

SOCIAL HISTORY

Dummer's wealth and character was based on sheep farming which was dominant from the late Middle Ages. A nucleated settlement, apart from the outlying houses and farms of Dummer Grange and Dummer Down, lords of the manor(s) were resident until the break-up of the estate in the 1920s. The unusual level of religious nonconformity evident in the late 17th century remains unexplained in the light of the social structure of the parish. Enclosure of land in 1743 transformed community life, settled for generations. Relationship with nearby Basingstoke has been influential as have major transport routes traversing the parish. Significant change occurred in the 20th century from a farming-centred society, pre-1950s, to a prosperous commuter and retirement village. Dummer had a school from 1610 and a number of endowed charities. For a small parish it had a surprising number of famous visitors including John Wesley, Jane Austen, Joseph Arch and the future King George IV. Social links with Kempshott were close long before it was added to the civil parish in 1879.

Social Character

The Middle Ages

Judging from Domesday Book, late 11th century Dummer was a typical agricultural community similar to neighbouring parishes situated on the chalk downlands, south of Basingstoke. East and West Dummer manors were of a similar size, each with land for five ploughs, although more land was held in demesne by the lord in East Dummer. The population of West Dummer was higher with eight villans, nine bordars and three slaves, indicating a population of 20 families; that of East Dummer consisted of two villans and three bordars.¹ The grange of Dummer which had been granted to Waverley Abbey, a Cistercian House, in the 12th century was a third farming centre in the parish and worked as a separate manor, probably cultivated by lay brothers or local tied peasants, administered directly by the abbey.²

By the beginning of the 14th century Dummer was in the middle rank of parishes in the Bermondspit hundred when compared for wealth, with tax assessed in 1327 at

¹ *Domesday*, 108,121.

² M. Service, *The home estate, granges and smaller properties of Waverley Abbey (Surrey Archaeological Collections, 95, 2010) 223; Abbey of Waverley:* <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol2/p77> (accessed 30 Oct. 2018).

41s. 11d.³ Four men stand out as better-off residents amongst the 11 individuals assessed: Hugh le Franklin, his name implying that he was a free tenant, the rector Nicholas de Middleton, Gilbert de Stainford and Thomas Preposito. 'Preposito' is most likely translated as 'reeve', a man of status in the manor. In Popham, a parish directly to the west, whilst 18 people were assessed for tax the amount raised was only a modest 26s.10d.⁴ The effect of the Black Death on Dummer is not known but Hampshire suffered more than many parts of the country and the parish lay on a route from the port of Southampton to London, with travellers doubtless spreading the infection. However, there appears to have been no devastating decline, as at neighbouring Farleigh Wallop and Hatch, and - like Cliddesden - the community's survival may have been at their expense, benefitting from rising prices, the greater availability of land and from the growing cloth industry in the area.⁵

16th-18th Centuries

In 1525 Dummer had 34 tax payers of whom three were women.⁶ Whilst the majority (23) were assessed to pay either £1 or £2, sums ranged from 9d. to £32 and totalled £107 5s. 6d., less than Cliddesden yet with a higher population. Alice Howley and Richard Grant were the two highest tax payers; the Grant family well-off yeomen.⁷ Alice Dummer, whose family were lords of West Dummer, was assessed to pay 8s. 4d., a surprisingly modest sum. However, the family's possessions are evident when, at his death in 1540, Henry Dummer left a tenement each to three of his four children and 140 sheep and six cows to be divided amongst them.⁸ Later in the century, following the dissolution of the monasteries, the family acquired the grange at Dummer adding it to the manor of West Dummer and expanding their holdings.⁹

Probate material between 1519 and 1560 illustrates the range of wealth in the parish, sheep being the common factor throughout inventories and wills. John Grant (d.1557) appears to have been the most prosperous parishioner during this period,

³ *Hants Tax List 1327*, 41. South Warnborough was assessed at 79s.10d. and Nutley at 14s.1d.

⁴ *Hants Tax List 1327*, 39. Popham formed part of Micheldever Hundred.

⁵ A. Deveson & S. Lane, *Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop* (2018), 45.

⁶ TNA, E179/173/183, rot.5.

⁷ Variant spelling Grante.

⁸ HRO, 1540B/26.

⁹ *VCH, Hants III*, 359; above, Land Ownership (*to be published*).

his inventory - including 320 sheep - had a total value of £115 14s. 6d.¹⁰ In the middle-rank, Thomas Morrell's inventory (d. 1554) recorded 120 sheep and a value of £43 10s.10d.¹¹ The lowest value of an inventory was that of Christopher Bodicote (d. 1558) at £4 9s. 4d., yet this still included 16 sheep and wool.¹² Wealthy parishioners at the end of the century included a widow, Alice Madgwick (d. 1591) who left bequests of £160, a gold ring, silver spoons and deeds to free land in Dummer¹³ and Gilbert Wither (d. 1599) a yeoman and one of the well-known Hampshire family of that name. Wither leased Dummer [Manor] Farm and had an inventory valued at £956, of which £400 was the value of the 45 year lease.¹⁴

The rise in status of families such as Millingate, lords of both manors by 1591, and Soper is apparent from the later part of the 16th century onwards. In a tax return of 1586 John Soper (d. 1621) and John Millingate the elder (d. 1626) were known as yeomen whilst John Millingate the younger (d. 1656) was recorded as a gentleman.¹⁵ William Soper (d. 1688) grandson of John Soper and a free tenant of the manor of West Dummer, referred to himself as a gentleman in his will.¹⁶ He had bought land, farms and property in parishes in and around Dummer, as well as further afield in Hampshire and beyond. The value of his possessions must have been very considerable; the monetary bequests in his will amounted to over £1,000.

The Hearth Tax return of 1665 provides a picture of the social hierarchy of the parish.¹⁷ There were 36 hearths, five of which were non-chargeable as below the value on which assessments were made. Dummer had the third highest number of hearths in Bermondspit hundred (total 158), parish figures ranging from two to 54 with a mean of 28. It also had fewer poor than most other parishes, with only five of the 59 non-chargeable hearths in the hundred. Prominent householders were William Soper with seven hearths, probably of the Grange, Mistress Terry and George Ilsley, a yeoman, each with six hearths. Probate material of the period reveals a number of prosperous yeoman farmers of whom George Ilsley (d. 1668)

¹⁰ HRO, 1557U/119; variant spelling Graunte.

¹¹ HRO, 1554B/069; variant spelling Morolle.

¹² HRO, 1558B/013; variant spelling Bodycot.

¹³ TNA, PROB 1179/174.

¹⁴ HRO, 1599B/50; Revd Reginald F. Bigg-Wither, *Materials for a History of the Wither Family* (Winchester, 1907), 28, 69.

¹⁵ *Lay Subsidy 1586*, 54.

¹⁶ TNA, PROB 11/390/123.

¹⁷ *Hearth Tax 1665*, 237.

was one. His inventory was valued at £117 5s. 6d. and included 80 sheep as well as horses, cows, pigs and corn.¹⁸ That of Richard Penton, also a yeoman, who died in the same year was valued at £371.10s. The schoolmaster, John Shipman, had three hearths and Ann Weston a spinster had one hearth.

Social relationships within the community occasionally broke down, villagers used the courts to settle disputes between themselves. In 1685 John Wake of North Waltham took a case in the consistory court against Dorothy Hall of Dummer in an attempt to defend his good name, Dorothy having claimed that Wake had raped her.¹⁹ Mary Field of Dummer pursued Thomas Cooper of Basingstoke, innkeeper for defamation. She maintained that on numerous occasions in 1771 Cooper had said that she was a whore and a damned whore, that is that she had committed the sin of adultery or fornication.²⁰ The outcome of these cases is not known but they reflect society's outlook at the time that reputation was of great importance, economically as well as socially.

The consistory court was also used by the church authorities to correct parishioners' behaviour. One wonders why Richard Soper of the Grange was charged to appear before the court in 1712 in a disciplinary matter; no information about the content or outcome of the case exists.²¹ This court case follows earlier examples of conflict between the church and members of the Soper family and adds background to the unexplained high number of protestant nonconformists in Dummer recorded in 1678.²² This level of dissent in a parish with a resident landlord, arable or pasture land and a nucleated settlement, factors that normally suggested religious conformity, is most unusual - the social structure offering no reasons for the religious differences in the community.²³ Indeed, dissatisfaction with the church may have been led by the landowners and leaders of village society who held puritanical views.²⁴

Social as well as economic upheaval was caused by the enclosure of land previously held in common. The 1743 Enclosure Act allotted land to 17 people of

¹⁸ HRO, 1668A/046.

¹⁹ HRO, 202M85/5/7/4.

²⁰ HRO, 21M65/C7/288, i, ii.

²¹ HRO, 21M65/C10/3/51.

²² Below, Religious History, the *Compton Census*.

²³ J. Broad, *Parish Economies of Welfare, 1650-1834*, *Historical Jnl.* 42 (1999), 985-1006.

²⁴ Below, Religious History,

whom Michael Terry, lord of the manor, was the greatest beneficiary receiving 1,002 a.²⁵ The land, almost entirely arable, amounted to well over three quarters of the parish (the whole parish excluding the Grange which had always been worked as one farm) and its enclosure transformed not only agricultural practices but working and social relationships. Was there agitation against enclosure? There may have been, but to date no records have been found to support this.

1800 – 1939

Dummer in 1851 had a population of 411 of whom most men were employed on the land whilst the women largely worked at home or as domestic servants.²⁶ Five farmers and a bailiff employed at least 52 men and boys whilst others were engaged in trades and services supporting the community.²⁷ A surprisingly high number, 17, identified themselves as paupers in the census return of that year. In 1861 the other end of the social scale was evident with domestic servants employed in five houses: seven at Dummer House including a coachman, butler and footman; five at Dummer Down Farm where George and Georgina Terry and their four children employed a groom as well as a nurse and nursemaid, cook and housemaid; three at Manor Farm; three at Dummer Grange and two at the Rectory. The vast majority of the inhabitants were born in Dummer or the surrounding area of north Hampshire, the last decade when this was the case. From 1871 onwards, numbers born across Hampshire and in surrounding counties increased steadily. By 1911 only 44 people had been born in Dummer and 30 in surrounding parishes. In a population of 376 just a third had been born within Hampshire, the remainder having been born in places scattered across the country from Kent to Somerset and Yorkshire to London.

The Swing Riots

The riots and machine breaking that took place in the winter of 1830 across much of southern England arose at a time of considerable economic hardship for agricultural workers. Discontent with wage levels, rent and tithe payments and inadequate poor law allowances was further inflamed by the introduction of what were seen as labour-

²⁵ 16 George 11 cap. 16, 1743; above Economic History (*to be published*).

²⁶ *Census*, 1851.

²⁷ Above, Economic History (*to be published*).

displacing threshing machines. Richard Benham and John Paice from Dummer were apprehended for taking part in events at Wootton St. Lawrence, Worting and other parishes around Basingstoke on 23 November in which money had been demanded from landlords and a threshing machine broken. They appeared before the Special Commission in Winchester and were admonished and discharged, many of their fellow rioters were committed to Winchester Gaol. Farms in the parish escaped the mob's attention; however the effects of the uprising lingered on as depicted in a letter of 1832 from Stephen Terry writing from Dummer House on behalf of a family who originated in Cliddesden. He wrote to the Privy Council:

Elizabeth Cook of this Parish with three children is invited by her husband James Cook under sentence of transportation for 14 years for rioting in December 1830 to embark to join him in Parramatta in New South Wales. The man is working for Mr Marsden the chaplain at that place and he has written and sanctioned the woman going out. I have prevailed upon the parish to advance her the money that is absolutely necessary I therefore beg the favour of you to advise me what ship she can go out in and at what precise time and from whence she must embark & what payments will be necessary and to whom paid. I should prefer her embarking at the Tower or River.²⁸

Such petitions showed both a charitable wish to re-unite families and a desire to protect the parish against a long-term drain upon their resources in supporting the poor; a one-off payment for travel appeared a good investment. In 1795 the weekly wage for agricultural workers in the Basingstoke area had been agreed between farmers at 9s. a week.²⁹ Following the riots some wage rises were obtained although wages and conditions did not improve for any length of time.³⁰

Crime

The usual low level of petty crime found in rural villages was recorded in Dummer. A typical example was that in 1847 of two women who were fined 10s. for stealing

²⁸ Chambers, *Machine Breakers*, 191. (PC1/80 May 1832 Pt 1).

²⁹ HRO, 44M69/J3/2.

³⁰ E.J. Hobsbawm and G. Rudé, *Captain Swing* (Harmondsworth, Middlesex, 1973) 258.

peas from a field.³¹ Very much more serious were three cases of suspected arson that took place in 1833 and 1837. The first was at Mr Henry Kersley's farm involving the loss of two barns, a cart house, rick house, granary, most of the corn and farm implements.³² A few weeks later the windmill was discovered on fire by someone passing on the Southampton road and was burnt to the ground.³³ The third fire occurred in 1837 starting in the rectory barns that were full of unthreshed corn, and involving the loss of a stable, granary, hay rick, outbuildings and two valuable heifers. The fire then reached across the road to a barn full of corn, a large shed with fodder, a cart house and large range of stabling. Villagers helped the attempts to extinguish it but it was the Preston Candover engine that was said to have made the difference. Two engines arrived from Basingstoke but so late as to be of little service and many from that and other parishes turned up and caused confusion coming in a state of intoxication. Rural incendiarism intended to intimidate farmers that took place between 1830-45 has been charted by an examination of the Sun Fire Office records, one of the largest insurance companies covering farm stock in this period, and the Dummer fires fall within years of high losses.³⁴

Stephen Terry (1774-1867) diarist

The diaries of Stephen Terry give a graphic picture of Dummer life in the 19th century.³⁵ Written between 1841- 62 in a series of 25 small exercise books Terry recorded his everyday activities, hunting, agriculture, church life, village events, social life and visitors to the parish. The editor of his diaries describes him as 'a typical English gentleman of his day ... a remarkable specimen of the type and class for which he stands, Stephen Terry, squire of Dummer'.³⁶ Terry's studies at Eton and Cambridge were followed by an army commission. In Hampshire he served as a magistrate, managed his estate, brought up a family and indulged in his favourite pastime, hunting. The diaries portray a paternalistic/hierarchical society with the squire and rector representing and upholding state and church. Terry lived at Dummer House, then at Manor Farm and finally with his son Stephen, rector of

³¹ *Hants Advertiser*, 21 Aug. 1847.

³² *Jackson's Oxford Jnl*, 4 May 1833, Issue 4175.

³³ *Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chron.*, 9 Jun. 1833.

³⁴ E.J. Hobsbawm and G. Rudé, *Captain Swing* (Harmondsworth, Middlesex, 1973) 324-7.

³⁵ HRO, 21M49.

³⁶ Stirling (ed) *The Diaries of Dummer*, 1.

Weston Patrick. He died the day before his 94th birthday in 1867. The estate was sold following his death, ending 200 years of the Terry family's ownership.

The diaries provide a flavour of Stephen Terry's social life as in the entry for 12 May 1843, 'Picnic to meet the Smiths at Grange. After tea went on to a ball at Farleigh – got home by daylight'.³⁷ Stephen became related to Jane Austen by the marriage of his son Seymer with her cousin Georgiana Lefroy.³⁸ The Terry and Austen families met at assembly balls in Basingstoke and at balls in country houses in the neighbourhood. In January 1799 Jane wrote in a letter of a poorly attended ball with only eight couples and just 23 people in the room, of whom most were Jervoises from Herriard and Terrys from Dummer. She added the somewhat acerbic comment that the Jervoises were 'apt to be vulgar' and the Terrys were 'noisy'.³⁹

Kempshott

Kempshott was included in the civil parish from 1879.⁴⁰ The area added included Kempshott House, Kennel Farm, Southwood Farm and Ganderdown cottages and accounted for a population increase of 95.⁴¹ It was in that year that Sir Nelson Rycroft, came to live at Kempshott House having purchased both the Dummer and Kempshott estates. At Kempshott in 1881 he employed a governess for his ten year old twins, a butler, footman, groom, cook and housekeeper, nurse, two housemaids, kitchen maid, house under maid, nursery under maid, kitchen under maid and a coachman. Outside staff included two gardeners and a gamekeeper.⁴² Sir Nelson lived at Kempshott House until his death in 1894 when the family then moved to Dummer House. Other residents of Kempshott in 1881 were a farmer, farm bailiff, agricultural labourers and their families and a coach builder.⁴³

Sir Nelson Rycroft served as High Sheriff of Hampshire, as did his son Sir Richard Rycroft (d.1925) and in the parish both fulfilled their roles not only as landlords but as churchwardens of All Saints church and leaders of the local community. Sir Nelson's

³⁷ HRO, 21M49

³⁸ Stirling (ed) *The Diaries of Dummer*, 123.

³⁹ Austen, *Letters*, 38.

⁴⁰ LGBO 10105, 8 Dec. 1879.

⁴¹ *Census*, 1881.

⁴² *Census*, 1881.

⁴³ *Census*, 1881.

first wife was Dorothea Wallop, a daughter of the 5th earl of Portsmouth and a near neighbour at Farleigh Wallop.⁴⁴

Sir Nelson's tenure at Kempshott followed that of the Blunt family who had resided at Kempshott House since 1832 and who though not part of the parish had been much involved with Dummer church and school.⁴⁵ Prior to that the social life of the neighbourhood had been transformed by the presence of the Prince of Wales, the future George IV, who in 1788 had leased the house as a hunting lodge and installed his mistress, Mrs Fitzherbert, in Southwood Farm.⁴⁶ The nearness of Kempshott - only three miles separated the Terry family at Dummer House from the Prince's establishment - had meant that social and sporting links were close.

Henry Gourlay, a ship builder from Dundee, his wife and daughter Molly, who became a famous golfer, lived at Kempshott House before the First World War.⁴⁷ During the war the house and park were requisitioned by the War Office and in 1916 German POWs were billeted at Kempshott, working on local farms to replace men who were fighting overseas. After the war the house was reconfigured to contain eight flats, let to local people, but by 1926 was in a poor state of repair. It was again requisitioned during the Second World War, never recovered its former state and was demolished in 1972. In 2018 the 74 dwellings that stand where the house once was were occupied by people working in Basingstoke and beyond and the former park, then a golf course, had been identified for housing development in the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan.⁴⁸

1939 –2018

The National Register of 1939 showed a population of 360 and the occupations of Dummer residents to consist almost entirely of those associated with the land and in trades and services related to an agricultural economy. Professional and government officers included the rector, an under-secretary of state for agriculture, elementary school teacher, sub-postmistress, government officer (health) and a police constable. The first signs of factory work outside the village were evident with four

⁴⁴ V.J. Watney, *The Wallop Family and their Ancestry* (Oxford, 1928, vol.1) lxxii.

⁴⁵ Below, Religious History: HRO, 24M49/9.

⁴⁶ S. Napier, *Burning Passions, A Brief History of Kempshott Park*, unpubl. monograph, 2015.

⁴⁷ *Hants Chron.*, 15 Aug. 1908; *Census*, 1911; Molly a famous lady golfer, below Sport.

⁴⁸ *BDBC Local Plan 2011-2029*, adopted May 2016.

men employed by an aeronautical instrument maker.⁴⁹ Women were largely recorded as unpaid domestic workers in their own homes. Domestic service was limited to Dummer Grange where there was a butler/chauffeur, gardener, two domestic servants and a children's nurse; Dummer House with a groom, cook, parlour maid and housemaid; Clump House with a cook and housemaid; the Rectory, Dummer Down Farm and Dummer Grange Farm each with one domestic servant. There were a number of retired people, a few invalids and four persons of independent means. The register, compiled a few weeks after the outbreak of the Second World War, identified 15 Air Raid Patrol wardens, four Red Cross members, three Special Constables, a Billeting Office and a Land Army organiser as well as the first evacuee.⁵⁰ Dummer appeared well prepared for what lay ahead.

The post-war years saw a gradual increase in population as in-filling of new houses in Up Street took place and council houses and bungalows were built. However, the village remained a quiet, rural community. That peace was temporarily disturbed when Sarah Ferguson of Dummer Down became engaged to HRH Prince Andrew, the wedding taking place at Westminster Abbey on 23 July 1986. Tourists descended on the village, the Queen Inn did a brisk trade serving *Fergie's Fizz* and a public barbecue was organised on the day of the wedding.⁵¹

By 2011 the occupations and characteristics of people in the parish had changed dramatically from those described seventy years earlier in 1939. Of the 466 residents only nine were engaged in agriculture whilst 32 worked in manufacturing and the construction industries and the highest proportion, 57 people, were concerned with information, communication, financial and insurance services. Other large groups included 38 involved in the wholesale and retail trade and 51 people employed in education, health and social work activities. Not only had the move from an agricultural economy taken place but the status of residents had been transformed with 69 people in higher managerial and professional occupations and only eight undertaking routine occupations. A majority of residents had been born in the United Kingdom (92.3%), the remainder held passports from the European Union (five), the

⁴⁹ K. Hughes, a factory in Basingstoke which became Smiths Industries in the 1960s.

⁵⁰ *1939 England & Wales Register*, Hampshire, Basingstoke RD, EEDU, accessed via Ancestry.co.uk.

⁵¹ HRO, 4A06/5/1/7; A. Attwood, *Basingstoke Gaz.* 30 May 1986.

Republic of Ireland (two), Africa (five), the Middle East and Asia (one), North America and the Caribbean (two) and Antarctica and Oceania (two).⁵²

Gypsies and travellers were a group not always easily integrated in the community. In 1992 a gypsy site was established by the county council at Peak Copse, land between the M3 and A33, with pitches for 20 caravans and a warden's bungalow.⁵³ It was temporarily closed in 1996 following some incidents involving violence and did not re-open.⁵⁴ No authorised site for gypsies and travellers existed in Basingstoke and Deane district in 2018 although an application for two pitches at Hounsome Fields, Dummer, was under consideration by the borough planning committee⁵⁵

Communal Life

Friendly Societies

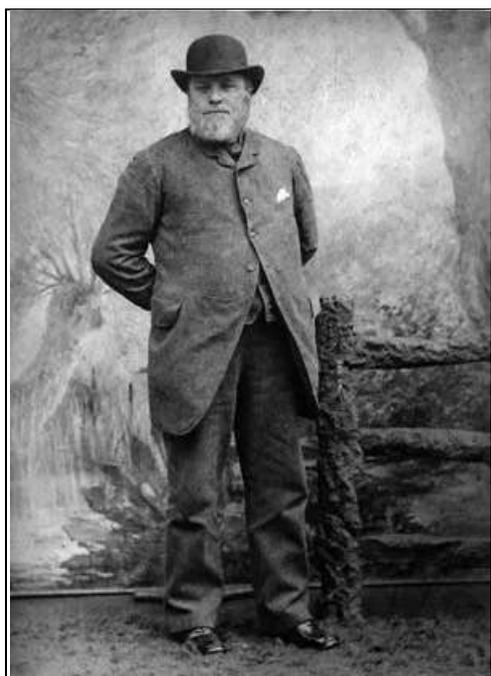


Figure 1 *Joseph Arch (1826–1919) by Barraud, c.1890, ODNB.*

⁵² *Census*, 2011, Local Area Report, www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=1170214313 (accessed 7 Sep. 2018).

⁵³ HRO, H/CZ4/11F/2.

⁵⁴ HCC, Policy and Resources Policy Review Committee, 7 Nov. 2002, www.hants.gov.uk/.../decisions-docs/021107-prprec-M0213131744.html (accessed 5 Nov. 2018).

⁵⁵ BDBC planning committee application 18/00873/FUL.

Branches of two societies existed in Dummer designed to assist the welfare of the labouring classes: the Dummer district Labourers' Friend Society (LFS) and the Dummer branch of the Hampshire Friendly Society (HFS). The first organisation included in its aims the allocation of land for allotments to encourage 'cottage husbandry', established in response to the Swing Riots of 1830 and the severe economic conditions of the time, and the latter provided insurance in the event of sickness and an inability to work. A report of the annual meeting of both societies which took place on the same day in July 1861 describes a church service followed by a dinner at Kempshott House for 60 benefit and honorary members of the HFS who then met the LFS on the cricket ground where its members had organised a fruit and vegetable competition with 200 entries from 60 exhibitors and both groups enjoyed the prize-giving and other amusements.⁵⁶ The LFS was still active in 1882 when Joseph Arch, the president of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, visited Dummer and addressed a meeting held in the Primitive Methodist chapel.⁵⁷ In the year ending 31 December 1902 the HFS had 55 assurance members, considered about normal for a population of 386, and paid out £41 17s. 8d. in sick pay leaving a balance of £52 10s.4d. Sir Richard Rycroft was re-elected as chairman and Doctors Miller and Andrews were also re-elected at the Annual General Meeting.⁵⁸

Social activities of church and chapel

Church and chapel were the focus of many social activities in the parish. In the early 20th century the church choir enjoyed annual outings, travelling by train from Basingstoke to Bournemouth in 1903 and to London for a service in St Paul's Cathedral and a visit the Ideal Home Exhibition in 1908.⁵⁹ The rector and organist usually accompanied about 18 choir members. Church groups such as the Mothers' Union (MU) and Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) provided regular social gatherings for their members and these also included outings. The MU were invited to tea at Kempshott Park by Mrs Gourlay in 1908, followed by a ramble through the grounds

⁵⁶ *Hants Chron.*, 3 Aug 1861.

⁵⁷ *Hants Chron.*, 7 Oct 1882; A. Howkins, (2004-09-23) *Arch, Joseph (1826-1919), trade unionist and politician*, ODNB, (accessed 9 Jul. 2018).

⁵⁸ *Hants and Berks Gaz.*, 21 Feb 1903.

⁵⁹ *Hants Chron.*, 3 Oct. 1903, 15 Aug. 1908.

and in 1909 they and the GFS were entertained to tea by Miss Rycroft at Downsland House, Basingstoke.⁶⁰ The Belfry Club was active in 1970, meeting to ring hand bells amongst other activities. Summer fêtes held at Dummer House or Dummer Down Farm were part of the yearly calendar during the 20th century, a tradition continued in 2018 with proceeds usually shared between the church and the village hall.⁶¹ Social events were very much part of Methodist chapel life and from 1862 tea meetings and concerts were regular happenings. The circuit brass band performed in the village hall and out of doors.⁶² In 2004 the Clifton Room was made available as an annex to All Saints' Church by Sir James Harvey Bruce-Clifton, Bart., in memory of his uncle, Colonel Peter Clifton, who lived at Dummer House from 1957-96. It was designed for the use of parishioners.⁶³

Reading room, village hall and Women's Institute

A reading room existed beside the school in or before 1900. Its origins remain somewhat unclear but it appears to have been a place of recreation for the residents of Dummer and Kempshott and provided books, newspapers and a variety of games, primarily designed for young working men. Memories of it were recalled in a parish magazine of 1968: 'Tom Cooper, whose father farmed at Dummer Grange, took a great interest in it.'⁶⁴

A wooden hut purchased in 1914 and erected in Up Street as a village hall was renamed the Dummer Reading Room in a trust deed of 1927.⁶⁵ The wooden hut served as a village hall for many years but became increasingly dilapidated. The hall trustees had hoped to purchase the school, school house and playing field when it was first proposed to close the school in 1951 and in 1965 were offered first option on the purchase by the Diocesan authorities.⁶⁶ This appeared an ideal solution as construction of a new building on the existing site had restricted parking facilities.

⁶⁰ *Hants Chron.*, 15 Aug. 1908.

⁶¹ An example, *The Annual Dummer Fête and Dog Show 2015*, *Hill and Dale*, Aug./Sep. 2015, 45.

⁶² Below, Religious History.

⁶³ Wall plaque in the Clifton Room.

⁶⁴ *Hill and Dale*, Apr. 1968.

⁶⁵ HRO, 65M72/PZ3.

⁶⁶ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.



Figure 4 *Original village hall and well in Up Street. The well was capped and the wellhead removed when the new hall was built.*

The school was finally closed in 1971 but the offer of first option was withdrawn and the trustees did not have the funds to compete with commercial bidders at auction. At the time the hall was used by the Belfry Club, children's welfare clinic, Ladies Social Club, Brownies and Guides and the Royal British Legion as well as for meetings of the parish council and church council, confirmation classes, jumble sales, dances, whist drives, social evenings and as a polling station.⁶⁷ By 1971, with the delay in closing the school, the hall was past reasonable repair, suffering leaks and broken heating. Groups were dispersed to other locations, such as the Rectory and Dummer House, or temporarily or permanently disbanded.⁶⁸

Sir Richard Rycroft secured £11,000 of the school sale proceeds for the village hall and the Hall committee, chaired by Mrs Mitchell Innes, set about rebuilding plans with work on a new hall, incorporating a kitchen and stage, starting in September 1973.⁶⁹ Improvements and alterations to the building took place over time and included full disability facilities in 2004, when lighting and sound systems were also installed.⁷⁰ The following year a new floor was laid and plans made to replace

⁶⁷ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

⁶⁸ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

⁶⁹ HRO, 128M96/C3/19; *Hill and Dale*, Sep. 1973.

⁷⁰ *Basingstoke Gaz.*, 24 Dec. 2004.

windows.⁷¹ In 2017 a grant from Basingstoke and Deane council enabled new heating, the removal of asbestos and decoration to be carried out.⁷²



Figure 5 *Dummer village hall, Up Street.*

Following the closure of the Post Office and shop in 2006, a mobile Post Office was set up one day a week in the hall in June of the following year.⁷³ In 2018 regular groups meeting in the hall included the parish council, yoga, other exercise and dance classes and community coffee mornings. It was also well used for social and family events, with occasional plays and pantomimes.⁷⁴

A branch of the Women's Institute (WI) was formed by Mrs Carlos Carey in 1942 with Mrs Frank Hopkins of Village Farm as secretary and Lady Ferguson of Dummer House as President.⁷⁵ At the first meeting in May 25 members were present. Dummer WI was established later than many Institutes in Hampshire, its foundation possibly a response to the dark days of the Second World War and a desire for women of the village to band together to help the war effort and to provide mutual support. Certainly the topics of that first meeting – salvage and a WI dance –

⁷¹ *Basingstoke Gaz.*, 28 Dec. 2005.

⁷² *Basingstoke Gaz.*, 18 Oct. 2017.

⁷³ *Basingstoke Gaz.*, 13 Nov. 2006; 5 Jun. 2007.

⁷⁴ Lyn Hardy, pers.comm., 2018.

⁷⁵ HRO, 96M96/23/3.

suggest this to have been the case. A visiting officer from the County Federation commented that the branch should do well with the present officers but that they would have difficulty attracting speakers as they only had two buses a week.⁷⁶ Meetings were held monthly and by 1949 there were 43 members. The Institute supported the Analgesia in Childbirth bill in that year and also completed the national village questionnaire, raising their concerns about the lack of electricity, main water and sewage; the unsatisfactory arrangement of a public telephone kiosk which only had an extension line from the post office; the 'disgraceful' state of the WCs in the village hall and school and the expensive and over-elaborate design of the new council houses, eight of which had been built since 1945.

Reports by the county officers of their annual visits to the Institute throughout the 1950s and 60s were always positive, congratulating the officers and members on their achievements and activities which included country dancing, needlework, drama productions, cake icing and the like. In 1964 comment was made on the number of young members and it was referred to as a 'delightful Institute'. However, at the end of 1968 failure to find someone to undertake the role of secretary led to a special meeting which was called for a secret ballot on suspension of the Institute at which 15 members voted for closure and two voted for it to remain open. The ballot had to be re-run as a member of the County Federation had not been present but the result was similar with 17 voting for closure and five to remain open. The Institute was therefore suspended for three years on 23rd January 1969 and did not re-open.⁷⁷ The reason given for closure was 'owing to a lack of support'. In 2018 a number of Dummer residents were members of the neighbouring Cliddesden WI.

Inns and beer sellers

There were no persons selling beer in the parish in the early 17th century⁷⁸ but by 1851 William and Mary Tubb kept a beer house in a thatched cottage which became The Queen Inn. Following William's death, Mary continued selling beer and by 1871 her daughter, Charity, acted as her assistant. In the 1881 census Charity is named as the publican and her niece, also called Charity, lived with her. A second beer

⁷⁶ HRO, 96M96/23/3.

⁷⁷ HRO, 96M96/23/3.

⁷⁸ HRO, 44M/G3/145.

seller existed in the village from 1871 when Henry Englefield, who ran a grocer's shop, was licensed for that purpose. He was succeeded by William and Maria Englefield and in 1891 Maria was the sole licensee and shop keeper.⁷⁹ By 1901 Benjamin Crofts and his wife are recorded as inn keepers.⁸⁰ The Queen Inn formed part of the Enterprise group in 2018 and was a popular and well supported village facility as well as attracting many visitors from Basingstoke and those walking the long-distance footpath, the Wayfarer's Walk, which passed its door.⁸¹

Sport

Hunting was the sport of the gentry, described in the late 18th century 'as the pivot on which turned the whole social life of the neighbourhood'.⁸² Meets of the hounds – and there were five packs within easy reach of Dummer – followed by balls given in connection with the Hampshire Hunt (HH) were where the families of the neighbourhood met. The Terry family were amongst the Portals, Wallops, Knights of Chawton, Austens of Steventon, Digweeds, Chutes and others who were at every hunt and entertainment. In 1793 the Prince of Wales' hunting establishment at Kempshott changed from hunting stags to fox hunting and it is fox hunting that occupies so much of Stephen Terry's diaries from 1841 onwards. Entries include: '30th October 1841, My birthday. I went to meet the hounds at Herriard', and the '6th November 1841 'Out with the Vine'.⁸³ Nevertheless the following month he was involved with stag hunting, his entry for the 8th December recording, 'Went to Popham Lane to meet the Queen's stag hounds - large party at the Wheatsheaf to see the turn out - 400 horsemen, many falls, two horses killed'. Sir Nelson Rycroft was Master of the Vine Hunt from 1932-8, following in the steps of his father Sir Richard Rycroft who was Master in 1903-13. Sir Nelson established the Dummer Beagles that hunted in the Vine, Craven and HH country until 1949 when he moved to Gloucestershire.⁸⁴ Shooting was another sporting activity; over 500 a. were advertised for shooting when Dummer House was let in 1881.⁸⁵

⁷⁹ HRO, 97M83/XP140, 35, 38, 43 and 56.

⁸⁰ *Censuses, 1851-1901*

⁸¹ www.thequeeninndummer.com (accessed 27 Aug. 2018).

⁸² Stirling (ed), *The Diaries of Dummer*, 119.

⁸³ HRO, 21M49.

⁸⁴ J.F.R. Hope, *A History of Hunting in Hampshire* (Winchester, 1950) 137,168, 302.

⁸⁵ *The Times*, 8 Nov. 1881, 14.



Figure 6 Watercolour by Stephen Terry enclosed with his diaries.

Dummer had a cricket club from at least 1836 when a report from that year records a match between Dummer and Kempshott against Basingstoke.⁸⁶ The team had a return match against Candover Cubs in August 1861 and was active in 1903 ending the season with a supper in the schoolroom.⁸⁷ Dummer Cricket Club had an extensive programme of matches in 2014 and from 2018 played at a new pitch on Farleigh Road, adjacent to Dummer House.⁸⁸ A recreation ground in the village was established in 1955 as a Trust and in 2018 provided tennis courts, a children's play area and a kick-around football area.⁸⁹ Football had been played in the village in the 20th century but in 2018 was limited to a pitch at Dummer Down Farm used by outside clubs.⁹⁰

Dummer Down Farm was also the home of a cricket centre established by Major Ronald Ferguson in 1995.⁹¹ This academy was unusual in not being attached to a county ground. From 2009 it was run by a sporting company, 'Serious Cricket,' and

⁸⁶ *Hants Advertiser*, 10 Sep. 1836.

⁸⁷ *Hants Chron.*, 10 Aug. 1861; 12 Dec. 1903.

⁸⁸ *Hill and Dale*, May 2014.

⁸⁹ Charity Commission reg. no. 301803; www.dummerparishcouncil.gov.uk (accessed 18 Nov. 2018).

⁹⁰ A. Attwood, *Basingstoke Gaz.*, 6 Sep. 2000; www.basingstokecoltsfc.org (accessed 18 Nov. 2018).

⁹¹ A. Ferguson, pers. comm., Sep. 2018.

boasted three indoor net lanes, a playing arena and with excellent coaches achieved a high reputation, recording a 20,000 footfall in the year 2017.⁹²



Figure 7 Molly Gourlay (d. 1989), Churchman's cigarette card.

Two golf clubs existed in the parish in 2018. Basingstoke Golf Club had purchased Kempshott Park, excluding the house, from the Rycroft estate in 1927. A course was designed and built by James Braid in 1928 and officially opened by him, Harry Vardon and Molly Gourlay.⁹³ The site was included in the Basingstoke Local Plan, adopted in 2016, for the development of approximately 1,000 houses.⁹⁴ Dummer Golf Course and Country Club opened in July 1992 with an official opening by Peter Aliss and Steve Richardson on 12 July 1993.⁹⁵ This was an 18-hole golf

⁹² www.seriouscricket.co.uk/cricket-centre (accessed 27 Aug. 2018).

⁹³ www.basingstokegolfclub.co.uk/Home (accessed 25 Aug. 2018). Molly Gourlay lived at Kempshott House in the 1900-10s.

⁹⁴ www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planningpolicy (accessed 8 Sep. 2018).

⁹⁵ Plaque on club house entrance.

course on 165 a. near Kempshott Park and the Basingstoke Golf Club but separated from it by the M3.⁹⁶

Education

From the early 17th to the 20th century education in Dummer was dominated by and benefitted from the philanthropy of the lords of the manor, rectors and four bequests predominantly encouraging teaching according to the Church of England. Little evidence has been found for the instruction of nonconformist children but it is probable that tuition was given in the chapel. In the early 20th century practical domestic classes for adults were provided by the county council. The village school closed in 1971.

Pre-1870

The first mention of education in the parish is 1 March 1610 when John Millingate, the elder (d. c.1626) lord of the manor living at the Grange, granted a house and garden for a school and master to instruct six boys from the poorest families born in the parish in learning, good life, professing God's true and sincere religion agreeable to the laws of the realm, writing, reading and grammar until the age of 14.⁹⁷ After this age they were to be apprentices or employed in service as appointed by Millingate and his heirs on the payment of 1*d.* yearly, if demanded.⁹⁸ The messuage abutted Common Street in the south and towards a meadow in the north in the tenure of William Hall, Gilbert Neale and John Lover.⁹⁹ The schoolmaster was to receive £4 yearly and the owners of the land were to nominate the children.¹⁰⁰ The first documented schoolmaster of this free school was John Shipman in 1655 and 1666.¹⁰¹

John Mariott¹⁰² (d.1670), left £20 to be invested to raise an annuity of 20*s.* to buy bibles for three poor children of Dummer, any residue was for the remuneration of a

⁹⁶ *Basingstoke Gaz.*, 15 Mar. 1991.

⁹⁷ HRO, 10M57/K3.

⁹⁸ It was not until 1880 that children were obliged to stay at school until the age of 11, so Millingate's vision was ahead of his time.

⁹⁹ HRO, 10M57/K3.

¹⁰⁰ Donation board in Dummer church, figure 8.

¹⁰¹ HRO, 55M67/M29; HRO, 202M85/3/329-35.

¹⁰² Probably son of Revd Richard Marriott of Dummer.

schoolmaster.¹⁰³ This bequest was still honoured in 1910 and possibly later.¹⁰⁴ The Revd William Oades (d. 1731), bequeathed £2 10s. forever annually for the instruction of six poor children in nearby Preston Candover in reading and principles of the Christian religion.¹⁰⁵ However, if a six month period passed with no master or dame, the money and responsibility should pass to the rector and churchwardens of Dummer under the same condition. In turn, if they failed in their duties, the money was to revert to the beneficiaries of his will. It transpired that no money was paid to a master or mistress in either Preston Candover or Dummer after 1746.¹⁰⁶ Records show that Peter Phillips was schoolmaster in 1714¹⁰⁷ and Benjamin Pointer in 1725.¹⁰⁸

In 1759 Thomas Henshaw of Bussock Court, Chieveley, Berkshire, inherited Fosbury Farm (alias Bacon's Farm) in Wiltshire, passed down to him through the Weston family¹⁰⁹ of which one, Richard Weston (d. 1600), has a memorial in Dummer church.¹¹⁰ He bequeathed £10 for the use of a schoolmaster in Dummer to teach ten poor boys and ten poor girls in reading, writing and the Catechism whose parents frequently attended communion of the Church of England.

The master was to teach in 'some convenient place ... at his own charge and expense'. This clause was to cause a problem in later years. The landowners held the right to nominate the master and children.¹¹¹ This bequest was synonymously called Weston's or Henshaw's Gift.

The diaries of Stephen Terry (1774-1867), the then lord of the manor, mention that his early education (c.1779) was provided by Mr Tigwell the village schoolmaster but it is not clear if Terry attended school or had private tuition. He went on to study at Andover, Eton and Cambridge.¹¹² Mrs Tigwell taught the village girls.¹¹³ An enquiry in 1807 into the education of the poor listed one endowed free school with

¹⁰³ HRO, 1670B/48.

¹⁰⁴ *Hants & Berks Gazette*, 28 May 1910.

¹⁰⁵ TNA, PROB 11/647/85; *Universities Commission* (Parl. Papers 1873 [C.856]), 851-2.

¹⁰⁶ *Universities Commission* (Parl. Papers 1873 [C.856]), 851-2.

¹⁰⁷ HRO, 1714A/082.

¹⁰⁸ HRO, 21M65/B4/1/1 fo.227.

¹⁰⁹ TNA, PROB 11/690/248.

¹¹⁰ <http://www.asdguide.btck.co.uk/WindowsandMemorials> (accessed 13 Apr. 2018).

¹¹¹ HRO, 10M57/K3; HRO, H/ED1/2/32.

¹¹² A.M.W. Stirling (ed), *The Diaries of Dummer, Reminiscences of an Old Sportsman, Stephen Terry of Dummer* (London 1934), frontispiece.

¹¹³ A.M.W. Stirling (ed), *The Diaries of Dummer, Reminiscences of an Old Sportsman, Stephen Terry of Dummer* (London 1934), 42.

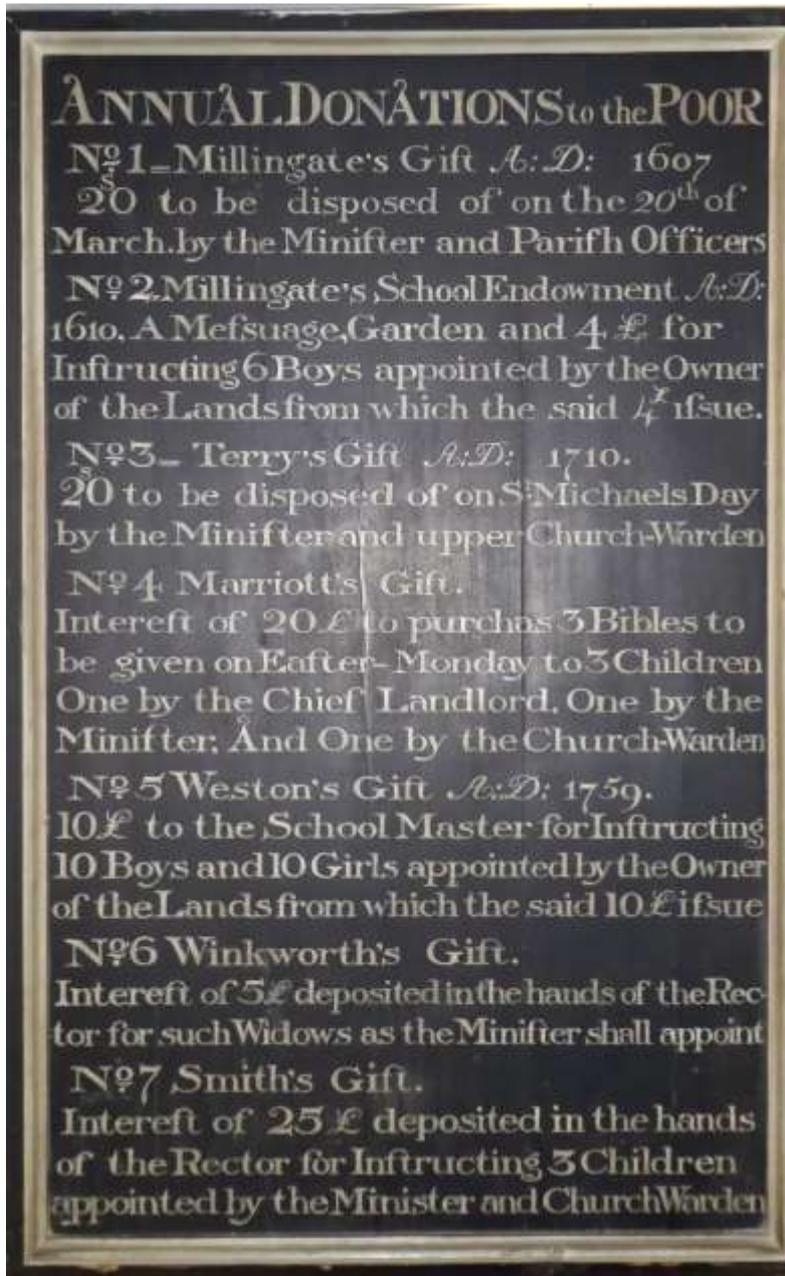


Figure 8 Donation board in Dummer church.

eight children plus six paying pupils.¹¹⁴ Another endowment, Smith's Gift (date unknown), left £25 in the hands of Revd Sir Henry Worsley (rector from 1781), to generate an income to teach three poor children to read.¹¹⁵ This was passed to the Revd Michael Terry (appointed in 1811), who contributed a five per cent interest to continue the investment.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁴ HRO, DC/M4/8/13.

¹¹⁵ HRO, 10M57/K3.

¹¹⁶ *Enquiry into Charities* (Parl. Papers 1826 (382)), 405.

The school was rebuilt on the same site by subscription in 1815.¹¹⁷ By 1818 the master was paid £14 per annum and had a small garden attached to the house.¹¹⁸ Terry reported that the legacies, generating £15 5s. yearly, were so inadequate that teaching poor children was restricted to Sundays and evenings with only 15 in attendance.¹¹⁹ The poor of the parish would be 'pleased for any assistance to give their children a more complete education'.¹²⁰ The legacy from Smith's Gift was paid towards a day school, probably using the same building, where 20 children were taught reading and writing, mostly at the expense of their parents or other benefactors.¹²¹ In 1821 there were 25 boys and girls on weekdays and 60 on Sundays.¹²²

By 1826 the proceeds from the endowments could still only support 20 children. These were nominated by the overseers of Dummer and Revd Michael Terry, a mostly non-resident minister.¹²³ To increase her wages, the mistress taught reading and writing to children from a better class of family for a modest fee.¹²⁴

A Parliamentary education enquiry described a second school, commenced in 1833 with ten fee paying children. The location and details of this are unknown.¹²⁵ A Sunday school was attended by 36-40 children at no expense.¹²⁶

At some time between 1830 and 1846 the school became a National School.¹²⁷ In 1846 a new brick and flint teacher's house with thatched roof was built at a cost of £90 through parish subscriptions and small donations from the Education Department and the National Society.¹²⁸ The schoolroom was described as brick and flint measuring 28ft. x 18ft. (8.5m. x 5.5m.). The majority of the pupils lived within the parish, the most distant cottage being only half a mile away but children from

¹¹⁷ VCH III, 357-360 (accessed 4 Mar. 2018); *Enquiry into Charities* (Parl. Papers 1826 (382)), 405.; Kelly's Dir. of Hants, Wilts. & Berks., 1885, 650.

¹¹⁸ *Education of the Poor* (Parl. Papers 1818 (224)), 825.

¹¹⁹ *Education of the Poor* (Parl. Papers 1818 (224)), 825.

¹²⁰ *Education of the Poor* (Parl. Papers 1818 (224)), 825; *Enquiry into Charities* (Parl. Papers 1826 (382)), 405.

¹²¹ *Education of the Poor* (Parl. Papers 1818 (224)), 825; *Enquiry into Charities* (Parl. Papers 1826 (382)), 405.

¹²² HRO, 21M65/B5/2.

¹²³ HRO, 10M57/K3.

¹²⁴ *Enquiry into Charities* (Parl. Papers 1826 (382)), 405.

¹²⁵ *State of Education* (Parl. Papers 1833 (62)), 842.

¹²⁶ *State of Education* (Parl. Papers 1833 (62)), 842.

¹²⁷ TNA, ED 103/80, 47; HRO, 128M84/24. The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church used the system promoted by Dr Andrew Bell.

¹²⁸ Kelly's Dir. of Hants., Wilts. & Berks., 1885, 650; HRO, 21M65/B5/2; TNA, ED 103/80, 47; Hampshire Advertiser 12 Jun. 1847.

Kempshott, a mile away, were also admitted.¹²⁹ There was only one schoolmaster and an unpaid assistant; the former schoolmistress was unpaid but taught the girls needlework.¹³⁰ The trustees were Stephen Terry, chief landlord and visitor; his son Stephen Terry, curate; Thomas Billimore, churchwarden; Revd Michael Terry and the Revd James Digweed.¹³¹

Not all children attended the school. Live-in governesses were employed at Dummer Street Farmhouse (1861) and Dummer House (1881 & 1891) and a daily governess is listed in the 1911 census.¹³²

1870-1902

The school was enlarged in 1870 with Frederic Alonzo Sprigg as the master and Rosalie Tew the assistant mistress¹³³ who remained in their posts until 1885.¹³⁴ In 1871 another Parliamentary enquiry reported that there were 26 boys and 24 girls being taught in the parish out of a population of 315.¹³⁵ Five children came from Nutley Wood and 15 from Kempshott who lived too far away from their designated schools at Winslade and Preston Candover. The school worked with a Conscience Clause meaning that children of Dissenters were not obliged to learn the Church Catechism but were allowed to attend where they were not numerous enough to have a school of their own.¹³⁶ It is not recorded if any Dissenters attended the school at any time. The school was renamed Dummer with Kempshott in 1873.¹³⁷

Following the Elementary Education Act of 1870, Sir Nelson Rycroft of Kempshott Park and the Revd Sir William Dunbar (rector of Dummer 1875-1881), applied to the Charity Commission to take over Henshaw's Gift. This was granted on 20 February 1877, vesting control of religious and moral instruction, appointment and dismissal of staff and setting capitation fees to the minister and curate and two others who should contribute at least 20s. yearly to funds.¹³⁸ The first two managers appointed were Sir Nelson and Richard James Carey Elwes of Dummer House. Two ladies could be

¹²⁹ TNA, ED 103/80/4.

¹³⁰ TNA, ED 103/80/4.

¹³¹ TNA, ED 103/80/4.

¹³² *Census*, 1881, 1891, 1911.

¹³³ *Kelly's Dir. Hants., Wilts. & Berks.*, 1885, 650.

¹³⁴ HRO, 65M72/PE1.

¹³⁵ *Elementary Education (Civil Parishes)* (Parl. Papers 1871 (201)), 146.

¹³⁶ TNA, ED 21/6354.

¹³⁷ TNA, ED 21/6354.

¹³⁸ HRO, 44M68/F2/154; TNA, ED 21/6354.

appointed annually for the duration of a year to assist in visitations and management of the girls and infants.¹³⁹

In 1883 there was sufficient accommodation for 107 children (average attendance 53).¹⁴⁰ The school cash book from 1885-1904 shows an annual income from the government educational grant but by far the greatest regular receipt supporting the school was from Sir Nelson Rycroft (d. 1894), with £90 in 1885 and amounts varying from £35-£60 in subsequent years. He also covered the cost of coal for heating and money for repairs; his wife provided needlework materials (at a cost), as did Thomas Burberry the clothing manufacturer based in Basingstoke. Sir Nelson's generosity was continued by his son, Sir Richard Nelson Rycroft (d. 1925) who also paid for attendance prizes and the rent of the teacher's house and Village Farm which generated an income for the school.¹⁴¹ Payments were made to the National Society for books and slates (1885).¹⁴² As well as endowments, other income came from the children's pence until its abolition under the 1891 Elementary Education Act when a fee grant of 10s. was paid by the government for each child aged four to 14.¹⁴³ Credits were received from the poor rate (1897) and the Department of Science and Art for drawing materials (1893).¹⁴⁴

The Revd Robert B.C. Everard of Dummer House gave private tuition to clerical students. One pupil was Gordon Murray Smith, son of the vicar of Malvern, Worcestershire, who received an annual scholarship in 1885 for £30 to enter Marlborough College.¹⁴⁵

The school was extended again in 1893¹⁴⁶ and by at least 1898 an annual government grant of £56 10s. was received.¹⁴⁷ The Bishop's visitation return of 1899 noted that 77 children attended the day school; the clergy visited twice a week to give religious instruction.¹⁴⁸ The schoolmistress, Ella Clarke, lived in the house attached to the school in 1891 but by the 1901 census the schoolmaster, Thomas

¹³⁹ HRO, 44M68/F2/154.

¹⁴⁰ *Council on Education* (Parl. Papers 1883 [C.3706-1]) 661.

¹⁴¹ HRO, 65M72/PE1.

¹⁴² HRO, 65M72/PE1.

¹⁴³ D. Gillard, (2011), *Education in England: a brief history* www.educationengland.org.uk/history (accessed 1 Mar. 2018).

¹⁴⁴ HRO, 65M72/PE1.

¹⁴⁵ *Hants. Chronicle* 12 Dec. 1885.

¹⁴⁶ *Kelly's Dir. of Hants., Wilts. & Berks.* 1895, 131.

¹⁴⁷ *Parliamentary Grants* (Parl. Papers 1898 [C.8989]), 87.

¹⁴⁸ HRO, 21M65/B4/5.

Driver had moved out to Village Farm, away from the school, probably because of dilapidation of the house.¹⁴⁹

1902 – 1973

In the early 1900s Hampshire County Council provided adult day and evening technical education classes in the reading room in such subjects as home nursing, cottage cookery and laundry. The courses ran for five or ten sessions at a cost of 1 *d.* per session. These proved very popular and had attendances of between 11 and 26.¹⁵⁰

A County Surveyor's inspection of the building in October 1903 reported that the school provided accommodation for 42 infants and 49 juniors (average attendance 32 and 39). The building was essentially satisfactory but there were concerns over the inadequate heating and the condition of the toilet block which should be demolished and rebuilt as it restricted light into the schoolroom.¹⁵¹

Between 1903 and 1908 a shortfall arose regarding Henshaw's Gift contested by Sir Richard Nelson Rycroft with the Education Department.¹⁵² A successor to the Fosbury estate, Alfred H. Huth, chose to withhold the £10 annuity as he claimed the charity had lapsed. The last trustees had been appointed by the Charity Commission in January 1877.¹⁵³ He objected to the phrase in the trust that 'the master was to teach in some convenient place ... at his own charge and expense' and considered that since the 1902 Education Act the county council was responsible for the purpose-built, parish supported school.¹⁵⁴ The solution was to set up an education foundation scheme in April 1908. Five trustees were appointed: the rector of Dummer, the owner of the Manor of Fosbury, two others nominated by him and a representative from Southampton County Council.¹⁵⁵ The £10 annuity was awarded as an exhibition to Dummer children to continue to secondary schools or technical

¹⁴⁹ *Census*, 1891, 1901.

¹⁵⁰ *Hants. & Berks. Gazette* 14 Apr. 1900; 21 Dec. 1901; 18 Jan. 1902.

¹⁵¹ HRO, 48M71/16.

¹⁵² HRO, H/ED1/2/32.

¹⁵³ TNA, ED 21/6354; TNA, ED 161/6547; HRO 128M96/C3/19. Charity Commission scheme no 57693.

¹⁵⁴ HRO, H/ED1/2/32.

¹⁵⁵ TNA, ED 21/6354.

courses providing they had a good knowledge of the Church of England and had attended the school for at least three years.¹⁵⁶

Pupil numbers were 111 in 1907 (average attendance 78).¹⁵⁷ The problem of the toilet block was still evident in 1911.¹⁵⁸ This issue was raised again in 1914¹⁵⁹ but the First World War delayed any expenditure.¹⁶⁰ An Inspector observed that the attainments of the pupils were not high with little differentiation of the work done by the middle and highest classes; infants suffered considerably from lack of freedom and were taught by imitation rather than natural conversation.¹⁶¹

Inspectors' reports of 1921, 1924, 1925 and 1929 commended the high standards of discipline and attitude of the children. By 1924 the whole premises were described as old and defective. The undesirable state and location of the toilet block was still unaddressed.¹⁶² Creditable attainments were gained throughout in arithmetic, written English, reading, needlework and singing. The good work was mentioned again in 1931 in spite of 58 children being taught by two teachers in a single room suitable for just 49. Girls outnumbered boys in the junior class.¹⁶³

Overcrowding in the schoolroom in 1934 meant that there were two classes of 52 children sitting together, with no possibility of screening one from the other. Arithmetic was below standard; committing poetry to memory poor, but writing was accurate and knowledge in geography and history was improving;¹⁶⁴ the rector taught religious instruction.¹⁶⁵ The standard generally was poor, staffed by just a headmistress and an uncertified assistant; progress was difficult to judge as the children's exercise books from earlier terms had been destroyed.¹⁶⁶ Sir Nelson Rycroft (d. 1958), foundation manager 1936-49, donated a field behind the school c.1949 for the benefit of the pupils and villagers. He charged a peppercorn rent of 1s. yearly but moved away in 1951 and rent collection after 1950 was forgotten.¹⁶⁷

¹⁵⁶ TNA, ED 21/6354.

¹⁵⁷ *Elementary Schools* (Parl. Papers 1907 [Cd.3510]), 203.

¹⁵⁸ TNA, ED 21/29331.

¹⁵⁹ TNA, ED 21/6354.

¹⁶⁰ TNA, ED 21/29331.

¹⁶¹ TNA, ED 21/6354; HRO 48M71/16; TNA, ED 21/29331.

¹⁶² TNA, ED 21/29331.

¹⁶³ TNA, ED 21/29331.

¹⁶⁴ TNA, ED 21/29331.

¹⁶⁵ HRO, 21M65/B4/10.

¹⁶⁶ TNA, ED 21/52202.

¹⁶⁷ HRO, 128M96/C3/19; HRO, 44M68/F2/154.

The 1951 county Development Plan decided that expenditure could not be justified on the poor structure of the building with its inadequate sanitation and no room for expansion. They decided to close the school as soon as possible.¹⁶⁸ Three years later the school was given Voluntary Aided status,¹⁶⁹ the Education Department provided an annual grant but left ownership of the buildings to the foundation managers. They were responsible for running the school and maintenance costs and paid for the playground to be asphalted in 1956¹⁷⁰ and structural repairs costing c.£1,000 in 1958. The parish council complained in 1959 that the managers, possibly anticipating closure of the school, were neglecting their duties and were failing to meet terms.¹⁷¹ Electric lighting was installed in 1960 to replace the oil lamps.¹⁷²

Closure of the school relied on available alternative accommodation for the pupils which took ten years to resolve resulting in further decay to the fabric. The teacher's house suffered a leaking roof (now replaced with slate), beetle infestation, rotten windows, fungal rot and no bathroom. The LEA had fitted out the kitchen for serving school meals delivered from North Waltham,¹⁷³ the bedrooms were used for storage and the headmistress, Mrs Frankham, had a room as her office.¹⁷⁴ She was appointed in 1947 and was praised in 1962 for her dedication, vigour and understanding, for her new ideas in physical education and for creating a community of great friendliness.¹⁷⁵ Radio broadcasts had been introduced and were followed up with work in geography and history; weekly lessons in art and music were given by a peripatetic teacher and handiwork included paper sculpture, pottery and the making of soft toys.¹⁷⁶

The Education Department planned to transfer the children to Preston Candover school. The managers, led by Colonel A.H. Ferguson, preferred North Waltham school as Dummer had joined North Waltham and Steventon parishes and were all served by one rector. The Education Department eventually acceded. Mrs Frankham

¹⁶⁸ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁶⁹ HRO, 128M96/C3/19; TNA, ED 161/6547.

¹⁷⁰ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁷¹ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁷² TNA, ED 161/6547; HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁷³ TNA, ED 161/6547; HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁷⁴ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁷⁵ TNA, ED 161/6547.

¹⁷⁶ TNA, ED 161/6547.

retired in July 1971 which saw the closure of the school with just 48 children in attendance.¹⁷⁷



Figure 9 School prior to closure in 1971 and demolition.

A new nursery school opened in May 1972 for three mornings a week in North Waltham which was also available for Dummer under fives.¹⁷⁸

It took until 1973 for the school buildings to be put on the market due to a dispute over ownership of the field donated by the late Sir Nelson Rycroft.¹⁷⁹ His son, Sir Richard, issued a deed of disclaimer transferring shared ownership to Hampshire County Council and the Winchester Diocesan Board of Finance.¹⁸⁰ The valuation for the whole site in 1970 was £5,000; this rose to £12,000 when planning was granted for demolition of the buildings and erection of two detached dwellings.¹⁸¹ As a consequence of the development of Basingstoke, land prices soared and the site eventually sold for £22,700 in July 1973 to property developers Shanning Homes Ltd.¹⁸² After deductions, the County Council received £12,412 and the Diocesan Board £11,000.¹⁸³ This latter sum was designated to help with construction of a new village hall.¹⁸⁴

¹⁷⁷ HRO, 128M96/C3/19; HRO, 44M68/F2/154; HRO, 232M86/A6.

¹⁷⁸ HRO, 65M72/PZ3 *Dummer Parish Magazine* May 1972.

¹⁷⁹ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁸⁰ HRO, 44M68/F2/154.

¹⁸¹ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁸² HRO, 77A03/7; HRO, 44M68/F2/154.

¹⁸³ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

¹⁸⁴ HRO, 128M96/C3/19.

In 2018 Dummer had its own pre-school based in the village hall. Primary school children attended North Waltham and Cliddesden schools; secondary pupils fell within the catchment area for Brighton Hill Community School in Basingstoke. Sixth form students attended Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke or Peter Symonds College in Winchester.

Social Welfare

Endowed charities

A number of endowed charities were established to benefit the poor of the parish. In 1607 John Millingate, by deed, charged his close, called Leedgar's Close, and 9 a. of arable land lying in the open fields with 20s. annually for the poor, to be distributed at the south porch of the church yearly on the 20th March. In 1905 half-crowns were given to eight recipients.¹⁸⁵ Michael Terry (d. 1710) devised his manor of Popham in Dummer and other lands in the open fields with 20s. to be distributed annually by the churchwardens at Michaelmas amongst the deserving poor of the parish.¹⁸⁶ This was said to be still happening in 1847, poor widows receiving sums varying between 1 s. to 2s. each¹⁸⁷ and at the beginning of the 20th century half-crowns were distributed to eight recipients.¹⁸⁸ At an unknown, but presumably later date, the Dummer estate still only paid £2 to a clothing club – the bequests of Millingate and Terry, untouched by inflation.¹⁸⁹

Adam's Gift of £86 14s.10d. consols, with the official trustees, provided that the dividends be applied in aid of 'funds of a provident club etc' by a scheme of the Charity Commission, 31 July, 1891.¹⁹⁰ The annual dividends of £2 3s. 4d. were distributed in coal. No copy of the scheme appears extant but presumably the gift had been made by the rector, the Revd William Cockayne Adams (d. 1875). A 1929 statement of accounts of the three charities showed funds held of £22 6s. 8d. and that two and a half tons of coal had been purchased and distributed to inhabitants. The trustees of the combined charities were Revd A.J. Ireland, Sir Nelson Rycroft,

¹⁸⁵ Charity Reg. no. 237737-2 (Removed Nov. 2004); *VCH Hants* III, 360.

¹⁸⁶ Charity reg. no. 237737-3 (Removed Nov. 2004).

¹⁸⁷ *Hants Advertiser*, 12 Jun. 1847.

¹⁸⁸ *VCH Hants* III, 360.

¹⁸⁹ HRO, 65M72/PW4.

¹⁹⁰ Charity reg. no. 237737 (Removed Nov. 2004); Parl. Papers, *Endowed Charities (Cty of Soton)* 1898, (131), 20.

Herbert Jones, solicitor, Montague Billimore, gentleman and clerk to the Trust, and Kingsley Roberts, gardener. In a survey of small charities undertaken in 1967 by the Hampshire Council of Social Service the purpose of Adam's charity was considered to be of a similar class to that of William Batchelor of North Waltham (provision of coal) and encouragement was given to broaden the terms and amalgamate the charities in order to be more effective.¹⁹¹ The outcome of the review is not known but in 2004 the Charity Commission removed all these charities from their register.

In 1847, a report of endowed charities in Dummer included Winkworth's Gift. This consisted of £5 given by a person of the name of Winkworth, the interest of which was distributed annually by the rector to five poor widows (5s. each).¹⁹² Nothing is known of it after that date.¹⁹³

Poor relief

In the 16th century charitable giving to the poor was perceived to combine benefits for the donors as well as the recipients. Roger Golde rector (d. 1564) bequeathed 33s. 4d. to be given to the poor people of the parish at his burial, the gift to be repeated a month later and again at the next Easter after his death. On each occasion prayers would have been said for his soul. He also bequeathed a bushel of wheat and barley for every householder in the parish.¹⁹⁴ Nicholas Madgwick, clothier, (d. 1566) made similar bequests of 40s., a quarter of wheat and a quarter of barley to be distributed at his burial, month's end and year's end and at other times as his executors thought best, for his soul's health and for his parents' souls and all Christian souls.¹⁹⁵ Alice Madgwick, widow, (d. 1591) bequeathed £3 as well as 12 bushels of wheat and malt to be distributed at similar times and wanted alms to be raised by the annual rent of 10s. of 30 sheep; 6d. apiece to be paid to every household in the parish who could not afford to keep a plough – an interesting criterion for identifying poverty.¹⁹⁶ Other small bequests included two bushels of wheat and 20s. 'for the poor people.'¹⁹⁷

¹⁹¹ HRO, 41M64/PK9.

¹⁹² Hants Advertiser, 15 Mar. 1845.

¹⁹³ Parl. Papers, *Endowed Charities (Cty of Soton)* 1873 (25-4), 17:1898 (131), 20.

¹⁹⁴ HRO, 1564B/039.

¹⁹⁵ TNA, PROB 11/48/417.

¹⁹⁶ TNA, PROB 11/79/174.

¹⁹⁷ HRO, 1578B/040;1595A/32.

The Madgwick family continued their support of the poor in the 17th century when in 1627 Walter Madgwick, yeoman, left 20s. for the poor of Dummer; Barbara Madgwick, widow, left 10s. in 1637 and Robert Madgwick, yeoman, left 10s. in 1651¹⁹⁸

More substantial bequests were made by William Wither, former rector of Dummer, who left £3 in 1656, John Millingate, gentleman, who in the same year left £6 and his widow, Margaret, £2 in 1659 and William Soper, gentleman, who bequeathed 40s. in 1688. A few other gifts were made of sums varying from 2s. to 20s.

Statutory relief for the poor was provided out of the parish rate income which in 1776 amounted to £115 16s. 9d. of which £104 6s. 2d. was spent on the poor, including £9 5s. in payment of rent for housing.¹⁹⁹ Expenditure averaged £91 18s. 9d. in the three years 1783-85, rising to £325 18s. 4d. in 1803, an increase that was mirrored throughout the country largely due to price rises during the war with France. The cost of living and cuts in benefits was highlighted in 1795 by Anne Eggar who with her two -year old daughter received 1s. 6d. a week whereas the payment had previously been 1s. 9d. a week. She claimed that 'the great advances in charges upon provisions and the necessities of life were insufficient for her future security'.²⁰⁰

In 1813, 26 persons were relieved permanently in their own homes, not in a workhouse, and 20 received occasional relief at a total cost of nearly £800.²⁰¹ This dramatically steep increase was followed by a drop to £342 in 1816 and then another peak, in 1819, of £614. The years 1818 and 1819, the period after the end of the French wars, saw high expenditure throughout the parishes in Bermondspit hundred, with Dummer amongst those spending most. This reduced to £443 in 1822 and was then fairly static at about £500 a year until 1829.²⁰² In 1830, the year of the agricultural uprising when conditions were particularly severe, expenditure increased to £615 8s., figures such as this adding to the pressure for a reform of the system in an attempt to curb expenditure.²⁰³

¹⁹⁸ HRO, 1627A/31; 1637A/066; 1651A/34.

¹⁹⁹ Parl. Papers, *Poor Abstract*, 1777, 157.

²⁰⁰ HRO, 44M69/G3/790.

²⁰¹ Parl. Papers, *Poor Abstract*, 1818 (82), 402.

²⁰² Parl. Papers, *Poor Returns*, 1824 (334), 190; 1830-31 (83), 179.

²⁰³ Parl. Papers, *Poor Returns*, 1835 (444), 173.

From 1834 Dummer formed part of the Basingstoke Poor Law Union and paupers were sent to the Union Workhouse in Basing. The 1839 returns show the effect that the new Poor Law had in reducing the financial burden in the parish, with only £179 paid to the Union.²⁰⁴ In 1886 P. Budd and Edward Colden (Cobden), both farmers, were appointed overseers for the coming year at the Easter vestry meeting.²⁰⁵ Overseers' accounts of 1927 show the poor rate collected to have been £851 9s. 6d., of which £542 was paid to the Union and £240 to the Rural District Council.²⁰⁶ Poor relief was renamed public assistance under the Local Government Act of 1929 which transferred responsibility for the service to county councils and county boroughs.

Settlement and Bastardy

Evidence of settlement issues in Dummer are limited to the surviving records of settlement examinations, some with counsel's opinion. Four examinations took place in 1799, 1800, 1803 and 1810 with two removal orders into the parish, in 1761 and 1822, and one out of the parish in 1818.²⁰⁷ This suggests relative stability of population. Three bastardy examinations were carried out in 1778, 1815 and 1831, the latter of a female child 'at the poor house' - suggesting that the parish had allocated specific accommodation for poor people.²⁰⁸

Medical services

Illness and accidents were never far from parishioners' lives. The death of Mary Holmes from what was presumably oedema reached the national press. It was reported that she had been 'tapped sixty times from July 1799 to January 1806, and had drawn off 4,153 pints of water'.²⁰⁹ The rescue of a four year old boy, Alfred Bowman, from a village well in 1887 also received wide coverage. The well was 258ft. (78.6m.) in depth with 12ft. (3.7m.) of water in it. A 58 year-old labouring man, George Eales, took half an hour to climb down the rope, fix another rope around the

²⁰⁴ Parl. Papers, *Poor Rates*, 1844 (630), 153.

²⁰⁵ HRO, 65M72/PV1. Anthony Budd was at Manor Farm and Edward Cobden at Village Farm in the 1881 census.

²⁰⁶ HRO, 68M72/DU20.

²⁰⁷ HRO, 16M83/PO6/7; 16583/PO7/12; 19M76/PO5/147.

²⁰⁸ HRO, 44M69/G3/512; 3M70/60/17; 3M70/60/37.

²⁰⁹ *The Lancaster Gaz. and General Advertiser*, 8 Feb. 1806, Issue 243,

child who was struggling in the water and both to be drawn to safety. Eales was awarded the Royal Humane Society silver medal for his courage and coolness.²¹⁰ Sadly, wells provided opportunities for suicide; in 1761 Richard Geary a blacksmith lowered himself into a well with rope round his middle and neck,²¹¹ the outcome of the inquest is not known but a verdict of lunacy was returned on Jacob White who was found hanging in a barn belonging to Thomas Terry in 1799.²¹²

Medical officers were employed by the Poor Law union and by the Hampshire Friendly Society.²¹³ Basingstoke Cottage Hospital opened in 1879, though its use required payment. The coming of the National Health Service in 1948 transformed medical help for many although Dummer's rural location and facilities meant that access to services was difficult. In 1949 the nearest midwife was reported to live five miles away and that she could administer analgesia; informal help only was available for laying out the dead.²¹⁴ A welfare clinic was held in the village hall in the 1960s, closing in 1971 when the old hall was no longer available.²¹⁵ In 2018 Dummer fell within the area served by the NHS Oakley and Overton general practice.



Figure 10 *Royal Humane Society silver medal.*

²¹⁰ Royal Humane Society, case 23,831; Ron Jones. *Hero of Dummer.*

²¹¹ *Public Ledger*, 31 Dec. 1761

²¹² *Oracle and Daily Advertiser* (London), 19 Jul. 1799.

²¹³ B. Large, *Basingstoke Workhouse and Poor Law Union* (Stroud, 2016), 96; Drs. Miller & Andrews, *Hampshire Friendly Society*, 1902.

²¹⁴ HRO, 96M96/23/3, the WI village questionnaire.

²¹⁵ Parish magazine, Jan. 1968, Sep. 1973. Closing because there was no longer a hall. Above, *Communal Life.*