

## ALDERBURY

Alderbury lies four miles south-east of Salisbury on the old Southampton Road now by-passed by the A36. The parish contains two formerly discrete settlements, manors and tithings: Alderbury to the north-west and Whaddon to the south-east.<sup>1</sup> These two areas were united by in-fill development of housing in the first half of the 20th century. Medieval Alderbury was dominated by Ivychurch priory, or Ederose, an Augustinian house.<sup>2</sup> Thereafter it remained a small rural community until the 20th century when it became a commuter village for Salisbury.

A chapel at Whaddon was attached to Ivychurch priory.<sup>3</sup> Its location was not recorded in post medieval surveys or maps. Alderbury parish also formerly included the chapels of Pitton and Farley until they achieved independent civil status in 1866 and became a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1874.<sup>4</sup>

## LANDSCAPE, SETTLEMENT AND BUILT CHARACTER

### BOUNDARIES AND PARISH ORIGINS

Alderbury (*Æpelware Byrig*, *Æpelwaru's burh*) is first recorded in a Saxon charter dated 972.<sup>5</sup> The site of Ivychurch priory, which occupied the most obvious defensive position in the parish, may have been the location of this early Saxon burh. It was perhaps the site of a Saxon minster giving its name to Alderbury hundred.

Alderbury measured 2,265 a. (916.6 ha.) in 1871, the first census when its area was assessed without the chapels of Pitton and Farley, and in 1880.<sup>6</sup> The earliest map covering the whole of Alderbury parish was produced in 1765.<sup>7</sup> The boundaries of Alderbury and Whaddon were surveyed and an estate map produced in 1814.<sup>8</sup> The parish is bordered to the west by Britford, Bodenham and Charlton All Saints, to the south by Standlynch, to the south-east by Whiteparish, to the east by West Grimstead, and to the north by Clarendon Park and Laverstock.<sup>9</sup>

The northern most point of the boundary is at St Mary's Grange on Shute End Road, running along the southern boundary of the Grange it meets the river Avon and continues south to an area of

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<sup>1</sup> WSA, TA/Alderbury.

<sup>2</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 289—95.

<sup>3</sup> Below, rel, hist.

<sup>4</sup> Youngs, *Admin. units*, I, 529.

<sup>5</sup> Pn Wilts, 374.

<sup>6</sup> *OS Area Book* (1880) and Census, 1871.

<sup>7</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>8</sup> WSA, 490/721 (survey) and 1946/2/2E/9 (map).

<sup>9</sup> OS, 1:2500, 1901 edn., Wiltshire LXXI:4, 8, 12, and LXXII, 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10.

woodland called Great Hams.<sup>10</sup> Alderbury manor and parish extend to the centre of the river.<sup>11</sup> At Great Hams the boundary departs from the Avon and runs eastward along established ditches supplying the water meadows to an area of wood called the Lynchetts. It continues through the wood and along field boundaries to meet the Salisbury to Southampton road at a milestone marking 5 miles to Salisbury and 17 to Southampton. Turning south the boundary runs to a crossing point on Witherington Down, then turns east along a track to Grimstead Beeches and returns north along field boundaries, skirting the north-east-edge of Oakridge Copse and passing over London Road to cross Common Plantation. Heading north the boundary touches the eastern end of the old canal cut, then crosses the railway and Clarendon Road before meeting Clarendon Park where it returns west along a track to a boundary stone at Alderbury Lodge. Continuing westward the boundary runs along the northern edge of Ivychurch Copse, meeting Old Road which it follows to Shute End Road and returns to St Mary's Grange where a 19th-century parish boundary post marks the point at which Alderbury meets Laverstock.<sup>12</sup>

No substantial boundary changes have been noted, but Great Island and Little Island, measuring together 1 a. 0 r. 6 p., were in Alderbury manor in 1765, but are shown as in Britford parish on the tithe maps of 1839.<sup>13</sup> All Ordnance Survey maps place Great Island in Britford and little Island in Alderbury.<sup>14</sup>

Alderbury was clearly a place of some importance in the Saxon period and gave its name to the hundred. The place name suggests that Alderbury was the site of a Saxon fortification or minster.<sup>15</sup>

### *Geology*

Alderbury and Whaddon contain good quality meadow on the alluvial soils beside the river Avon. Here the water meadows have been extended by a series of ditches and channels into the flood plain rising to an outcrop of London clay which forms the soil of the whole of the central and eastern part of the parish.<sup>16</sup> A thin band of mixed clay and sand of the Reading Formation runs along Shute End Road and Witherington Road. A larger band of London Clay runs from Shute End, through Alderbury church and fans out to a wider area at Whaddon, where the place name, derived from the

<sup>10</sup> This paragraph OS, 1:2500, 1901 edn., Wiltshire LXXI:4, 8, 12, and LXXII, 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>11</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>12</sup> NHLE, no.1183885, Parish Boundary Post (accessed 11/10/2023).

<sup>13</sup> WSA 1946/2/2b/6; T/A/Alderbury, T/A Britford.

<sup>14</sup> For instance OS, 1:2500, 1881 and 1901 edns., Wilts LXXI:4

<sup>15</sup> S. Draper, 'Burh place-names in Anglo-Saxon England', *Journal of the English Place Name Society*, 41 (2009), 105.

<sup>16</sup> British Geological Survey, 1:50000 series, (2005 edn.), Salisbury, England and Wales sheet 298.

Anglo-Saxon *hwæt denu*, describes the valley where wheat was grown.<sup>17</sup> Farther east Alderbury village, Ivychurch Copse, Common Plantations, Whaddon common, Oakridge Copse and the fields adjoining them are situated on sand of the Wittering Formation.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### *Roads*

The Old Road was the principal medieval trade route between Salisbury and Southampton; clearly ancient it follows the same alignment as the parish boundary. The route is first marked on Ogilby's map of 1675.<sup>18</sup> The route of this original road is known as Old Road from Shute End to the Green. At the Green a road known as Old Road continues to the north of the Green and meets Southampton Road at the junction with Folly Lane and Clarendon Road. However, the previous main route ran past the Green Dragon Inn to Southampton Road, along a path from Silver Street to Folly Lane and on to the church, before turning south-east past the vicarage, to Rectory Farm, Toadland, Charity Farm and Whaddon Farm.<sup>19</sup> This road was punctuated by clusters of houses. It is likely that livestock would have been driven across the common along what would become the turnpike. Most long distance traffic on the Old Road was diverted to the route of the Southampton Road by the creation of a turnpike in 1753.<sup>20</sup> A milestone on Southampton Road at St Mary Grange marks two miles to Salisbury, a milepost at the junction with Folley Lane and Clarendon Road marks three miles, a milestone marks four miles at Whaddon where the road is crossed by a disused railway and a five-mile stone stood close to the chalk pit on Witherington Down.<sup>21</sup> Road widening of the A36 took place in 1956, but was insufficient to cope with the increased volume of traffic.<sup>22</sup> In 1975 Alderbury by-pass was constructed to divert the A36 to the east departing the Southampton Road south of Whaddon business park and following the disused track of the Salisbury to Fordingbridge railway to meet the London to Salisbury railway which it follows north-west to rejoin the original route of the Southampton Road in Laverstock parish.<sup>23</sup>

In 1560 the inhabitants of Alderbury tithing were ordered to repair a road called Alderbury Shutte.<sup>24</sup> Shute End Road and Witherington Road provided access for meadow to the east and arable to the south-west.

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<sup>17</sup> *PN Wilts*, 375.

<sup>18</sup> J. Ogilby, *Britannia* (1675), 51, map 'The road from London to Southampton'.

<sup>19</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>20</sup> WSA, A1/300/1/30.

<sup>21</sup> NHLE, Milestone at St Maries Grange, no. 1181351, Milestone at the junction of Clarendon Road with Southampton Road, no.1355735. OS, 1:2500, 1901 edn., Wilts LXXI:4, and LXXII, 1 & 10.

<sup>22</sup> WSA, F4/800/4/6.

<sup>23</sup> WSA, F4/800/4/21.

<sup>24</sup> WSA, 192/1b.

### *River crossings*

A route from Home Farm Dairy continued to a ford across the Avon at the southern tip of Great Island then on to Britford. Marked on the manorial map of 1765, tithe map 1839 and editions of 25" Ordnance Survey maps into the 20th century.<sup>25</sup> A second crossing to Longford was marked as a ferry in 1765, as two crossing points to the north and south of Longford Castle in 1839 and as a bridge by 1901. The present bridge was designed in 1914 by Gambier Parry, constructed of limestone ashlar, with three segmental arches, cutwaters and octagonal refuges above.<sup>26</sup>

### *Railways*

The Bishopstoke to Salisbury railway was approved by Act of Parliament in 1844.<sup>27</sup> It enters Alderbury parish at the southern end of Common Plantation which it follows westward before crossing fields and running along the north-east border of Ivychurch Copse and into Laverstock.

The Salisbury and Dorset Junction Railway received royal assent in 1861. It branched from the Salisbury to London line at Alderbury junction travelling south through the parish and on to Downton, Breamore, Fordingbridge, Verwood and West Moors.<sup>28</sup> The line was adopted by the London and South Western Railway and opened in December 1866.<sup>29</sup> Alderbury junction station did not open for another six years.<sup>30</sup> It was a halt for the use of railway workers and their families with stopping space for two carriages. Requests for a larger station were refused. The line closed in May 1964.<sup>31</sup>

### *Buses and carriers*

A carrier service was available in 1848 provided by Mr Roberts from his house on Tuesdays and Saturdays.<sup>32</sup> In the 19th and early 20th centuries carriers operating out of Salisbury served Alderbury and Whaddon several times each week.<sup>33</sup>

The Wiltshire and Dorset ran daily bus services between Salisbury and Southampton, by 1927.<sup>34</sup> In 2025 the X7 provided and hourly service between Salisbury and Southampton, run by Salisbury Reds, stopping at Alderbury Crossroads and Whaddon post office.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>25</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6; T/A/Alderbury; OS Map 25", Wilts LXXI.4 (1901 edn).

<sup>26</sup> NHLE, no.1203738, Longford Castle Bridge (accessed 19/4/2024).

<sup>27</sup> WSA, A1/317/28MS, A1/317/27MS, A1/371/34MS. Salisbury Branch Railway Act; 7 & 8 Vict. c.63 (Local and personal).

<sup>28</sup> WSA, A1/371/116MS.

<sup>29</sup> N. Bray, *The Salisbury and Dorset Junction Railway* (Southampton, 2010), 68.

<sup>30</sup> M. Quick, *Railway passenger stations in Great Britain: a chronology* (Railway and Canal Historical Society, 2009), 72.

<sup>31</sup> N. Bray, *The Salisbury and Dorset Junction Railway* (Southampton, 2010), 68.

<sup>32</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Dors., Hants. and Wilts* (1848), 2431.

<sup>33</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1895), 198, and (1927), 209.

## Canals

The Salisbury and Southampton Canal was authorised by Act of Parliament in 1795.<sup>36</sup> Land in Alderbury was purchased from the earl of Radnor.<sup>37</sup> By 1803 a section was navigable from Kimbridge to a lock and wharf at Alderbury, but there was little uptake. The Salisbury and Southampton sections were never completed and the whole navigation was abandoned by 1808.<sup>38</sup> In the 21st century a section of the canal remains visible between the A36 and Southampton Road from where the alignment continues south beside Canal Lane.

## POPULATION

At Alderbury in 1086 there were four villeins and eight bordars, with a further five cottagers (*cosets*) at Whaddon, and perhaps also resident clerics and minor noblemen.<sup>39</sup> At Whaddon manor there were 13 free and villein tenants in 1273.<sup>40</sup> The seven free tenants at Whaddon in 1319 were perhaps not all residents, unlike the 13 tenement holders and three cottagers.<sup>41</sup> There were 21 taxpayers in Alderbury, including Whaddon, in 1332.<sup>42</sup>

In 1348/9 the prior of Ivychurch and 12 of the 13 canons died in the first wave of the Black Death which presumably also had a considerable impact on the village population.<sup>43</sup> In 1377 95 residents of Alderbury and 16 residents of Whaddon paid the poll tax.<sup>44</sup> two years later it was paid by five women and 42 men in Alderbury and nine men at Whaddon.<sup>45</sup> The totals of those assessed to pay the Poll Tax suggests a total population of both settlements, including children, of around 250. At Alderbury 22 taxpayers were assessed to pay the first instalment of the lay subsidy in 1524, Whaddon was taxed with East and West Grimstead where only 15 taxpayers were assessed for all three settlements.<sup>46</sup> In 1538 a rental of Alderbury and Ivychurch manors included one free tenant and 22 customary tenants.

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<sup>34</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1927), 24.

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.salisburyreds.co.uk/services/SWWD/X7>: accessed 19/1/2025.

<sup>36</sup> Southampton and New Sarum Canal Act, 1795, 35 Geo. 3, c.51.

<sup>37</sup> WSA, 490/28.

<sup>38</sup> *VCH Wilts*, IV, 279.

<sup>39</sup> *Domesday* (Alecto), 174, 186, 197.

<sup>40</sup> TNA, C 133/1/7.

<sup>41</sup> A. Conyers, *Wilts extents for debts*, W.R.S., XXVIII (1972), 17—19.

<sup>42</sup> Crowley (ed.), *Tax list 1332*, W.R.S. XLV (1989), 105.

<sup>43</sup> *Cal. Pat.*, 1348—50, 260.

<sup>44</sup> Fenwick (ed.), *Poll Taxes*, III, 8.

<sup>45</sup> Fenwick (ed.), *Poll Taxes*, III, 73—4.

<sup>46</sup> TNA, E179/197/152 part 2.

In 1627 two burials were explicitly for women who had died of the plague.<sup>47</sup> The parish registers, including Pitton and Farley, indicate a gradual growth in population: average 8.5 baptisms each year 1610—1640, 9.5 each year 1680—1750, and 12.7 each year 1760—1800.<sup>48</sup>

The census totals recorded the population of Alderbury ancient parish with the chapelries of Pitton and Farley from 1801 when the combined population was 898 rising steadily to peak at 1,440 in 1841, here it stabilised at 1,438 in 1851.<sup>49</sup> In 1831 the adult working population of Alderbury alone comprised 317 individuals divided between 30 employers and professionals, 71 'middling sorts', 200 labourers and servants and 16 others.<sup>50</sup> The census for Alderbury alone in 1871 recorded a population of 658 increasing to reach 678 in 1891, before falling back to 649 in 1911.<sup>51</sup> The population grew to 731 in 1921 and 735 in 1931 before rising sharply to 1029 in 1951; then steadily to 1,228 in 1981, with another sharp increase to 1859 in 1991, and steady rise to 2,285 by 2021.<sup>52</sup>

## SETTLEMENT

The earliest evidence of human activity in Alderbury are two Palaeolithic axes found to the east of Lightslane plantation.<sup>53</sup> The earliest settlement sites were on raised ground close to the river Avon where Neolithic or Bronze Age ring ditches are visible on aerial photographs to the west of Nythefield Copse.<sup>54</sup> A second set of ring ditches of presumed similar date lie within Alderbury meadows to the north of Horse Hams.<sup>55</sup> Two more have been located on the higher ground at Alderbury Junction.<sup>56</sup> Closer to the river Neolithic worked flints were also found at Whaddon brickworks.<sup>57</sup> Mesolithic flints have been found at Rectory Farm.<sup>58</sup> A bronze age beaker pot was found at Rectory Farm.<sup>59</sup>

Continuity into the Romano-British period is attested by pottery finds.<sup>60</sup> A single Saxon burial was discovered on the Romano-British settlement at Witheridge Ring.<sup>61</sup> A named Saxon settlement is first recorded at Alderbury in 972: *Æpelware byrig*, the burh belonging to a woman

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<sup>47</sup> WSA, 1966/1.

<sup>48</sup> WSA, 1966/1—4, transcripts by Wiltshire Family History Society at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre. There are many gaps and figures include Pitton and Farley as statements of origin are inconsistent.

<sup>49</sup> *Census*, 1801—1851.

<sup>50</sup> *Census*, 1831.

<sup>51</sup> *Census*, 1871—1911.

<sup>52</sup> *Census*, 1921—2021.

<sup>53</sup> Wilts HER, Palaeolithic axes, MWI 9679 (SU12NE001).

<sup>54</sup> Wilts HER, ring ditch, MWI 9808 (SU12NE657) and Wilts HER, ring ditch, MWI9827 (SU12NE658).

<sup>55</sup> Wilts HER, ring ditch MWI 9806 (SU12NE622), and Wilts HER ring ditch MWI 8350 (SU12NE643).

<sup>56</sup> Wilts HER, ring ditch MWI 9802 (SU12NE618) and Wilts HER, MWI 9803, ring ditch (SU12NE619).

<sup>57</sup> Wilts HER, worked flint, MWI 9699 (SU12NE102)

<sup>58</sup> Wilts HER, Mesolithic flints, MWI 9695 (SU12NE/055) and MWI 9696 (SU12NE056).

<sup>59</sup> Wilts HER, beaker pot, MWI 9706 (SU12NE151).

<sup>60</sup> Wilts HER, pottery, MWI 9723 (SU12NE306).

<sup>61</sup> *WAM* (1985), LXXIX, 110.

named Æthelwaru.<sup>62</sup> Local tradition records that human remains, believed to be Saxon, were discovered in the late 19th century during the straightening of Tunnel Hill.<sup>63</sup>

Medieval settlement at Alderbury was focused on multiple locations which remained distinct in 1765: Ivychurch priory in the north, on the Old Road by the Green Dragon Inn, strung along Silver Street, Folly Lane and Tunnel Hill to the church and Alderbury House with Alderbury Farm on Witherington Road and Home Farm on Shute End Lane and a small collection of cottages at Shute End.<sup>64</sup> Expansion was restricted by existing tenancies and the limited opportunities for agricultural employment. Minor population growth after the Reformation was accommodated by cottages on the waste and common, numbering nine in 1765.<sup>65</sup> A cottage was built by James Phillips on Whaddon common in 1799.<sup>66</sup> At some time before 1850 a small group of cottages had appeared on Clarendon Road on Alderbury Common.<sup>67</sup>

A scattering of cottages flanked the old pre-turnpike route from Whaddon farm past Toadland and Rectory Farm past the vicarage to the school.<sup>68</sup> In the late 18th century a small cluster of cottages and a windmill appeared on Spider Island in Whaddon manor.<sup>69</sup> The principal settlement at Whaddon, a mile to the south-east of Alderbury, consisted of a cluster of cottages beside Whaddon Farm, Charity Farm and the Three Crowns Inn on Southampton Road and extending along Castle Lane.<sup>70</sup>

There were 156 households in Alderbury and Whaddon in 1881 and 151 in 1901.<sup>71</sup> The number rose to 183 in 1921, followed by large increases to 230 in 1931 and 310 in 1951, before rising more slowly to 330 in 1961.<sup>72</sup> Alderbury and Whaddon saw extensive in-fill residential development in the later 20th century and eventually merged into a single settlement. Most were private developments of detached and semi-detached houses in cul-de-sacs branching from Southampton Road and to the south-east side of Clarendon Road. They included both single homes and larger projects including Wimpey Homes construction of 37 houses at the Alderbury Park Estate, centred on Avon Drive in 1980.<sup>73</sup> A large local authority housing estate was built at Spiders

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<sup>62</sup> *PN Wilts*, 374—5.

<sup>63</sup> R. Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon: a millennium mosaic of people and progress*, (Alderbury and Whaddon Local History Research Group, 2000), 31.

<sup>64</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>65</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6.

<sup>66</sup> WSA, 490/1004.

<sup>67</sup> WSA, TA/Alderbury.

<sup>68</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>69</sup> WSA, 490/705.

<sup>70</sup> WSA, TA/Alderbury.

<sup>71</sup> Censuses, 1881 and 1901.

<sup>72</sup> Censuses, 1921, 1931, 1951, 1961.

<sup>73</sup> WSA, G8/7/8/1/567 (planning no. S/80/1428).

Island, in phases, between 1950 and 1990.<sup>74</sup> Silver Wood, a cluster of detached houses opposite the tennis courts in Alderbury, was constructed in 1996.<sup>75</sup>

Limited commercial development in the later 20th century was centred on Whaddon business park, created in the late 20th century at the junction of the A36 and Southampton Road. In 2000 it contained 15 letting units.<sup>76</sup>

## BUILT CHARACTER

Medieval and Tudor houses in Alderbury were timber frames with wattle and plaster infill and thatched roofs. Gradually brick was introduced as infill, in an English bond or Herringbone pattern, and from the 18th century houses were built entirely from brick. The oldest domestic building, the Green Dragon Inn, a 15th-century hall house with 16th-century additions is timber framed with brick stacks and plaster fill.<sup>77</sup> It was originally a thatched open hall house, but was later tiled. Other older buildings, some with Tudor origins, were timber framed with brick and flint infill. All were probably thatched before the 19th century including the Court House, with 16th-century features,<sup>78</sup> and cottages on School Hill, Lights Lane and Silver Street all with 17th-century origins some of which remain thatched in the 21st century.<sup>79</sup>

Later cottages were not timber framed, but built of local brick, first with thatched roofs, including Cherry Tree Cottage on Old Road,<sup>80</sup> while later examples such as Yew Tree Cottage were constructed with slate roofs.<sup>81</sup> The Old Cottage at Castle Lane, Whaddon is typical of smaller, single cell brick cottages.<sup>82</sup> In 1910 cottages were generally regarded as being in good condition, many had workshops, pigsties, wood stores, and water supplied from their own wells.<sup>83</sup>

Developments at Alderbury and Whaddon in the 20th and 21st centuries have generally not sought to replicate historic styles of building. However, the gradual accumulation of detached and semi-detached houses and bungalows, by separate developers, on plots surrounded by trees and hedges has retained some of the character of the earlier dispersed settlements. In 2007 a parish plan for Alderbury stated the intention of the parish council in promoting infill developments in a range

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<sup>74</sup> Anon, *More of the mosaic of Alderbury and Whaddon* (Alderbury and Whaddon Local History Group, 2011), 19—20.

<sup>75</sup> Anon, *More of the mosaic of Alderbury and Whaddon* (Alderbury and Whaddon Local History Group, 2011), 19.

<sup>76</sup> Atkinson, *Alderbury and Whaddon*, 18.

<sup>77</sup> NHLE, no.1023782, The Green Dragon Public House, (accessed 11/10/2023).

<sup>78</sup> NHLE, no. 1023786, The Court House, (accessed 11/10/2023).

<sup>79</sup> NHLE, no. 1355756, 5 and 6 School Hill, no.1023783, 7 Lights Lane, no. 1023785, Old Timbers (accessed 11/10/2023).

<sup>80</sup> NHLE, no.1023784 Cherry Tree Cottage (accessed 11/10/2023).

<sup>81</sup> NHLE, no. 1023781 Yew Tree Cottage (accessed 11/10/2023).

<sup>82</sup> NHLE, no. 1355752 The Old Cottage (accessed 11/10/2023).

<sup>83</sup> TNA, IR 58/73120—73123.



of styles with shared ownership and residential homes to be encouraged and large scale development discouraged.<sup>84</sup>

## LANDOWNERSHIP

### ALDERBURY

The earliest place name forms of Alderbury, *Æpelware byrig* (972), *Ædeluuaraburh* (976) and *Athelwarabyrig* (10th century) describe a burh belonging to a woman named Æpelwara.<sup>85</sup> In 1086 the parish was already divided between several lords. Alweard the priest held five hides belonging to the church. He had land for one plough in demesne and for two more belonging to four villeins and eight bordars the whole being worth 70s.<sup>86</sup> Another hide belonging to the church had never paid geld and a further two hides held by Osbern the priest were worth 20s.<sup>87</sup> Engenulf, who also held Whaddon manor, held a yardland with one cottager (*cozet*), which had been held by Boda in 1066.<sup>88</sup> The king's servant Edward held a virgate which had also been held by Boda in 1066, worth 3s 4d.<sup>89</sup>

During the following five hundred years the division of land in Alderbury between the Crown, Salisbury cathedral, Ivychurch priory and several secular lords was complex. At times it was difficult for contemporaries to trace the inheritance, or indeed the ownership, of certain holdings.

#### *Alderbury Manor, 1066—1537*

In the 11th century all of the land within Alderbury parish appears to have been part of either Alderbury manor or Whaddon manor. From Alderbury manor lands were granted to the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury Cathedral during the 12th century which were to form Alderbury Rectory manor.<sup>90</sup> Ivychurch manor was created from land extracted from Alderbury manor c.1135—1154. What remained of Alderbury manor was a free holding belonging to the Heyraz family (below), a small quantity of customary land that formed one knight's fee, a second fee held by the 12th century from the manor of West Grimstead, and several tenements held directly from the Crown.

<sup>84</sup> Alderbury Parish Plan, 2007, <https://alderburyparishcouncil.wordpress.com/parish-plan/> accessed 15 January 2025.

<sup>85</sup> *PN, Wilts*, 374.

<sup>86</sup> *Domesday* (Alecto), 174.

<sup>87</sup> *Domesday* (Alecto), 174.

<sup>88</sup> *Domesday* (Alecto), 186.

<sup>89</sup> *Domesday* (Alecto), 197.

<sup>90</sup> *Register St Osmund*, I, 208.

Throughout the 14th and 15th centuries there are occasional references to diverse individuals holding land from the Crown in Alderbury. In 1316 a licence was granted to Geoffrey de Weston to grant a messuage and virgate in Laverstock, Ford (Winterburne Ford) and Alderbury to Henry de Figheldene.<sup>91</sup> In 1328 a licence was acquired by inquisition *quod damnum* for Henry Burry to enfeof William Randolf of a messuage and land in Laverstock, Ford and Alderbury, held by service of finding a forester for the park at Clarendon.<sup>92</sup> Christina atte Bergh died in 1396 seized of 3 a. meadow and the reversion of 1½ a. meadow held from the Crown.<sup>93</sup> Her heir was her son John atte Bergh.<sup>94</sup> In 1447 John Whithorne was restored to properties across south Wiltshire, which had been seized by Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, including unspecified lands in Alderbury.<sup>95</sup> No records of Crown administration for any of these lands have been traced.

In the early 16th century the assorted Crown lands that formed the rump of Alderbury manor came together with Ivychurch manor as Alderbury cum Ivychurch. In 1501 Richard Pyperd held three cottages from Ivychurch priory as well as lands held directly from the Crown, so presumably the manors were not managed together at the time these tenancies had been granted.<sup>96</sup> Ivychurch manor had been merged with Alderbury by 1537 when the lease of Ivychurch demesne and the rents of free tenants and customary tenants of both manors were held by Robert Seymour and valued together at £26 6s. 5d.<sup>97</sup> A Crown lease for Alderbury, Ivychurch and Whaddon was confirmed in 1538.<sup>98</sup>

### *The Heyraz land within Alderbury Manor*

In 1086 the king's servant Edward was stated to hold a virgate directly from the Crown which has been traditionally associated with the lands later held by the Heyraz (otherwise *Hayraz*, *Heiraz*, *Herez*) family.<sup>99</sup> Radulph Heyraz held a quarter of a carucate, worth 5s. by sergeanty in 1198.<sup>100</sup> In 1236 Richard de Heyraz held half a hide from the King.<sup>101</sup> In 1250 William Heyraz held unspecified land in Alderbury for the service of sergeanty and maintaining the King's harriers

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<sup>91</sup> *Cal. Pat.*, 1313—1317, 457.

<sup>92</sup> *Cal. Pat.*, 1327—1330, 319.

<sup>93</sup> TNA, C 136/91/11.

<sup>94</sup> TNA, C 136/91/11.

<sup>95</sup> *Cal. Pat.*, 1446—1452, 77—8.

<sup>96</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, Hen. VII, II, p. 323.

<sup>97</sup> TNA, SC 11/705.

<sup>98</sup> *L&P Hen. VIII*, XV, 540.

<sup>99</sup> R.C. Hoare, *History of modern Wiltshire: Alderbury hundred* (London, 1837), 3-4.

<sup>100</sup> *Book of Fees*, I, 12.

<sup>101</sup> *Book of Fees*, I, 587.

(*canes hayerez*).<sup>102</sup> The Heyraz lands may have been centred on a 'house called Dogge Kennell' recorded in a Parliamentary survey compiled in 1650.<sup>103</sup> Alice, widow of a Richard Heyraz and her second husband John Spruet held the lands in 1255.<sup>104</sup> A Richard Heyraz died in 1257 seized of one virgate held from the King for 2s. and another held for the service of maintaining a pack of harriers at the King's cost, with meadow and a croft. His heir was given as his son Ralph.<sup>105</sup> When Ralph died in 1259 his one year-old daughter was his heir to lands in Clarendon Forest presumably including those in Alderbury.<sup>106</sup> They were in the hands of a Henry Heyraz in 1275.<sup>107</sup>

One of the two virgates apparently descended to Christina Heyraz (d. 1320) whose husband Henry adopted her name and whose son Richard was her heir to a virgate of 20 a. with 4 a. meadow and 3 a. of wood held by sergeanty.<sup>108</sup> Richard's lands were divided between his widow and three daughters, one of whom, Eleanor, died in April 1348 leaving as her heir her six year-old son William.<sup>109</sup> William died in October 1349 and his lands descended to his aunts Agnes, aged 12, wife of Robert Pypard, and Joan 'of full age', wife of William Harnham.<sup>110</sup> In the same month Agnes and Joan's mother Maud also died leaving her portion of the family lands to be divided between them.<sup>111</sup>

The Pypard (otherwise *Pyppard*, *Pyperd*) family appear to have consolidated the former Heyraz lands. When Robert Pypard died in 1394 he held a messuage and half a hide of land held from the Crown in fee.<sup>112</sup> He also held four cottages, 28 a. arable and 8 a. meadow from the prior of Ivychurch, all passed to his son William Pypard. These intermixed holdings of the Heyraz lands and those held from the priory remained with the family. In 1444 William Pypard died seized of half a hide held from the King from his manor of Clarendon as well as four cottages, 28 a. arable and 8 a. meadow from the prior of Ivychurch, John Pypard was his heir.<sup>113</sup> In 1501 Richard Pypard held a messuage, 40 a. arable, 20 a. pasture, 16 a. meadow, 10 a. wood and 20 a. furze and heath, in Alderbury, worth 10s., from king in chief, by fealty and 2s.<sup>114</sup> The estate cannot be traced further.

### *Ivychurch manor, 1066—1538*

<sup>102</sup> *Book of Fees*, II, 1178 and 1227.

<sup>103</sup> *Pn Wilts*, 376.

<sup>104</sup> *Rotuli Hundredorum*, II, 234.

<sup>105</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, I, pp.101—2.

<sup>106</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, I, pp.119—20.

<sup>107</sup> *Rotuli Hundredorum*, II, 243.

<sup>108</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, IV, p.132.

<sup>109</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, IX, p.81.

<sup>110</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, IX, p.292.

<sup>111</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, IX, p.292.

<sup>112</sup> TNA, C 136/81/19.

<sup>113</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, 1442—7, 92—3.

<sup>114</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, *Hen. VII*, II, p. 323.

Ivychurch or Ederose priory was established during the reign of Stephen, 1135—1154, who endowed it with lands in Alderbury.<sup>115</sup> Small bequests augmented the original endowment. Part of the manor comprised the lands held by John de Berkley (d.1428) comprising seven messuages and two carucates of land devised to several tenants for a rent of £4, held of the prior of Ivychurch, and a water mill called Pynchetes Mill held from an unnamed free tenant.<sup>116</sup> In 1523 Mr Hokeford was the bailiff of the Priory's manor,<sup>117</sup> replaced by 1537 by Richard Mathewe who continued to act as Robert Seymour's bailiff after the Dissolution.<sup>118</sup>

The site of Ivychurch priory was acquired by the bishops of Salisbury at the Dissolution and converted to a dwelling. It was leased to Henry Herbert, 2nd earl of Pembroke, in the late 16th century.<sup>119</sup> It was purchased by the earl of Pembroke in 1647, but restored to the bishop at the Restoration. It was purchased by the 2nd earl of Radnor in 1801 and used as a school 1830—62. In 1888 most of the remaining priory buildings, including the 12th-century cloisters, were demolished following a fire.<sup>120</sup> Some mouldings were incorporated into the wall of the new farmhouse and walls from the north aisle of the church were retained as garden features.<sup>121</sup>

#### *Alderbury and Ivychurch manor from 1537*

In 1537 Robert Seymour was granted a 21-year lease of Ivychurch priory, its manors and lands, later converted to a grant for life.<sup>122</sup> The reversion of the manor was granted to John Berewyke, earl of Hertford, in 1544.<sup>123</sup> It was sold to the bishop of Salisbury in 1551 and thereafter held by successive bishops until 1801.<sup>124</sup>

The combined manor of Ivychurch with Alderbury was leased to a succession of families. Courts were held in the name of Vincent Randill, 1596,<sup>125</sup> Philip Herbert, earl of Pembroke, 1635,<sup>126</sup> and John Dove, 1663.<sup>127</sup> By 1675 the manor was leased to Thomas Dove,<sup>128</sup> and who

<sup>115</sup> *VCH, Wilts*, III, 289.

<sup>116</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m., 1427—1432*, 54.

<sup>117</sup> TNA, E179/197/162.

<sup>118</sup> TNA, SC 11/705.

<sup>119</sup> Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon*, 38.

<sup>120</sup> Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon*, 39.

<sup>121</sup> NHLE, no.1023777, Ivychurch Farmhouse, and no.1355751 Remains of Augustinian Priory, accessed 8 January 2025.

<sup>122</sup> WSA, 490/737, *Hist. Parl. 1509-1558*, Seymour, Robert (c.1480—1545), of Ivy Church, Wilts. and London. (accessed, 5/4/2024)

<sup>123</sup> WSA, 490/737, *Hist. Parl. 1509-1558*, Berewick, John (by 1508—72), of Wilcot, Wilts. (accessed, 5/4/2024)

<sup>124</sup> WSA, 490/737

<sup>125</sup> WSA, 168/1.

<sup>126</sup> WSA, 490/1160.

<sup>127</sup> WSA, 490/1160 and 1161.

<sup>128</sup> WSA, 490/94/9.

granted copies in 1677.<sup>129</sup> The lease was transferred by Thomas Dove to Francis and Sarah Penruddocke in 1680.<sup>130</sup> It was sold by George Lowe of Oxford to Francis Hill of Salisbury in 1681 shortly after he completed building Sarum College.<sup>131</sup> Courts were held in the name of Edward Lowe in 1683 and Edward Clarke 1685—1702.<sup>132</sup> By 1699 the manor was in the hands of Thomas Stringers of Ivychurch and Edward Clarke of Chipley (Soms.) who leased it, apparently without the court baron, to John Freke of the Middle Temple, London.<sup>133</sup> The lease that was renewed in 1702 by Clarke and Jane Stringer who used the manor to raise capital the following year.<sup>134</sup>

In 1705 the bishop of Salisbury leased the manor to Pierce A'Court for the lives of himself, his wife and Jane Stringer.<sup>135</sup> Although Pierce A'Court leased the manor to the Duke of Marlborough in 1708 courts were still held in his name between 1712 and 1724. Marlborough's executors transferred the lease to John Powell in 1725 for the lives of Elizabeth A'Court, Joan Hillier and Pierce A'Court Ashe, the son of the original lessee.<sup>136</sup> Courts were held in the names of the bishop of Salisbury in 1733 and Pierce A'Court in 1734. In 1751 the bishop of Salisbury contacted Pierce A'Court Ashe to establish his intentions as the sole surviving lifeholder.<sup>137</sup>

Francis Powell paid £800 to William Willis and Mary his wife in 1751 for a lease of the manor of Ivychurch alias Alderbury consisting of 10 messuages, 15 cottages, 300 a. arable, 200 a. meadow, 100 a. pasture, 50 a. wood.<sup>138</sup> These rounded figures may be taken to represent a rough distribution of different types of housing and land at that time.

In 1753 Emm[a] Gilbert surrendered the manor to the bishop of Salisbury.<sup>139</sup> It was leased c.1757 to Jacob Bouverie, 1st Viscount Folkestone who had started to purchase lands in Alderbury from 1752.<sup>140</sup> His survey of Alderbury with Ivychurch manor compiled in 1765 drew no distinction between the two former manors.<sup>141</sup> It was purchased as a single manor from the bishop of Salisbury in 1801 by Jacob Bouverie's grandson Jacob Pleydell-Bouverie the 2nd earl of Radnor (d.1828),<sup>142</sup> and then passed successively to William the 3rd earl (d.1869), Jacob the 4th earl (d.1889), William

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<sup>129</sup> WSA, 490/1160

<sup>130</sup> WSA, 490/94/8 and 11.

<sup>131</sup> WSA, 490/94/12.

<sup>132</sup> WSA, 490/1160 and 1161.

<sup>133</sup> WSA, 490/94/15.

<sup>134</sup> WSA, 490/94/16, 17 and 21.

<sup>135</sup> WSA, 490/94/22.

<sup>136</sup> WSA, 490/94/22.

<sup>137</sup> WSA, 490/1161.

<sup>138</sup> WSA, 490/94/68.

<sup>139</sup> WSA, 490/94/3.

<sup>140</sup> WSA, 490/94/42.

<sup>141</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>142</sup> WSA, 490/94/51.

the 5th earl (d.1900), Jacob the 6th earl (d.1930), William the 7th earl (d.1968), Jacob the 8th earl (d.2008) and was held in 2025 by William Pleydell-Bouverie the 9th earl of Radnor.

Minor adjustments were made to the boundaries between Alderbury and Whaddon manors during the planning and construction of the canal, c.1785—1808 and during the final enclosure of the Alderbury meadows in 1809.<sup>143</sup> These small exchanges ensured that isolated pockets of land were not cut off from either manor by the canal.

There was no manor house in Alderbury. Alderbury House was built by George Fort as a country residence.<sup>144</sup>

### *Alderbury Rectory Manor*

The seven hides in Alderbury held by priests in 1086 may represent an endowment to a minster church. They were probably part of the land granted to the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury cathedral between 1110 and 1122 and allocated to the Treasurer for the maintenance of the cathedral.<sup>145</sup> In 1275 the Treasurer of Salisbury cathedral was said to own a third part of Alderbury manor where he also claimed the assize of bread and ale.<sup>146</sup> This third of Alderbury manor became Alderbury Rectory manor and continued to be held by successive treasurers of Salisbury cathedral until 1801 when it was sold to the earl of Radnor.<sup>147</sup>

Rectory manor was, except for a brief period during the Commonwealth, leased to a succession of lay rectors.<sup>148</sup> The treasurer of Salisbury cathedral retained the rights to nominate the vicar and hold the view of frankpledge.<sup>149</sup> Lay rectors were not always resident in Alderbury, Richard Goldstone (rector 1608—34) lived at Witherington Farm.<sup>150</sup> Nor were they always laymen, in 1683 Revd Gabriel Thistlethwaite took a 99-year lease of the manor.<sup>151</sup>

In 1910 Rectory Farm, comprising 138 a., was leased to Frederick Harding by the earl of Radnor who retained the sporting rights.<sup>152</sup>

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<sup>143</sup> WSA, 490/1004 and Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon*, 39—41.

<sup>144</sup> Below, this section.

<sup>145</sup> *Register St Osmund*, I, 208.

<sup>146</sup> *Rotuli Hundredorum*, II, 242--3.

<sup>147</sup> WSA, 490/161.

<sup>148</sup> Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon: a millennium mosaic of people, places and progress* (Alderbury, 2000), 45.

<sup>149</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2b/1.

<sup>150</sup> Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon: a millennium mosaic of people, places and progress* (Alderbury, 2000), 45.

<sup>151</sup> WSA, 490/129.

<sup>152</sup> TNA, IR 58/73120, no.163—4.

## WHADDON MANOR

Whaddon manor was held by Engenulf in 1086 from Waleran and he had held it in 1066 when it paid geld for two hides.<sup>153</sup> One and a half hides were in demesne, where there was one plough, and four cottagers (*cotsets*) held half a plough. The value had risen from 15s. in 1066 to 25s. in 1086.<sup>154</sup> Engenulf also held a virgate with one cottager (*cotset*) worth 2s. Additionally there were two virgates, less 2 a., and half a plough held by two knights in 1086 which had been held by four thegns in 1066.<sup>155</sup>

Whaddon continued to be held by the Waleran (otherwise *Waleraund*) family for several generations.<sup>156</sup> In 1243 Robert Waleraund held Whaddon as a knight's fee from Albreda Botereaux in who either held it directly from the King or from John of Monmouth.<sup>157</sup> Robert Waleraund died without issue in 1273 having previously granted Whaddon, with other Wiltshire manors, to his nephew Alan Plucknet.<sup>158</sup> When Alan died in 1299 the manor passed to his son also called Alan.<sup>159</sup> Alan died in 1325 when Whaddon perhaps passed with some of his other lands to his sister Joan de Bohun.<sup>160</sup> Both the manor and advowson of Whaddon church were in the hands of Robert de Bluntesdon by 1328 when he granted them to Ivychurch priory.<sup>161</sup>

From 1328 Whaddon was leased by Ivychurch priory to farmers until the Dissolution. In 1344 Oliver de Ingham died seized of a knight's fee in Whaddon held of Ivychurch priory, his heirs were not stated and varied in inquisitions for other counties.<sup>162</sup> Following the Dissolution the manor descended with Alderbury and Ivychurch manor forming part of the grant made to Robert Seymour in 1538.<sup>163</sup>

In 1674 the manor was held by John Pyne of Curry Malet who sold it to Thomas Dove of Ivychurch.<sup>164</sup> In 1680 Dove sold the manor and grange to Giles Eyre and Francis Hill.<sup>165</sup> In 1682

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<sup>153</sup> *Domesday* (Alecto), 186.

<sup>154</sup> *Domesday* (Alecto), 186.

<sup>155</sup> *Domesday* (Alecto), 186.

<sup>156</sup> For a conjectural descent, R. F. Atkinson, *The manors and hundred of Alderbury: lords, lands and livery* (Alderbury, 1995), 45.

<sup>157</sup> *Book of fees*, II, 716 and 747.

<sup>158</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, II, p.7. *Cal. Pat.*, 1272—1281, 8.

<sup>159</sup> *Cal. Inq. p.m.* III, p.416. TNA, C 133/91/1.

<sup>160</sup> R.F. Atkinson, *The manors and hundred of Alderbury: lords, lands and livery* (Alderbury 1995), 49—51.

<sup>161</sup> TNA, C 143/197/19.

<sup>162</sup> *Inq. p.m.*, Ed III, VIII, 376.

<sup>163</sup> *L&P Hen. VIII*, XV, 540.

<sup>164</sup> WSA, 490/1075.

<sup>165</sup> WSA, 490/1075.

Whaddon farm was sold to the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury cathedral.<sup>166</sup> In 1687 the most substantial freehold was acquired by Robert Head, initially on a lease for 2000 years, it was later converted to freehold.<sup>167</sup> However, Francis Hill bequeathed his manor of Whaddon to his son John Hill in 1689.<sup>168</sup> By 1700 the manor was in the hands of Stephen Fox (d.1716).<sup>169</sup> It passed to his son Stephen Fox-Strangways, 1st earl of Ilchester, and to his son Henry Fox-Strangways, the 2nd earl. Henry Fox-Strangways sold the manor to Jacob Pleydell-Bouverie, 2nd earl of Radnor by 1801.<sup>170</sup>

### *Matrons College Farm.*

Matron's College Farm in Whaddon, also known as Charity Farm, was endowed by the bishop of Salisbury to provide dwellings for widows of the diocesan clergy in Salisbury Cathedral Close. In 1814 the owners were listed as the feoffees of Bishop Ward's charity and besides the site of the farm the land consisted of 435 a. arable, 100 a. common and pasture, and 21 a. wood.<sup>171</sup> In 1910 it comprised 509 a. and was occupied by Mr Tozer, although the sporting rights were held by the earl of Radnor.<sup>172</sup> In 1943 it was still farmed by Mr Tozer and part of the pasture was under plough.<sup>173</sup> The farm became a private residence in 1980 and the lands farmed with Alderbury farm.<sup>174</sup>

### *Other estates*

In the centuries following the Dissolution large tracts of land were purchased by freeholders across all of the manors in Alderbury parish. George Fort, a Salisbury hatter, had acquired land formerly held by St John's College, Oxford, by 1765.<sup>175</sup> In 1814 George Fort's freehold comprised 317 a. and was the largest land holding after those of Lord Radnor and Matron's College.<sup>176</sup> It was purchased from Peregrine Thistlethwaite and was formerly divided into two estates: Metons belonging to Mr West and Matthews belonging to "one St Bart".<sup>177</sup> St John's College retained 8½ a. of meadow. By

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<sup>166</sup> WSA, 490/1075.

<sup>167</sup> WSA, 490/705.

<sup>168</sup> WSA, 490/1075.

<sup>169</sup> WSA, 490/1075.

<sup>170</sup> WSA, 490/1001.

<sup>171</sup> WSA, 490/721.

<sup>172</sup> TNA, IR 58/73120, no.154 and 155.

<sup>173</sup> TNA, MAF 32/24/179/18.

<sup>174</sup> Atkinson, *Alderbury and Whaddon*, 97—8.

<sup>175</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6.

<sup>176</sup> WSA, 490/721.

<sup>177</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6.



1814 Fort's holding was listed as within Alderbury manor, but was mostly made up of lands from the Rectory manor. It became known as Fort's Farm and was owned by a George Fort in 1942.<sup>178</sup>

The first George Fort to hold land in the parish built Alderbury House in the late 18th century.<sup>179</sup> It is an ashlar two-storey residence built with a single-storey brick wing, slate hipped roof and stable block.

West Grimstead manor included land in both Alderbury and Whaddon from at least the late 13th century until the 19th century.<sup>180</sup>

## ECONOMIC HISTORY

### FARMING

#### *The agricultural landscape*

The Bagshot sands to the east of Alderbury parish are some of the poorest agricultural soils in southern England. Land to the north-east of the parish, formerly common, is used for timber production. The heavy clay soil in the centre of the parish is more suited to pasture than arable. The flood plain, formerly rotated between hay production and grazing, is now also used as pasture. The mixed sand, clay and chalk at Whaddon, where the soils are more alkaline, is more suited to arable.<sup>181</sup>

#### *Medieval agriculture to 1540*

No medieval administrative records survive for Alderbury or Ivychurch. Inhabitants appearing in the court of common pleas in the 15th century were routinely described as husbandmen, yeomen or labourers.<sup>182</sup> In 1535 the monastic grange at Ivychurch comprised 31 a. meadow, worth £2 11s. 8d., 19 a. arable, worth 6s. 4d., pasture on the heath for 140 sheep, worth 11s. 8d., and enclosed areas of pasture and water, worth 5s., managed by the bailiff Nicholas Wodson.<sup>183</sup> He was also the collector of rents from the free tenants who owed 3s. 3d., the customary tenants who paid £6 and tenants at will whose leases brought in another £5.<sup>184</sup> A significantly higher valuation of the Ivychurch priory

<sup>178</sup> TNA, MAF 32/24/179/2.

<sup>179</sup> NHLE, no.1023788, Alderbury House, accessed 8 January 2025.

<sup>180</sup> See West Grimstead parish, VCH Wilts, XXI (landownership)

<sup>181</sup> R. Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon: a millennium mosaic of people and progress*, (Alderbury and Whaddon Local History Research Group, 2000), 24.

<sup>182</sup> TNA, CP 40/618 (1415), 40/685 (1432), 40/705 (1437), 40/732 (1444), 40/788 (1458), 40/891 (1485).

<sup>183</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 96.

<sup>184</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 96.

demesne was made c.1536 when Richard Mathewe was bailiff.<sup>185</sup> The site of the manor, with 18 a. arable, 32 a. pasture, 92 a. meadow and 112 a. wood, was leased by the year to Robert Seymour for £9 8s. 2d. rent. Seymour also held Alderbury manor and the rents of the two manors were accounted together: free tenants 2s. 3d. and a red rose and customary tenants £16 11s.

At Whaddon the balance of the manor was in favour of arable. An extent made in 1273 listed 200 a. arable valued at 5d. per acre, 16 a. meadow at 1s. 6d. per acre, pasture for oxen, cattle and sheep worth 13s. 4d. in demesne with other lands, gardens and appurtenances.<sup>186</sup> The rents of free and villein tenants were worth £3 12s. and 1 lb pepper, the works of 13 villeins were worth £1 4s. if sold, and the tenants paid churchscot and merchets. In 1299 the capital messuage was worth 2s. and there was 100 a. of arable in demesne, three freeholders each held a virgate, six customary tenants held half a virgates and seven customary tenants each held 10 a.<sup>187</sup> The rents were similar in 1319.<sup>188</sup>

In 1535 the farm of Whaddon demesne was assessed at £8 3s. 4d. and pasture of 700 sheep a further £5 16s. 8d., of which 5s. 6d. was due to the King as Shreve Yeld and 1s. 7½d. to the archdeacon of Salisbury.<sup>189</sup> Once the priory had been dissolved c.1536 the farm of Whaddon manor was worth £21 of which £6 was reserved to pay the chaplains of the parish church at Ivychurch and for the King's manor at Clarendon.<sup>190</sup> In 1537 the manor of Whaddon was leased with stock: pasture was worth 7s., 20 qtrs of wheat and 30 qtrs of barley, eight oxen worth 14s. each with their 'necessary apparatus', 18 cows worth 10s. each, four heifers worth £1 16s. 8d., ten pigs worth £1 6s. 8d., 9 piglets worth 12s., 207 wethers worth 1s. 6d. each, 342 ewes worth 1s. each, 460 tegges worth 12d. each, one gander and four geese, two capons, two cocks and 18 hens, and 30 wagon loads of hay.<sup>191</sup> The lease was granted 16 October 1532 for a term of 21 years.<sup>192</sup> The farmer, Henry Pildrem,<sup>193</sup> owed suit of court at the manor of Alderbury.<sup>194</sup>

### *Post-medieval agriculture from 1540*

Most tenants in Alderbury and Whaddon had mixed farms Richard Rhobey of Whaddon (d.1613) had 30 sheep, nine cows and calves, four horses and colts, two pigs, and six bushels of wheat

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<sup>185</sup> TNA, SC 11/705.

<sup>186</sup> TNA, C 133/1/7.

<sup>187</sup> TNA, C 133/91/1.

<sup>188</sup> A. Conyers, *Wiltshire extents for debts, Edward I - Elizabeth I*, W.R.S. (1973), XXVIII, 17-19.

<sup>189</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 97.

<sup>190</sup> TNA, SC 11/705.

<sup>191</sup> TNA, SC 6/HenVIII/3970.

<sup>192</sup> TNA, SC 6/HenVIII/3970.

<sup>193</sup> TNA, SC 6/HenVIII/7415.

<sup>194</sup> TNA, SC 6/HenVIII/3970.

among his goods.<sup>195</sup> At Alderbury in 1644 John Woolridge's goods included four plough horses, two colts, eight cows and calves, five pigs, corn and hay that had been cut, and wheat and vetches in the ground.<sup>196</sup> The probate inventories of the tenants of Alderbury and Whaddon do not contain equipment for secondary activities such as weaving, brewing or cheesemaking.

Whaddon continued to retain a discrete manorial identity despite enclosure and the conversion of customary land to freehold or leasehold during the 17th and 18th centuries. By 1752 all of the customary land at Whaddon had been converted to leasehold and was held on leases for terms of lives.<sup>197</sup> There were 17 tenants in 1767.<sup>198</sup> Copyhold for three lives was still common at Alderbury with Ivychurch manor and Alderbury Rectory manor at least until 1815.<sup>199</sup>

A map of Alderbury produced for Viscount Folkstone in 1765 details the ownership and use of much of the land in Alderbury. Although principally concerned with Alderbury manor it contained details of Folkstone's holdings within Alderbury Rectory manor, and noted the land belonging to Whaddon manor, and thus created a survey of the whole parish.<sup>200</sup> Alderbury common was divided into three parts: Alderbury manor had 111 a., the common belonging to Alderbury Rectory Manor known as the Treasury Common 282 a., and Whaddon common 154 a. to the south. Most of Alderbury and Whaddon manors had been enclosed before 1765. The former open fields at Whaddon were represented in 1765 as three large blocks of arable measuring 111 a., 166 a., and 360 a. A fourth comprised 49 a. of grazing on the downs.

In 1765 common arable remained in Treasurer's Dean common field and consisted of 32 strips, including the lynchets stepping up onto Witherington Ring, of which three were copyhold, eight leasehold and the remainder freehold.<sup>201</sup> Sections of meadow remained unenclosed, probably because they contained intermixed strips belonging to all the three manors.<sup>202</sup> Within the 165 a. 3 r. 30p. of the common meadow there remained 95 plots: the largest 12 a. 2 r. 26 p., 67 plots were less than 2 a., the smallest 1 r. 7 p. these too were divided between copyholders, leaseholders and freeholders. At the extreme south-west of the parish twelve lots, that appear to have formerly been part of the common meadow, had been enclosed for arable and pasture.

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<sup>195</sup> WSA, P 26/26.

<sup>196</sup> WSA, P 26/91.

<sup>197</sup> WSA, 490/1004.

<sup>198</sup> Dorset History Centre, D-FSI/Box132.

<sup>199</sup> WSA, 490/709.

<sup>200</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6 and 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>201</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>202</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

The 2nd earl of Radnor, lord of all the manors in Alderbury parish in 1803, obtained an inclosure act, which applied to the remaining strips of meadow and arable belonging to Alderbury with Ivychurch and Alderbury Rectory manors.<sup>203</sup>

A comprehensive survey of crops and livestock in the whole parish was made by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1866.<sup>204</sup> Less than 400 a. were given over to grains: wheat 151 a., barley 131 a., oats 49 a. with a further 23 a. of peas and beans. Turnips and swedes were planted over 233 a. and other root vegetables 16 a. including potatoes, carrots and mangolds. Uncultivated land, grazing and meadow accounted for 1,020 a. of which 690 a. was permanent pasture. There were 261 milk cows and 78 calves and heifers, 1,524 sheep with 648 lambs and 410 pigs.<sup>205</sup> Grain production and grazing remained roughly the same in 1880, but the area for turnips and swedes halved.<sup>206</sup> The cattle remained close to their 1866 number, while sheep and pig numbers had halved,<sup>207</sup> a decline which continued to 1900.<sup>208</sup> In 1920 there were 61 a. of wheat, 77 a. barley and 85 a. oats, root vegetables and brassicas accounted for 84 a. of which only 21 a. were turnips and swedes, 1,109 a. were given over to grass for mowing and pasture.<sup>209</sup> In the same year there were 315 cattle, and the 146 sheep represented a decline of over 90% in less than half a century. The 75 pigs were probably kept for domestic consumption rather than as commercial stock.

The number of agricultural holdings in Alderbury and Whaddon gradually reduced as they were consolidated from the 16th century. In the early 19th century Lord Radnor brought much of Alderbury manor in hand by purchasing the leases of his tenants or failing to renew them as they expired.<sup>210</sup>

From 1893 allotments were provided by the earl of Radnor in a 7½ a. field between the cottages on Old Road and Ivychurch Copse and a 13½ a. field between Junction Lane and the old canal.<sup>211</sup> Smaller plots were located between Southampton Road and Old Road and at the southern end of Folly Lane. The Alderbury and Whaddon Smallholdings Association merged with the allotment holders in 1917 to form the Alderbury Allotment and Smallholding Association. Several other sites were used for allotments during the 20th century.<sup>212</sup> Green Dragon Farm, comprising 51 a., was leased to Jack Shallcross and Owen Noyce through the Smallholders Association in 1942.<sup>213</sup>

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<sup>203</sup> WSA, 2142/22. Alderbury Inclosure Act, 43 Geo. III (1803), c.96.

<sup>204</sup> TNA, MAF 68/74.

<sup>205</sup> TNA, MAF 68/73.

<sup>206</sup> TNA, MAF 68/721.

<sup>207</sup> TNA, MAF 68/721.

<sup>208</sup> TNA, MAF 68/1861.

<sup>209</sup> TNA, MAF 68/2995.

<sup>210</sup> WSA, 490/721.

<sup>211</sup> TNA, IR 58/173120, nos.143 & 145.

<sup>212</sup> [http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/\\_UserFiles/Files/History/Allotments%20in%20Alderbury.pdf](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/_UserFiles/Files/History/Allotments%20in%20Alderbury.pdf) accessed 8 January 2025.

<sup>213</sup> TNA, MAF 32/24/179/4.

In 2025 two allotment sites were located at the junction of Southampton Road and Folly Lane, behind houses at the intersection of Junction Road and Southampton Road.

In 1920 there were 19 small holdings of less than 20 a. five medium sized holdings of between 20 and 100 acres and six large farms of more than 150 a. In 1942 the larger farms were: Fort's Farm, leased from George Fort by W. Dean 296 a.; Whaddon Farm owned and occupied by J. W. Harding 116 a.; Home Farm, owned by Lord Radnor and occupied by his tenants Gray and Leech 279 a., and Matrons College Farm, managed by J. W. Tozer and son was 509 a.<sup>214</sup>

### *Water meadows*

Alderbury lies between two extremely complex water meadow systems to the north and south.<sup>215</sup> The extensive area of flood plain was worked as meadow by medieval lords and their tenants without development of new channels. In the late 17th century a substantial channel or 'carriage' was created through the Alderbury meadow to feed the meadows at downstream Downton.<sup>216</sup> The project involved 41 separate agreements between several lords and tenants which, with the substantial cost of £5,000, appears to have prevented further development.<sup>217</sup>

Viscount Folkestone began to purchase the water meadows opposite Longford Castle from 1752,<sup>218</sup> his lands were enclosed by 1765,<sup>219</sup> later to be remodelled to create parkland. Further downstream the meadows belonging to Matrimony Farm (in Charlton All Saints) continued to maintain a managed system of hatches into the 20th century in co-operation with those of farms to the south.<sup>220</sup>

## FISHING AND FORESTRY

Alderbury was within the core supply area of wood for fuel and timber for building for the city of Salisbury. Lord Folkestone leased 56 a. 2 r. 10 p. woodland in Alderbury manor from the bishop of Salisbury in 1765 comprising: 42 a. in Ivychurch wood, 9 a. in Shute End coppice, 4 a. 2 r. 4 p. at Bignams coppice and 1 a. 0 r. 6 p. in North Field coppice.<sup>221</sup> Several other tenements included more than two dozen small coppices and woods: from the tiny Willow Copse (18 p. ) through coppices of around half an acre like Archers Mead coppice,(2 r. 32 p.), to Parsonage House wood (13 a. 2 r. 29

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<sup>214</sup> TNA, MAF 32/24/179.

<sup>215</sup> The editor is grateful to Dr Hadrian Cook and Dr Katherine Stearne for their advice on the history of the Alderbury water meadows.

<sup>216</sup> WRS, LVII, xxxiii, 241-5, 266-71.

<sup>217</sup> WRS, LVII, 236.

<sup>218</sup> WSA, 490/94/42.

<sup>219</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6.

<sup>220</sup> K. Stearne and H. Cook, 'Water meadow management in Wessex: dynamics of change from 1800 to the present day', *Landscape Research*, 40 (2013), 385. [article pages 377-395].

<sup>221</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

p.), They were leased by several different tenants.<sup>222</sup> In Whaddon the substantial Oakridge copse measured 33 a. 0r. 3 p. and appears to represent a surviving area of ancient woodland.

The Common plantation, created following the enclosure of Treasury common in the early 19th century, expanded the area of woodland.<sup>223</sup> It was linked to the large wooded area along the redundant canal. Other plantations were developed by Lord Folkestone south-east of Lights Lane and towards Salisbury between Southampton Road and Shute End Road. In 1840 Lord Folkestone directly managed 189 a. 2 r. 40 p. of wood and plantations.<sup>224</sup>

## MILLS, CRAFTS AND INDUSTRY

### *Mills*

No mill is mentioned in 1086. A charter of Robert "at the mill, of Alderbury" dating to 1360 was enrolled in the Salisbury 'Domesday book'.<sup>225</sup> In 1428 a water mill called Pynchets mill was held by John de Berkele from an unnamed free tenant,<sup>226</sup> but the site has not been located.

The windmill at Spider Island in Whaddon was constructed by the leaseholder John Roberts after 1798.<sup>227</sup> The windmill had been constructed before Whaddon was purchased from the Earl of Ilchester.<sup>228</sup> It had been leased to Robert Head by 1814.<sup>229</sup>

### *Mining and quarrying*

Gravel and sand was extracted from a series of pits on the route of Southampton Road at the junctions with Old Road and Silver Street, at the southern end of Lightslane Plantation and to the east of Hightrees Wood.<sup>230</sup> Sand pits on Whaddon Common, located behind the later Methodist chapel, were leased by Joseph Russell from the Earl of Ilchester for an annual rent of £1 1s. in 1767.<sup>231</sup> They appear to have been of limited commercial value and probably used for construction and roads within the parish.

### *Industry*

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<sup>222</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6.

<sup>223</sup> WSA, T/Alderbury, numbers 101-121.

<sup>224</sup> WSA, T/Alderbury.

<sup>225</sup> J. Chandler and D. Crowley, *Salisbury Domesday Books, 1317-1413*, Wiltshire Record Society, 75 (2022), 25.

<sup>226</sup> *Inq. p.m.*, 1427-1432, 54.

<sup>227</sup> WSA, 490/705.

<sup>228</sup> WSA, 490/1004.

<sup>229</sup> WSA, 490/721.

<sup>230</sup> OS, 1:2500, 1901 edn., Wiltshire LXXII, 1. TNA, IR 58/73121, nos.205-210.

<sup>231</sup> Dorset History Centre, D-FSI/Box132.

In the 15th century tilers from Alderbury probably manufactured their tiles within the parish. John Spencer of Alderbury was commissioned by the mayor of Salisbury to tile the almshouse in 1437.<sup>232</sup> Alderbury residents appearing in the Court of Common Pleas described with occupations other than husbandman or yeoman were all tilers: John Bullok, 1415, Roger Bullok, 1416, John Clerk, 1437, and John Spencer, 1468, no doubt making use of locally sourced clay.<sup>233</sup>

A small brick kiln beside the Three Crowns Inn perhaps utilised the same resources as the medieval tile makers.<sup>234</sup> Brick making was a significant local employer in Clarendon park from the 18th century and at West Grimstead by the 20th century.<sup>235</sup> In 1904 a brickworks was established at Whaddon to the east of the Three Crowns where there was a good supply of London Clay.<sup>236</sup> It was never a large commercial operation although it had a narrow gauge railway to convey materials around the site.<sup>237</sup> It was a major local employer with up to a dozen workers in the 1920s, it closed when the A36 by-pass was built in 1973.<sup>238</sup>

## SERVICES

### *Retail, crafts and markets to 1550*

Close proximity to Salisbury thwarted any retail development at Alderbury. The medieval village, unlike many places with a monastic foundation, was never granted the right to hold a market or fair. Goods were sold and sourced at Salisbury: the prior of Ivychurch brought a case against two Salisbury butchers in the court of common pleas in 1444.<sup>239</sup>

In 1465 John Bayford, gentleman of Ivychurch, was named as a defendant in Chancery against the estate of the London grocer Richard Kirkby.<sup>240</sup>

### *Retail, crafts and markets from 1550*

Between 1699 and 1705 the Alderbury parish registers noted the occupations of the fathers of baptised children and those being buried.<sup>241</sup> Only one butcher, Thomas Moody, was directly engaged in retail. Other craftsmen, including blacksmiths, wheelwrights, tailors and shoemakers, no doubt sold the goods they produced.

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<sup>232</sup> D. R. Carr, *The first general entry book of the city of Salisbury, 1387-1452*, Wiltshire Record Society 54 (2001), 153.

<sup>233</sup> TNA, CP 40/618, 40/621, 40/705 and 40/826.

<sup>234</sup> OS, 1:2500, 1901 edn., Wiltshire LXXII, 5.

<sup>235</sup> See VCH Wilts XXI, Clarendon and West Grimstead economic history sections.

<sup>236</sup> D.J. Algar and K.H. Grinstead, *Brick making in the parish of Alderbury, Wiltshire, with particular reference to Whaddon Brickworks* (1973).

<sup>237</sup> The editor is grateful to Mr Andrew Poole for supplying information relating to the brickworks.

<sup>238</sup> *The Salisbury Journal*, 22/10/2008 (accessed online 7/5/2024).

<sup>239</sup> TNA, CP 40/732.

<sup>240</sup> TNA, C 241/249/18 and 19.

<sup>241</sup> WSA, 1966/2.

In 1765 the specialist premises in Alderbury were the Green Dragon, a blacksmith's forge held by Thomas Long by copyhold and leasehold, the forge sub-leased to John Harris, and a wheelwright's workshop on Edward Spragg's copyhold.<sup>242</sup> The smithy was rebuilt in 1909.<sup>243</sup>

Small scale retail developed to supply immediate local needs. The Goose Inn was described as a "shop" in 1850.<sup>244</sup> By 1870 two rooms were being used as a reading room until c. 1895.<sup>245</sup> It was later a general store, butcher's shop and Co-operative store before being converted to residential use in the 1960s.<sup>246</sup> A second grocer's shop run by, William Waterman, had opened by 1848 and was trading in 1875.<sup>247</sup> William Hickman was the only grocer, and also a baker, recorded in 1889 and he remained in business in 1927.<sup>248</sup> A smith's workshop was located on the Green on a site which has preserved the name Forge Cottage and a shoemaker's shop and workshop on Old Road.<sup>249</sup> Whaddon also had a blacksmith's workshop at the south-east junction of Southampton Road and Castle Lane. By 1927 William Conduit had a grocer's shop in Whaddon.<sup>250</sup> Mrs Hillier had a commercial wash house and drying ground near the Wesleyan Methodist chapel in 1910.<sup>251</sup>

A post office was established on Old Road, Alderbury, by 1848.<sup>252</sup> By 1875 it was owned by John Lewis alongside a tailoring business.<sup>253</sup> In Whaddon a post office with general store was established opposite the smithy on Southampton Road in the 1940s.<sup>254</sup> A second general store opened on Canal Lane in the 1950s and was still trading in 2025.<sup>255</sup>

### *Transport services*

In 1848 the carrier Edward Roberts made trips to Salisbury on Tuesdays and Saturdays from his own house.<sup>256</sup> Edward Vincent, a commercial carrier, and George England, a haulier, were based in Alderbury in 1927.<sup>257</sup>

### *Hospitality services*

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<sup>242</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6.

<sup>243</sup> TNA, IR 58/73/120, no.179.

<sup>244</sup> WSA, T/A/Alderbury, no.211.

<sup>245</sup> Below, soc. hist., reading room.

<sup>246</sup> R. Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon: a millennium mosaic of people and progress*, (Alderbury and Whaddon Local History Research Group, 2000), 96.

<sup>247</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Dors. Hants. And Wilts* (1848 edn), 2731, (1875 edn), 490.

<sup>248</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.*, (1889 edn), 348. *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1927 edn), 24.

<sup>249</sup> WSA, T/A/Alderbury, nos.238 and 241.

<sup>250</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1927 edn), 24.

<sup>251</sup> TNA, IR 58/73/123, no.53.

<sup>252</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Dors. Hants. And Wilts* (1848 edn), 2731.

<sup>253</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.*, (1875 edn), 490.

<sup>254</sup> Find date and reference.

<sup>255</sup> Atkinson, et al., *Alderbury and Whaddon*, 18. The editor is grateful to Mr Andrew Poole for supplying information relating to this site.

<sup>256</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts et al.* (1848 edn), 2731.

<sup>257</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1927 edn), 24.



Visiting travellers and residents were provided with food, drink and accommodation at Alderbury and Whaddon's inns and public houses. The earliest record is of Agnes Fluener who was presented at the manor court in 1561 as a common tippler who sold ale in Alderbury.<sup>258</sup> The following year the same Agnes and Thomas Taylor were each fined 4*d.* as brewers at the leet courts.<sup>259</sup> William Bennynghfelde was described as an innholder of Alderbury in 1620, although his premises were not named.<sup>260</sup> In 1686 accommodation was available for two travellers at Whaddon and for six travellers with stabling four horses at Alderbury.<sup>261</sup> There was one inn keeper at Alderbury, probably the Green Dragon, listed for poor rate purposes in 1698.<sup>262</sup> By 1739 there was one inn keeper at Alderbury and two at Whaddon, probably at the Three Crowns and the Queen's Head.<sup>263</sup>

In 1765 the Green Dragon was described as an 'alehouse' held by Thomas Long of Salisbury.<sup>264</sup> Fifty years later, in 1814, another estate survey described it as an inn.<sup>265</sup> It was the only parish drinking establishment mentioned by Colt Hoare who described it as 'a small public house' and mentioned it only for its iconic fireplace.<sup>266</sup> The Green Dragon is associated with the Blue Dragon Inn in Charles Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*.<sup>267</sup> As the principal inn in the parish it provided a venue for local auctions.<sup>268</sup> It was owned by the earl of Radnor in 1910.<sup>269</sup> In Alderbury, in addition to the Green Dragon public house, Mrs Emily Morris was the proprietor of refreshment rooms in 1927.<sup>270</sup>

The Queen's Head, Whaddon, was established after 1765 but was a former inn by 1788.<sup>271</sup> The Goose Inn was established by 1840 at the corner of the High Street and Southampton Road.<sup>272</sup> The name implied a public house and trade directories described the proprietor William Lewis as a beer retailer in 1848 and 1875.<sup>273</sup> It was sold as a going concern in 1868, with a 'four-motion beer engine and piping'.<sup>274</sup> From the 1870 it was a reading room.<sup>275</sup>

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<sup>258</sup> WSA, 192/1b.

<sup>259</sup> WSA, 192/1b.

<sup>260</sup> N.J. Williams, *Tradesmen in early Stuart Wiltshire*, Wiltshire Record Society, 15 (1960), 11.

<sup>261</sup> J. Chandler, 'Accommodation and travel in pre-turnpike Wiltshire', *W.A.M.*, LXXXIV (1991), 85.

<sup>262</sup> WSA, 490/441.

<sup>263</sup> *WAM* 84 (1991), 85.

<sup>264</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/6.

<sup>265</sup> WSA, 490/721.

<sup>266</sup> Colt Hoare, *History of Modern Wiltshire: Hundred of Alderbury*, 6.

<sup>267</sup> *Black & White*, 17 Aug 1895; *Southampton Observer and Hampshire News*, 8 Jun 1889.

<sup>268</sup> e.g. *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, Saturday 5 Nov 1859, 23 Feb 1861, 2 Mar 1861, 21 Dec 1867, 22 Dec 1877, 27 Oct 1900.

<sup>269</sup> TNA, IR 58/73120, no.173.

<sup>270</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1927 edn), 24.

<sup>271</sup> WSA, 490/1004 and 490/505.

<sup>272</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, Monday 29 Jun 1840.

<sup>273</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Dors. Hants. And Wilts* (1848 edn), 2731. *Kelly's Dir. Wilts.*, (1875 edn), 490.

<sup>274</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, Saturday 10 Oct 1868.

<sup>275</sup> Below, soc. hist.

The property that would later become the Three Crowns was described as a farm in 1697 as the Three Crowns when it was bequeathed to Joseph Russell in 1761.<sup>276</sup> In a title deed dated 1788 it was described as an inn.<sup>277</sup> The poor rate assessments also described it as an inn 1827—35.<sup>278</sup> It was known as the Three Crowns Hotel in 1859.<sup>279</sup> In 1910 it was again described as an inn, with two letting rooms.<sup>280</sup> By 1927 it advertised as providing accommodation for motorists, with a garage, and omelettes as a speciality dish for travellers.<sup>281</sup> It had closed by 2023. A second garage, Bridge Garage, was owned by Edwin Parsons, motor engineer.<sup>282</sup>

## SOCIAL HISTORY

By 1332 Alderbury had 21 taxpayers, one of whom paid 8s. 9 ½d. While numerically Alderbury had the most taxpayers in the hundred it was only the 5th richest. Whaddon was rated separately and had 9 taxpayers, including three women. Its highest assessed individual paid 10s., while all others paid 3s. or less.<sup>283</sup> The list of taxpayers for the subsidy of 1576 contained nine names from Alderbury, its principal Sir George Penruddock, one of the most notable names in the county, paid £5 6s. 8d., more than any other person in the hundred. His wealth also ensured that the settlement was the richest in Alderbury hundred. At Whaddon with (West?) Grimstead there were only three names, the richest Elizabeth Gawen paid 25s.<sup>284</sup> In 1736 five names were listed as qualified to serve on a jury for Alderbury, Whaddon was separately listed with West Grimstead and also had five names.<sup>285</sup>

After the reformation the manors were generally leased to non-resident lords. By 1803, the three local manors, encompassing both Alderbury and Whaddon, were in the hands of the 2nd earl of Radnor. The family took an interest in the community and did much to develop the social life of the parish from the 19th to the 20th centuries facilitating, amongst others, the creation of the school, reading room, WI hut, village hall and recreation ground. Despite these, no doubt, supporting social cohesion the parish was not without its tensions. Local religious intolerance became riotous in November 1826 when a group of Alderbury labourers disrupted divine worship at the Wesleyan

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<sup>276</sup> WSA, 1884/1.

<sup>277</sup> WSA, 1884/1.

<sup>278</sup> WSA, 2142/20.

<sup>279</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1859 edn), 377.

<sup>280</sup> TNA, IR 58/73123, no.13.

<sup>281</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1927 edn), 24.

<sup>282</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1927 edn), 24.

<sup>283</sup> *Wilts. Tax List of 1332* (WRS 45), 105—108.

<sup>284</sup> *Two Sixteenth Century Taxation Lists* (WRS 10), 127—30.

<sup>285</sup> *Wilts. Quarter Sessions and Assizes* (WRS 11), 130.

Methodist chapel causing noise and tumult, damaging the building, and hitting two worshipers with a 'brick bat'.<sup>286</sup> Three years later, in November 1830, the militia was dispatched to Alderbury and helped constables to secure 12 men following a riotous assembly amid Swing riots.<sup>287</sup>

## EDUCATION

In 1818 the local vicar Hugh Stephens made a return about the education of the 'poor' for Alderbury with the chapelries of Pitton and Farley. He noted the presence of a day school that educated 25 pupils, as well as a Sunday school organised by dissenters that educated 40.<sup>288</sup> The day school likely noted was in Pitton and Farley, not Alderbury.<sup>289</sup> However, Stephens was probably reflecting on experience across his benefice when he noted, 'the poor are extremely desirous of receiving more sufficient instruction.'<sup>290</sup>

In later education returns made in 1835 three mixed-sex day schools were noted for Alderbury, without Pitton and Farley, each accommodating 15 children. These, likely dame schools, were supported by parental contributions. The parish also had two Sunday schools: one operated by the Church of England, established in 1825, and another by dissenters. They were attended by 50—60 children and c. 80, respectively.<sup>291</sup> The report also mentioned a boarding school that accommodated 30 boys, but it was not listed in subsequent editions of Kelly's Directory.<sup>292</sup>

By 1839 the earl of Radnor had established a mixed-sex day school with a school garden in the village.<sup>293</sup> Its first schoolmaster was Thomas Mackintosh.<sup>294</sup> By 1850 the Alderbury parochial school received an annual government grant to support teachers' salaries.<sup>295</sup> In 1854 grants were

<sup>286</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 15 Jan 1827.

<sup>287</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 9 Nov 1830.

<sup>288</sup> *Educ. of the Poor: Digest*, 1017.

<sup>289</sup> Charity returns during the 1780s indicated a legacy had been made for a charity school in Pitton and Farley. *Donations for the Benefit of Poor Persons, made by the Ministers and Churchwardens of the several parishes and townships in England and Wales 1786-1788* (Parl. Papers. 1816 (511), 1336. For information on the endowed school for Pitton and Farley, see *Educ. in England Abstract*, 1835, 1026.

<sup>290</sup> *Educ. of the Poor: Digest*, 1017.

<sup>291</sup> *Educ. in England Abstract*, 1835, 1026.

<sup>292</sup> *Educ. in England Abstract*, 1835, 1026.

<sup>293</sup> The site was owned by the earl of Radnor who was acknowledged as its benefactor in a newspaper report the same year. The school became chargeable for church rates in 1839 and was not listed before. WSA, 1966/35; *Wilts. Indep.*, 19 Dec 1839.

<sup>294</sup> *Wilts. Indep.*, 19 Dec 1839.

<sup>295</sup> *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education; correspondence, financial statements c 1850—51* Vol 1. 1851. Command Papers, No 1357, 1358, Vol 44, 401.

made for certified teachers, books and maps and on account of pupil teachers.<sup>296</sup> It was still known as the parochial school, but by 1848 and certainly by 1856 it had become a National School.<sup>297</sup>

In 1851 a certified teacher taught four classes with an average attendance of 104 in the main school room, while ‘babies’ were looked after in a room on an upper floor. Although the school was ‘doing nicely’, it was recommended that the schoolmaster use pupil teachers and employ parallel desks.<sup>298</sup> The following year the recommended changes had not been employed and the report was critical, noting that the ‘effectiveness’ of teaching ‘is seriously lessened by the careless, irregular and disrespectful behaviour of the children; the master is unequal to the task of controlling such a large assemblage of children without more efficient assistance.’<sup>299</sup> An additional classroom was added by 1858, by which time the school master was assisted by an undermaster, three pupil teachers, and a sewing mistress who looked after the infants.<sup>300</sup> In 1867 the gallery which provided infant accommodation was removed, and ground-floor accommodation was extended to provide a new infant classroom.<sup>301</sup>

By 1870 the National School accommodated 140. School capacity was deemed sufficient for the needs of the district, although by 1893 an additional classroom had been built. Thereafter, the school buildings were deemed to accommodate 130 elementary and 64 infants, a total of 194 pupils, although in 1910 this was revised down to 168.<sup>302</sup> Average attendance was between 109 and 132 between 1919 and 1929.<sup>303</sup> Despite this a school inspection in 1912 highlighted that one classroom teacher was teaching a class with 44 pupils and suggestions were made to make her teaching more efficient.<sup>304</sup> In 1924 two classes were accommodated in one room divided by a 5-ft screen.<sup>305</sup>

In 1925 the school inspectors noted attendance of 102 in three primary classes and 41 in one infant class. Four teachers were uncertificated. Attainment among older children was low.<sup>306</sup> In

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<sup>296</sup> *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education; correspondence, financial statements, 1854—55.* Vol 1. 1854-55. Command Papers, No 1926, Vol, 42, 234.

<sup>297</sup> *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education; correspondence, financial statements, and reports by Her Majesty's inspectors of schools 1855—1856, 1856.* Command Papers No 2058 Vol 47, 165; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1948), 2731.

<sup>298</sup> *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education; correspondence, financial statements, and c. and reports by Her Majesty's inspectors of schools. 1851—52. Vol. I.* 1852. Command Papers, No 1479 1480 Vol 39, 40.

<sup>299</sup> *Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education; correspondence, financial statements, and c. and reports by Her Majesty's inspectors of schools 1852—53. Vol. I.* 1852-53. Command Paper no 1623, 1624 Vol 79 and 80, 22 [note paging started at 0 for reports on Berks and Wilts], 299.

<sup>300</sup> Warburton 1858, 3.

<sup>301</sup> WSA, F8/500/2/1/1. 2 Sep 1867

<sup>302</sup> TNA, ED 21/18296, ED 161/12051.

<sup>303</sup> TNA, ED 161/12051.

<sup>304</sup> TNA, ED 21/18296

<sup>305</sup> TNA, ED 161/12051

<sup>306</sup> TNA, ED 21/42101.

1929 the older girls undertook a four-week full-time domestic science course organised by the Alderbury Women's Institute at the WI hut.<sup>307</sup>

Failure by school managers to improve cloakroom provision or make repairs deemed necessary by the LEA precipitated the transfer of the school and teachers' house from the Radnor estate to the LEA in 1929, making it a council school.<sup>308</sup> Thereafter, the LEA leased the buildings for a nominal rent and completed improvements to school buildings, including new cloakrooms and heating, in 1930.<sup>309</sup> Further improvements, including to the outside space, were made to the school during the early 1930s.<sup>310</sup> By 1935 a good standard of organisation and teaching was noted. The school was particularly commended for high-quality training in music, especially singing.<sup>311</sup>

Prior to the outbreak of the Second World War attendance at the school had dropped significantly.<sup>312</sup> However, numbers rose considerably in 1939 when 110 evacuees (accompanied by five teachers) were added to a school roll of 74. By 1944, conditions were described as having 'returned to normal'.<sup>313</sup>

In 1962 the school accommodated children up to secondary level in three classrooms, one doubled as the school hall. Despite this, the organisation, teaching and attitude of the children within the school was praised. The attention to the natural environment surrounding the school was particularly commended. However, as no teaching staff member felt 'sufficiently confident' to teach music, BBC programmes were used to teach music instead.<sup>314</sup> By 1965 with 78 on the school roll and teaching arranged in three classes, school managers were pressing for a new school building.<sup>315</sup> In 1976 an outdoor swimming pool was opened at the school.<sup>316</sup>

In 1987 the community was informed that Alderbury School would be closed and that a new school would be provided on a new site to replace schools at both Alderbury and West Grimstead by 1990.<sup>317</sup> Alderbury and West Grimstead Church of England Primary School, Firs Road, Alderbury, was designed by Plincke, Leaman and Browning of Winchester and Salisbury and opened in

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<sup>307</sup> TNA, ED 21/42101.

<sup>308</sup> TNA, ED 21/42101, ED 21/63153.

<sup>309</sup> TNA, ED 21/42101; WSA, F10/100/2HC.

<sup>310</sup> TNA, ED 21/42101.

<sup>311</sup> TNA, ED 21/42101.

<sup>312</sup> TNA, ED 161/12051.

<sup>313</sup> TNA, ED 21/63153.

<sup>314</sup> TNA, ED 161/12051.

<sup>315</sup> WSA, 4120/1/2. In 1956, the LEA raised the possibility of a new school on Spiders Island Whaddon, which was opposed by school managers and the parish council. Plans were shelved by 1958. WSA, 2142/3. 8 Oct 1956, 13 Jan 1958.

<sup>316</sup> WSA, 4120/1/3. News report dated 22 Jul 1976.

<sup>317</sup> WSA, 4120/1/5. Showing news reports dated 10 Dec 1987.

1993.<sup>318</sup> It had 157 children in 2021 when it required improvement and became part of the Pickwick Academy Trust in 2023. The on-site pre-school had 105 children up to 11 enrolled in 2022.<sup>319</sup>

## CHARITIES AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

Under the provisions of the will of James Ely of Salisbury, who died in 1690, a charitable trust was created in 1692 for the apprenticeship of poor children from Alderbury.<sup>320</sup> Funds were raised from the rents of three houses on Gigant Street, Salisbury, and Calves Leaze, a 3-acre meadow at Whaddon.<sup>321</sup> By the 1800s there were charges of misappropriation of funds.<sup>322</sup> Indentures from the 19th century indicate that boys were apprenticed to the trades of blacksmith, carpenter, bricklayer and shoemaker. Girls were not apprenticed.<sup>323</sup> The charity ceased operations in 1996, and its funds were transferred to the Alderbury Relief in Need charity.<sup>324</sup>

By a deed dated 1708, and restated in his will proved in 1723, Gabriel Thistlethwaite of Winterslow left the income raised from the rent of 10 acres in Alderbury (lying at the lower end of Westfield, later known as the Poor's Ten Acres) to be shared between the rectors of Winterslow and Huish who were to each have £2 10s, and the poor of Alderbury who received the residue.<sup>325</sup> According to Thistlethwaite's will the money was to be invested in the vicar of Alderbury 'to dispose of according to his discretion with the advice of the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of Alderbury and Whaddon most chiefly those poor that are not on the poor rate.'<sup>326</sup> In 1785—8 the charity was annually worth £1; a century later in 1867—9 this had risen to £7, distributed among the parish's poor.<sup>327</sup> In 1996 the charity's resources were transferred to Alderbury Relief in Need charity.<sup>328</sup>

<sup>318</sup> WSA, F8/110/2/1/3; F10/100/2HC; <https://www.alderbury.wilts.sch.uk/school-history>; accessed 24 Jul 2024.

<sup>319</sup> Ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50172548; provider/16/EY489537; accessed 3 Feb. 2025.

<sup>320</sup> WSA, P4/1690/5; 2142/18 (deed). See also 2142/17 (minutes 1913—90), 2142/190 (apprenticeship indentures, 1856—88), L2/2 (annual statements, 1902—48).

<sup>321</sup> *Charity Commissioners Rep. Wilts* 1819—1837, 1890, 449; WSA, 2142/21.

<sup>322</sup> *Charity Commissioners Rep. Wilts* 1819—1837, 1890, 449.

<sup>323</sup> WSA, 1214/190.

<sup>324</sup> <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/309522>; accessed 17 Jul. 24; <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/801546/>; *Alderbury and Whaddon: A Millennium Mosaic*, 119.

<sup>325</sup> WSA, P1/T/320; *Coms. of Inquiry into Charities in England and Wales: Twenty-sixth Report*, 1833, HCP No 681 Vol 19, 456-7. *Donations for the Benefit of Poor Persons, made by the Ministers and Churchwardens of the several parishes and townships in England and Wales 1786—1788* (Parl. Papers. 1816 (511), 1336—7; *Charity Commissioners Rep. Wilts* 1819—1837, 1890, 449; *Alderbury and Whaddon: A Millennium Mosaic*, 119.

<sup>326</sup> WSA, P1/T/320.

<sup>327</sup> *Donations for the Benefit of Poor Persons, made by the Ministers and Churchwardens of the several parishes and townships in England and Wales 1786—1788* (Parl. Papers. 1816 (511), 1336-7; *Charity Commissioners Rep. Wilts* 1819-1837. 1890, 2—3 (1008—9).

<sup>328</sup> *Alderbury and Whaddon: A Millennium Mosaic*, 119.

By 1820 property was held in Alderbury by trustees of the College of Matrons created by Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1685.<sup>329</sup>

A friendly society was established in Alderbury by 1813 when local membership was 39. Numbers rose to 59 by 1815.<sup>330</sup> In 1820, the Alderbury Friendly Society, sometimes known as the Alderbury Friendly and Benefit Society, was formed.<sup>331</sup> The society celebrated its anniversary on Whit Monday with a procession and church service. News reports mentioned that the society had its own hut or clubroom.<sup>332</sup> The society was described as flourishing in 1901.<sup>333</sup> In the same year the parish also supported the Alderbury, Whaddon and Petersfinger Pig Club which provided insurance to working men for the loss of pigs.<sup>334</sup>

## SOCIAL WELFARE

Parochial poor relief was being provided by 1619. In 1619 and 1629, 24 and 12 parish apprenticeships respectively were arranged for Alderbury and Whaddon. These included both boys and girls, primarily aged between 11 and 18.<sup>335</sup> Several were apprenticed to their fathers; thus, apprenticeships may have been used to keep households off regular poor relief while holding families together.<sup>336</sup> This was not a device in general use in the rest of Alderbury hundred. Where the parish of the master was recorded, it appears that, apprentices were occasionally placed outside the parish, including at Salisbury.<sup>337</sup> The occupation of masters was rarely recorded.

Overseers accounts for 1620-3 suggest that, aside from apprenticeships, relief was in the form of money payments and 'stock' presumably used to set the poor to work.<sup>338</sup> Four of the ten individuals named as being relieved in Alderbury and Whaddon during 1622 received occasional relief. Of the six remaining, two were widows and one a married couple. Presumably all were elderly and receiving permanent assistance due to infirmity.<sup>339</sup> In 1621 the minister and 'chief' of the parish had a fund listed in accounts from which they could make disbursements to the

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<sup>329</sup> Extensive property in Alderbury remained in the hands of the charity in 1850. *Accounts of Rents and Profits of Messuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments Belonging to Charitable Foundations Claiming Exemption from Duty*. 1820. HCP, 28 vol 6, 134; WSA, TA/Alderbury. For a history of the College of Matrons see *VCH Wilts*, VI, 168—78.

<sup>330</sup> *Poor Law Abstract*, 1818, 492—3.

<sup>331</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 24 May 1845. Article reported their 25th anniversary celebrations.

<sup>332</sup> eg. *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 24 May 1830, 30 May 1831, 29 May 1837, 24 May 1845.

<sup>333</sup> *Salisbury Times*, 31 May 1901.

<sup>334</sup> *Salisbury Times*, 21 Nov 1902.

<sup>335</sup> HA, 44M69L58/6—7.

<sup>336</sup> HA, 44M69L58/6.

<sup>337</sup> HA, 44M69L58/7.

<sup>338</sup> HA, 44M69L58/1—3.

<sup>339</sup> HA, 44M69L58/3.

neediest.<sup>340</sup> This fund was not listed in subsequent years. Up to four overseers were listed; one of the overseers signed with a mark.<sup>341</sup>

Overseers provided returns to parliament on welfare expenditure from 1776 when requested and detailed evidence to rural queries in 1834. In 1776 the money expended on the poor in Alderbury with Whaddon was £56 15s. 9d., including £8 on habitations for the poor. Nothing was spent on litigation on settlement and removals.<sup>342</sup> In 1782—5 the medium average expenditure was £92 9s.; by 1803 the amount spent on the maintenance of the poor had risen to £248 10s. 11d. None of those receiving relief came from outside the parish, and just £1 16s. 5d. was spent on settlement and removals. Welfare consisted of outdoor relief only.<sup>343</sup> During the period 1813-15 welfare fluctuated between £345 (1815) and £845 (1813). Nothing was spent on settlement and removals. Welfare continued to consist of outdoor relief.<sup>344</sup> Returns from the late 18th century and early 19th century record that more people were in receipt of parochial occasionally than permanently, suggesting there was likely a problem with local underemployment.<sup>345</sup>

No workhouse was reported in 1818 but by 1834 there was a poorhouse which was divided into separate apartments for those who could not pay rent. Families were allowed to inhabit two rooms. In 1834 the poorhouse accommodated 10 men, 10 women and 20 children.<sup>346</sup> The roundsman system was used but abandoned c. 1832.<sup>347</sup> Outdoor relief was provided on a sliding scale by 1834, if not before. Payments depended on the price of a gallon loaf and the number and age of dependant children.<sup>348</sup>

According to resident magistrate George Fort in 1834 insufficient enquiry was made into the character of those who applied for relief. This may have influenced the decision to employ an assistant overseer under the Sturges Bourne Act (59 Geo. III c.12), a move often associated with a more punitive approach to relief.<sup>349</sup>

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<sup>340</sup> HA, 44M69L58/1.

<sup>341</sup> HA, 44M69L58/1—3.

<sup>342</sup> *Poor Law Abstract*, 1777, 187.

<sup>343</sup> *Poor Law Abstract*, 1804, 558—9.

<sup>344</sup> *Poor Law Abstract*, 1818, 492—3.

<sup>345</sup> *Poor Law Abstract*, 1804, 558—9; 1818, 492—3.

<sup>346</sup> *Report from His Majesty's commissioners for inquiring into the administration and practical operation of the Poor Laws. Appendix B Answers to Rural Queries. 1834. HCP, 44 No Vol, 566b; Poor Law Abstract, 1818, 492—3.*

<sup>347</sup> *Report from His Majesty's commissioners for inquiring into the administration and practical operation of the Poor Laws. Appendix B Answers to Rural Queries. 1834. HCP, 44 No Vol, 566b.*

<sup>348</sup> *Report from His Majesty's commissioners for inquiring into the administration and practical operation of the Poor Laws. Appendix B Answers to Rural Queries. 1834. HCP, 44 No Vol, 566b.*

<sup>349</sup> *Report from His Majesty's commissioners for inquiring into the administration and practical operation of the Poor Laws. Appendix B Answers to Rural Queries. 1834. HCP, 44 No Vol, 566b, 566c.*



## COMMUNAL LIFE

A reading room was established at the old Goose Inn in 1870 at the instigation of the vicar, Canon Hutchings, 'where after a day's work a man might read or talk with his friends without being under the evil influences of the public house'.<sup>350</sup> In May 1870 'It was resolved that all persons who joined the Cricket Club should become members of the Reading Room, but it should be optional to members of the Reading Room to join the Cricket Club'.<sup>351</sup> The reading room was stocked with 120 volumes selected from the Religious Tract Society catalogue alongside daily and weekly newspapers.<sup>352</sup> The first librarian was Newton Bungay, from whom the rooms were rented. Bungay refused to allow the establishment to open on a Sunday.<sup>353</sup> Numbers decreased during its second year, and daily newspapers were discontinued.<sup>354</sup> After 1895 as the 'Old Reading Room', it continued to be used for communal activities.<sup>355</sup>

In 1895 Hutchings announced his intention to provide the parish with a reading room and caretaker's cottage at the Old Gravel Pit, Old Road. He proposed handing the buildings to the parish council upon their completion. Earl Radnor agreed to let the site at a nominal rent.<sup>356</sup> Boulton and Paul of Norwich provided the timber buildings in kit form.<sup>357</sup> In 1911 the caretaker was Henry Cox, who while paid for his post was expected to pay rent for the cottage.<sup>358</sup> The two-roomed reading room was used for a range of communal activities such as meetings, including those for the parish council, Women's Union and Cricket Club,<sup>359</sup> dances,<sup>360</sup> billiard matches,<sup>361</sup> suppers<sup>362</sup> and coroners inquests.<sup>363</sup> In 1938 attendance was described as good, with games, billiards, darts and table tennis being particular draws.<sup>364</sup> Attendance dwindled after the Second World War and the facility was closed in 1965 and later demolished.<sup>365</sup>

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<sup>350</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 2 Apr 1870; WSA, 4578/1; I. Slocombe, *Reading Rooms* (Gloucester: Hobnob Press, 2012), 55. See also *Alderbury and Whaddon: A Millennium Mosaic*, 152—3.

<sup>351</sup> WSA, 4578/1. 2 May 1870.

<sup>352</sup> WSA, 4578/1. 2 May 1870, 3 Apr 1871.

<sup>353</sup> WSA, 4578/1. 17 Nov 1873.

<sup>354</sup> WSA, 4578/1. 15 Jul 1872.

<sup>355</sup> e.g. by the Alderbury, Whaddon and Petersfinger Pig Club and Wiltshire Friendly Society. *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 17 Mar 1906, 20 Aug 1910.

<sup>356</sup> *Devizes and Wilts Advertiser*, 22 Aug 1895.

<sup>357</sup> WSA, 1966/42. The design chosen was 'mission room' kit no. 403 and 'iron cottage' no. 318.

<sup>358</sup> WSA, 1966/43.

<sup>359</sup> e.g. *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 12 Jul 1902; *Salisbury Times*, 23 Oct 1903; *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 18 Sep 1909; *Wiltshire County Mirror*, 3 Mar 1910; *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 20 Aug 1910. For parish council minutes see WSA, 2142/2—3.

<sup>360</sup> *Wiltshire County Mirror*, 13 Oct 1910, 10 Feb 1910.

<sup>361</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 23 Nov 1901.

<sup>362</sup> *Salisbury Times*, 21 Nov 1902.

<sup>363</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 25 Feb 1911.

<sup>364</sup> WSA, 4578/1. 22 Feb 1938.

<sup>365</sup> Slocombe, *Reading Rooms*, 55.

St Mary's Hall, Whaddon, opened in Southampton Road in 1914 as a church hall for 'mission services, meetings and also as a reading and games room.'<sup>366</sup> Earl Radnor facilitated the construction of the hall by granting the site and a proportion of the building cost.<sup>367</sup>

The Alderbury Women's Institute was established in 1919 by Lady Radnor, who became its first president (and the first president of the Wiltshire Federation of Women's Institutes).<sup>368</sup> At first meetings were held in the reading room at Alderbury. However, in 1920 an ex-army hut was erected adjacent to the reading room to provide permanent accommodation for the local WI.<sup>369</sup> Funds were provided by Lady Radnor on condition the loan was repaid with interest.<sup>370</sup> Over £500 was raised in the following two years and all loaned funds were paid by January 1923.<sup>371</sup> The WI hut was used by other community groups including the Girl Guides.<sup>372</sup> The interests of the Alderbury WI were wide-ranging and included dance and singing classes, alongside the more usual demonstrations and competitions.<sup>373</sup> Their hut was used for evacuees during the Second World War, when the WI's efforts concentrated on organizing a fruit-preserving station at Alderbury Methodist Chapel schoolroom.<sup>374</sup> The branch had a WI choir who competed at music festivals during the 1920s and 1930s, its meetings were held in conjunction with Alderbury Choral Society in 1931.<sup>375</sup> Craft and flower or flower and produce shows were a stalwart of events during the 1980s and 1990s.<sup>376</sup> The WI continued to thrive into the 21st century. The group moved to the village hall in 1964 and the WI hut was subsequently demolished.<sup>377</sup>

Preparations for the construction of a village hall on a site at the Old Gravel Pit, Alderbury, began in 1933, but, although the plans were drawn up, the project was not realised before the outbreak of the Second World War.<sup>378</sup> From 1949 plans centred on a site located at the recreation ground in Whaddon.<sup>379</sup> The process was slow, in part, because the parish council were unwilling to take out a loan and struggled with costs associated with the construction of a suitable building.<sup>380</sup> Plans were not accepted until 1956, by which time the parish council were still seeking grant

<sup>366</sup> WSA, 1966/41-42; below, rel. hist.

<sup>367</sup> WSA, 1966/42.

<sup>368</sup> WSA, 2258/17. 2 Apr 1919. Extensive documents are lodged at WSA 2258/17- 26, 60 (committee minute books, 1919-1990); 2258/27, 30-31 (account books, 1943—77); 2258/1-16 2258/40 (record books, 1925—86); 2258/34 (scrapbook, 1955-56); 4120/1/1-6 (scrapbooks 1956, 1965, 1965—81, 1977—84, 1985—2000, 2005).

<sup>369</sup> WSA, 2258/17, inc, 3 Jun 1920, Aug 1920, 2258/34; *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1927 edn), 23.

<sup>370</sup> WSA, 2258/17, 3 Jun 1920, 6 Jul 1920.

<sup>371</sup> WSA, 2258/17, 31 Jan 1923.

<sup>372</sup> WSA, 2258/17, 26 Jan 1921.

<sup>373</sup> WSA, 2258/17, e.g. 13 Jan 1922.

<sup>374</sup> WSA, 2258/34.

<sup>375</sup> e.g. *Western Daily Press*, 11 May 1927, 9 May 1928; *Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser*, 24 Apr 1937; *Hampshire Advertiser*, 14 May 1932. See also WSA, 3309/1.

<sup>376</sup> WSA, 4120/1/5.

<sup>377</sup> *Alderbury and Whaddon A Millenium Mosaic*, 148.

<sup>378</sup> WSA, 2142/3. 13 Nov 1953.

<sup>379</sup> WSA, 2142/3. e.g. 10 Oct 1949, 18 Aug 1950, 11 Feb 1952.

<sup>380</sup> WSA, 2142/3. 19 Oct 1953, 31 Nov 1953, 8 Feb 1954, 31 May 1954, 24 Jan 1955.

funding and to mitigate cost by using ‘voluntary labour’ alongside contractors.<sup>381</sup> Further delays meant that work on the hall did not begin until August 1959. However, the village hall was in use by January 1960.<sup>382</sup> In 2024 it provided a regular venue for community activities including fitness classes, scout groups, weekly coffee shop and parish council meetings.<sup>383</sup>

Besides the WI, the parish supported a number of other clubs and societies in the 20th century. These included the Alderbury Choral Society which was formed by January 1922 when the club asked the WI for use of their hut for practice.<sup>384</sup> In 1928 the Choral Society entered a novice’s class at the Wiltshire Music Festival.<sup>385</sup> In 1931 and 1933 the group won the class for larger village choirs at the Wiltshire Music Festival.<sup>386</sup> They continued to enter competitive events during the 1960s-1980s.<sup>387</sup> Later in the 1970s-1990s the society performed concerts often at the village hall in support of local causes. Works featured included those by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Gilbert and Sullivan, Handel, Haydn and Bach.<sup>388</sup> In 2001 the society ceased operations citing dwindling numbers and the lack of a conductor.<sup>389</sup>

Alderbury Girl Guides Association was founded in 1911 by Lady Katherine Bouverie and was likely the second oldest company in Wiltshire. For decades the group was located in the WI hut.<sup>390</sup> In 2024 the association comprised Rainbows, Brownies and Guides located in a hut adjacent to Alderbury and West Grimstead Church of England Primary School.<sup>391</sup>

An Alderbury Scout Group was established in 1911—12. Its headquarters were described as ‘ideally situated in a disused gravel pit’ that provided ample space for all activities, including shooting. The group ceased after 1925, and although it restarted in 1934 it stopped again c.1945. Attempts failed to revive the group during the 1960s, but the group was successfully restarted during the 1980s.<sup>392</sup> In 2024, the group made up of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts is based at Alderbury village hall.

## *Sport*

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<sup>381</sup> WSA, 2142/3. 26 Nov 1956. 18 Feb 1957.

<sup>382</sup> WSA, 2142/3. 17 Aug 1859. 18 Jan 1960.

<sup>383</sup> <https://www.alderburyvillagehall.org.uk/hire-rates-booking-info>: accessed 20 Jul 2024.

<sup>384</sup> WSA, 2258/17, 13 Jan 1922.

<sup>385</sup> *Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser*, 12 May 1928.

<sup>386</sup> WSA, 3309/1; *Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser*, 9 May 1931; *Western Daily Press*, 10 May 1933. Minutes of meetings survive for 1930-1932, 1963-9, 1968-1975, 1976-2001 (WSA, 3309/1-4); plus, programmes, reports, subscriptions etc 1969-200 (WSA, 3309/5-7).

<sup>387</sup> WSA, 3309/7.

<sup>388</sup> WSA, 3309/6.

<sup>389</sup> WSA, 3309/8. See subscriptions WSA, 3309/5.

<sup>390</sup> WSA, 2258/34. See WSA, 2777/300/1.

<sup>391</sup> <https://alderburyguidehq.co.uk/>: accessed 20 Jul 2024.

<sup>392</sup> WSA, 4120/1/3-4. Based in part on reminiscences of Horace Barber in 1968 (WSA, 4120/1/3).

Cricket matches were played by an Alderbury community cricket club from the 1840s.<sup>393</sup> The earliest match may have been one played between teams from Alderbury and Whaddon on the occasion of the coronation of Queen Victoria.<sup>394</sup> In 1870, a cricket club was formed ‘in connection with’ the reading room.<sup>395</sup> However, the modern Alderbury Cricket Club was formed in 1885.<sup>396</sup> By the early 20th century, but likely from its creation, matches were played on a 4 acre site in Whaddon on Southampton Road that would later become the recreation ground.<sup>397</sup> Lack of support precipitated the club’s closure in 1999.<sup>398</sup>

An Alderbury football club was established in 1903.<sup>399</sup> Matches were played in a field leased and shared with the cricket club from the Radnor estate.<sup>400</sup> Still thriving in 2024, the club ground is now adjacent to Alderbury and West Grimstead Church of England Primary School on Firs Road.

The necessity of a permanent parish recreation ground was raised in 1925. Enquiries were made to purchase the site used for a cricket ground, but the cost proved prohibitive.<sup>401</sup> Later, in May 1929, the parish council secured an agreement with Lord Folkestone to exchange a parish-owned former gravel pit near Pitton Road for the same site on the proviso it was ‘used for the purpose of games and recreations’ and that no part of the site ‘be used for the erection of a dwelling house, business or manufactory works’.<sup>402</sup> A bowling club was established at the recreation ground during the early 1930s.<sup>403</sup> In 2024, the club with club house, remains in operation on the same site.<sup>404</sup>

## RELIGIOUS HISTORY

### ALDERBURY

#### *Church origins*

<sup>393</sup> e.g. *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 18 Aug 1848, 2 Sep 1848, 10 Aug 1855, 12 Sep 1863, 22 Sep 1866.

<sup>394</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 2 Jul 1838.

<sup>395</sup> WSA, 4578/1. 3 Apr 1871.

<sup>396</sup> WSA, 2955/12. Documents have been lodged at WSA which provide details of its history including scoring books 1951-1993 (WSA, 2955/6-9), minutes 1895-1989 (WSA, 2955/1-2).

<sup>397</sup> WSA, 2142/2. 119-120.

<sup>398</sup> *Alderbury and Whaddon Mosaic*, 142.

<sup>399</sup> Matches were reported in the local press from 1903: *Salisbury Times* 30 Jan, 30 Oct 1903; <https://alderburyfc.com/about-us>: accessed 20 Jul 2024.

<sup>400</sup> WSA, 2142/2. 119-20.

<sup>401</sup> WSA, 2142/2. 5 Oct 1925, 19 Oct 1925, 22 Apr 1926.

<sup>402</sup> WSA, 2142/2. 6 May 1929, 21 May 1929, 26 Jul 1929.

<sup>403</sup> WSA, 2142/3. E.g. 17 Jan 1935.

<sup>404</sup> <https://alderburybowlsclub.co.uk/>: accessed 23 Jul 2024.

Aldbury in 1086 possessed a church belonging to the king to which were attached two priests, Alward and Osbern, and seven hides of land.<sup>405</sup> There had been at least one priest serving the *villa regalis* in the 10th century, according to a poem about St Swithun of Winchester, at whose shrine he was cured of his hunched back.<sup>406</sup> Around Easter in 976 a meeting of bishops and other churchmen was held at Aldbury.<sup>407</sup> Aldbury was the eponymous centre of a hundred and the mother church of dependent chapelries, strongly suggesting that its church had been founded as a minster by a Saxon king.<sup>408</sup>

If, as its name suggests, the earliest focus of settlement at Aldbury was the most obvious defensive position in the parish, the later site of Ivychurch priory,<sup>409</sup> then it is likely that this was also the site of the minster church. This supported by a reference to *monasterium Hederosum* ('the ivy-covered minster or monastery') between 1110 and 1122, when it was granted by Henry I to Bishop Roger of Salisbury.<sup>410</sup> Since this grant included separately the church of Aldbury and the chapel of Whaddon, it seems clear that by this date a new church had been built for Aldbury and the former minster was overgrown and neglected. It is likely that church, chapel and former minster were assigned to the office of treasurer of (Old Sarum) cathedral by Roger shortly before his downfall and death in 1139, and they were restored to the treasurer by 1158.<sup>411</sup>

By 1155 Ivychurch had been refounded as an Augustinian priory,<sup>412</sup> probably adapting the existing minster church as the priory church, and as a chapelry of Aldbury, for inhabitants of Clarendon.<sup>413</sup> Its replacement as Aldbury parish church occupied the same site as its Victorian successor and was located adjacent to an ancient yew tree still surviving. The parish church took over from the former minster the role of mother church not only of Ivychurch and Whaddon, but also Pitton and Farley, on the further side of Clarendon park, from at least 1378, but probably much earlier.<sup>414</sup> This suggests that the former minster parish had included all these places, and the prior of Ivychurch seems to have continued the practice of serving the church at Whaddon until the 14th century, after which it was abandoned and Whaddon inhabitants worshipped at Ivychurch.<sup>415</sup>

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<sup>405</sup> *Domesday* 174.

<sup>406</sup> For the poem's text and a discussion of its implications, see M. Lapidge, *The Cult of St Swithun* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2003), 266-267.

<sup>407</sup> J. Stevenson (ed), *Chronicon Monasterii de Abingdon: Volume 1* (1858), 355.

<sup>408</sup> S. Draper, *Landscape, Settlement and Society in Roman and Early Medieval Wiltshire* (2006), 61; J. Pitt [thesis to check, currently unavailable].

<sup>409</sup> Above, Introduction.

<sup>410</sup> *Reg. St Osmund* (Rolls Ser.), I, 208; *VCH Wilts* III, 289.

<sup>411</sup> Le Neve, *Fasti*, I, xxv, 20.

<sup>412</sup> The history of the priory is given elsewhere: *VCH Wilts*, III, 289-95.

<sup>413</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 289; RCHM, *Churches of SE Wiltshire* (1987), 149-50; for other examples of Augustinian refoundations (Christchurch and Plympton), see J. Blair, *The Church in Anglo-Saxon Society* (2005), 517-22.

<sup>414</sup> *Cal. Close*, 1377-81, 162-5.

<sup>415</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 291; *Churches of SE Wiltshire*, 151. Because Augustinian canons, unlike other male religious, were ordained priests, they could conduct services and say mass.

Ivychurch was also regarded as the parish church for Clarendon until its Dissolution in 1536,<sup>416</sup> after which Whaddon worshippers resorted to Alderbury, and Clarendon worshippers to their nearest parish church.<sup>417</sup>

A verdict in a case brought to the assize in 1634 by William Cooke of Farley ruled that Alderbury, Whaddon, Pitton and Farley were a single parish with one church (at Alderbury) and chapels at Pitton and Farley.<sup>418</sup> By 1650 it was being suggested that Pitton and Farley could be made a parish, and a parish church ‘sett in the midst between them both.’<sup>419</sup> However, the chapels remained attached to the ecclesiastical parish until 1874. The history of these chapelries is dealt with elsewhere.

### *Advowson and Church Endowment*

The treasurer enjoyed uninhibited jurisdiction over the parishes within his peculiar – Alderbury and its members, and Figcheldean – although visitations were occasionally conducted by the dean of Salisbury cathedral in the 16th century.<sup>420</sup> The grant to bishop Roger, and from him to the treasurer, in the 12th century, included the land held by the church in 1086, the rectory and the advowson.<sup>421</sup> The land formed part of the Rectory manor, which was usually leased out to lay rectors with the great tithes. Lay rectors included women, Joane Gouldston (Goldston) (d.1646), Elizabeth and Jane Goldstone (Gouldston) (1649/50).<sup>422</sup> A vicarage was created, but the treasurer, not the lay rector, retained the advowson until the 19th century. Presentations to the vicarage were occasionally made by others, by Thomas Beauchamp in 1403 and William Browning in 1422.<sup>423</sup> During the 16th century the treasurers twice presented themselves.<sup>424</sup> Presentations to the benefice by the treasurer are incomplete. By 1856 the patronage of the living was with the bishop.<sup>425</sup>

In 1649—50 Alderbury vicarage was worth £20 per annum of which £4 was paid by the lessee of the rectory.<sup>426</sup> It was augmented in 1665 by a gift of Edward Davenant, treasurer of Salisbury cathedral, to the incumbent of £240 to purchase 18 acres of ground in the common

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<sup>416</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 289, 291.

<sup>417</sup> Below, Clarendon, Religious Hist.

<sup>418</sup> BL, ADD MS27441.

<sup>419</sup> *WAM* 40, 400.

<sup>420</sup> P. Stewart, *Wilts. County Council, Guide to the Record Offices*, IV (1973), 119.

<sup>421</sup> Above, Landownership, Rectory manor.

<sup>422</sup> *WAM* 40, 400, 411-414; TNA, PROB/ 11/198/152; *Alderbury and Whaddon: a Millenium Mosaic*, 44—6; WSA, 490/129.

<sup>423</sup> Phillips, *Institutiones*, I, 91, 112.

<sup>424</sup> In the case of Thomas Stevyns (1548-1550) and Thomas Robertson. CCed Person ID: 89336, 102206.

<sup>425</sup> *The Clergy List for 1856* (1856), volume not numbered.

<sup>426</sup> *WAM* 19, 202; *WAM* 40, 400.

meadow valued at £10 yearly. An annuity of 40s. for £40 was additionally provided by Sir John Evelyn of Deane.<sup>427</sup>

The vicarage with Pitton and Farley was discharged from first fruits and tenths by 1786.<sup>428</sup> By 1835 the living was worth £146 per annum of which £50 was paid to a curate.<sup>429</sup> From 1842 the income was augmented by a £16 annual grant from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.<sup>430</sup> Following the commutation of the tithes awarded in 1847 and confirmed in 1850, the vicarial tithes of Alderbury, excluding Pitton and Farley, were commuted to a tithe rent-charge of £80 to the vicar. The glebe was 1 acre only. The rectorial tithes had been previously extinguished by allotments of land under the Enclosure Act of 1809.<sup>431</sup> In 1864 the value of the living of Alderbury with Pitton and Farley was £367 4s. 8d. It was made up of a tithe rent charge, reserved rent, glebe, Queen Anne's Bounty and grants from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.<sup>432</sup> With Pitton and Farley's separation from the benefice in 1874—5 the Commissioners agreed to a grant of £60 per annum to raise the vicarage's yearly income to £300.<sup>433</sup> In 1889 the value was given as £300 and in 1914 it was given as £288 gross and £250 net.<sup>434</sup> By 1939 it was £344 with residence.<sup>435</sup>

By 1985 the benefice of Alderbury had been amalgamated with West Grimstead.<sup>436</sup> The Alderbury Team benefice was created in 1991 and formed of Alderbury, West Grimstead, West Dean with East Grimstead, Farley with Pitton and Whitparish.<sup>437</sup> In 2024 Alderbury was part of the benefice of Clarendon, comprising Alderbury, Farley with Pitton, West Dean with East Grimstead, West Grimstead, Whiteparish and Winterslow and the deanery of Alderbury.<sup>438</sup>

### *Clergy Houses*

<sup>427</sup> *Gleanings from Wiltshire Parish Registers* (WRS, 63), 3.

<sup>428</sup> J. Ecton and J. Bacon, *Liber Regis* (1786), 871.

<sup>429</sup> *Report of the Commissioners Appointed by His Majesty to Inquire into the Ecclesiastical Revenues of England and Wales*, 1835, Command Paper No 67 Vol 22, 822—3.

<sup>430</sup> *Small livings. A return of the number of small livings augmented from funds at the disposal of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in England and Wales*, 1843. HCP. No 285 Vol 40, 7; *Churches, and Return of All Applications to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Aid Towards the Building or Endowing of Churches*, 1847–8. HCP. No 216. Vol 49, 3.

<sup>431</sup> *Wiltshire Tithe Apportionments* (WRS 30), 11.

<sup>432</sup> *Wiltshire Visitation Returns 1864* (WRS 76), 3.

<sup>433</sup> WSA, 1966/33.

<sup>434</sup> *The Clergy List for 1889* (1889), not numbered; *The Clergy List for 1914*, not numbered.

<sup>435</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Wilts* (1939 edn), 22.

<sup>436</sup> *Crockford*, (1985—6 edn), 695. Note, *Crockford*, (1980—2 edn), 1156 shows Alderbury as a benefice in its own right.

<sup>437</sup> *Crockford*, (1991—2 edn), 821; <https://clarendoncofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/240307-Alderbury-RD-Clarendon-TV-Profile.pdf>: accessed 13 Dec 2024.

<sup>438</sup> *Crockford*, (2024—5 edn, 950, 990).

*Vicarage House* A vicarage stood directly south of the church on a site now occupied by the churchyard.<sup>439</sup> A contemporary image or description of the structure has yet to be located. By 1818 it was described as very small and in a failing state.<sup>440</sup> By 1835 it was deemed unsuitable as a residence, and by 1851, the incumbent, Newton Smart, was residing at Farley Almshouses, a location also favoured by several previous incumbents.<sup>441</sup> It has been suggested that the rectory may have been leased to ministers as an alternative.<sup>442</sup>

The vicarage was replaced in 1852. The new structure was funded by a £1000 mortgage drawn from Queen Anne's Bounty.<sup>443</sup> The new vicarage, now Greenset House, was constructed to the south on what is now Old Vicarage Lane. In 1937 another vicarage house was built in Lights Lane, now Woodlynne House.<sup>444</sup> It was replaced in 1982 by a rectory (incumbents were by then rectors) on a new estate at Twyneham Gardens and again in 1985 by another at The Copse.<sup>445</sup>

*Rectory House* The rectory house of Alderbury lay to the southeast and adjacent to the churchyard.<sup>446</sup> The house, as part of the rectory estate, was leased to a succession of lay rectors. It was described in detail in a valuation of the rectory property taken in 1649.<sup>447</sup> The rectory or parsonage dates from c. 1600 to the mid 18th century. In 2024 it was known as Court House.<sup>448</sup>

### *Religious Life*

In December 1620 John Ely, vicar of Alderbury recorded in the parish register that the bishop of Salisbury, Robert Townson (d.1621), had ordained one minister and three deacons in Alderbury church and occasionally preached there while living at Ivychurch.<sup>449</sup> During his long tenure Ely 'proved' his position as vicar of St Mary's Alderbury and chapels at Pitton and Farley at the assize

<sup>439</sup> It was visible on an estate map in 1765 and on the tithe map a century later. WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L, Tithe map, 1966/30.

<sup>440</sup> *Account of Benefices and Population; Churches, Chapels and their Capacity; Number of Glebe Houses; and Income of Small Benefices, 1810—1816*, 1818. HCP, No 005 Vol 18, 177.

<sup>441</sup> *Report of the Commissioners Appointed by His Majesty to Inquire into the Ecclesiastical Revenues of England and Wales*, 1835. Command Paper, No 67 Vol 22, 822-3; Census 1851 (Class: HO107; Piece: 1846; Folio: 73; Page: 31; GSU roll: 220993), *Alderbury and Whaddon: a Millenium Mosaic*, 48—9. The previous incumbent lived in 1841 in the Cathedral Close, Salisbury. Census 1841 (Class: HO107; Piece: 1190; Book: 8; Civil Parish: The Close of The Canons of The Cathedral Church; County: Wiltshire; Enumeration District: 3; Folio: 8; Page: 10; Line: 10; GSU roll: 464204).

<sup>442</sup> *Alderbury and Whaddon: a Millenium Mosaic*, 49. A detailed room by room inventory survives for vicar, William Pinckney, who died in 1682. However, it is not clear where his residence was in Alderbury. WSA, P26/303.

<sup>443</sup> WSA, 1966/30.

<sup>444</sup> WSA, 1966/31.

<sup>445</sup> *Alderbury and Whaddon: a Millenium Mosaic*, 49.

<sup>446</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2E/7L.

<sup>447</sup> *WAM*, 40, 400, 411-414; *Alderbury and Whaddon: a Millenium Mosaic*, 44-46.

<sup>448</sup> Historic England HER, The Court House, 1023786.

<sup>449</sup> BL, Add MS27441.



in 1634 and was able to retain his position through the tumult of the English civil war. He died in 1653.<sup>450</sup>

John Crouch was ejected from living at Alderbury in 1661 with the help of the secular courts for not reading a common prayer.<sup>451</sup> Described as a 'pretended' minister, he preached in St Edmunds parish, Salisbury, Allington, and Newton Tony but fled in 1669. In 1682, he was fined £200 for preaching at his home in White's Alley, London, for multiple offences. He died in 1689.<sup>452</sup> His replacement at Alderbury, Peter Titley, lasted less than a year before moving to the vicarage of Winterbourne Stoke.<sup>453</sup>

Newton Smart was incumbent from 1843.<sup>454</sup> Smart had a distinguished church career, and by 1863 combined the post of vicar of Alderbury with holding a prebend in Salisbury cathedral, and was rural dean in Salisbury diocese and chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury.<sup>455</sup> Smart had previously been chaplain to the bishop of Ripon and master of Farley Hospital.<sup>456</sup> The additional responsibilities required the employment of three curates by 1864, two to cover Pitton and Farley and one for Alderbury.<sup>457</sup> Smart resigned in 1865, after being awarded a valuable living in Kent by the Archbishop.<sup>458</sup> Under his tenure the vicarage house and church were rebuilt.<sup>459</sup> A celebration for his departure was attended by 200 parishioners where he was presented with a silver teakettle 'as a memorial of their affectionate regard and appreciation of his kind and self-denying work.'<sup>460</sup> Smart was replaced by Robert Sparke Hutchings.<sup>461</sup> Hutchings was born in Pulo, Penang in 1819 where his father was a chaplain. He was educated at the Clergy Orphan School in London before following his father into the church. Hutchings had several posts including vicar of Monkton Wyld, Dorset before becoming vicar of Alderbury in 1865.<sup>462</sup> Like Smart, Hutchings took a keen interest in the community, creating a reading room located at the Goose Inn in 1870 and later building a permanent reading room with cottage in 1895.<sup>463</sup> Hutchings was a keen astronomer and was made an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1886. He died in 1911.<sup>464</sup>

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<sup>450</sup> WSA, 1966/1; *WAM*, 40, 414; *Gleanings from Wiltshire Parish Registers* (WRS, 63), 3.

<sup>451</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 43.

<sup>452</sup> Matthews, *Calamy Revised*, 151.

<sup>453</sup> CCEd Person ID: 119429.

<sup>454</sup> *The Clergy List for 1856* (1856), volume not numbered.

<sup>455</sup> *The Clergy List for 1863* (1863), 296.

<sup>456</sup> *Clergy List 1856* (1856), volume not numbered.

<sup>457</sup> *Wiltshire Visitation Returns 1864* (WRS 76), 2,3.

<sup>458</sup> *Wiltshire County Mirror*, 28 Jun 1865.

<sup>459</sup> See below and section on clergy houses.

<sup>460</sup> *Wiltshire County Mirror*, 11 Oct 1865; *Wiltshire Independent*, 12 Oct 1865.

<sup>461</sup> *Wiltshire County Mirror*, 11 Oct 1865; *The Clergy List for 1889* (1889), 254.

<sup>462</sup> *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, Volume 71, Issue 4, Feb 1911, 270.

<sup>463</sup> Above, Social History.

<sup>464</sup> *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, Volume 71, Issue 4, Feb 1911, 270.

A diocesan faculty was granted in 1832, supported by the earl of Radnor, George Fort and the vicar, (Hugh) George Stephens, for the north wall of the parish church to be taken down and the building extended by 10 ft.<sup>465</sup> However, no action took place. Over 20 years later, in 1857, during the tenure of incumbent Newton Smart a new faculty was granted for the replacement of the church. The medieval church was described as wholly inadequate to meet the needs of the community and provided seating for 257 for a population of 744. The new church was built on the same site and planned as ‘a substantial and durable church and chancel together with a vestry room’. The cost was estimated at £2,500 of which £1,640 had already been raised by private subscriptions and grants. A further £500 was promised by the impropiator for the expense of rebuilding the chancel and chancel aisle.<sup>466</sup> In the event the cost rose to £3,300.<sup>467</sup> The new church was to have 430 seats, of which 50 were set aside for extra-parochial Clarendon following a donation by Frederick Hutchison Harvey Bathurst. It was anticipated that the contractor would reuse some of the stone and flint.<sup>468</sup> The cornerstone was laid by the Bishop of Salisbury in May 1857. A year later in June 1858 the bishop returned to consecrate the newly completed church.<sup>469</sup>

According to returns made for Census Sunday 1851 the congregation at Alderbury parish church was 257 at morning service and 271 in the afternoon. As the building only seated 257 this may have been an over estimation on behalf of the vicar, Newton Smart.<sup>470</sup> After the church was rebuilt, in 1864 the communicants were given in visitation queries as 175.<sup>471</sup>

Parish registers have survived for St Mary’s church, Alderbury from 1606.<sup>472</sup> Several notable burials appear in parish registers including Andrew a ‘blackmoor’ servant of Thomas Dove in 1667 and two unnamed soldiers ‘slayne at Alderbury from Longford garrison’ in 1645.<sup>473</sup> In 1758 the deaths of William Turner his wife and two sons are noted in a 4-week period all died of smallpox.<sup>474</sup> Between 1803 and 1812 cause of death is recorded.<sup>475</sup>

## WHADDON

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<sup>465</sup> WSA, D26/7/2.

<sup>466</sup> WSA, D1/61/9/9.

<sup>467</sup> *Return of Number of Churches in Dioceses in England Built or Restored at Cost Exceeding 500 pounds, 1840—76*, 1876. HCP no 125, 125I, vol 58, 657.

<sup>468</sup> WSA, D1/61/9/9.

<sup>469</sup> *Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 16 May 1857, 26 Jun 1858.

<sup>470</sup> TNA, HO 129/263/3. Capacity taken in figures provided by the incumbent in 1857. See WSA, D1/61/9/9.

<sup>471</sup> *Wiltshire Visitation Returns 1864* (WRS 76), 3.

<sup>472</sup> WSA, 1966/1-10

<sup>473</sup> WSA, 1966/1.

<sup>474</sup> WSA, 1966/3.

<sup>475</sup> WSA, 1966/7-8.

By the 13th century Whaddon may have briefly achieved parish status, as it was referred to as a church rather than a chapel in 1273, 1299 and 1328, and rectors were appointed.<sup>476</sup>

The living of the rectory of Whaddon was granted by Alan Plucknet in 1318 and Robert de Bluntesdon in 1326. Two years later, Robert de Bluntesdon gave the manor with the advowson to Ivychurch priory, and the prior presented to the living in 1334.<sup>477</sup> Thereafter the church was doubtless served by canons from the priory until the church fell into disuse. The farm of Whaddon manor was worth £21 when Ivychurch priory was dissolved in 1536, from which £6 was reserved to pay the chaplains of Whaddon parish church at Ivychurch and for the king's manor at Clarendon.<sup>478</sup>

In 1394 canons of Ivychurch were expected to hold three masses each week at the church in Whaddon, although by that time, the duties had been neglected.<sup>479</sup> Thereafter services for the community at Whaddon were held in the church at the priory. Parochially the inhabitants used the south aisle, perhaps also associated with 'a stepall of the parish.'<sup>480</sup> Following the Dissolution of the priory in 1536 the site was developed as a private residence.<sup>481</sup> While there is no precise evidence for when the church ceased to function as Whaddon's parish church, Whaddon was not included in a survey of church goods in 1548.<sup>482</sup> Thereafter inhabitants of Whaddon used St Mary's church at Alderbury for divine worship for several centuries. St Mary's church hall was constructed at Whaddon in 1914 to provide church services and a social space for inhabitants of Whaddon. It was located on a site on Southampton Road gifted by the earl of Radnor.<sup>483</sup> The church remained in use in 2024.

There is no recorded dedication or description for the chapel at Whaddon, built by 1273. The church to the south of the cloister at Ivychurch priory which subsequently served as the parish church likely comprised a north and south aisle, nave, crossing, transepts, and choir.<sup>484</sup> Parochially the inhabitants used the south aisle.<sup>485</sup> The current Ivychurch farmhouse is built on the site of the north aisle and north transept of the priory church and incorporates sculptured elements from the structure. Several standing elements from the north aisle of the at still extant adjacent to the house.<sup>486</sup>

### *Church Architecture*

<sup>476</sup> TNA, C 133/1/7; C 133/91/1; C 143/197/19; *VCH Wilts*, III, 291.

<sup>477</sup> Phillips, *Institutiones*, I, 16, 23, 30.

<sup>478</sup> TNA, SC 11/705.

<sup>479</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 291.

<sup>480</sup> TNA, SC 12/33/27. 1 Jul 1536; *Churches of SE Wiltshire*, 150.

<sup>481</sup> *WAM*, 46, 436; *VCH Wilts*, III, 294.

<sup>482</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 294.

<sup>483</sup> WSA, 1966/41-42.

<sup>484</sup> *Churches of SE Wiltshire*, 149—50.

<sup>485</sup> TNA, SC 12/33/27. 1 Jul 1536; *Churches of SE Wiltshire*, 150.

<sup>486</sup> Historic England HER, Ivychurch Farmhouse, 1023777; *Churches of SE Wiltshire*, 149—53.

Colt Hoare described the original parish church of Alderbury as a plain building (rough-casted) with a wooden turret bearing no marks of antiquity. It had no aisles and only a plain font but contained a fine old yew in the churchyard. The chancel measured 26ft by 15ft 6", and the nave 45ft by 20ft 3".<sup>487</sup> Despite the description, the structure is likely to have been medieval in origin but with a post-reformation south porch.<sup>488</sup>

In a picturesque situation, a new edifice was erected in 1857 to a design by S.S. Teulon is a cruciform building with a spire. The exterior is flint rubble with Bath stone dressings, a tiled roof with coped verges and finials, and a spire with Welsh slates. It consists of a north-west tower, south porch, six-bay nave, north aisle, chancel and transepts with a north-west vestry. The north gabled porch is timber-framed on flint and stone plinth; the doorway has a pointed moulded arch with single shafts on either side.

The building features geometric tracery windows, trefoiled lancets, a large three-light east window with geometric tracery and hood mould, a registry room, a north transept or chapel with trefoiled lancets and a three-light rose window, a north aisle with two-light windows. A three-sided stair turret leads to the four-stage north-west tower and incorporates lancet windows. The six-bay nave has arch-braced collar trusses to the roof. The chancel arch is 13th-century in style with foliated capitals to three columns, and the three-bay chancel has an arch-braced collar roof on foliated corbels. Wide pointed arches on either side lead to an organ loft and vestry. The church has Victorian pews, choir stalls, and some good late 19th- and early 20th-century stained glass, particularly signed windows by Morris and Co Ltd in the north transept chapel. The transept also contains a unique south window depicting the devil as a green flying snake or dragon. The altar rails have square wrought iron panels from a screen removed from Salisbury Cathedral in 1960. Several memorials are reused from the original church, including a wall tablet on the south side of the chancel to Thomas Stringer of Ivychurch, who died in 1702, and a tablet on the north side with the initials RGM below a shield dated 1612.<sup>489</sup>

The churchyard contains a veteran yew tree certified to be 1500 years old. The churchyard also contains several listed memorials.<sup>490</sup>

## NONCONFORMITY

A Quaker congregation at Alderbury is recorded from 1677, although the death of Widow Elcocke, a Quaker, was previously noted in parish registers in 1667.<sup>491</sup> In 1683 the jurymen of Alderbury

<sup>487</sup> R. Colt Hoare, *History of Modern Wiltshire: Hundred of Alderbury* (London, 1837), 8.

<sup>488</sup> *Churches of SE Wilts*, 101; Historic England HER, Church of S Mary, 1355757.

<sup>489</sup> *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire 1822* (WRS 53), 337.

<sup>490</sup> Historic England HER, Church of St Mary, 1355757, Fort Memorial, 1285034, Head Memorial, 1023787. A certificate by the Yew Tree Campaign giving this age can be found [2024] in the porch of the church.

hundred were presented to Quarter Sessions for their refusal to present a Quaker meeting.<sup>492</sup> Later, 11 men were fined £96 15s. for conducting a meeting at Alderbury in 1686. Several were also fined for attending a meeting in Salisbury. The combined total sum was £147. Representations were made to the mayor and justices of Salisbury concerning the severity of the penalties; however, despite inclinations 'to favour friends', they were too 'afraid' of the informers to act.<sup>493</sup> Later, after the enactment of the Act of Toleration in 1689, Giles Spicer had his dwelling in Alderbury registered as a meeting house.<sup>494</sup> Alderbury had a Quaker burial ground on the hillside east of Whaddon.<sup>495</sup> Wiltshire nonconformity flourished in places far from a parish church, and the burial ground may thus mark the site of the originally clandestine meeting place. The Alderbury meeting did not thrive, possibly due to the success of a Baptist congregation, and had been discontinued by 1717.<sup>496</sup>

The house of John Sanger in Whaddon was registered as a Baptist place of worship in 1698.<sup>497</sup> The only other meeting house registered in the village was the home of Richard Penton, which was used by Methodists in 1807.<sup>498</sup> A Methodist congregation at Whaddon that met in a cottage joined the Primitive Methodist church by 1847 which had 20 members according to the vicar in 1864.<sup>499</sup> Whaddon's Primitive Methodists could not build a chapel at Whaddon until the 1880s due to an inability to obtain a suitable location. Eventually, Charles Powell gifted a site. In 1884 a red brick, three-bay chapel was erected on Southampton Road, Whaddon, by Mr Phillips of Salisbury, to a design by Mr (probably Charles) Mitchell of Woodfalls.<sup>500</sup> It had closed by 1990 when it was sold to Clifton Roman Catholic Diocese.

Three Methodist places of worship were registered in domestic settings in Alderbury between 1802 and 1818, two of which were associated with the preacher William Sanger Junior, one of the most active nonconformist leaders of Salisbury.<sup>501</sup> In 1825 a Wesleyan Methodist chapel with a capacity for 120 congregants was built at the corner of Folly Lane and (what is now) Old

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<sup>491</sup> Widow Elcocke was buried at Downton. K. Taylor, 'Chalk, Cheese, and Cloth: The Settling of Quaker Communities in 17th Century Wiltshire', *Quaker Studies*, 10/2 (2006), fn93, 183; WSA, 1966/1.

<sup>492</sup> D. Speath, *The Church in an Age of Danger* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004) 163.

<sup>493</sup> WSA, 1699/17, 47-50; J. Besse, *A Collection of the Sufferings of the People Called Quakers*, (London, 1753), II, 49.

<sup>494</sup> *Wilts. Dissenters Meeting House Certificates* (WRS 40), 3.

<sup>495</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 122, fn 66. See tithe map and award.

<sup>496</sup> *VCH Wilts*, III, 126.

<sup>497</sup> *Wilts. Dissenters Meeting House Certificates* (WRS 40), 7.

<sup>498</sup> *Wilts. Dissenters Meeting House Certificates* (WRS 40), 63;

[https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/wiltshire-2/t-z/whaddon\\_alderbury\\_wiltshire](https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/wiltshire-2/t-z/whaddon_alderbury_wiltshire): accessed 14 Aug 2024.

<sup>499</sup> *Salisbury Times*, 25 Oct 1884; [https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/wiltshire-2/t-z/whaddon\\_alderbury\\_wiltshire](https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/wiltshire-2/t-z/whaddon_alderbury_wiltshire): accessed 14 Aug 2024; *Wilts. Visitation Queries 1864* (WRS 76), 4.

<sup>500</sup> *Salisbury Times*, 25 Oct 1884.

<sup>501</sup> *Wilts. Dissenters Meeting House Certificates* (WRS 40), xix, 55, 77, 84.

Chapel Close.<sup>502</sup> It was associated with the Salisbury resident circuit minister Isaac Bradnack, who registered four other chapels in the same year.<sup>503</sup> The chapel was attacked the following year. In 1828 another Wesleyan meeting house was established by James Dunbar, another minister from Salisbury.<sup>504</sup>

A final meeting house was registered in 1840 by John Knowles, another Wesleyan minister of Salisbury.<sup>505</sup> These congregations were likely short-term and were not subsequently mentioned in returns for Census Sunday 1851.

The Wesleyan chapel built on Folly Lane, Alderbury, was replaced by another on the same site in 1877. It was likely built at the cost of Charles Bryant of Pitton, though some news reports mentioned only public subscription.<sup>506</sup> The opening was so well attended that some of the press were prevented from gaining admittance.<sup>507</sup>

By 1851 the congregation averaged 96 with 50 Sunday scholars. There were two services in the afternoon and evening,<sup>508</sup> The steward was William Waterman.<sup>509</sup> The congregation appears to have thrived during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.<sup>510</sup> A Band of Hope and Temperance Society were inaugurated in connection with the chapel in 1900.<sup>511</sup> The Alderbury Friendly and Benefit Society held a service at the chapel in 1901.<sup>512</sup> However, numbers dwindled through the mid 20th century and the chapel was demolished in c. 1970 to make way for a housing development.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton purchased the Primitive Methodist chapel at Whaddon in 1990, refurbished it, and opened it as a church in 1991.<sup>513</sup> In 2024 the Holy Family church, Whaddon was served from St Osmund, Salisbury.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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<sup>502</sup> *Wilts. Dissenters Meeting House Certificates* (WRS 40), 106; *Accommodation Provided in Wesleyan Methodist Chapels and Other Preaching Places* (London: Wesleyan Congregants Office, 1875), 16.

<sup>503</sup> *Wilts. Dissenters Meeting House Certificates* (WRS 40), xix.

<sup>504</sup> *Wilts. Dissenters Meeting House Certificates* (WRS 40), 119.

<sup>505</sup> *Wilts. Dissenters Meeting House Certificates* (WRS 40), 151.

<sup>506</sup> *The Builder*, Vol 35 (1877), 795; *Building News*, 29 Jun 1877, 43. Reports of fundraising, *Wiltshire County Mirror*, 13 Jun 1876; *Western Gazette*, 29 Jun 1877.

<sup>507</sup> *Salisbury Times*, 23 Jun 1877.

<sup>508</sup> TNA, 129/263/4.

<sup>509</sup> TNA, HO 129/263/4.

<sup>510</sup> Press reports include *Salisbury Times*, 16 Nov 1900, 8 Apr 1904; 27 May 1907.

<sup>511</sup> *Salisbury Times*, 16 Nov 1900.

<sup>512</sup> *Salisbury Times*, 31 May 1901.

<sup>513</sup> <https://www.findachurch.co.uk/church/whaddon-wiltshire/21874.htm>: accessed 14 Aug 2024.

## MANORIAL GOVERNMENT

Manorial courts were held at Whaddon in the early 14th century; a valuation of the manor in 1319 gave the perquisites of courts as 2s.<sup>514</sup> In 1328 the manor was granted by Robert de Bluntesdon to Ivychurch priory.<sup>515</sup> However, a lease of Whaddon farm dated 16 October 1532 stated that a suit of court was owed at the manor of Alderbury.<sup>516</sup> The *Valor* in 1535 did not mention courts at Whaddon, but noted an annual payment of 5s. 6d. to the king called 'Shreve Yeld'.<sup>517</sup> However, while the *Valor* recorded that no courts had been held at Alderbury for several years, the implication was that courts were generally held.<sup>518</sup> No subsequent evidence for manorial government exists for Whaddon manor, and there are no surviving court books for Whaddon in Alderbury hundred.<sup>519</sup>

A court book for Alderbury and Ivychurch manor survives for 1663—1734. Courts baron were held by the tenants who leased the manor from the diocese. Courts were not held regularly; sometimes, years passed between sessions, or several were held in a single year, suggesting that they were only held when needed. On rare occasions when the manor was in hand (e.g. 1733), proceedings were held at the bishop's palace.<sup>520</sup>

A court book for Alderbury Rectory manor survives for the period 1537—1820. Both courts leet and baron were held.<sup>521</sup> The tithingman was at different times appointed at the *curia legalis* attached to the hundred court 1563<sup>522</sup> and at the court leet held by the rectory manor, 1653.<sup>523</sup> Later a hayward and bailiff, were annually selected. Sometimes a gap of several years passed between sessions, including between 1795 and 1803, which coincided with a period when the manor was acquired by the earl of Radnor. Cases presented concerned the obstruction of highways, boundary disputes, and scouring ditches.<sup>524</sup> It seems very likely that Alderbury rectory house became known as the 'court house' because that is where the views of frankpledge were held.

From 1801 both manors were owned by the earl of Radnor who administered them together and both continued to have copyhold tenants in 1815<sup>525</sup> and 1850 although by this date much reduced.<sup>526</sup> No court books exist for the period after 1820.

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<sup>514</sup> *Wilts Extents for Debts* (WRS. 28), 17-19.

<sup>515</sup> TNA, C 143/197/19.

<sup>516</sup> TNA, SC 6/HenVIII/3970.

<sup>517</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 97.

<sup>518</sup> *Valor Eccl.* II, 96.

<sup>519</sup> Court books etc. that survive relate to Whaddon near Trowbridge.

<sup>520</sup> WSA, 490/1161.

<sup>521</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2b/1. A court roll also exists for 1632: WSA, 2057/M5.

<sup>522</sup> WSA, 192/1b.

<sup>523</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2b/1.

<sup>524</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2b/1. Free tenants of Farley were sometimes listed separately.

<sup>525</sup> WSA, 490/709.

<sup>526</sup> WSA, 1946/2/2b/6.

At a hundred court in 1561 William Bedford was elected hayward (*messor*) for Alderbury.<sup>527</sup> This manorial appointment by the hundred court was not repeated for other tithings, and no explanation was given.

## PARISH GOVERNMENT

No separate vestry minutes for Alderbury with Whaddon have survived before 1851.<sup>528</sup> There are no highway surveyors or overseers accounts among the parish records, although lists of poor rates exist for 1698, 1701, 1707, 1757 and a schedule of owners and occupiers for assessment of poor rates 1827—35.<sup>529</sup> However, partial overseers accounts for 1620—3, and a list of parish-sponsored apprentices for 1619 and 1629, are preserved in a private archive.<sup>530</sup> The recording indicates that parish government was already reasonably sophisticated, and for parochial government purposes Whaddon was a tithing of Alderbury. Pitton and Farley were administered separately.

Vestry minutes from 1851 to 1894, particularly those after the appointment of Robert Sparke Hutchings as vicar in 1865, suggest that, apart from issues arising from the creation of a new parish church, the vestry concerned itself with little more than appointing officers and signing off accounts. Meetings were principally chaired by the incumbent vicar and were generally held in March and April. Parish officers appointed during the 1850s comprised two overseers, an assistant overseer, and two waywardens or highway surveyors, besides churchwardens and a guardian for the Alderbury Poor Law Union. In 1853 a building committee was established to assist in the creation of a new parish church, and the issue was discussed periodically until the church was rebuilt.<sup>531</sup> In 1853 the assistant overseer resigned, and one of the overseers, Stephen Parsons, was paid to collect both church and poor rates, a post he held for many years.<sup>532</sup> By 1864 Parsons was also waywarden and churchwarden.<sup>533</sup> In 1864 the number of waywardens was reduced to one.<sup>534</sup> In 1867 errors were found in the highway account, but Parsons was retained as waywarden, overseer and churchwarden.<sup>535</sup> He remained waywarden until 1873 when he was appointed as salaried assistant overseer in addition to the two overseers.<sup>536</sup> The appointment was a temporary one, as in 1874

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<sup>527</sup> WSA, 192/1b.

<sup>528</sup> WSA, 1966/45.

<sup>529</sup> WSA, 490/1441, 2142/20.

<sup>530</sup> Hants Archives (HA), 44M69L58/1—3 (overseers accounts), 44M69L58/6—7 (apprentices).

<sup>531</sup> WSA, 1966/45. 15 Dec 1853. Vestry meetings where issue was discussed include, 27 Apr 1858, 1 May 1858, 22 Jan 1859, 3 Mar 1859. Building committee minutes were written into the back of the volume.

<sup>532</sup> WSA, 1966/45, 24 Mar 1853, 25 Mar 1854.

<sup>533</sup> WSA, 1966/45. 25 Mar 1865 (confirms reselection).

<sup>534</sup> WSA, 1966/45. 26 Mar 1864.

<sup>535</sup> WSA, 1966/45. 25 Mar 1867, 26 Apr 1867.

<sup>536</sup> WSA, 1966/45. 26 Mar 1873.



Parsons was again listed as one of two overseers, although it is possible that he continued to be paid.<sup>537</sup> He was retained as both waywarden and overseer until 1893.<sup>538</sup>

The location of vestry meetings was not recorded until 1892 when they were held in the schoolroom.<sup>539</sup> After the creation of the parish council in 1894 ‘vestry’ meetings continued for some time to select churchwardens, audit overseers’ accounts, and discuss church business.<sup>540</sup>

Churchwardens accounts survive for the period 1835 onwards, and a list of church rates 1836-52.<sup>541</sup> Although compulsory church rates were abolished in 1868, a church rate book exists for the period 1891—1902.<sup>542</sup>

According to resident magistrate George Fort in 1834 insufficient enquiry was made into the character of those who applied for relief. That may have influenced the decision to employ an assistant overseer under the Sturges Bourne Act (59 Geo. III c.12), a move often associated with a more punitive approach to relief.<sup>543</sup> Alderbury with Whaddon joined the Alderbury Poor Law Union in 1835.

## PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council minute books have been deposited in Wiltshire archives for the period 1894—1991 and receipt and payment books from 1894—1980.<sup>544</sup>

The first meeting of Alderbury Parish Council took place on 31 December 1894. It was formed of nine councillors, chaired by the vicar, Robert Sparkes Hutchings, who had previously chaired the vestry meetings. A water supply committee was formed in 1895 to improve the local supply, along with the administration of local charities; this was the focus of much Parish Council activity for several years.<sup>545</sup> In 1902 a ‘celebration’ committee or ‘coronation’ committee was instituted to organise festivities for the coronation of Edward VII.<sup>546</sup> A coronation memorial and drinking fountain was planned, but it was damaged the following year by local boys throwing stones, and to the ‘seal by being walked on and to a stoppage in the overflow’ in 1904. It was again considerably damaged in 1905 necessitating further fundraising and the replacement of the granite

<sup>537</sup> WSA, 1966/45 25 Mar 1874.

<sup>538</sup> WSA, 1966/45 27 Mar 1893. Named yearly dates include 25 Mar 1889.

<sup>539</sup> WSA, 1966/45, from 7 May 1892, 6 Apr 1893 etc.

<sup>540</sup> WSA, 1966/45.

<sup>541</sup> WSA, 1966/35.

<sup>542</sup> WSA, 1966/37.

<sup>543</sup> *Report from His Majesty's commissioners for inquiring into the administration and practical operation of the Poor Laws. Appendix B Answers to Rural Queries. 1834.* (Parl. Papers, 1834 (44)), 566b, 566c.

<sup>544</sup> WSA, 2142/1-6 (minutes), 2142/7—11 (receipt and payments). See also correspondence 1940-1996 (WSA, 2142/19), papers concerning Welcome Home Fund (2142/25-26) and Ely's charity (2142/17-18).

<sup>545</sup> WSA, 2142/1. 6. Expert report on water supply 9—10; Charities report Apr 1895, 12-13.

<sup>546</sup> WSA, 2142/1. 85—94.

trough.<sup>547</sup> The parish council approached the London and South Western Railway the same year to open a station in Alderbury.<sup>548</sup> The application was made again in 1912, but the council decided not to press ahead with plans in 1913, although the suggestion was revived in 1920.<sup>549</sup> A public telephone was requested in 1920.<sup>550</sup>

After the First World War a war memorial committee was formed to decide how best to commemorate the fallen.<sup>551</sup> The Longford estate gifted a plot, and a war memorial was erected on the village green in 1921.<sup>552</sup> In 1926 the Parish Council agreed to give the maintenance of the monument to the British Legion<sup>553</sup>

From 1924 the Parish Council meetings took place in the reading room.<sup>554</sup> During the 1920s and 30s traditional concerns such as the provision of charities persisted, but the improvement of public services became significant. These included the extension of the water supply<sup>555</sup>, provision of street lighting,<sup>556</sup> the creation of a village hall<sup>557</sup> and a recreation ground.<sup>558</sup> After the establishment of the recreation ground in 1929 its maintenance and improvement became a perennial issue.<sup>559</sup> In 1942, the Parish Council permitted ‘military teams’ to use the recreation ground on a Sunday, which contravened the standard rules of its use.<sup>560</sup> However, the military quickly damaged the gates with their vehicles; while an offer of compensation was accepted the amount was not felt to cover the cost of repair.<sup>561</sup> In 1943, military teams left the hut in a filthy condition, and the cricket pitch required renovation, after which the hut’s locks were changed.<sup>562</sup>

Complaints over ‘the danger caused to the inhabitants of Whaddon and the public by the rapid driving of motor cars’, were received as early as 1906, precipitating a letter to the District Council.<sup>563</sup> The issue was only exacerbated as the 20th century wore on. In 1926, the Parish Council agreed to bring to the attention of the District Council and County Council the danger posed by the junction of the Alderbury Road with the Salisbury to Southampton Road.<sup>564</sup> During the 1940s the

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<sup>547</sup> WSA, 2142/1. e.g. 105—6, 108—10, 116, 119—20, 124. It was also damaged in 1909: 159. It was again repaired in 1922, 1925. WSA, 2142/2. 39, 42, 86.

<sup>548</sup> WSA, 2142/1. e.g. 118, 124.

<sup>549</sup> WSA, 2142/1. 187, 188, 239.

<sup>550</sup> WSA, 2142/1. 240; WSA, 2142/2. 4.

<sup>551</sup> WSA, 2142/1. e.g. 225, 226, 234.

<sup>552</sup> WSA, 2142/2. 23.

<sup>553</sup> WSA, 2142/2. 102.

<sup>554</sup> WSA, 2142/2. 73—4.

<sup>555</sup> WSA, 2142/2. e.g. 41; WSA, 2142/3. e.g. 95, 99.

<sup>556</sup> WSA, 2142/2. e.g. 221, 223, 229.

<sup>557</sup> WSA, 2142/2. e.g. 205.

<sup>558</sup> WSA, 2142/2. e.g. 100, 102, 143--8.

<sup>559</sup> WSA, 2142/2. e.g. 173, and inset 173—4, 209, 211, 212—13, 215, 235—6.

<sup>560</sup> WSA, 2142/3. 141. For the rules of the recreation ground see rules see WSA, 2142/2, inset between 173 and 174.

<sup>561</sup> WSA, 2142/3. 143.

<sup>562</sup> WSA, 2142/3. 145, 152.

<sup>563</sup> WSA, 2142/1. 130—1.

<sup>564</sup> WSA, 2142/2. 105, 105, 107.

junction was improved, but the Parish Council was unsuccessfully in getting approval to extend a 30mph speed limit through the village.<sup>565</sup> Unsurprisingly, no objection was made to the planning for a bypass during the early 1970s, an idea that had been mooted since the 1930s, as the Parish Council deemed the current existing arrangements were ‘inadequate’ and ‘highly dangerous’ to pedestrians in 1974.<sup>566</sup>

In 2024 there were nine parish councillors, and meetings were held monthly. The annual parish meeting was held in May. Minutes and agenda were published online.<sup>567</sup>

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<sup>565</sup> WSA, 2142/3. 165, 220.

<sup>566</sup> WSA, 2142/4 127, 156, 212.

<sup>567</sup> [http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/Meetings\\_Agendas\\_\\_and\\_\\_Minutes\\_34465.aspx](http://www.alderburyparishcouncil.gov.uk/Meetings_Agendas__and__Minutes_34465.aspx): accessed 05 Dec. 2024.