



Kellys Directory Extract 1915



Biddestone

BIDDESTONE is a village, divided formerly into two parishes, viz. St Peter and St Nicholas, but amalgamated by a Local Government Board order March 25, 1884; the parish is 2½ miles north from Corsham station on the Great Western railway and 4 west from Chippenham, in the North Western division of the county, hundred, petty sessional division, county court district and union of Chippenham, and in the rural deanery of Chippenham, archdeaconry of North Wilts and diocese of Bristol. The church of St Nicholas is an ancient edifice of stone in the Norman style, consisting of chancel, nave, south porch and a curious old belfry over the chancel arch containing one bell: the chancel was restored and new-roofed in 1900 by Winchester College: there are sittings for 200 persons. The register dates from the year 1688. The living consists of the rectory of St Peter and vicarage of St Nicholas, with the vicarage of Slaughterford annexed, net yearly value £185, with 5 acres of glebe and residence, in the gift of Winchester College, and held since 1907 by the Rev John Charles Wace. St Peter's church has been taken down and the turret now stands in the gardens in Castle Combe parish. There are Baptist and Primitive Methodist chapels. The charities include one of £18 yearly value, left by Lady James, to be distributed in clothes and coals at Christmas; and other of £5 10s yearly, for the deserving poor at Christmas, left by W Little; these are invested in the New £2.75% Consols. Field-Marshal Lord Methuen GCB, GCVO, CMG who is lord of the manor, and Lord Islington PC, GCMG, DSO are the principal landowners. The soil is brash; subsoil, blue marl. The chief crops are wheat, barley and pasture lands. The area is 1,951 acres; rateable value, £2,093; population in 1911, 417 in the civil parish and 526 in the ecclesiastical parish.

Post & Telegraph Office: Mrs Agnes M Smith, sub-postmistress. Letters through Chippenham arrive at 7.20am & 4.20pm; dispatched at 7.55am & 7.30pm; Sundays, arrive 7.50am. Ford, 2 miles distant, is the nearest money order office

Elementary School (mixed), built in 1841, for 100 children; Augustus Elliott, master

Gentry/Private Residents

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Bence	Isaac			
Briggs	Charles John	Vice-Admiral, Sir KCB		Willow House
Careless		Mrs		Elm Lodge
Elliott		Mrs		The Hollies
Little	Thomas			
Morley	Frederick William			Manor House
Orchard	Bertie William			
Taylor	John	Major		
Wace	John Charles	Reverend	Vicar	The Vicarage

Traders

Surname	Given Names	Title	Industry/Occupation	Place/Parish
Baker	William Charles	Caretaker	Reading Room	
Elliott	John	& Son	Farmers	
Elliott	Francis Mountjoy		Farmer	Elm House Farm
Green	Henry		Farmer	
Hadrell	Alfred James		Basket Maker	
Hart	William		Farmer	

		Kibble & Tidmarsh	Saddlers	
Little	Arthur Henry		Farmer	
Little	John Blake		Farmer	
Matthews	Dennis		Shopkeeper	
Miles	John			White Hart PH
Neal	Albert			White Horse PH
		Orchard & Co	Timber Merchants, Carpenters & Wheelwrights & Steam Saw Mill Proprietors	
		Pullen & Bailey	Agricultural Implement Makers	
Rebbeck	Arthur J		Baker	
Smith	Agnes M	Mrs	Shopkeeper	Post Office
Summers	Henry		Farmer	Field Farm
Taylor	George		Farmer	Pool Farm
Taylor	Jasper Raymond		Farmer	Honeybrooke (letters through Ford)
White	Henry		Shopkeeper	