

Travelling on a few yards up the lake to Barnstaple road we come to a road junction. If we turn right we travel up to Tawstock Court where Sir Basil Peto lived, then down to the Church and Church Cottage. Mr & Mrs Tolley lived in church cottage he was the church sexton. He had a field adjoining the cottage and kept a pony. You sometimes saw him with his pony and gingle. A gingle was something like a small trap, the difference being you sat sideways in the gingle and entered the gingle through a small door at the rear end not on the side like a trap. Sometimes I believe they were called governess carts.

If we come back again to the road junction which we left we shall see two cottages on the right set back from the road. In the first cottage lived Mr & Mrs Barkwell, he worked at Tawstock Court. In the adjoining house I think Mr & Mrs Skelton lived, he was the chauffeur at Tawstock Court. Both these houses had thatched roofs. Travelling on a few yards along the road we find a thatched lodge near the entrance to a private drive. The lodge had posts supporting a verandah and gothic windows. Mr & Mrs Spear lived there, I think he worked at Tawstock Court.

The description I have given you here of the houses and the people who lived and worked there in the 1930's was at a time when I was about 6-7 years old. All the people in the village knew us children even if we did not live in the village. So they must have had a good knowledge of the people who lived in the parish to know us children. But alas time marches on and places alter as people move on. As far as I can recall there are only three direct descending family lines of the village living in the parish today.

After the death of the Rev. Sir Bouchier Wrey in 1948 there came a change in the village. As the years went by a lot of the cottages were sold off. A lot of the houses were refurbished and some had their thatched roofs replaced with slate or tiles. When the mains water arrived it was taken into the cottages, then the old village taps disappeared. Later on in years the Old Elm Tree in the village crossway started to decay and eventually it had to be removed as it was becoming dangerous.

Over the years the village has had 6 new properties built within its bounds, one property is the new rectory built in 1960. But I think it has managed to keep its' older village style fairly well.

Earlier on in this chapter I mentioned the Tent Hill, I wonder how it got its' name? Could it be that in centuries past when the labourers of the manor, as well working on the land, many of them might have been required to provide military service for the Lord of the Manor? These Lords of the Manor would have to provide a garrison of men to support the country in times of trouble. Is it possible in times of trouble when they called in this garrison of men, they were probably encamped on this hill? The Lord would not want a troop of men milling around in the courtledge of the Manor, so there was a possibility that they may have encamped on this hill, hence the name "Tent Hill".