

# **SOCIAL HISTORY OF NEWNHAM**

The social character and communal life of Newnham were determined largely by the geography of the parish. Before 1932 the parish was not a nucleated settlement and the lords of the manor only had lordship over a small western portion of the parish around Newnham Green and became absentee during the 16th century. Other major landowners were absentee. It is difficult to imagine any real sense of community but the church did provide a focal point. There were two nucleated settlements within the parish. Newnham village surrounded Newnham Green, half a mile inside the western boundary of the parish and included the church, rectory, the manor farm, tenanted from 1600 by lessees of the marquis of Winchester (later dukes of Bolton), farming the one-time demesne lands. Just over one mile east lay the hamlet of Hook, in existence from the Middle Ages, but which grew rapidly from the 19th century. Between Newnham Green and Hook, from at least 1500, lay two isolated and substantial farmsteads of Hooklands (later mainly Owen's Farm) which belonged to Corpus Christi College Oxford, being part of their Mapledurwell manor until c. 1900 and the privately owned, Sheldons farm, which was inhabited from at least the early 16th century.<sup>1</sup> Immediately north and east of the hamlet of Hook was part of the parish of Nately Scures known as the Holt (transferred to Newnham parish in 1879). This separated residents from the eastern detached portion of Newnham which in the 16th and 17th centuries was dominated by the Hooke family who lived at Hook House, rebuilt c. 1700.

After 1932 parish communal life was largely confined to Newnham village around Newnham Green and the settlement of Nately Scures when both were united as Newnham parish after being left out of the newly created parish of Hook.

## **1. Social Character**

No lord of the manor or family dominated all of the parish, which lacked an integrated society and hierarchy. The parish contained lands belonging to three different manors, all by 1600 owned by absentee lords.

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<sup>1</sup> Sheldons farm was also known as Sherland's and Shirland's.

## ***Medieval Society***

Newnham was not listed separately in Domesday, being part of the manor of Mapledurwell. The parish was established in 1198 following the break-up of the manor of Mapledurwell. The Saint Manifeo family held Newnham from 1275 and may have been resident.<sup>2</sup> The lay subsidy of 1327 listed Robert de Saint Manifeo 3s., John atte Wyfelde 20*d.*, Geoffrey Lude 8*d.*, William le Hunte 16*d.*, John le Frayn 2s., Thomas le Parkir 12*d.*, making a total of 9s. 8*d.*<sup>3</sup> By 1428 John Stukeley<sup>4</sup> was resident lord of the manor and Newnham remained in his family until the 16th century.

### ***1500 to 1800***

It is difficult to see how parish links were made and how residents perceived their community. From 1600 to 1932 the lord of the manor was an absentee. There was no manor house. It was two and a half miles from the western to the eastern boundary of the parish. No manorial court united the parish: tenants of the lord of the manor attended the court in Basing, those of Hooklands, belonging to Corpus Christi College Oxford, owed allegiance to the college court in Mapledurwell. The tenant of Hurstlands owed allegiance to the manor of Andwell, owned by Winchester College. In the village of Newnham, around Newnham Green in the west of the parish, society was led by the rector and the farmers. While in the far east of the parish, some two miles away, Hook House, Hook farm, Hook Mill and later the Raven and the Crooked Billet inns were situated. The current Hook House dates from the early 18th century but a previous building probably occupied the site from at least the early 16th century, housing the influential Hooke family who dominated the east of the parish and took their name from the settlement of Hook.<sup>5</sup> This geographical separation must have affected the character of the parish. There is evidence from the 16th century that some leading residents such as the Fielder (of Sheldons farm) and Hook families, in the eastern area of Newnham had close contacts with better-off residents

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<sup>2</sup> *VCH Hants*, vol. 4, 156.

<sup>3</sup> *Hants Tax List 1327*, 133 Newnham (*Nywenham*) township.

<sup>4</sup> Variations of Stukeley include Stutle.

<sup>5</sup> Variations of Hooke were Hook, Hooker and Atahook.

of Odiham parish to the south-east rather than their fellow parishioners in Newnham Green. For example, Thomas Fielder (d.1541) nominated William Serle of Odiham as overseer and his will was witnessed by Thomas Fielder of Borough Court and William Wattman of Polling. Borough Court and Polling were small manors lying east and south-east of Newnham being detached areas of the parish of Odiham whose village centre lay three miles south of Newnham.<sup>6</sup> John Hooke of Hook, Newnham (d.1541) who left land, crops, cattle, sheep and horses, appointed John Smith of Woodmancott as overseer.<sup>7</sup> John Fielder of Sheldons farm appointed Thomas Twyne of Greywell, Richard Hooke of Newnham and Edward Fielder of North Warnborough as overseers.<sup>8</sup> John Collings of Hook (d.1592) appointed Robert Richards of North Warnborough, tanner and Arthur Feilder of Nately Scures, husbandman as his executors.<sup>9</sup> Similarly Robert Lyde (d.1541) of Lyde Mill on the western boundary of Newnham appointed John Dene of Denelands, Old Basing, just outside Newnham parish, as overseer.<sup>10</sup> This trend continued in the 17th century when Alexander Searle (d.1645) appointed Francis Tilney gent. of Rotherwick and James Deane of Oxenwood, Wiltshire, the owner of Searle's leased house in Newnham as overseers.<sup>11</sup> William Upton (d.1655) appointed Francis Tilney of Rotherwick and Richard Make of Medstead as overseers.<sup>12</sup>

The social structure of the parish was shown in the tax assessment of 1524-5.<sup>13</sup> One person was assessed on land, namely John Stukeley the lord of the manor, the rest being assessed on goods. The wealthiest in the village were two of the Fielder family, Thomas (d. 1541, at £40) of Sheldons Farm and John, brother of Thomas (d. 1534, at £36). Thomas Fielder divided his estate between his wife, Elizabeth and son, John. His widow, Elizabeth (d.1549) had an inventory worth £25, including cattle and 44 sheep, 1.5 tods of wool and crops. She held Sheldons farm, a pasture called Bowlefield and a tenement called Marlose. His son, John (d.1557) had the highest value inventory of the 16th century with over 30 cattle and 100 sheep.<sup>14</sup> John Fielder was a man of substance, apart from Sheldon's in Newnham, he also owned a

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<sup>6</sup> HRO, 1541B/08; *VCH Hants*, vol. 4, 92-3.

<sup>7</sup> HRO, 1541U/34.

<sup>8</sup> HRO, 1557U/109.

<sup>9</sup> HRO, 1592AD021.

<sup>10</sup> HRO, 1541U/44.

<sup>11</sup> TNA, PROB 11/192/476.

<sup>12</sup> TNA, PROB II/244/294.

<sup>13</sup> TNA, E1&9/173/183 M5v.

<sup>14</sup> See Economic History, above.

freehold called Elkins in Hartley Wintney and a freehold in North Warnborough; together with copyhold in Wykeham called Thomsons Lands. Of the remaining 15 taxpayers, seven were assessed at more than £2 from Thomas Blake at £10, and widow Agnes Blake at £7. Alice Lyde, (£4) and Robert Lyde (£3) may have been linked to the Lyde mill. Almost half (eight) were assessed at the lowest level of £2, and some may have been too poor to be assessed at all.

In 1586 Richard Hooke rated with goods of £15/15s. (meaning the goods were valued at £15, and he paid a levy of 15s.), was nearly three times as wealthy as the next person listed. He had been frequently appointed as overseer or supervisor by testators and witnessed many wills: he was overseer of both John Fielder's will (d.1557) and Thomas Stephens (d. 1558). Also rated on goods in 1586 were John Collins at £4/4s. levy and Richard Amline at £3/3s. In the same year William Smyth had land rated at 20s./16d. and William Whitcombe had land rated 40s./2s.8d.<sup>15</sup>

Some of the rectors were wealthy men who had acquired local land. The Revd Richard Smith (1590 to 1617) acquired freehold and leasehold property in Newnham.<sup>16</sup> He owned a house in Hook and lands called Eastlands and Roodlands which he left to his wife for life. He also held leasehold land. Smith also bequeathed nearly £200 to family and charity. Richard Tilney and Richard Hooke were his overseers. William Cape (d. 1654) had lands in Swallowfield, Sherfield on Loddon and Basingstoke and left bequests of £650 apart from his lands.<sup>17</sup> James Potter (d.1658) had lands in Sandhurst, Berkshire and left bequests of more than £120.<sup>18</sup>

In the 10 wills and inventories from 1600 to 1642 which recorded the status of the deceased, there were a rector, five yeomen and one shearman.<sup>19</sup> The inventory of John Russell of Hook (d.1641) worth £312, the wealthiest man in the parish, was appraised by Richard Hooke.<sup>20</sup>

Rentals of 1662 and 1676, for the duke of Bolton's manor, the almost contemporary hearth tax returns for 1665, a chancery court case of 1649<sup>21</sup> and the surviving wills from 1645 to 1658 indicate the social structure of the parish in the mid-17th century. There were then nine tenants, including freeholders and

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<sup>15</sup> *Hants Lay Subsidy 1586*, 42.

<sup>16</sup> HRO, 21M65/B1/17; TNA, PROB II/130/591.

<sup>17</sup> TNA, PROB II/234/653.

<sup>18</sup> TNA, PROB 11/282/343.

<sup>19</sup> Newnham probate.

<sup>20</sup> HRO, 1641A/096.

<sup>21</sup> TNA, C 10/1/55.

leaseholders of the lord of the manor.<sup>22</sup> Widow Mathews the tenant of the Mapledurwell copyholds, Hooklands, now Owens Farm, was assessed under Mapledurwell itself.<sup>23</sup> Among the larger houses that of John Vicary (Dickroy) with eight hearths, belonged to a tenant. The largest lease was that of the demesne lands based at Manor Farm, with four hearths, in 1662 where Thomas Prince paid £7 6s.10d. a year. By 1676 this lease was held by George Prince and he assigned this in 1717 to his son George when it was described as three parts of the manor of Newnham.<sup>24</sup>

Three of the largest houses were not leased from the duke of Bolton. Richard Hooke, gentleman, had the largest house with 10 hearths, living presumably at an earlier version of Hook House in detached number two part of Newnham.<sup>25</sup> In 1665 his grandson, Thomas Riggs of Hook, gentleman and a minor, died worth £490, of which £90 was rent from a farm and £400 was Thomas Riggs' share of the proceeds of the sale of the farm - unfortunately, there was no indication of the name of the farm.<sup>26</sup> The Atkinson family were also important innkeepers and had seven hearths at the Raven. In 1649 Richard Hooke, gentleman, challenged Thomas Atkinson victualler of the Raven over ownership of lands including Eastmeads in Newnham and Nately Scures.<sup>27</sup> The valuation of Thomas Atkinson's inventory (1671) is very misleading at £22 as it does not include bonds of £90 and a debt of £10 due to Atkinson nor any valuation of the Reed ?lands or the Raven. His overseers were the rector of Newnham, Andrew Whelpdale and Matthew Dreuce of Frome Selwood, Somerset, carrier - the link between these men is not explained.<sup>28</sup> The rectory had six hearths. Revd William Cape (d.1654) left bequests of £650, Revd James Potter (d.1658) left over £140. Revd Andrew Whelpdell was resident in 1665<sup>29</sup> and was not a tenant. Altogether in 1665 there were seven houses with four or more hearths, but most had only one hearth reflecting the differentiation within the parish. The

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<sup>22</sup> HRO, 11M59/325

<sup>23</sup> *Hearth Tax 1665*, 236.

<sup>24</sup> HRO, 11M49/441. See Economic History for discussion of three-quarters of the manor.

<sup>25</sup> TNA, C 10/1/55.

<sup>26</sup> HRO, 1665AD/080.

<sup>27</sup> TNA, C 10/1/55. On Atkinson, N.Bell, *Newnham A history of the Parish and its Church* (n.d.), 8. Also see Buildings.

<sup>28</sup> HRO, 1671B/03.

<sup>29</sup> A. Thomson, *The clergy of Winchester, England, 1615-1698*, Lampeter (2011), 197.

freeholders included James Deane who held Lyde Mill Croft although he does not appear in the hearth tax and so presumably had sublet the mill.

From 1660 to 1699 probate documents recorded two gentlemen, both from the Hooke family, two yeomen, two innholders and three widows. One of the innholders, Lambert Searle (d.1681), of the White Hart, was nearly as wealthy as Thomas Riggs, leaving bequests of over £330.<sup>30</sup> Eustace Hooke (d.1689) was described as a gentleman. He lived at Hook House but there was no indication of the value of his estate.<sup>31</sup> Eustace Hooke died childless in 1699 and his brother sold the family home to John Field of Odiham thus ending the association of the Hooke family with Newnham and Hook.<sup>32</sup>

In the early 18th century, the parish lacked resident gentry. In 1725 the Revd Michael Hutchinson wrote, 'I have neither any noblemen or gentlemen in my parish'.<sup>33</sup> During the 18th century, where occupations were listed in probate documents the deceased were yeomen, husbandmen, manufacturers or tradesmen but a few of the manufacturers were exceedingly wealthy, a trend which increased in the 19th century. John Hamerton, papermaker (d.1743), had possessions reflecting a fairly high social status including a clock and case, bureau, a desk, china plates and gold rings valued at £4 4s.<sup>34</sup> James Webb the elder who held considerable land in Newnham including Hook farm, (d.1788) left over £1,500 in bequests.<sup>35</sup> In 1766 James Webb and Edmund Chamberlain were each responsible for eight panels of church rails and John Stevens for seven, reflecting their prominence in local society.<sup>36</sup> In 1799 the parishioners assessed the highest for paying the poor rates were Edward Rogers of Newnham and Hook farms; Henry Luff of Hooklands, James Hewett and Richard Benham, in which year Edward Rogers and Richard Benham also served as overseers of the poor. James Hewett and Henry Luff served in subsequent years, together with William Parsons. Thomas Parsons was highly rated in 1796 but his property was not specified.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> TNA, PROB II/367/377.

<sup>31</sup> TNA, PROB II/396/196.

<sup>32</sup> A. Pitcher, *Illustrated History of Hook*, private publication, 1986, 23.

<sup>33</sup> *Parson and Parish*, 96.

<sup>34</sup> TNA, PROB 31/238/589.

<sup>35</sup> HRO, 1788A/95.

<sup>36</sup> HRO, 67M80/PW1.

<sup>37</sup> HRO, 67M80/PO1.

The return under the Defence of the Realm Act of 1798 was taken by tithing man Richard Baffe (Bath). It showed that two men were volunteers in the North Hampshire Cavalry and one in the Supplementary Militia. Among those persons 'who may be incapable of removing themselves', 12 were elderly and 76 were children. Five men aged between 15 and 60 were willing to act as guides and could bring a range of implements from felling axes to saws.<sup>38</sup>

### **1800 to 1932**

The lords and ladies of the manor who succeeded the Boltons throughout the 19th century were non-resident: Lord Dorchester in 1859, the Hon. Mrs Pigott Carleton of Greywell Hill, near Odiham in 1878, Hon Mrs Leir Carleton of Greywell Hill, in 1898 who became the Baroness Dorchester of Greywell Hill.<sup>39</sup> In 1927 Dudley Lord Dorchester held the lordship.<sup>40</sup>

Parish society in the first half of the 19th century was dominated by farmers, some of whom aspired to the status of gentlemen, and associated rural trades and services such as innkeepers and shopkeepers. Baptismal registers from 1813 to 1851 recorded three gentlemen, 10 farmers and some 180 labourers as fathers in Newnham.<sup>41</sup> Edward Chamberlin, papermaker (d.1800) left an estate valued at £5,000.<sup>42</sup> By the early 19th century some of the yeomen were wealthy, for example James Webb (d.1788) left bequests of over £1,600; James Hewitt (d.1808) had an estate valued at £3,000 and John Rogers (d.1835) was worth £1,000.<sup>43</sup>

Nearly all the landowners were non-resident in 1842, letting their farms to farmers who in general employed no more than one servant.<sup>44</sup> Corpus Christi College was the biggest landowner with 158 a. known as Hooklands lying east of Newnham village, mainly farmed by William Kimber at Owens Farm. Lord Bolton, had 137 a. farmed by his tenant, John Rogers, from Manor Farm, next to the church at Newnham Green, where he employed one female servant. The Hon. William Tilney Long Wellesley of Tylney Hall, Rotherwick, leased over half of his 103 a. surrounding Newnham village to Richard Tubb who also employed one female servant. Ann Piper

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<sup>38</sup> HRO, Q22/1/2/5.

<sup>39</sup> *Kelly's Dir. (Hants)*, 1859 to 1903.

<sup>40</sup> *Kelly's Dir. (Hants and I of W)*, 1927, 302.

<sup>41</sup> HRO, 67M80/PR3.

<sup>42</sup> HRO, 1800B/08. See Economic History.

<sup>43</sup> HRO, 1788A/95, 1808AD/31, 1835AD/66.

<sup>44</sup> *Census*, 1841, 1851.

leased her 95 a. centred on Sheldons Farm to William Goodchild who employed one female servant but Piper was non-resident. By 1871 William Goring occupied Sheldons Farm with 270 a. and employed two female domestic servants.<sup>45</sup> Samuel Tyssen of Sturttons Manor, Odiham, owned 127 a. in Newnham of which he let 115 a. to Jane Hewett, widow who was based at Hook Farm in Hook village where she employed one female servant.<sup>46</sup>

Only Hook House in the far east of the parish regularly housed resident landowners, as for example in 1842 when the only major landowner resident in Newnham was Elizabeth Bird of Hook House with nearly 2 a. of grounds.<sup>47</sup> Bird kept nearly 24 a. of woods and pasture in hand.<sup>48</sup> Her tenant William Rogers leased 58 a. from her. In 1851 the Birds were a wealthy household: Elizabeth was described as a landed proprietor and gentlewoman while her eldest son, James, farmed 117 a. and employed six labourers, and her second son, Henry, was a solicitor. She employed two female and one male servant.<sup>49</sup> In 1861 her son, Henry, was described as an attorney and farmer of 163 a., employing seven men and three boys.<sup>50</sup> Hook House was a gentry home described in 1872 as possessing 'recently built stabling and carriage house' with the neighbouring farmstead 'entirely screened from the Residence by the Shrubbery'. The estate comprised 205 a. including seven rented cottages and land in Nately Scures. The sale documents stated it was an ideal pleasure residence with elegant gardens.<sup>51</sup> Hook House was unoccupied in 1881.<sup>52</sup> By 1891 it was occupied by Philip Morton, living on his own means and employing a cook, a nurse, a parlour maid and a housemaid.<sup>53</sup> In 1925 Hook House was a 'Beautiful Queen Anne House' with four reception rooms and 11 bed and dressing rooms, two tennis courts and a walled garden set in 10 a. of land.<sup>54</sup> Hook Villas also had genteel residents including in 1851 Clarissa Cocks, landed proprietor and Mary Ann Creasey, annuitant.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> *Census*, 1871.

<sup>46</sup> HRO, 21M65 F7/168/1-2; *Census*, 1841.

<sup>47</sup> TNA, C 10/1/55.

<sup>48</sup> HRO, 21M65 F7/168/1-2.

<sup>49</sup> *Census*, 1841.

<sup>50</sup> *Census*, 1861; 14M71?T16.

<sup>51</sup> HRO, 10M57/SP506.

<sup>52</sup> *Census*, 1881.

<sup>53</sup> *Census*, 1891.

<sup>54</sup> HRO, 159M88/786.

<sup>55</sup> *Census*, 1851.

Apart from Mrs Bird, only the rector had a household which suggested gentry status. Revd Richard Hunter employed three female and one male servant at the Rectory in 1841.<sup>56</sup> George Wylie, rector in 1851 employed two female and one male servant.<sup>57</sup> In 1881 the rector, the Revd Andrew Milroy, was living in the Rectory house with his wife and three very young children, employing a nurse, an under nurse, a cook and a house maid.<sup>58</sup> By 1891 the Revd Paul Eyre, rector, employed a cook, a groom, a nurse and a housemaid.<sup>59</sup>

By the late 19th century, the Harris family were wealthy and increasingly important land owners, sometimes resident in the parish. Charles Edward Harris JP, purchased Tylney Hall and its lands in Newnham from the Tylney –Longs? in the 1870s. By 1898 Charles Edward Harris was resident at Sheldons, having sold Tylney Hall to Lionel Phillips (who had made his fortune in South African diamond mining)<sup>60</sup> and who by the purchase of Tylney Hall became a principal landowner in Newnham in the early 20th century. In 1901 Charles Edward Harris was living off his own means, at Sheldons farm with seven servants including a butler, a footman and a coachman. Harris was born in Fulford, York but his wife was from Hampshire and both his resident children were born in Rotherwick. His 22-year old son was a lieutenant in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Harris had also purchased Owen's Farm containing 134 a. from Corpus Christi College Oxford in 1898 for £3,251: tenants lived in the farm in 1901.<sup>61</sup> In 1899 Harris purchased freehold land from Thomas Burberry in Hook within Newnham (c.5 a.) Nately Scures and Odiham parishes.<sup>62</sup> Burberry built a road to provide access for Harris.<sup>63</sup> Thomas Burberry, who had founded the famous fashion company in Basingstoke from 1856, lived at The Elms, where he employed a cook and a housemaid.<sup>64</sup>

The annexation of the 'isolated and detached part' of Nately Scures (No 7 detached), known as Holt, in 1879 to Newnham did not change the social character of the parish but did unite all its land. Only 27 residents were added from Holt as

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<sup>56</sup> *Census*, 1841.

<sup>57</sup> *Census*, 1851.

<sup>58</sup> *Census*, 1881.

<sup>59</sup> *Census*, 1891.

<sup>60</sup> ODNB, Sir Lionel Phillips by Maryna Fraser, 2006.

<sup>61</sup> HRO, 287M87/4; *Census*, 1901.

<sup>62</sup> The two Newnham pieces of land were 66 and 67 on the tithe map.

<sup>63</sup> HRO, 14M71/T36.

<sup>64</sup> *Census*, 1901.

Searle's farmhouse was unoccupied. Nearly all were employed in farming.<sup>65</sup> However, the nature and balance of the parish was changing as Hook village centre developed steadily in the 19th century especially after the opening of Hook station in 1883. By 1891 Hook was much larger than the Newnham village centred on Newnham Green. Hook had 169 residents to 123 in Newnham.<sup>66</sup>

By the early 20th century Newnham society included some prosperous inhabitants, whose wealth was derived from commerce and industry rather than agriculture and who employed substantial numbers of servants. By 1903 Charles Edward Harris had moved to Finchampstead, Berkshire and was an absentee landowner. Leading residents were Nora Oldfield who lived on private means at Tilney Cottage where she employed a manservant and a cook/housekeeper. Alice Waller similarly lived at Sheldons, Hook, employing a cook, housemaid and parlourmaid. The Morris family had Naish's farm and Newnham farm and were also tradesmen. Thomas Champion farmed Owen's farm.<sup>67</sup> In 1911 Thomas Burberry, described as 'a manufacturer of weatherproof garments' lived at the Elms, Hook, where he employed three female servants.<sup>68</sup> Thomas Burberry moved to Crossways by 1920.<sup>69</sup> Mrs Close lived at Hook House supported by a cook, a parlourmaid, a housemaid, a kitchen maid and a gardener.<sup>70</sup> Frederick Harvey, brewery general manager, lived at Hartletts, Hook, where he employed a nurse, a cook, a parlourmaid and a housemaid. Two writers, husband and wife, William and Edith Alexander lived at the Holt, Hook, supported by a housekeeper. The number of people living off their own means or pensions grew steadily in Newnham to 14 in 1891 and 1901,<sup>71</sup> and 22 in 1911, when a few more were recorded only as retired but who may also have enjoyed pensions. By 1923 the principal landowners included military officers such as Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Edward St John Harris-St John of Sheldons, and Major General Herbert Cayzer (who was non-resident). Leading residents besides the military were Frederick J. Wrottesley esq. KC of Manor Farm, Mrs Joseph Bell, Newnham Green Farm, Mrs Hewlett Brook at Barn Elms, Mortimer

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<sup>65</sup> *Census*, 1881. Local Government Board order no. 10,102, 8 December 1879. HRO, 42M91/PX8.

<sup>66</sup> *Newnham Census*, 1851 to 1911.

<sup>67</sup> *Kelly's Dir.* (Hants and I of W), 1903, 240-1.

<sup>68</sup> *Census*, 1911.

<sup>69</sup> *Kelly's Dir.* (Hants, Wilts and Dorset), 1920, 253.

<sup>70</sup> *Census*, 1911.

<sup>71</sup> TNA, RG12/958; RG13/1109.

Pechell at Newnham Hill.<sup>72</sup> By 1931 Harris-St John was still a leading landowner but he had moved out of Sheldons.<sup>73</sup> At the other end of the social scale there appeared to be plenty of employment in agriculture, industry and on the railway with no one in 1911 recorded as out of work or a pauper.<sup>74</sup>

Many other retired senior military officers lived in the parish in the early part of the 20th century. Admiral Sir Archibald L. Douglas, retired, resided at Newnham rectory in 1911 where he employed a manservant, two housemaids and a cook.<sup>75</sup> Frank Matthews, retired colonel, lived at the Old Raven, which had ceased to be a pub some 10 years previously, where he employed a butler, a cook, two housemaids and a kitchen maid. Lt Col. Alfred Henry Carter lived at Oaklands in 1911 where he employed a French lady's maid, a cook and a parlourmaid.<sup>76</sup> Mortimer Pechell, Captain and Hon. Major of militia (retired) lived at Newnham Hill where, in 1901 he employed a governess, a French cook and a maid and in 1911, a ladies maid, a parlour maid, a nurse and a cook. Colonel George Francis Leveson at Sheldons.<sup>77</sup> Brigadier Generals E.W.S.K. Maconchy and W.D. Sclater-Booth were in residence between 1920 and 1927.<sup>78</sup>

Besides the more prosperous members of the local society there was also a flourishing community of skilled artisans and labourers. These were usually tenants in the cottages, but some owned property. Often they had large families and their children played on Newnham Green where early in the 20th century games of cricket were organised for them.

The geographical origins of the population became steadily more diverse from 1851 to 1911. In 1851 85 per cent of the residents were born in Hampshire but by 1911 this had fallen to 65 per cent. In both years most of the incomers were born in southern England but the origins of the rest were more diverse by 1911 including Switzerland, France, South Africa and Canada.<sup>79</sup>

### ***1932 to 2019 after the creation of Hook parish***

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<sup>72</sup> *Kelly's Dir.* (Hants and I of W), 1923, 256-7, 301.

<sup>73</sup> *Kelly's Dir.* (Hants), 1931, 255.

<sup>74</sup> *Census*, 1911.

<sup>75</sup> *Census*, 1911.

<sup>76</sup> *Census*, 1911.

<sup>77</sup> *Kelly's Dir.* (Hants and I of W), 1915, 253-4.

<sup>78</sup> *Census*, 1911; *Kellys Dir.*(Hants), 1920

<sup>79</sup> *Census* 1911

Newnham parish and society were fundamentally transformed in 1932 when the new parish of Hook was created and those portions of Newnham and Nately Scures civil parishes not included in the new parish of Hook were amalgamated as Newnham.<sup>80</sup> This parish was consolidated in the western portion of the old parish around Newnham Green with the settlement of Nately Scures to the south added to it. Newnham Green remained a focus for its residents but it is unlikely that the inhabitants of Nately Scures felt part of Newnham parish. On the other hand, the social link between Newnham and Hook continued to be fostered as the religious parish was Hook with Newnham, united under one rector with many shared activities such as the Mothers' Union held in Hook.

Some fine houses were no longer in Newnham such as Hook House and Sheldons but the rectory and Nately Scures became part of Newnham. Newnham village society was led by Mrs F.W.E. Bell, Newnham Green farm; Brig-Gen Hon Walter Dashwood Sclater-Booth of Newnham House and Sir Frederick John Wrottesley of Manor Farm.<sup>81</sup> General Maconchy was also a leading personage until his death in 1943, when his widow continued his work, organising events such as the summer fête.<sup>82</sup>

By 1948 Viscount James Edward (T D) Fitz-Harris lived at Newnham House and succeeded his father as earl of Malmesbury in 1950.<sup>83</sup> Fitz-Harris had married the daughter of the last Lord Dorchester and she inherited the lordship of the manor. Their son James became earl of Malmesbury in 2000 and was still lord of the manor in 2019 but lived at Greywell Hill House. John and Lady Sylvia Maltby lived at Newnham House in 1968 and Denys and Jean Oppé at Manor Farm.<sup>84</sup>

From the mid 20th century, cottages inhabited by agricultural tenants were sold off to business executives often working in London who modernised and improved the properties.<sup>85</sup>

By 2011 Newnham society was largely transformed. 518 people lived in 217 households. Only one person was reported as working in agriculture. Fifty per cent of the working population were in managerial, professional and technical work, another

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<sup>80</sup> County of Southampton Review Order, 1932.

<sup>81</sup> *Kelly's Dir. (Hants and I of W)*, 1939, 330.

<sup>82</sup> HRO, 39A04/12, 24.

<sup>83</sup> *Debrett's peerage*, 1957, 773.

<sup>84</sup> *Basingstoke Dir.*, 1968.

<sup>85</sup> Nigel Bell, pers. comm., 15 March 2019.

13 per cent were in administrative and secretarial occupations while only nine per cent were in skilled trades and five per cent operated process plants and machines. Twenty-eight per cent of the total population were retired but only one per cent was long term unemployed. Nearly every household had central heating and the average number of rooms per household was 6.7. Only 15 households did not own a car, 119 owned two to four cars. Ninety-three per cent of residents were born in the UK and only four per cent were born outside Europe.<sup>86</sup> Wealthy residents continued to inhabit large houses around Newnham Green.

## 2. Communal Life

### ***Social activities of religious organisations***

Newnham church was a focal point for parishioners and fundraising for its maintenance promoted social activities. Until the early 20th century there was no village hall but church social activities took place in Newnham school on Hook common. For example, concerts were held in the school in the late 19th century to raise funds for maintaining the church.<sup>87</sup> From 1881 Newnham had an active branch of the Church of England Temperance Society which by 1883 had recruited 71 abstainers and 97 members of the Band of Hope.<sup>88</sup> In April 1888 it met at Newnham school where children, who were members of the Band of Hope, sang.<sup>89</sup> Social events were still held in the school in the first decade of the 20th century with for example, dances to raise funds for the school library and the football club.<sup>90</sup>

A Girl Guide Company and a Brownie Pack were formed in Hook in April 1920 and often held joint entertainments. Little is known about the Girl Guides but the 1st Hook Brownie pack started with a Brown Owl and two Sixes. By the end of that year the pack numbered 14 and it reached a peak of 30 by the end of 1922. The location of the meeting place is not known, but weekly meetings took place with games, stories, talks, making scrap books and learning semaphore. Brownies 'flew up' into the Guides at the age of 10. An annual District Sports Day took place in May and there

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<sup>86</sup> <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=1170214329>, accessed 6 Jan. 2019.

<sup>87</sup> See for example, *Hants and Berks Gaz.*, 28 Apr. 1888.

<sup>88</sup> *Hampshire Chronicle*, 10 Mar. 1883.

<sup>89</sup> *Hants and Berks Gaz.*, 21 Apr. 1888.

<sup>90</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1.

were special events on Empire Day. There were various rallies and church parades during the year. The strength of the movement may be judged by the fact that its jumble sale raised over £22 in 1924. It appears that these organisations were still in existence when Hook became a separate parish in 1932.<sup>91</sup>

### ***Village halls and community centres***

In 1908 Mortimer Pechell built the Pechell or Red Room near Newnham pound to celebrate his silver wedding and provide Newnham with a meeting place. This corrugated-iron building was used for village functions, including whist drives, and, during the First World War was opened weekly for off-duty soldiers stationed nearby as a canteen and rest room. By 1930 there was also a village hall in Elms Road, Hook, where Scouts, Guides and Brownies and the Youth Club met. There was also a billiards room. The hall was a venue for wedding receptions, whist drives, concerts and ballroom dancing lessons.<sup>92</sup>

### ***Amateur sport***

*Fishing.* Baroness Dorchester sold for £2,000 over 10 a. of water meadows on the river Whitewater near the Crooked Billet in 1921, which included 1,000 yards of trout fishing opposite the Crooked Billet.<sup>93</sup> Unfortunately, no records survive of who was permitted to fish there. However, in the sale of Hook House in 1872 the Whitewater was described as a good trout stream suggesting that rights could be obtained; the sale documents also advertised the local hunts.<sup>94</sup> A football club was mentioned in 1905 but no details are known.<sup>95</sup>

### ***Recreational space***

Friendly cricket matches took place between local teams on Newnham Green in the late 19th century and children's games were organised in the early 20th century by Mildred Pechell.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> HRO, 22M97/1

<sup>92</sup> *Hook Focus, Special Millenium Edition, 2000, 12.*

<sup>93</sup> HRO, 79M82/72/1.

<sup>94</sup> HRO, 79M82/72/1; 10M57/506.

<sup>95</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1.

<sup>96</sup> See for example, *Hants and Berks Gaz.*, 23 Jun. 1888. N. Bell, *pers. comm.*, 11 Mar. 2019.

## ***National Events***

As in other parishes, national events were celebrated by the ringing of the church bells. In September 1761, for example, 6s. 0d. was paid to the bell ringers at the coronation of George III. Similarly, bell ringers were paid for ringing for 'gunpowder treason' on 5 November each year.<sup>97</sup> A war memorial was erected on common land near the A 30 in 1920 to commemorate those from Newnham, Nately Scures and Hook killed in the First World War. Since 1932 the war memorial has been in the parish of Hook.<sup>98</sup>

## **1932 to 2019**

### ***Social activities of religious organisations.***

At least from 1934 but excluding the war years, there was an annual day excursion for the Sunday school and church helpers to, for example, Portsmouth and Southsea, Hayling Island, Littlehampton or Bournemouth.<sup>99</sup> Similarly, by 1934 a Mother's Union for Hook and Newnham parish met in Hook, continuing the old links between Newnham and Hook. Following the rearrangement of the benefice in 1956, a new Mother's Union was formed, recognizing the extent of the new benefice, by recruiting from Newnham, Nately Scures, Mapledurwell and Up Nately.<sup>100</sup> A bus collected members for meetings which were held monthly in Newnham clubroom. Jumble sales were also organized for fund-raising.<sup>101</sup> By 1960 numbers had shrunk and meetings often took place in the rectory at Nately Scures.<sup>102</sup> In 1965 the Mother's Union was again meeting monthly in Newnham club room but as a sign of changing times, the bus had become too expensive and people who required transport were picked up in cars. Did this also reflect much wider car ownership or their use by the women of the parish?<sup>103</sup>

A Girls' Friendly Society was established for Hook and Newnham in 1937 which again united the parishes and sent parcels from 1940 to men serving overseas.<sup>104</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> HRO, 67M80/PW1 Newnham Churchwardens' rate and account book 1724-1797 (unpaginated)

<sup>98</sup> <http://hook.gov.uk/scrapbook/remembrance/> accessed 31 Jan. 2019.

<sup>99</sup> HRO, 39A04/1-27, 26M84/PZ5.

<sup>100</sup> See Religious History.

<sup>101</sup> HRO, 39A04/

<sup>102</sup> HRO, 39A04/27.

<sup>103</sup> HRO, 26M84/PZ9.

<sup>104</sup> HRO, 39A04/7.24.

## **Second World War**

There were some evacuees in Newnham, including some from Southampton, but they seem to have remained for only about a year.<sup>105</sup> An Air Raid Precautions Committee was set up in 1938 and various 'comforts' were sent to local men serving overseas in 1940. A Welcome Home Fund, set up under the War Charities Act 1940, was opened in December 1945 and closed in September 1946. The sum raised by public subscription, a sale and a dance amounted to £129 9s. 6d. The proceeds were spent partly on a welcome-home fête but mainly on the provision of wallets for returned ex-service men and women.<sup>106</sup> There are four Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves in Newnham churchyard but their links to Newnham residents are not apparent. There were no civilian casualties in Newnham village resulting from air raids during the war but one incident resulted in the deaths of servicemen.

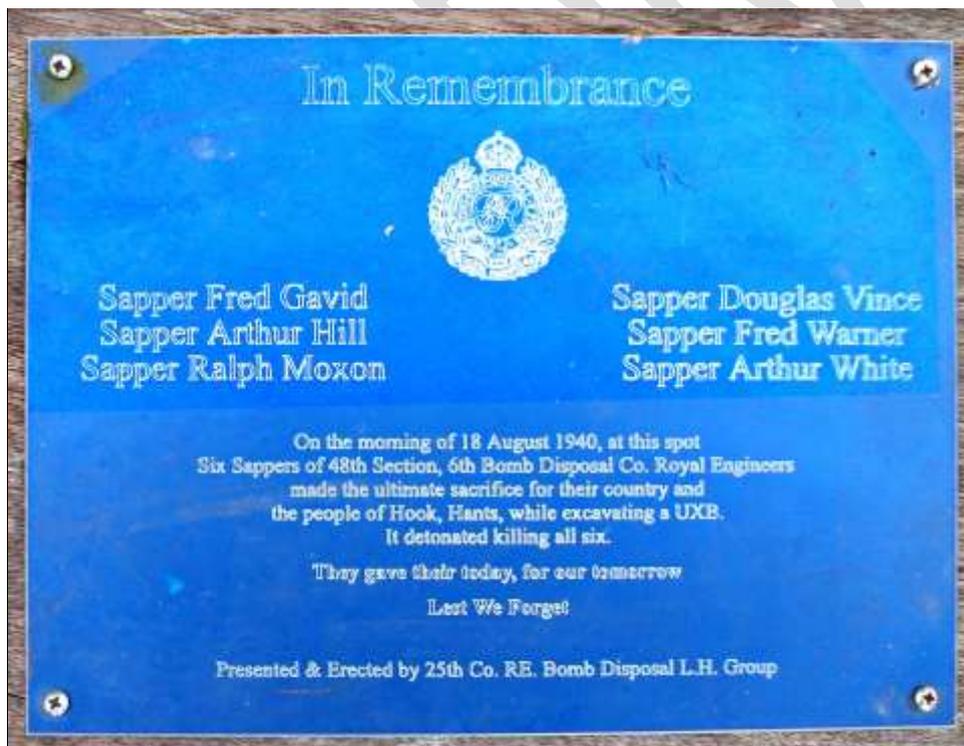


Fig1 *Plaque imbedded in the ground at the entrance to the former brickworks*

<sup>105</sup> Nigel Bell, *pers. comm.*

<sup>106</sup> HRO, H/CL5/1H/114.; Hook, Newnham and Nately Scures Welcome Home Fund.

In August 1940, one of two bombs which fell on the railway embankment in the west of the parish did not explode. However, it detonated during the course of excavation, killing six Sappers of the Royal Engineers. A plaque (Fig. 1) was erected close to the place where they died beside the railway bridge in Crown Lane and they are also commemorated in a plaque in Newnham church.

### ***Village halls and community centres***



*Fig 2 Club Room, Newnham 2019.*

The Red Room was well used for many years but, after the Second World War the villagers found the room too small and lacking in facilities. A committee was set up to acquire a piece of land on the Newnham Road on which to build a larger and more durable village meeting place. Men and women from the community constructed the new Club Room working in the evenings and at weekends and it was opened on 22

April 1954.<sup>107</sup> By the 21st century this structure had deteriorated and become unsafe. A new hall was needed but raising the necessary £140,000 and securing of planning permission proved to be very difficult so the new building was not opened until 2010.<sup>108</sup> (Fig 2.) The clubroom in 2019 offered a large hall which could accommodate 60 people, a galley kitchen and car parking for 40 vehicles. In 2019 exercise and dance classes took place there, together with hall and parish council meetings. Hook Brownies met there weekly and it was available for private hire.<sup>109</sup>

The village committee tried from 1947 to enhance and unite village life in the civil parish of Newnham and Nately Scures by organizing treats for the children of each village.<sup>110</sup>

### ***Inns and alehouses***

In the early and mid-20th century, the Old House at Home pub on Newnham Green, had separate public and private bars but no restaurant and was a regular meeting place for men; women would sometimes accompany their husbands but would seldom visit alone. Locals could play dominoes and darts. The pub had its own darts team who participated in the Hampshire League. In Hook, the White Hart and the Old White Hart were similar social centres. In earlier times the Old Raven, on the London Road, is likely to have been comparable, while the Crooked Billet by the Whitewater River and the Dorchester Arms (now the Hogget) on Hook Common were more geared for passing trade.

The Old House at Home on Newnham Green (Fig 3) closed in 2017 and reopened in 2018.<sup>111</sup> The owners promoted it as a village pub offering good quality locally sourced food and Hampshire gins and vodkas. In 2019 it was difficult to assess if it would prove to be a local social centre rather than a restaurant with passing trade.<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> *Hants and Berks Gazette* 30 Apr. 1954.

<sup>108</sup> Nigel. Bell, grandson of Mortimer Pechell, *pers. comm.*, 20 Jul. 2014; <http://newnhamclubroom.org.uk/>, accessed 8 Jan. 2019.

<sup>109</sup> <http://newnhamclubroom.org.uk/availability-page/> accessed 31 Jan. 2019.

<sup>110</sup> HRO, 39A04/14.

<sup>111</sup> See Economic History.

<sup>112</sup> <https://www.oldhousenewnham.uk/> accessed 15 Feb. 2019.



Fig 3 The Old House at Home, Newnham Green.

## **Amateur sport**

### *Cricket.*

Founded in 1936 Hook and Newnham Basics cricket club is based on King George V playing fields, Hook, but provides sporting opportunities for the residents of Newnham (fig 4). It is a thriving club which runs a few Saturday teams and a Sunday team, plus youth teams for boys and girls.<sup>113</sup> A lawn tennis club open to Newnham residents also meets there.<sup>114</sup>

In 2019 the residents of Newnham and Nately Scures appeared to rely mainly on amenities in Hook or Basingstoke for much of their social life.

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.hnbcc.co.uk/>, accessed 08 Jan. 2019.

<sup>114</sup> <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/hookandnewnhamlawntennisclub> accessed 05 Feb. 2019.



*Fig 4 Hook and Newnham Basics cricket club*

### **3. Education**

#### ***Pre-1870***

A Parliamentary report dated 1835 describes a school in Newnham, established in 1833, attended by eight boys and eight girls paid for by the parish. It also referred to two Sunday schools, commenced in 1820, one attended by 10 children receiving free instruction from the rector. The location of these is not known. Another Sunday school was conducted by Independent Dissenters (Primitive Methodists) attended by 18 children, probably held in the chapel in Newnham Lane established in 1816.<sup>115</sup>

Between c.1830 and 1878 Mrs Webb, a widow, assisted by her sister Miss Parsons ran a boarding school for young ladies in Rose Cottage, now The Grange, adjacent to the former iron foundry on the London Road in the centre of Hook village.

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<sup>115</sup> *Education Enquiry: Abstract of the Answers and Returns* (Parl. Papers 1835 (62) ii).

This operated for over 40 years.<sup>116</sup> The first moves towards the establishment of a National school in Newnham, then known as Hook Green, began in 1842, quite an early date for such a foundation.<sup>117</sup> On 27 May in that year, Benjamin Thorne of Basingstoke gave an estimate of £285 for the building, which was to include the provision of desks and seats but not the heating;<sup>118</sup> however a directory dated 1895 states that the initial construction cost was £470.<sup>119</sup>

In March 1843 Corpus Christi College, Oxford conveyed an acre of commonable or waste land on Hook Common, lying between the railway and the turnpike road from Basingstoke, to the rector of Nately Scures and the vicar of Odiham, trustees of the new school. Corpus Christi was the owner of Hooklands in Newnham, immediately to the north of the plot, and had rights of common over it. Guy Carleton, the lord of the manor, was a co-signatory to the conveyance.<sup>120</sup> The rectors and vicar of Odiham were to have exclusive use to teach the children between 11.30am and 12.00pm on week days and during the whole of Saturdays and Sundays, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and Ascension Day.<sup>121</sup> The building had evidently been approved and begun as the school opened later in 1843.<sup>122</sup> The identity of the builder has not been confirmed and the source of the funding is not known. The design must have changed from the sketch below as in 1901 there is reference to removal of a bell turret.<sup>123</sup>

There was one teacher and only one classroom measuring 36ft. x 18ft. (11m. x 5.5m.) (Fig.5).<sup>124</sup> Besides Newnham's children, it was intended to cater for the parish of Nately Scures and the hamlet of Hook. (A substantial part of Hook was then in the parish of Odiham.)

Parents had to pay 3d. per week for each child to attend. Hymns, prayers and scripture lessons started the day. Prizes were given to encourage regular attendance but there were many absences at harvest and fruit picking times.<sup>125</sup> Revd T.C. Wilks, curate of Hook, complained in a letter dated 1857 that he was 'a little bit

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<sup>116</sup> HRO, 118A12/C4.

<sup>117</sup> HRO, 29A06/12; *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1889), 700.

<sup>118</sup> HRO, 12M49/A54/7.

<sup>119</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1895), 221.

<sup>120</sup> HRO, 12M49/A54/8; CCCO/F/Ch/40/1.

<sup>121</sup> CCCO/F/Ch/40/1.

<sup>122</sup> VCH iv, 1911, 156.

<sup>123</sup> HRO, 210M85/148.

<sup>124</sup> HRO, 20M65/64/2; *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1889), 177, 152, 354, 700.

<sup>125</sup> HRO, 29A06/12.

uncomfortable' as the trustees had the power to forbid him from taking any part in the instruction of the children suggesting some managerial dispute.<sup>126</sup>

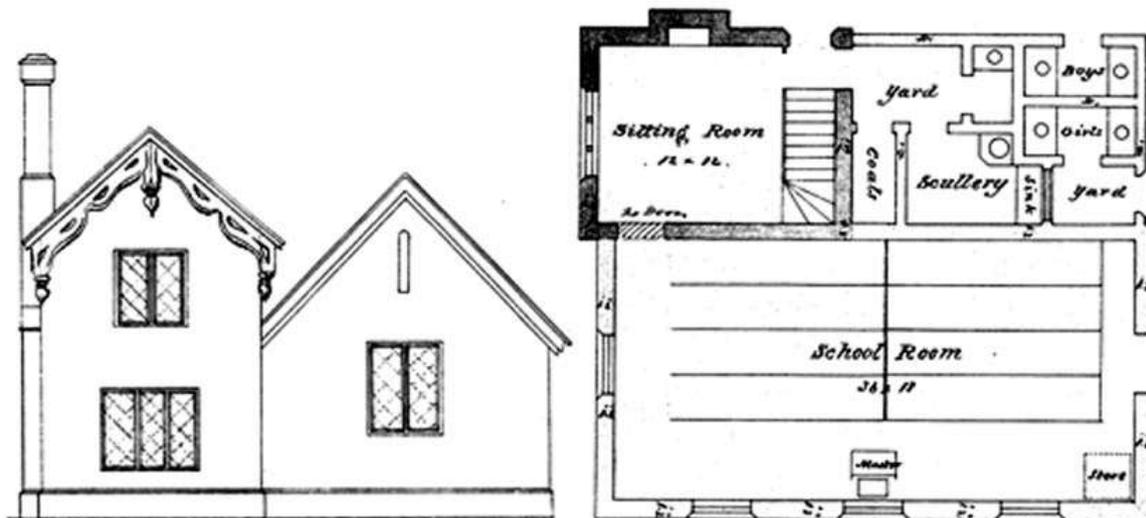


Fig. 5 Plan of the proposed school building, drawn in 1842

The 1851 census shows Robert and Maria Kingham as master and mistress;<sup>127</sup> in 1859 the teachers were Albert and Martha Jackman,<sup>128</sup> but the teacher's house is listed as unoccupied in the 1861 census.<sup>129</sup>

### 1870-1901

By 1872 the progressive expansion of Hook village had put pressure on the original building and the school became known as the Hook Church of England School although still being within Newnham parish. At that time it had accommodation for 81 children, of which only 41 lived in Newnham, and it was suggested that the school be enlarged to accommodate 160 pupils.<sup>130</sup> By June of that year the pressure and an inadequate salary had taken its toll on the schoolmaster, 23 year old William Beach, and he gave notice to leave. The following year the rector of Newnham informed the Education Department that 'the school of this parish has been shut up for more than

<sup>126</sup> HRO, 325M87/3/4.

<sup>127</sup> *Census*, 1851

<sup>128</sup> *White's Dir. Hants.* (1859), 497.

<sup>129</sup> *Census*, 1861.

<sup>130</sup> TNA, PRO ED 2/202.

12 months. All during this time the children have been without means of education.'<sup>131</sup>

Inspectors' reports in the years 1872 and 1873 show that there was considerable argument as to the amounts to be paid by each parish to maintain education for its children.<sup>132</sup> A school board consisting of five members for Newnham, Nately Scures and part of Odiham was set up under the 1870 Education Act in 1874 with Revd W.M. Fletcher as chairman.<sup>133</sup> After the lengthy period of closure, the school was extended in 1875 (Fig. 2),<sup>134</sup> when a second classroom and a separate infant school were added at a cost of £486.<sup>135</sup> (Fig 6).

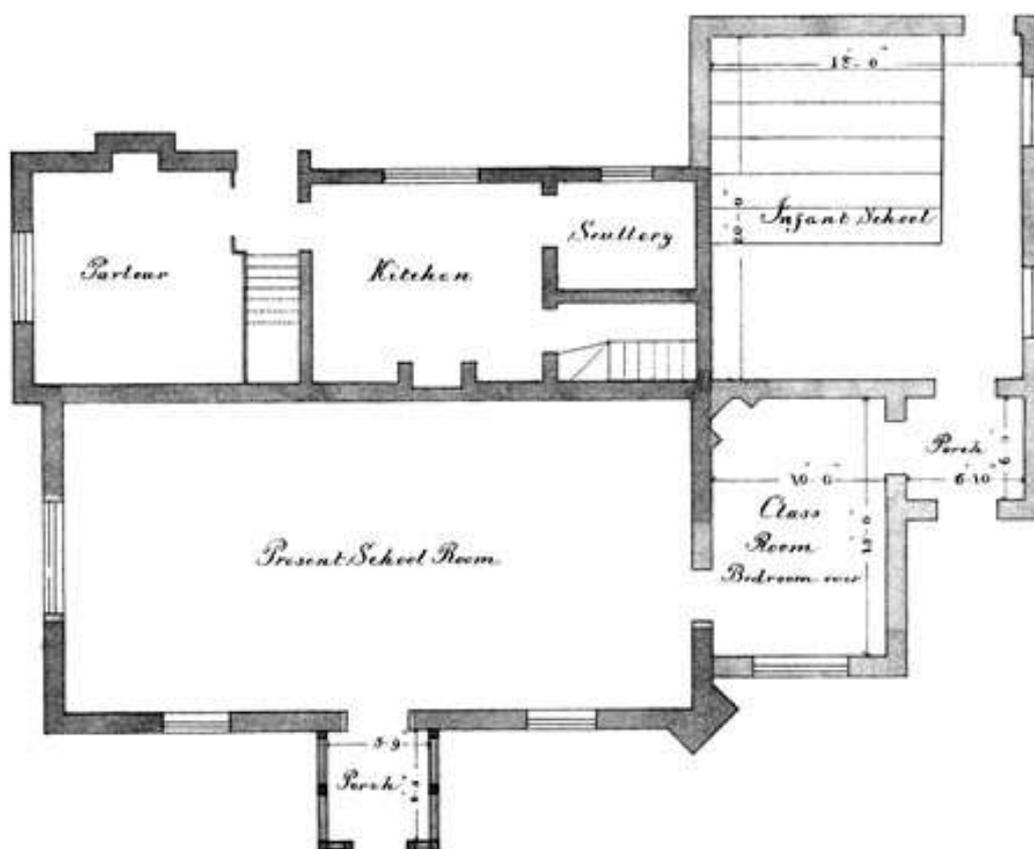


Fig. 6 Plan showing the proposed 1875 alterations

<sup>131</sup> TNA, PRO ED 2/202; TNA, RG10/1235/85-92.

<sup>132</sup> TNA, PRO ED 2/202; TNA, RG10/1235/85-92.

<sup>133</sup> HRO, 29A06/12; *Kelly's Dir. Hants* (1895), 221.

<sup>134</sup> HRO, 20M65/64/3; *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1898), 199.

<sup>135</sup> TNA, PRO ED 2/202; HRO, 47M81/PJ16.

In 1876 the rectors of Nately Scures and Newnham conveyed the schoolhouse and land to the united district of Newnham school board.<sup>136</sup> The annual statement of accounts for 1875 shows that out of a total income of £524, £63 had been contributed by the parish of Odiham.<sup>137</sup> Two teachers, Joseph (66) and Hannah Foster (68) moved into the schoolhouse at Newnham by 1881,<sup>138</sup> shortly replaced by Henry Grimes who moved from the British School in Hartley Wintney.<sup>139</sup>

While much is known about the progressive increase in the size of the school, little early evidence appears to have survived as to what went on within it, beyond meetings of the school board reported in the local press. Thus, a typical example read:

'The Board School here for the united district of Newnham, Nately Scures and a portion of Odiham was inspected last month. The school is reported as "good" and a practical confirmation of this is afforded by the fact that the grant this year amounts to the large sum of £95 16s. 7d., being greatly in excess of the sum received in any previous year. The percentage of children who passed is 81, and of these the greater number passed in all three subjects. The order of the school is commended, and the needlework receives special praise. The infants have been successfully taught. Great credit is due to the master, Mr Grimes, for this result, in which he has been ably assisted by Mrs Gratrix and Miss Clatworthy. While the general education of the children has been attended to, the scripture instruction has not been neglected. The children were examined in scripture knowledge on the 3rd inst. by the Revd D.W. Chute, who has reported to the managers as follows: "The Bible portions are thoroughly taught in each class and cover a great deal of ground. Repetition is careful and accurate. The teaching appears to have been carried on with intelligence and earnestness and the children seem to be thoroughly interested". The several classes are reported on as uniformly good, and the work of the infants in Old Testament is described as excellent.'

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<sup>136</sup> HRO, 48M71/28.

<sup>137</sup> HRO, 47M81/PJ16.

<sup>138</sup> *Census*, 1881.

<sup>139</sup> *Census*, 1881.

<sup>140</sup> *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 15 Mar. 1884.

Further alterations were made to the school in 1895 at a cost of £650 providing accommodation for 160 mixed and 90 infants (average attendance 113 and 43 respectively).<sup>141</sup>

## **1902-1975**

In February 1904 the first meeting of managers was held. They were represented by county council representatives F. Barker, S. and J. Morris and minor authority representatives F. Hayden and H. Rowell. Revd R.B. Atty was the chairman.<sup>142</sup>

However, a surveyor's report on conditions in the school in 1904 gives clues as to the conditions that existed in earlier times. He said that:

'The centre of the schoolroom was badly lighted.

Water obtained from a well by an iron pump in the girls' playground. It was a low type of water and unsuitable for children to drink.

Rainwater was collected in covered galvanised tanks for washing.

There were four privies for boys and three for girls, but the privy pits were in a very foul and dirty state.

Lavatory waste discharged into a ditch in the woods.

During heavy rain water flowed from bottom of the playground into the infants' room.

Infants' room floor has a hole in it – appears to have been eaten through by rats.<sup>143</sup>

In an annex to the surveyor's report, no suggestion could be made as to how to improve the drinking water as the well had already been deepened three times. A water cart had been tried in the past but found to be very unsatisfactory. In 1907 it was proposed to put in a new well and pump, retaining the old pump to draw water for washing purposes.<sup>144</sup> Mains water did not reach the school until 1910.<sup>145</sup> Mr Grimes and Mrs Baldwin still taught at the school in 1907, assisted by Miss Clara

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<sup>141</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1907), 265; HRO, 26M84/PJ1 (unpag.), 9 Feb. 1904.

<sup>142</sup> HRO, 26M84.

<sup>143</sup> HRO, 48M71/28, Surveyor's report on council school conditions, 1904.

<sup>144</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1 (unpag.).

<sup>145</sup> HRO, 29A06/12.

Norris as the infants' mistress.<sup>146</sup> Continued accommodation problems were eased in 1910 by excluding children under 5 years.<sup>147</sup> As late as 1912 there were 56 children being taught in a room intended for about 30. The gallery was removed to make more space and 40 new desks were supplied.<sup>148</sup>

Teaching staff had been uncertificated in the early years, but the existing conditions created problems in retaining them. It soon became necessary to employ certificated teachers and to remunerate them in accordance with pay scales that reflected the difficulties under which they were working. The early rates are not known but, before the introduction of the Education Act of 1902, the headmistress's salary was £60 per annum while other teachers received £26 and the monitresses £9 2s. and £6 10s. By the end of 1905 the salaries of the teachers had already risen to £72 and £33 15s., and that of the junior monitress to £13 10s. with regular increases thereafter. The payment of reasonable salaries appears to have solved the difficulties of retention and, when teacher Mrs Ellen Baldwyn and headmaster Mr Henry Grimes, aged 51 and 64 respectively, resigned in 1911/2 they had been working in the school for 23 and 30 years respectively.<sup>149</sup> Two of Mr Grimes' six daughters also taught in the school.<sup>150</sup> Despite the difficulties, it was generally reported that the tone of the school was good. An Inspector reported in 1909 that 'The teaching generally is on intelligent lines and reaches a very fair standard and there are no conspicuous defects.'<sup>151</sup>

Presumably to raise funds, the managers agreed to hire out the schoolroom for political meetings and social activities.<sup>152</sup> They also applied for gas to be laid on so that evening classes could be run, but this was declined.<sup>153</sup>

The question of 22 children coming from Lyde Mill, Crooked Billet, Holt and Murrell Green at distances between 1¾ and 2¼ miles (2.8km. and 3.6km.) was raised in 1913. The school managers recommended that transport should be

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<sup>146</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1907), 265.

<sup>147</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, 15 Feb. 1910.

<sup>148</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, 18 Jun. 1912; 24 Sep. 1912.

<sup>149</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, passim.

<sup>150</sup> 1911 *Census*.

<sup>151</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, 26 Mar. 1909.

<sup>152</sup> HRO, H/CX12/2/vol III, 330; HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, various. Also see *Social History* (to be written).

<sup>153</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, 18 Jun. 1912.

provided but the only solution was to transfer four children living at Murrell Green to Hartley Wintney school; no assistance was offered to the other children.<sup>154</sup>

During the First World War there were several extended periods of closure due to poor attendance, measles and flu epidemics.<sup>155</sup> After the war, an ex-army hut was installed for physical exercise classes.<sup>156</sup> Boys were instructed in gardening and girls in housewifery in 1921.<sup>157</sup> The residence of a school attendance officer, Charles Thorne, in Newnham was recorded in 1915 and attendance rose to 93 per cent in 1923.<sup>158</sup> During the 1920s and 1930s Miss Temblett opened a small school in South View in the Newnham Road overlooking Jubilee Green.<sup>159</sup>

In the boundary revision of 1932 Newnham school fell in the newly-created civil parish of Hook. Although it was situated at the extreme limit of the village the building was too substantial and established to demolish and continued to be used for another 43 years. Electricity was laid on in 1934. A detached building was erected to the rear of the existing site in 1946 for a kitchen and dining room<sup>160</sup> and in 1964 access to an additional plot of land on the common behind the kitchen was granted by Corpus Christi for use as a playing field.<sup>161</sup>

Perhaps as a response to the inconvenient location of the school, Miss Lunn offered private tuition in her home at the west end of Jubilee Green for twelve children. This ran from the 1930s to 1960s.<sup>162</sup> Children from the council school began to transfer to a new junior school opened in Ravenscroft in the centre of Hook in 1971. Pupil numbers must have increased steadily at Newnham as a temporary classroom was constructed in 1974 in the woodland with space reserved for a future second classroom should it be required.<sup>163</sup>

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<sup>154</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, 16 Dec 1913.

<sup>155</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, various.

<sup>156</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, 7 Oct. 1919.

<sup>157</sup> HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, 27 Sep. 1921.

<sup>158</sup> *Kelly's Dir. Hants.* (1915), 299; HRO, 26M84/PJ1, School Managers' Minute Book, 1904-1939, 26 Jun. 1923.

<sup>159</sup> E. Hancock, *A Concise History of Hook's Schools*, Hook Local History Society archives

<sup>160</sup> CCCO/F/Ch/40/4.

<sup>161</sup> CCCO/F/Ch/40/5.

<sup>162</sup> E. Hancock, *A Concise History of Hook's Schools*, Hook Local History Society archives.

<sup>163</sup> CCCO/F/Ch/40/6.



*Fig. 7 The much altered National School building, a private residence since 1975.*

The council passed ownership back to Corpus Christi in 1975 and the school closed. It was purchased for £15,000 and converted into a private dwelling with permission to use the detached classroom as a garage and the former kitchen and canteen as a day nursery<sup>164</sup> (occupied by an architectural design company in 2018).

In 2018 pre-school nurseries were available in Natley Scures and Hook. Primary school children attended Hook Infant and Junior schools or Whitewater C.E. Primary school in Rotherwick while secondary pupils fell in the catchment area of Robert May's School in Odiham. Sixth form students attended either Basingstoke Technical College, Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke or Alton or Farnborough Sixth Form Colleges.

## **4. Social Welfare**

### ***Charities for the poor***

A charity, the Duke of Bolton's Gift, was set up by the then duke's will of 9 April 1694. From 1786 to 1806 Newnham recipients received a total annual payment of £7

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<sup>164</sup> CCCO/F/Ch/40/7.

4s. 0d. divided between six and 11 recipients by the parish overseers for the poor.<sup>165</sup> The charity was set up 'For the benefit of the poor, and was to provide 'Clothing, Bedding, Fuel, Tools, Medical Aid, Food etc in kind and temporary assistance in money in case of sickness, special distress or unexpected loss'. The whole proceeds of the charity were shared with Basing, Basingstoke, Sherfield on Loddon, Weston Patrick and Winslade. Newnham's share in 1895 was still £7 4s. 0d. which was divided among 14 aged and widowed persons. The share in 1904, 1905, 1908, 1910 and 1933 was £6 0s. 0d. and that amount was generally translated into goods as the money 'might not be well spent'.<sup>166</sup> In 1933 the Charity Commission revised the scheme after the creation of the parish of Hook and decreed that in future one representative trustee should be appointed by the parish council of Newnham and the other by the parish council of Hook. The sum to be spent on selected poor people remained £6.<sup>167</sup> The fund was too small to be effective and ceased payments from 1987 and the charity was finally removed from the register in February 2000.<sup>168</sup> In 2019 the duke's charity still existed in Sherfield on Loddon and Basingstoke.<sup>169</sup>

### **Poor Relief**

As elsewhere parish overseers were responsible for the care of the poor. There is occasional evidence of the parish overseers paying to apprentice boys from the parish as in 1768 when £15 was paid to bind Daniel Grace to Edward Blanchard of Overton, shoemaker until Daniel was 21 years of age.<sup>170</sup> In 1775-6 £139 was spent on the poor by the overseers of Newnham. In 1783-85 an average of £111 was spent. Following the national pattern, expenditure rose rapidly during the French wars to £219 in 1795-6 and £267 in 1796-7. After which it fell slightly but then peaked at £364 in 1800-01 and £326 in 1801-2 before falling to £265 in 1802-3 after ten years of French wars. All the expenditure was on out-relief.<sup>171</sup> Poor rates were

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<sup>165</sup> HRO, 67M80/PO1; 16M79/2.

<sup>166</sup> HRO 11M49/E/K5 *passim*.

<sup>167</sup> HRO 42M91/PX26/1. Charity Commission charity number 239051.

<sup>168</sup> Geoff Ford *pers. comm.*, 15 Apr. 2019.

<sup>169</sup> Charity 237360, 204040-13,

<http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Showcharity/RegisterOfCharities/Subsidiaries.aspx?RegisteredCharityNumber=204040&SubsidiaryNumber=13> accessed 05 Feb. 2019.

<sup>170</sup> HRO, 67M80/PW1.

<sup>171</sup> *Parl. Papers* 1803-04 (175).

collected much more frequently and at a higher rate in the pound in 1800-02 than in 1796-97.<sup>172</sup>

In 1802-3, 11 adults and 14 children were on permanent out relief while 40 people were relieved occasionally.<sup>173</sup> Each month the overseers paid out to a list of those on permanent relief which in 1795-6 amounted to c. £4 14s. a month for 10 recipients; by 1797-8 there were 15 regular recipients costing £6 16s. a month, by 1800-01 recipients had risen to 18 costing £10 7s. 0d. and in 1801-02 15 recipients cost c. £14 each month. The regular recipients also received one-off payments for clothing and other benefits. Monthly payments fell to £11 by 1805-06. Occasional relief included payments to the sick and for nursing the sick, laying them out and burying them; lodging of pauper widows and children; providing shoes, cloth and clothing, wood bavons, wine, malt and mending shoes. Many people received a number of one-off payments such as in 1801 when 6s. worth of beer and wine was given to Jane Carely, then £4s. 0d. was paid to Dame Budd for nursing Carely and other payments to Carely followed during the year.

There were also fees for examination of paupers, removing and collecting them and for marrying pauper couples. For example, the overseers paid 2s. to examine, establish settlement rights in Newnham and collect the pregnant Ann Grove from Eversley, from where she was the subject of a removal order in July 1796.<sup>174</sup> Grove received payments from the overseers for at least the next five years but some of the money was recovered from the father, John Eels of Eversley, labourer, under a bastardy bond, from 1796 to 1800.<sup>175</sup> The overseers from 1797 to 1805 also paid £7 a year rent for 'the Bilett houses', initially to Henry Luff and in 1805 to Mr Webb: their purpose is not evident but they may have provided housing for individual poor people or families.<sup>176</sup> Accounts do not survive after this date so it is not known whether use of the houses continued.

Quite generous payments were made to travellers with passes in the 18th century, for example, in 1736 the churchwardens gave a woman on the road 1s. 6d. In other years payments of 1s., 6d., 1s. 2d. were made.<sup>177</sup> From 1796 to 1806 there were

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<sup>172</sup> HRO, 67M80/PO1.

<sup>173</sup> *Parl. Papers* 1803-4 (175); HRO, 67M80/PO1.

<sup>174</sup> HRO, 6M77/PO2/42; 67M80/PO1.

<sup>175</sup> HRO, 6M77/PO13/1; 67M80/PO1.

<sup>176</sup> HRO, 67M80/PO1.

<sup>177</sup> HRO 67M80/PW1 (unpaginated) Newnham Churchwardens' rate and account book 1724-1797.

frequent payments of 2d. to 6d. to travellers with a pass going through Newnham.<sup>178</sup> Working people moved between Newnham and Odiham parishes and overseers enforced the settlement laws if they were likely to be or, after 1795, became chargeable to the parish. From 1768 to 1822 six paupers mostly with families, were removed from Odiham to Newnham and five from Newnham to Odiham.<sup>179</sup> Similarly from 1817 to 1821 two families were removed from Newnham to Old Basing and one from Old Basing to Newnham.<sup>180</sup> Newnham overseers also issued settlement certificates to parishioners enabling them to seek work in Odiham without the risk of them becoming a charge on that parish.<sup>181</sup>

After the peace in 1815, expenditure fell slightly to £214 in 1816 but then rose rapidly in the post war slump, to an average of £353 a year 1817-20.<sup>182</sup> This fell again to an average of £265 a year 1825-29 (with a peak of £343 in 1828) but it rose rapidly in the early 1830s from £299 in 1830 to £412 in 1834.<sup>183</sup> Thus Newnham was a typical southern agricultural parish where underemployment drove up poor rates which were a substantial burden for the parish. In 1832 to help with provision for the poor, Newnham overseers purchased the building which had been the Crown Inn in Crown Lane<sup>184</sup> and converted it into five tenements under one roof to house some of the poor, maintained by the poor rates. National concern about the cost of poor relief led to the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 which attempted to reduce costs by proposing that relief should only be available in a workhouse. The act banned housing the poor in individual dwellings so the five tenements established in 1832 were sold to William Rogers, miller, for £90 in March 1840.<sup>185</sup> Under the 1834 Act, care of the poor of Newnham became the responsibility of the guardians of Basingstoke Poor Law Union and the workhouse in Old Basing parish. Interestingly, expenditure in Newnham did not fall dramatically as it did in some places in Hampshire,<sup>186</sup> from 1839-42 it averaged £276, just above expenditure levels in the 1820s.<sup>187</sup> As elsewhere, out relief continued despite the 1834 Act with many paupers

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<sup>178</sup> HRO, 67M80/PO1.

<sup>179</sup> HRO, 47M81/PO5/20, 26, 38, 39, 66, 117; PO6/28, 30, 51, 88, 122.

<sup>180</sup> HRO, 3M70/55/51, 56/37, 56/54.

<sup>181</sup> See for example, 47M81/PO3/20, 31, 32, 95, 99, 117.

<sup>182</sup> *Parl. Papers* 1822 (556).

<sup>183</sup> *Parl Papers* 1830-31 (83), 1835 (444).

<sup>184</sup> See Economic History, inns.

<sup>185</sup> HRO 50M63/B4/99

<sup>186</sup> See for example, *Steventon*, 71.

<sup>187</sup> *Parl. Papers*, 1844 (63).

relieved in their own homes.<sup>188</sup> This system continued until abolished by the Local Government Act of 1929.

### ***Medical services***

There was no evidence of a resident doctor in Newnham but provision was made for the medical care of residents. The overseers' accounts survive from 1796 to 1807 and record regular payments to doctors for medical care of parishioners. In 1795 John Harris surgeon of Odiham agreed to take the 'Parish Business of Newnham by the year for £4 4s. 0d. including everything except the Smallpox': quarterly payments to Doctor Harris are recorded in the accounts.<sup>189</sup> In March 1799 Mr. Covey of Basingstoke was paid £3. 3s. 0d. 'for Welch and his wife with smallpox' (this was likely to be Charles Covey of Basingstoke, surgeon),<sup>190</sup> while in the same month Doctor Harris was paid his annual fee of £4 4s. 0d. for attendance.<sup>191</sup> David Boast, MRCS, was lodging in the village in 1851 but may not have been in practice.<sup>192</sup> There are no other references to doctors in the 19th century census.

Two pauper parishioners were subject to removal orders to pauper lunatic asylums. Edwin Andrews was removed in 1854 from the lunatic asylum at Colney Heath for the county of Middlesex to which he had been admitted being of unsound mind and suffering from epilepsy, to the pauper lunatic asylum for the county of Southampton at Knowle near Fareham as he was settled in the parish of Newnham.<sup>193</sup> Sarah Gibbs married to Edward Gibbs of Newnham was of unsound mind, suffering paroxysms of unprovoked fury and suffering from delusions when she was referred to the county lunatic asylum at Knowle in 1854.<sup>194</sup>

Sheldons farm was used as a military hospital under Aldershot Command during the First World War.<sup>195</sup> (Fig. 8).

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<sup>188</sup> See for example *Census*, 1851, *Census*, 1861, *Census*, 1881, *Census*, 1891.

<sup>189</sup> HRO, 67M80/PO1.

<sup>190</sup> HRO, 10M57/T22. There was also an apothecary, John Covey in Basingstoke (HRO, 10M57/T42).

<sup>191</sup> HRO, 67M80/PO1.

<sup>192</sup> TNA, HO 107/1681/12

<sup>193</sup> HRO, 48M94/B6/348.

<sup>194</sup> HRO, 48M94/396.

<sup>195</sup> <https://vad.redcross.org.uk/Auxiliary-Hospitals> accessed 26 Apr. 2019.



*Fig 8 Sheldon's Military Hospital, 1917.*

In 2019 Rowan Lodge in Crown Lane Newnham offered elderly nursing and dementia care for up to 60 residents<sup>196</sup> and Heatherside on Scures Hill, Nately Scures was a care home with places for 34 elderly residents.<sup>197</sup>

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<sup>197</sup> <http://pearlcare.co.uk/heatherside-rest-home/> accessed 15 Feb. 2019.