend cottage. Source: Oxon. Museum, OXCMS:2022.56.

Hercules Osbaldeston (d. 1640) lived at Chadlington with his mother and wife, who each obtained a licence to eat meat during Lent in 1620.²² His daughter Mary married John Newman (the lord of Chadlington East) in 1632,²³ and from 1635 both Hercules and John became embroiled in legal proceedings against them by 12 of Osbaldeston's tenants, who called witnesses citing a variety of grievances. The defendants brought counter-suits and allegedly hid their manor court rolls, and the petitioners' case (which was ready to be heard by the privy council in 1639) seems to have eventually failed through repeated delays and lack of funds.²⁴ During the Civil War Chadlington supplied the king's forces with grain, presumably under duress, and in 1644 inhabitants petitioned senior Royalists including

¹⁷ Brunner and Lunt, *Sheriffs*, 72; TNA, E 179/161/170.

¹⁸ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178.104.

¹⁹ *Oxon. Visit.* 202–3; TNA, PROB 11/39/126; OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 179.273; 186.143; above, landownership (East).

²⁰ TNA, C 1/1040/13–14; above, landownership.

²¹ OHC, par. reg. transcript, baptism 1582; Bodl. MS Wood E 1, pp. 144–5; monument and brass with inscription in Burford church, transcribed in *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 18; *pace* Longford, 'Some notes', 78, confusing his ancestry.

²² OHC, par. reg. transcript, miscellanea.

²³ *Ibid.* marriage 1632; TNA, PROB 11/183/242.

²⁴ TNA, C 2/ChasI/C87/66; *ibid.* E 134/13ChasI/Mich24; *Cal. SP Dom.* 1639–40, 215; above, econ. hist. (1500–1800).

Edward Hyde, the future earl of Clarendon, for a reduction in their weekly contributions, in light of the ‘extraordinary plundering of most of the town’ by cavalry soldiers quartered in their houses.²⁵ It was presumably around that time that a Royalist cavalry sword was concealed in the thatched roof of a Brookend cottage.²⁶ The lord John Osbaldeston was a staunch Royalist who married a sister of the judge and politician Edward Littleton, Baron Littleton, and from 1650–2 his lands and goods were sequestered by Parliament.²⁷ Other resident gentry in the 17th century included successive lords of Chadlington East manor (including the John Newman who married Hercules Osbaldeston’s daughter), while John’s predecessor John Newman (d. 1616) endowed a parish charity, and Richard Newman (d. 1604) owned a Witney inn.²⁸ Joseph Whetham occupied the seven-hearth Eastend manor house in 1662,²⁹ where he was followed by William Rollinson’s son John, who married John Osbaldeston’s daughter Mary in 1669 but died the same year.³⁰ Mary (d. 1687) subsequently married Giles Diston (d. 1719), who lived at the Eastend manor house before retiring to Churchill.³¹

Prominent among Chadlington’s tenant farmers were members of the Cross, Harris, Lanchbury, Norman, Smith, and Titmarsh families, although few were especially wealthy, only 17 of the 136 probate valuations dated before 1700 exceeding £100, with 69 in the range £10–£50 and 28 under £10.³² One of the best-off (with goods valued at £222) was the yeoman Thomas Barnes (d. 1685), who occupied a six-roomed farmhouse, whilst the widow Lettis Coling (d. 1638) owned little more than her bed and clothes, worth a mere £2 12s.³³ A similar disparity of wealth is evident in the 1665 hearth tax return, with three members of the Osbaldeston family occupying houses taxed on between four and seven hearths, and ten Chadlington West inhabitants paying on only one, while a further 11 (including the miller) were excused payment on grounds of poverty. A similar pattern prevailed in Chadlington

²⁵ M. Toynbee (ed.), *Papers of Capt. Henry Stevens* (ORS 42, 1962), 26; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 32/2/43 (petition with reply on dorse of will).

²⁶ L. Gilmour, ‘The Chadlington sword – and the end of the siege of Oxford?’, *Oxoniensia* 57 (1992), 356–64; Oxon. Museum, OXCMS:2022.56. For a later tradition that troops were ‘drawn up in Chadlington street and given refreshment’ before the battle of Edge Hill in 1642, J. Kibble, *Historical and Other Notes on Charlbury* (1927), 52.

²⁷ *Oxon. Visit.* 313; *Oxon. Visit. 1669–75*, 21; *ODNB*, s.v. Edw. Littleton, Baron Littleton; *Cal. Cttee for Compounding*, III, 2206.

²⁸ TNA, PROB 11/105/320; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 47/2/22; below (welfare).

²⁹ TNA, E 179/255/3.

³⁰ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 307.88; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burial 1669; Spelsbury par. reg. transcript, marriage 1669; TNA, PROB 11/358/92.

³¹ OHC, par. reg. transcript, marriage 1673; *Par. Colln*, I, 79; *Oxon. Visit. 1669–75*, 21; TNA, PROB 11/358/92; PROB 11/569/426.

³² OHC and TNA, Chadlington wills and inventories.

³³ OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 7/3/27; 296/3/6.

East, where four households paid on a single hearth and three were excused, the rest paying on between two and seven hearths.³⁴

From 1664 the Osbaldeston baronets lived mainly at Lower Court, although Sir Littleton owned a house in Woodstock where he was a lawyer, town councillor, and MP. His legal clerk there, Abraham Bulley (d. 1725),³⁵ settled in Chadlington by 1705, where both his son Thomas (d. 1770) and grandson George (d. 1817) remained as landowning gentry and attorneys.³⁶ Sir William Osbaldeston (high sheriff in 1710–11) married Catherine (d. 1737), eldest daughter of Richard, Viscount Wenman of Thame, their deaf-mute daughter Catherine being subsequently cared for at Lower Court by William's cousin Jane Bayntun and her nephew Stucley Bayntun as a condition of their inheritance. William's will (written in 1740) noted that Jane had already lived in the house for more than 20 years, taking 'more than ordinary pains and trouble' in looking after Catherine, and that she had 'by an indefatigable application made her capable of understanding many things by signs'.³⁷ Stucley also resided, serving as sheriff in 1768–9,³⁸ but following his death in 1772 Lower Court was let to tenants including (from c.1779 to 1794) the future MP Thomas Drake Tyrwhitt.³⁹ The Rollinsons' Chadlington East manor house was for a time inhabited by Mary and Giles Diston's son William, a 'flamboyant' bachelor who was a town councillor and clerk of the peace in Woodstock (where he owned a cockpit), and a slave owner in Jamaica.⁴⁰ He remained in Chadlington until his death in 1759, but by 1731 the manor house itself was occupied by Jonah Smith,⁴¹ and the lord Thomas Rollinson later resided, serving as high sheriff in 1766–7.⁴²

Social life presumably revolved around inns and alehouses, the church, and the church house, which had a kitchen and was presumably used for parish feasts and other

³⁴ *Hearth Tax Oxon.* 161–2.

³⁵ *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Sir Littleton Osbaldeston; *VCH Oxon.* XII, 350, 401–2; TNA, PROB 11/408/73; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 161/4/20.

³⁶ OHC, Cal. QS, IV, p. 63; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 9/3/42; *Oxf. Jnl.* 12 July 1755; *Oxf. Jnl. Syn.* 5 Mar. 1770, 11 Feb. 1779; TNA, PROB 11/1594/215. Geo. later moved to Sarsden: OHC, Fi. V/i/f/4.

³⁷ Brunner and Lunt, *Sheriffs*, 137; wall monument in church; TNA, PROB 11/702/57 (Sir Wm); PROB 11/746/107 (Jane); PROB 11/985/295 (Stucley); above, landownership (West).

³⁸ Brunner and Lunt, *Sheriffs*, 151; TNA, PROB 11/985/295.

³⁹ Bodl. MS dd Tyrwhitt-Drake c 2/38; Bucks. Archives, D-DR/7/96; *Hist. Parl.* s.v. Thos Drake Tyrwhitt (afterwards Tyrwhitt Drake).

⁴⁰ *VCH Oxon.* XII, 352, 402–3; OHC, SL29/2/D/16–17; *ibid.* CPA/1; *Legacies of British Slavery Database* (online), s.v. Giles Diston (d. 1731); cf. *Gloucester Jnl.* 10 June 1735 (cock match between Diston and 'the gentlemen of Warws.').

⁴¹ OHC, Fi. IV/iii/10; Fi. IV/iv/a/11–13; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burial 1759; *ibid.* Fi. IV/i/a/2. The lord Wm Rollinson then lived in London.

⁴² Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (Warws.), DR38/364–5; OHC, Fi. III/i/1; Fi. IV/i/a/5; Fi. IV/iii/10; TNA, PROB 11/995/57; PROB 11/1162/99; Brunner and Lunt, *Sheriffs*, 151; above, landownership (East).

events.⁴³ A ‘play close’ in Eastend was presumably used for recreation,⁴⁴ while a Friendly Society started in 1766 probably organized club days as later.⁴⁵ Cases of fornication and clandestine marriage were presented to the church courts in the 1630s,⁴⁶ and the Quarter Sessions dealt with occasional poaching, theft, or assault.⁴⁷ A labourer was sentenced to death for rape in 1789, and a murder was reported the same year.⁴⁸ Thefts of crops from the open fields led to a special manor court being convened in 1783.⁴⁹

Since 1800

A.T. Rawlinson (d. 1845) bought Chadlington East manor in 1806 and remodelled the manor house as his home, employing seven household servants there in 1841.⁵⁰ Hailing originally from north Lancashire, he was followed to Chadlington by his twin brother Henry Lindow Lindow (formerly Rawlinson), who lived at Chadlington House c.1812–21.⁵¹ Both brothers owned slaves in the Caribbean,⁵² and Rawlinson bred racehorses at Chadlington, including Coronation (winner of the 1841 Epsom Derby), which gave its name to a close in Eastend.⁵³ Rawlinson’s sons (born in the manor house) included the army officer, politician, and Assyriologist Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson (d. 1895), Bt, and the Oxford University historian and theologian George Rawlinson (d. 1902).⁵⁴ Chadlington West’s lord Sir E. Bayntun Sandys, by contrast, was non-resident, Lower Court’s tenants including

⁴³ OHC, PAR56/13/1/E/3; PAR56/13/1/D/7; above, econ. hist. (trades) (inns and alehouses). Several 16th- and 17th-century testators made provision for food or drink at their funerals: OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 179.43; 29/3/82; 138/2/2; TNA, PROB 11/273/414.

⁴⁴ OHC, enclo. map (West); *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 10.

⁴⁵ Below (welfare).

⁴⁶ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2, ff. 128, 214.

⁴⁷ Ibid. Cal. QS, I, ff. 17v., 184, 189, 340v.; II, ff. 27, 112, 226v., 381; Oxf. Jnl Syn. 9 Jan. 1767, 16 Nov. 1784.

⁴⁸ Oxf. Jnl Syn. 22 Sept. 1788, 7 Mar. 1789, 8 Apr. 1789.

⁴⁹ OHC, PAR56/17/N1/1.

⁵⁰ Above, landownership (East); TNA, HO 107/878.

⁵¹ G. Rawlinson, *A Memoir of Major-General Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson* (1898), 1–4; OHC, Fi. IV/ii/23; *Cheltenham Chron.* 12 Aug. 1819; Lancs. Archives, DDX 243/6/6–7; TNA, PROB 11/2025/388. Lindow changed his surname in 1792: *London Gaz.* 15 May 1792, p. 317.

⁵² *Legacies of British Slavery Database*, s.v. Hen. Lindow Lindow formerly Rawlinson (d. 1848); TNA, PROB 11/2025/388.

⁵³ *VCH Oxon.* II, 368; *The Era*, 7 Sept. 1845; Roche, ‘Notes’, 5. The close’s name was later transferred to the adjacent Coronation Cottage.

⁵⁴ J.D. Pine, *Notes on the History of the Parish of Charlbury* (1935), 40–1; *ODNB*, s.v. Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson, Geo. Rawlinson. For a plaque at the manor house commemorating Henry’s birth, above, landownership (East manor ho.).

Chadlington's curate George Rix (c.1806–8)⁵⁵ and, from c.1815, the army officer and MP Lord Edward Somerset,⁵⁶ who moved to nearby Pudlicote House (in Chilson) before 1820.⁵⁷

After James Langston acquired both manors in the 1830s–40s the manor houses became effectively tenant farmsteads on the Sarsden estate,⁵⁸ although Langston took a close interest in the village, building a school in Westend in 1847, a working men's reading room in Eastend c.1860, and a grand curate's house (Langston House) in 1863. His successor the earl of Ducie built a second school at Eastend in 1865, paid more than half the cost of the church's restoration in 1870, and gave the site of the Methodist chapel opened in 1904.⁵⁹ Such paternalism ended with the sale and break-up of the Sarsden estate in 1922, after which Chadlington's community became more self-reliant.⁶⁰

By 1871 Chadlington's working population largely comprised tenant farmers, craftsmen, and a greater number of dependent agricultural labourers, apprentices, and servants. Live-in domestics were employed by the curate George Carpenter at Langston House, by the London banker John Barton (d. 1893) at Chadlington House (then called The Cottage), and by John Ward (d. 1875) at Manor House, while Ward himself was both a farmer in Chadlington and a carrier in Chipping Norton, where he was a town councillor and four times mayor.⁶¹ Chadlington acquired a resident police constable in 1860,⁶² although crime was no more problematic than in neighbouring rural communities, still mainly confined to poaching, theft, and assault.⁶³ In 1821 John Betteridge was transported to Australia for life for killing a horse belonging to A.T. Rawlinson, however,⁶⁴ and trouble followed the annual Easter Monday club day feast in 1852, when people were reportedly tied up in their houses, gates were lifted off their hinges and thrown into the brook, and door knockers and bells pulled off.⁶⁵ More routine communal life still focused on pubs and places of worship, although several new Friendly Societies emerged during the 19th century,⁶⁶ and concerts and events were occasionally held in the schools or the reading room.⁶⁷ Cricket was played

⁵⁵ London Metropolitan Archives, MS 11936/437/787376; *Oxf. Jnl*, 20 Feb. 1808.

⁵⁶ OHC, par. reg. transcript, baptism 1815; *Sale Cat.*, *Chadlington West Manor* (1818): copy in Glos. Archives, D3393/E7; *ODNB*, s.v. Lord (Rob.) Edw. Henry Somerset.

⁵⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 579, f. 61; below, Chilson, social hist.

⁵⁸ TNA, HO 107/1732; above, landownership.

⁵⁹ Above, landscape etc. (built character); below (educ.); relig. hist. For reading room, see also *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1864); *Oxf. Jnl*, 28 May 1864, 11 Feb. 1865; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.7 (1881 edn).

⁶⁰ Above, landownership; below.

⁶¹ TNA, RG 10/1456. For Barton, *Oxon. Weekly News*, 13 Dec. 1893; *Sale Cat.*, *The Cottage* (1894): copy in OHC, Lo. IX/13; for Ward, *Oxf. Chron.*, 18 Sept. 1875; *VCH Oxon.* XXI, 110.

⁶² TNA, RG 9/909; *Oxf. Chron.*, 2 Dec. 1865.

⁶³ e.g. OHC, Cal. QS, II, ff. 112, 204, 381; IX, pp. 156, 197, 339, 360; *ibid.* QS1831/1/L2/104; QS1844/4/L1/140; QS1848/3/L1/33; QS1864/3/L1/69; *Oxf. Jnl*, 7 Dec. 1805, 5 Mar. 1825.

⁶⁴ TNA, HO 17/44/48; OHC, PAR56/5/A5/1; PAR56/5/F2/1. He was previously sentenced to death for the same offence: *Oxf. Univ. & City Herald*, 11 Aug. 1821.

⁶⁵ *Oxf. Jnl*, 17 Apr. 1852; *Oxon. FS*, p. 1.

⁶⁶ *Oxon. FS*, pp. 88–90; below (welfare).

⁶⁷ *Oxf. Jnl*, 24 Jan. 1857, 28 May, 2 July 1864, 11 Feb. 1866.

by 1849 (James Langston providing a field in 1863), and football by 1889, with a team known as Chadlington Wanderers established by 1900.⁶⁸ A morris dancing side existed in the 1850s, and mumming happened around Christmas.⁶⁹ A Chadlington branch of the Chipping Norton Total Abstinence Society was formed in 1875,⁷⁰ with other Temperance societies promoted by Anglican curates and Nonconformist ministers,⁷¹ and in 1890 rival Conservative and Liberal political meetings were hosted by the tenants of Manor House and Lower Court respectively.⁷²



In 1899 members of the Woolcock family invited the London-based Methodist minister T.B. Stephenson, founder of the National Children's Home charity, to open a children's home at College Farm,⁷³ where in 1901 there were 28 girls aged 3–16 in the care of a matron and a sister. The girls attended the village schools and Methodist chapel, and by 1902 a second home in Eastend had been opened, c.50 children being accommodated in the village altogether.⁷⁴ Some were transferred to the charity's newly-opened Chipping Norton home in 1905,⁷⁵ and all the remaining girls had left the village by 1911.⁷⁶ During the First World War a miniature rifle club run by an army major had its range in a disused quarry off Church Road,⁷⁷ and the names of seven Chadlington men killed in action appear on war memorial plaques placed in the church, the Baptist chapel (moved later to the Memorial Hall), and the Methodist chapel.⁷⁸ During the Second World War farmland in the north of the

⁶⁸ Ibid. 21 July 1849, 18 May 1850, 16 Nov. 1889; *Oxf. Times*, 7 Feb. 1863; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 13 Feb. 1889, 19 Dec. 1900.

⁶⁹ K. Chandler, *Morris Dancing in the English South Midlands, 1600–1900* (1993), 150–1; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 8–9; II, 59–62.

⁷⁰ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 23 Dec. 1874, 17 Feb., 8 Sept. 1875.

⁷¹ Ibid. 19 Feb 1879, 8 Dec. 1880, 20 Apr. 1881, 11 Oct. 1882.

⁷² *Reading Mercury*, 2 Aug 1890; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 6 Aug. 1890.

⁷³ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 20 Sept. 1899, 28 Mar. 1900; *ODNB*, s.v. Thos Bowman Stephenson.

⁷⁴ TNA, RG 13/1398; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 21; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 13 Aug. 1902; Chadlington Hist. Group, *Chadlington: 60 Years in Old Photographs* (1988), 37.

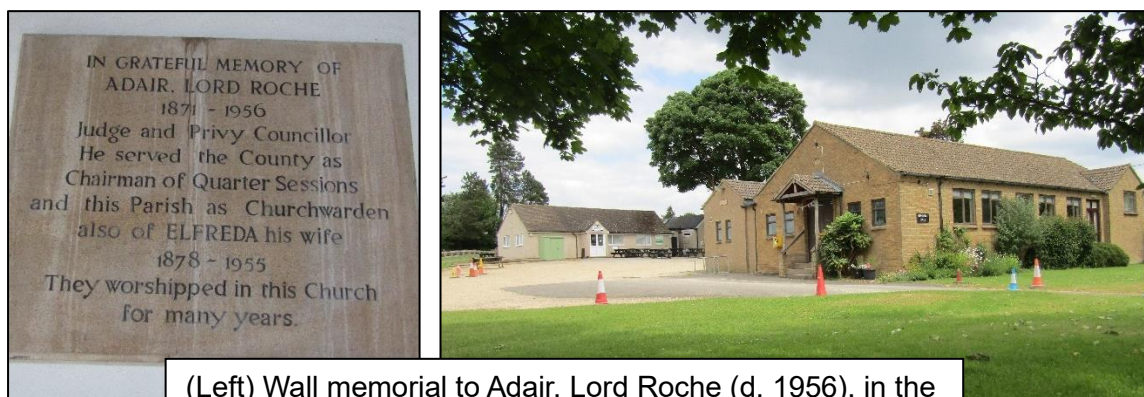
⁷⁵ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 8 Feb. 1905; VCH Oxon. XXI, 151, 160.

⁷⁶ TNA, RG 14/8244; OHC, CC4/40/16.

⁷⁷ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1915); OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XX.7 (1922 edn).

⁷⁸ Below, relig. hist. (since 1800); OHC, POX0189599 and POX0189598 (photos of the Baptist and Methodist memorials).

parish became part of RAF Chipping Norton, and both evacuees and members of the Women's Land Army were housed in the village, the latter in a hostel at Auburn (later Holybourne) House.⁷⁹ The names of two parishioners killed on active service were added to the earlier war memorials.



(Left) Wall memorial to Adair, Lord Roche (d. 1956), in the parish church. (Right) The Memorial Hall opened in 1957.

Prominent members of village society in the early 20th century included the distinguished army officer and long-serving churchwarden F.W. Schofield (d. 1949) of Langston House,⁸⁰ which he purchased from the Sarsden estate,⁸¹ and the judge and privy councillor Sir Adair Roche, who moved to Chadlington House with his family in 1920. Created Baron Roche of Chadlington in 1935, he died in 1956, while his son the Hon. T.G. Roche (d. 1998), the author of a parish history, remained in Chadlington at Ashcroft House.⁸² Sir Adair gave land near the Westend crossroads for a village hall (opened in 1924 in an ex-army hut),⁸³ and in 1925 allowed his field opposite the Baptist chapel to be used by the sports and social club, which had been formed in 1920 to bring together existing cricket and football clubs.⁸⁴ A separate bowls and tennis club started reportedly in 1937, and was said to be thriving in 1961.⁸⁵ A children's playground at Millend opened in 1951,⁸⁶ and in 1956–7 the village hall (which in 1949 hosted a three-day local history exhibition)⁸⁷ was replaced by the

⁷⁹ *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 26–9; *Chadlington: 60 Years*, 61; *VCH Oxon.* XXI, 142–3 (RAF Chipping Norton).

⁸⁰ *Tewkesbury Reg.*, 23 Apr. 1949; Roche, 'Notes', 7; memorial in church.

⁸¹ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1899–1928 edns). He evidently bought it before the 1922 auction: cf. *Sale Cat., Sarsden Estate* (1922): copy in OHC, Fi. XIV/ii/2.

⁸² *ODNB*, s.v. Alex. Adair Roche, Baron Roche; *Who's Who & Who Was Who* (online database, accessed Dec. 2024), s.v. Hon. Thos Gabriel Roche; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 27; Roche, 'Notes', reprinted (abridged) in *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 47–61.

⁸³ *Oxf. Chron.* 7 Mar. 1924; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 29.

⁸⁴ OHC, PC56/A1/2–3; *Chadlington and Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (Sept.–Nov. 1997): copy in OHC.

⁸⁵ *Oxf. Times*, 25 Aug. 1961; *Chadlington and Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (Nov. 1987–Jan. 1988).

⁸⁶ *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 28; OHC, PC56/A1/3; PC56/D1/5.

⁸⁷ OHC, O41/1/C6/21.

Memorial Hall, erected on land which St John's College, Oxford, conveyed to the parish council in 1949.⁸⁸ The new hall (extended in 1999) was used by various groups,⁸⁹ including a branch of the Women's Institute established in 1922 and wound up in 2009.⁹⁰

From the 1920s Chadlington's social character changed markedly as new council and private housing estates were built, although in 2021 only 13 per cent of householders rented from a local authority or housing association.⁹¹ The larger properties still attracted high-profile incomers, including (at Langston House in the 1960s–70s) Gerald FitzGerald (d. 2004), marquess of Kildare and later 8th duke of Leinster, and from 2008 the journalist and broadcaster Jeremy Clarkson at Curdlehill Farm.⁹² An increasing number of inhabitants worked outside the parish, with 43 per cent of those in employment commuting more than 2 km in 2021, when 42 per cent were in managerial or professional occupations. Nevertheless Chadlington had a significant number of young families and retirees, helping to maintain both its primary school and a vibrant social scene.⁹³ The sports and social club (which T.G. Roche allowed to use the sports field on Sundays from 1967) erected a new clubhouse in 1984, and secured a second field for junior football in 2012, remaining active (with both cricket and football teams) in 2024.⁹⁴ The bowls club (which extended its Church Road green and built a new pavilion there in 1997–8) also continued.⁹⁵ A local history society established in 1988 no longer met,⁹⁶ but annual summer beer and music festivals started in 2004 and 2007 continued to flourish,⁹⁷ as did a winter charity fun run first held in 2006.⁹⁸

Education

A schoolmaster was resident in 1769, but no schools are known in Chadlington before 1808, when a few 'poor women' taught 'little children their letters'.⁹⁹ A private boarding school for up to ten pupils (known as the Chadlington Academy) was run by the curate D.G. Davies in

⁸⁸ *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 29–30; OHC, PC56/A1/3; PC56/D1/3–4.

⁸⁹ *Chadlington and Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (July–Sept. 1999); <https://chadlington.com/village-hall> (accessed Dec. 2024).

⁹⁰ Chadlington WI, *Chadlington Women's Institute 1922–1997* (1997): copy in OHC; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 53–5; Char. Com. website (accessed Dec. 2024), no. 1018365.

⁹¹ Above, landscape etc. (popn; settlement); *Census, 2021*, online datasets at <https://chadlington.parish.uk/census> (accessed Dec. 2024).

⁹² *Oxf. Times*, 25 Aug. 1961; *Sunday Telegraph*, 29 Jan. 1967; *Daily Telegraph*, 7 Dec. 2004; *Burke's Peerage* (1975), 1579; above, landownership (Charlbury rectory).

⁹³ *Census, 2021*; <https://chadlington.com>.

⁹⁴ OHC, PC56/A1/3; PC56/D1/8; *Banbury Guardian*, 28 Sept. 1967; *Chadlington & Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (Sept.–Nov. 2012); www.chadlingtonsportsclub.co.uk (accessed Dec. 2024).

⁹⁵ *Witney Gaz.*, 21 Aug. 1996, 24 June 1998; www.tarkitech.com/julian/chad_bowls/index.html (accessed Dec. 2024).

⁹⁶ *Witney Gaz.*, 15 Sept. 1988; *Chadlington & Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (May–July 1989).

⁹⁷ <https://chadlingtonbeerfestival.co.uk/>; www.chadlingtonfestival.org.uk/about (accessed Dec. 2024).

⁹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Brook_Run; <https://greatbrookrun.co.uk/> (accessed Dec. 2024).

⁹⁹ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 118/4/17; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. d 707, f. 37.

his house from at least 1812 until 1822,¹⁰⁰ and another private boarding school, run by the sisters Elizabeth and Frances Watton, had five pupils aged 5–8 (all but one of them boys) in 1841, but closed soon after 1864.¹⁰¹ A Sunday school mentioned from 1818 taught 35 boys and 45 girls in 1831, when despite the vicar's and curate's efforts to establish a National school there were thought to be 90–100 children without means of education, the only day schools being small and privately run.¹⁰² In 1833 the overseers noted that the four infant schools then operating (and teaching 14 boys and 14 girls between them) had all been started within the past three years, and that they would 'probably last only a few months longer', leaving Chadlington 'in a deplorable state as regards schools and religious instruction'.¹⁰³



(Left) The Westend school erected in 1847, and (right) the Eastend school built in 1865, both photographed in 1905. Sources: OHC, POX0163622; POX0163617.

Little progress was made until 1847, when the lord James Langston built a National school at Westend comprising a schoolroom and a teacher's house under a single roof.¹⁰⁴ That was supported by the Langstons throughout the 1850s, together with a night school for older boys,¹⁰⁵ and by 1861 the infants were taught separately in Eastend by two mistresses, perhaps in Langston's reading room.¹⁰⁶ A new mixed school was built in Eastend in 1865 by Langston's successor the earl of Ducie, the old Westend school becoming the infant school; the new building resembled Langston's but was larger, comprising two rooms for teaching and an adjacent detached teacher's house.¹⁰⁷ By 1866 the Westend infant school had 40

¹⁰⁰ *Oxf. Univ. & City Herald*, 27 June 1812, 9 July 1814. For his disgrace and dismissal, *The Times*, 12 Nov 1821; below, relig. hist. (since 1800).

¹⁰¹ TNA, HO 107/878; HO 107/1732; *ibid.* RG 9/909; *PO Dir. Oxon.* (1847–64 edns).

¹⁰² *Educ. of Poor Digest*, II, p. 720; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, f. 51; c 433, f. 49.

¹⁰³ *Educ. Enq. Abstract*, p. 743.

¹⁰⁴ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883); OHC, CC4/40/1–44; above, landscape etc. (built character); landownership.

¹⁰⁵ *Wilb. Visit.* 31; *Oxf. Jnl.*, 24 Jan., 4 July 1857.

¹⁰⁶ TNA, RG 9/909; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 23.

¹⁰⁷ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1883); OHC, CC4/40/1–44; above, landscape etc. (built character).

pupils and the Eastend mixed school 70 day and 30 night pupils, both being National schools receiving government grants.¹⁰⁸ Additional funding came from pence and voluntary contributions, with parents in 1876 charged either 4*d.* a week for farmers and tradesmen or 2*d.* for labourers, while donations in 1881 totalled £111, including £70 from the earl of Ducie. In general a master (paid £85 a year in 1884) was appointed for the mixed school and a mistress for the infant school, and average attendances in 1895 were 78 and 58 respectively.¹⁰⁹

For almost two decades from 1905 the mixed school was taught by William Labrum and his wife Mary, who introduced gardening to the curriculum in 1908.¹¹⁰ Average attendance rose to 113 in 1905 (swelled by residents of the two Methodist children's homes),¹¹¹ but fell to 45 by 1916, and though the teaching was 'vigorous and stimulating' inspectors claimed that the upper class contained some 'abnormally dull children'.¹¹² Both school buildings remained the earl of Ducie's private property, until in 1923 his daughter and heir Lady Eversley sold them to the diocesan board of finance.¹¹³ During a period of rapid staff turnover in the 1920s–30s the infant school was taught single-handedly, with only 16 pupils in 1934,¹¹⁴ and in 1952 (after the transfer of the seniors to Charlbury reduced numbers overall) it was decided to teach both infants and juniors at the Eastend site, the Westend school being sold the following year for conversion into a house.¹¹⁵ The resulting CE primary school was led from 1963 to 1992 by Aubrey Morris,¹¹⁶ and despite parish council concerns in 1979 that there were only 35 children on the roll,¹¹⁷ under Gary Hunt (headmaster 1992–2005) pupil numbers rose to 64 in 1996 and to 81 in 2003. Much-needed extensions were completed in 1995 and 2004, although the teacher's house was sold in 1992.¹¹⁸ Roberta Hornibrook (appointed in 2006) remained headteacher in 2024, when the school taught 99 children aged 4–11 in four classes and was judged to provide a 'broad and stimulating curriculum'.¹¹⁹

¹⁰⁸ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 332, f. 115.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid. PAR56/14/A1/1; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1895).

¹¹⁰ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 4 Jan. 1905; TNA, ED 21/37928; *ibid.* RG 14/8244; OHC, CC4/40/12–14.

¹¹¹ *Public Elem. Schs 1906* (Parl. Papers 1906 [Cd 3182], lxxxvi), p. 525; *above* (since 1800).

¹¹² OHC, CC4/40/12; TNA, ED 21/37928.

¹¹³ OHC, CC4/40/23–30; *ibid.* PAR56/14/D/1; *ibid.* DIOC/1/C/5/1760 (deed 20 Sept. 1923); *above*, landownership (West).

¹¹⁴ TNA, ED 21/37928; OHC, CC4/40/17.

¹¹⁵ OHC, CC4/40/31–2; *ibid.* DIOC/1/C/5/1760 (corresp. 1944; pps re closed school 1952–3).

¹¹⁶ *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 13–17.

¹¹⁷ OHC, PC56/A1/4.

¹¹⁸ *Chadlington & Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (1992–2005 issues); WODC online planning docs, W94/1176; 03/2326/P/CD3.

¹¹⁹ www.chadlington.oxon.sch.uk (accessed Dec. 2024), incl. Ofsted report July 2022.

Welfare

A poor men's box in the church was mentioned from the 1560s,¹²⁰ and small bequests to the poor in cash or kind were common in 16th- and 17th-century wills.¹²¹ Among the larger gifts, John Cross (d. 1565) gave 12*d.* to every householder with less than half a yardland, and the resident lord Thomas Rollinson (d. 1773) left £10 to his son Lock for distribution among Chadlington's poor.¹²² In the 18th century offertory money was given to paupers who attended church 'most constantly',¹²³ and in the 1870s Lady Ducie was joined by some of Chadlington's wealthier inhabitants in providing clothes, blankets, and coal to widows and the elderly poor in severe winter weather, and meat, tea, and sugar around Christmas.¹²⁴

Additional help was provided by Friendly Societies, of which the earliest known was the Chadlington Friendly Society established at the Horseshoe pub in 1766.¹²⁵ That had 80 members in 1803 and 76 members in 1815, its benefits including £5 paid to a member's widow upon his death in 1802.¹²⁶ By 1803 an annual club sermon was preached in the church on Easter Monday.¹²⁷ Several later Friendly Societies (also with Easter Monday club days) similarly met at the Horseshoe, while the Chadlington New Friendly Society, active 1866–92 and with 32 members in 1872, met initially at the reading room, and from 1885 at the Sandys Arms. That was superseded in 1896 by the Loyal Pride of Chadlington Lodge of Oddfellows, which had 196 members in 1913,¹²⁸ and which until the First World War held an annual Easter Monday funfair.¹²⁹ In the 1920s–30s it met monthly at the reading room, and remained active c.1970.¹³⁰

From 1770 the parish subscribed to Oxford Infirmary,¹³¹ but no resident doctors are known in Chadlington itself, inhabitants presumably looking to either Charlbury or Chipping Norton for medical care.¹³² By 1902 a Chadlington nursing association employed a resident district nurse, who from 1907 lived in a cottage owned by the church estate charity.¹³³ That had presumably ceased by 1928, when the Women's Institute was instrumental in setting up

¹²⁰ e.g. OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 184.381; 185.339; 185.321; 190.392.

¹²¹ e.g. *ibid.* 180.122; 185.569; 191.285; 159/4/13; 32/2/43.

¹²² *Ibid.* 184.171a; TNA, PROB 11/995/57.

¹²³ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 561, f. 113; cf. *ibid.* d 555, f. 105.

¹²⁴ *Oxf. Jnl*, 16 Jan. 1875; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 3 Dec. 1879.

¹²⁵ OHC, QSD/R/7.

¹²⁶ *Oxon. FS*, pp. 88–9; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 101.152.

¹²⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 23, ff. 30–2.

¹²⁸ *Oxon. FS*, pp. 89–90; *Oxf. Jnl*, 18 Apr. 1857; *Oxon. Weekly News*, 31 Mar. 1875.

¹²⁹ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 20 Apr. 1898, 26 Apr. 1911; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 8.

¹³⁰ *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1920–39 edns); *Banbury Guardian*, 8 Apr. 1971.

¹³¹ *Oxf. Jnl Syn.* 15 Sept. 1770; OHC, PAR56/5/F2/1–2.

¹³² Cf. below (poor relief).

¹³³ *Oxon. Weekly News*, 18 Feb. 1903; OHC, PAR56/13/1/A2/1; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1911).

a new association again employing a resident nurse.¹³⁴ More recent sheltered housing for the elderly originated in the retired farmer Tom Pitt's gift to the Abbeyfield Society c.1980 of the Old Bakehouse in Westend. Opened in 1984, in 2024 the home had 11 residents.¹³⁵

Parish Charities In 1296 Eynsham abbey made provision for 30*d.* from its Charlbury rectory estate to be distributed annually in Chadlington amongst paupers on Maundy Thursday.¹³⁶ By 1520 there were no such distributions,¹³⁷ and several parish charities established in the 17th century also disappeared, amongst them those of Richard Newman (d. 1604), John Newman (d. 1616), John Colgrave (d. 1620), Mary Jones (d. 1657), John Adey (d. 1658), and Sir Littleton Osbaldeston (d. 1692).¹³⁸ Stock of £5 left by Hercules Osbaldeston (d. 1640) for 'the relief of the poor' remained with his executors until 1665, when they were ordered to pay it to Chadlington's churchwardens and overseers together with £7 4*s.* representing 24 years' interest.¹³⁹ No further record has been found.

A charity shared with Orsett (Essex) was established by the London fishmonger's widow Alice Hemming, under whose will (dated 1639) a house and c.5 a. of land in Orsett was vested in 12 trustees in 1644, six of them from Orsett and six from Chadlington. The rental income was to be divided equally between the two parishes, each devoting half to Sunday lecture sermons in church, and half to the poor. By 1699 the endowment also included houses in London,¹⁴⁰ producing c.£12 a year for Chadlington in the 1730s–50s,¹⁴¹ and by 1825 (when the Chadlington poor's share was £20 12*s.* 6*d.*) it was used to buy coal which was sold to the poor at a reduced price.¹⁴² Some 25 tons of coal was bought for £25 in 1900, stored in two barns including one on Horseshoe Lane.¹⁴³ The London houses had evidently been sold by 1905, when under a new Scheme Chadlington's share of £55 17*s.* (comprising £22 10*s.* from the Orsett estate and £33 7*s.* from investments) was split equally between the 'church share' (still for Sunday lectures) and the 'poor's share'.¹⁴⁴ Eighty one people received coal the following year, but difficulty in obtaining coal during the First World

¹³⁴ *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 19; II, 53; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1931).

¹³⁵ *Witney Gaz.*, 19 July 1984; <https://theoldbakehousechadlington.co.uk>; www.abbeyfield.com (accessed Dec. 2024).

¹³⁶ *Eynsham Cart.* I, pp. 340–2.

¹³⁷ *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* I, 135.

¹³⁸ TNA, PROB 11/105/320; PROB 11/135/30; PROB 11/270/144; PROB 11/273/414; PROB 11/408/73; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 47/2/22.

¹³⁹ TNA, PROB 11/183/242; OHC, PAR56/13/1/A1/1.

¹⁴⁰ *12th Rep. Com. Char.* (Parl. Papers 1825 (348), x), pp. 180–1; OHC, PAR56/13/2/A1/1; PAR56/13/2/D/1–20; PAR56/13/2/M/1. For lectures, below, relig. hist.

¹⁴¹ *Secker's Corresp.* 27; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 555, f. 105. Cf. *Secker's Visit.* 36 (c.£10 in 1738); OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 561, f. 113 (c.£8 in 1771).

¹⁴² *12th Rep. Com. Char.* p. 181.

¹⁴³ *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 33–4; Chadlington Hist. Group, *Photos*, 21; OHC, PC56/A1/1, p. 22.

¹⁴⁴ OHC, PAR56/13/2/A2/1.

War led to the poor's share being distributed in money from 1918, when 95 people received 4s. each. Annual cash gifts (benefiting 44 people in 1945, 56 in 1977, and 28 in 1998) continued until 2005, and from 1993 were supplemented by annual payments (totalling £300 in 1998) from the separate Diplock charity (below), with which the poor's share was merged in 2006. The church share (though no longer used for lectures) was still paid to the churchwardens in 1999.¹⁴⁵

By his will dated 1946 the London watchmaker Alfred Diplock left the bulk of his estate to Chadlington parochial church council 'to provide coals and blankets for the necessitous poor', adding that if funds allowed a small cottage should be built in Chadlington 'for the use of aged couples of the district rent-free'. Diplock died in 1947, and in 1950 £2,200 from his estate was vested in a new charity whose five trustees were chosen by the parochial church council. In 1952 they purchased Diplock Cottage in Westend, which was run as an almshouse for an elderly couple until 1992 when, on the Charity Commission's recommendation, it was sold and the c.£39,000 proceeds invested.¹⁴⁶ Thereafter, under a Scheme of 1993, the charity made hardship grants to individuals or groups and book grants to those attending college or university. In 2023 the charity dispensed just over half of its annual income of almost £19,000.¹⁴⁷

Parish Poor Relief A house at the bottom of Bull Hill, owned by the lord of Chadlington West, was used by 1792 as a poorhouse.¹⁴⁸ In 1820 it had 13 occupants, and prayers were read there weekly in 1831, but by 1834 it was no longer used. It then had space for 30 people, but was said to have never accommodated more than 25.¹⁴⁹ By the 1820s the parish officers sometimes also paid the rents of paupers housed in the church estate's cottages in Eastend,¹⁵⁰ and engaged a Chipping Norton doctor to treat the parish's poor, paying him 10 guineas a year and (in 1828) an extra sum for inoculating 210 people against smallpox.¹⁵¹

Total expenditure on parish poor relief in 1776 was £151 (including £19 spent on renting accommodation), which in line with wider trends rose to £276 in 1785 and to £298 in 1803, when 19 adults and 15 children received permanent out-relief and 15 people occasional help. Expenditure more than doubled to £700 in 1813, when 25 people were

¹⁴⁵ Ibid. PAR56/13/2/A1/2; *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 34; *Chadlington & Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (Sept.–Nov. 2006); Char. Com. website, no. 237532.

¹⁴⁶ *Chadlington Life & Hist.* II, 35–6; *Chadlington & Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (July–Sept. 1993); NHLE, no. 1052831 (Diplock Cottage) (accessed Dec. 2024). From 1984 the parish council nominated only two of the five trustees.

¹⁴⁷ *Chadlington & Spelsbury Par. Mag.* (May–July 2024); Char. Com. website, no. 207181.

¹⁴⁸ OHC, par. reg. transcript, baptisms 1792; *Sale Cat.*, *Chadlington West Manor* (1818); *Chadlington Life & Hist.* I, 62–4. The adjacent field was 'Workhouse Close' by 1805: OHC, E21/D/1.

¹⁴⁹ OHC, PAR56/5/A6/1; PAR56/5/E/1; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, f. 51.

¹⁵⁰ *12th Rep. Com. Char.* p. 179; below, relig. hist. (church estate).

¹⁵¹ OHC, PAR56/5/F2/1; Roche, 'Notes', 8 (although his original source has not been found).

relieved permanently and 15 occasionally.¹⁵² Thereafter it fluctuated, averaging £482 a year in the 1820s and falling to £374 in 1834, when the weekly rate of relief was 5s. per man and wife and 1s. 3d. per child.¹⁵³ Under the 1834 Poor Law Act responsibility passed to the new Chipping Norton Poor Law Union.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵² *Poor Abstract*, 1777, p. 437; 1787, p. 655; 1804, pp. 400–1; 1818, pp. 354–5.

¹⁵³ *Poor Rate Retns*, 1822, p. 136; 1825, p. 171; 1830–1, p. 159; 1835, p. 154; OHC, PAR56/5/A6/1. For division of costs between Chadlington West and East, below, local govt.

¹⁵⁴ Youngs, *Admin. Units*, I, 394; *Oxon. Atlas*, pp. 144–5.