

# **The History of Myddle and Broughton Parish**

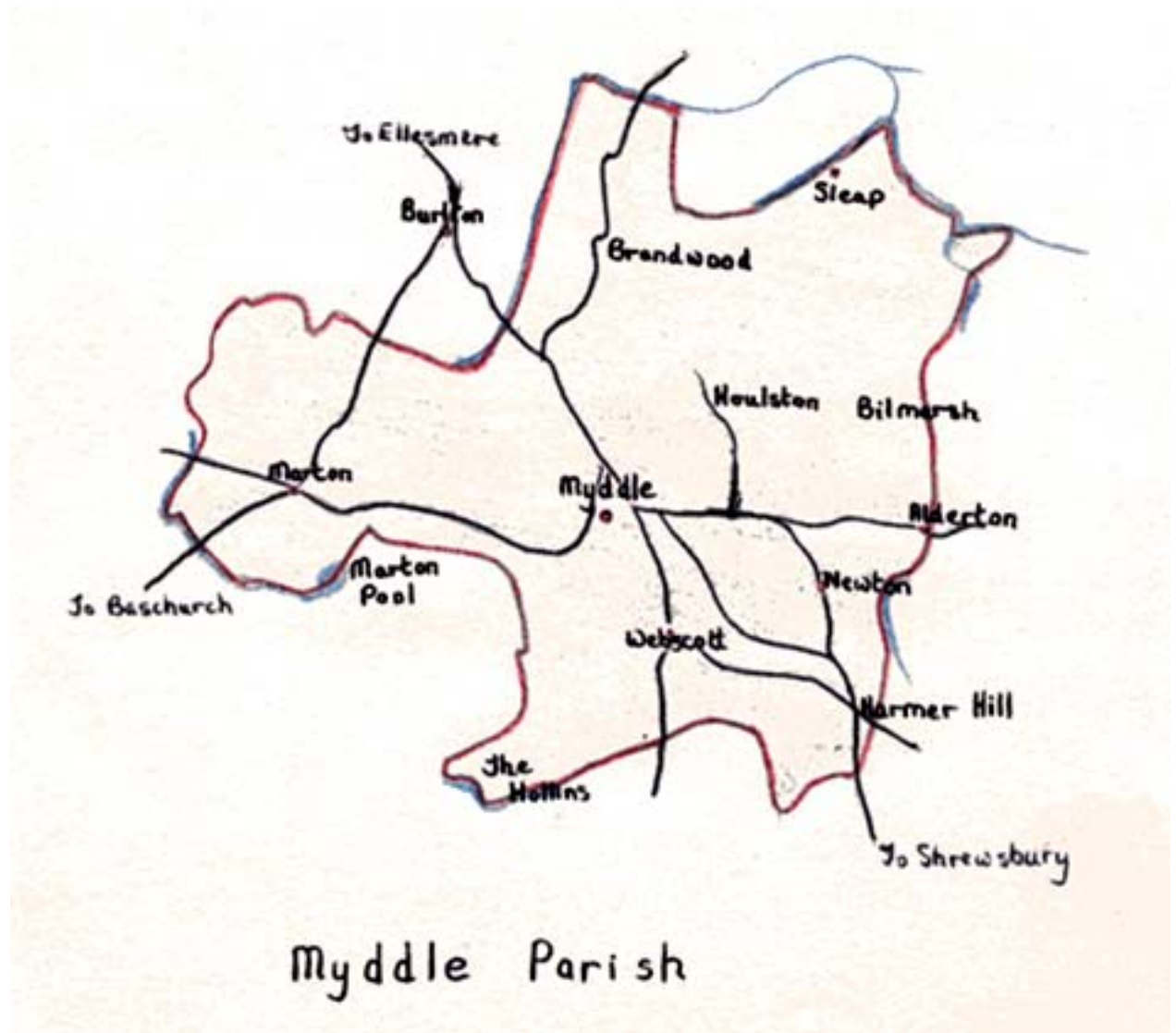
The Story so Far.....

Presented by Colin Ruck

## Myddle and Broughton Parish 2010

Made up of

- Alderton
- Bilmarsh
- Brandwood
- Broughton
- Harmer Hill
- Houlston
- Marton
- Myddle
- Myddlewood
- Newton on the Hill
- Sleap
- Webscott
- Yorton Heath

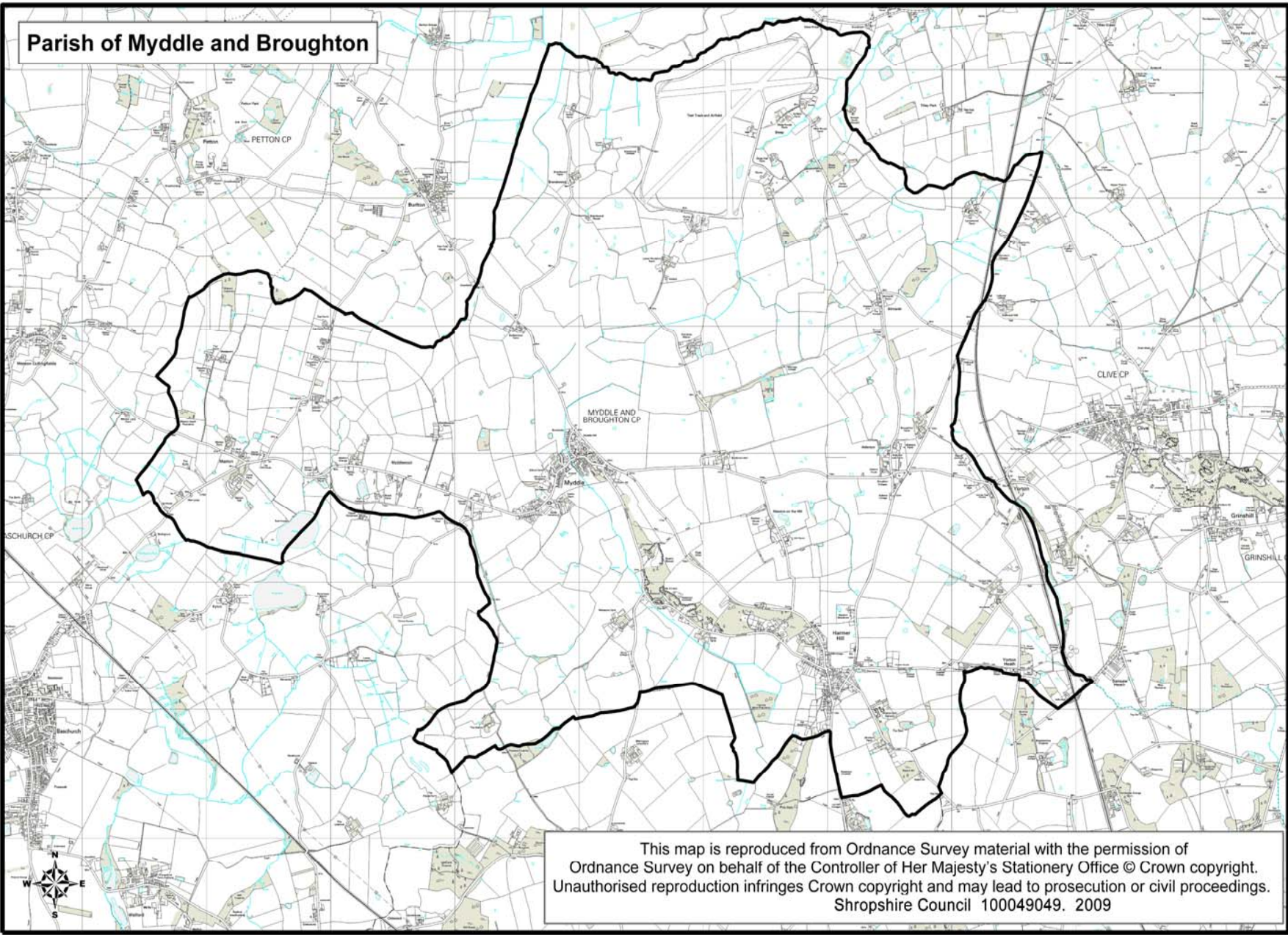


# The Parish of Myddle and Broughton





# Parish of Myddle and Broughton



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**Gathering  
our  
information**





Richard Gough



Eleanor Owen (Williams)



Linda Jeffrey



Margaret Markland

- Eleanor wrote her dissertation in the late 1960's for her teaching certificate.
- The folder was passed to me by Rev. William Price 4 -5 years ago.
- My idea was to get it on to the village web site.
- At this point we did not know who had written the work.
- The dissertation was written in longhand on foolscap paper which would not exactly fit into the scanner.
- Margaret and Linda have typed up work and it is available on [www.myddle.net](http://www.myddle.net) for you to read in its entirety.
- Because it is now digitised it is also searchable

Shropshire which is the largest inland county lies on the border of Wales. The present county is smaller than that of Domesday Shropshire which included parts of other counties. The county of Salop consists of two portions divided by the river Severn of which the northern half is mainly flat and the south is almost entirely made up of hills (see fig. 1)

The Severn was the great highway of communication with the coast in one direction and with towns like Shrewsbury and afterwards by means of canals with Liverpool on the other. For a representation of the Severn traffic in the mid 18th (see appendix 1). The Severn barges carried large quantities of coal, grain, pig and bar iron manufactures and earthen wares as well as wool, hops, cider and provisions. It can be seen from this list that the Severn was useful to the county through which it passed. In the return trip up the Severn it is likely some of the barges carried fertilizers.

Shropshire in neolithic time was practically covered with woods fed by rivers flowing through extensive marshes. In the parish of Condover Boreas Pool is the largest survivor of a series which can easily be traced all through the neighbourhood. It is highly probable that hut dwellings existed on the borders of some of the Ellesmere meres. That the county was occupied by a considerable population is shown by the fact that no less than three canoes made of tree trunks have been discovered at different times in the fens. Barth pool is also thought to have once been a settlement. A stone cell was found in Godden's Lane Harmer Hill. In the Bronze Age the neighbourhood of Hawkstone seems to have been popular. Spears and daggers as well as arrows formed the offensive weapon of the Bronze Age, the defensive weapon being a small round buckle, an example of which was found near Ellesmere in the 1880's.

Shropshire is not concerned in the military districts but it is included in the non military districts. There are no traces of Roman villa in Salop. Except for Uronomium, Shropshire is not rich in Roman remains.

In 1086 Shropshire had no characteristic trade. There were traces of extensive Welsh ... before the Norman Conquest Shropshire was an



# Richard Gough

- He was born in 1634 and died in 1723.
- He wrote his book in 1700. to 1701
- He lived on his own freehold Estate at Newton-on-the-Hill.
- In his book he fully describes the parish and the various objects of interest such as the church and the castle.
- He goes on to give an account of the different families that lived in the village.
- For this he produced a plan of the church and taking each pew he gives an account of the occupants.

It is now available from Google as the copyright has expired the link is on

[www.myddle.net](http://www.myddle.net)





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- [Local Wildlife](#)
- [Useful Links](#)

[Home](#) » [History](#) » [History of Myddle](#) » [History of Myddle Project](#)

## History of Myddle Project

A History of Myddle and Parish

by Eleanor Owen

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- [Contents](#)
- [Introduction pages 1 -17](#)
- [Agriculture - Original Document pages 20 - 60](#)
- [Myddle Church - Original Document pages 63 -81](#)
- [Other Churches in the area - Original Document pages 82 - 94](#)
- [Other houses in Myddle and Surrounds - Original Document pages 95 - 108](#)
- [Charities, People and their work - Original Document pages 111 - 129](#)
- [Appendices 1 to 10 \(excluding Appendices 5 & 6\)](#)
- [Appendix 5 page 147 - 149 Myddle Rental Document 1850 and 1851](#)
- [Appendix 6 Tithe map 1839](#)
- [Appendix 11 Tythe Map 1839 and Survey 1862](#)
- [Appendix 12 Altered apportionment of Tithe Rent](#)
- [Appendix 13 The Bridgewater Estate 1924](#)
- [Appendices 14 to 20 Myddle Churchyard Fence, and Church Seating Plans taken from Gough](#)
- [Appendices 21 to 30 and Bibliography](#)
- [Appendix 31 Marriages](#)
- [Appendix 32 Property Ownership taken from the Shropshire Directories 1851 to 1905](#)

[Additional Interesting Documents from Other Sources](#)



**Geology of the area  
&  
Why Myddle is here**

## Geographical and geological description of Myddle

- Now an area mainly of undulating plains 250 – 300 feet above sea level, broken only by low hills whose steep slopes form landmarks in the highly cultivated countryside.
- The sandstone was formed in the Triassic period 250 - 205 million years ago desert conditions wind blown sand forming massive dunes and formed the sandstone we see today at Grinshill, Myddle and all around this region.
- Conditions in Myddle were similar to central Australia today Hot, dry and windy with lots of sand dunes. The wind was blowing from the east forming Aeolian sandstone.
- This was also the start of the Dinosaurs period and we can see remains in the sandstone. In Grinshill they have found evidence of a small **Rhynchosaur reptile.**





Example of Triassic Aeolian Sandstone



Rhynchosaur reptile.

Model reconstruction based on fossil remains. Triassic Period, about 220 million years old. From Grinshill, Shropshire  
Shrewsbury Museums Service.

- Faulting has produced a chain of hills; clearly visible is Nescliffe, Pim Hill, Grinshill and Hawkestone.
- The rock being sufficiently hard is quarried for free stone and has been widely used for building.
- Fifteen thousand years ago ice sheets started to melt after the Ice Age.
- The Ellesmere lakes formed and our lakes of Marton and Fenemere were formed. Also the now drained Haremere, although this is now flooding again.
- 4000 to 2500 B.C. Britain inhabited by Neolithic tribes. Evidence of farming in Shropshire





Marton Pool and Fenemere Pool (now an SSSI)  
left here from the Ice Age



- Haremere drained in 1617 (now filling back up again)
- The brook which runs through Myddle rises on the Moss Farm, which was once Haremere and then runs towards Myddle and on to Wem into the Mill Stream.
- Nothing is really known about Haremere apart from a fine which was made on the fishing of 1581 and a memorandum on the tithe of fish in the mere in 1588.

# Soils

- The Ice Age left us with the basis of our soils.
- The Clive soils series are good mixed farming soils and are distinguished by the warm brown coloured surface passing to a grey or yellowish grey weathering sandstone at no great depth and found in south and east part of the parish.
- On the northern side of the central ridge from Myddlewood, are soils of the Crewe series. The very poor drainage and heavy texture of soil is responsible for their being mainly under grassland. Anyone who has walked parts of Myddle will have come across the sticky soils of the Crewe Series.
- The soils determined what went on in history, if an area was settled and cultivated.
- Good soils were cultivated until they ran out of nutrients, heavy soils remained uncultivated and were usually woodland, hence Myddlewood on the heavy Crewe series

## A Time Line

- 2500 to 700 B.C. Bronze Age. Oldest man-made earthworks found in Shropshire date from this period
- 700 B.C. to 43 A.D. Iron Age Hill forts built in Shropshire, of which 50 remain today; Old Oswestry hill fort is the best example
- 100 AD Romans conquered Britain and began road-building. Roman roads built in Shropshire, including Watling Street (the old A5) from Wroxeter to the Leintwardine.
- 1066 Norman conquest and 1070 Norman settlement of Britain. Shrewsbury Castle built by Roger de Montgomery
- 1086 First draft of the Domesday Book completed
- 1348 Black death (plague) killed up to a quarter of the population
- 1536 Dissolution of the monasteries began; Church lands redistributed to nobility Remains of seven monasteries can be seen in Shropshire
- 1750 Industrial Revolution 'began'



# What was happening in Myddle Parish?

- The years between 1086 and the beginning of the fourteenth century saw very little change in the way of life and the size of the manors seems to have remained remarkably constant.
- The possessions of Rainald the Sheriff passed to the Fitz Alan's early in the reign of Henry I – around 1100
- Before 1165 John le Strange had acquired much of the Domesday Manor of Myddle
- The Lord John le Strange, obtained a licence to make a castle of his house at Myddle in 1308. He said this house of his was less exposed to the incursions of the Welsh than his castles of Knockin and Ruyton which were often under siege but he just wanted to be sure.
- The family of Le Strange were in power of the Manor for about 420 years during the reign of 18 kings but in the reign of Henry VII there was no male issue and Joan the daughter and heiress of the last Lord le Strange was married to Sir George Stanley.

- They had a son Thomas who became Lord Derby.
- In 1600 the Stanleys sold the manor to the Lord Keeper Edgerton.
- After Sir Thomas Egerton died, King James I elected his son the first Earl of Bridgewater (1579 – 1649). The manor of Myddle was to stay in the hands of the Earls and Dukes of Bridgewater for many years.
- John the seventh Earl of Bridgewater (1753 – 1823) inherited vast sums of money from the Duke of Bridgewater (the Canal Duke) and he left his wealth to the son of the first Earl Brownlow, grandson of his only married sister Lady Louisa Egerton.
- In this way the manor of Myddle passed from the Bridgewaters to the Earls Brownlow in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- In 1807, the 47th year of the reign of George III, an Act of Parliament was passed for the Enclosure of Commons and Waste Lands in Myddlewood, Myddle Hill, Witherage Green, or Balderton Green, Haremere Hill and Marton Common, in all about 270 acres.

Fields as they were mapped in 1862

The field names often have survived .

Project - Mapping and field names?



➤ One or two farmers bought their farms but the majority of the Myddle and Harmer Hill section of the estate which was not sold privately was put up for auction. There were nearly 130 lots consisting of farms, cottages, odd patches of land, the Quarries and Woodland.

➤ Myddle parish must have been some of the better farmed land as at the Royal Agricultural Society in 1871 awarded one of its prizes for the best managed arable farm to Balderton Hall farm which was under the successful management of Mr Brewster.

➤ In 1921 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Brownlow died and in 1924 the manor of Myddle was broken up and sold so as to help pay the death duties.

➤ The Myddle and Harmer Hill Section (2360 acres) of the Bridgewater Estate was sold.





The Bridgewater Estate

<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Price paid</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Present owner</u>
1	Semi Detached Country Cottage	£120	1 31	
2	Similar			30 Mr. Joseph Chatter
3	Jubilee Cottage		1 1/2	Mr. William Hales
4	Semi Detached Country Cottage		1/2	Mr. Richard Fardoe
5	School House semi detached		1/4	Mrs. Micklewright
6	Detached House		3/4	Mr. John Rogers
7	Bridgewater Arms		6 1/2	Wants People Refreshment House As
8	Small Holding		3	Mr. H. Bolwin
9	Small Holding		3 1/2	Mr. George Garmstone
10	Semi Detached Country Cottage		1/2	Mr. James Hale
11	Similar		1/2	Mr. Richard Harper
12	Cottage and Garden		3/4	Mr. J. Pritchard
13	Cottage			43 Mr. G. Evans
14	Small holding "Yew Tree Cottage"		1 1/2	Mr. J. Jones
15	Semi Detached house		1/2	Mr. John Chatter
16	Similar		1/4	Mr. Charles Taylor
17	Similar		1/4	Mr. A. Leat Taylor
18	Pasture field		1/2	Mr. William Hales.
19	Pasture field	£60	1	Mr. - -
20	" "	£85	3/4	Mr. J. Jones
21	" "	£100	1 1/2	People Refreshment House Ass
22	" "	£140	2	" - - -
23	Small holding		1 1/2	Mr. A. Taylor.
24	" "		3	Mrs. S. Rogers
25	Bungalow	£180	1	Mr. Alfred Evans
26	Cottage		1/2	Mrs. H. G. Huxley
27	Cottage		1/2	Mr. C. F. K. Perry
28	Small holding	£20	3	Mr. William Davies
29	Detached Cottage and Garden		1/2	Mr. James Cooper
30	Field	£105	1 3 16	Mr. George Jones
31	Pasture Field	£70	1	Mr. Thomas Jones
32	Land	£265	2 1 21	Mr. W. Davies

(Rombery)

No.	Description	Price	a	r	p	Present owner.
34	Semi Detached House		½			Mr. G. H. Chatter
35	Smiser		½			Mr. Thomas Husband
36	Dairy - Burlington Lane		141½			Mr. E. W. J. Overend.
37	Brandwood		182½			Mr. G. G. Madelley
38	The Fields farm Brandwood		50			Messrs G. & Pugh.
39	Lower Farm Brandwood		160			Mr. Richard Shelwell
40	Afford Farm		359			Mr. E. Farnall
41	Pasture Farm Houlston	£4000	155	2	22	Mr. J. A. Griffiths
42	Houlston Farm	£8000	278			Messrs W. & G. Birch
43	Castle Farm		291	1	17	Mr & Mrs G. A. Phillips
44	Myddlewood Farm		120			Mr. G. Shelwell
45	The Wood Farm		7¼			Mr. John Roberts
46	Small Holding		1			Mr. W. Hall
47	" "		7¾			Mr. C. G. Latham
48	Cottage and Small Holding		1	1	7	Mr. G. F. Davies
49	" " " "		1			Mr. Joseph Chrimes
50	Cottage			2	32	Mr. G. Parslow
51	Small Holding		2			Mr. Joseph Brayne
52	Cottage and Holding		1	1	22	Mr. John Davies
53	Cottage			2	14	Mr. Robert A. Moore
54	Cottage			2	12	Mrs Sarah Grady
55	Cottage			2	34	Mr. William Chrimes
56	Cottages and Holding			2	12	Mr. George Brayne
57	Grazing Enclosure		1	0	24	Mr. John C. Roberts
58	Pasture Field			3	13	Mr. John C. Roberts
59	Two unfenced quillots of pastureland				46	Mr. G. S. Hand.
60	Two pasture fields		2¼			Mr. W. Chrimes
61	Land		1½			Mr. W. Chrimes
62	Cottage holding		2¾			Mr. Richard Brayne
63	Cottage and garden				24	Mrs Mary Roberts
64	" " "				24	Mrs R. Williams
65	Semi Detached Cottage & garden				24	Mr. Isaac Jones
66	Estate Workshops				30	

The Twelve  
Yard  
cottages

Lot no	Description	Price	a	r	p	Present Owner
68	Pasture fields	£105	3	0	21	Mr. Joseph Christmas
69	Small Holding		3			Mr. Thomas Frost
70	Cottage		1½			Mrs Emma Cooke
71	Red hewn		2			Mr Wm Coleman
72	Garden Plot				22	Mr. J. Cooke
73	Cottage		1			Mr. William Painter
74	Small holding		1½			Mr. John Watkins
75	Cottage		1½			Mr W. J. Woodratt
76	Cottage	£100		1	22	Mr. Wm Wright
77	Semi Detached Cottage			2	5	Mr. Joseph Woolford.
78	- " -				23	Mr. Thomas Huwando
79	Smithy					Mr. W. T. Woodratt
80	Garden Plot				24	Mr W. T. Woodratt
81	Cottage Holding		2			Mrs Anne Stungler
82	" and garden		1	7		Mr. Joseph Cooke
83	Detached Cottage		2	14		Mr. H. Hughes
84	Picturesque Cottage			38		Mr. J. Boliver
85	Semi Detached Cottage			51		Mr. John Greig
86	" " "		1	51		Mr. Henry Kirby
87	Cottage		2	16		Mrs K. Eborcy
88	Semi Detached Cottage			18		Mrs E Woolford
89	land	£25	1	20		Mr. J. Huwando.
90	Quarry					
91	Semi Detached Cottage		1	8		Mr. John Pitchford
92	" " "		1	5		Mr. R. Wilson
93	- " "		1	9		Mr. George Cooke
94	" " "		1	27		Mr Charles Jones
95	Detached Cottage		1	13		Rev S. A. Woodward.
96	land		1	0	17	Rev S. A. Woodward
97	Garden	£24	1	34		Mr. James Frost
98	Two fields	£115	3	0	0	Mr. W. T. Woodratt
99	field (pasture)	£85	2	0	0	Mr. J. Frost
100	fields	£100	1	2	18	Mrs A. Stungler
101	fields	£205	6½			Mr 4 weeks Christmas



- 1642 -Recruitment of King Charles I army on Pym Hill. 20 men recruited from Myddle, 14 killed.
- 1688 - Myddle castle fell down after an earthquake.
- 17thC - Myddle residents included Masons, Carpenters, shoemakers, coopers, blacksmiths and weavers.
- 1749- Myddle Church (Nave and Choir) rebuilt.
- 18thC - A tannery was operating in Myddle and a copper mine on Pym Hill supplied Abraham Darby at Coalbrookdale.
- Mid 19thC - Myddle residents included butcher, stone masons, saddler, rope maker, washerwomen, market women, dressmaker, wheelwright, carpenter, clockmaker and weaver.
- 1880's - A brickworks was operating at Fenemere and one at Marton.
- 1942 - A Whitley bomber crashed in the village after taking off from nearby Sleaf airfield.

**The Start of our journey  
around the Parish of Myddle  
including Harmer Hill and  
Broughton**

# It is all in the Name!

- The meaning of Myddle is difficult to ascertain
- In Saxon times it was Mutla.
- It occurs in the Domesday Book as Mullent.
- In 1121 it had changed its form to become Muthla.
- About 1172 it was recorded as being Mudle
- In 1255 on the Hundred Roll it again appears at Mudle.
- In 1535 the name Medell was used on the Valor Ecclesiasticus.
- From about 1550 the name Middle with an “i” was used.
- In the 1880’s Myddle began to be used. Gough tended to use Myddle with “y” in his manuscript.



# **The places of worship in the parish**

One of the oldest buildings in the village of Myddle, St Peter's Church, it is thought to have had Saxon origin and it is mentioned in the Domesday book. There is apparently evidence of some Norman walling in the tower.





## Rectors of Myddle Parish from 1068 to 2010

- We have a record of the Rectors of Myddle from 1232 to 2010
- Just the first 300 years here all the others available on the web site.

1086 A priest who was not named

1232 **Howell ap Griffin de Bromfeld (younger son of Prince of Lower Powis)**

13th Century **Master Walter**

1317 **Thomas de Charnes exchanged for Kingslee 1333**

1333 **John Watenhall incumbent of Kingslee**

1334 **Nicholas de Clebury a sub deacon. On 21st May 1334 he was given a licence of non-residence for 2 years to study**

1341 **John Normaund rector of Kingislone**

1358 **Henry de Suggenhull**

13 ? **Robert de Coventre died in 1360**

1360 **John Digg who was in the household of Sir Simon de Sudbury and appointed by provision of Pope Innocent VI**

136? **Hugh de Young also rector of Willey and prebendary of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury and he exchanged for Lundusshall in 1379**

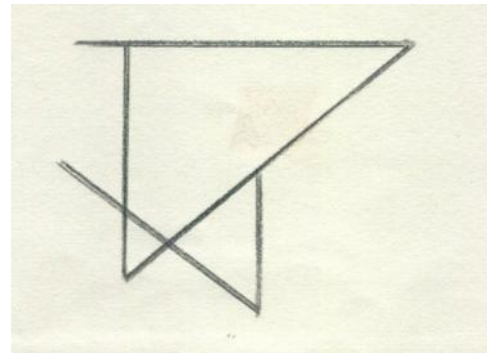
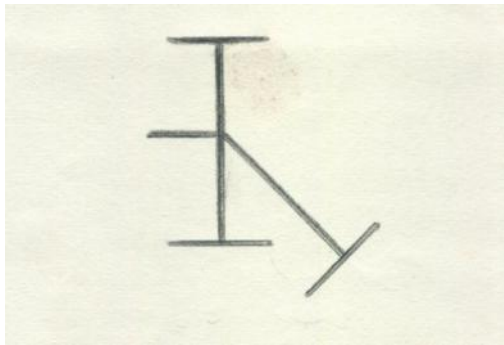




Myddle Church 1935

- Myddle Church is a plain substantial structure in the Western extremity of the Lichfield Diocese and the whole seems to have been of Saxon foundation.
- It is a building of stone in decorated style consisting of a chancel with a vestry, an organ chamber on the south side, a nave of four bays, a south aisle, north porch and a west embattled tower.
- The pre-existence of this church is implied by the mention of a priest in the Domesday entry relating to the manor. It was given primarily before the Conquerors survey by Warin the Bold (who died in 1086) to Shrewsbury Abbey.
- The bottom part of the steeple was built of stone the rest of it was built of timber.
- In the time of Mr. Ralph Kinaston (also Chaplain to James I) 1596-1629 Rector, the tower was built of wood and was ruinous, he wanted the parishioners to take it down and rebuild it.

A new tower was erected in 1634 and the mason was John Dod who lived at Clive and his wages were £5 for every yard from the bottom of the foundation to the top of the battlements. John Dod must have had other masons to help him because of the number and variety of masons' marks on the stones.



During the Civil Wars the communion table was placed in the middle with the benches around it for the communicants to sit upon.

At the Restoration of Charles II a new table was brought and the benches were removed and the table and rails restored to their former situation.

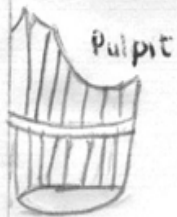


## The Church 1701

Seating plan, taken from "The History of Myddle" by Richard Gough.

A pew belonged to a house, so if a man moved from one house to another he did not have the same seat; this belonged to the first house.





Pulpit

Reading Pew

1 Mr Atcherley Marton  
Mr Hammere

Sleep Hall

2 The Hollins Farm

3 Sleep Hall

4 Mr Hammere  
Mr Atcherley Marton

Mr Lloyd

1 Shotton

2 Thomas Moore  
for ye  
Eagle Farm

3 Richard Gough  
Mr. Atcherley  
Mr. Cotton

4 Billmarsh  
Rob Hayward - Newton  
Jho Mathers - Balderton  
Rich Groom

5 Shotton  
for Servants

6 Mr Cotton  
Rich Gough  
Rich Groom  
1/4 Jho Hall

7 Holstone

The wall under ye Great Window

Broomhurst  
Farm

Mr Gittins  
for  
Castle Farm

Castle Farm

Webbscott  
Arch

Rob Hayward  
Mr Muckleston  
Sam Brain

Mr Hatchet

John Eaton

1

2

3

4

5

6

1 Mr Cotton

2 Balderton Hall

3 Wright's tenent  
in Marton

Stephen Formstone

4 Nightingale's tenent  
Jaylor in Balderton

Jho Shaw in Marton

5 James Jgntrel  
Noneley's tenent  
Jaylor's tenement

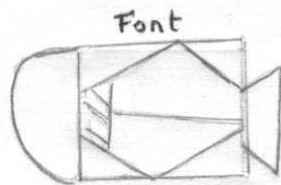
Rich Gough

6 Wid. Mansell

Marton

- 5 Mr Lloyd  
(house over against  
N door of church)
- Edward Garland - Newton
- 6 Balderton Hall for  
Servants
- 7 Mr Atcherley  
for Servants
- 8 Sam Brain  
John Eaton  
Tho Pierce
- 9 The Warehouse  
Rich Clark  
Wid Russol

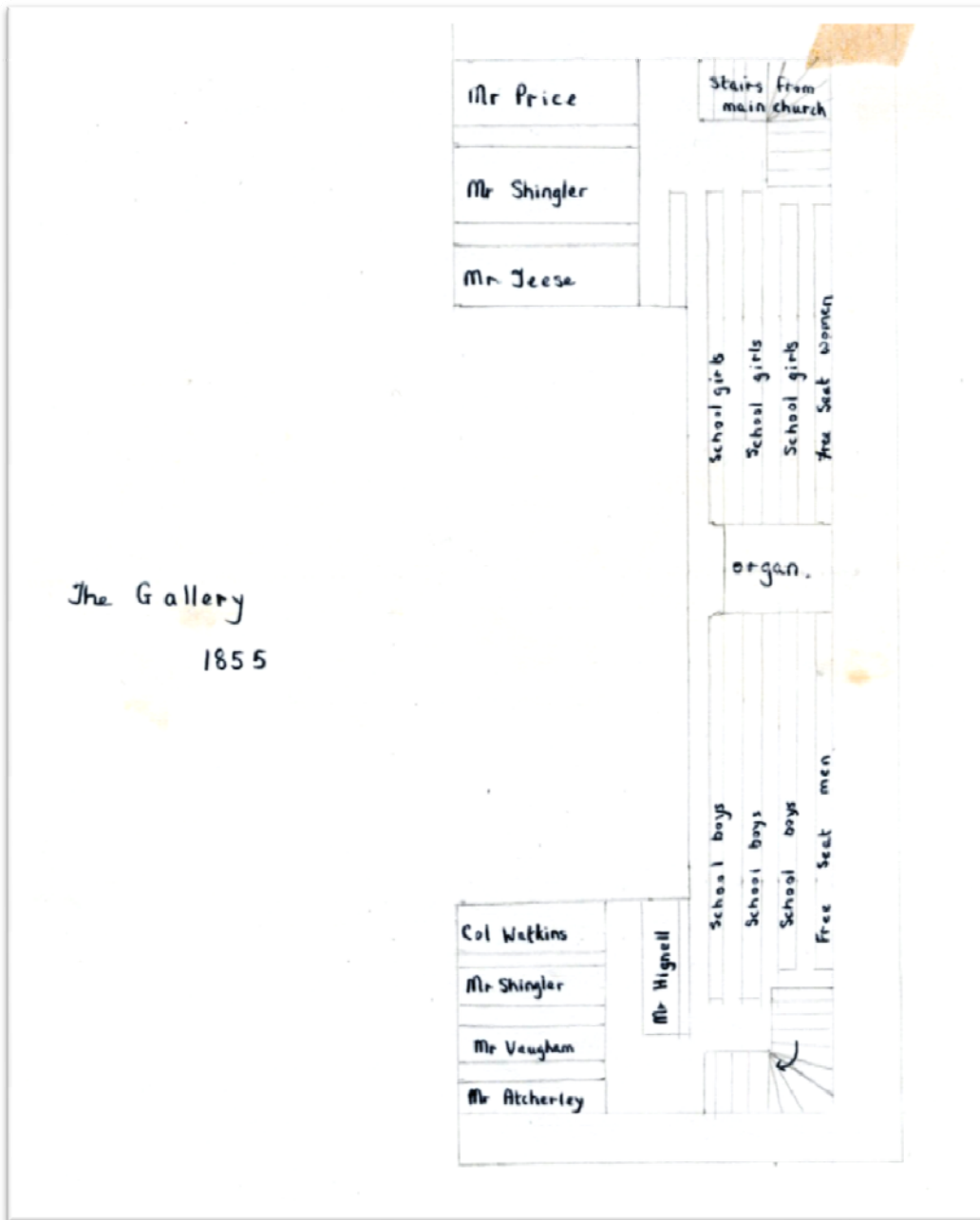
North  
Door



	Mr Hatchet	
7 Holstone	John Eaton	6
Tho Gittins	William Annis	
8 Wid. Mansell John Horton	Wid. Bickley	7
Rich Gough 9 Wolson's tenant Hunt's tenant	Richard Voyd post	8
Mr Hatchet's tenant 10 in Newton Tylar in Balderton	James Featrell	9
Mr Macklestone	Ed Garland	
11 Guest's tenement	John Hadley	10
Highway		
12 Tho Davies	Ed Cooper	11
13 Freeman of Marton	Tho Davies Wm Willet Shoemaker Richard	12

Rich Gough	
6 Wid. Mansell	
Vicar Gittens	
7	
Wm Challenor now Stephen	
8 Jones Snow Groom pos	
Hardley's tenants 9 Edge's tenants Ralph's tenants Rich Astley	
Watson tenement 10 Davies Cottage Baxters Cottage Chidlows Cottage	
Dan Hanmer	
11 Wm Challenor	
Challenor late 12 Clerk	
Wm Jones 13 Wid Groom	

South  
Door



- There used to be a Gallery on the North Wall of the church
- It also had a seating plan
- Plan from 1855



Interior with oil lamps The oil lamps were taken out and electricity was installed in the early 1950s.





Myddle church organ has unusual features . It was built by the very eminent firm of Hill and Son but the date is not given on the name plate.

- The oak lych-gate with figures of Christ and Peter in the gable ends was erected in 1898 to commemorate the jubilee of Rev. G. H. Egerton as rector.
- There is the chair part of the old ducking stool which was used to put witches on and then duck them in the pool at Marton.



The Old Bier in 1966



➤ Under the tower is a modern carved octagonal font (c1931). G. H. Egerton carved the front cover in olive wood brought from the Holy Land.



➤ There is an ancient oak chest with three locks which stands at the west end of the baptistery.

➤ It was in existence before 1700 as it appears on Gough's plans "As the church was anciently," but not on the "Church as it is now 1701.



Chained books (*n.b. these are not now on display*)

Three old chained books still remain in the Church though the chains are now gone except for one link attached to the spine of the book. They are a Paraphrase of Erasmus in black letter dated 1522, Jewels Apology 1560 and Whitgifts Defence 1574

- The parish registers are very old, the first entry being December 1541, which is within three years of their introduction.
- The first which is wholly in Latin, from the beginning to year 1599 is a copy of an earlier Register and each page is signed by Ralph Kinaston rector, and Houmfrey Reanaldes and **Richard Goughe**, churchwardens.
- There are various brasses and monuments in the Church. The oldest remembers Arthur Chambre of Petton, patron of Myddle who died in 1564, his wife and two children.
- The oak tablet on the south wall commemorates 135 parishioners who served in the Great War.







The Churchyard Wall



# Myddle Churchyard Fence

- The Rev. Thomas Wilton appears to have been the first rector of Myddle after the Reformation. He is said to have written out an account of the order and manner of repairing the churchyard fence but the original being lost, a copy was taken by Mr. Randle Cook which is as follows.
- The churchyard rail begins at the east end. The Woodhouses belonging to Myddle repair 6 yards. (The Woodhouses or Woodlands are tenements in Brandwood-Fewterell, Bickley's Wills, Noneley's, Guests, Hordleys, Taylors and Chidloes). These are to repair 6 yards over against Mr Gittens house.
- Next along the south side Myddle repairs 18 yards. Next along the south side Webscott repairs 18 yards. Next Marton repairs 8 yards. Next Sleaf Hall repairs 7 yards which ends at the S.W. corner and the water course which runs through the churchyard runs under Sleaf Hall rails.











1914-1919

**Bebb, John.** Private, 230151, 10th (Shropshire and Yeomanry) Btn. King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Killed in Action 30/11/1917, Aged 21. Born Berwick Wharf, Atcham. Enlisted: Shrewsbury. Resided: Myddle. **Son of Charles Evan and Sarah Jane Bebb, of Marton Grange. Buried Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel.** Grave: E. 59. Formally, Private, 1711, Shropshire Yeomanry. John enlisted in the Shropshire Yeomanry around 1913/14, certainly prior to the outbreak of war. **He was killed during the battle for Jerusalem. The city fell on December 9th 1917.** After the war many burials from the area were interred in Jerusalem War Cemetery. A memorial tablet inside St. Peters Church was erected in memory of John.

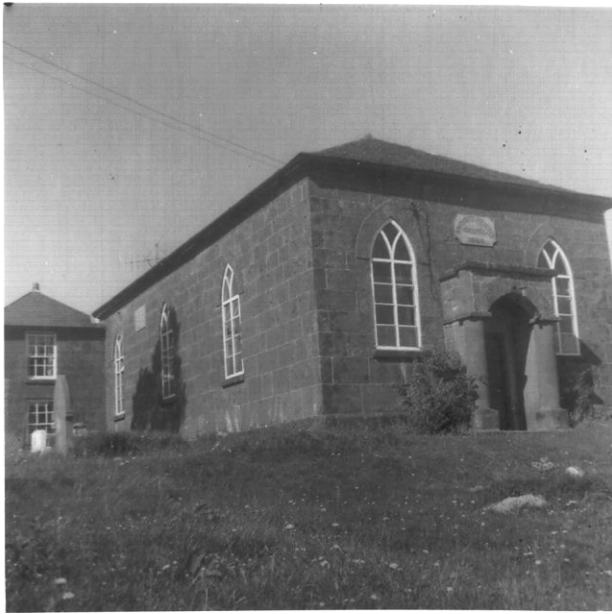
The other church of the parish was at Harmer Hill. It was built by subscription and opened 31<sup>st</sup> May 1865. It was a school church licensed for public worship. During the week it was allowed to be used as an elementary day school.

Harmer Hill  
School Church  
in 1935









- Another place of worship is the Chapel at Harmer Hill.
- When it was built in 1833 it was an Independent Chapel but became a Presbyterian Chapel in the early 1920s.
- The chapel at Harmer Hill has its own graveyard.

➤ At one time there were three chapels in the parish. One was at Houlston but has since been demolished. They fell out of use early in the twentieth century.

➤ At Webscott there was a primitive Methodist chapel which was erected in 1842. It is now used for storing materials.



Webscott Chapel

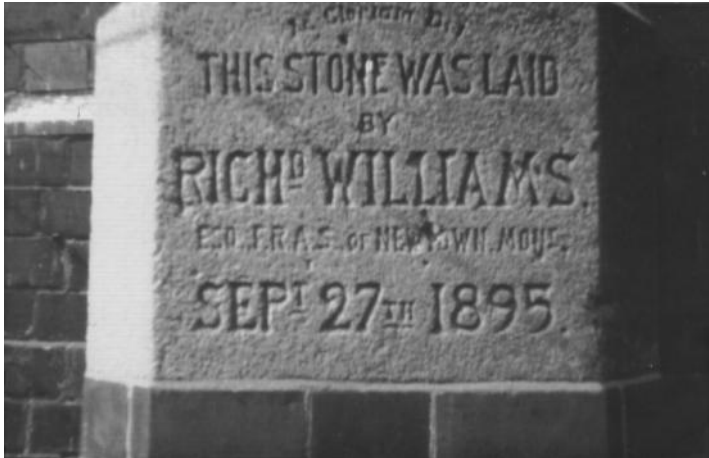


The Chapel at Harmer Hill, built in 1833



At Newton on the Hill there was a Presbyterian chapel which was erected in 1895. This chapel has been converted into two houses and little remains which shows it once was a chapel.

### Newton on the Hill Chapel





Newton on the Hill Chapel

## Broughton Church



St. Mary's is on Church Road to Yorton Heath out of the village of Yorton The original church was built on a low wet area which often flooded and the church was demolished and rebuilt on its present dry site in 1859

MYDDLE CASTLE  
MYDDLE CASTLE

# Myddle Castle

- The castle is also one of the oldest buildings in Myddle.
- John Le Strange obtained a licence to fortify his house in 1308 and built in 1310.







➤ The Castle probably ceased to be occupied c.1500 as it was described as "veri ruinus" by John Leland when he visited Myddle c.1540.

# The Pact of Myddle

- In Sir J Edward Lloyd's work, *The History of Wales*, (Volume 2 Page 681) he mentions an important PACT, which was signed at Middle either in the Church or at the Manor House.
- It was signed on the 21st June 1234 by Llewellyn the Great of Wales and three Church Dignitaries of England, Edmund Rich, the newly consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishops of Lichfield and Rochester.
- This was ratified by the King, Henry III on the 7th July 1234 and guaranteed a truce for two years.
- The basis of the pact was adherence to the situation pertaining at the outbreak of the War, no new Castles to be built and no ruined ones restored on either side, but earlier conquests to be held.
- After the first two years the Truce was renewed from year to year until Llewellyn's death, so that in substance this Pact of Middle was a Peace Treaty and the crowning achievement of the Welsh Prince's long and victorious career.





The Le Strange coat of arms from the castle.  
Could Myddle use this as a coat of arms?

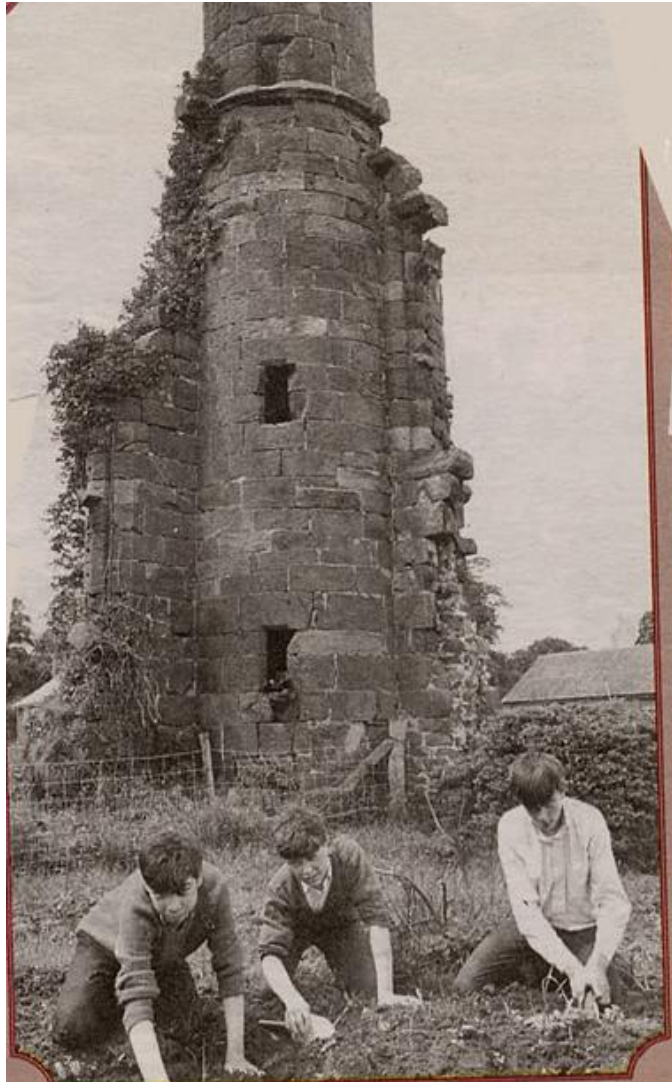
- The stone of which the Castle was built was got on the end of “Harmaer Heath” nearest to Middle.
- It was built four-square, within a square moat, and had a square court inside.
- There was a piece of ground near half an acre, on the east side of the Castle, which piece was moated round; the entrance to this piece was through a gate-house which stood near the north east corner of the Castle moat.
- In the gate-house were four chambers. Adjoining this gate-house was a slaughter-house for the use of the Castle, and near it a draw bridge over the Castle moat.
- The passage from the end of the bridge went into the middle of the Castle Court, on the south side of which was a large room, supposed to have been used as a kitchen, having a large chimney in it, and other conveniences necessary; on the same side was the parlour, and opposite the passage a large hall.
- The Castle was only two stories high with a flat roof, part of it fell down by an earthquake in the year 1688, and the rest is now entirely demolished.

- It was a tradition that the Lords Strange lived for part of the year at Myddle, and part at Knockin, but in later years when the Manor descended to the Darby family, there was a Constable or Keeper at the Castle.
- Sir Roger Kinaston of Hordley was the last but one of these Keepers, and he was succeeded by his younger son known as *Wild Humphrey*.
- He neglected his duties shamefully, leaving Myddle to make his home in a cave at Nesscliff Hill, still known as Kynaston's Cave.
- The castle fell into ruins and "was never again inhabited".



## Myddle Castle

17<sup>th</sup> June 1966



MYDDLE Castle is seen on June 17, 1966, but since this picture was taken much of the structure has been lost after being blown down in a gale. The original caption read: Pupils of Ellesmere Secondary Modern School are excavating a 14th century castle. They will map the shape it took and send the plan to the county archivist. Busy in the picture are, left to right, John Butler, 14, Graham Platt, 15, and Robert Downs, 14. They are digging around the single remaining tower.

- A large proportion of the houses built in the last century were built of local sandstone either from Webscott quarries which are in the parish
- or from Grinshill which is about three miles from Myddle.



The still working quarry at Webscott run by Grinshill Stone Quarries Ltd.

# THE PEOPLE OF MYDDLE

## Census Data

Date	Total	Male	Female	House – inhabited		Uninhabited
1801	779	383	396	152	3	156
1811	775	373	402	163	6	175
1831	807	402	405	172	4	175
1851	834					
1861	804	408	394	175		
1871	764	389	375	165	4	
1881	676	352	324	158	9	162
1891	690	364	326	149	9	151
1901	675	150				
1911	744	386	358	162		
1921	685					

- 17thC - Myddle residents included Masons, Carpenters, shoemakers, coopers, blacksmiths and weavers.
- 18thC - A tannery was operating in Myddle and a copper mine on Pym Hill supplied Abraham Darby at Coalbrookdale.
- Mid 19thC - Myddle residents included a butcher, stone masons, saddler, rope maker, washerwomen, market women, dressmaker, wheelwright, carpenter, clockmaker and weaver.
- 1880's - A rectangular shaped brickworks was operating at Fenemere and a round one at Marton.
- Who were these people?
- where did they work?



2001 Census Profile		Area Identifier - 39UC019	Grid Ref
PRODUCED BY SASPAC		Parish of Myddle and Broughton	CROWN COPYRIGHT 2003
Table P01 Population	Numbers	Percentage of Total Population	
Total Residents	1,142	XXX	
Residents Living In Households	1,136	99.5	
Residents Living In Communal Establishments	6	0.5	
Students Living Away From Home	22	XXX	
Table P02 Population By Age Group		Numbers	Percentage of Total Population
			5.9
0 - 4	67		2.5
5 - 7	28		1.9
8 - 9	22		6.3
10 - 14	72		1.3
15	15		3.6
16 - 17	41		2.0
18 - 19	23		3.6
20 - 24	41		2.7
25 - 29	31		21.1
30 - 44	241		24.4
45 - 59	279		6.0
60 - 64	68		11.6
65 - 74	132		5.5
75 - 84	63		1.1
85 - 89	12		0.6
90 and over	7		
Total	1,142		

➤ 2001 Census

➤ 1142 in the parish

➤ Full census details available from the link on the Myddle web site.

➤ Further work is required on the jobs people did in the village and the population changes throughout history

**THE PUBS!**

- The 'Red Lion' is an old building
- It was moved from by the "Lich Gate" to its current site by Richard Maddock and put up in its present position at the bottom of Myddle Hill. In Gough's day the place was called Eagle Farm.
- Richard Maddock sold ale from it then
- When cock fighting was allowed, there was a cock pit in the kitchen of this inn.



The Red Lion in 1965



The Red Lion - 2010



The Blacksmith Arms







The Red Bull at Alderton





The Red Bull at Alderton 2010



Red Castle Harmer Hill



Bridgewater Arms Harmer Hill



# OLD BUILDINGS IN THE PARISH



**Balderton Hall** was built in 1572. This building is three stories, the third storey being used by the servants both of the house and of the farm.



Marton Hall one of the largest houses in Myddle. When the first Marton Hall was built is not really known. It was fairly near the road from Myddle to Baschurch and was a white building. The new hall is 75 to 100 yards from the old house further in the grounds it was built in 1914 as a sixteenth century style house with fine mullion windows.





**Tan House**, an old Tannery, which is on the westerly edge of the parish at Marton is about the oldest house in the parish, built around 1550. It is a thatched cottage which has been kept as it was where possible. Inside there are many open beams and there are a large number of carpenters marks visible for fitting one beam to another.





Tan House side view



The Nest in 1921





The Nest 2010



Brook Cottage and Bristle Bridge on Lower Road  
Supposedly named according to Gough because of a  
“monstrous boar killed by Scoggan”





Moss Farm on Lower Road, thought to be Meare House, which was moved when the Mere was drained



Old Quarryman' Cottages at the bottom of Brookside





Some of the old cottages show signs of additions No.11 Brookside

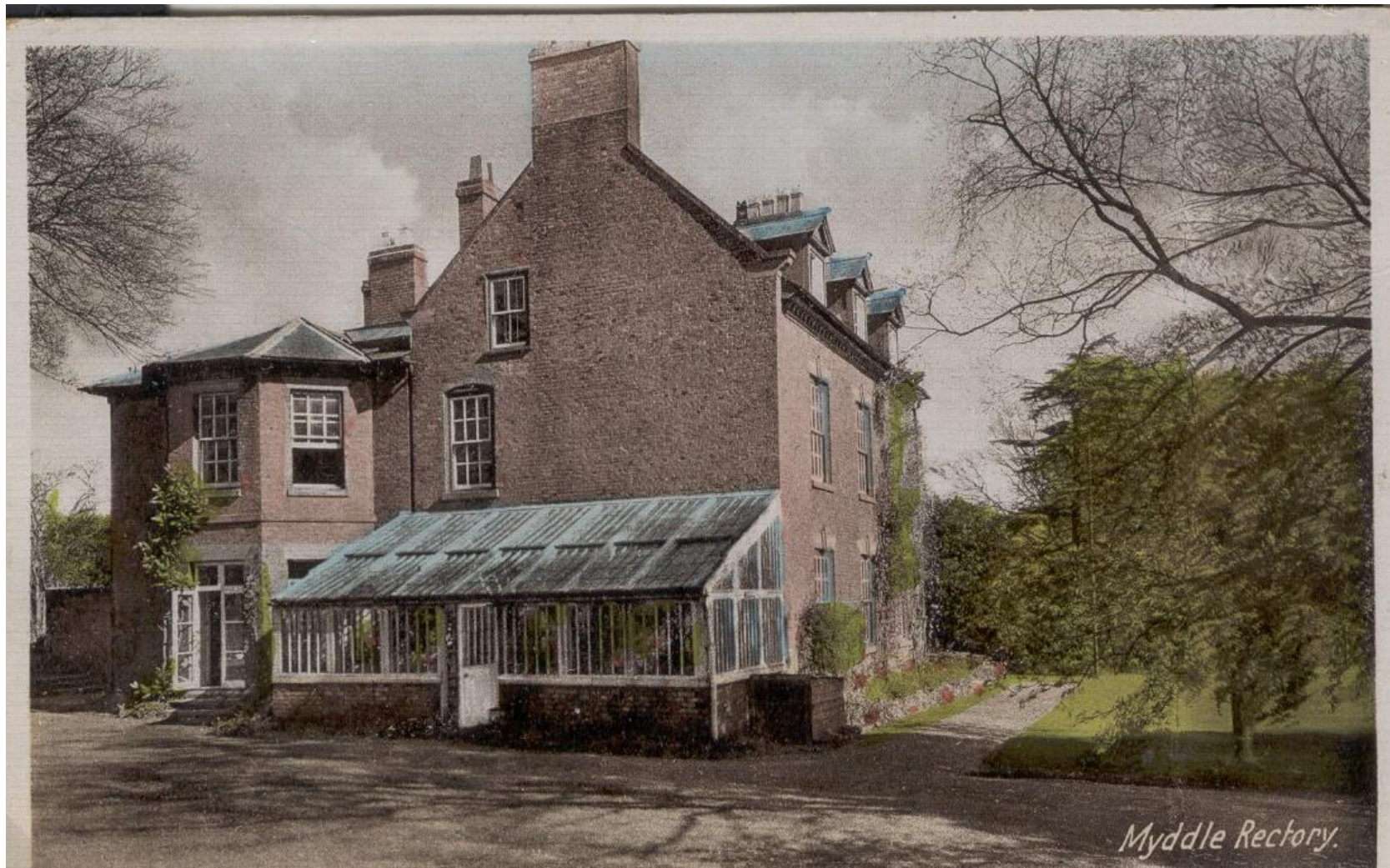


**Yew Tree House**





The Old Rectory



*Myddle Rectory.*

# ROADS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

- In ancient times, well before Richard Gough, the highways through the parish were established by custom and practice.
- Lower Road was the main road from Shrewsbury to Ellesmere, from Merrington, skirting Haremere, to Webscott, possibly going up Brookside on to Ellesmere.
- The main street in Myddle was part of the main road between Market Drayton and Oswestry
- A third ancient road is Bilmarsh Lane, this was part of the salt road the eventually led to Nantwich and the salt works there.
- Other ancient tracks now called Footpaths were also established and are still rights of way.



**Gough's Walks**  
1700 - 2000



Wherever you walk in Britain you are following in the footsteps of untold generations that trod this path before you. Untold, that is, unless you are in the Parish of Myddle, in Shropshire.

What makes these walks different to countless others is that in 1700 a yeoman farmer picked up his quill pen and began to write about every family and every house in the parish, the scandals, the hardships, the tragedies and the humour of everyday life. Thanks to Richard Gough, that fascinating farmer, we know more about Myddle in the years leading up to 1700 than about any other place in England.

A group of 18 people, from today's parish, decided to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Gough's putting pen to paper, by choosing and publishing six country walks around Myddle. As you follow the walks, you will find out about some of the people, buildings, deeds and misdeeds that Gough wrote about.



**The Tan House**  
Artwork, photo enhancement and final edit by Jeremy Clarke of Myddle.  
Printed by Delmar Press, of Nantwich.

Photographs used in the walks have been taken by members of the group, Steve Baker (former postman in Myddle), or provided by other local people.



The project was supported by Shropshire County Council Countryside Volunteer Centre.

**KEY**

- main road
- minor road or lane
- 'green lane'
- - - - footpath or bridleway
- woodland
- water
- field edges
- the way you go!



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The Countryside Agency





## Roads

Myddle parish seems to have been well provided by roads which were kept in a good state of repair. A turnpike road connected the Holyhead road about five miles from Oswestry with the Chester road, eight miles from Shrewsbury, passing through Myddle and Marton. At Marton, the old toll gate house still remains.



Turnpike Toll House at the end of Houlston Lane





The start of Bilmarsh also known as the “Burma Road”



The Northern end of the Burma Road



## Parish Paths Partnership – Brendan Markland

Maintaining footpaths and stiles, marking them and generally making sure they are open.



# WATER SUPPLY



Village Pump One of the water supplies in use until the 1950s

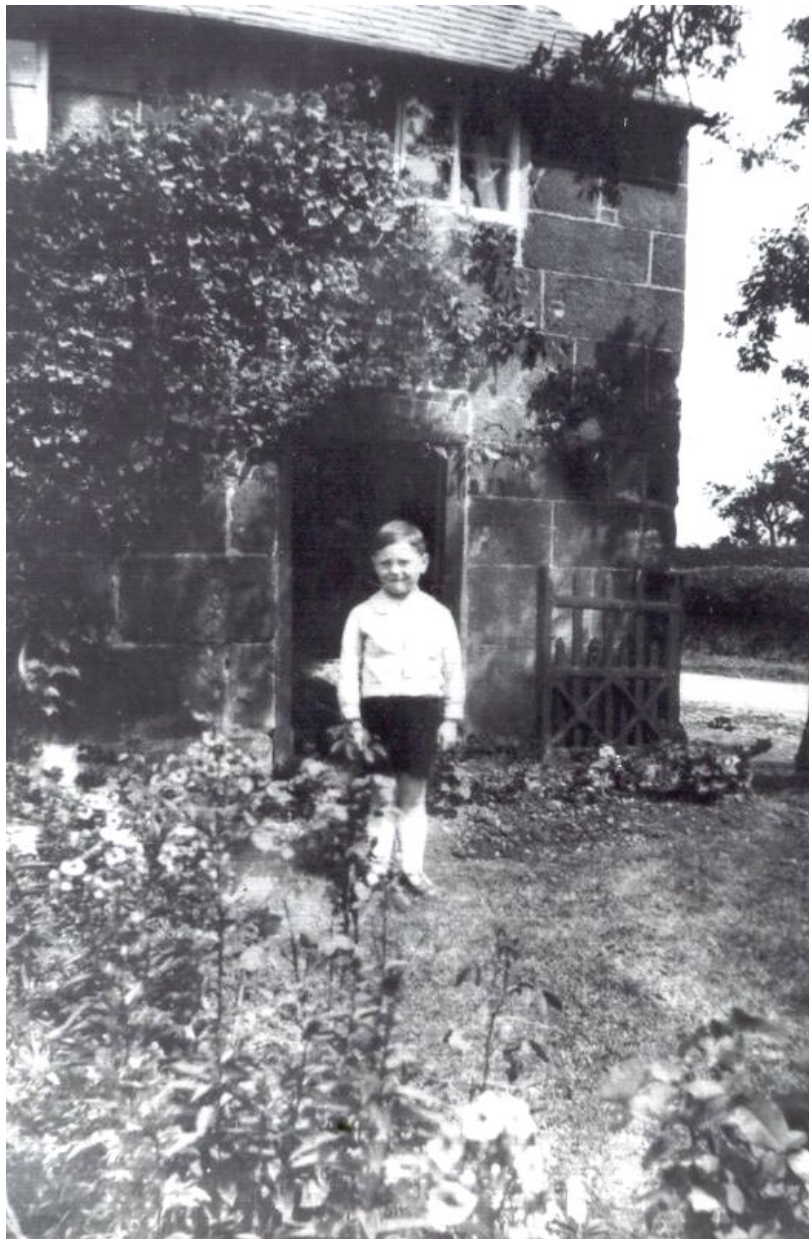




- The other water supply for the village was an old well
- The remains of at Well Croft



# A FEW OF THE RESIDENTS



The Saddler's Shop – On Fenemere Lane



**THIS** unknown group of ladies in Myddle might be the Myddle WI or Myddle Mothers Union, pictured around the late 1920s.

The picture came from Robin Griffiths, on behalf of his mother May Griffiths of Park Hall, Oswestry, sister of the late Kath Lloyd on the picture.

Names are believed to be: back row, from left: two unknowns, Edith Matthews, Mrs Harry Brookfield, Marguerite Griffiths, Minnie Thelwell, Miss Joncock, Mrs Blanche Shingler (Myddlewood), unknown.

Middle row: Mrs Enroy ?, Miss Dudley, Mrs Ben Whittingham, Mary Mullinex, Mrs Latham, Mrs Neale ?, Kath Lloyd, Retta Williams, unknown, Mrs Husbands, Mrs Chettoe (Sylvia's mum), Mary Griffiths.

Front: Mrs Grice, two unknowns, Mrs Boliver, Mrs Parker, Mrs Villiers (Marton Hall), Mrs Crewe, Mrs Rogers, Mrs Steve Birch, Miss Cank (teacher, Harmer Hill), Mrs Green (Newton), Mrs Edmonds, Mrs Davies (Newton).





Myddle.

- Yew Tree House, Myddle Bridge, Bottom of Brookside
- Was the man with the buckets just fetching water from the **well** by the Village Hall?
- Notice the two story building, now only one.



Myddle Post Office  
13<sup>th</sup> June 1907

Brookside

Who were they?



**MYDDLE Post Office, from a postcard franked on June 13, 1907. The people are unidentified but are probably the postman and post-mistresses.**

**The message on the back is: P.O. Myddle. 13/6/07. Dear Friend, Thought you may like this card. You recognise the place and people I expect, with love to all, Annie. It was sent to The Moat, Stapleton, near Shrewsbury. Do you know who the people in the picture are? !**



*Village and Gullet*



2 Sandstone Cottages

Mr & Mrs Bill Ebrey.

Mr & Mrs Clark. ?

The land opposite was a veg garden

Yew Tree Cottage was the shop.

Mr & Mrs Reg Brown.

The Villa was the school Teachers

House. Miss Maggie Edwards.

Followed by Mrs Rogers

and her sister Miss May who was

the organist at the church.

The Red Lion was ran by  
Mrs Dave Lloyd

who was mes J. Lanchbury before  
he husband was killed by a horse  
at the Bibbys stables at Leighton  
and it stayed in the family until 1983.

**MYDDLE SCHOOL**





Myddle School now the village hall

## Myddle School

- There was a school at Myddle before 1642 for in that year Gough tells us “the old Communion Table was brought into the schoolhouse for boyes to write on; the old Reading Pew was likewise brought into the schoolhouse for the schoolmaster to sitt on.”
- The old school building, which lies next to the Red Lion Inn, was built in 1838 for 120 children.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Many children absent to help in the hay.
- June 26<sup>th</sup> 1891 5 cases of measles broke out”
- On 30<sup>th</sup> June, the school closed until 20<sup>th</sup> July because the measles were so bad.
- The most common names to be found in the School Admittance Book 1873 – 1900 were Jones, Mullinix, Vaugham, Birch, Boliver, Adam, Brayne and Lloyd.
- A school church was built at Harmer Hill in 1865 for sixty children.



The Red Lion and the old school with Brookside on the right





Myddle Church of England School





The Old Smithy at the top of the bank

## Shotton Hall Harmer Hill



- Queen Mary was a familiar figure in Shrewsbury when she visited her Brother the Marquis of Cambridge at Shotton Hall, until his untimely death in October 1927.
- When was this built?
- Shotton Hall, was converted to a private boarding school for boys and girls. 1950 to 1994





- House next to church. This house is original up to the cross beam. Above it is brick.
- The house is probably about 300 years old.
- How old is it?





Few houses remain from Gough's time but The Oaks is an exception.



Apparently "The Oaks" is still in the ownership of ancestors of the Hamner Family





Richard Gough's Farm at Newton-on-the-Hill





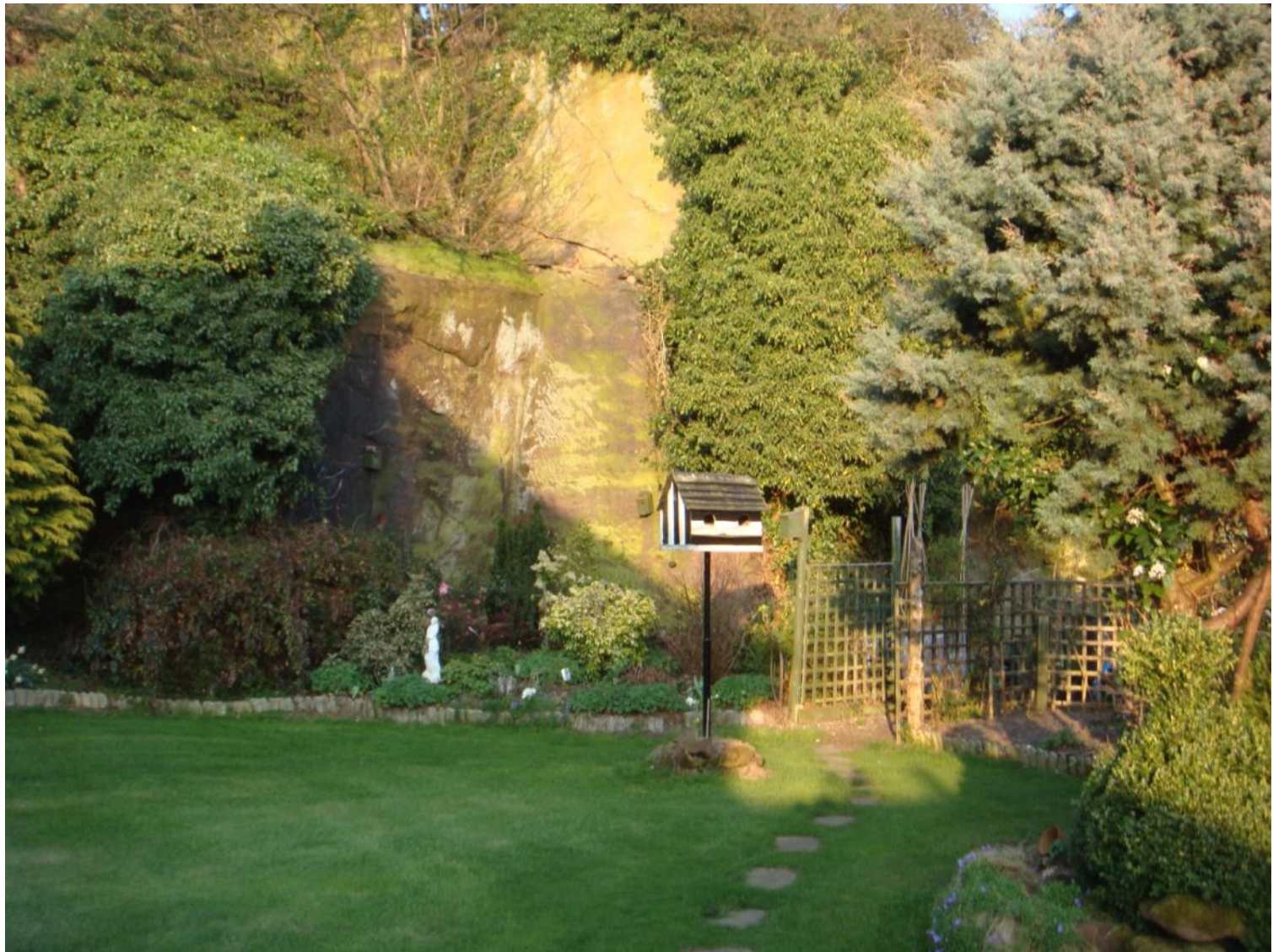
Houlston Manor





Other types of houses included the cave cut into the rock at West View on Brookside



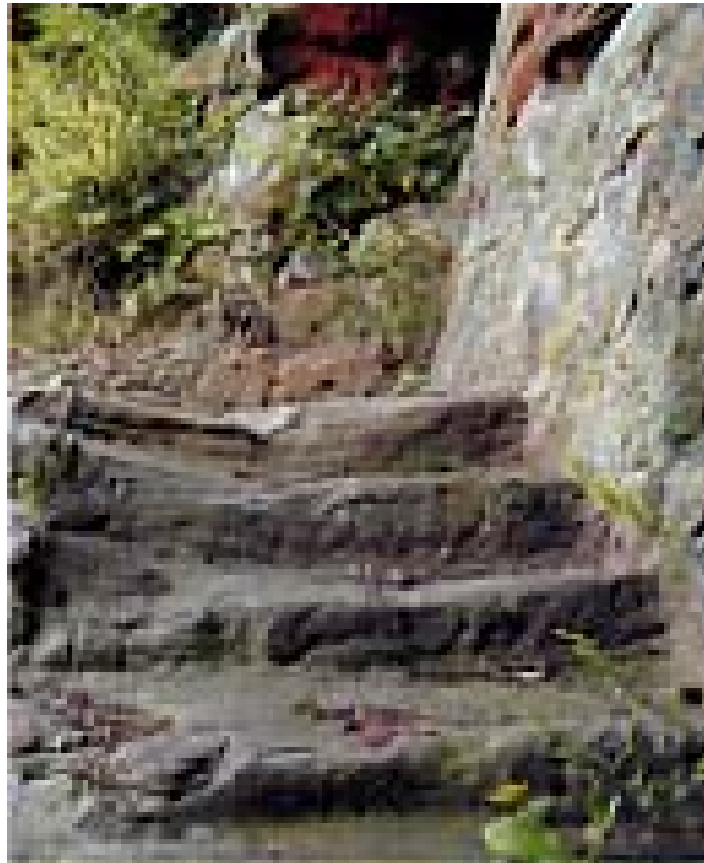


- A quarry face at West View on Brookside.
- Is this where the stone for the Church or Castle was quarried?





- Scoggan's Goblin Hole on Lower Road.
- A cave like dwelling with a stone chimney made by a man called Fardo in Richard Gough's time.



**Steps to Scoggan's  
Goblin Hole.**





- What are these marks on the outcrops at the bottom of Myddle Hill?
- How were they made and why?



HOUSES BUILT IN  
THE  
LATE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
AND  
EARLY 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



Quarry Close 1990s



Ex Shropshire Council Houses, Brookside 1930s





Hillside, Myddle 1970s



Glebelands 1950s



Eagle Farm late 1980s





Alford Farm, 2008



Wellcroft 2008



# OTHER PARTS OF THE PARISH





Only a few properties in Harmer Hill are of any great age



The much more modern village hall at Harmer Hill which recently received a lottery grant for alterations





Ex Shropshire Council, Lower Road Harmer Hill 1960?





An older property on Goddings Lane



Goddings Close Harmer Hill 1990s?





Modern barn conversions Newton on the Hill 2009





- Sleap Airfield was built in 1942 on land belonging to Lower Houlston Farm, as a satellite airfield to R.A.F. Tilstock.
- It was a training ground for bomber crews flying Whitley bombers, and the “pans” where the bombers were dispersed can still clearly be seen.
- The airfield closed at the end of the war, but was reopened shortly after and used by R.A.F. Shawbury until 1968.



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Shropshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

The  
Countryside  
Agency

## Goughs Walks

A selection of 6 walks around the village and parish with quotes from Gough's book.

Put together by the late  
Jeremy Clarke, Julia Clarke,  
Peter Icke, Jean Hammond,  
Ruth Lund and Ann Duff.





**Thank you  
for your interest  
in our Parish**

**Where do we go  
from here?**