

Musbury Heritage – News & Question Time – Summer 2022

News

I've been fortunate to be contacted recently by many people with information about Musbury. Some have responded to my queries, some have seen the website and many who just have an interest in our village history. A selection these follow.

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me with information and pictures. It is this and my research that enable me to produce the stories you read in the Parish News and see on the website.

Kevin Ford

Kevin, who used to live in the old Adcroft wooden bungalow for a few post-WW2 years and who told me much about the house history, has been in contact again. With his remarkable memory, he has supplied a fascinating list of people and places around that time. His recollections about his wanderings around Musbury as a young lad paint a fascinating picture of the village in the late 1940s. There are too many to list here, but they can be found on the Musbury Heritage website. Just search for "Kevin Ford" in the search box on the homepage.



Adcroft in 1971

Carol and Ron Hopkins

In the previous Parish News, I asked for more about Mount Pleasant Farm. Carol and Ron happened to be in Colyton Church (they live in Wimborne) and saw a copy of the Spring issue. It turns out Carol is the daughter of the Webbers who ran the farm from about 1955 to 1975! They have provided some great information and I hope to publish a history of Mount Pleasant on the website soon.

Tony Winter

Tony Winter contacted me in 2021, as he had spotted himself on the 1948 Musbury School photo on the website. He came to visit us in April this year and brought along many interesting photos. Janet Albano joined us, as she went to school with Tony (who she knew as Anthony). In no time they were reminiscing about the past and I was struggling to keep up!



Bob Hornsby

Bob, the owner of Bowhay on Combyne Road, contacted me recently. You may recall my earlier stories about the two artists, Charles and Evelyn Cheston, who designed the Art Deco house that burnt down in 1940. I had always hoped to one day see a picture of this house, also called Bowhay. Well, it turned out that Bob also wondered if a picture of the old house existed. As luck would have it, just a week earlier, Tony Winter had kindly

provided me with exactly that! I met Bob and his wife at Bowhay, and, in time, I hope to publish more about this house and the Wood and Munday families that he is descended from.

Devon Heritage Centre

I've made two very productive trips to Devon Heritage Centre in Sowton, a veritable treasure trove of information. Two very useful property surveys of 1910 and 1928 have been copied, along with the electoral registers of 1971. These all require transcription into digital format, so they can be easily accessed for research purposes. This is something I'll do when time permits (any volunteers?). A Musbury Churchyard survey from 1988 has also been copied and is now digitised. It is hoped to combine this with Church and other records to make a comprehensive analysis of burial records, complete with images for all to access.

Question Time

I started this in the Spring Parish News and I've had a good response, but would always welcome more! Please call me, email me or just stop and chat if you see me regarding any of the news, stories or questions I write. I don't bite, but could bore you to death with Musbury history!...

New Questions:

- This is a well-known picture taken inside the Lion Inn on Axminster Road in about the 1950s. Ed Russell is the publican behind the bar, but who are the 3 locals enjoying a pint? Any suggestions?... A larger version of the picture is on the website, just search for 'Lion Inn' from the homepage.
- We think the New Inn changed its name to "The Golden Hind" in the 1960s. Can anyone narrow that down? And what happened to the "New Inn" signage?
- Talking of signs, do you know what happened to the "Musbury Stores" sign (see picture) that used to adorn the wall above the post box? And what was the significance of the crest?
- Do you have any pictures of people and buildings in Musbury taken any time in the 20th century? Perhaps tucked away in a box in the attic? It is surprising what can be learnt from the most innocuous picture.
- The Platinum Jubilee celebrations will soon be upon us, but Musbury has a history of other festivities. There was an annual Michaelmas Fair in the village, with a market and sports events, which seems to have petered out around 1900. More recently there have been street fairs. Do you have any stories or pictures from the fairs in 1980s and 1990s?



Past Questions:

- *When was Northfields built?* - I have received suggestions that this was in the 1960s, maybe early 1970s, but nothing definitive as yet.
- *Mount Pleasant is often referred to as a farm, but I've seen no evidence to support this. Can you shed some light on this?* – I've had a great response on this (see News).
- *When was the last service held in the Chapel?* – No answers yet...
- *According to the Census, Musbury lost nearly 100 acres in size between 1961 and 2011. Any thoughts on what land may have disappeared from the parish to account for this?* – Thanks to a very helpful reply, this has been resolved. Search 'Parish Map' on the website.
- *I have been given a copy of a black & white leaflet called "Welcome to Musbury", priced 30p. It has map of the village on one side with pictures and numbers representing Musbury features and buildings. The reverse is a quite a detailed description / history of each of these features and suggestions of 'Places to Walk'. Do you know who produced this leaflet and when and why it was produced?* – No answers yet...

I will be very grateful for any help you can give on the above.