

Landscape, Settlement and Buildings

Communications [Jan Broadway]

The location of Stratton on Ermin Street is reflected in its name, indicating its origin as a farmstead alongside the paved road.¹ The road from Cirencester to Gloucester via Stratton was turnpiked in 1747.² In 1812-13 the Salutation tollgate collected £175.³ Following the creation of the Cirencester United Roads Trust in 1825, the gate also served to new road to Cheltenham.⁴

Until the late 20th century the A417 trunk road continued to follow the route of Ermin Street through Stratton on a single carriageway with a 40 mph speed limit. In 1991 the average daily traffic at the junction of the A417 and A435 at The Firs was 23,600 vehicles, of which approximately 10% was heavy goods vehicles.⁵ The upgrading of the A417/A419 link between the M4 near Swindon and the M5 near Gloucester resulted in a route that bypassed the village to the east.⁶ The Gloucester Road was detrunked in 1994⁷ and the new road opened in December 1997.⁸

Population [Anthea Jones]

The population of Stratton was very small, and even in the 19th century did not increase much until later in the century, when its proximity to Cirencester, whose population was increasing quite rapidly, encouraged house building.

The Domesday figures for Stratton (16 villans, 7 small holders, a priest and 5 slaves) suggest a more substantial farming population than do later medieval figures, but the township may have included a larger area than the later parish. Significantly the Lay Subsidy return in 1327, also relating to a township or vill, included both Stratton and Daglingworth; the list of names was divided into two parts, but it is not clear whether the 14 men in the first part or the 13 in the second relate to Stratton.⁹ Thereafter there is a close consonance in the available population figures.

Ten men assessed as able to pay tax were named (in addition to the assessment of five non-resident religious bodies) in the Military Survey of 1522, and 10 in 1527 in the Lay Subsidy returns, for the

¹ W. St Clair Baddeley, *Place-names of Gloucestershire* (1913), 148.

² 20 Geo. II, c.23.

³ *Glouc. Journal*, 7 June 1813.

⁴ GA, Q/RUm/96.

⁵ *A419/A417 Cirencester-Stratton Bypass Environmental Statement* (Dept of Transport, 1991), 3.

⁶ GA,, D12676/8/7/1.

⁷ GA, JR14.131eGS, JR14.131fGS

⁸ GA, D12676/8/7/3.

⁹ *Glos. Subsidy Roll, 1327*, 68.

township of Stratton.¹⁰ One larger farmer also had a servant able to pay tax. How many farm servants, labourers or artisans were living in Stratton is not known, but the first ecclesiastical sources, in 1551 and 1563, suggest a population of fewer than 60.¹¹ Forty-four communicants in 1551, inflated to allow for possibly a quarter of the population under the age of 10 as non-communicants, leads to a population of 59; the 1563 return noted 13 households, the same (or one less) as in 1327, and three more than paid tax earlier in the century. Household size at approximately 4.5 was typical of an agricultural community.

A third ecclesiastical return, of 160 communicants in 1603, appears to have been a misreading or copying error, through adding another nought to the number; it is only explicable if the incumbent had actually returned 16 [households], showing a small increase in the later 16th century.¹² The Muster list of 1608, naming 3 yeomen, 15 husbandmen and 6 without a stated occupation, together with two servants to a man not listed, yield a minimum population of 24, without the aged, the females, the children and those unable to perform military service. The muster list is not easy to compare with the 1603 return.¹³

In the earlier 17th century there was some increase in the population although the numbers were still very small. During the civil war, a survey of church livings undertaken in 1650 noted 30 families in Stratton, and 86 people were said to conform to the Church of England in 1676.¹⁴ Allowing for young non-communicant children to have been a larger proportion of the population than a century earlier, possibly as much as one third, yields a figure of 129 for 1676. The 30 families of 1650 suggests a similar total. These estimates are given significant support by Atkyns in his history of Gloucestershire parishes published in 1712; he noted 130 inhabitants and 30 families. Dr Parsons' notes on Gloucestershire parishes about 1700, however, recorded 'not above 12 families', but should probably be discounted, especially in view of the return to Bishop Benson of 138 inhabitants in 1735.¹⁵ Another small increase was seen by 1779, when Rudder on the basis of a local survey described Stratton as having 35 households and 'exactly' 173 inhabitants.¹⁶ His figures closely match the 166 inhabitants and 36 houses, three of which were uninhabited, in the first national census two decades later.¹⁷

¹⁰ *Military Surv. of Glos. 1522*, 106; *Bristol & Glos. Lay Subsidy*, 372.

¹¹ J. Gairdner, 'Bishop Hooper's Visitation of Gloucester', *English Historical Review* 9 (1904) 111; *The Diocesan Population Returns for 1563 and 1603* ed. A Dyer & D M Palliser (The British Academy, 2005), 171, 340.

¹² *Diocesan Population Returns for 1563 and 1603*, 340.

¹³ Smith, *Men and Armour*, 251.

¹⁴ C R Elrington, 'The survey of church livings in Gloucestershire, 1650', *Trans. BGAS* 83 (1964), 98; *Compton Census*, 541.

¹⁵ *Parsons's Notes*, 78; *Benson's Survey*, 157-8.

¹⁶ Rudder, *Glos.*, 368.

¹⁷ *Census*, 1801.

The population grew during the 19th century from 271 in 1821 to 468 in 1831, 694 in 1881 and 836 in 1891. The 1901 census showed 837 inhabitants in Stratton. There was an increase from 831 to 963 between 1921 and 1931, but Stratton's population did not reach 1,000 until after the Second World War, when house-building started to bring it closer to Cirencester. In 1971 it was 1,512, and in 1981 it had reached 2,000. The built-up area in 2011 had 2,570 usual residents.¹⁸

Settlement [Francis Boorman]

There was little significant development in Stratton between the 16th and the early 18th century, apart from the building of Stratton House.¹⁹ The manor estate increased from 20 messuages in 1564 to 25 in 1738.²⁰ An enclosure map of 1770 shows around 14 buildings clustered about Stratton House in the south of the parish, to its north and east fronting on the Gloucester road and to its south and west on Lower Stratton. A few more were depicted near the rector's house, Thomas Master's farm and on the Gloucester road in Upper Stratton, and by the manor house and church.²¹ The only buildings shown to the east of the Gloucester road were the Salutation inn, a small mill at the end of Mill Lane, Stratton Mill and an edge tool mill further north up the Churn.²²

In 1807 James Pitt granted a lease of Stratton quarry for three lives to mason John Mills and his sons George and Richard, renewed in 1822. They had to fill in with soil any holes made by quarrying as a condition of the lease.²³ Pitt leased further land near the Cheltenham road to Thomas Lediard in 1825, although the transaction Beecham cites as having taken place in c.1827, and which led to building near the junction of the Gloucester road and the newly created Cheltenham road was more likely that between Lediard and Joseph Matthews in 1826, recalled in a County Council inquiry 70 years later. This also resulted in the formation of Albion Street, running parallel to the Cheltenham road.²⁴ Turnpiking led to swift development in Stratton, spurred on by the removal thither of retired businessmen of Cirencester.²⁵

The Mills family had further property in Stratton and John Mills passed messuages in Upper and Lower Stratton to his grandson, also John, in 1834.²⁶ A map of 1830 shows James Mills's lifehold estate stretching from quarry land near the junction of the Gloucester and Cheltenham roads to the rector's land almost at the junction of the Cheltenham and Baunton roads. Several houses had been

¹⁸ *Census*, 1821, 1831, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1921, 1931, 1971, 1981 & 2011.

¹⁹ See Landownership.

²⁰ GA, D674b/T45; D674b/T53.

²¹ GA, D674b/P37.

²² GA, D674b/P39; D674b/P40.

²³ GA, D181/box96904/3.

²⁴ GA, D1388/box9450/5; *Wilts & Glos.*, 18 Apr. 1896.

²⁵ Beecham, *Cirencester*, 188

²⁶ GA, D1388/box9450/5.

built to the east of the Gloucester road, including those of Richard Radway, Thomas Vaisey, James Mills and three Williams: Worme, Carpenter and Hawkins.²⁷

Following the death of James Pitt in 1830²⁸, his land holdings in Stratton passed in trust to his grandson, also James Pitt. The will left a life interest to Pitt's wife, who died in 1842 and to two other men. Annuities across Pitt's two estates in Stratton and Duntisbourne Abbots were disputed at length. James Pitt the younger mortgaged property in Stratton and Duntisbourne Abbots in 1846 and sold his life interest in a farm estate in Stratton of around 130 a. to William Slatter in 1852.²⁹ James Pitt II became a clerk in a Taunton legal firm in 1851 and following financial difficulties emigrated to Australia in 1853.³⁰ There he progressed from Pleasant Creek Diggings in Victoria to Orange in New South Wales by 1860. He was last seen in 'Menendie' (Menindee) on the river Darling in 1868. Title to his estate in Stratton was disputed in the Court of Chancery and was eventually sold at auction in 1878.³¹ The lots for sale totalled 120 a. Including 'several most Eligible Sites for the erection of Villas' in Stratton village and along the turnpike roads. These included Salutation House and adjoining land called Home Meadow to the south-east of the Cheltenham road. Also the quarry with lime-kiln to the north-west and an adjoining lot of arable land with a frontage of 456 feet on the Cheltenham road. Further lots had frontages on the east side of the Gloucester road and on both sides of Cheltenham road further from the turnpike. There were also three cottages with 11 a. of arable land near Stratton House.³² This sale opened Stratton up for further development and Beecham wrote in 1887 that nearly 30 houses had been built, but some lots remained unsold.³³

Property was also owned by St John's Hospital in Cirencester, the trustees renting out five messuages, a weaver's workshop and 21 a. of land in Stratton throughout the first half of the 19th century. The properties were leased to Jane Master in 1847.³⁴

In 1903 18 cottages fronting onto the Cheltenham road were auctioned along with Albert Villa, all part of the estate of the late George Holder.³⁵ In 1913 the six-bedroom Clarendon Villa, previously occupied by C.O.H. Sewell, was auctioned, with the smaller Elm Cottage in a separate lot. Both were situated between Albion Street and the Cheltenham Road.³⁶ The RDC planned to build housing on

²⁷ GA, D674b/P41.

²⁸ *Chelt. Chronicle*, 7 Oct. 1830.

²⁹ GA, D181/boc98060/14.

³⁰ GA, D181/boc98060/14.

³¹ *London Gazette*, 27 May 1873.

³² GA, D1388/SL/6/50.

³³ K.J. Beecham, *History of Cirencester* (1887, repr. 1978), 188.

³⁴ GA, D674b/E21.

³⁵ GA, D2525/E222.

³⁶ GA, D2525/E224.

sites by Cheltenham Road and Chester Street in 1919.³⁷ Stratton was suffering from overcrowding in 1920, pending the completion of council housing.³⁸ The Chester Street site was purchased from Lord Apsley in 1921.³⁹ The new council houses, named Park View, were built off the Cheltenham Road.⁴⁰

The RDC granted £150 subsidies for six houses to be built in Cheltenham Road in 1925.⁴¹ Two further subsidy houses were completed in Chester Street.⁴² The RDC purchased a site for £150 to build housing in Stratton in 1926 and a tender was accepted to build eight houses, financed by borrowing from the Public Works Loan Commissioners.⁴³ Tenants were selected for the new council houses which were completed in 1926.⁴⁴ S. Pyle continued to have plans approved to build subsidy houses on Cheltenham Road, along with other builders.⁴⁵ Rebuilding of poor quality old housing also began. An RDC inspector found four back-to-back houses in Albion Street to be uninhabitable and their repair and reconversion into two dwellings was ordered.⁴⁶ Cirencester UDC granted planning permission for individual or pairs of houses from 1935, in places including Overhill Road, Cheltenham and Gloucester Roads, Mill Lane, St John's Close and Chester Street.⁴⁷ The new housing in Chester Street, Cheltenham Road and the developments of Park View and Overhill Road made the expansion of the village clearly visible in a map surveyed in 1938.⁴⁸

The UDC decided in 1947 that no further building would be allowed in Stratton before a sewer was laid.⁴⁹ A development in Mill Lane was approved in 1950 and the council obtained land there to widen the road in 1951.⁵⁰ In 1951 Chester Street was renamed Barn Way and a road leading off it

³⁷ GA, DA22/100/7, 19 May & 23 Jun. 1919; ; P319a/PC/42/1.

³⁸ GA, DA22/100/7, 15 Nov. 1920.

³⁹ GA, DA22/100/7, 21 Oct. 1921.

⁴⁰ GA, DA22/100/7, 19 Dec. 1921; P319a/PC/42/1.

⁴¹ GA, DA22/100/8, 26 Oct. 1925.

⁴² GA, DA22/100/8, 23 Nov. 1925.

⁴³ GA, DA22/100/8, 25 Jan., 26 Apr., 31 May & 25 Oct. 1926.

⁴⁴ GA, DA22/100/8, 22 Nov. & 20 Dec. 1926.

⁴⁵ GA, DA22/100/8, 31 May, 23 Aug. & 25 Oct. 1926, 28 Feb. & 28 Mar. 1927.

⁴⁶ GA, DA22/100/8, 24 Jan. 1927.

⁴⁷ GA, DA4/100/20, 18 Jun. 1936; GA, DA4/100/21, 17 Feb., 17 Mar., 12 July & 15 Dec. 1938.

⁴⁸ OS Map 6", Glos. LI (1949 edn.).

⁴⁹ GA, DA4/100/23, 22 July & 28 Oct. 1947.

⁵⁰ GA, DA4/100/25, 28 Feb., 26 Sept. & 28 Nov. 1950; DA4/100/26,.26 Jun. 1951.

was dubbed Donsine.⁵¹ Several houses were given approval to be built in Overhill Road.⁵² The UDC took over St John's Close and Mill Lane as public highways in 1954.⁵³ In 1959 the triangle of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Overhill Roads was beginning to fill with houses. Beyond the line of houses on the north side of Overhill Road there was still little building up to Baunton Lane, although several detached houses had sprung up north of Baunton Lane, beyond the parish boundary.⁵⁴

Significant areas of new housing were built in the 1960s as the UDC approved plans for 46 dwellings by Wheeler & Mansell Ltd and a further 5 detached houses by the rectory in 1962.⁵⁵ Further building took place following slum clearance at the quarry, where an eight-story block of flats was planned, and to the north of the Wheeler & Mansell development.⁵⁶ The 1960s developments were at Tinglesfield, the south of Vaisey Road and Glebe Close.⁵⁷ The almshouse charity St John's Hospital planned a residential development in Stratton in 1967.⁵⁸ Plots for 14 detached houses were laid out on Stratton Place in 1969.⁵⁹ Quarry Close was adopted as a public highway by the UDC in 1972, when another residential development was planned in a paddock adjoining Stratton Wold.⁶⁰ In 1973 58 houses were planned for Stratton Quarry.⁶¹

A large estate comprising the north end of Vaisey Road, Thessaly Road, Haresfield, Stratton Heights and Links View was completed during the 1970s, filling much of the area between Overhill Road and Baunton Lane, except at the eastern end near Baunton and north-west of the school.⁶² New housing was built along Roberts Close off Cheltenham Road in 1984 and extended in 1995.⁶³

In the 21st century Roberts Close continued to fill some of the remaining open space south of Overhill Road and housing was built along Tall Trees, to the north-west of Stratton School, and Churn

⁵¹ GA, DA4/100/25, 24 Apr. 1951.

⁵² E.g. GA, DA4/100/26, 23 Oct. 1951.

⁵³ GA, DA4/100/27, 23 Nov. 1954.

⁵⁴ OS Map 1:25000, SP 00 (1959 edn).

⁵⁵ GA, DA4/100/35, 27 Nov. & 18 Dec. 1962.

⁵⁶ GA, DA4/100/36, 28 Jan. 1964; DA4/100/37, 26 May, 30 Jun. & 28 July 1964.

⁵⁷ GA, D7103, uncatalogued map of town development.

⁵⁸ GA, DA4/100/40, 5 Dec. 1967.

⁵⁹ GA, DA4/100/42, 11 Nov. 1969.

⁶⁰ GA, DA4/100/44, 27 July 1971, 27 Jan. 1972.

⁶¹ GA, DA4/100/46, 13 Nov. 1973.

⁶² OS Map 1:50000, sheet 163 (1978 edn).

⁶³ GA, D7103, uncatalogued map of town development, accession no. 11531; OS Map 1:25000, SP 00/10 (1986 edn)..

Meadows near Stratton Mill.⁶⁴ Aura Care’s Stratton Court retirement village was under construction on Gloucester Road, south of Roberts Close, in 2018.⁶⁵

The Built Character [Francis Boorman]

The Firs was built in the late 17th or early 18th century and was grade II listed in 1993.⁶⁶ An enclosure map of 1770 shows the main buildings in Stratton. They were the mansion house (Stratton House) belonging to Thomas Estcourt and Ann Creswell just north of Lower Stratton, Thomas Master’s farmhouse just south of Upper Stratton, the rector’s house to the south of the farmhouse and the manor house just to the west of St Peter’s church.⁶⁷ To the east of Gloucester Road, the Salutation lay south of the junction with the Whiteway and Stratton Mill much further north by the Churn and on Baunton Road, at right-angles from Gloucester Road and bisecting the Whiteway.⁶⁸ The oldest buildings in Stratton in the late 20th century were the rectory, later known as Strattonend, the Firs, south of Cheltenham Road by the junction with Gloucester Road, and the Grange (the manor farmhouse). Sundridge and Thessaly Lodge, east of Gloucester Road, had old Cotswold backs, but later Georgian or Victorian frontages.⁶⁹

⁶⁴ Google Earth satellite images, 1999, 2005, 2006.

⁶⁵ <https://www.auracareliving.com/retirement-villages/stratton-court-cirencester>, accessed 19 Mar. 2018.

⁶⁶ <https://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101187440-stratton-firs-cirencester#.WrI7JUx2tdg>, accessed 21 Mar. 2018.

⁶⁷ GA, D674b/P38.

⁶⁸ GA, D674b/P39; /P40.

⁶⁹ GA, D7103, uncatalogued accession 10836, unpublished history of Stratton.

Landownership

Francis Boorman

Manor

The manor of Stratton and advowson of the rectory were passed down from Robert Cassye to his son Henry when he died in 1547.⁷⁰ Henry Cassye sold Stratton manor to Thomas Watson of Stratton in 1564 for £550, although the next presentation to the rectory was already guaranteed to Sir Giles Poole.⁷¹ At this time the manor consisted of 20 messuages, 20 tofts, 2 mills, 2 dovecotes, 20 gardens, 10 orchards, 1000 a. arable land, 100 a. meadow, 50 a. pasture, 10 a. wood, 10 a. gorse and 60s. rent.⁷² Thomas Watson left the manor and advowson to his son Thomas Watson II in 1571.⁷³ He sold 5 a. of meadow in Stratton called Myllhams, part of the site of Stratton manor extending from the mill on the river to Pullams Close, and a further 1 a. by Olivers Sheepphouse, to Humfrie Bridges the Elder of Cirencester for £130 in 1597.⁷⁴ Bridges had also acquired the messuage known as Olyvers for £340 from Anthonie Hodgekins of Codrington in 1592, inherited from his grandfather Henry Hodgekins.⁷⁵

Thomas Watson II left Stratton to his son, also Thomas, in 1599. Thomas Watson III had to pay his father's assignees John Howarde and Henry Goldsmithe £600 and was not permitted to sell the estate for three years, although only two years elapsed before the next sale.⁷⁶ Thomas Watson and his wife Jane sold the manor to Henry Audley of Holbern (possibly Hoburne, in Christchurch, Hants.) and Nicholas Archer of Malmesbury (Wilts.) in 1601 for £1,700 10s. Watson's assignees John Howarde, Henry Goldsmithe, William Hanley and Thomas Ryvett also assented to the sale.⁷⁷ Despite a case in Chancery brought by Audley and Archer concerning their title to the property, the manor again changed hands.⁷⁸ The manor passed from Audley and Archer to Jane Kettleby, widow of

⁷⁰ GA, GDR Wills 1547/113; T.D. Fosbrooke, *Records and Manuscripts Respecting the County of Gloucester II* (1807), 497.

⁷¹ GA, D674b/T12; D2762/T12.

⁷² GA, D674b/T45.

⁷³ TNA, PROB 11/53/92.

⁷⁴ GA, D674b/T48.

⁷⁵ GA, D674b/T47.

⁷⁶ GA, D674b/T12, /T86.

⁷⁷ GA, D674b/T12; D674b/T45.

⁷⁸ TNA, C 3/256/7; C2/Eliz/A8/1.

Andrew Kettleby, in 1604.⁷⁹ Despite a claim that Jane inherited the manor from her late husband, it seems more likely to have come via her father, John Audley.⁸⁰

Recited in an agreement of 1623, a deed of 1605 decreed that following her marriage to Thomas Nicholas, Jane would keep the fines from Stratton for life and he would inherit the manor if he outlived her, on the proviso that the profits of the manor be used to fulfil various legacies stipulated in her will.⁸¹ Thomas Nicholas (c.1575-1638) trained for the law, but after his first marriage in 1604 gave up his London chambers and became a bailiff and collector of rents in Deerhurst and then steward of Cheltenham manor in 1614. In 1607 Thomas Nicholas purchased a messuage, meadow and a portion of the small and great tithes in Stratton.⁸² He was elected MP for Cirencester in 1621. Nicholas became a justice of the peace and was sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1626-7.⁸³ In 1626 Nicholas further extended his holdings and purchased from Isabel Blisse, widow of Thomas Blisse and before him William Stone, a third of the tithes payable out of the grist of the manor or farm of Stratton, a water corn mill now or lately occupied by Thomas Hawkyns and a meadow in Stratton called Millhams (the last recently purchased from John Stone, heir to William, but Isabel to give up any claim).⁸⁴

Thomas Nicholas inherited Stratton from his wife in 1633. Having paid the various legacies stipulated in Jane's will, Nicholas paid 20s. to John Hunt (who drew up the deed of 1605) to gain full title to the manor in 1636.⁸⁵ He married Bridget, daughter of Michael Strange of Somerford Keynes (Wilts.) as his second wife, but died childless in 1638. He has a memorial in St Peter's church.⁸⁶ His will confirmed that he had already transferred his manors and lands in trust to John Platt, Thomas Hungerford, Henry Powle and William Powle for them to sell and use the proceeds to discharge his debts, gifts and legacies.⁸⁷ John Platt, Thomas Hungerford, Henry Powle and William Powle The trustees sold the manor and advowson of Stratton to Edward Sheldon in 1640 for £3,100.⁸⁸ Sheldon gave the manor and all its lands to his son, also Edward Sheldon, including the messuage called Olivers, the meadow called Millhams and the close called Pullams, as well as Olivers Sheephouse and

⁷⁹ GA, D674b/T12.

⁸⁰ *Hist. Parl. Commons 1604-29*, Nicholas Thomas (c1575-1638).

⁸¹ GA, D674b/T45, /T19.

⁸² GA, D674b/T22.

⁸³ *Hist. Parl. Commons 1604-1629*, Nicholas Thomas (1575-1638); Rudder, *Glos.*, 710.

⁸⁴ GA, D674b/T19. See Economic History, Stratton Mill.

⁸⁵ GA, D674b/T12, /T45.

⁸⁶ Bigland, *Glos.*, 1199.

⁸⁷ TNA, PROB 11/180/92.

⁸⁸ GA, D674b/T12.

the meadows known as Great Wikam and Little Wikam. These were in the occupation of Robert Bridges, John Breach, Richard Stephens and Anthony Bridges.⁸⁹

Thomas Deacon, a woollen draper of Cirencester, leased Stratton manor from Sheldon in 1659 for £1,720. Deacon left his interest in Stratton to his wife Margery for her lifetime in his will of 1661, passing to his son Thomas upon her death. They, as well as Symon Deacon, agreed to sell their interest to John Hawkins of Ashton Keynes (Wilts.) in 1673, but only following the death of Edward Sheldon, when Hawkins became owner.⁹⁰ In 1683 the manor passed to Jasper Chapman as part of the jointure for his marriage to Joanna Hawkins. In 1709 Jasper Chapman's daughter Joanna married Thomas Master and Stratton manor and advowson were included as part of the marriage settlement, although initially held in trust as Master had not come of age. Following Chapman's death in 1713 he left his possessions to his wife for her lifetime. An inventory detailed the contents of Stratton manor house, worth £98. The rooms of the house were a brewhouse, a small beer pantry, a kitchen, a great parlour, a little parlour with a room above it, a hall, a pantry, a lobby, a dining room, a men's chamber, nursery, white chamber, and a chamber over the kitchen.⁹¹

In 1738 Stratton manor included the following appurtenances: 25 messuages, 20 barns, 20 stables, 25 gardens, 10 orchards, 1,505 a. land, 106 a. meadow, 193 a. pasture, £1 10s. rent, pasture for 178 sheep and common pasture 'for all manner of cattle' in Cirencester, Stratton, Preston, Tetbury, Cowley, Slimbridge and Duntisbourne Abbots. It also included the rectory and advowson of Stratton with appurtenances.⁹²

Thomas Master (d.1769) had his son succeed him in 1747, but the son, also Thomas Master, died in 1749. His grandson Thomas Master married in the same year that his grandfather died and a common recovery of 1770, which included Stratton manor, may have paved the way for inclosure in the parish.⁹³ A map of 1770 shows the land to be inclosed, in a semicircle around St Peter's church to the west of Gloucester Road and two further fields to the south.⁹⁴ To the east of Gloucester Road, the largest section of land inclosed was in the north and was the rector's, with Estcourt Cresswell's and then Thomas Master's holdings further south, interspersed with other smaller allotments.⁹⁵ The inclosure act for Stratton and Preston named the main owners of common land. Thomas Master owned the majority, followed by the rector John Sandford, then Estcourt Cresswell, Rev. Samuel Johnston of Preston, Joseph Cripps and then others unnamed. The inclosure award for the parishes of Stratton and Preston in 1772 also facilitated an exchange of land between Thomas Master and the

⁸⁹ GA, D674b/T49.

⁹⁰ GA, D674b/T86.

⁹¹ GA, D674b/T26.

⁹² GA, D674b/T53.

⁹³ GA, D674b/F10.

⁹⁴ GA, D674b/P38.

⁹⁵ GA, D674b/P40.

rector John Sandford.⁹⁶ The rector was also entitled to further land in lieu of tithes on common land and for his glebe lands as stipulated in the Act. The other landowners had to pay for land assigned to the rector to be fenced, at a sum of £235.⁹⁷

Around 1820 Jane Master rented out ten cottages in Stratton, as well as farms, a stable, and received quit rents for several properties. She inherited the manor in 1823, becoming the major landowner in the parish.⁹⁸ The manor remained in the Master then Chester-Master family throughout the 19th century; and the lordship was held by the trustees of Richard Chester Chester-Master (d.1917) in 1923,⁹⁹ and by William Alfred Chester-Master in 1935.¹⁰⁰

Other Estates

Stratton House

Thomas Master purchased a messuage, two barns, a garden, 180 a. of land, 4 a. of meadow and 14 a. of pasture in 1658 from Edward Sheldon. In 1661 William Master and his heir Thomas Master sold lands in Stratton to Richard Sackeville of Bibury, including Pulhams Barn, Olivers Barn and the rights to common land in Stratton and Daglingworth.¹⁰¹ Richard Sackeville appears to have built a mansion house on his lands in Stratton (whether on those purchased from Master is unclear) by 1668 at the latest, when he also settled the inheritance of the lands.¹⁰² His son and heir Henry Sackeville had inherited the lands by 1692, with his sister Anne Sackeville. They sold Pulhams Barn, Olivers Barn and land to John Vannam, who settled them on Elizabeth Vannam as part of her marriage jointure in 1693. The barns and lands were bought by a later Thomas Master in 1745.¹⁰³

When Jane Master mortgaged the house in 1852, a schedule of deeds was produced detailing its ownership. The house passed to Henry Sackeville who died in 1712, when it was inherited by his daughters Elizabeth and Katherine Sackeville, each receiving a moiety. Katherine bought Elizabeth's half. Katherine wrote a will in 1758 leaving her estates to her niece Ann Cresswell and then passing to Ann's son Estcourt Cresswell at the age of 21. This transfer happened in 1771. Estcourt sold the meadow Broadmead to a woolstapler William Newcombe and Timothy Stevens in 1788. Estcourt then sold a farm and Pigeon House Close to William Newcombe and a maltster Joseph Newcombe in 1790. William Newcombe produced a will in 1797, leaving this property to Joseph Newcombe and William Jenner. A local gentleman Joseph Yerbury acquired the freehold of the house, and all the

⁹⁶ GA, D674b/E91.

⁹⁷ GA, D674b/E68.

⁹⁸ GA, D674b/E84.

⁹⁹ *Kelly's Directory* (1923), 314.

¹⁰⁰ *Kelly's Directory* (1935), 318.

¹⁰¹ GA, D674b/T51.

¹⁰² GA, D674b/F2; D674b/T51.

¹⁰³ GA, D674b/T51.

lands bought in 1788 and 1790, with a woolstapler John Wilkins in 1806. Yerbury swapped some land in Stratton with Thomas Master in 1808. James Pitt had also acquired some property in Stratton from Newcombe and Jenner, and Yerbury gave him the 1788, 1790 and 1806 deeds in 1810.¹⁰⁴

Joseph Cripps acquired the property in 1814 for £3,600, soon passing it to the use of his son Joseph Cripps the Younger, but only officially conveying it upon his marriage in 1824.¹⁰⁵ He signed a memorandum of agreement with the widow Catharine Pitt in 1834 for the sale of the mansion house for £3,150. Catharine Pitt made a will in 1839 and died in 1842. She stipulated that her incomplete purchase of Stratton House should be completed by Frederick Cripps, Thomas Vaisey and Thomas Lediard, but Vaisey and Lediard renounced their claims in 1843. Following a case in Chancery between her grandson James Pitt and Frederick Cripps and others, the mansion house in Stratton was auctioned by decree of Chancery, with the proceeds to go to Joseph Cripps. The house was occupied by Sir Thomas Tancred and comprised an entrance hall with stone staircase, a 'lofty' drawing room, a dining room, a breakfast room, 5 bedrooms (2 with dressing rooms), servants' rooms, a store room, a servants' hall, a pantry, dairy and suitable offices. The house also included a 3-stall stable, loose box and saddle room, 2 coach houses, a dovecot, a walled-in garden and pastures called Pigeon House Close and Broadmead. Tancred bought the house for £1,820, conveyed to him in 1846, then he made an agreement to sell it to Jane Master the next year. Master bought the house in 1852, which deed contains a plan of the house and lands. The estate was surrounded by Master's land on two sides, glebe land to the north west and Gloucester Road on the north east.¹⁰⁶

Estimates were received for additions to Stratton House in 1877. Following new building and additions in 1878, probably adding extra rooms and bedrooms described in sales particulars of 1910, an arbitrator was called in to settle a dispute about the execution of joining and woodworking for Thomas William Chester-Master.¹⁰⁷ A mortgage on the house was transferred several times in the late 19th and early 20th century.¹⁰⁸

Major and Mrs Chester Master left Stratton House after 17 years for the Abbey, Cirencester in 1887. Mr and Mrs Algernon Elwes took up residence in their place.¹⁰⁹ Other tenants included Cordell William Firebrace, tenant in 1902.¹¹⁰ Col. Chester Master put Stratton House up for auction in 1910 with over 3 a. of gardens and more than 5 a. of pasture land over the road from the house. It was advertised as a residence or hunting box, with good access to the V.W.H. hunt. Another 7-bedroom house called the Lawn, previously the residence of the late Thomas Vaisey, was auctioned in a

¹⁰⁴ GA, D674b/T51; D674b/T90.

¹⁰⁵ GA, D674b/T51; D674b/T90.

¹⁰⁶ GA, D674b/T90.

¹⁰⁷ GA, D674b/E79; D2525/E223.

¹⁰⁸ GA, D674b/E26.

¹⁰⁹ *Wilts & Glos.*, 13 Mar. 1886.

¹¹⁰ *Kelly's Directory* (1902), 303.

second lot, but eventually sold privately to continue as farmhouse to the Glebe Farm.¹¹¹ Chester-Master put another 9 cottages (some on Chester Street and opposite the Plough Inn), a house and 3 pieces of ground in Stratton up for auction. Stratton House did not sell and so some of the other lots nearby were withdrawn.¹¹² Thomas William Chester-Master's daughter Maud Melville took up residence and it was while visiting her in Stratton that he died in a riding accident in 1914.¹¹³ The house was converted into a hotel during the inter-war period, which was still in operation in 2018.¹¹⁴

Bathurst Estate

Earl Bathurst bought some of the land of the stopped-up turnpike road from Cirencester to Bisley – which passed through Stratton – and land either side from Jane Master in 1823-4.¹¹⁵ Lord Bathurst began increasing his landholdings in the west of Stratton parish which bordered Cirencester Park when he agreed to exchange some land in North Cerney with Jane Master in 1840, including over 200 a. from a farm occupied by William Slatter, including lands called Little Botany Bay and Great Botany Bay.¹¹⁶ The latter exchange was executed by a deed of 1846. Further exchanges took place with Edward Haines in 1856, mostly in Daglingworth, but with some land in Stratton included.¹¹⁷ Bathurst's holdings in the parish are shown in a map of 1857, lying in the west and contiguous with Cirencester Park.¹¹⁸ Fields in Stratton were part of Lodge Farm.¹¹⁹ William Lennox Bathurst obtained a field of nearly 20 a. in Stratton in an exchange with Henry George Bathurst for land in Daglingworth in 1859.¹²⁰ Earl Bathurst purchased Stratton Grange Farm for £12,000, comprising over 537 a. and more than 10 cottages in Stratton in 1910, and was described as the major landowner in the parish in 1923.¹²¹

¹¹¹ GA, D2525/E223; D2525/E225.

¹¹² GA, D2525/E225.

¹¹³ *Glos. Echo*, 16 Nov. 1914.

¹¹⁴ See Economic History.

¹¹⁵ GA, D2525/T236.

¹¹⁶ GA, D2525/P4; D2525/C9; D2525/T7.

¹¹⁷ GA, D2525/T142.

¹¹⁸ GA, D2525/P31.

¹¹⁹ GA, D2525/P160.

¹²⁰ GA, D2525/P32.

¹²¹ GA, D2525/E225; *Kelly's Directory* (1923), 314.

Economic History

Francis Boorman

Employment

In the 1608 men and armour survey of Gloucestershire 27 men were listed in Stratton, of whom the majority were employed in agriculture. There were 15 husbandmen, 3 yeomen, 2 servants to John Limbrick, a glover, a weaver and a miller. Thomas Nicholas was lord. Two men had no occupation listed and one was 'unable in body'.¹²² The eight surviving 17th and 18th century diocesan wills that state an occupation confirm the agricultural nature of the parish with four yeomen and four husbandmen.¹²³ The surviving 17th century PCC wills for the same period which give a profession, excluding clergy, are for a husbandman, four yeomen, a corwainer.¹²⁴ The wool dealer William Newcombe was living in Stratton at the end of the 18th century.¹²⁵

An 1830 directory listed baker Thomas Moss, cabinet maker Charles Blackwell, carpenter William Alexander, machine maker Richard Radway, shoemaker William Carpenter, shopkeeper or dealer Jane Lane, tailor Joseph Matthews and wheelwright William Hawkins.¹²⁶ John Richardson of Stratton, grocer, died in 1841.¹²⁷ In 1842 Stratton listings also included attorney Richard Mullings, maltster Thomas Vaisey, surgeons D.S. and J. Holmes and artist William Wilson, suggesting that a growing number of middle class professionals were moving to the village.¹²⁸

In 1914 the directory included a head stud groom, hauliers, beer retailers, builder, gardener, assistant overseer, income tax collector, innkeeper, grocer and shopkeeper alongside the farmers and millers.¹²⁹ Residents of the Park View council houses in 1934 had occupations including a hairdresser, lorry driver, railway labourer, mill foreman, bricklayer, groom, police constable and rabbit catcher, giving an impression of working class employment in Stratton.¹³⁰ A 1939 directory separated the 'private residents' for whom no occupation was given from 'commercial' listings. Of the private residents many were no doubt still professionals and retirees. Several were military men; there were two captains and two majors amongst their number. The commercial listing showed a preponderance of shopkeepers and dealers followed by carpenters and decorators, suggesting a

¹²² Smith, *Men and Armour*, 251.

¹²³ GA, GDR Wills 1643/34, 1690/75, 1697/75, 1710/73, 1710/147, 1711/121, 1729/428, 1743/40.

¹²⁴ TNA, PROB 11/147/505, 11/276/344, 11/284/300, 11/287/303, 11/347/205, 11/376/282.

¹²⁵ TNA, PROB 11/1307/54

¹²⁶ *Pigot's Directory* (1830), 364–6.

¹²⁷ GA, GDR 1841/169.

¹²⁸ *Pigot's Directory* (1842), 99-101.

¹²⁹ *Kelly's Gloucestershire Director* (1914), 318.

¹³⁰ GA, P319a/PC/42/1.

growing number of people either in tertiary employment or in the building trade. Craftspeople included blacksmith William Hall, tailor Sidney Dowdeswell and dressmaker Dorothy Cook.¹³¹

Agriculture

The schedule of goods and chattels belonging to Jasper Chapman, who owned the manor of Stratton, upon his death in 1713 give an approximation of the size of his farming operation: 440 sheep valued at 8s. each (£176), 40 a. wheat (£20), barley in the barns (£50), wheat in the barn and in ricks (£50), peas (£10), oats (£12), 11 cows (£33), 10 horses (£60), 8 pigs (£4 16s.), 2 waggons with dungpots, ploughs etc. (£15 10s.), hay (£20), sheep sacks (£5 12s.), coach and harness (£6), fire wood and coal (£4), harnesses, bridles and saddles etc. (£3) and bacon (£5).¹³²

Rudder explained in 1779 that land in the upper part of the parish had light and stony soil and was employed in tillage. Since the common fields were inclosed in 1771 he felt that 'few places have received greater improvement.'¹³³

Thomas Master leased the lower farm in Stratton to Robert Archer in 1773, including land that had been inclosed that year, excepting the manor and royalty, and any game and timber on the land. He leased the lower farm including a total of 257 a. of land to George Townsend in 1809.¹³⁴ Master also leased the upper farm in Stratton, to Daniel Davis, in 1809.¹³⁵ Around 1820 Jane Master rented out two farms in Stratton; one to Thomas Slatter for D. Davies at £610 per annum and one to George Townsend for £360 per annum.¹³⁶ Beecham said the land in Stratton was mostly arable in 1887, except on the banks of the Churn and Daglingworth streams.¹³⁷

From 1866 the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries recorded local agricultural statistics. In Stratton, the total acreage under cultivation was 1,259 a. across 8 holdings. The main crops were 252 a. of wheat and 218 a. of barley, with 46 a. oats, 20 a. of beans and 15 a. of peas. Land for grazing and animal feed included 309 a. clover, 183 a. grass and 186 a. turnips. There were over 1,100 sheep, but only 53 pigs and 27 cattle. The total acreage under cultivation fell to 1,050 a. by 1896, but the number of holdings increased to 12. Acreages of wheat and barley fell to 116 a. and 115 a. respectively, but oats increased to 84 a. Turnips fell to 115 a. and beans to 12 a. Clover remained at 309 a. and grass increased to 267.5 a. Sheep numbers remained at over 1,100, while pigs increased to 125 and cattle to 90.¹³⁸

¹³¹ *Kelly's Directory* (1939), 325.

¹³² GA, D674b/T26.

¹³³ Rudder, *Glos.*, 709.

¹³⁴ GA, D674b/T54.

¹³⁵ GA, D674b/T57.

¹³⁶ GA, D674b/E84.

¹³⁷ Beecham, *Cirencester*, 189.

¹³⁸ See MAF acreage return table.

In 1905 the parish contained 772 a. arable land, 226 a. permanent pasture and 166.5 a. woods and plantations.¹³⁹ Grange Farm of the Master estate accounted for over 368 a. arable and 77 a. pasture in 1903.¹⁴⁰ In 1939 it was the only farm of over 150 a. listed in *Kelly's Directory*, when the farmer was Leslie William Arkell.¹⁴¹

In 1926 the acreage under cultivation had fallen further to 737 a. across 19 holdings, presumably as building in the parish increased. Of the 19 holdings in 1926, six were under 5 a., nine were 5-20 a., three 20-50 a., and only one over 300 acres. The last, Grange Farm, was rented. There were 24 men working on the farms. Wheat fell to 70 a., barley to 76 a. and oats to 30a. Only 24 a. of turnips were planted, but new crops included 16 a. of rape and 5 a. of sugar beet. There was only 30 a. of clover but 432 a. of grass. There were only 372 sheep and 83 cattle, but the number of pigs rose to 323. New statistics showed there were 30 horses, 1,486 fowls and 247 ducks.¹⁴² From 1935 the agricultural statistics for Stratton were combined with Cirencester.

Statistics regarding individual farms resurfaced in the 1941 farm survey. Grange Farm of Leslie Arkell remained the only large farming operation. Arkell grew 93 a. wheat, 51 a. barley, 29 a. oats, 44 a. mixed corn and 7 a. potatoes. The farm included 235 a. grass, 38 a. clover etc. for mowing and 13 a. fallow. There were 186 cattle, 2,000 fowl and 4 horses. The farm employed ten regular workers and had two tractors.¹⁴³ Other mixed farms were much smaller in scale. A.E.S. Austin of Cleeve Hill grew 21 a. oats and 21.5 a. grass. She kept 12 cattle, 10 fowl and 1 horse.¹⁴⁴ M. Rimes of Stratton Mill House was proprietor of Stratton piggery. He grew 25 a. oats and 1 a. potatoes. He kept 9 cattle, 45 pigs, 18 fowl and one horse.¹⁴⁵ J.G. Saunders of Cheltenham Road grew 14 a. oats and under an acre of potatoes and two fodder crops. He kept 7 cattle, 3 pigs and 73 fowl.¹⁴⁶ E. Mills of Gloucester Street kept 250 fowl on 2 a. of rough grazing and R.W. Painter of Park View kept 196 poultry.¹⁴⁷ At some of the larger houses with accompanying land such as Thessaly Lodge, the Vale and Stratton End smaller numbers of animals were kept and at Sundridge just over 6 a. oats were also grown.¹⁴⁸

Stratton Mill

¹³⁹ GA, unpublished acreage returns in VCH folder

¹⁴⁰ GA, D674b/E35.

¹⁴¹ *Kelly's Directory* (1939), 325.

¹⁴² See MAF acreage return table.

¹⁴³ TNA MAF 32/88/47/42.

¹⁴⁴ TNA MAF 32/88/47/41.

¹⁴⁵ TNA MAF 32/88/47/57.

¹⁴⁶ TNA MAF 32/88/47/80.

¹⁴⁷ TNA MAF 32/88/47/72, /76.

¹⁴⁸ TNA MAF 32/88/47/43, /46, /50, /51, /54.

Land and tithes in Stratton were granted to John ap Rice of London as part of the holdings of the priory of St Guthlac beside Hereford in 1544.¹⁴⁹ Gregorie Aprrice sold a messuage and land in Stratton, a portion of the great and small tithes and the tithes of two mills in the parish occupied by John Surman (leased to him by John ap Rice in 1545) to Sir Giles Poole of Sapperton in 1559.¹⁵⁰ Poole sold all of these to Willyum Stone of Cirencester for £90 in 1582, the messuage or tenement then in the occupation of Anthony Hyde, gent.¹⁵¹

Thomas Hancockes, miller of Stratton died in 1580, leaving his two children £40 each.¹⁵² The mill was occupied by John Surman in 1582 and Thomas Hawkins in 1597.¹⁵³ William Cooke was the only miller in Stratton listed in 1608.¹⁵⁴ After the death of William Stone in 1615 the mill passed to his wife Isabel, subsequently wife of Thomas Blisse, until his son John Stone was 21 in 1615.¹⁵⁵ Lord of the manor Thomas Nicholas bought the mill in 1626.¹⁵⁶ It is not clear who owned the mill for the next century although John Essington of Mercers Hall and Edmond Corbett of the Inner Temple, both London, leased it with an orchard and 5 a. of pasture to Richard Norris for 21 years in 1725 for £27 p.a.¹⁵⁷

Richard Norris passed two corn grist mills to his son John Norris in 1748. He had rented a further piece of land from Ann Herbert and John Dix for 97 years in 1742, where he built a windmill, for which he paid a rent of 10s. annually or ground two loads of corn. This was also passed to John Norris, who died in 1797 and left it in trust for the benefit of his wife, who died in 1799. His sons John and William Norris with William Clark obtained Stratton mill from John Norris' trustee in 1805 and transferred it to the clothier Joseph Cripps (they seem to have leased it to him and mortgaged it at the same time¹⁵⁸). He took sole possession and paid off the mortgage in 1808, and also bought adjoining pasture land from the estate of William Hinton in 1834.¹⁵⁹ In 1839 the mill employed 72 people (18 of them under 16, but none younger than 13). The mill operated one steam engine of

¹⁴⁹ *L&P Hen. VIII, XIX (1)*, 285.

¹⁵⁰ GA, D674b/T19.

¹⁵¹ GA, D674b/T46.

¹⁵² GA, D3439/1/358, 1580.

¹⁵³ GA, D674b/T46; /T48.

¹⁵⁴ Smith, *Men and Armour*, 251.

¹⁵⁵ GA, D674b/T22.

¹⁵⁶ GA, D674b/T19.

¹⁵⁷ GA, D4431/2/35/7.

¹⁵⁸ GA, D674b/E25.

¹⁵⁹ GA, D674b/T88.

6HP and 4 water wheels totalling 11HP.¹⁶⁰ When Joseph Cripps died in 1847, the mill with all its watercourses and lands made up 18a. 2r. 10p., which was bought by Jane Master.¹⁶¹

A directory of 1849 listed Alfred Pinchin as miller.¹⁶² Thomas Slatter was proprietor in 1855 and agent to a phosphate producer and a manure seller. The mill seems to have been used, at least in part, to grind bone for fertiliser.¹⁶³ An inventory and valuation of the tenants W. Slatter and J. Vaisey's fixtures and fittings in 1863 included items such as a mill stone and totalled £30 16s. 6d.¹⁶⁴ The mill was advertised for let in 1877.¹⁶⁵ Isaac Cleveland was recorded as miller in 1885.¹⁶⁶ In 1887 a local historian described the transition from clothing mills under Cripps, to the manufacture of oil cake and then used for corn and flour.¹⁶⁷

Stratton steam mills were put up for sale in 1894.¹⁶⁸ The mill was operated as a corn and grist mill by Anthony Rimes in 1902, when it was completely destroyed in a fire.¹⁶⁹ Anthony Rimes and Sons had rebuilt the mill by 1903 and continued to advertise as millers at Stratton mill in 1907.¹⁷⁰ Rimes and Sons had plans approved to extend the engine shed in 1941.¹⁷¹ The mill was still operating in 1957, but in 1998 application was made to convert the mill into five cottages.¹⁷²

Stratton Brewery

John Hayward and Thomas Vaisey were listed as maltsters in Stratton in 1830 and again in 1852-3.¹⁷³ By 1863 Thomas Hayward had expanded his family business and he was listed as maltster and

¹⁶⁰ *Return of Mills and Factories which have neglected to transmit Returns to Inspectors, 1837-38; Number of Persons employed in Cotton, Woollen, Worsted, Flax and Silk Factories of United Kingdom* (Parl. Papers 1839 (41), xlii), 142-3, 146-7, 150-1.

¹⁶¹ GA, D674b/T88.

¹⁶² *Hunt & Co.'s Directory of Gloucester and Bristol* (1849), 92.

¹⁶³ *Wilts & Gos.*, 10 Nov. 1855.

¹⁶⁴ GA, D674b/E79.

¹⁶⁵ *Wilts & Gos.*, 3 Feb. 1877.

¹⁶⁶ *Wilts & Gos.*, 27 Jun. 1885.

¹⁶⁷ Beecham, *Cirencester*, 189.

¹⁶⁸ *Wilts & Gos.*, 29 Sept. 1894.

¹⁶⁹ *Wilts & Gos.*, 1 Nov. 1902.

¹⁷⁰ *Wilts & Gos.*, 1 Aug. 1903, 30 Nov. 1907.

¹⁷¹ GA, DA4/100/22, 27 Feb. 1941.

¹⁷² GA, P319/MI/1/6, *Wilts & Gos.*, 30 Mar. 1957; DC111/67.

¹⁷³ *Pigot's Directory* (1830), 365; *Kelly's Directory*, (1852-3), 117.

brewer.¹⁷⁴ Thomas Hayward's widow was proprietor of the brewery in 1869 following her husband's death.¹⁷⁵ The proprietor of the brewery was A. Woodman in an advert of 1871 and Edward Frederick Woodman was listed as the only brewer in Stratton in 1879 and 1885.¹⁷⁶ By 1894 no brewer was listed in Stratton.¹⁷⁷ The brewery was sold to the Cirencester Brewery in 1899.¹⁷⁸ It later became a maltings and was demolished around 1930.¹⁷⁹

Manufacturing

In 1833 Richard Radway had run a plough and machine manufactory in Stratton for over 40 years and had workmen of more than two decades service.¹⁸⁰ He was succeeded by his son R. F. Radway until his death in 1861.¹⁸¹ The business was sold to C.F. Webb¹⁸², who had previously established a rival plough-making business in the village¹⁸³ and named his business the Stratton iron works.¹⁸⁴ The company exhibited wares at the Gloucestershire Agricultural Show in 1900, but no further mentions are made.¹⁸⁵

Pubs, inns and hotels

A list of public houses in Cirencester from around 1800 includes the Salutation, near the turnpike gate on Gloucester Road.¹⁸⁶ The Salutation Tavern was sold at auction in 1877.¹⁸⁷ The earliest mention of the Drillman's Arms was in 1854, when the proprietor James Smith was fined by magistrates for keeping it open beyond the licensed hours.¹⁸⁸ The Drillman's Arms was advertised for

¹⁷⁴ *Post Office Directory* (1863), 347.

¹⁷⁵ *Wilts & Gos.*, 29 May 1869.

¹⁷⁶ *Wilts & Gos.*, 1 July 1871; *Kelly's Directory* (1879), 750; *Kelly's Directory* (1885), 580.

¹⁷⁷ *Kelly's Directory* (1894), 296–7.

¹⁷⁸ T. Edgell, *Cotswold Pubs and Breweries* (Stroud, 2013).

¹⁷⁹ GA, P319/MI/1/6.

¹⁸⁰ *Glos. Chronicle*, 13 July 1833.

¹⁸¹ *Wilts & Gos.*, 16 Nov. 1861.

¹⁸² *Wilts & Gos.*, 25 Oct. 1862.

¹⁸³ *Wilts & Gos.*, 23 Feb. 1856.

¹⁸⁴ *Wilts & Gos.*, 4 Nov. 1865.

¹⁸⁵ *Wilts & Gos.*, 28 July 1900.

¹⁸⁶ GA, P86/1/MI/2.

¹⁸⁷ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 26 Oct. 1878.

¹⁸⁸ *Wilts & Gos.*, 12 Aug. 1854.

let by Thomas Hayward of Stratton brewery in 1868, complete with a bakehouse and stabling.¹⁸⁹ John Bowles was licensee in 1870 when he was summoned to court, accused of assaulting Elizabeth Gibbs of the Railway Tavern, Cirencester.¹⁹⁰ The licence was taken over by the ‘respectable’ Charles Wallis soon afterward, much to the relief of the local constabulary.¹⁹¹ The Plough Inn was mentioned in 1870 after a customer became drunk and riotous.¹⁹² The Plough public house was listed in a directory of 1885 when the proprietor was Alfred Mullis.¹⁹³ In 1894 the Salutation inn, under proprietor George Driver, was the only pub or inn listed in Stratton although George Freeman was listed as a beer retailer and Joseph Smith a haulier and beer retailer.¹⁹⁴ In 1902 the Salutation Inn was run by Mrs Elizabeth Diver and offered ‘good accommodation for cyclists’.¹⁹⁵ It had recently closed in 1957.¹⁹⁶ The Drillmans Arms public house of Alfred S. Potter was listed in a directory of 1939 and the Plough was listed as run by Charles W. E. Moss.¹⁹⁷ In the 1950s the Plough Inn was owned by Stroud Brewery and the Drillman’s Arms by Simond’s, who added a new bowling alley.¹⁹⁸ Both the Drillman’s Arms and the Plough Inn remained open in 2018, the latter owned by Arkell’s brewers since 1991.¹⁹⁹

Stratton House was converted to become the Stratton House Hotel between 1931 and 1935.²⁰⁰ The Stratton House Hotel came under new management in 1947.²⁰¹ A map accompanying an application for a renewal of the Hotel’s license in 1948 shows the Drillmans Arms, the Plough Inn (beer licences) and the Salutation Inn (full licence) as the other licensed premises in Stratton. The Hotel had 18 bedrooms across three floors.²⁰² In 2018 the owners were Aidan and Sarah Stevens, and it had 42 bedrooms.²⁰³

¹⁸⁹ *Wilts & Gos.*, 29 Aug. 1868.

¹⁹⁰ *Wilts & Gos.*, 6 Aug. 1870.

¹⁹¹ *Wilts & Gos.*, 27 Aug. 1870.

¹⁹² *Wilts & Gos.*, 6 Aug. 1870.

¹⁹³ *Kelly’s Directory* (1885), 580.

¹⁹⁴ *Kelly’s Directory* (1894), 296–7.

¹⁹⁵ *Kelly’s Directory* (1902), 303.

¹⁹⁶ GA, P319/MI/1/6, *Wilts & Gos.*, 30 Mar. 1957.

¹⁹⁷ *Kelly’s Directory* (1939), 325.

¹⁹⁸ GA, DA4/100/26, 18 Dec. 1951; DA4/100/27, 28 July 1953, 22 Dec. 1953.

¹⁹⁹ <https://www.arkells.com/pub/the-plough-inn-stratton-cirencester.htm>, accessed 26 Feb. 2018.

²⁰⁰ *Kelly’s Directory* (1931), 318; *Kelly’s Directory* (1935), 318.

²⁰¹ *Gloucestershire Echo*, 1 Dec. 1947.

²⁰² GA, Q/AV/1/13.

Le Spa, a health club with swimming pool, based in an Edwardian building opposite the Plough Inn on Gloucester Road closed in 2011.²⁰⁴ The building was demolished in 2016, to make way for a care home.²⁰⁵

²⁰³ <http://strattonhousehotel.com/> (accessed 4 June 2018).

²⁰⁴ *Glos. Echo*, 11 Aug. 2011.

²⁰⁵ *Wilts & Glos.*, 20 Jan. 2016.

Social History

Francis Boorman

Communal Life

The late 19th century witnessed the flourishing of clubs and societies in Stratton. The Stratton Working Men’s Club was set up around 1870 in a converted cottage in Back Lane. The rector George Francis Master was patron and T.W.C. Master the younger. was treasurer and chairman.²⁰⁶

The Stratton Cottagers’ Horticultural Society held a show of flowers, fruit and vegetables in a field lent by Capt. Chester Master in 1872.²⁰⁷ By its second year, the society had extended to include Baunton.²⁰⁸ In 1914 the show became much larger, moving venue to Tinglesfield thanks to the inclusion of Mrs. Melville on the organising committee.²⁰⁹ The Stratton Women’s Institute held monthly meetings from 1924 and performed at the Stratton and Baunton Horticultural Society’s 50th annual show in 1926, following a hiatus in the First World War.²¹⁰ The Horticultural Society continued to hold its annual show in 2018.²¹¹

The Bishop of Gloucester noted the presence of a Mothers’ Union, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides on a visit to the parish in 1925, which he felt spoke well for Stratton’s ‘social and spiritual life’.²¹²

The Stratton Association was set up in 1973 to create a feeling of community following the addition of new housing in Stratton heights.²¹³ It continued to publish a newsletter in 2018.²¹⁴ Stratton Youth Football Club was also established in the mid-1970s.²¹⁵ Stratton Drama Group was founded in 1983 by Malcolm and Ann Edis, who retired in 2005, although the group was still staging two performances annually in 2018.²¹⁶

²⁰⁶ *Wilts & Glos.*, 22 Jan. 1870.

²⁰⁷ *Wilts & Glos.*, 17 Aug. 1872.

²⁰⁸ *Western Daily Press*, 16 Aug. 1873.

²⁰⁹ GA, D7103, uncatalogued accession 10836, unpublished history of Stratton.

²¹⁰ GA, D2933; *Glouc. Journal*, 24 July 1926.

²¹¹ *Wilts & Glos.*, 19 Aug. 2018.

²¹² *Glos. Echo*, 18 Sept. 1925.

²¹³ Stratton Association Facebook Page, accessed 8 Mar. 2018.

²¹⁴ <http://cirencester.gov.uk/stratton-association/>, accessed 8 Mar. 2018.

²¹⁵ <http://www.stratton-youth-fc.org/>, accessed 8 Mar. 2018.

²¹⁶ GA, D10820/A5-2/e; http://www.strattondramagroup.co.uk/Stratton_Drama_Group/About_us.html, accessed 8 Mar. 2018.

The *Stratton and Baunton Parish Magazine* included a list of local organisations giving a selection of the clubs and societies in the village in 1997: the Stratton Association, the Stratton-with-Baunton WI, Stratton and Baunton Horticultural Society, Stratton Scouts, Stratton Guides, Stratton Brownies, Stratton Playgroup, Stratton A.F.C., Stratton Youth A.F.C., Stratton United F.C., Stratton Drama Group and ‘Wednesday’ Club.²¹⁷

The earliest record of Stratton Cricket Club is a report of a loss to Cirencester 2nd XI of a match played in Stratton in 1887.²¹⁸ Stratton Cricket Club was permitted to build a new pavilion in 1950.²¹⁹

The earliest record of Stratton Football Club was of a 2-0 away win at South Cerney in 1919, although the club was in existence earlier.²²⁰ The Stratton Football Club reserves won the third division of the Cirencester and District League in 1925 and celebrated by holding a dinner and smoking concert at the Salutation Inn.²²¹ Stratton Football Club won the second division of the Cirencester and District League in 1935-6 and the senior charities cup in 1951-2.²²²

The hard tennis courts for Cirencester Tennis Club were in Stratton, where they played regular tournaments.²²³ The courts were built in 1926 and a garage added in 1953, but replaced by housing in 1995.²²⁴

Education

Henry Wood ran a boarding school in Stratton in 1830, having previously had a gentlemen’s boarding school in Quern’s Lane, Cirencester.²²⁵ There had also been a school in Stratton since 1815, although its location is not known. A replacement was founded in 1846 by Jane Master with donations from parishioners and the British Society.²²⁶ Mary Townsend was mistress of an infant school in Stratton in 1849.²²⁷ By 1852-3 she was mistress of the Church School, Stratton, and William Townsend junior was the master.²²⁸

²¹⁷ GA, P319/MI/4/16, *Stratton and Baunton Parish Magazine*, Dec. 1997.

²¹⁸ *Wilts & Glos.*, 6 Aug. 1887.

²¹⁹ GA, DA4/100/25, 28 Feb. 1950.

²²⁰ *Glos. Echo*, 21 Oct. 1919.

²²¹ *Wilts & Glos.*, 23 May 1925.

²²² GA, P319/MI/1/6, *Wilts & Glos.*, 30 Mar. 1957.

²²³ *Glos. Echo*, 19 Sept. 1932.

²²⁴ GA, D7103, uncatalogued map of town development; DA4/100/27, 28 July 1953.

²²⁵ *Pigot’s Directory* (1822), 52; *Pigot’s Directory* (1830), 364.

²²⁶ GA, D10820/SI-3/g.

²²⁷ *Hunt & Co.’s Directory of Gloucester and Bristol* (1849), 93.

²²⁸ *Kelly’s Directory*, (1852-3), 115.

Stratton Church School, for pupils aged 5 to 13, was built in 1857-8 with a grant of £202 from the privy council and the remaining cost was met by Jane Master. The building had a single school room and a school house with three bedrooms.²²⁹ From 1881 the school was run by a group of six managers, chaired by the rector, T.H.I. Child. At this time the schoolmaster was Mr Mainwaring.²³⁰ Construction of a new classroom of 17.2 ft by 15 ft began in September 1883 and was completed in January 1884.²³¹ The school advertised for a new assistant mistress in 1886, explaining that the school was 'chiefly for infants and sewing.'²³² In 1890 the school had average attendances of 42 infants and 73 at the mixed school. An assistant schoolmistress taught the infants and a sewing class for older children. The mixed school was taught by a headteacher and a pupil teacher. To alleviate the burden on the headteacher, an assistant master was advertised for, who would double as parish organist.²³³

The school was enlarged again in 1892, when a new classroom of 24 ft by 20 ft was built at a cost of £185.²³⁴ The school received an annual grant from the government in 1893, obtaining the highest possible funding in all subjects.²³⁵ The school was closed due to an outbreak of whooping cough in 1895.²³⁶ The school had a growing deficit in 1897, liquidated with the aid of a £50 donation from Algernon Elwes in 1898.²³⁷ Also in 1897, the schoolhouse, owned by Col. Chester Master, was let to a caretaker to allow the headteacher to find larger accommodation.²³⁸ Average attendance in the five years to 1897 was 127.²³⁹ The school managers wrote to the Diocesan Association of Church Schools in 1899 to say that a further grant was needed for salaries and building repairs or the school would have to close.²⁴⁰ Income finally exceeded expenditure in 1900.²⁴¹ The managers asked Col. Chester-Master to donate the school house to the school in 1902 and used the rent for funding.²⁴²

²²⁹ GA, P319/SC/2/1; P319/SC/5/1; P319/SC/5/2; P319/SC/5/3.

²³⁰ GA, P319/SC/2/1, 12 May 1881.

²³¹ GA, P319/SC/2/1, Jan. 1884; P319/SC/5/4.

²³² GA, P319/SC/2/1, 31 Jan. 1886.

²³³ GA, P319/SC/2/1, 7 Jun. 1890.

²³⁴ GA, P319/SC/2/1, 1 Aug. 1892, 20 Aug. 1892; P319/SC/5/6.

²³⁵ GA, P319/SC/2/1, 1 Apr. 1893.

²³⁶ GA, P319/SC/2/1, 20 Mar. 1895, 2 Apr. 1895.

²³⁷ GA, P319/SC/2/1, 19 Jan. 1897, 3 Jan. 1898.

²³⁸ GA, P319/SC/2/1, 24 Sept. 1897.

²³⁹ GA, P319/SC/2/2.

²⁴⁰ GA, P319/SC/2/1, 5 Apr. 1899.

²⁴¹ GA, P319/SC/2/2, 14 Mar. 1900.

²⁴² GA, P319/SC/2/2, 10 Feb. 1903, 3 Apr. 1903.

Following the Education Act 1902 the managers ceased to meet under the terms of the old trust deed and Stratton Church School appointed a new board of managers in 1903, albeit with few personnel changes, and with Rev Edward Henry Ball elected chair.²⁴³ The new board came under greater oversight by the County Council Education Committee.²⁴⁴ No meetings of the school managers were held between 1914 and 1918. T. Hancock was headteacher for 14 years until 1918 and Mr Rumbol for 16 years to 1934.²⁴⁵ Electric lighting was installed in the school in 1929.²⁴⁶ W.A. Chester-Master gave the school house to the school foundation managers in 1936.²⁴⁷ The accounts for 1950-1 show receipts of £2 15s. 6d. from the Old Strattonians, formed in the 1940s.²⁴⁸ In 1951 there were five foundation managers, joined by representatives of Cirencester UDC and the County Council.²⁴⁹

The managers felt that the school could not afford to apply for ‘aided’ status under the 1952 Development Plan and so automatically became a ‘controlled’ school.²⁵⁰ The Gloucestershire *Development Plan for Primary and Secondary Schools* of 1952 observed that the school had 66 pupils in 1945 and stated the intention to enlarge the school to three classrooms with improved facilities at a total cost of £8,100.²⁵¹ A new body of managers was constituted in 1953, composed of the rector (ex-officio), 1 representative of the PCC, 2 from the UDC and 2 from the Gloucestershire Education Committee.²⁵² Some building work was carried out at the school in 1956, although not the enlargement. Between 1956 and 1966 attendance fell from 102 to 39 but then returned to over 60, securing once again a third teacher for the school. Relocation of Polish families to Daglingworth led to 31 Polish children attending the school in 1957.²⁵³

As plans were made to more than double the population of Stratton in 1965, with the development to take place on the other side of the road from the school, plans were considered either for a completely new County School as part of the building works, or resiting and enlargement of the present school.²⁵⁴ Following a fire at the school in 1968, temporary Terrapin classrooms were

²⁴³ GA, P319/SC/2/2, 26 Dec. 1902, 3 Apr. 1903; 319/SC/2/3, 1 May 1903.

²⁴⁴ GA, P319/SC/2/3, 1 May 1903.

²⁴⁵ GA, P319/SC/2/3, 5 Aug. 1918; 17 Aug. 1934.

²⁴⁶ GA, P319/SC/2/3, 14 Nov. 1929.

²⁴⁷ GA, P319/SC/2/3, 21 Oct. 1936.

²⁴⁸ GA, P319/SC/2/3, 6 Mar. 1951.

²⁴⁹ GA, P319/SC/2/3, 31 Mar. 1951.

²⁵⁰ GA, P319/SC/2/3, 3 Nov. 1952.

²⁵¹ GA, P319/SC/2/5.

²⁵² GA, P319/SC/2/3, 20 Apr. 1953; DA4/100/27, 28 July 1953.

²⁵³ GA, P319/SC/2/6.

²⁵⁴ GA, P319/SC/2/7.

erected for use on the site of a proposed new school until a new building could be completed. Immediate accommodation was also found in the old Cirencester Grammar School. More places at the school were needed in any case as recent development in Stratton had expanded the number of applicants. A new building for the school was designed by Eric Cole Design Group in 1971 with eight classrooms, and incorporating a village hall on behalf of the Stratton Village Hall Committee, which could also be used as a dining room for the school. The project was carried out in two phases, with the first phase providing one classroom to be used in conjunction with existing “Terrapin” buildings, initially providing accommodation for 156 children by 1973.²⁵⁵ The second phase of the development was officially opened in 1982.²⁵⁶ The school had 211 pupils taught in 7 single age classes in 2018.²⁵⁷

Social Welfare

Thomas Nicholas esq. (d. 1638), left £5 and William Cox gent. (d. 1640) £10 for the use of the poor.²⁵⁸ In 1672 ten men and two women in Stratton were exempted from the hearth tax.²⁵⁹ In 1764 Ralph Willett II bequeathed £5 and then 20s. for five years to the poor of Stratton.²⁶⁰

In 1883 John Bishop, an 85-year old widower living in Stratton with his grand-daughter, cut his throat rather than face being admitted to the Cirencester workhouse.²⁶¹

²⁵⁵ GA, P319/SC/4/2.

²⁵⁶ GA, D10820/SI-3/g.

²⁵⁷ <http://www.stratton.gloucs.sch.uk/welcome/>, accessed 16 Mar. 2018.

²⁵⁸ *Parsons's Notes*, 78-9; Bigland, *Glos.* III, 1199.

²⁵⁹ TNA, E179/116/544/37.

²⁶⁰ TNA, PROB 11/903/174.

²⁶¹ *Wilts & Glos.*, 13 Jan. 1883.

Religious History

Francis Boorman

Church Origins and Parochial Organization

Advowson and Church Endowment

The right of presentation was held by the Crown in 1585²⁶² and 1599.²⁶³ The lords of the manor of Stratton took over the advowson in the 17th century.²⁶⁴ Edward Sheldon (1599-1687), who inherited the manor from his father,²⁶⁵ was a Catholic, responsible for translating several important Catholic works from French.²⁶⁶ According to Anthony Wood, he had to leave Stratton on account of his Catholicism and Royalism, but nevertheless presented to the living in 1674. In 1774 the presentation was made not by the lord of manor, but by George Daubeny of Bristol who appointed his younger brother.²⁶⁷ Patronage reverted to the lord of the manor at the next presentation in 1807.²⁶⁸ In 1888 Thomas William Chester Master appointed Edward Henry Ball to the henceforth combined benefice of Stratton and Baunton.²⁶⁹

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners proposed uniting the benefices of Stratton with Cirencester and Baunton with Bagendon in 1935, but the PCC resisted the change.²⁷⁰ The right of presentation to Stratton with Baunton was suspended for five years in 1987 and again in 1992, whilst the future of the benefice was decided. In 1994 a new benefice combining Stratton, North Cerney, Baunton and Bagendon was created, replacing a scheme of 1984 to join Stratton and Baunton with Daglingworth which was never enacted.²⁷¹

²⁶² GA, GDR/D1/271

²⁶³ GA, GDR/27A.

²⁶⁴ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; D3439/1/358

²⁶⁵ See Landownership, Manor.

²⁶⁶ *ODNB*, Edward Sheldon (1599-1687), translator.

²⁶⁷ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; *Alumni Oxon. 1715-1886*, 340; *Hist. Parl. Commons 1754-1790*, Daubeny, George, (1742-1806).

²⁶⁸ GA, GDR/D1/271..

²⁶⁹ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271.

²⁷⁰ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 8 Mar. 1935, 25 Mar. 1935, 21 May 1935.

²⁷¹ GA, P319/IN/3/2.

In 1872 the rector of Stratton George Francis Master mortgaged the glebe tithes and rents to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for £220, to build stables for the rectory's farmland.²⁷² Sale of glebe land in 1911 raised £5,166 which was invested in stocks.²⁷³

Rectory House

The rectory that later became 'Stratton End' was sold with the glebe and a new rectory to the east of Gloucester Road was built in 1912.²⁷⁴ Parishioners contributed to the cost of a new window at the rectory for the incoming rector in 1938.²⁷⁵ Repairs to the rectory costing £48 were required in 1941.²⁷⁶

Religious Life

Roger Grene was appointed vicar in 1532.²⁷⁷ He was called before the Gloucester Consistory Court in 1569, amidst claims that he was given to drinking. He turned up late and was warned not to 'frequent drinkers'.²⁷⁸ He was accused of being a drunkard again in 1573 with further complaints that he caused strife amongst his neighbours, his sermons could not be understood and he had let the parsonage fall into decay. He was excommunicated for contumacy and a portion of the fruits were sequestered to repair the parsonage and to hire a curate, paid to the churchwardens.²⁷⁹ The sequestration was granted to George Llord and William Watson in 1577, when the parsonage and associated buildings were still falling to ruin and Grene was judged too old and infirm to celebrate mass.²⁸⁰

Grene died in 1585 and Thomas Richardson, formerly of St John the Baptist, Gloucester, was appointed rector.²⁸¹ Richard Forshoe was made curate in 1594.²⁸² David Powell was appointed in 1599.²⁸³ He died in 1625, when Thomas Nicholas appointed John Arden as rector, followed by

²⁷² GA, P319/IN/3/1.

²⁷³ GA, P319/IN/3/1.

²⁷⁴ GA, D10989/1/3, *CAHS Annual Report and Newsletter* (1961/2), 6.

²⁷⁵ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 24 Sept. 1938, 14 Oct. 1938, 9 Nov. 1938.

²⁷⁶ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 29 Apr. 1941.

²⁷⁷ CCED, ID 45734.

²⁷⁸ GA, D3439/1/358, 1569.

²⁷⁹ GA, D3439/1/358, 1573.

²⁸⁰ GA, D3439/1/358, 1577.

²⁸¹ GA, D3439/1/358, 1585; GA, GDR/D1/271; CCED, ID 162079.

²⁸² GA, GDR/73.

²⁸³ GA, GDR/27A.

William Harvey in 1655.²⁸⁴ Harvey remained in position following the Restoration, subscribed to the Act of Uniformity in 1662 and was made a deacon in 1671.²⁸⁵ In 1674 Edward Sheldon made the presentation to Thomas Mole, formerly vicar of Driffield, in 1674.²⁸⁶

The evidence for nonconformists in Stratton is sparse, although there was a great deal of nonconformist activity in Cirencester. Giles Hancox's house in Stratton was licensed to hold Congregationalist meetings under the Declaration of Indulgence in 1672.²⁸⁷

Ralph Willett, fellow of Wadham College, Oxford, was presented to the living in 1685. In 1717 Ralph Willett became rector of Minchinhampton, while his son Ralph Willett II was appointed to Stratton by Thomas Master.²⁸⁸ Willett served as rector for nearly 50 years until his death in 1764. The Willetts owned the rectory of Horsley, which Ralph Willett II passed to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Selfe in 1754.²⁸⁹ In his will he promised his wife Mary £2000 above what she was owed by their marriage settlement, but a mere £5 and then 20s. for five years to the poor of Stratton.²⁹⁰ There is an inscription memorialising Ralph Willett I in St Peter's church.²⁹¹ During his tenure there was a family of Anabaptists living in the village.²⁹²

Ralph Willett II was succeeded by John Sandford, who moved to become rector of Chelsfield (Kent) in 1774 and was replaced by James Daubeny.²⁹³ Daubeny was also made chaplain to Allen Bathurst and rector of Preston in 1775 by dispensation of the Bishop of Gloucester and then rector of Sudeley Manor in 1783. Thomas Master appointed Thomas Boys upon the death of Daubeny in 1807.²⁹⁴ Boys was also made rector of Radclive (Bucks.) in 1817.²⁹⁵ Boys died in 1823 and Jane Master presented the rectory to Charles Dewell of Malmesbury, beginning an unstable period for the parish.²⁹⁶ Dewell

²⁸⁴ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; D3439/1/358

²⁸⁵ GA, GDR/209; D3439/1/358, 1662; 1671.

²⁸⁶ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; *CCED*, ID 15882.

²⁸⁷ G.L. Turner, *Original Records of Early Nonconformity Under Persecution and Indulgence*, vol. I (1911), 372, 509.

²⁸⁸ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; *CCED*, ID 167926; *Alumni Oxon. 1500-1714*, 1636.

²⁸⁹ *VCH Glos.* XI, 178.

²⁹⁰ TNA, PROB 11/903/174.

²⁹¹ Rudder, *Glos.*, 710.

²⁹² *Bensons's Survey*, 158.

²⁹³ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; *CCED*, ID 2208, 52347.

²⁹⁴ GA, D3439/1/358, 1775; GA, GDR/D1/271.

²⁹⁵ GA, D3439/1/358, 1817.

²⁹⁶ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271.

hired George Bisset as stipendiary curate with a stipend of £100 and the rectory, as he had dispensation to remain in Malmesbury for three years with his ill daughter.²⁹⁷ Dewell died in 1826 when Master appointed Charles Wightwick, who resigned shortly before his death the next year and Edward Willes became rector.²⁹⁸ Willes was also vicar of Ampney Crucis until 1829 when he became rector of Whitnash (War.), obtaining another unnamed benefice in 1831, and leaving Stratton to become rector of Hamstall Ridware (Staffs.) in 1833.²⁹⁹ Previously a curate in Baunton, William Pye became rector of both Sapperton and Stratton in 1833, hiring Arthur Moore as stipendiary curate of Stratton.³⁰⁰ Thomas Boys Croome became curate in 1839 but was soon replaced by Henry Brooks Forster.³⁰¹

A tenement in the occupation of Robert Lovett in Stratton was licenced as a place of worship for dissenters in 1823.³⁰² Paul Orchard, a Wesleyan Minister of Stroud, received a licence to use a house in Stratton for a place of worship in 1835.³⁰³ The 1851 religious census recorded no non-conformist place of worship in the parish.³⁰⁴ By 1885 Revd. Henry Austin, the minister of the Cirencester Unitarian church from 1866 until his death in 1929, lived in Stratton and took an active part in village affairs.³⁰⁵

William Pye resigned in 1843 and Jane Master presented the rectory to George Francis Master, instituted in 1844.³⁰⁶ His tenure was severely disrupted by health difficulties. Master was given several months' leave due to ill health in 1846, when his duties were carried out by a curate. Richard Howell Taylor was appointed curate of Stratton and Baunton in 1849, residing in Baunton. William Darke Stanton was made curate in 1853, then replaced by Robert Reveley in 1854. Master was absent due to ill health a dozen times between 1851 and his death in 1875.³⁰⁷ That year Thomas William Chester Master appointed Thomas Hannington Irving Child as rector, the post valued at £300-400 pa.³⁰⁸ Child resigned in 1888, when he inherited the family estate in Wotton-under-Edge,³⁰⁹

²⁹⁷ GA, D3439/1/358, 1823.

²⁹⁸ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; D3439/1/358, 1827; *CCED*, ID 92063.

²⁹⁹ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; *CCED*, ID 20782.

³⁰⁰ *CCED*, ID 21232; GA, GA, GDR/D1/271; GDR/353.

³⁰¹ GA, D3439/1/358, 1839, 1840.

³⁰² GA, D3439/1/358, 1823.

³⁰³ GA, D3439/1/358, 1835.

³⁰⁴ *Religious Census 1851*, 248.

³⁰⁵ *Wilts & Glos.*, 26 Dec. 1885; *Chelt.Chronicle*, 16 Feb. 1929.

³⁰⁶ GA, D3439/1/358, 1844.

³⁰⁷ GA, D3439/1/358, 1846 to 1875.

³⁰⁸ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271.

and Edward Henry Ball was appointed to the henceforth combined benefice of Stratton and Baunton.³¹⁰

The first Parochial Church Council meeting for Stratton with Baunton was held in 1920. 12 members were elected and the rector and churchwardens were ex-officio members. Representatives were elected to the Rural Decanal and Diocesan Conference.³¹¹ Sub-committees were formed to look after the churchyard, church finances and to organise celebrations for the patronal festival.³¹² A fabric fund was established in 1923.³¹³ A sub-committee for Baunton was formed by its five members in 1924.³¹⁴ They agreed to add a new gate to the cemetery for easier access to the war memorial in 1928.³¹⁵ Archdeacon Cornwall was co-opted onto the committee in 1928.³¹⁶

The PCC agreed to appoint a new curate to assist Canon Ball in 1936, who then joined the Council in 1937.³¹⁷ Ball resigned in 1938 when William Alfred Chester Master appointed Osmond Molesworth Clarke, and then Kenneth William Haworth in 1943.³¹⁸ Richard Elphick became rector in 1946 and Thomas Peter Hearn in 1962.³¹⁹ Hearn resigned from the benefice of Stratton and Baunton in 1975. The PCC asked for a man young and active enough to continue delivering a high level of pastoral care in a broad church tradition.³²⁰ The new vicar was John Mead, beginning in September 1975.³²¹

The *East Cotswold Church Monthly* was discontinued at the end of 1940 and the PCC agreed that the notes for Stratton with Baunton be included in the Cirencester parish magazine instead.³²² Mending the church roof in 1964-5 placed a strain on parish finances, using up the reserve funds and

³⁰⁹ *Wilts & Glos.*, 2 June 1888.

³¹⁰ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271.

³¹¹ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 8 Apr. 1920.

³¹² GA, P319/VE/2/2, 20 Apr. 1920, 11 Jun. 1920.

³¹³ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 29 Aug. 1923.

³¹⁴ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 6 Aug. 1924.

³¹⁵ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 18 Jan. 1928.

³¹⁶ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 28 Apr. 1928.

³¹⁷ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 3 Nov. 1936, 8 Nov. 1937.

³¹⁸ GA, GA, GDR/D1/271.

³¹⁹ Board of rectors in parish church and further information from Corinna Bramley, benefice administrator in March 2018.

³²⁰ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 17 Mar. 1975; 20 Mar. 1975; 5 Apr. 1975.

³²¹ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 18 Jun. 1975.

³²² GA, P319/VE/2/2, 19 Jun. 1940.

necessitating a reduction in charitable contributions.³²³ A new church magazine was launched in 1965.³²⁴ Mr and Mrs Insull established a Youth Fellowship in 1967.³²⁵ In 1976 the PCC formed four committees: finance, fabric, liturgical and pastoral, and social activities, which reported back to the full council.³²⁶ Celebrations were held in the same year to mark the centenary of the union of the parishes of Stratton and Baunton and the establishment of the Mothers' Union.³²⁷

In 1994 Howard Cocks, priest-in-charge of the two benefices, became rector of the newly combined benefice of Stratton, North Cerney, Baunton and Bagendon.³²⁸ He was inducted as rector with a service held in February 1995.³²⁹ Cocks was followed by rectors Peter Quinnell, appointed in 1999 and Warwick Heathcote in 2009. This became known as the Lower Churn benefice in 2009 and was joined by Rendcomb in 2012. The Churn Valley Benefice was formed in 2014, incorporating the Lower Churn benefice with the Upper Churn parishes of Cowley, Elkstone, Coberley and Colesbourne. Warwick Heathcote became rector. Heathcote fell ill and there was a period of vacancy in 2016.³³⁰ David Minns was appointed rector of the Churn Valley Benefice in 2017.³³¹

Church Architecture

Bigland described Stratton church as very small, consisting of a chancel and nave with a low tower in the middle containing two bells.³³² In 1825 Edward Brown was paid £210 for putting a new roof on the church and extending it by 17ft. The parish borrowed £100 from Joseph Cripps and was gifted £50 by Jane Master to complete the work.³³³ The church was rebuilt in 1850, incorporating a part of the previous 12th-century church into the south wall. Another survival of the rebuilding was a bell by Edward Neale dated 1671 and inscribed with the name of the rector William Harvey. The nave was

³²³ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 25 Apr. 1965.

³²⁴ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 9 Nov. 1965.

³²⁵ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 10 Jan. 1967.

³²⁶ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 28 Jan. 1976; 5 May 1976.

³²⁷ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 17 Mar. 1977.

³²⁸ GA, P319/IN/3/2.

³²⁹ GA, P319/IN/2/1.

³³⁰ Board of rectors in parish church and further information from Corinna Bramley, benefice administrator in March 2018.

³³¹ *Daily Telegraph*, 18 Jan. 2017.

³³² Bigland, *Glos.*, 1199.

³³³ GA, P319/CW/2/1.

extended westwards and a new north aisle added, increasing the size of the church to 300 sittings.³³⁴ A new organ was installed in 1874. Other improvements were made soon before 1887.³³⁵

In 1909 the Bishop of Gloucester granted a faculty for the erection of a stone pulpit, an oak altar in the chancel, removal of the existing altar to the east end of the north aisle, erection of a screen between the nave and the north aisle, and an oak reredos against the east wall of the chancel.³³⁶ The PCC applied for a faculty in 1927 to insert stained glass in a small window in the south wall of the church near the pulpit, to commemorate Revd Child.³³⁷ The church organ was in poor condition in 1939 and £35 was spent cleaning and repairing it.³³⁸ A new organ was dedicated in 1951, a gift from Major Guy Lethbridge-Galton in memory of his wife Edith.³³⁹

The PCC agreed to repair the chancel and applied for a faculty to refurnish the sanctuary in 1967.³⁴⁰ St Peter's continued to be in good condition in 1971. The most valuable sacred vessels in Stratton were a chalice and paten inscribed in 1795 and a flagon of 1876.³⁴¹ A faculty was issued for work including removal of the chancel screen, new stone steps into the chancel and the installation of a new pulpit.³⁴² The improvement works began in October 1974.³⁴³ A pulpit was sourced from Norwich diocese and following renovation, was installed in 1975.³⁴⁴ Repairs to St Peter's church, including to the roof, were carried out in 1976 costing over £1,300 and emptying the fabric fund.³⁴⁵ Described in 1982 the church was 'altered and scraped disastrously', with the only points of interest 'the Tree of Life tympanum and a dog-tooth lintel over the south door.'³⁴⁶

³³⁴ GA, D10989/1/3, *CAHS Annual Report and Newsletter* (1961/2), 5; Beecham, *Cirencester*, 188.

³³⁵ Beecham, *Cirencester*, 188.

³³⁶ GA, P319/CW/3/2.

³³⁷ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 24 Apr. 1927; P319/CW/3/3.

³³⁸ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 15 Apr. 1939.

³³⁹ GA, P319/IN/4/3.

³⁴⁰ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 9 Mar. 1967, 8 Sept. 1967.

³⁴¹ GA, P319/CW/3/4.

³⁴² GA, P319/VE/2/3, 16 Apr. 1974.

³⁴³ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 22 Oct. 1974.

³⁴⁴ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 23 Apr. 1975; 25 Nov. 1975.

³⁴⁵ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 17 Mar. 1977.

³⁴⁶ D. Verey, *Cotswold Churches* (Gloucester, 1982), 85.

An inquiry was held in 1885 regarding the creation of a new graveyard for Stratton by the sanitary authority.³⁴⁷ Burials in Stratton graveyard were discontinued in 1888, except in existing vaults or if there was space to be buried next to relatives interred there.³⁴⁸

In 1887 the parish raised the funds to provide a hall for missionary and mothers' meetings, concerts and other communal activities³⁴⁹ and leased a building on Cheltenham Road from Thomas William Chester Master for 50 years for the purpose. New trustees were appointed in 1925, when the PCC agreed to extend the church room.³⁵⁰ The PCC decided to install gas lighting in the mission room in 1933³⁵¹ and renovations were completed in 1937.³⁵² Evensong was held in the church room from 1940, so that the church did not need to be blacked out.³⁵³ The church room was supplied with water in 1941.³⁵⁴ The PCC agreed for the church hall to become a village hall in 1968, which was incorporated into the rebuilding of Stratton School.³⁵⁵ The new village hall was used for regular evening services in 1973.³⁵⁶

³⁴⁷ GA, D674b/E89.

³⁴⁸ GA, P319/CW/3/4.

³⁴⁹ *Wilts & Glos.*, 13 Aug. 1887.

³⁵⁰ GA, P319/IN/3/1; P319/VE/2/2, 2 Oct. 1925

³⁵¹ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 20 Nov. 1933.

³⁵² GA, P319/VE/2/2, 8 Nov. 1937.

³⁵³ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 19 Jun. 1940.

³⁵⁴ GA, P319/VE/2/2, 5 Nov. 1941.

³⁵⁵ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 19 Nov. 1968.

³⁵⁶ GA, P319/VE/2/3, 26 Apr. 1973.

Local Government

Francis Boorman

Manorial government

Manorial government continued to function in Stratton in the 17th century, with sporadic extant records from the regular court baron showing typical business, as in 1600/1 when rents and heriots were collected, copyhold property transferred and building repairs ordered.³⁵⁷ A court roll of 1614 recited the customs by which land was granted in the manor. The lord of the manor could grant estates for three lives or 21 years by copyhold. Further details were given regarding the death of copyholders, heriots, customary tenants, the maintenance of their buildings and cutting timber.³⁵⁸

In 1628 new regulations were made and fines set regarding the grazing of horses and cattle, keeping of pigs and grazing in stubble fields after harvest. Two men were appointed lease lookers or overseers of the fields to keep watch over the lord's land and another man asked to enforce the regulations.³⁵⁹ Further regulations regarding grazing, trespass and maintenance of gates were promulgated in a manorial court roll of 1639.³⁶⁰

A draft survey from the late 17th century showed some of the tenants of the manor, including three Elizabeths (Bartlet, Remington and Cook), the land they occupied, and the heriots and quit rents they paid. For example, Elizabeth Bartlet leased a messuage and 18 a. of arable land in 1674 and paid 16s. in heriots and 8s. in quit rents.³⁶¹

A court roll of 1704 stipulated rules for grazing on common land, such as the number of sheep allowed per person, and appointed four sheep tellers for the year.³⁶² No further manorial records are available, but certain manorial rights presumably endured until the abolition of copyhold land in 1925.

Parish Government to 1894

Churchwardens' accounts are available from 1781, but mostly pertain to ecclesiastical matters such as church repairs.³⁶³ The only pre-20th century vestry minutes available for Stratton cover the period 1860-80. Vestry meetings were held annually to elect overseers of the poor, a guardian to represent

³⁵⁷ GA, D674b/M1.

³⁵⁸ GA, D674b/M2.

³⁵⁹ GA, D674b/M3.

³⁶⁰ GA, D674b/M4.

³⁶¹ GA, D674b/M5.

³⁶² GA, D674b/M6.

³⁶³ GA, P319/CW/2/1.

the parish at the poor law union and a waywarden. The vestry also set the poor and highway rates.³⁶⁴ A constable and churchwardens were also appointed.³⁶⁵ From 1867 the overseers could collect the rates themselves for £5 or appoint a collector.³⁶⁶ Various houses were re-rated in view of higher rental values in 1879.³⁶⁷ A new sexton, George Roberts, was hired for £8pa in 1879.³⁶⁸ As a major landowner, Major Chester Master occasionally attended vestry meetings.³⁶⁹

From 1836 the Cirencester Board of Guardians took over responsibility for poor relief in Stratton, providing space in the Cirencester workhouse and distributing out relief. Stratton elected one representative to the board and was placed in a central division with Cirencester, Preston and Siddington, moving to the western division in a reorganisation of 1838.³⁷⁰

Gas lighting in Stratton was organised in parallel with the vestry in accordance with a parish lighting and watching act of 1834.³⁷¹ A meeting of the ratepayers was held at the Salutation Inn in 1860 which agreed to adopt the parliamentary act for lighting the parish with gas. The meeting duly appointed inspectors, a treasurer and lightermen, and raised £50. The public lamps were first lit in April 1860 for a few hours and then taken down for the season.³⁷² The first annual meeting of the ratepayers was held in the schoolroom in March 1861, with seven men in attendance. The parish overseers were ordered to raise a rate of £41.³⁷³ Annual meetings continued to be held at which inspectors were appointed and the accounts checked.³⁷⁴

The gas company took over lamplighting duties in 1863.³⁷⁵ C.F. Webb was treasurer for 23 years until 1884, from which time the gas and poor rates were collected together. A resolution was passed for lighting to be extended down Cheltenham Road, but the gas company declined to provide mains.³⁷⁶ The vestry decided not to pay for a mains extension.³⁷⁷

³⁶⁴ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 19 Mar. 1863; 16 Apr. 1863.

³⁶⁵ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 2 Mar. 1865; 31 Mar. 1866.

³⁶⁶ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 25 Apr. 1867.

³⁶⁷ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 1 Mar. 1879.

³⁶⁸ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 2 Oct. 1879.

³⁶⁹ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 21 Mar. 1880.

³⁷⁰ GA, G/Cl/8a/1, 22 Jan. 1836; G/Cl/8a/2, 7 Feb. 1838.

³⁷¹ GA, P319a/PC/34/1.

³⁷² GA, P319/VE/2/1, Feb. 1860 and 7 Apr. 1860.

³⁷³ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 2 Mar. 1861.

³⁷⁴ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 20 Mar. 1862.

³⁷⁵ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 14 Sept. 1863.

³⁷⁶ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 29 Mar. 1884.

A public meeting of ratepayers was held at the parish mission room in 1888 to consider the future of lighting in the parish.³⁷⁸ Objections were raised to paying the rate in parts of the parish where no gas lamps were supplied and lighting had been delayed for the season. The solution was to supply oil lamps in the unlit areas.³⁷⁹ Six oil lamps were lit on the Cheltenham Road for the first time in 1889.³⁸⁰ The parish council took over responsibility for lighting and negotiated the replacement of oil lamps by gas lighting in Cheltenham Road and new gas lighting for the school in 1928.³⁸¹

Stratton was within the district covered from 1873 by the Cirencester Rural Sanitary Authority, to which power was delegated by the Cirencester Board of Guardians to attend to nuisances such as sewage, water supply and infectious diseases.³⁸² In 1877 Mr Slatter was asked to clear the stream near Archers Cottage to prevent flooding, but he disputed the bill as a representative of Stratton parish.³⁸³ The ditch at Stratton turnpike was covered in 1877 and the inspector of nuisances recommended scouring out the sewer.³⁸⁴ Requests were made to remedy the spouting on two Stratton houses in 1878.³⁸⁵ A complaint was made regarding billeting of militiamen in a house in Stratton in 1879.³⁸⁶ Several homeowners were told to improve their privies, cesspools, ventilation or roofing.³⁸⁷ A full cleansing of Stratton sewer was ordered in 1884, to coincide with the dry autumn.³⁸⁸

Plans were made to extend Stratton graveyard in 1885 as it was nearly full.³⁸⁹ The Sanitary Authority borrowed £300 from the Local Government Board to lay out a new graveyard on land supplied by T.W. Chester-Master.³⁹⁰ The Sanitary Authority introduced regulations and a table of fees for the graveyard in 1888.³⁹¹ In 1889 the Sanitary Authority built a new slaughterhouse in Stratton.³⁹² The

³⁷⁷ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 13 Jun. 1884.

³⁷⁸ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 21 Apr. 1888.

³⁷⁹ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 11 Dec. 1888.

³⁸⁰ GA, P319/VE/2/1, 10 Oct. 1889.

³⁸¹ GA, P319a/PC/34/3.

³⁸² GA, DA22/100/1, 24 Feb. & 14 July 1873, 3 July 1874.

³⁸³ GA, DA22/100/1, 2 Feb. & 6 Apr. 1877.

³⁸⁴ GA, DA22/100/1, 16 July 1877, 5 Oct. 1877.

³⁸⁵ GA, DA22/100/1, 11 Oct. 1878.

³⁸⁶ GA, DA22/100/1, 5 May 1879.

³⁸⁷ GA, DA22/100/1, 6 Jun. & 3 Oct. 1879, 6 Feb. 1880.

³⁸⁸ GA, DA22/100/1, 13 Oct. 1884, 4 Feb. 1885.

³⁸⁹ GA, DA22/100/1, 5 Aug. 1885.

³⁹⁰ GA, DA22/100/1, 3 Feb. 1886.

Local Board claimed that sewage was being emptied into a ditch which ran into the Churn at Stratton, but the Sanitary Authority felt the problem was negligible.³⁹³

A clogged ditch in Stratton caused flooding which left the roads in the lower village under water for several days late in 1891.³⁹⁴ Stratton suffered from water and drainage problems again in 1892 and the Sanitary Authority used its powers to compel landlords to amend the situation.³⁹⁵ The scarcity of water was blamed for outbreaks of illness in the parish, 'which in many respects resembles a thickly inhabited small town'.³⁹⁶

Stratton School and two new houses at the top of Stratton Hill owned by the rector had no water supply and were admonished by the Sanitary Authority in 1893.³⁹⁷ The Sanitary Authority decided that the only solution was to have the Cirencester Water Works Company extend the water main past Gloucester Street Bridge and connect much of Stratton, with pipes to be laid along Gloucester Road, Cheltenham Road, Albion Street and to the school.³⁹⁸ The pipe for Albion Street was instead laid in Chester Street due to the willingness of residents to connect to the mains pipe.³⁹⁹ The Sanitary Authority wrote again to residents with no water supply late in 1893 to instruct them to remedy the situation.⁴⁰⁰ The 'unprecedented drought' of 1893 forced the extension of the water supply.⁴⁰¹

Parish Government after 1894

Cirencester Rural District Council

From 1894 Cirencester Rural District Council oversaw the Sanitary Authority until it was dissolved in 1895, when the RDC took over its functions. The first reference to Stratton was the setting of burial fees in 1895, although the Local Government Board rejected the rates set.⁴⁰² The River Purification Committee of the Thames Conservancy Board inspected Stratton in 1895 and instructed the RDC to prevent sewage from a ditch discharging into the Churn, although the RDC replied that the ditch was

³⁹¹ GA, DA22/100/2, 6 Jun. 1888; DA22/100/2, 12 Aug. 1889.

³⁹² GA, DA22/100/2, 5 Feb. 1890.

³⁹³ GA, DA22/100/2, 2 Dec. 1891.

³⁹⁴ GA, DA22/100/2, 2 Feb. 1892.

³⁹⁵ GA, DA22/100/2, 7 Dec. 1892.

³⁹⁶ GA, DA22/100/2, 1 Feb. 1893.

³⁹⁷ GA, DA22/100/2, 7 Jun. 1893.

³⁹⁸ GA, DA22/100/2, 10 July 1893.

³⁹⁹ GA, DA22/100/2, 11 Sept. 1893.

⁴⁰⁰ GA, DA22/100/2, 6 Dec. 1893.

⁴⁰¹ GA, DA22/100/2, 7 Feb. 1894.

⁴⁰² GA, DA22/100/3, 6 May 1895, 13 Jan. 1896, 5 Feb. 1896, 16 Feb. 1896.

dry.⁴⁰³ The Cirencester Highway Board was to repair Albion Street for the first time in 1896, when the RDC proposed installing a drain or sewer at the same time.⁴⁰⁴ A proposal was made by Cirencester UDC in 1898 to extend the town sewer system to Stratton but was rejected as too expensive.⁴⁰⁵

Sewage discharging into the Churn continued to be a problem and was again raised by Thames Conservators in 1898.⁴⁰⁶ The RDC consulted Stratton parish council about the matter, but their own consultant overruled the parish and recommended connecting Stratton to Cirencester's mains pipes.⁴⁰⁷ The specifications of an extension to the sewerage were agreed with the UDC and parish council in 1899, but was eventually deemed too expensive for the ratepayers and a cheaper filter bed was constructed instead.⁴⁰⁸ In the same year parish councillor Alfred Gegg complained that householders in Albion Street were connecting their sewage to the drain meant for surface water, but the RDC felt the connections were not causing a problem and that they had no power to compel residents to disconnect from the sewer.⁴⁰⁹

Drainage continued to be a problem in 1900 and the Thames Conservators complained that the recently completed works were inadequate and overflowing.⁴¹⁰ A supplementary scheme of catch pits and filters was proposed by the parish council and soon completed.⁴¹¹ The RDC erected telegraph poles on the road from Stratton to Baunton.⁴¹² The RDC agreed to clean out the ditch on the east side of Gloucester Road in 1901, but that on the west side was outside their remit.⁴¹³ Following complaints from the parish council about the smell in 1902, the RDC agreed to fit a vent to the sewer in Albion Street.⁴¹⁴ The Thames Conservancy continued to complain about effluent coming from the parish sewer, but the RDC insisted the problem was temporary.⁴¹⁵ A footpath on Albion Street was completed by the RDC surveyor in 1903.⁴¹⁶

⁴⁰³ GA, DA22/100/3, 9 Sept. 1895, 28 Oct. 1895.

⁴⁰⁴ GA, DA22/100/3, 19 Oct. 1896.

⁴⁰⁵ GA, DA4/100/7, 31 Dec. 1898.

⁴⁰⁶ GA, DA22/100/3, 25 July 1898.

⁴⁰⁷ GA, DA22/100/3, 29 Aug., 26 Sept., 31 Oct., 14 Nov. & 19 Dec. 1898.

⁴⁰⁸ GA, DA22/100/3, 16 Jan., 30 Jan. & 27 Feb. 1899.

⁴⁰⁹ GA, DA22/100/3, 19 Jun. 1899.

⁴¹⁰ GA, DA22/100/3, 19 Feb. & 19 Mar. 1900.

⁴¹¹ GA, DA22/100/3, 30 Apr. 1900; DA22/100/4, 20 Aug. 1900.

⁴¹² GA, DA22/100/4, 9 Sept. 1900.

⁴¹³ GA, DA22/100/4, 21 Oct. 1901.

⁴¹⁴ GA, DA22/100/4, 21 Apr. 1902.

⁴¹⁵ GA, DA22/100/4, 18 Aug. 1902.

⁴¹⁶ GA, DA22/100/4, 16 Nov. 1903.

The RDC wrote to the parish council in 1903 to ask that three members should act as a committee of management for Stratton cemetery.⁴¹⁷ New bye laws and a schedule of fees were agreed in 1904, but initially rejected by the Local Government Board.⁴¹⁸ Considerable damage was done to Albion Street laying gas pipes in 1908 and the RDC called on the UDC and gas company to make repairs, but eventually did so themselves and charged the UDC.⁴¹⁹ The street was broken up again to lay water pipes to the post office in 1909.⁴²⁰ A new catch pit was installed in Albion Street in the same year.⁴²¹

Yet more complaints were referred to the parish council about effluent coming from the Stratton sewerage by the Thames Conservancy in 1910 and the RDC was asked to devise a solution.⁴²² The RDC formed a committee to consider the sewerage question and after submitting a report to the parish council were asked to design a new sewer, although the ratepayers petitioned against the excessive expense.⁴²³ A less expensive scheme based on the present drains was proposed by the parish council and the RDC created a design including a new effluent tank, which was carried out for an estimated £67 and completed in 1912.⁴²⁴ The sewerage was also extended to the Firs.⁴²⁵

The Cirencester Electric Supply Co was permitted to run overhead electricity lines through the parish in 1913.⁴²⁶ The RDC approved plans for several cottages to be built in 1913.⁴²⁷ It also erected a danger notice for motorists in the parish.⁴²⁸ Very little business related to Stratton was transacted by the RDC during the First World War, but it gave permission to erect a memorial to the fallen in the

⁴¹⁷ GA, DA22/100/4, 18 May & 22 Jun. 1903.

⁴¹⁸ GA, DA22/100/4, 21 Mar. 1904, 18 Apr. 1904, 16 May 1904, 20 Jun. 1904, 20 Feb. 1905.

⁴¹⁹ GA, DA22/100/5, 16 Nov. 1908, 21 Dec. 1908, 18 Jan. 1909.

⁴²⁰ GA, DA22/100/5, 19 Apr. 1909.

⁴²¹ GA, DA22/100/5, 20 Sept. 1909.

⁴²² GA, DA22/100/5, 17 Jan. 1910, 21 Feb. 1910, 18 Apr. 1910.

⁴²³ GA, DA22/100/5, 18 July 1910, 12 Dec. 1910, 16 Jan. 1911, 20 Feb. 1911, 17 July 1911; P319a/PC/1/1, 17 Jun. 1910., 21 Jun. 1910, 29 Jun. 1910, 18 Feb. 1911

⁴²⁴ GA, DA22/100/5, 21 Aug. 1911, 18 Sept. 1911, 16 Oct. 1911, 11 Dec. 1911; DA22/100/6, 15 July 1912, 19 Aug. 1912.

⁴²⁵ GA, DA22/100/6, 21 Oct. 1912, 18 Nov. 1912, 16 Dec. 1912.

⁴²⁶ GA, DA22/100/6, 25 Aug. 1913, 17 Nov. 1913.

⁴²⁷ GA, DA22/100/6, 20 Oct. 1913.

⁴²⁸ GA, DA22/100/6, 15 Dec. 1913.

cemetery in 1918.⁴²⁹ Plans were made to replace the drain outside the Firs in 1919.⁴³⁰ Several properties in Stratton were connected to the electricity supply, including Stratton Mills, in 1922.⁴³¹

Four cases of chicken pox were reported in five weeks in Stratton in 1923.⁴³² The RDC proposed to build 10 houses in Stratton by 1926.⁴³³ The drains in Stratton were cleaned annually.⁴³⁴ The RDC consented to an extension of the overhead mains to Thessaly Lodge and the electricity supply to six premises in the parish including the church.⁴³⁵ The RDC also agreed to the stopping up of a footpath between the new by-pass road and Gloucester Road in 1926.⁴³⁶ Mill Lane was damaged when council houses were being built in 1927 and Mr Rimes offered to pay half the cost for its repair to a state in which the RDC could take over its management.⁴³⁷ The Council proposed to add a kerb and widen Mill Lane.⁴³⁸ A new superintendent of Stratton cemetery was elected by the RDC in 1927.⁴³⁹

The electricity supply was extended up School Hill in 1928.⁴⁴⁰ An overhead cable was permitted to be installed for lighting Gloucester Road and then Mill Lane and Albion Street in 1930.⁴⁴¹ Members of the RDC met aviation pioneer Sir Alan Cobham at a field they called the 'flying ground' in Stratton in 1929.⁴⁴² Stratton parish council complained about the smell coming from a refuse dump and asked that it be moved to a new site, but the RDC referred the matter back to the parish.⁴⁴³ The Stratton representative to the RDC opposed moving the parish under the purview of the UDC in 1932, particularly on the grounds that such a move would increase the rates.⁴⁴⁴ The RDC suggested the

⁴²⁹ GA, DA22/100/6, 22 Apr. 1918.

⁴³⁰ GA, DA22/100/7, 19 May 1919.

⁴³¹ GA, DA22/100/7, 20 Mar. 1922.

⁴³² GA, DA22/100/8, 27 Aug. 1923.

⁴³³ GA, DA22/100/8, 12 Jan. 1925.

⁴³⁴ GA, DA22/100/8, 25 May 1925.

⁴³⁵ GA, DA22/100/8, 22 Mar. 1926.

⁴³⁶ GA, DA22/100/8, 22 Mar. & 23 Aug. 1926.

⁴³⁷ GA, DA22/100/8, 24 Jan. 1927.

⁴³⁸ GA, DA22/100/8, 18 Dec. 1927.

⁴³⁹ GA, DA22/100/8, 28 Nov. 1927.

⁴⁴⁰ GA, DA22/100/8, 23 July & 26 Nov. 1928.

⁴⁴¹ GA, DA22/100/8, 27 Aug. 1928, 28 Apr. 1930.

⁴⁴² GA, DA22/100/9, 26 Aug. 1929.

⁴⁴³ GA, DA22/100/9, 24 Aug. 1931.

⁴⁴⁴ GA, DA22/100/9, 25 Jan. 1932.

people of Stratton hold a parish meeting to consider the transfer, which also opposed the move, although the views expressed were allegedly misrepresented by the local newspaper.⁴⁴⁵

The cesspool for the Whiteway View council houses was reported as defective in 1932.⁴⁴⁶ A new schedule of fees was laid out for Stratton cemetery in 1933.⁴⁴⁷ Agreement was reached with the Abbey Estate to create a new outflow from several Stratton council houses.⁴⁴⁸ Objections continued regarding Stratton's transfer to the UDC, but in 1934, confirmation was received from the County Council that most of Stratton would be moved to the Urban District and another part north of Baunton Lane joined with Daglingworth, later changed to Baunton.⁴⁴⁹ Four cases of scarlet fever were recorded in Stratton in April 1934.⁴⁵⁰ Stratton representatives ceased attending the RDC in 1935.⁴⁵¹

Parish Council

Stratton Parish Council was formed in 1894 and at a meeting in December seven councillors were elected. Neither the rector nor the Henry Austin, the Cirencester Unitarian minister who lived in Stratton, were chosen.⁴⁵² The unanimous choice of chair for the new council was Thomas Vaisey, who was indisposed and unable to attend.⁴⁵³ Thomas Vaisey (1826-1903) of The Lawn, Stratton occupied the Glebe Farm and some of his own land. He and his father, the maltster Thomas Vaisey, were between them churchwardens of Stratton for 82 years without a break. He had also served as a waywarden, as a manager of the school and at the time of his death was vice-chairman of the Cirencester Board of Guardians. He was also a director of the Cirencester Hotel Company and chairman of the Cirencester Corn Hall Company.⁴⁵⁴

The council met quarterly, while councillors were elected at an annual parish meeting. Negotiating lighting with private providers and levying the lighting rate under the Lighting and Watching Act were the major responsibilities of the council and accounted for most of the budget, followed by the allotments which were handed over by local landowners and the maintenance of the recreation ground. Other issues such as footpaths or sewage were raised with the RDC or County Council and

⁴⁴⁵ GA, DA22/100/9, 10 & 24 Oct. 1932.

⁴⁴⁶ GA, DA22/100/9, 25 July 1932.

⁴⁴⁷ GA, DA22/100/9, 23 Jan. 1933.

⁴⁴⁸ GA, DA22/100/9, 27 Mar. 1933.

⁴⁴⁹ GA, DA22/100/9, 26 Jun. 1933, 23 July & 26 Nov. 1934; P319a/PC/12/1.

⁴⁵⁰ GA, DA22/100/10, 24 Apr. 1934.

⁴⁵¹ GA, DA22/100/10, 15 Apr. 1935.

⁴⁵² GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 4 Dec. 1894.

⁴⁵³ *Wilts & Glos.*, 5 Jan. 1895.

⁴⁵⁴ *Wilts & Glos.*, 16 May 1903; GA, DA22/100/4, 18 May 1903.

poorly maintained walls with property owners.⁴⁵⁵ The council continued to elect overseers and waywardens as the vestry had previously and appointed representatives to the RDC rating authority.⁴⁵⁶ Questions considered in detail at subsequent meetings included the repair and drainage of Albion Street, lengthily negotiated with the County Council, and the lease of Mill Gardens for the provision of allotments.⁴⁵⁷ The parish meeting also issued rules regarding the recreation ground.⁴⁵⁸ The parish organised Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897, including a tea for the parish children and dinner for adults.⁴⁵⁹

In 1912 Mr Alloway was paid 3s. to clean up the quarry which was used as a rubbish tip, but following complaints about the smell coming from it the next year, limited opening times for dumping were imposed and from this time on it became known as the scavenge tip.⁴⁶⁰ From 1913 the council appointed a representative to the board of management of Stratton School.⁴⁶¹ Postal arrangements were occasionally raised as in 1914.⁴⁶² The parish contacted the police superintendent regarding a 'supposed battle' between Cirencester and Stratton boys in 1916, which trespassed on the allotments.⁴⁶³ The parish erected a war memorial in 1918⁴⁶⁴ and a peace celebration was held in 1919.⁴⁶⁵ The council hired a meadow called Bluges Ground from Mr Arkell in 1923 for use as an improvement on the previous recreation ground.⁴⁶⁶ In 1925 the council agreed to give residents the key to the scavenge tip, so that they could deposit rubbish there.⁴⁶⁷ Mr Harrison, a councillor since 1894 and chairman since 1915, died in 1927.⁴⁶⁸ The refuse dump in Daglingworth Road was closed in 1933 and the sanitary inspector complained about the unsanitary state of the remaining dump in Cheltenham Road.⁴⁶⁹ Mr Master agreed to the removal of scrap metal from the scavenge tip to his

⁴⁵⁵ GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 6 May 1895, 15 Apr. 1896; P319a/PC/1/3, 16 Apr. 1895.

⁴⁵⁶ GA, P319a/PC/1/3, 16 Apr. 1895, 15 Apr. 1896; P319a/PC/1/4, 7 Apr. 1927.

⁴⁵⁷ GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 26 Mar. 1895, 28 Sept. 1896.

⁴⁵⁸ GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 7 Mar. 1904.

⁴⁵⁹ GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 14 Apr., 11 Jun & 24 Jun. 1897.

⁴⁶⁰ GA, P319a/PC/1/3, 21 Dec. 1912, 19 Sept. 1913.

⁴⁶¹ GA, P319a/PC/1/3, 17 Mar. 1913.

⁴⁶² GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 25 Mar. 1914.

⁴⁶³ GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 22 Mar. 1916.

⁴⁶⁴ GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 19 Dec. 1917, 23 Feb. 1918.

⁴⁶⁵ GA, P319a/PC/1/1, 9 July 1919.

⁴⁶⁶ GA, P319a/PC/37/1; P319a/PC/1/1, 11 July 1923.

⁴⁶⁷ GA, P319a/PC/1/4, 17 Apr. 1925.

⁴⁶⁸ GA, P319a/PC/1/4, 28 Oct. 1927.

disused gravel pit on Mill Lane before it was filled in in 1934.⁴⁷⁰ The parish council was superseded by the UDC in 1935.⁴⁷¹

Cirencester Urban District Council

Proposals to extend Cirencester Urban District Council's boundaries to cover Stratton were considered in 1930.⁴⁷² The Council eventually took over Stratton in 1935, replacing the RDC and parish council.⁴⁷³ A portion of the 1,000 evacuees sent to Cirencester in 1939 were allocated to Stratton by the UDC.⁴⁷⁴ The Ministry of Health approved a sewerage scheme for Stratton in 1950.⁴⁷⁵ The Council took over Stratton war memorial in 1953.⁴⁷⁶ New sewers were laid in 1956 in Whiteway View, St John's Close, Cheltenham Road, Albion Street and Gloucester Road.⁴⁷⁷ Estimates were received by the UDC in 1961 for another sewerage system for Stratton that would include the school and a resident engineer was appointed in 1962 when work also began.⁴⁷⁸ The school was attached to the sewerage system in 1965, which was further extended in 1968.⁴⁷⁹ From 1974 Stratton fell under the Cotswold District Council and Cirencester Town Council.

Cirencester Town Council

Stratton was a ward of the town council and elected three councillors from 1974 and was for a time known as Stratton-Whiteway Ward.⁴⁸⁰ Following restructuring in 2105, Stratton ward has two councillors.⁴⁸¹

⁴⁶⁹ GA, P319a/PC/1/4, 29 Sept. 1933.

⁴⁷⁰ GA, P319a/PC/1/4, 21 Jun. 1934.

⁴⁷¹ GA, P319a/PC/1/4, 22 Mar. 1935.

⁴⁷² GA, DA4/100/20, 26 Jun. 1930.

⁴⁷³ GA, DA4/100/20, 21 Feb. 1935.

⁴⁷⁴ GA, DA4/100/22, 28 Sept. 1939.

⁴⁷⁵ GA, DA4/100/25, 26 Sept. 1950.

⁴⁷⁶ GA, DA4/100/26, 24 Mar. 1953.

⁴⁷⁷ GA, DA4/100/29, 27 Nov. 1956.

⁴⁷⁸ GA, DA4/100/34, 23 May, 27 Jun. & 25 July 1961; DA4/100/35, 29 May, 26 Jun. & 25 Sept. 1962.

⁴⁷⁹ GA, DA4/100/38, 30 Nov. 1965; DA4/100/40, 27 Feb. 1968.

⁴⁸⁰ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report 2012/13*.

⁴⁸¹ *Cirencester Town Council Annual Report 2014/15*.