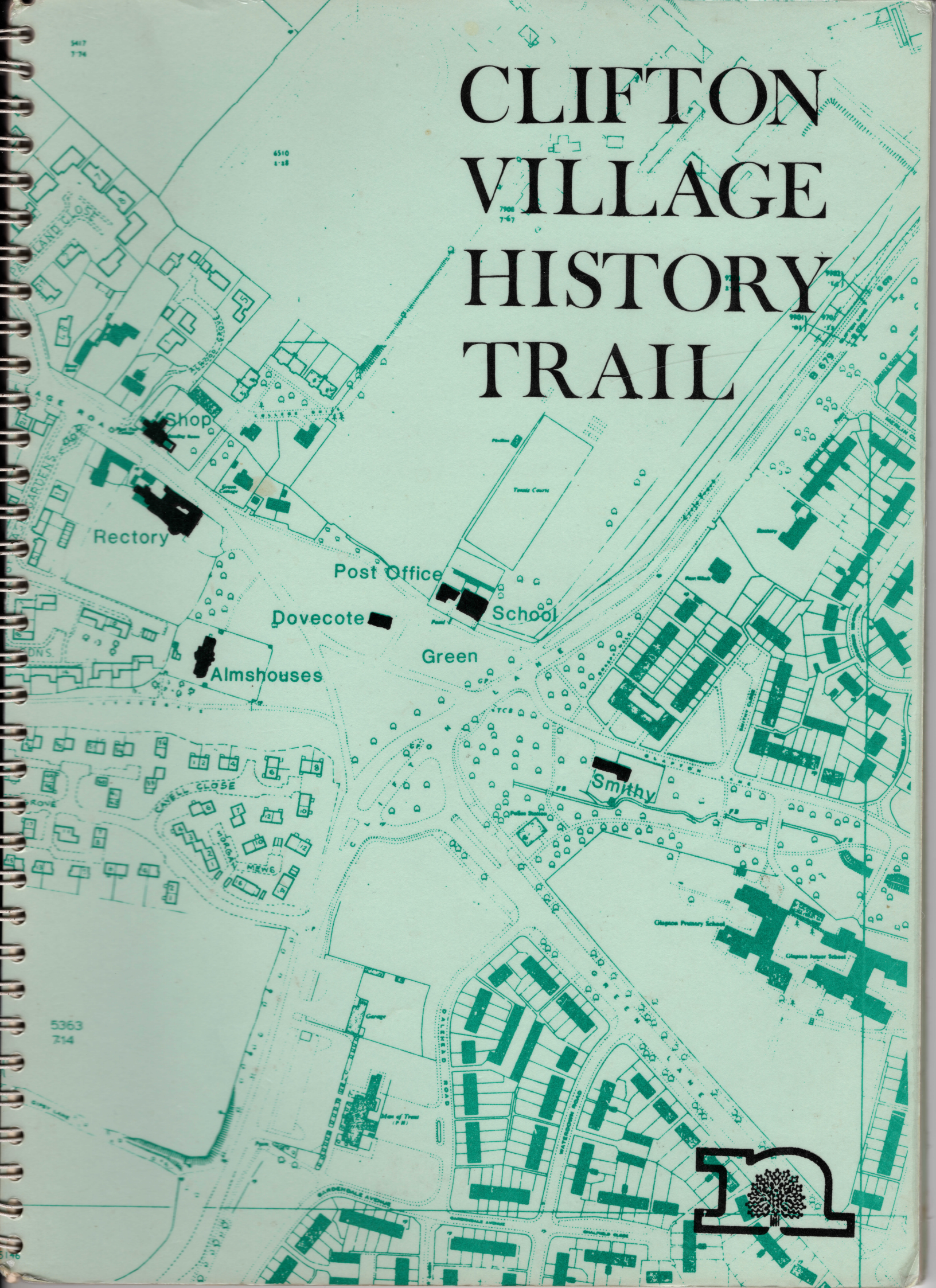
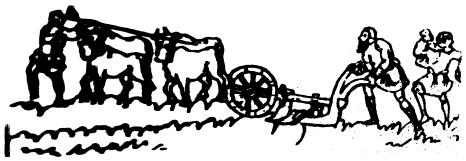
CLIFTON VILLAGE HISTORY TRAIL



CLIFTON VILLAGE HISTORY TRAIL

This handbook has been written and put together by teachers from the Highbank, Milford and Whitegate Schools, who acknowledge the encouragement and guidance given by Professor Bill Middlebrook, Reverend Wilf Wilkinson, the Village History Association and the villagers themselves.
Mike Falgate and Tony King supplied the illustrations and Dave Ishmael and Dave Middlemiss have taken all the photographs associated with the follow-up work.
The book was printed and bound by the Fairham Print Room.
Typist: P. Mackie.



THE VILLAGE HISTORY TRAIL

The Trail begins at the Smithy, then takes in the right hand side of the village to the Hall and returns along the opposite side of the road.

Smithy

Village Green

School

Old Post Office

Dovecote

Village Shop

Lambert (TIL) House

Grove

Clifton Hall and the Cliftons

Church

Bothy and Dower House

Stables

Home Farm and Farming

Yew Tree Grange

Thatched Cottages

Rectory

Almshouses

INTRODUCTION

Approached from the Green one first sees the 18th century Dovecote on the Village Green and the Blacksmith's forge behind the Police Station. To one side of the Green there are the Almshouses, built in 1709. On the other side stands the National School, built posthumously by Sir Robert Juckes Clifton in 1871, the schoolmaster's house and 19th century dwellings. Walking across the Green into the heart of the village one passes the Rectory, now an Old People's Home, a few thatched cottages and some Victorian dwellings before arriving at the 11th century church and Clifton Hall with its Dower House and extensive stables.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, a translation of Domesday states that lands in Clifton were held by Countess Gode, some believing her to be the Lady Godiva of fame. However, it is more than likely a translation error and should have read "Countess Gytha" who was wife to Earl Ralph of Hereford, nephew to King Edward. This claim is supported by the fact that other lands of Ralph's were also taken over by William Peverel, as indeed Clifton was, and a Countess Gytha also held land at Edwalton. Be that as it may the earliest record we have of Clifton is the detail from the Domesday Book in 1086.

> "In CLIFTON Countess Gytha had 2½ caracuta of land taxable.
> Land for 5 ploughs, William has 2 ploughs in lordship and
> 4 Freemen, 19 villagers and 8 smallholders who have 9 ploughs.
> A priest and a church; 1 mill, 12d; meadow, 12 acres.
>
> Value before 1066 £16; now £9.
>
> There also, Ulfkell had and has 1 bovata of land taxable and
> 1 villager with 2 oxen. Meadow, 1 acre.
>
> In BARTON (in-Fabis) 2 bovata and the third part of 1 bovata taxable.
> Land for 1 plough.
> 3 Freemen have 2 ploughs.
> Meadow, 3 acres.
>
> In WILFORD, jurisdiction. 3 caracuta of land taxable. Land for
> 6 ploughs.
> 23 Freemen have 7 ploughs.
> A priest; meadow, 18 acres, half a fishery.

At this time Clifton is quoted as having a priest and a church. William Peverel, illegitimate son of the Conqueror possessed many lands in the area and was responsible for the building of a strong fortress on the Castle Rock at Nottingham. An old parchment of the time states that Alvared was warden of the castle and being described as "de Clifton" may be presumed to have received the same from Peverel. At the fall of the Peverels on the accession of Henry 11 the castle at Nottingham was granted to Gerald - of the powerful de Rhodes family. It was at the end of the reign of Henry 111 in 1272 that we find the estates of Wilford and Clifton had been sold to a Sir Gervase de Clifton, along with the services of the people of Barton. Edward 1 confirmed this sale in 1281.

Introduction

The position of the village on a high ridge of Keuper Marl on the bank of the River Trent made it an ideal defensive site for the earliest inhabitants and this surely is the reason for its existence.

The village was originally known as Clifton-cum-Glapton (the latter being a small village with farms and cottages lying to the east of the main road to Loughborough).

It derives its name from the Saxon "Cliff-ton" - the settlement on the cliff and Glapton was "Glappa's settlement".

Supported by a number of local craftsmen and service workers, the inhabitants were mainly involved in agriculture as tenants and labourers to the Clifton family. Because the land never left the possession of the Cliftons it was ruled absolutely by them and was termed a "close" village as the landowner dictated who should move into the village and what buildings should be erected. As a result there was no one to challenge the status quo, and the character of the village, happily for us, did not change. Although with the coming of the stocking frame several villagers certainly did rent or buy one, it was not on the same scale as in an "open" village such as Ruddington which expanded rapidly during the 19th century with high density housing, several public houses and the influx of many frame-work knitters who supplied the hosiery trade.

The census returns for the hundred years to 1901 show Clifton's population to be little changed from 381 to 383, but Ruddington's rises from 868 to 2493 and the County of Nottingham's from 140,000 to 514,000.

The village generally continued its rural existence through the first half of the present century, though agriculture less and less affected the populace as farming became more mechanised. During this time more and more villagers found employment in Nottingham.

The final blow came in 1947 when after being in the hands of one family for almost 600 years the land was bought by the City Council, by compulsory purchase. Now most of the original estate is taken up by private and council housing and the grounds of the Trent Polytechnic.

The planners have carefully retained character in the village by the introduction of discreet infilling of houses of pleasing design. Though dwarfed by the massive council estate of some 30,000 people, Clifton still retains much of the charm which caused visitors in the past to regard it as beautiful and ideal.

THE SMITHY

The old smithy, with the blacksmith's house adjacent, is situated near the junction of Clifton Lane with Glapton Lane. Its position between the two sections of the village on the former village green and near the main road, made it easy of access. Considering the number of horses used in the past for personal transport, carrying and farmwork, it was ideally situated. There is ample space in front of the building for waiting horses and wagons and it was, no doubt, a popular and noisy meeting place for the village.

The buildings are arranged in typical fashion, the forge being housed on the left hand side and the horses attended in the small cobbled building on the right. In some parts it is called a "trav'us" or "trave house" (a "trave" being a wooden frame to hold still the hoof of a difficult horse).

Although we think of the blacksmith as essentially working with horses, farriery was only a part of his work. To him fell not only the task of repairing almost any broken metal object, but also the manufacture of all the many tools once used in a labour intensive farm industry.

Jack Stevenson was the last smith and was still doing odd jobs, with his forge lit, into the 1960s. Never an idle man, Jack (Jack-Jack to those who knew him) was not only the smith but also the verger, sexton and member of St. Mary's Church Choir. He would march through the church as though he was co-shareholder, singing away, and being very deaf, added his contribution at a highly individual level of pitch and strength! One of his later public activities was to lay the foundation stone of St. Francis' Church.

His account books survive and that of 1880 - 1890, for example, shows the approximate amount of work done for each of his customers.

Clifton	3375 entries	Wootton	575 entries
Turner	1975 entries	Moss	550 entries
Butler	1625 entries	Langford	525 entries
Morris	1050 entries	Spencer	325 entries
Jackson	750 entries		

Other customers from as far as Radcliffe on Trent, Bunny, Barton, Plumtree, Thrumpton and Wilford account for another 1250 entries.

The Smithy

Naturally the work done for the Cliftons included work at the Hall as well as the Home Farm, e.g.

New sett screw for coffee mill - 1s.6d.
Brass fitting to clay mill - 7s.6d.
Plate and pins to Retort Lid in Gass House - 2s.0d.
(the Hall was obviously lit by gas at this time, from its own gas house)

Other items commonly appearing in these accounts are:

Horse shoes
Frost nails
Swingletrees
Ploughshare repairs
Latches and catches
Harrows
Skip mending
New grates to fireplace
New bars to fireplace

THE VILLAGE GREEN

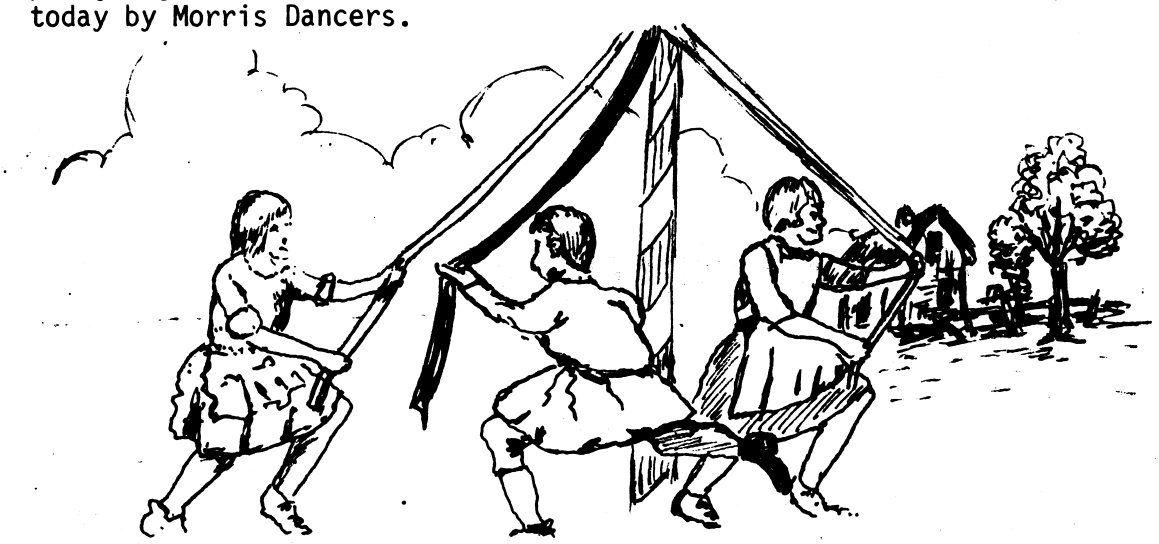
The green is situated between the two parts of the village of Clifton-cum-Glapton now divided by the main Nottingham to Loughborough Road. A wide expanse of greenery, it is dominated by the large dovecote and flanked by the village school, schoolhouse and almshouses.

Like all village greens in England, especially up until the 1900s it played a major role in many aspects of village life. Not only was it common land on which any villager could graze animals, but anciently would have been a place of safety for all village animals in times of war or civil unrest. It was a focal point for festivities and traditional games and day-to-day contact with neighbours. On long summer evenings, villagers, both old and young would gather there to exchange conversation and play, after a long, hard day's labour. For reasons obviously connected with the weighty power of the Clifton family there is no reference to pubs in old records, though rumour has it that there were four brewhouses at one time. For the children, it was the place to play games and sing game rhymes, long since forgotten, but in past times handed down and accepted by succeeding generations as a natural part of childhood. Until even the late 1800s these games continued but then changes in education and society began to impose new expectations. The games, among them "Oranges and Lemons", "Here we go round the Mulberry Bush" and "London Bridge" were played by the girls only, looked on by the boys. The children could play for many hours without repeating a game. Marbles, peg-tops, skipping ropes and conkers all had their season, but ball games were limited, as balls were expensive and scarce. The boys would mark out their own area on the green for their games, substituting an old tin or a pig's bladder to provide a game of football.

After the school was officially opened in 1872 the green was used during lesson times for drill and exercises. Cricket matches against other local teams were played here and once footballs appeared games by moonlight were a favourite pastime. It is noteworthy that the village produced two England cricketers.

No doubt the green was used on many other festive occasions throughout the year. The village had a Harvest Festival Feast in September. After weeks of heavy manual labour the workers looked forward to the Harvest Supper, held at the Hall, followed by sports, games and dancing, a day to be remembered.

In parts of Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire on the second Monday in January, a tradition known as "Plough Monday" was celebrated. In this the farm labourers went around the village performing a sort of play in the evenings. This was handed down orally from generation to generation, the actors called locally "The Plough Bullocks" - referring to the times when they pulled a plough behind them. "Plough Monday" appears to have received its name because it was the first day after Christmas when ploughing was resumed. The play was similar in format to that performed today by Morris Dancers.



The Yeomanry were encamped for summer exercises for many years on Clifton Pastures and delighted children and adults alike by their demonstrations of skilled horsemanship on many occasions on the green.

Of traditions associated with village life in the past perhaps one of the most colourful and exciting of these was the May Day Celebrations. Undoubtedly the occasion varied from decade to decade in terms of dancing and games, but the Maypole survived in Clifton, and so did the dancing - done by the village schoolchildren. They looked forward to the day after the long dark winter, when Spring could be welcomed. Their costumes of red, white and blue were traditionally provided by the Lord of the Manor and this continued until the war when clothes rationing made it impossible and it was never revived. The May garland was made in the schoolroom by the children, a frame covered in flowers. The May Queen, with her daisy crown, was picked weeks before and on the day itself the children set off around the village perhaps singing a May Song like this one:

"Come see our new garland, so green and so gay,
'Tis the first fruits of Spring and the glory of May,
Here are cowslips and daisies and hyacinths blue,
Here are buttercups bright and anemones too."

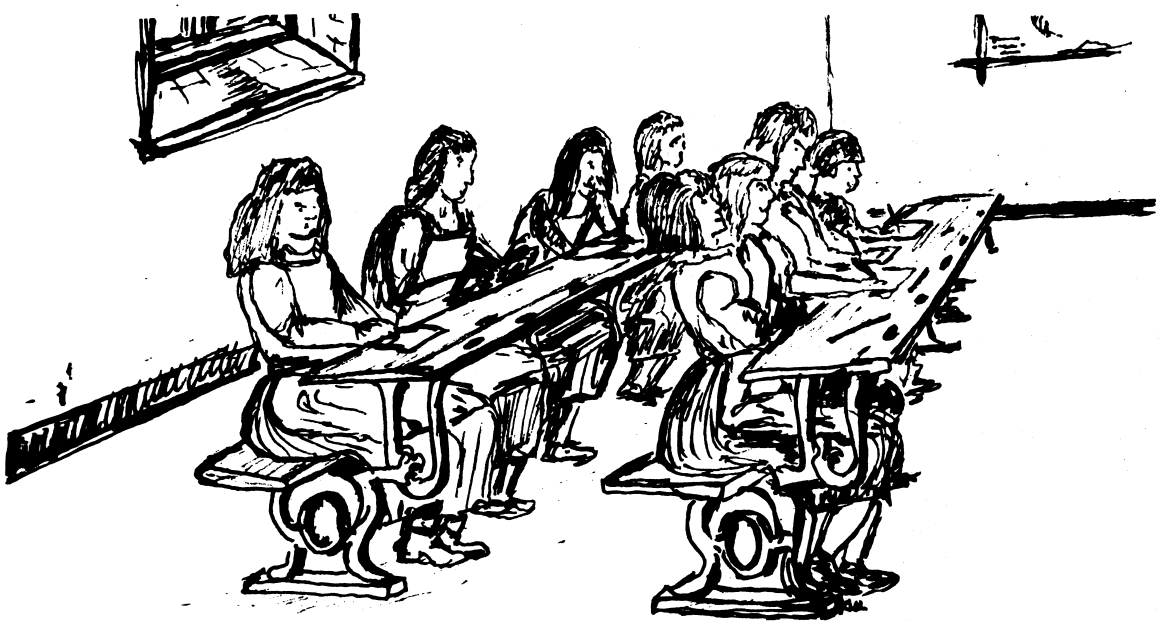
They visited the Rectory, the Hall and the cottages in between, collecting money as they went. In later years this was donated to charity, but earlier the children divided the money between them. Once the children were back at the green the Maypole was erected and festivities began. Hundreds of people from the village and surrounding district came to Clifton on this day and there were side-stalls, refreshment tents, home-made teas and cakes - and of course the dancing.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

Prior to the 1870 Education (Forster) Act there was very little opportunity for schooling, indeed, the labouring classes resisted it as taking children away from the opportunity of supplementing the family income by working in the fields.

Clifton Village school can be said to be a result of the 1870 Education Act as a voluntary Church of England school built in 1871 by Sir Robert Clifton, who spent a great deal generally on the village. Note, that during this period coal was discovered at Wilford on the Clifton estates and the profit of the "Railway Age" can be seen in the erection of a number of brick built cottages, reading room, shop and school. He employed the teacher (who was schoolmaster, choirmaster and postmaster for £90 p.a.) and the parish clerk to teach 48 pupils when it opened in 1872. When the school was completed it was handed over by Trust Deed to a committee of six, the Rector being Chairman, and a provision was made that Religious instruction would be given as long as the school was open.

As in all schools at that time the curriculum was limited to the three Rs with some needlework, religion playing a very important role in the everyday life of the school.



From the School Log Book, we get insights into the early days from both a social and an educational viewpoint. The Cliftons were regular visitors, benevolent and entertaining the children often at the Hall - particularly for the Annual School Treat, on one occasion complete with Magic Lantern Show! The Rector was an almost daily visitor, instructing and examining the children in scripture. When he died, the school was closed for the day and the children followed his funeral.

In the early days attendance was spasmodic and truanting was a common problem, as the children were used to working on the land during the summer time. Many entries state 'Muster small. Gleaning not over', and 'Many children away through field work.' Ignorance on the part of their parents and the need for the few extra coppers must have caused frustration in the early days for the Headmaster, Mr. Harris.

A parent complained about the master being too anxious, and said that she should be quite satisfied if her daughter did not learn quite so much!

The Village School

He wrote on one occasion "Any trifling excuse keeps children from school. Compulsion here could be a blessing!" No doubt he heaved a sigh of relief when Sandon's 1876 Act came in banning all employment of children below the age of ten, and between ten to fourteen unless proficiency in the 3 R s had been reached. He even distributed copies in the parish! Also in 1880, Mundella's Act compelled school boards to enforce attendance, with part-time attendance between 10-13 permitted only after passing local examinations. By 1893 the minimum age was 11 although attendance continued to be spasmodic in the village depending on the time of year.

The school became the focal point for village life from its earliest days, providing concerts given by the children, and festivities on May Day on the village green in front of the school. The children had a half-day for Shrove Tuesday and one can imagine Pancake Racing on the Green together with cricket matches, football by moonlight and other games. It was also used for many years as a Night School for men and boys, opening in 1874.

The day of the Inspector's visit was always awaited with trepidation - the grant given depended on his report, and on the attendance, and these are enlightening. It was common for the poorest pupils to be kept at home, and the brightest put on the front row.

In the country the need to change the general view of an education suitable for the working classes was slowly being recognised and every year the range of subjects which could earn a grant was extended until in 1897 the method of payment by results was finally abolished.

A change of Headmaster at the school in 1883 echoes the changing curriculum. He introduced Geography as a class subject to be adopted by his successor 'if liked'. He was concerned about the arithmetic, and very much so about the reading although "Dictation is better".

1885 saw the arrival of Mr. J.H. Goddard as headmaster, who, together with his wife assisting him in the infant department, stayed 26 years serving also as the village postmaster and organist at the church throughout those years. His daughters were the last to run the Post Office in the school house until the mid/late 1960's.

By 1902 the school boards had disappeared and County Councils became responsible for education, so Clifton village school began to receive rate aid, although one third of the managers had now to be appointed by the authority.

Mr. Goddard was followed by his daughter Mrs. Hunter who was headmistress in later years. No doubt his interest in music was responsible for the thriving school choir which travelled to many parts of the country to compete in competitions, and obviously provided entertainment for many school concerts.

One really notable figure appeared in the village at this time - Rosslyn Bruce who became Rector in 1904. No doubt he was a regular visitor to the school and with his love of animals must have had a captive audience among the children. He kept horses, monkeys, rabbits, mice, snakes, bears and once, an elephant in the Rectory gardens and was often seen walking in the village with birds and animals under his coat or in his pocket! When he arrived, the village was "wrapped in creepers with a little pinafored girl or sailor suited boy at every gate - cottagers with clean aprons and bonnets with ribbons under their chins".

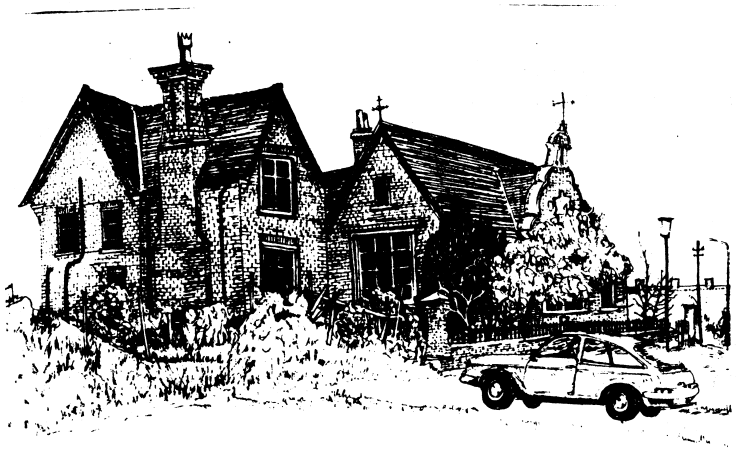
The Village School

A day to remember must have been Empire Day, May 24th 1905. The children marched onto the cricket ground headed by the Yeomanry Band to hoist the Union Jack and to sing patriotic songs.

King George's coronation in 1911 saw many festivities in the village, not least of all at the school. The children marched round the village, then witnessed Lady Bruce plant an oak on the green, sang the Coronation song, performed a Coronation play and received a mug and medal and a coronation flag from Rector Bruce. What a day to remember!

The curriculum was ever widening - children became involved in practical work outside the classroom, measuring the yard in chains and pegs, took walks to the River Trent and listened to innumerable 'object lessons' ranging from "Gold" to "Leather" and "The Ostrich" (Harriet Reckless seemed an expert on these).

One momentous entry in the Log Book of 1913 tells of the Head Master substituting for his usual comprehension lesson, a talk on the life and character of Captain Scott on his death in the Antarctic. The children would remember his family visiting the village, as his wife was a sister of Rosslyn Bruce.



The First World War seems to have affected the school very little, although one entry in 1917 bears direct reference to it.

"Despatched 2½ cwt. of horse chestnuts to the Dir. of Propellant Supplies (Ministry of Munitions) for use as a substitute in making munitions!!"

By now the school had its first headmistress, Miss Pepper (1912-1946), Mr. Goddard having to retire through ill health, and the working atmosphere in the school began to change rapidly. Inspectors' Reports became more critical, and one can sense rapid changes in the curriculum and the supervision of it from Shire Hall. Remember, the children were still all together in the same room, from infants to leavers, and an awareness of the difficulties of teaching widely differing ages became apparent. "Miss Pepper tries to cater as best she can" - one Report states. "The teacher has prepared a considerable amount of individual apparatus in the use of which however, she is not as yet fully skilled".

Children's surroundings were becoming important and efforts were made to "brighten and beautify its walls".

The Village School

The Second World War saw disruption in the village school - children evacuated from urban areas, such as Birmingham and London became part of school life for a while. On numerous occasions the school had to be closed due to a total lack of coal for heating, and the worst years saw the school hours altering to allow the children to provide much needed labour on the depleted land.

The provision of school meals began in 1942, with 17 children staying to dinner - food being brought from a central canteen in East Leake.

'Elementary' schools disappeared with the Education Act of 1944 and the school became a primary school, children passing by means of an Intelligence Test into Secondary Education, and the school leaving age was 15.

Mrs. Hunter, daughter of former headmaster Mr. Goddard became Head Mistress in 1946. By now school outings were becoming a regular feature of school life - the children went to Skegness, to London and paid visits to the theatre and went swimming to Portland Baths with children from Gotham.

The school roll was to drop sharply - by 1945 there were only 25 children on the register, a position that changed with the building of the council estate, started April 1952, when, as a temporary measure children attended the village school until schools were built on the estate.

The May Day Festivities were resumed again after the war, and in 1947 1,000 spectators attended to watch the children parade around the village and then gather on the green for festivities.

By 1951 there were 17 children to accommodate from the new estate, and by 1952 the school was at its maximum capacity of 76. By then Brooksby School on the Estate had been completed and children were transferred there. It must have been a difficult time for the teachers coping with children from different backgrounds, especially as Religion still played a vital role in the village school, and was perhaps not so evident in the council schools from which the children came.

By 1954 the school was an infant and junior school with children over eleven having been transferred to secondary schools. After the Clifton family had left, there was a school in Clifton Hall - the beginnings of Whitegate Junior School in fact, and the village school children went there for dancing lessons, and combined for their Christmas parties.

Farnborough Secondary School was open by 1955 and children went there from the village.

The village school saw one last change in Headmistress (Miss Price) for the three years before its closure on July 27th, 1956 - the children then going either to the Church of England school in Wilford or the schools on the Estate. It closed with 9 pupils on roll, ending 87 years of existence.

THE POST OFFICE

Sending written communications across country was always a difficult and hazardous operation. In earlier days a messenger took the letter from the writer to the recipient, an expensive and time-consuming activity. But one must remember that only few people would be in a position to need this service. The titled families were regularly in contact for political reasons, merchants required information and the Military needed to send despatches. The common people lived their life totally within the confines of their village and few could read or write, and indeed did not have the need to do so. News of national importance was read to them from the local papers, in the reading room, and most other information reached them through gossip or rumour.

To example this, the first recorded postmaster in Nottingham, worked by himself, and was in fact a royal messenger. Nottingham was only a branch office until 1675 as the main office was at Newark at the intersection of the Fosse Way and the Great North Road. Around the town mail was carried by mail boys at an average speed of 3½ miles per hour.

Letters received by the Clifton family about this time are interesting inasmuch they seem to contain little news of importance, and ramble on without any form of sentence structure or spelling. They would seem to be often in the vein of the postcard sent from holiday places, saying "Weather good, hope you are allwell as it leaves me", and always presented extremely politely.

On August 23rd, 1784 mail coaches began to run between London and Nottingham leaving London at 6.00 p.m. and reaching Nottingham at 6.00 p.m. the next day at six miles per hour.

The Blackamoor's Head Inn and Posting House was the first coaching house in Nottingham situated at the north-east corner of High Street, with a frontage on Pelham Street. The coachmen were employed by the contractors for the carriage of mail and wore a plain uniform. However the mail guard, being a post office servant wore a red coat with gold lace trimmings and had a post-horn, blunderbuss and pistol.

In 1799 John Rayner was Postmaster, a seedsman by trade and his shop was on High Street. The only postman was Thomas Crofts who lived in Greyfriar Gate. Every morning and evening he went about the town, ringing his bell, accepting letters to post and delivering others, and collecting the postage due. He had a bell, engraved 'T.C. 1799' which is now in the Post Office Museum. By 1815 there were three letter carriers or postmen in the town.

In 1815 a number of mail coaches were leaving regularly:

'The London Express Coach (only 4 inside) every afternoon at 5.30 p.m. through Loughborough, Leicester, Harborough, Dunstable arriving Bull and Mouth at 11.30 p.m. Lighted and Guarded.'

'From Simpson's Royal Mail and General Coach Office at the White Lion, Clumber Street.'

'The Birmingham Dart by Castle Donington, Ashby and Tamworth.'

The Post Office

'The Liverpool and Manchester Lord Nelson via Matlock.'

'The Leicester Pilot via Loughborough.'

'The gig to Newark and Lincoln left the Durham Ox, Pelham Street at 4.30 a.m.' These mail gigs carried parcels but no passengers.

These mail coaches travelled at an average speed of ten miles an hour so letters passing from one mail coach to another could take several weeks to arrive. The horses were changed about every ten miles and ten horses were needed for each stage, four were the team for the down coach, four for the up coach and two were resting. A coach horse did one hour's work a day for three days and rested on the fourth day and as the pace was extremely hard, a horse could only last for four years in first class service, he was then transferred to one of the slower stage-coaches.

The mail coaches were all of the same design, the upper parts black, the lower half and the wheels deep crimson. On the door panels were the Royal Arms and above this the route served, e.g.'Nottingham - Birmingham Royal Mail'.

Fares were expensive, from 4d. to 5d. per mile inside, 2d. to 3d. outside.

As they were Royal Mail coaches they paid no toll fees. The Guard blew his horn to demand free passage and also to alert the horse-keeper to have fresh horses ready and to the person in charge of the post to have the mail bags ready. These were delivered to an appointed person, perhaps a store-keeper and the letters were displayed in the window to await their owners.

In 1830 a new and larger post office was opened in High Street Place behind the Black's Head' but in 1834 it was again moved to Bridlesmith Gate.

In 1839 there was agitation for a reduction in the very high rates of postage. Single letter sheets from Nottingham were:

To London - 10d.	To Birmingham - 8d.
To Derby - 5d.	To Manchester - 8d.
To Leicester 6d.	To Mansfield - 4d.

Only letters posted, and for delivery in Nottingham were 1d. As envelopes had not been invented, letters were single sheets folded and sealed with wax. If there were two sheets the charge was doubled. As a result it became the custom to write the first page from right to left and then to superimpose the "next page" on the same sheet, writing across the existing writing, from bottom to top.

In January 1840 Rowland Hill's scheme for penny postage irrespective of distance was put into operation and in May 1840 the famous 'penny blacks' became available to the public.

So in the 17th and 18th century anyone living in Clifton village had to take or collect their mail from Nottingham.

The Post Office

After 1834 they could collect letters from the post office in Bridlesmith Gate unless a postman travelled out to the village in which case an extra penny would have to be paid for delivery.

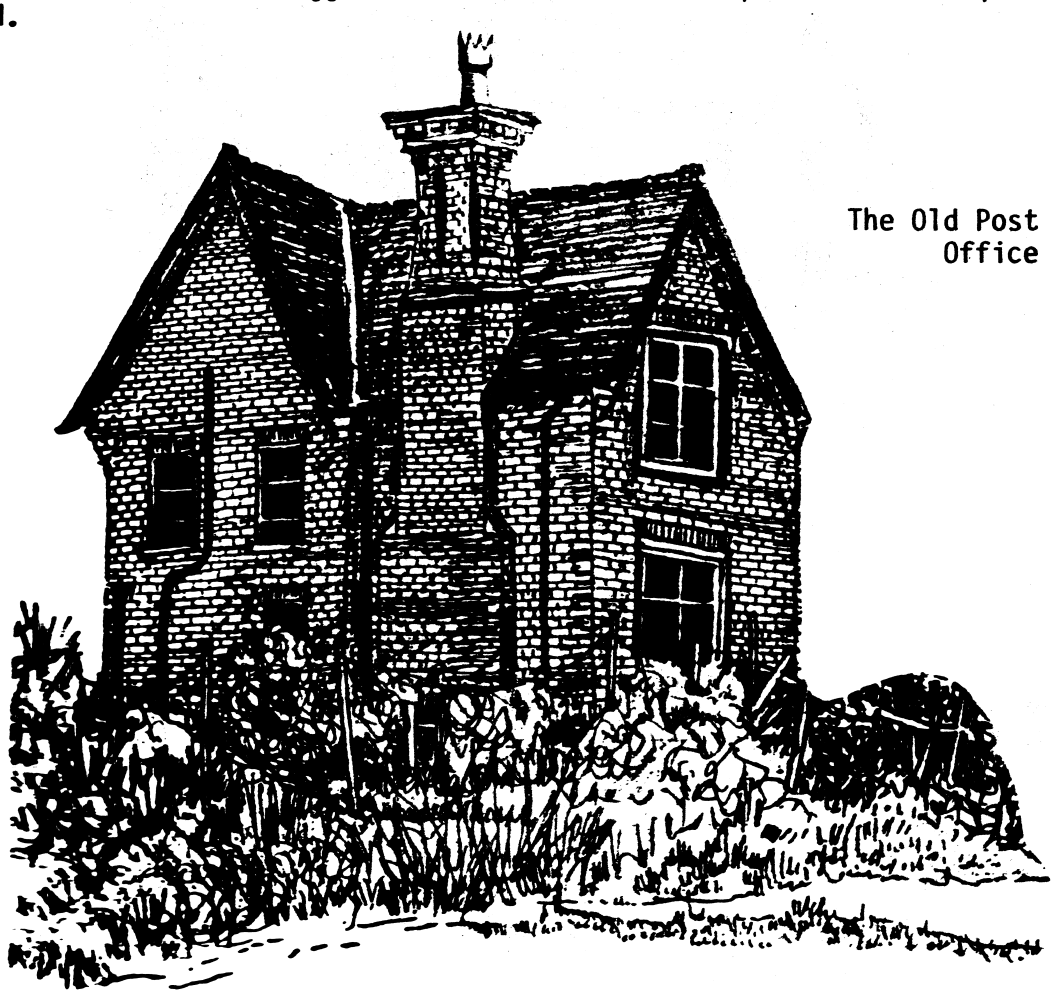
After 1840 stamps could be bought from Bridlesmith Gate and in 1848 from the new post office on the site now occupied by Marks and Spencer's store. Letters could not be posted in pillar boxes until 1857 and then only in city streets.

Uniformed postmen only appeared in Clifton in 1848, eight years after the introduction of the penny post by Sir Rowland Hill and interestingly often carried with them other goods for sale.

Then in 1866, 1868 and 1869 there is evidence of mail being delivered to Clifton and collected from there. It is likely that they were delivered to and collected from the school in the almshouses as in Wright's Directory of 1876 they were received there by Mrs. Mary Wright, the infant school-teacher.

The village school, across the green from the almshouses was built in 1871 and from 1877 to 1883, the schoolmaster, John Harris, received and despatched letters. The schoolmaster's house, next to the village school became the post office.

During the early years of the present century, railway travel had offered opportunities for the working folk to travel, indeed, whilst in earlier days, servants had been local people, many flooded in to Nottingham especially from Lincolnshire and used the post increasingly to retain contact with home. This was the era of the picture post card craze, when young people of all financial circumstances begged their friends to send postcards from places visited.



The Old Post Office

The Post Office

After 1885 the schoolmaster and postmaster was Mr. J.H. Goddard, and his daughter Miss Goddard, took over from her father in 1918 until 1960.

Sam Woodall became the next postmaster in Holly House, which is almost opposite the present post office.

In 1962 Nottingham Corporation decided to name the streets in Clifton village and number the houses because the Post Office was having difficulty delivering mail to cottages which were all known by individual names. When the local postmistress, Miss Goddard, delivered the letters there was no problem, but in 1961 the mail came from the post office on the estate and different postmen made the deliveries.

Jack Allen took over in 1970 and uses his shop as the post office. The present building was built 1870 - 1880 at the same time as the Reading Room next door.

The reading room contained what daily papers were available and they were read by the most able to those who could not read. Quite dreary they would seem to us with no pictures or news of sensational nature.

Those in favour, or having a copper or two to spare, could buy the last week's editions to read quietly at home, after carefully ironing them to give a new appearance.

THE DOVECOTE

Standing in the centre of the village green is a fine example of a free standing brick built dovecote, one of the largest in the County. Most villages had one or more dovecotes, but they were often incorporated in other buildings. Wollaton village boasts a good example and there are octagonal ones at Barton and Wilford. Whitaker, in his book "Mediaeval Dovecotes in Nottinghamshire" describes over thirty. He estimates that Great Britain at one time had 26,000 dovecotes with over 13,000,000 birds. Very plain, it has no openings other than a small door for access and two wooden glovers in the ridge for the birds to enter. They could be closed by a rope in order to prevent the birds' departure when being caught.

There is no real distinction between pigeons and doves, it is that some which are rather larger are called pigeons. In this country we have wood-pigeons, stock doves, rock doves, feral pigeons, turtle doves. All except the turtle doves are resident through the year.

The true rock dove is now a bird of the far northern and western rocky coasts of Britain, so any similar birds on English or Welsh cliffs are feral pigeons. All our dovecote pigeons have in fact been domesticated from the rock dove and our feral pigeons are descended from the same birds which have escaped and readapted themselves to being in the wild - these are the ones we see in towns and market places.

Pigeons can rear several broods of one to three young each year. They will nest in almost any month, but especially between July and September. The woodpigeon is a particularly strong breeder, its population varying little between 6 - 10 million despite attempts to exterminate it. Though all pigeons were a scourge to farmers, in the past they provided an important source of fresh meat for the village.

The Dovecote

Before the days of prepared and imported winter foodstuffs and before roots were grown as feed, only stock animals and young animals could be kept over winter, till the grass began its new growth in the spring (though pigs could be fed on scraps and some sheep grazed on the poorest land). Consequently there was a surfeit of fresh meat in the autumn, which had to be preserved, and a scarcity of it in winter.

Before freezing and canning were developed in the mid-nineteenth century traditional methods were used, pickling with vinegar and brine, and drying and smoking. Both vegetables and fruit were preserved with salt, vinegar, sugar and also by drying. A connection arises here with the ice house which, part ruined, lies behind the Hall. During the winter frosts, ice was collected and packed with straw for insulation, underground. Food preserved in this way could be kept fresh till July.

Yet despite these efforts, meat all too often deteriorated to be almost inedible. Consequently its taste was disguised by the use of spices, especially pepper, imported at great expense from the Indies (the "Spice Islands"). The expression "below the salt" derives from the days when only the favoured few could partake of a scarce condiment. When the spice trade was interrupted by Arab incursions into the Middle East in the fifteenth century, the great age of maritime discovery began, as princes and nobles commissioned sea captains to find new ways to the East.

It is not surprising therefore, that sources of fresh meant were jealously guarded by the landowners. Hence the importance not only of dovecotes and carp ponds, but also of game found in the countryside. The Clifton Family had its own carp pond below the Hall.

It was so that the landowners could better protect their own interests that they were often made local magistrates. The Game Laws too were enacted to prevent the common man from encroaching on the remaining sources of fresh meat. Similar laws applied to the taking of game fish (salmon, trout, grayling) and even today this is an expensive sport.

To consolidate these laws, only approved and licensed Game Dealers were allowed to buy and sell fresh game, and then only in season. The law applies to this day.

Dovecotes as a source of fresh meat operated in this country from Roman times until improved agricultural methods in the late eighteenth century.

In the dovecote then, we retain a feature representative of a way of life in a village community, involving the Squire, the poacher, the law, the diet of both rich and poor, and traditional methods of food preservation.

The War Memorial in the wall is a reminder of the services rendered by the young men of the village in the war.

THE VILLAGE SHOP

As there is only one recognisable shop in Clifton Village and no visible evidence of others, it would be better to look at the history of shops and shopping and then relate this to the village.

In the Middle Ages a shop was any place where things were sold. It could be a tray around a pedlar's neck or an open stall in the market place. There were shops in houses, in cellars, under arches in a wall or in hired rooms in a tavern. The ground floor of a craftsman's house was his shop as well as his workroom.

Most shopping was done at the local market. Markets were often held at the crossroads between two villages, near enough to be within a day's walk from home. People met to exchange the produce for themselves, often without using money. Someone with extra eggs might barter them for some cheese or a roll of cloth. Shopping was usually done in bulk - a barrel of ale, a sack of flour, a roll of cloth. Poor people who could not afford to buy large quantities either bartered, made their own or did without. Their food was mostly bread and cheese with a little salt meat and salt fish. Their clothes were spun at home and woven in the nearest town. They had to buy very little.

Once a year people went to the fair which was a special occasion.

In the towns, shops had signs which showed the goods sold by the shop- grocers had three sugar loaves hung outside, a shoemaker had a boot, and a barber, who was often also a surgeon, had a red and white pole, to look like a bandaged arm.

Clifton Village: The people who lived in Clifton Village in the Middle ages grew most of the food they needed. They kept animals and poultry for meat and probably bartered with other people in the village for anything which they did not produce themselves. They were near enough to Nottingham to be able to walk in to the market for anything they needed and could afford to buy. Occasionally a pedlar would call in the village selling, or perhaps exchanging for rabbit skins, small items such as ribbons, pins, purses, mirrors. One person in the village with a large oven baked bread for others. The villagers brought their own dough and on special occasions a piece of meat to be baked in the 'baker's oven'. (One still remains in the TIL house).

Shopping for the ordinary people in Clifton Village did not change very much as the centuries passed. They were still largely self-sufficient, bartering or buying from neighbours what they could not produce themselves. As different items came into the shops in Nottingham such as tea and tobacco they bought these, when they could afford them, when they walked, or had a lift in a carrier's cart, to market in Nottingham.

Extracts from Whites and Kellys directories overleaf show the principal tradesman between 1832 and 1932.

YEAR	1832	1844	1848	1853	1864	1881	1885	1892	1900	1916	1922	1932
BAKER	Richard Langford	... do	... do	... do	... do			James Bradley	... do			
BLACKSMITH	John Stevenson	Cornelius Pointon	... do	... do	... do	John Stevenson	... do	... do	... do	... do	... do	... do
BOOTMAKER	J.Brookes T.Hallam J.Wootton		J.Brookes J.FrancisJr W.Price J.Wootton	J. Reckless	J.Francis J.Reckless J.Wootton	James Reckless	... do	... do	Robert Reckless			
BUTCHER		Benjamin Butler	... do	... do	... do	... do	... do	... do				
CARRIER				James Allen	... do	... do	... do	... do	... do			
DRESSMAKER							Mrs.Bradley Miss A.Mann	Mrs.Price	Mrs.Hopgood Miss Morris			
GARDENER		Robert Leeson	R.Tongue W.Weeds	John Tyres	John Tyres		James Anderson					
JOINER	J.Bradley J.Wooton	... do Thomas Butler Jr.	... do ... do	... do ... do	... do Wm.Price ... do	John Hall Walter Price ... do	... do) ... do) ... do	at Hall ... do		Walter Price (at Hall)		
SCHOOL MASTER	W.Spencer A.Wootton (mistress)	William Voce	... do	... do		John Harris	William Bend	Henry Goddard	... do		Miss Pepper	
SHOP KEEPER	Richard Morris Geo.Smith	... do	... do Geo.Smith	... do	Sam Garner ...do Mrs.R. Smith	John Mann	... do Geo. Woodcock	... do Frank Allen	... do ... do	... do		Mrs.Lane Mrs.Allen (Confectnr)
TAILOR	John Voce		Thomas Price	... do	... do			... do	... do			
WHEEL WRIGHT			William Voce				James Reckless	... do	Robert Reckless	... do	... do	... do

A TABLE SHOWING VILLAGE TRADESPEOPLE . . . . . .

T. I. L. HOUSE

This is often called the 1707 or TIL house from the facade with the figures and initials picked out in brick and it is variously argued to have been the house of Thomas and John Lambert or Thomas and Jane Lambert.

But the house has its origins far earlier than 1707, the year that the Lamberts remodelled and refaced their house. Indeed it dates back possibly to the 14th century as its basic and original design is that of a cruck cottage. This was originally a timber and wattle and daub building common to almost every house in the village in the Middle Ages. While the present council estate was being built, two such similar cottages were demolished across the road from the blacksmith's shop and the timbers of one of them were preserved. At some time in the future it is hoped that it will be rebuilt.

In the cruck style of building the whole house is built around a pair of bent tree branches riven into two to provide the frames. Each pair presents a "splitten image". In earlier times this was thatched to the ground and only the ends infilled with wattle and daub. To give more space extra timbers were later added to give the house a more traditional appearance.

During the Middle Ages the only dwellings in the village not so built were the church and the Hall, which were constructed of a more enduring sandstone (part of an old stone structure can be seen through the false window to the left of the door to the Octagonal room at the Hall).

Brick only came into general use among the wealthy at the cessation of the Wars of the Roses in 1485 when strong stone structures were no longer needed. Hampton Court, Herstmonceux Castle and Tattershall Castle are fine examples. Merchants and better off townspeople followed by replacing with brick, the wattle and daub in their timber framed houses.

The 18th century saw widespread building in brick alone among the landed, merchant and farming classes, Clifton Hall being one example among many. The features of buildings of this time are tall rectangular sash windows replacing casement windows, symmetrically arranged in a symmetrical shaped building and with a low pitched roof. Indeed, this eagerness for symmetry caused otherwise perfect buildings to be purposely altered irrespective of the function of the space added, e.g. Clifton Hall.

Only with the coming of coal, the railways and cheap transport did brick become a common building material, typical of most Victorian farm labourers' houses. Whilst thatch had been common to all small buildings until the 18th century the availability of local tiles or Welsh slate soon replaced this more temporary and fire-prone roofing material.

The house was rented with twenty four acres of the Clifton's land and three and half acres of the Glebeland (the rents from these lands were given to the church). The rent of £60 a year remained constant from 1887 but was increased to £72 in 1921 when all farm rents in Clifton were raised.

Tenants of the house have included:

Samuel Urwick	1887-1894
Charles Jackson	1894-1908
Joseph Deaves	1908-1923
Mrs. J. Deaves	1923-1928

Inside the house are several characteristic features from the last century or before. It is possible to see part of the main cruck frame.

In the large kitchen is an old cheese press, an iron cooking range with baking oven and coal fired copper boiler.

THE VILLAGE OF CLIFTON-CUM-GLAPTON

1832 - 1932

according to the General Directories

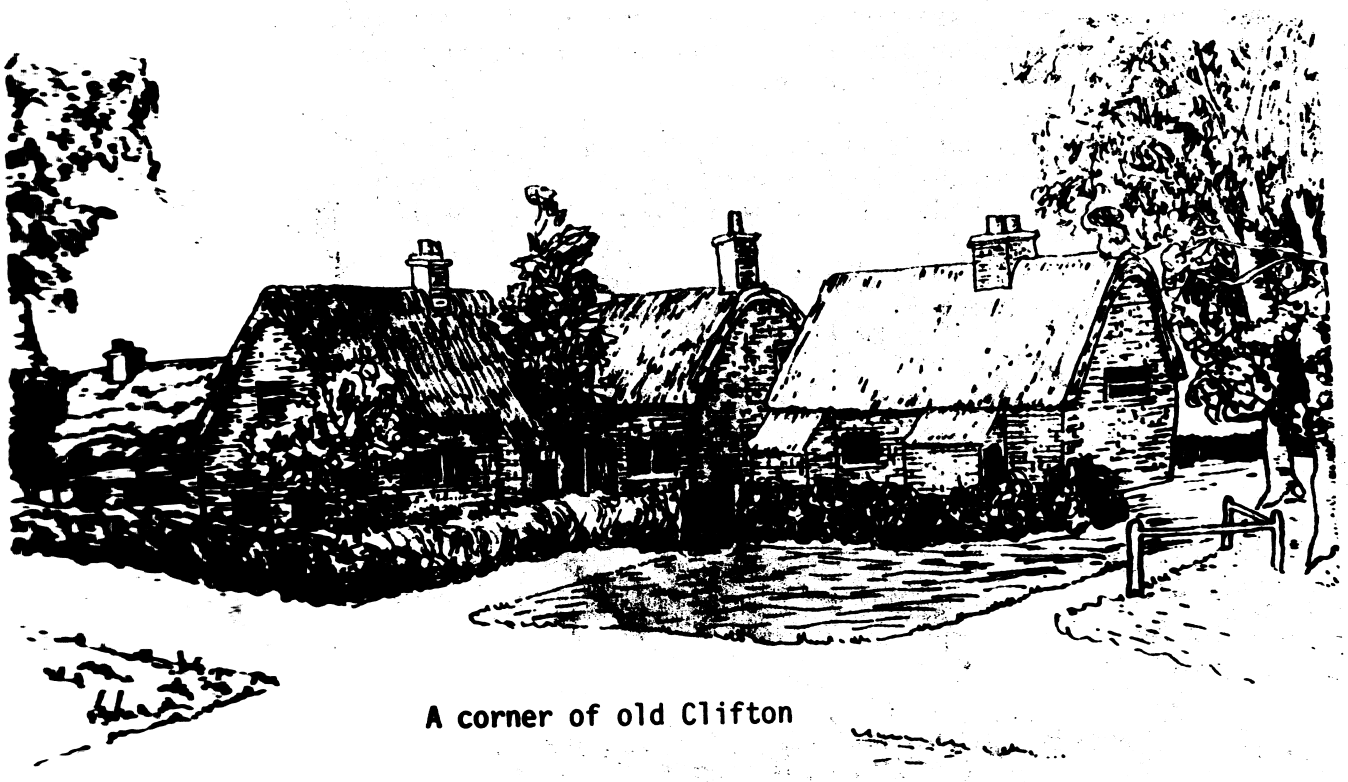
The village was a self-contained agricultural community, whose life revolved round the Clifton Family, resident in the Hall.

Over the century, the population remained fairly static, varying between 419 and 365. The acreage seems to have diminished slightly, for reasons unknown. There were roughly 1900 acres, which included Clifton Pastures - an open field of 400 acres (365 land and 35 water) which was leased out by the Clifton Family in 'gaits' or 'gates' equalling 1½ acres, to the local farmers for grazing cattle.

Special mention must be made of the farming community. There were about 10 tenant farmers regularly resident in the village. During the century some farms changed hands, but others were tenanted by the same families throughout. The Morris and Moss families carried on as farmers from 1832 right up to 1932, the Butler family from 1832 to 1900, and the Spencer family from 1832 to 1892.

There was a similar continuity of tradition in many of the other occupations. The Stevensons were the blacksmiths, the Butlers were the butchers and carpenters, the Recklesses, bootmakers, the Allens, carriers, the Prices tailors. (At the turn of the century there is no record of any baker, bootmaker, dressmaker or tailor left in the village). In addition there were other village craftsmen, shopkeepers and those concerned with village services including charwoman.

In contrast to this continuity and stability it is noticeable that there were very frequent changes at the rectory and in the schoolhouse. We find the names of at least 9 different rectors (6 till 1900) and 8 different schoolmasters (5 till 1900).



A corner of old Clifton

THE GROVE

The elms of the Grove were planted by Sir Gervase Clifton in 1690 to flank the main carriage drive to the Hall from the low bank of the river where it is joined by the Fairham brook, upwards to the crest of the hill.

In their day they represented the finest avenue of trees in the Midlands being described as being broad enough for a dozen carriages to drive abreast. During the last century and well into this, the Grove was a favourite walk and picnic spot. Citizens of Nottingham, rich and poor, thronged there in spring and summer and the inhabitants of the village did a good trade in afternoon teas "with Hovis".

Shaw's guide to Nottingham in 1874 describes the grove:

"Pursuing a pathway alongside the riverside over the stiles leading through the fields, the entrance to the Grove is reached. Here for some little distance the road is up a steep ascent, with lofty trees on either side, forming a most delightful arcade, and in mid-summer weather one of the most pleasurable and cool retreats that imagination could picture. Stretching for half a mile or more is a broad green sward, bordered by trees of every hue of foliage, and on the right hand, stretching down the precipitous bank to the edge of the river. On a hot summer day to stroll with a pleasant companion along this glade or to lie down on the grass, listening to the notes of the feathered songsters that here abound, realises the dolce far niente of an Italian clime. At Easter and Whitsuntide, if the weather at all permits, thousands of the Nottingham artizans with their wives and families, young men and maidens, either with sweethearts or to gain sweethearts, flock to this part of the Grove, and to the strains of a fiddle, harp, or accordeon or any other music attainable, trip it over the green on the light fantastic toe, till the shades of evening begin to close around. Then the walk home in the cool twilight, with the tales and the protestations of love, and the fun at the stiles and ferry boat, complete a merry ending to a merry day. No wonder the inhabitants of a bygone generation, resented with some vigour an attempt made by its then possessor to close to the public this sylvan retreat. We trust that another attempt, so long as the visitors observe the bounds of decorum, will never be made."

The Grove has its own legend, that of the Fair Maid of Clifton who was said to have been punished for her faithlessness by being dragged to a watery grave by demons, the story being set in a lengthy poem by Kirkewhite.

Further towards the Hall lies the ruin of the old ice house described previously.

Now that all the Elms have fallen victim to the Dutch Elm Disease the Grove has lost its shaded magnificence and it will be many years before the newly planted trees again offer such beauty.

However beyond the Hall there are plantations and woods containing many trees worthy of study, as over the years members of the family have introduced over 200 varieties of now mature trees into their estates.

CLIFTON HALL

As we approach the Hall today from the gate near the church, we see a fine example of an eighteenth century brick built manor house with a colonnaded east front flanked by a north and south wing. The heavily ornate baroque style has given way to simple elegance in brick with formalised gardens. The house as it now stands has been variously described as: "for beauty of prospect equal to any place I ever saw" "plain and inelegant ..... corresponds little to the delightful scenery round it" and "an undeniably dull Georgian edifice".

Clearly it is a matter of personal taste whether one finds the Hall beautiful, dull or inelegant but there can be no doubt about the interesting nature of this mansion. The building consists of a symmetrical east front with projections in the north and south ranges. The southern elevation is stone-faced with a three-storeyed bow window.

The Hall is believed to have started its life as a single watchtower on an outcrop of gypsum overlooking the river. Although a homestead and moat is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086), the earliest house of which traces and record exist is shown in Hollar's engraving of the west front from the river in 1676 depicting a two storey building with gables and attics and two prominent towers, one of which one may presume to have been the original watchtower.

When in the late 18th century Carr made his alterations he left the following evidence for us to see today. On facing the front of the house, it will be noticed that the stone built corner supports (angle-quoins) on the southern wing do not continue to the top of the brickwork, but stop at the height from which gables would have sprung when the building was of two storeys and an attic. On the east face near this point is an isolated fragment of quoining, and around the corner on the north face is a fragment of window sill. In the central range there is evidence of considerable reworking. The projecting northern range was added by Carr some time between 1779 and 1797. It is very different in character from its counterpart to the south, for it has no angle-quoins or hood-moulding above the first floor windows. There is also a difference in the positioning of the windows themselves.

Clifton Hall

At the turn of this century the grounds at Clifton Hall were considered most beautiful. Fortunately, a record exists of the state of the gardens at the time, since an illustrated article appeared in 'Country Life' magazine on 12th May 1900. (An article on the Hall itself appeared later in 1923.) This article stated that "the chief features of the grounds at this imposing seat are the fine grass terraces ..... of which there are five, one above the other, adorned by rows of magnificent old yew trees.....These terraces add distinction to the gardens, and are amongst the most famous examples of their kind in England."

On the east front, note the false windows to the left of the Octagonal room built in 1779 and the much earlier stone work behind which is part of the old watchtower. Inside the house there are rooms with evidence of 17th, 18th and 19th century work; these are the Drawing Room (now used as a reference library) and the Pages Hall, both on the first floor. Also on this floor is the State Bedroom (now used as a staffroom) which contains evidence of late 17th century work, and is probably the earliest room to remain more or less unaltered.

On the ground floor will be found work of the early 18th century in the Morning Room (Conference Room) where there is a particularly fine fireplace. In the late 18th century the bay was added to the south face of the building and at the time (c.1779) the Octagonal Room was built on the site of the ancient watchtower. This room was based on the architecture to be seen at the Pump Room at Bath, where Sir Gervase Clifton (1744-1815) was a frequent visitor.

In the mid-nineteenth century (c. 1860) the heraldic ceiling in the Red Room (seminar/reception room) was painted on the orders of Sir Robert Clifton, the ninth and last of the baronets. In the late nineteenth century the house was given a new Entrance Hall in the south wing.

The north wing of the house was used by the Cliftons as an office wing, and also housed the kitchens. It is not clear which of the rooms was used as a dining room since there is no easy access from the old kitchen area to any of the main family rooms, although it is thought that Charles 1 dined in the Drawing Room in 1632.

For six centuries the Hall was occupied by a Clifton and did not change hands by sale until 1947. Fortunes had been acquired and lost. In Victorian times the family finances were in a parlous state, due in part to Sir Robert's zeal in seeking political recognition, and some of the estates had to be sold.

After the sale of Clifton Hall, the building remained almost continually empty until 1958. A great deal of work had to be undertaken to renovate the Hall; dry rot was rampant, and some of the valuable panelling was in danger of being lost.

In 1958 the Hall re-opened as Clifton Hall Girls' Grammar School, but closed eighteen years later when the building and grounds were taken over by Trent Polytechnic, School of Education. Since that time a great deal of restoration work has been undertaken and the house is now in good state of preservation. Visitors are welcome by appointment.

A suggested Tour of the Rooms of Historical Interest

From the Entrance Hall proceed to the Red Room, and thence to the Morning Room. Upon leaving the Morning Room, enter the Octagonal Hall via the foot of the Main Stairway. Next ascend the Main Stairway and look at the Spiral Staircase before entering the Drawing Room. After leaving the Drawing Room, visit the Pages' Hall, then continue to the State Bedroom. Descend the central stairway which terminates in the Entrance Hall.

GROUND FLOOR

Entrance Hall

This hall was formerly one of the rooms of the house, but was altered to become the main entrance in the late nineteenth century. A north-south structural wall was removed and replaced by a segmental arcade on Corinthian columns and pilasters. It is probable that before this time the main entrance to the house was at the rear of the building, although there is an entrance at the front of the building which leads directly into the Octagonal Hall.

Red Room (Seminar/Reception Room No.106)

This room was altered by Carr in the late eighteenth century, but the elaborate ceiling was not painted until about 1860. It reveals accurately the history of the Clifton baronetcy heraldically. The arms of each of the nine bearers of the title, with their wives' quarterings, are displayed, beginning in 1611 with the first baronet, and ending with the ninth baronet.

In his 'The Great Houses of Nottinghamshire' (1881) Leonard Jacks said that when he visited Clifton Hall the Red Room was 'a small sitting room where the furniture is blue and the walls red, a combination which produces a somewhat peculiar effect.'

The doorway to the right of the fireplace and the one diagonally opposite are false, merely inserted to 'balance' the room. Notice the Clifton crest on the tiles in the fireplace.

Morning Room (Conference Room No. 107)

The Morning Room was panelled at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The fireplace of green marble and plaster was inserted in 1730. It is likely that this fireplace is not in its original position since the panelling behind the fireplace fits badly. It also seems strange in a room of this size that the fireplace should stand so far off-centre. There was probably a doorway in this position which led into the Octagonal Hall. The fireplace may have been in the thick wall on the other side of the room where there is a deep alcove which seems to serve no useful purpose.

A suggested Tour of the Rooms of Historical Interest

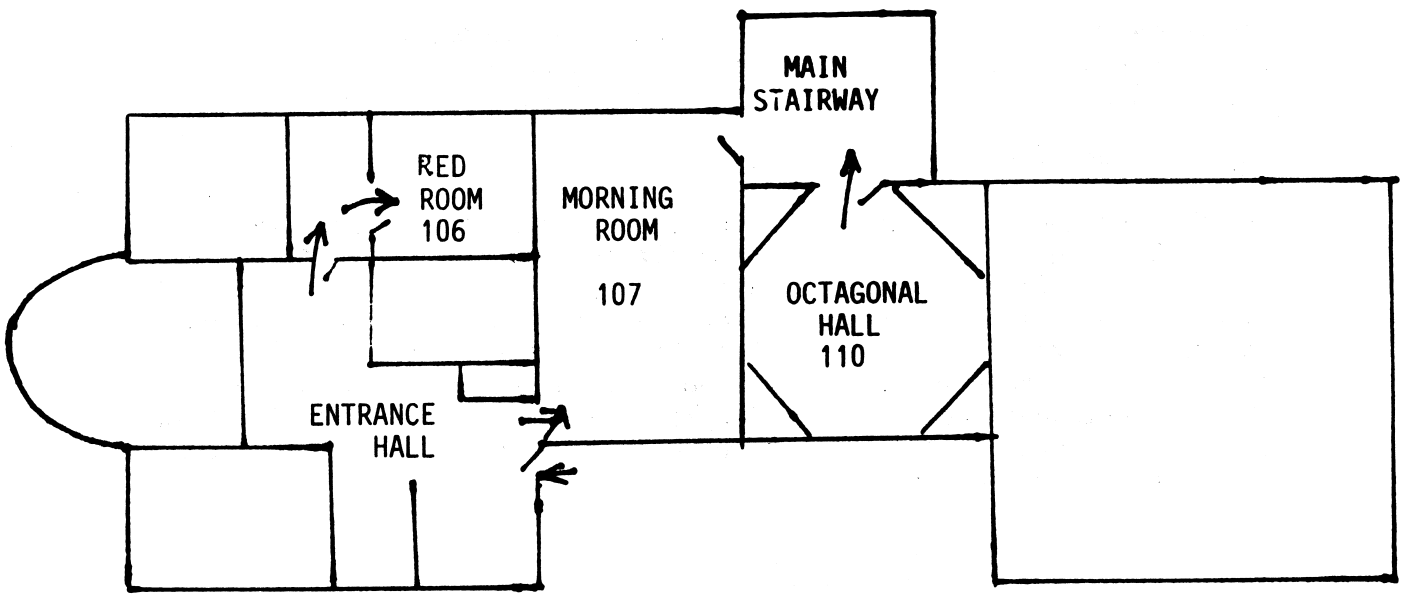
Octagonal Hall (No.110)

During his extensive remodelling from 1779-1797 Carr converted the 70 ft. watchtower into the Octagonal Hall. At one time this room had a balcony to which access was gained via a spiral staircase which still exists. When this Hall was completed, the main entrance to the front of the building was through a door which leads directly into the Octagonal Hall. This could have caused problems since there is apparently no easy access from the Octagonal Hall to the southern block. This supports the conjecture that in place of the chimneypiece in the Morning Room, there was a door leading into the Octagonal Hall. From the Octagonal Hall one can see a false door in the corresponding position.

The painting over the fireplace is of Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Clifton (1770-1837) who fought at the Battle of Waterloo. The plasterwork is said to have been executed by James Dugdale in 1779.

Main Stairway

This appears to be seventeenth century in origin; it has no architectural features on the interior. The stair itself has an openwork iron balustrade, possibly dating from the mid-eighteenth century. The external doorway of the early eighteenth century comes in underneath the stair. The large portrait on the wall is of Sir Robert Clifton, the ninth baronet. The painting is believed to cover an earlier portrait of Sir Robert's wife, who commissioned the portrait of her husband after his untimely death, resulting from typhoid, in 1869.



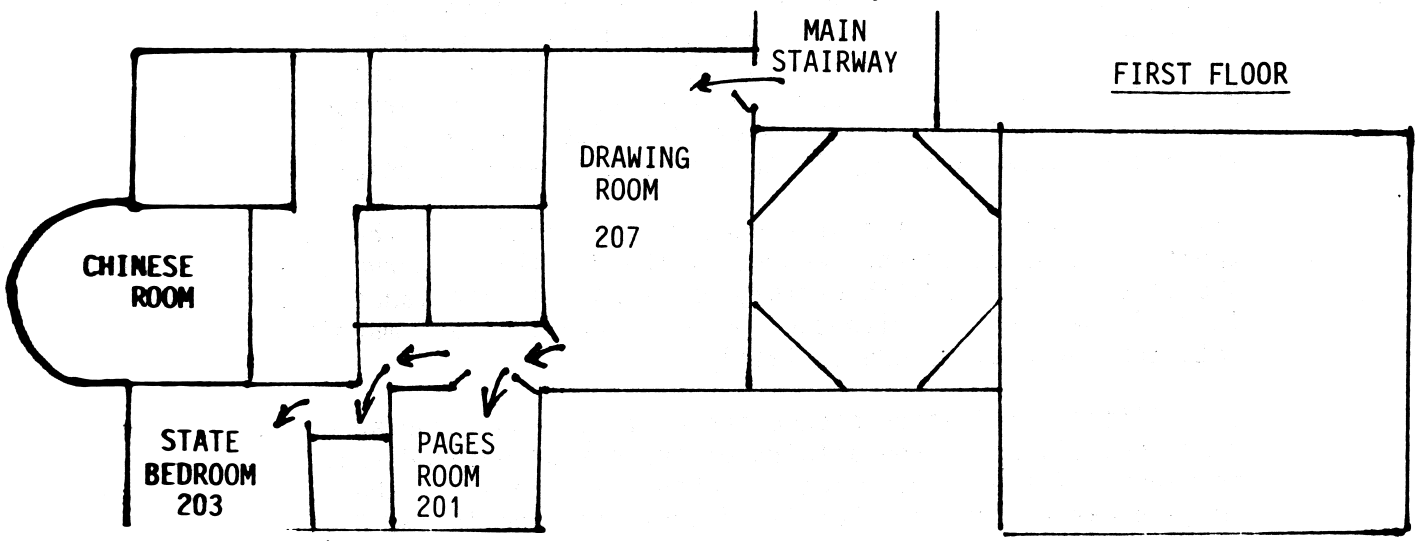
GROUND FLOOR

Drawing Room (Library No. 207)

This room contains work of the early seventeenth century. It was panelled about 1632 in the days of Sir Gervase 'the Great', the first baronet (1587-1666). The walls are divided into bays of three panels each. There is a very impressive chimneypiece of marble and coloured stone, c. 1630.

Above the fireplace the frieze contains a coat of arms and two crests which are those of Robert Clifton (died 1517), who married Anne Clifford, daughter of Henry, 10th Lord Clifford, and sister of the first Earl of Cumberland. This was the most illustrious of the Clifton marriages, since Anne Clifford was descended from Edward 111. The Clifton and Clifford crests recur in the overmantel which is of c. 1670.

Sir Gervase 'the Great' is commemorated by a head carved into the mantelpiece, and his grandfather, Sir Gervase 'the Gentle', is represented by a head which acts as a boss in the centre of the ceiling, with his wives, Mary Neville and Winifred Thwaites, on either side.



Pages' Hall (No. 201)

This is the second room which contains evidence of early seventeenth century decoration. It was originally used as a room where the pages waited, pending their summons to the Drawing Room. The most important feature of this room is the panelling which is decorated with Dutch paintings representing the use of pike, halberd and musket. The paintings bear a remarkable resemblance to the illustrations in a seventeenth century manual of 1621 for the exercise of arms by Jacob de Gheyn (1565-1629) and are thought to have been painted by the same artist. At least two of the paintings are thought to be Victorian reproductions, but the majority, which are authentic, are extremely rare, if not unique.

Over the fireplace is a painting of the Deposition, after Rubens. The floor is of black and white squares of marble. The frieze has plaster figures of the seven deadly sins of war: Invidia (Envy), Gula (Gluttony), Ira (Anger), Acedia (Sloth), Luxuria (Luxury), Avarita (Greed) and Superbia (Pride). Each figure is a typical monster.

In the south-west corner there is a doorway with vine scrolls on the columns of the jambs, and a shaped overdoor with a coat-of-arms which is that of the Griffith family of Flamborough, whose connection with the Cliftons was through Agnes Griffith who married Sir Gervase Clifton (died 1508).

State Bedroom (Staffroom No. 203)

Since this room was the main bedroom in the house, it is very likely that this was where Charles 1 slept when he visited Clifton Hall in 1632. The room has a rich plaster ceiling with wreaths of fruit and flowers in high relief, and bearing the initials WC which refer to William Clifton, owner of the house from 1673 to 1686.

THE 'CLIFTONS' OF CLIFTON

The era of the Clifton's at Clifton came to an end in 1958 when Colonel Peter Clifton and his family left Clifton village and moved to Hampshire. For nine years the Colonel and his family had lived at the Old Rectory after selling Clifton Hall and 932 acres of land to the Nottingham Corporation under the terms of a Compulsory Purchase Order in 1947. The vicissitudes of modern times had taken their toll, and Clifton Hall had ceased to exist as a stately home.

The Clifton family claim descent from one Alvared who came over with William the Conqueror and became Warden of Nottingham Castle under William Peverel. Alvared described himself as 'de Clifton'; it may be presumed that he was given permission to use this name by Peverel who at this time held the manors of Clifton and Wilford of the King in chief. These manors passed first into the hands of Gerbode de Escalt and then to Sir Gerard de Rodes in the reign of Henry 11. By 1272 they had been granted to a Sir Gervase de Clifton, descendant of Alvared, for a payment of £30 per year. The payment was later waived and the Cliftons became tenants-in-chief.

Although there is little knowledge of the affairs of the early Cliftons, there is evidence in the records of the day that a Gervase de Clifton who lived in the twelfth century was a man of importance. He held lands in Derbyshire, witnessed numerous charters and married his daughter into the powerful de Cressi family.

The Cliftons of Clifton became men of title and importance and the part that they played in the affairs of the nation ensured that they stood in favour of their sovereigns. Note their roles in the War of the Roses and, in particular, the Battle of Bosworth, and in the Civil War. Because of their astute political sense, they married their offspring into important families, and thus increased their wealth and influence. Their ownership of lands came to include the following:-

The Manors of:

Clifton
Wilford
Barton c. 1270
Broughton 1322
Hodsock and Belton (Lincs.) c. 1390
Ratcliffe-on-Soar c.1484
Armyn (Yorks.) during the reign of Henry V111.

Lands in:

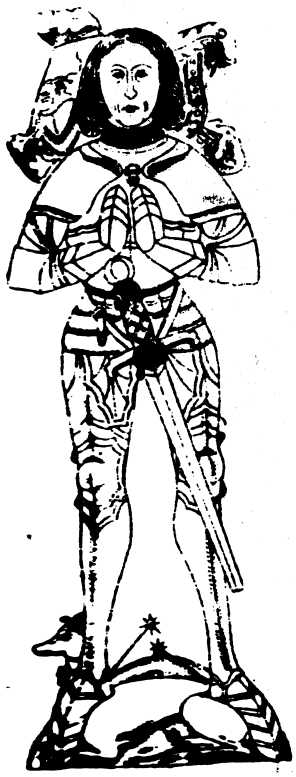
Kingston and Kegworth)
Overton Longeville (Huntingdon))
Dalbury) all in 1484
Etwall and Wirksworth (Derbys.))

The Cliftons are associated with the monarchy, the nobility and the famous; in 1632 Gervase the Great was host to Charles 1 at Clifton Hall; he was brother-in-law of the celebrated Sir Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford, and the two corresponded frequently. The Cliftons themselves entered the ranks of the nobility when Gervase the Great was created a baronet in 1611. James 1 founded this order of the peerage, selling it to provide funds for his Irish campaigns at £1,000 a time. Sir Gervase was the third baronet to be created so from this time the 'Red Hand of Ulster' was included in the coats-of-arms of the Clifton baronets.

The Cliftons of Clifton

The long line of Cliftons is littered with those who bore the christian name of 'Gervase' (sometimes Gervaise). In addition to the Cliftons of the main branch of the family in Nottinghamshire, there was a Sir Gervase Clifton of Brabourne (in Kent) who was a prominent figure during the reigns of Henry V1 and Edward IV. He was clearly related to the Nottinghamshire family since he bore their arms upon his seal; also in 1469 he was spoken of as ".....late of Clifton, county of Nottingham ....." (Patent Rolls, 1467-77). Thoroton says that this Sir Gervase married Isabella, widow of William Scot of Brabourne, but Gervase Holles states that Isabella married an earlier Clifton (1313-91). A.C. Wood (in his History of Notts.) says that this Sir Gervase of Brabourne was the younger brother of Sir Robert Clifton (died 1478). Clearly this Sir Gervase's exact relationship with the main branch of the family is uncertain. What matters, however, is his importance at the time of the Wars of the Roses.

Sir Robert Juckes-Clifton was the last of the baronets. He died without heirs in 1869 in his forty-fourth year, and the estates passed to Henry Markham, grandson of Frances Clifton, sister of the eighth baronet. Henry Markham changed his name to Clifton but died without issue in 1896. The estates then passed to Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey-Juckes Lloyd Bruce, son of the sister of the ninth baronet. He was succeeded by his son, Colonel Percy R. Bruce who changed his name to 'Clifton' in 1919. He died in 1944 and his son, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Clifton, succeeded to the manor, remaining in residence until its sale in 1947.



Sir Robert Clifton, Knight 1478

Sir Gervase Clifton, Knight 1491

Pedigree of the C

Alua

Sir Robert de Clifton ~ Sir Gervase de Clifton, c.1186 ~ Sir Gervase
Margaret, daughter of Sir Rob[t]. Pierpoint (1.) = Sir Gervas

Sir Robert
Sir John C
Sir Gervas
Sir Robert
(1) Alice, dau. of Thos. Neville of Rolleston = Sir Gervas

Adelina | Robert (a priest) | Sir Gervase (d. 1508) | Hugh | William

(1) Alice, dau. of Simon Digby, Lieut. of Tower of London = Robert
(1.) Mary, dau. of Sir John Neville of Chevet, co. Yorks = Sir Gervase

Robert | Anthony | Gervase | Elizabeth = Peter Frescheville | Frances

Sir Gervase ('the Great') Cli
(1st Baronet 1611)

Sir Gervase Clifton, 2nd Bart. (d.1676) | Marg[t]. | Elizabeth | Frances | Ann | Clifford C

Sir William Clifton, 3rd Bart. (d.

Ten sons | Lady Frances Coote, daughter of Earl of Bellomont (1.) = Sir Robert C

Sir Gervas

Sir Robert Clifton, 7th Bart. (1766–1837) | Gen. Sir Arthur Clifton, G.C
(Colonel of 1st. Dragoons at Wa

Sir Robert Juckes Clifton, 9th Bart. (1825–69) | Maria

Lt.-Col. Herv

Colonel Perc
(changed name t

Lt.-Col. Peter

Clifton Family

redus

de Clifton, c1208 ~ Sir Gervase de Clifton (d. 1323) ~ Sir Robert Clifton (1297-1327)

Clifton (1313-91) = (2) Isabella, dau. of ?

Clifton (d. before father) = Agnes, dau. of Lord Grey of Wilton.

lifton (d. 1403) = Catherine, sister & co-heiress of Sir Hugh de Cressi.

Clifton (d. 1453) = Isabella, dau. of Sir Robert Francis.

Clifton (1423-78) = Alice, dau. of John Booth of Barton, Lancs.

Clifton (1438-91) = (2) Agnes, widow of Sir Walter Griffith

Protheseius | Thomas | Gamaliell (a doctor) | Silvanus | Ezethius

Clifton (d. 1517) = (2) Anne, dau. of Henry, Lord Clifford, descendant of Edward iii.

Sir Gervase Clifton (1515-88) = (2) Winifred, dau. & heir of William Thwaites of Suffolk.

George Clifton (1566-87) = Winifred, dau. of Sir Anthony Thorold of Lincs.

(1567-1666) = (1) Penelope, dau. of Robt. Rich, 1st Earl of Warwick, died 1613, aged 23
= (2) Frances, dau. of 4th Earl of Cumberland, died 1627, aged 33
= (3) Mary, dau. of John Egioke, died 1630
= (4) Isobel, dau. of Thos. Meeke of Wolverhampton, d. 1637
= (5) Anne, dau. of Sir Francis South, died 1639
= (6) Jane, dau. of Anthony Eyre, died 1655
= (7) Alice, dau. of 5th Earl of Huntingdon, d. 1667.

ifton | Lettice

Robert Clifton | Jane | Charles | Mary

1686) | Catherine | Arabella

Sir Gervase Clifton, 4th Bart. (d 1731) | Jane

ifton, 5th Bart. (d. 1768) = (2) Hannah, dau. of Sir Thos. Lombe

Five sons

Clifton, 6th Bart. (1744-1815) = Francis Egerton, dau. and heir of Richard Lloyd.

(1770-1851)

Sir Juckes Clifton, 8th Bart. (1769-1852)

Frances - Archdeacon Robt. Markham, son of Archbishop of York.

= Sir Henry Hervey Bruce, Bart.

Rev. Canon H. S. Markham

-Juckes Lloyd Bruce

Henry Markham (d. 1890)
(changed name to 'Clifton')

R. Bruce (d. 1964)
'Clifton' in 1919)

Clifton (sold Clifton Hall in 1947)

THE CHURCH

"Clifton and Glapton are all as one
But Clifton has a church and Glapton has none."

Old Clifton Rhyme

It is more than likely that a Saxon church once occupied the site of St. Mary's overlooking the River Trent. The Domesday Book of 1086 states that Clifton has a priest and a church. It is a large cruciform building with a tall central tower and is much larger than the original, due to the influence of the Clifton family.

There are many interesting details to observe on the exterior of the church. Unique to this area is a pre-reformation stone crucifix on the west end of the nave roof, which was protected, during the times of religious turbulence, by a covering of ivy. Just below can be seen evidence of earlier roof heights and the put holes around which the original west wall was built.

There are gargoyles on each corner of the top of the tower and others on the north transept. Some have been considerably eroded, others have disappeared altogether and two are now kept in the north transept for safe keeping. The White Lion of the Cliftons is still in evidence. There are remains of the Spotted Panther on the north-west corner of the tower which was put there as a tribute to Edward 111 for allowing the founding of the college of Mass priests. This is the badge of the Lancastrians, thus emphasising the allegiance of the Cliftons during the Wars of the Roses.

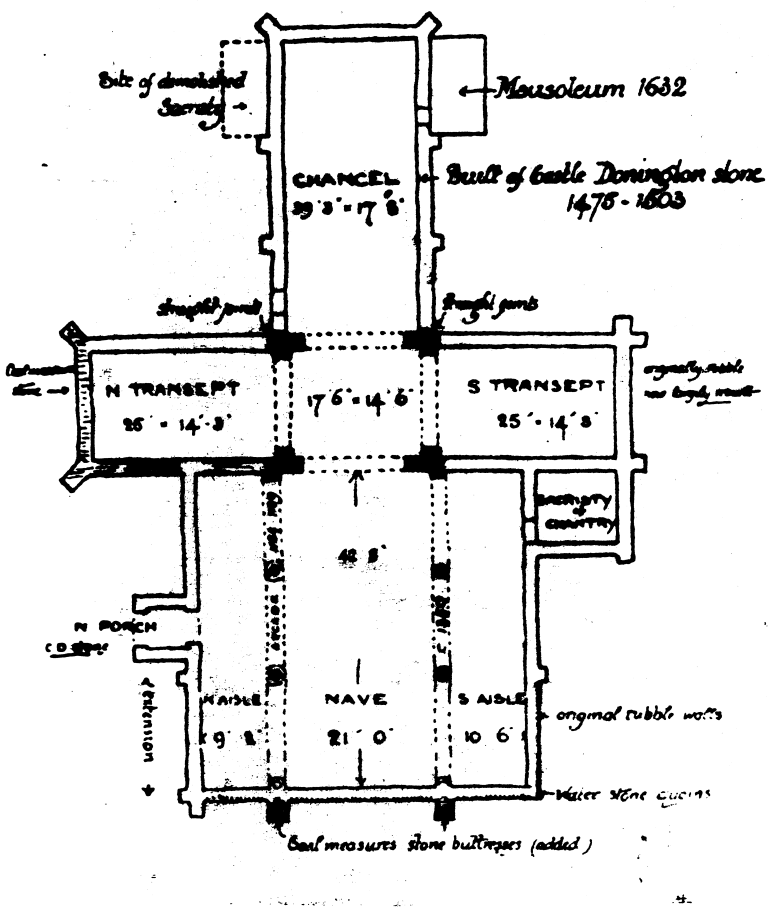
The "lion passant" on the north east corner is the symbol of the Bruces who succeeded to the Clifton property through marriage. In the 1960s the church council had to renew that gargoyle when there were massive tower restorations and they wanted the Bruces to be remembered in some way. Various houses in the village can be seen with H.R.B. on them indicating that Henry Bruce built them. Later the Bruces changed their name to Clifton and H.R.C. can be seen on the front of one of the houses in Village Road.

The Church

On the right hand side of the porch is the mark I.P. which indicates the height of the 'Indian Prince', the nickname given to Joseph, a very tall (6'4") black servant of the Cliftons who died in 1684, having become a Christian ten years earlier. In the south transept there is a floor-stone to his memory, a great honour for a servant.

On the wall of the 14th century south arcade are two Mass dials approximately 1325 and 1530. By looking at the shadow made by the central rod (or gnomon) one could have a rough estimate of the time, if the sun was shining.

The present chancel had most of its renovation completed in a 15 year period 1486-1501 by the rector, Robert Yole. The roof was completely rebuilt and on the bosses on the north side he left his mark R.O. BER TUS and on the south west boss his surname YOLE. Until quite recently it was thought he had a sculpture of himself made with his coat of arms. Having been recently cleaned, it was found, after much research, to be a rare symbol, a spitting Jew above the coat of arms of Christ, represented by five wounds on a gold background and from each wound five drops of blood. These represent the wounds received by Jesus Christ at his crucifixion.



The arrangement of tiles in the sanctuary provided during the 1845 restoration represents the story of The Passion. At each side of the central area are tiles with the fleur de lis and the rose, symbolic of Our Lady.

The Church

In 1476 Sir Robert Clifton obtained a licence to found a chantry with a warden and two chaplains. This resulted in the conversion of the north transept into a chapel of the Holy Trinity. In the belief of the day the soul of the deceased moved to Purgatory for a period determined by his earthly misdemeanours. This period could be shortened by the saying of prayers for his soul. Thus, the rich were able to endow chantry chapels and houses for priests whose sole duty was to shorten the time in Purgatory by praying daily. However through the years it has become a memorial to the Clifton family.

There are three large tombs made of alabaster, quarried locally and which can still be seen in stratas in Clifton Grove. It is a type of gypsum, soft marble-like stone which is semi-transparent. Its colours vary from red brown, yellow and white and is easy to carve. Throughout the Middle Ages it was much sought after and even exported to the continent.

Two of the earliest monuments in alabaster are against the north wall. The knight is thought to be either Sir Gervase Clifton who died in 1391 or Sir Johannes (John) de Clifton who was killed at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. The monument at the north east is to Lady Alice, wife of Sir Gervase whose memorial brass dated 1491 lies in the floor just below. The monument to Gervase the Gentle (a favourite of Elizabeth 1) who died in 1558, can be seen reclining between the effigies of his two wives.

On the west wall is a grotesque reminder in black marble and alabaster of the first three wives of Gervase of the seven wives.

Protected under thick green carpet can be seen typically thin English brasses. Two are of Sir Robert Clifton (1478) his son, Gervase Clifton (1491). Both have Latin inscriptions referring to their involvement in the founding of the College of Chaplains of 1476. The remaining brass is of Sir George Clifton and his wife, Winifred (1587). They were the parents of the most celebrated of the Clifton family, Sir Gervase of the seven wives. His father, George, died a few months before he was born and his mother remarried. His grandfather, Sir Gervase the Gentle, died when he was four months old leaving him the sole title holder of the estate. When he died at about 80 the fortunes of the Cliftons had been made.

A modern plaque on the east wall is dedicated to the last of the Cliftons to be born and die in the parish of St. Mary's.

The ceiling of the bell tower has recently been decorated with a green and white design representing the Crown of Thorns. There are six bells, four old and two added in 1894. They were last rung in 1965, when it was discovered that due to the fundamental weakness of the central tower large cracks had appeared and it was deemed unsafe to restore them, unless their weight was reduced from three tons to one ton five hundredweight and they were lowered two storeys in the tower. This was the ruling of the distinguished architect, Mr. George G. Pace. The cost was too high.

The Church

In the stained glass window behind the high altar the Virgin Mary is flanked by the four apostles each with his own symbol. The Virgin Mary (three lilies), Matthew (a child), Mark (a lion), Luke (a bull), and John (an eagle).

The altar of blue Hornton limestone is built from the original altar of the Monastery at Kelham. During its installation it was discovered that the first Norman altar had been lowered into the floor during the reformation when it was decreed that all stone altars should be destroyed and replaced by wooden ones.

G.F. Bodley was the designer of the reredos and his hallmark, diagonal lines and arrows, can be seen on much of the decoration and along the sides of the chancel roof.

Around the top end of the chancel are two quotations from the Book of Revelation

North side:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing."

(Revelation 5.12)

South side:

"Blessing and honour and glory and power unto him that sitteth upon the Throne and unto the Lamb for ever and ever."

(Revelation 5.13)

George Clifton Esq 1587 and Winifred his wife

Below the memorial of Sir Gervase of the seven wives is the old parish chest. It has three locks and could only be opened in the presence of the three keyholders who were normally the rector, and two churchwardens. It contained important deeds, wills and parish records.

The Church

On the south side of the chancel is a doorway dated 1632 leading to the Clifton vault. Among those interred is Sir Robert Clifton, ninth baronet who died in 1869 - the last of the Clifton family and with whom the baronetcy died. There is also a very old lead coffin shaped to receive separately the head and shoulders of its inhabitant. Sir Gervase Clifton was beheaded after the Battle of Tewksbury in 1471 and his head exposed for a week on the spikes of the town bridge. It then followed his body for burial in the church vault.

Sir William Clifton was killed in one of the crusades and his heart was placed in a decorated lead case and brought back to England to rest in the vault. In memory of his father, Professor W. Middlebrook arranged for this to be placed in a niche in the north transept close to the many Clifton memorials. It is protected by a wrought iron screen suggesting the crown of thorns.

Interesting features of the church are the windows which vary from the long pointed lancet 13th century windows of the early English style to the 14th century tracery windows of the decorated period to the taller, more graceful perpendicular windows of the 15th century.

The nave is dominated by the magnificent Marcuson Organ, one of only three in the country. To utilise its qualities drastic alterations were required to improve the acoustics of the church. Mr. R. Simms, the well respected church architect has controlled all aspects of change from the uniquely designed indented nave ceiling, the south arcade ceiling, the arrangement of glass chancel panes, the smooth floor tiles to even the unupholstered furniture. His hallmark is the slanting chamfer mark in the furniture and wrought iron work. This has resulted in St. Mary's being used for organ recitals by the B.B.C. The acoustic work was done under the guidance of Mr. David Jones of Nottingham University who is an acoustics specialist and has done much important work in England and America.

This rapid development in the last fifteen years is mainly due to the interest, dedication and enthusiasm of the Reverend Wilf Wilkinson and people of the parish, and constitutes a period of history when the Clifton family have had little or no influence.

The gateway leading to the Hall was the one used solely by the Clifton family and friends and shows their dominant role in the close village that was Clifton.

Many of the gravestones of the churchyard are distinctive in their doggerel verse. Many interesting hours can be spent deciphering and perusing them.

"My children are dead
And they moulder alone
Their spirits are fled
To a world all unknown
I gaze on their death bed
With sorrow and sign
And are ye but dust then
Alas! What am I."

"Mourn not for me wife and children dear
I am not dead, but only sleeping here
My debt is paid. My grave you see.
In a short time
You'll follow me."

ROSSLYN BRUCE AT CLIFTON

Rosslyn's move to the country was the result of a need to withdraw from city life. His Uncle Hervey had once suggested he might one day succeed at Clifton so until that time arose, he was urged to accept the position in order to devote his time to gaining a doctorate in divinity. He was advised, however, that he would find Clifton comparatively dull.

Rosslyn took up residence at The Glebe, cared for by Mrs. Cook. As he enjoyed hunting, the stables were in full use and he was often seen about the village on horseback. Many delightful anecdotes are told about this man who had a passionate love of animals. To his delight he was surrounded by dogs, Shetland ponies and ferrets. The garden of the rectory was described as a menagerie and on seeing the numerous outbuildings designed as larders he immediately thought of them as kennels. He was a dog breeder of note and Queen Victoria had a Skye puppy which he had bred. When at Oxford he described his own champion terrier as an A1 K9.

Every Sunday he was expected to lunch at the Hall and he was also on call for dinner parties when a spare man was needed to make up numbers during the six months of the year that his uncle spent at Clifton.

One of the first changes Rosslyn was to make was to transform the Sunday School into the Ministering Children's League whose motto was 'everyday a good deed' and which preceded scouts and guides by some thirty or forty years.

Shortly after seeing a neglected workhouse in the city, Rosslyn declared that 'we cannot continue to bring up children like a brood of rats.' He showed concern that in this age, waifs and strays were still allowed to roam the streets. In a sermon which made the headlines and earned him the title of 'a fiery sporting gentleman' he urged the communities of Christian people to fight against the vices of selfishness, drunkenness, gambling and lust. When a miners' strike broke out, Rosslyn was in the forefront of discussion and earned the respect of the colliers. Rosslyn had little or no respect for idlers 'whether dukes or tramps' - 'if a man will not work neither let him eat.'

He was famous for his sermons and the fact that he was nearly always accompanied by some animal or other. The children especially adored him for they never knew what creature would be brought forth from his pocket. Donned in dashing bow tie, adorned with a parrot or two, Rosslyn would be seen around the village with 'an eager look of one ready for adventure.' Following his marriage to Rachel Gurney, Rosslyn took up residence in the Rectory. Percy and Hervey were good friends and would often seek his advice on sheepdog breeding. As chaplain of the Royal Horse Artillery, Rosslyn took services for the Frontiersmen Legion who would ride over from camp and lunch in the 'teas' cottage for which Clifton was famous.

Rosslyn's somewhat unorthodox behaviour eventually met with disapproval from the Hall and the hierarchy. Because of his eccentricities and his inability to refuse an invitation 'whether to preach at a funeral, judge at a dog show or dance a Highland fling' after eight contented years, he was wrenched away from the 'thatched cottages, the music of the thrushes and the warm-hearted people who had known him from his cradle', to Birmingham. His consolation was in his belief that he was being led by Divine guidance away from the feudal conditions of Clifton to the most democratic city in the kingdom and the heart of England's industrial life.

THE DOWER HOUSE

Some mystery attaches to the Dower House and the possible uses to which it could have been put. A substantial building of brick, situated to the rear of the stables suggests that it was used more for estate workers than for the family. Indeed it is known locally as "The Bothy". It was divided into several living apartments and the Bothy itself, attached to the side, was where unmarried estate workers lived, usually seven or eight in number. The central part of the building was at one time the home of the head gardener.

If we look at the family history of the Cliftons, the Dower House does take on some significance. The following written by Deborah Ecob in the Nottingham Historian helps to solve the mystery:

"As was the custom for the nobles, knights and gentry, the Cliftons sought advantageous marriages. Most of the Cliftons' lands were held under feudal tenure which meant the chief lord had the right to give the heir in marriage. However, a socage was a free, non-knightly tenure and not held of a lord. When a Clifton heir was arriving at a marriageable age he was endowed with the soc of Hodsock thus making him a free agent to marry at will. Sir Gervase was known as Gervase Clifton, esquire, of Hodsock, until he inherited his father's lands.

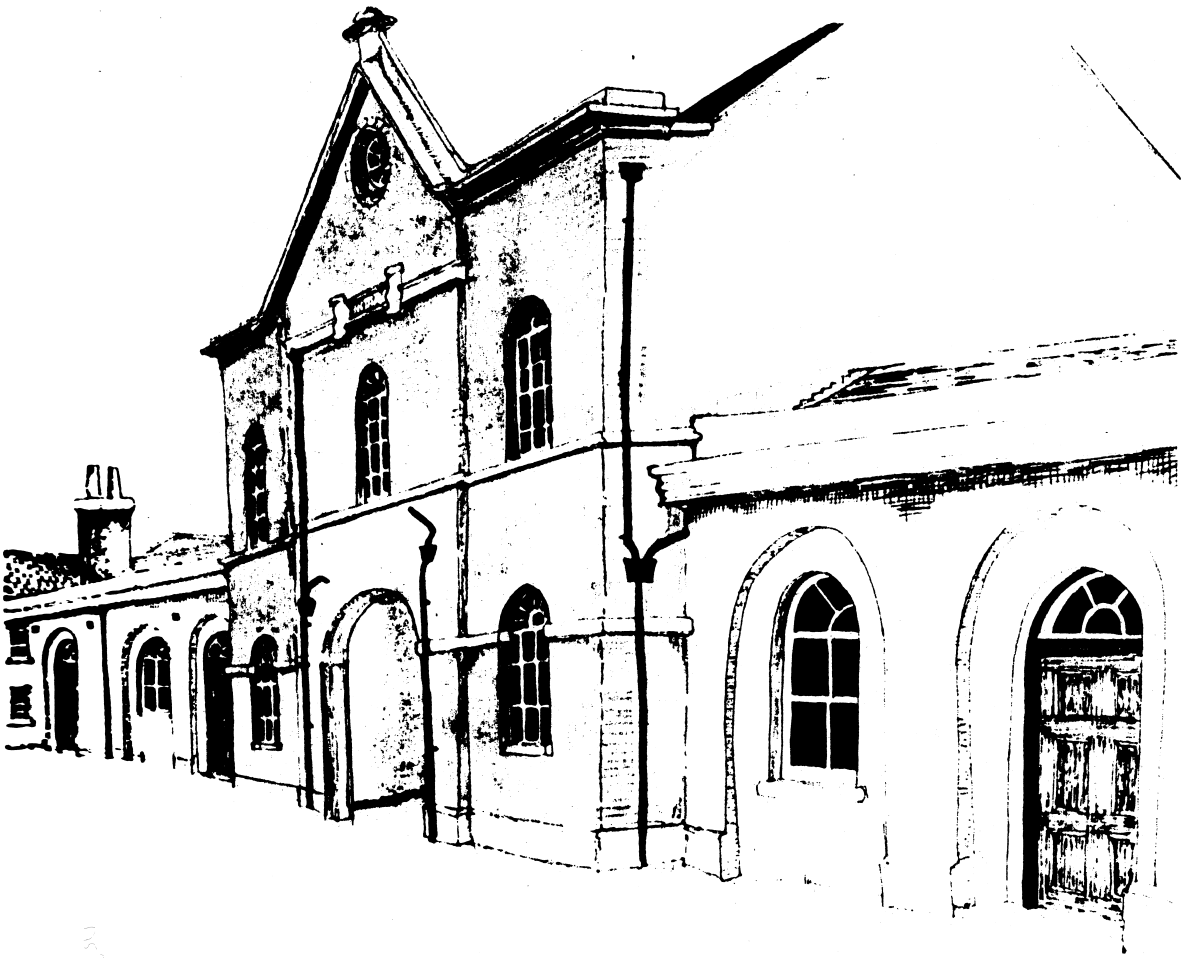
Marriages were important if inheritances were to remain intact. Sir Robert's wife, Alice, brought with her parcels of land in Lancashire, which though poor quality, were used to expand the number of sheep. Sir Gervase's first wife also brought lands, the dower of her previous marriage to Sir Richard Thurland. Dowers were a widow's protection in this age of short life expectancies for men, and could be as much as a third of the dead man's estate. Yet she could only enjoy the profits from her dower whilst she remained a widow. If she remarried the dower became the property of her new husband. Brides in the fifteenth century were also endowed with marriage-portions, which was generally becoming a sum of money paid by the bride's father, or nearest male relative. When Sir Gervase married his second wife, Agnes Griffith, she brought a bride-price of £400, a very substantial sum to someone below the rank of Baron".

So the "bride-portion", which we perhaps use mistakenly as "dowry" was an outright gift to the bridegroom whereas the dower proper was the property of the widow of the Lord. This may mean that in some circumstances the dowager did not continue to live at the hall in her retirement upon the heir assuming the title. Indeed, if the new heir was not related very closely, there would no doubt be encouragement for the "old lady" to depart to the Dower House.

It was when Colonel Clifton refurbished this section of the house for his mother that the name Dower House was again used. though in fact she continued to live at the Hall.

THE STABLE BLOCK

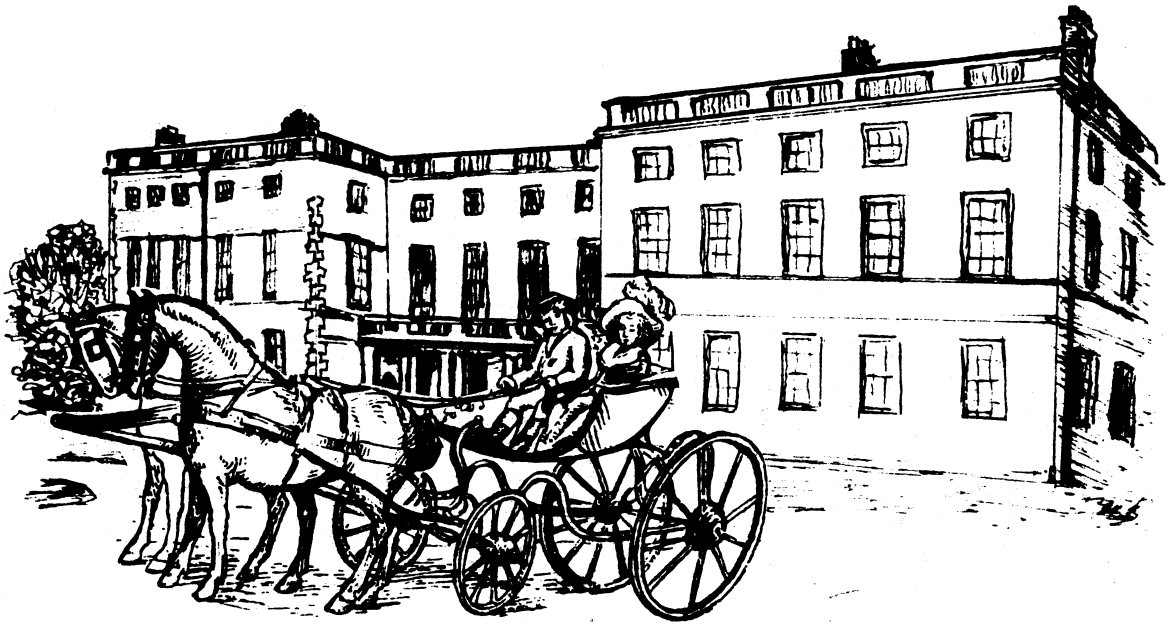
The Stable block can be seen to the left-hand side of the main gates as you approach the Hall. The design of the building is rather pleasant having a central two storeyed section with single storey wings at either side. The arched windows are most attractive and emphasise the curved line of the central arch. Originally the archway was open and gave through access to the stable yard beyond where carriages which had been used on dusty or muddy roads were taken to be washed.



The block was divided into stabling for the horses and a coach house to provide cover for the carriages. To the left of the archway can be seen the stalls where the horses were kept but they are used now by the Home Farm, though still very much the same in appearance as 100 years ago.

To the right is a large room. Access was gained through the high doors at the back in the stable yard. It was here that the carriages were kept and the height of the doors gives some indication of how tall a sprung carriage must have been. Other parts of the stable block housed harness rooms and storage space for fodder.

In the main, coach horses were kept here as the Clifton family in latter years did not ride. Records from the estate books give us interesting information about the cost incurred by the Cliftons in keeping such stables. The Census of 1881 lists one groom and one coachman employed to maintain the stables. These are the expenses for the year 1881:



The fortnightly wages were £3.4s.0d. Thomas the vet was paid seven guineas. L. Tideswell carried out repairs to carriages at a cost of £140.0s.0d. The stable and coach house doors were painted and grained at a cost of £7.10s.0d. A bay carriage horse was purchased from Alex Anderson for £55.0s.0d. During the following year another bay horse was purchased for £45.0s.0d. In 1881 a horse called York was sold for £40.0s.0d and a year later a pair of carriage horses were sold for £118.16s.0d. So it is apparent that horses were kept as long as they were suitable for service.

The records show that a Brougham was bought from London in 1892. From 1905 until 1913 the stable wages are listed as £6.0s.0d. plus the wages for a coachman named I. Bird.

The coachman lived in a lodge situated on the opposite side of the road from the stables. This was a unique residence built in the design of a Greek temple complete with columns, now unfortunately demolished.

In 1915 the Chauffeur is added to the entries. The family must have given up their carriages in favour of a motor car for the coachman left in 1916, and thereafter the only recorded wages are those of the chauffeur, G. Grant, who was, incidentally the son-in-law of I. Bird.

HOME FARM AND FARMING

As its name implies, Home Farm originally supplied the needs of the Clifton family as indeed, Glebe Farm would have supported the church.

There must have been farm lands surrounding the Hall area in Saxon times though in the Open Field system no large piece of land could have been identified as being specifically used by one person. It was only with the coming of the Enclosure Act in 1765 that the open fields were apportioned into parcels to create compact farms, each with its own tenant.

Although no evidence of a settlement has been found on the site of the Hall, several items from the bronze age have been removed from the riverbed and are now on view at the Castle Museum. These include canoes, spearheads and a corn-grinding quern. There is also evidence of cultivated terraces on the Clifton side of the river, the whole of the Trent valley otherwise being closely forested and swampy.

The Open Field system continued throughout the Middle Ages, though when the de Rodes family took over the Manor from the Peverels in the reign of Henry II, Flemish weavers were invited and registered to become resident, thus promoting sheep farming on a larger scale.

Grain and pulses were the staple crops and the records reveal that in 1491 Sir Gervase left in his will, the whole of his grain crop to his son Robert (a priest) "to pay for his needs."

An oil painting of 1695 shows cattle freely grazing and it may be supposed that there was free grazing on common land. In 1765 a record shows one Joseph Allen, a ploughboy becoming eminent in sheep breeding.

Due to the lowering of living standards during the nineteenth century many workers left the countryside to work in towns, and steam power began to take over some of the heavier farm tasks.

Home Farm and Farming

Reference has been made elsewhere to Clifton Pastures, an area of pasture stretching from Glapton Wood, across the top end of Farnborough Road towards Gotham. It was divided into "gates" and let for grazing between April and Michaelmas. During this period a herdsman was appointed to tend the cattle, being paid 2/- for each gate. The value of the Pastures had increased from £1053 in 1887 to £2140 in 1918.

The Cropping Book in the Nottingham University Local Studies Department shows land and buildings at Home Farm accounting for 150 acres whilst Grove Farm has 400 acres. There is no farmhouse as the farm was managed, not tenanted. In 1890 the farm was valued at £2000 and produced from "sales of beasts - £5134" between December 1869 and November 1870.

	Profits	Losses
1919	£331	
1922	£360	
1923	£164	
1924	£155	
1925		£97
1926	£ 82	

The loss in 1925 was caused by an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in June 1924 when 22 beasts, 10 sheep and 2 pigs were destroyed and burned with a small compensation from the Government of £514 (plus £19 for wood, coal and labour for burning).

Harry Moss recalls his aunt marrying Thomas Wade who was farm manager around this time and who lived in the cowman's cottage behind the stables, Mrs. Wade being responsible for the feeding and care of the Hall peacocks.

Although there are no available financial records after the late 1920s farming continued after the 1947 compulsory purchase order, the farm being rented from the Nottingham Corporation together with Mr. Moss's (Grove) Farm by a Mr. Codd, who took up residence in the old stables. His son farms today the remaining lands of the old estate.

YEW TREE GRANGE

The Grange is to be seen at an angle opposite the end of Village Road, partly hidden by trees, so that one cannot see from the gate the whole of the front elevation.

The building has the characteristics of two styles of building, the left side of the house dating from c. 1700 and the right side being built in 1870. There is a natural pond in the garden which is shown on an early map of 1707.

A door can be seen which opens on to the narrow lane at the side of the house which led to the Estate Office, where rents were paid and where the account books relating to the Estate were kept.

One of the better known agents, Henry Haynes died in 1931 after being the agent for over forty years. He was married to one of the Pilkington daughters of the glass manufacturing family.

In studying the estate books and letter books (copies of letters sent by Haynes) one can appreciate why his office was held in such high esteem. He no doubt lived in a grand manner and was the person who influenced most, the tenants of the village.

As agent he was responsible for all activities on the estate, the selling of land, collecting of rents and tithes, the eviction of tenants, parish clerk, overseer of the state of all estate buildings, coppices, issuing of fishing permits, game keeping, auditor of the Wilford Toll Bridge accounts, income tax returns, employing casual labour etc.

Yew Tree Grange - Copies of Estate Agent's Letters

His letters to Colonel Clifton are addressed to "Dear Percy" showing the close personal association they had.

Clifton, August 18th 1926

Dear Percy,

.....
.....

Pheasant are doing fairly well at the Fox Covert and Barton Wood but a good many are dying at the New Close.

I am sorry to hear that you have not had better sport.

Up to the present we have a fair chance of winning the Test Match, but one can never tell.

We are all well,

Yours sincerely,

Henry Haynes

But he had to show his authority as this letter shows:

January 4th, 1927

Dear Sir,

I have Colonel Clifton's instructions to give you a month's notice to leave his service.

The reason is that you appear to be unable to work amicably with Saint and in addition you have got across with some of the tenants.

Yours faithfully,

Henry Haynes

Mr. F. .....
Keepers Cottage,
Barton-in-Fabis.

Clifton, October 12th 1926

Dear Sir,

Brickyard Pond

When I let the fishing in the above pond it was on the understanding that it was for fishing only. Only two members to fish at one time and no damage to be done.

I am informed that on more than one occasion lately women and children have accompanied anglers and have wandered through the wood and left papers about so this looks as it is was more like a pic nic than a fishing expedition.

I must ask you to see that the rules which you presented and which I agreed to are carried out.

Yours faithfully,

Henry Haynes

THATCHED COTTAGES

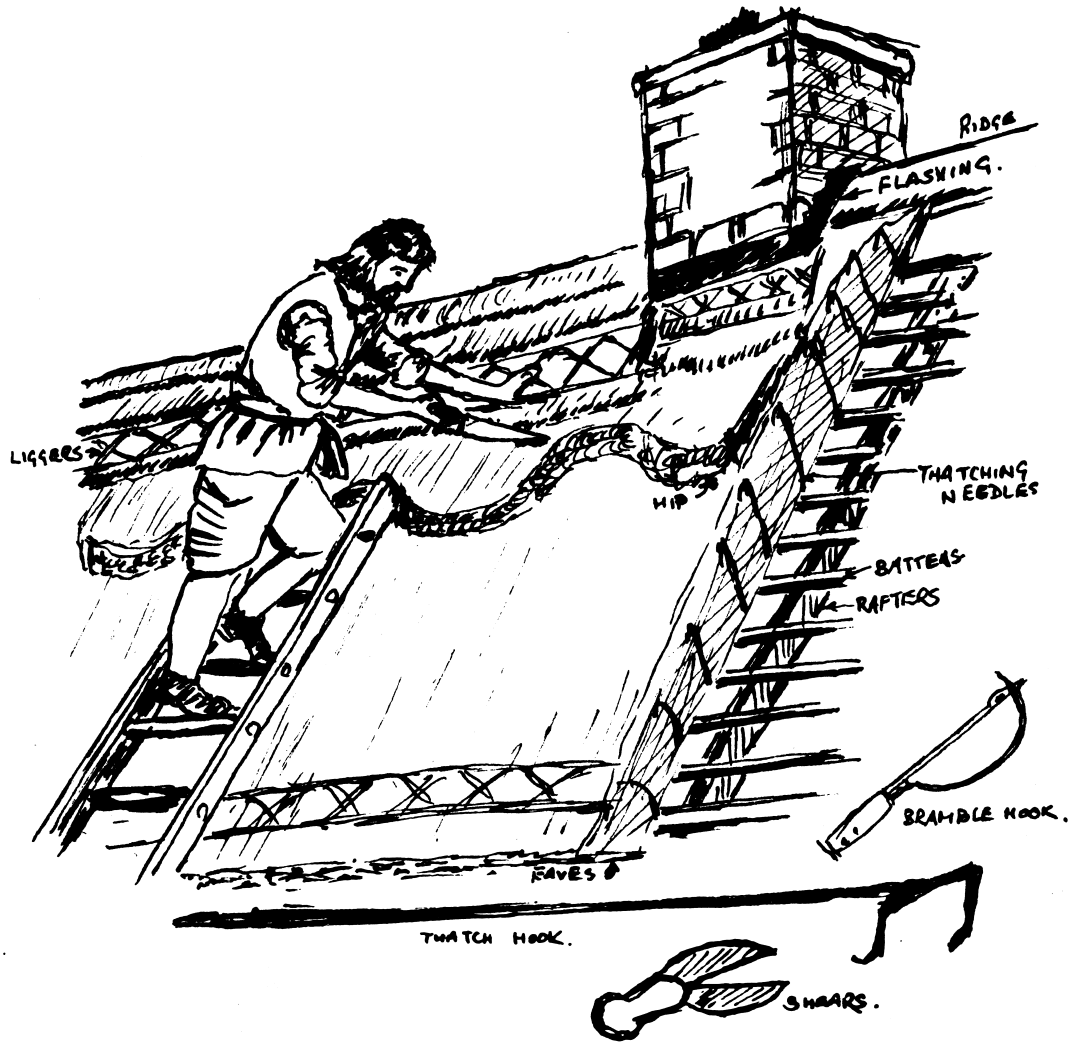
This pair of semi-detached thatched cottages (rethatched in the early 1970s) are representative of almost all buildings in the country until the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

Thaec was a Saxon word for any material suitable for roofing, whether it be reeds, heather, bracken or straw. The method of applying it was theccan - thatching. It is perhaps surprising to us today that even castles, cathedrals and monasteries were at one time roofed with thatch. It was not until the Industrial Revolution brought the means to transport more enduring roofing material to other centres, that thatch gave way to slate and tile. Welsh slate was, for example, used only very locally and roofs in Wales generally were of thatch.

In order for the rain water to seep out at the end of the thatching it was not only necessary to have a deep enough thickness of material, but also a fairly steep pitch (50°) to the roof. If one looks carefully at eighteenth century gable ends it is sometimes possible to see where an extra storey had been added when there was less need for a steep pitch after tiles were introduced. The Nottingham Date Book records 1494 as being the year that the first tiled house was seen. Naturally, towns with such a tight configuration of buildings were regularly aflame and so were the first to change over to tiles.

In the rural areas, however, the risks were minimal and long hooks were kept about the village to pull down burning roofs.

Thatched Cottages



Thatch being very light, roof trusses and joists only needed to be of flimsy structure. Norfolk reed often lasts between 50 and 60 years and long straw 20 - 30.

There are probably 200 thatchers now left in the country, a craft passed from father to son. Whilst in the late 1970s a house could be rethatched for between £500 - £1,000, in the 1920s it cost, according to the Estate Agents books, as little as £10.

Bundles of long, combed straw were first dampened to make the straw pliable and then stitched with tarred rope around the joists and battens and the bundles pegged together with twisted "hairpins" of hazel spars. They were patted and pushed into shape with a thatch beater. Starting at the eaves, the thatching continued until it reached the ridge. It is here that the thatcher at the end of his labour made his personal mark in the nature of the finishing and decoration of the ridge.

A finishing touch was to use tarred fishing nett or wire netting over the whole roof to deter birds.

THE RECTORY

The old rectory in fact must have been at one time the new rectory as it has 18th and early 19th century features. It is more than likely that rectors who were members of the family lived in the Hall and others must have lived in a much older building, now gone, much nearer the church.

Its size indicates the stature and financial circumstances of its incumbent. In 1909 there were twenty one rooms, those in the attics of course for servants. There were two staircases with halls and offices.

In the outbuildings there were four larders and three stables for six horses, a fodderhouse, saddle room and coachhouse. There was also a cottage over the stables with three rooms and a larder.

With a house of such size the rector must have always been a man of some substance, gaining income from other parishes within his domain, or been a close relative of the Lord of the Manor.

Interestingly, when Rosslyn Bruce came to Clifton, he lived in Glebe House, as a family named Kerle-Smith were renting the Rectory. Later when he was 37 and contemplating marriage, he and his bride to be discussed the running of the house and they envisaged that they would need at least

1 gardener	1 housekeeper
1 garden boy	1 cook
1 groom	1 housemaid
	1 tweeny

at a total wage bill of £171 per annum.

Wedding presents lavished upon the couple helped to furnish the house. Accounts of his life and times are to be found in back-up material.

The Rectory

A later rector, Reverend Bird was a keen horticulturist and one can today see how finely the garden is set out .. He started the Clifton Flower Show, held annually on the third Thursday in July.

The last incumbent, the Rev. Craig, was the last rector to be resident, and he recalled that in his early days he had permanent "loan" of a liveried servant from the Hall.

After it had stood empty for some time Colonel Clifton himself moved into the Rectory for a short time before leaving the area.

The building is now used as an old folks home.

RECTORS

William de Rodes (Patron - Ralph de Rodes)	1241
Simon de Brus, M.A.	1263
John de Clyfton (son of Patron)	1302
John de Chilwell	1337
Richard de Leycester	1369
Robert Riche	1373
John de Clyfton	-
Ralph Bromley	1392
William Newton	1394
John Normanton	-
Robert Wyloughby	1400
Robert Dawe	by 1413
William Hide	1428
John Warbyn	1432

RECTORS

Henry Dysell	1438
Richard Bate	-
Henry Pynson	1443
John Baddesworth, Chaplain to Archbishop of York	1456
John Grene, Bishop of Kilfenora, Ireland	1462
John Averell, Chaplain to Archbishop of York, Prebendary of Southwell	1467
Robert Hill	1472
Robert Yole	1479
Silvanus Clifton	1506
Edmund Thurland	1531
John Normanville	-
John Alwood	1571
Henry Bacon	1587
Henry Wylde, B.D.	1623
Robert Thirlby, M.A.	1633

Intruded Ministers

Henry Upton	by 1645
Thomas Goodge	by 1650
Jonathan Boole	1652

Rectors

Robert Thirlby, M.A.	1660
Clifford Thirlby, M.A.	1675
Thomas Ouseley, M.A. (Rector of Stanton-on-the-Wolds, 1670-1721)	1689
William Standfast, M.A.,D.D., LL.D (Vicar of North Wheatley, 1720-54)	1721
Abel Collin Launder, M.A. (Rector of Elton 1750-1803, Rector of Tollerton 1753-5)	1754
William Clifton, M.A.	1803
Henry Spencer Markham, M.A. Prebendary of York	1830
Edwin Proctor Dennis, B.C.L.	1844
William Holdsworth D.D.	1853
William Howard	1866
John Clough, M.A.	1873
Henry William Wynne Ffoulkes, M.A.	1891
Francis Rosslyn Courtenay Bruce, M.A., D.D.	1904
Edward Marychurch Vaughan, M.A.	1912
Hon. Walter James Bosville Chetwynd	1915
Thomas Bird, M.A.	1920
Joseph de Acquino Craig	1937

Priests in Charge

Ven. John Henry Lawrence Phillips, M.A.	1958-60
Joseph Paul Henry Halet, M.A.	1962-63
Malcolm Charles Crompton Melville, B.Sc.	1963-65

Rectors

Wilfred Badger Wilkinson, B.D., A.K.C.	1965-

THE ALMSHOUSES

When, in 1906, the Liberal Government came into power it brought great social reforms prompted mainly by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, David Lloyd George, who was seen as the champion of the poor. Firstly he brought relief for the young with the Acts of 1906 and 1907. These provided school meals and medical services to combat the effects of poverty. In 1908 he established state pensions for those over 70 years of age with an income of less than £21 per year. They were entitled to receive 5s.0d. (25p.) each per week from the state. Next came financial help for the sick and unemployed through the National Insurance Act of 1911. These were the beginnings of the Welfare State.

Before these reforms the poor of the country had to rely upon relief and charity from the parish and voluntary organisations. The Poor Laws forced each parish to provide for its own paupers.

These Laws were established in the sixteenth century when the Tudor governments experimented with methods of helping the poor and needy. An Act of 1601 obliged each parish to levy a rate on all property occupiers and the collected money to be spent on the relief of the old, the infirm and the poor. In 1722 this was amended to grant the able-bodied poor relief only if set to work within an institution - the poorhouse. With the rise of the Industrial society, by the early 1800s the Poor Laws were found to be inadequate. 10% of the population were classed as paupers. A Royal Commission was appointed to investigate arrangements for the relief of the poor. As a result, the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act was implemented. Every parish was compelled to build its own Workhouse or unite with a neighbouring parish to build a Union Workhouse. Ratepayers elected a Board to administer Parish Relief. The old and infirm could be granted money and housing but if an able-bodied person asked for Parish Relief, both he and his family would be put into the local workhouse. Conditions here were as appalling as they could be made in order to discourage applicants. Families were separated and subject to humiliation and degradation. The workhouses of Nottingham and Southwell were particularly noted for their disgusting conditions.

After the 1834 Act it seemed that more and more responsibility for paupers was taken away from local government and left to voluntary organisations, trust funds and local churches. This often took the form in villages and small towns of 'hospitals' or almshouses. Nottingham possessed many, the most notable being the Abel Collins Almshouses, now destroyed.

Almshouses were originally attached to monasteries where rich and poor alike were given food and shelter or alms. Later almshouses came to mean those which had been specially built for old people, the sick or the poor. They were supported financially by the church, organised charities or trusts - many men and women leaving bequests for almshouses.

We can see such evidence in Clifton village if we look at the Almshouses. These can be found in the form of a low white building on the south side of the Green. It consists of a main central part flanked by small wings on either side.

The Almshouses

The almshouses in Clifton village were founded in 1709 by George Wells to accommodate six poor women. The central part of the almshouses bears the following inscription:

"I to God's glory dedicate this place
Inspired thereto by His most holy grace.
May His great name forever here be praised
Then my ambition to its pitch is raised."

Anno 1709 George Wells

In each corner of the garden are small outbuildings (gazebos). These are said to have originally been intended as oratories or chapels.

Each inmate of the almshouses was granted an allowance of 2s. (10p.) per week. By 1864 the grant had risen to 3s. (15p.) per week plus an allowance of 1½ tons of coal per year from the nearby Clifton Colliery. By 1871 the allowance had risen to 3 tons per year. The finances to support the almshouses came from the estate of the Cliftons. In 1828 the estate was found to be indebted to the charity £193.16s. The estate paid this back at an interest rate of 3% which eventually realised £226. This was put in trust and the interest from it used for the benefit of the almshouses.

Other poor villagers benefited from "Poor Money". This money was the interest realised from several small benefactions and was distributed amongst the poor at Easter. These benefactions amounted to £60 and this yielded about £1.5s. (£1.25) a year and was made up to £1.10s.0d (£1.50) by the church. It was split up into ten sums of 3s. (15p.) and the Rector and the parish council decided to whom the money was given. This money was also known as "Plum Pudding Money". Parish Relief was occasionally granted in Clifton Village to the sick and the old. As the majority of the villagers were employed on the Clifton estate there were no unemployed able-bodied men to be committed to the workhouses.

In the early 1800s the almshouses were occupied by four aged widows. In the 1840s one of the occupants, a Mrs. Wright, held a Dame School for infants in the main central area of the building. She lived in the almshouses together with her mother-in-law. The infant school remained here until the village school was built in 1871.

The almshouses have recently been restored and remodelled after falling into a state of disrepair and are now used as two separate private residences.


River Trent
Clifton Grove
Lambert House
Thatched Cottage
Hall
Stables
Church
Yew Tree Lodge
Home Farm
Dower House
HOLGATE
GROVESIDE CRESCENT
LEABROOK CLOSE
MILLDALE CLOSE
GIPSY LANE
Tennis Courts
Playing Field
Pond
Fountain
Cattle Grid
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