

# ALCESTER & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

[www.alcesterhistory.org.uk](http://www.alcesterhistory.org.uk)



The Globe Hotel  
c1914 with a view  
of Priory Road.  
See the article  
below for more  
information.  
(ADLHS Collection)

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Everyone will be aware by now that all our meetings for the next few months have been cancelled. In fact, we have no idea when we will be able to meet again at St. Benedict's. Our first priority is to ensure the safety of all our members and the Government restrictions on gatherings have been put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, especially to the over 70s and those with certain medical conditions. So, in the meantime we will continue to issue a monthly (extended) newsletter to keep members up to date with developments and, hopefully, we will be able to get together again in the autumn. If you have any suggestions for subjects you would like me to include, please send me an email. I hope everyone will take care at this most difficult time and keep safe.

**Alan Godfrey**

### The Globe Hotel, Alcester

This was a handsome building, facing full square down Swan Street; it was of two storeys, with dormer windows in the attics, perfectly symmetrical, betraying an 18<sup>th</sup> century origin, with a central door mounted by a classical pediment. The Globe disappeared in 1965 and its licence transferred to the Cherry Trees Motel at Oversley. The inn made way for the present traffic roundabout, but one wonders whether traffic lights might have been as effective?

The will of Samuel Collins in 1779 gives his address as 'The Globe Inn' – this the earliest date recorded and it seems likely that the building was constructed around this time. The Earl Brook estate map of 1754 shows a building here, but does not name it. In 1812, when the inn was sold for £500, the occupant was Widow Mary Heming. The Sheaf family had a fair stay, from 1820s to 1840s. An advertisement in *The Warwick Advertiser* of 1838 calls the Globe an 'old established, well-known and good accustomed Public House'. The 1841 census shows 2 servants, a labourer and a 'hostler' living in. Joseph Care, who followed until 1871, had relations hosting inns in Salford Priors. In 1863 in

the short-lived *Alcester Local Times*, Care called his premises 'The Globe Commercial Inn', but according to the 1861 census only three servants were living in – and no travellers. The 1863 advertisement stated that 'an ordinary every Tuesday at 1 o'clock' was provided (this was an obsolete term for a fixed-price meal).

Other victuallers here were: 1873 John Pritchell, 1878-88 William Marshall (also a fruiterer), 1890 Widow Marshall, 1893 F. Gathercole, 1898 R. Collins, 1906 H. Styles, 1908 James Mills, 1912 Mrs Chandler, 1921 Thomas Grimm, 1932 Arthur Pitt. Widow Marshall leased the inn to Alcester Brewery between 1890 and 1904 (to sell their beers here) and in 1904 a Burton on Trent brewer bought it for £1,500. Between the wars the Globe Hotel sold Atkinson's Aston Ales.

*Pigot's Directory* shows the pub as the starting point for the Rocket stage coach to Birmingham, while in 1850 *White's Directory* shows an omnibus left daily from here to Leamington Spa.

[Taken from *Occasional Paper 35 'Bleachfield Street, Swan Street & Stratford Road'* by Edward Saville – Revised 2009]

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE AREA?

These are the answers to last month's quiz:

- 1 1868
- 2 Masons' Arms
- 3 Cain Brook
- 4 Oversley Lower Lodge
- 5 1864
- 6 Alabaster
- 7 Coughton
- 8 Priory Mill
- 9 Beauchamp Court
- 10 Salford Priors
- 11 William Corbucion
- 12 Ralph Boteler
- 13 Weethley
- 14 Studley
- 15 Cornelius Griffin of Haselor
- 16 Bidford

- 17 Holy Ascension
- 18 Kinwarton
- 19 Wixford
- 20 1754
- 21 Haselor
- 22 Gypsum
- 23 1641
- 24 A Grand National winner
- 25 Needlemaking

**A score of 15 or more is excellent!**

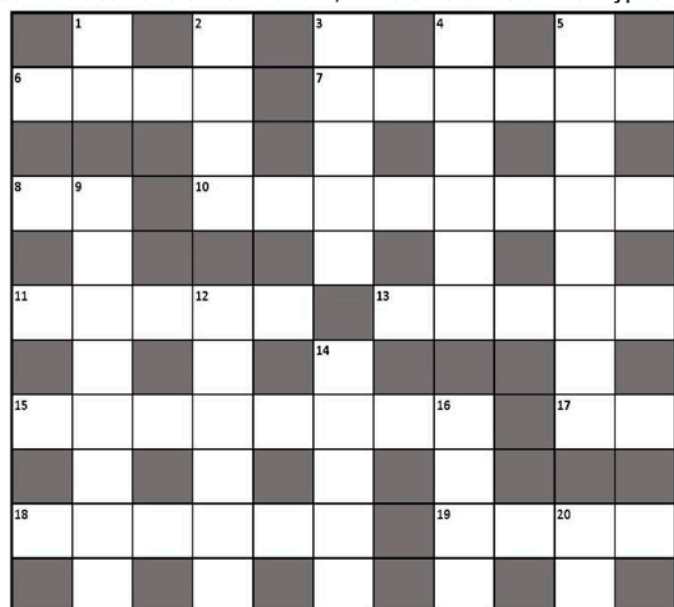
**THE NEXT EDITION OF 'LOCAL PAST'**

Most members will buy copies of Local Past at meetings, the Alcester Roman Heritage Centre, Venue Xpresso or PSW (Alcester & Studley). All these outlets are currently closed as a result of the Government coronavirus 'lockdown'. Therefore, we have taken the decision to release the next edition in **June** (rather than in May), in the hope that some, or all, of our regular outlets will be open. Of course, Local Past will still be available from Hills Retail (formerly Ross' Garage) and by post.

**A SIMPLE CROSSWORD (?)**

*[This first appeared in Local Past – Winter 1988]*

Some clues have a local flavour, while others are a little cryptic.



**ACROSS**

- 6. A bathing beach in a lid of sand (4)
- 7. A decade record (6)
- 8. Being: only half a goddess (2)
- 10. Fulke Greville was lord of one (3,5)
- 11. Coughton has one (5)
- 13. The British are surrounded by seas (5)
- 15. Boasting (8)
- 17. Twice this, Nanette! (2)
- 18. A knight's beginning with fish when he is dubbed (6)
- 19. See 12. Down

**DOWN**

- 1. Hello American (2)
- 2. Beauchamp Court had one and so did the manor house of Wyke (4)
- 3. These fields sound in pain (5)
- 4. Some married outlaws had these, too (2,4)
- 5. Both the British and Normans were (8)
- 9. Scrubbing and cleaning were part of an old Studley and Alcester industry (9)
- 12. (and 19. Across) On the River but not in Arrow at all (6,4)
- 14. 'Er sin removed in order to wash (5)
- 16. Many a one makes a set (4)
- 20. Behold (2)

Unfortunately, there is no prize for solving this crossword. The results will be in next month's newsletter.

**An Alcester Worthy – Richard Henry Harbridge**

*[From Local Past – Spring 1980]*



Richard Henry Harbridge  
c1870  
(ADLHS Collection)

In 1913 the Alcester Chronicle published the recollections of a septuagenarian; he recalls some of the townspeople of the mid-19th century, of whom Richard Henry Harbridge 'was the biggest and most dreadful of all'. He says 'he often whipped us for own good'. This Harbridge was, in fact, headmaster of the Newport Free School, often called Alcester Grammar School. He took it over when a young man in 1825 and reigned there for 50 years. He was of Alcester origin, for his grandfather, Thomas, was a well-off timber merchant on Henley Street. The family assets seem to have come to Richard, for late in the century he is in possession of several Alcester properties.

'Old Dickie' seems to have been the epitome of what we regard as a typical Victorian schoolmaster – master of his own house, not sparing the rod, inculcating moral principles (he had moral maxims hanging round the school-house walls), a highly respectable and respected gentleman. He was not classically trained and knew his limitations sufficiently to employ assistant teachers who could impart Latin.

Harbridge's school (now destroyed) boarded between 10 and 20 boys, with a number of day children, 5 of whom were local and received free tuition. With his own large family and servants, the school cum house on Birch Abbey must have been crammed literally to the rafters.



*The old Alcester Grammar School in Birch Abbey (before 1912)*  
*[ADLHS Collection]*

**Alan Godfrey**

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