

### 19th Century

At the beginning of the 19th century a good deal of the Common land in and around Wheatley was enclosed and re-allotted. "An Act of Parliament was made and passed in the 49th year of the reign of His Majesty King George III entitled "An Act for enclosing lands in the hamlet and chapelry of Wheatley in the parish of Cuddesdon in the County of Oxford." John and Richard Davis were appointed commissioners for valuing, dividing, allotting and enclosing the open and Common fields, Common pastures, Common and waste grounds in Wheatley in lieu of their rights and interests in and over a certain forest called Shotover in the said County of Oxford."

This could not be done without the consent of the occupiers, and in the case of church lands the permission of the bishop. A plan was drawn up and public roads and certain private footpaths confirmed. The commissioners directed that "Sufficient and convenient stiles and gates be put up."

The chief allotments were made to Sir James Gardener and the Lord Bishop of Oxford and among others made was one to the Poor of Wheatley. In the case of penalties and fines, half was given to the Chapel Wardens and overseers of Wheatley for the benefit of the poor.

The 19th Century saw many changes. In 1854 Wheatley was formed into a civil parish. In 1857 it was constituted a district under the Public Health Act of 1848 and governed by a Local Board of Health. This board covered in the open brook which had run down the High Street and served as a common sewer, as it continued to do until 1905, when the Thames Conservancies compelled the Urban District Council to undertake a system of drainage and purify the brook. Mr. Gunn of High Street, Wheatley, is among those who still remember the open brook, and he has described, for the W.I. how it ran from Miss Dale's house to Vale Brook Cottage crossed at intervals by stepping stones.

The local Government Act of 1894 established an Urban District Council. The urban district includes an area of 990 acres.

### The First Threshing Machine

The first threshing machine was brought to Farm Close, Wheatley, about 1835, and was quite destroyed, as a protest by the villagers and many people from the surrounding district.

### The Round House

The Round House, which is a picturesque object in Church Road, was only built about 1840, though it has a much older appearance. It is now used for the road-man's tools, but in former days it was a lock-up for refractory prisoners, till it should be convenient to take them to Oxford.

### The Stocks

The stocks are now kept in this building: these were originally fixed in High Street on a piece of waste ground near Mr. Bathard's gates.

### The Pound

The Pound was a walled enclosure for impounding stray cattle. It was at the entrance to Blenheim, and within the last 50 years part of the original wall was still standing.

### The Railway

The railway was opened in 1862. It linked up Oxford with High Wycombe, and so to London. It is only a single line, and the milk traffic has always been as important, if not more important, than the passenger traffic. It has never been noted for speed.

The following lines by Bishop Stubbs (Bishop of Oxford 1889-1901) must have been inspired at Wheatley, which station he used when travelling from Cuddesdon to London.

"How slow is the Great Western train as it crawls up by Wycombe to Town!

It is hard work enough to get up,  
It is harder work still to get down.  
When the milk-cans are fairly on board -  
For a moment I seem to be there,  
But they only are shunting the train,  
And I find that we are where we were."

### The Schools

All the schools date from this century. The present Infants School was built, by the Misses Tyndale of Holton in 1841. It was opened as a dame school, the mistress being Mrs. Hunt. When education was made compulsory, in 1870, the second class-room was built. Rather later than 1841, there was a girl's school in Mrs. Mitchell's house in the high Street. Behind, in the large building called the Mission hall was another school. Here the Wheatley boys were taught with a few who came from Cuddesdon. (Mr. Gunn has told the W.I. how the three Cuddesdon boys, Fisher, Gunn, and Wildgoose always came together - a curious set of names; Mr. Sanders was the last master. The present National School was built in 1858 and has been enlarged twice. In the Mission Hall mentioned above, services were held while the new church was being built between 1855-1857; marriages also took place there.

In 1888 Mrs. Miller of Shotover built the 'Merry Bells' in the High Street. It contains a billiard room and a concert room, besides a hatch and has become the chief social centre of the village.

### 20th Century

One hundred and eighty men from Wheatley served in the Great War. Thirty-six lost their lives and are commemorated by a beautiful cross, designed by Mr. F. E. Howard of Oxford. It is placed in the old churchyard, facing the High Street and is surrounded by a little garden; it is the exact site of the old village pond. It was dedicated on June 12th, 1921 by Bishop Burge (Bishop of Oxford 1919- 1925).

Wheatley has grown rapidly in the last few years, fifty-four houses have been built, since the War, by the Urban District Council, and over twenty by private enterprise. The village has also been linked up with the surrounding villages and towns by frequent services of the Oxford Motor Omnibus Co., and by motor coach with towns as far distant as Cardiff and Liverpool.

Electricity comes to Wheatley, February 14th 1929.  
(See poem by Mrs. Cox)

A Water supply is talked about March 1952.

(See poem by Hrs. Cox)

Electricity comes to Wheatley                      by Mrs. Cox  
How we grumbled, how we growled.  
As around the streets we prowled.  
Dark wet nights and pools of rain  
In we splashed and out again.  
First we talked and then we pleaded  
But the Council heard unheeded.  
Why were lights in Wheatley needed?

People could their 'torches buy,  
What matter if the rates were high,  
Till at last their conscience wakened  
They the job have undertaken  
And behold Electric light  
Did shine forth on Thursday night,  
Come and see! Is it not fine?  
Why! It is St. Valentine!

Rumours        by Mrs. Cox  
It's coming, it's coming, the Water Rate,  
Already I hear the click of the gate.  
And oh, there's joy in the water  
When it brings Wheatley up to date.  
No more on our shoulders we'll &et the hump  
A journeying to and from the pump,  
But from a tap pure water bright,  
Will be ready for us both day and night  
And sure, 'tis only the people's right  
In these days of 1932.  
Too long have we tarried to hear the say  
Of villagers who rather than pay  
Would put up with anything,  
The time has come amends to make  
And it's up to us to undertake  
The ideal English Homes to make  
For Citizens of England.        E.G.C. Nov. 3rd, 1932.

Wheatley was not a separate parish but a chapelry under the mother church of Cuddesdon. We learn from a manuscript preserved at Lincoln, to which diocese Oxfordshire belonged till the Reformation, that in 1523 Wheatley was served by a friar, who celebrated Mass on festivals for a stipend of 40/- paid by the parishioners. (Ecclesiastical History of Wheatley). The chapel which was apparently a small plain building stood between Bell Lane and the High Street.

When Thomas Sims of Denton in the parish of Cuddesdon, died in 1780, he left the residue of his estate to build a new church at Wheatley. This bequest was the cause of a long lawsuit, as the executor died without having carried out the provisions of the will. At last, at the end of 1793, the Lord Chancellor ordered that "the sum of £4,000 parcel of the clear residue of the testator Thomas Sims' personal estate should be set apart and applied towards building a new church at Wheatley, where the chapel then was and towards the future upholding and repairing the same, and towards augmenting the salary of the minister.

The church was to hold 500 persons and upwards and to be built with a tower sufficient for five bells. These five bolls arc now hung in the present church. They were cast by John Bryant, bell-founder of Hertford (a treble bell was added to the peal during Nr. Elton's incumbency; it was cast by Taylor of Loughborough).

In the above quoted Order of the Lord Chancellor, he stated that "he had been informed and believed that there were in the then present chapel sufficient and proper Communion Plate." This plate which is still in use, consists of:

A Chalice and paten dated 1702 A flagon " 1766

A silver paten " 1775

(a second chalice was given in 1850)

(information given principally by the Rev. M. F. Bell, former vicar of Wheatley and Rev. S. J. S. Groves, who was Vicar at the time these notes were written.)

The churchyard was consecrated for burials, which before, had taken place at Cuddesdon, but the Church was not licensed for marriages. Mrs. H. Fowler's grandmother remembered as a child, attending service here. One Sunday a barrel organ could not be stopped and had to be carried out of church and left in the churchyard to finish its tune.

(Mr. Cullum Says that in the second Church a bass-viol and a (sic) were played).

The second church was built in a bad period, and was apparently an unattractive building. On December 17th 1855 a faculty was granted to take down the parish church of Wheatley and to rebuild the same upon a new site" (round headed windows from the church of 1793 are now built into the shop of Messrs. Cullum Bros., at the corner of Bell Lane.

The new church was from the design of Mr. G. J. Street, and was consecrated by Samuel Wilberforce, Lord Bishop of Oxford, on June 10th, 1857. The Reverend E. Elton was then vicar, and the Reverend E. King, afterwards Bishop of Lincoln, had been his curate for three years. Mr. John Chapman of High Street, Wheatley, was a boy in the choir at the time and can still remember the service.

The first minster in connection with the Congregational Church at Wheatley was the Reverend James Hinton, Pastor of New Road, Oxford. In the year 1797 a small room was taken and licensed for the worship of God. The services were conducted by Mr. Hinton and a band of devoted young men belonging to his church, sometimes preaching in the open air and other times in the room. (Congregationalism in Wheatley from an old book preserved in the Congregational Church).

In consequence of the degraded condition of the people, the Sabbath Day was often employed in bull and badger baiting. Mr. Hinton and his helpers were frequently insulted and abused. But, in spite of it all, Mr. Hinton still carried on his good work until his health failed him soon after the year 1802. Thus we see that Mr. Hinton was the one who laid the foundation of Congregationalism in Wheatley. (Contributed by Mr. Caleb Harris).

The present Congregational Church 'was built in 1842-1845 and the first pastor was Mr. Davies of Kingscourt, Gloucestershire. The schoolroom was built in 1892.

The Roads. There are three parallel roads through the village. The lowest in the valley, which is the High Street, was part of the old road from Oxford to London. It continued east down what is now called Muddy Dane, joining the highest of the three roads just west of Wheatley Bridge, by which the two crossed the River Thame. Westwards, the road went through the district of Wheatley called Blenheim, and so over Shotover hill by what is now a third class road on the Ordnance Survey.

The highest of the three roads was the main Worcester to London Road. It is joined at the turning, marked by a signpost to forest Hill and Islip, by a road to Oxford under Shotover hill opened early in the 19th Century. Thus, the climb over Shotover was abandoned, and the new road and Worcester road together became the Oxford to London road via High Wycombe. This road was much improved by widening and straightening and the altering of gradients, in 1925 and 1926 and is now classified as A40.

Coaching Days. In coaching days Wheatley was important as the last stage on the journey

from London to Oxford. Horses were changed here before the ascent of Shotover hill. The coaches could not come down the High Street because of the open brook which flowed through it. They, therefore, turned up, by Friday's Lane to Upper Street, now called Church Road. (The middle one of the three roads through Wheatley). The inns, built on the High Street, had yards opening on to the upper road for convenience of the coaches. The yards of the "White Hart" and the "King and Queen" now form passages connecting the two roads, but the "White Hart" still retains the right of closing the gates on one day of the year.

The "George" inn, further west, is now a private house, but the archway into the yard can plainly be seen, though it is blocked up.

The "Chequers" inn at the corner of Friday's Lane has been turned into a shop. The "Crown Hotel" is on the old main road, east of Friday's Lane. Though the coaches entered the yard from the lower road, the inn had, on the upper road, a house, called till quite recently, "The Tap." Here the drivers, guards, etc., went while the passengers refreshed themselves at the spacious inn below.

The "King's Arms", now at the junction of the London Road and Church Road, was a stage on the journey to and from Worcester.

In the Autumn of 1928, a stage coach ran from Oxford to London and back for a month, passing through Wheatley as in the old days, but on the new road.

Muddy lane was merely used as a "park road" in the late Mr. W. Cullum's days and the coaches from Oxford turned down the lane from the main road opposite Dr Orchard's House - called "Tap road" where there was a drinking trough and pump. The Doctor's House was the "Crown Tap" road for servants. The coaches from London simply entered Church Road and back up Tap Road. (Revived May 1929 - The Tally Ho coach). Wagons came down this road too and Messrs, Cullum Bros., high point shop was built specially high for housing these wagons for repair. The wagons went up and down once a week and used six to eight houses, nine inch wheels. A man rode alongside on a pony with a whip to drive the leaders. Last man who went up from this village was a man named Johnson - who settled here and became a carrier.

According to the Award 1809 there is no indication of Muddy Lane ever having been a main road or that any road but the present main road went over the river. The only place that it would be possible to ford is through the Bridge Hotel garden which is dated many years earlier 1729. Another proof that the present main road has been in existence for well over 100 years, is the fact that the "Kings Arms" (a very old building) has two fronts, so that there must have been a road on both sides of it.

There is a road from the present London Road, crossing- Church Road, and the High Street, which mounts Ladder Hill on the other side of the valley and so goes to Cuddesdon and Garsington. This is the old Hollow Way. The lower part of the road on Ladder Hill (called Blind Hill) was only made when the railway was brought through Wheatley. The road used to go behind Mr. Clarke's new house and there were allotments where the road is now.

Trades and occupations past and present. Stone quarrying. Plot, who wrote a history of Oxfordshire in 1705, remarking on a stone dug at Headington Quarry, states, "of this sort of stone with another stone dug at Wheatley on the Worcester road side as it passes between Holton and James Tyrill's Esq., are all the oldest colleges in Oxford built."

This description seems to refer to the Holton stone pits, not to those in Wheatley, but probably the Wheatley pits were worked at about the same time and for the same purpose.

A little stone has been blasted out of the west end of the big quarry, between the London Road and Church Road, within the last few years, but it is practically worked out. There was another pit where the "Merry Bells" now stands. The stone is coralline oolite, a limestone largely formed of corals and containing belemnites, bivalve shells of many kinds

and spines of echinoderms. ("A Geological walk from Wheatley to Oxford," by E.B. Poulton 1885, reprinted in the Oxford Country.)

Ochre. Ochre was dug out of the Windmill hill till within recent years. It is mentioned by Plot as "being accounted the best of its kind in the world". The pit may still be seen and the mill where it was ground is a conspicuous landmark on the hill. This mill, which is the property of Mr. Ezra Cripps, is well over 100 years old. Corn was ground in it till 1915.

Ironstone. At one time ironstone was dug out of the same hill.

Tanning. Previous to 1842, there was a tanyard at the corner of the village where the Chapel now stands. On the actual site of the Chapel there was a bark barn, and at the top of Mrs. Avery's house, a little further up the street there is a large room where the skins were dried.

Brewing. There were three maltings, one at the back of Mr. Gostick's shop, one behind Mr. Trinder's house, which was once the Bell Inn, and one in Blenheim.

Lime-burning. There is now a lime-kiln at the west end of the village beyond the Pits, or old stone quarry. Mr. Gunn tells us he can remember when there was another kiln where Messrs. Avery's woodyard is.

Brick-making. Bricks were made about 40 years ago on the site of Miss Dale's garden. The clay was soon worked out and the brickyard has been moved to Littleworth, a hamlet of Wheatley on the Horspath road. Here bricks are made in large quantities.

Timber. There are two timber yards adjoining the railway station. There is also a faggot-cutting business which supplies some of the Oxford Colleges. There are today about eight farms and small holdings, and half a dozen market gardens, the latter being principally at Littleworth.

Old Amusements. Wheatley was one of the last villages in England in which bullbaiting took place. It was held on the north side of Westfield Road in the natural arena, bounded by the stone quarry, the rubbish dump and a belt of fir trees. It is still called the "Pit". The late Mrs. William Cullum can remember being carried in her father's arms, as a very small child, to the pit to see the bull. This would be about 1836. Mrs. H. Fowler's grandmother remembered seeing the bull parade round the village with a garland of flowers round its neck. Miss Christian (infants' Schoolmistress 1881-1925) was told that someone recollected that once the bull escaped and all the people ran away.

Cock-fighting. Cock-fighting also continued till late in Wheatley. There is said to have been a cock-pit under a house on the London Road. (Mr Smith's, The Mount). The last man who was known to keep fighting cocks lived in the house next to the Chapel.

Morris Dancing. Morris dancing has now died out. Mr. Alfred Currill who died in 1927 aged nearly 50, was one of the last dancers. The Wheatley Processional was a men's dance peculiar to the village.

A Mummer's Play. The mummer's play died out about the same time as Morris dancing, but the Holton mummers still come round Wheatley at Christmas time.

Hand-bell ringing. The hand-bell ringers came from house to house at Christmas till shortly before the war.

Mayday. Children brought garlands on Mayday till after the War, but have not done so for the last few years.

Old names for Saints' days, etc. St. Swithins is called Apple Christening Day and the belief is

that, if it rains the apples are christened and develop well, but if it does not, they cannot grow properly.

Fig Sunday. Palm Sunday is called Fig Sunday and people make fig puddings in remembrance of the barren fig tree. Miss Christian remembered one family where the children used to have bags of figs or dates given to them on the morning of Palm Sunday.

Old Customs. A ran-tan wedding or rough music was given to people of whom their neighbours disapproved. They were serenaded with tin cans, whistles, fire-irons, etc., after dark.

When Mr. Cullum was a boy he saw one wedding at which the blue bag which held the rice was thrown up in the bride's face. On another occasion a tin of beans was shaken in front of the bridal couple and "Tig-tig" in imitation of pigs was called out.

### The Wheatley Charities

- 1) Westbrooke's Charity.
- 2) The town Meadows Charity
  - a) the bequests and estates belonging to the Charity
  - b) the custom of the candle auction
- 3) Lady Curzon's and Sim's Charity.
- 4) Dr. Cyril Jackson's gift

Extracts from the "Report Concerning Charities, 1824". Chapelry of Wheatley (printed 1825)  
See p.

1 • Westbrooke's Charity. Thomas Westbrooke, by will in 1630, left £15 to the poor of Wheatley. "By inquisition taken under commission of Charitable uses dated June 2nd 1685, it was found that there was given the sum of 15s per annum by Thomas Westbrooke, to the use of the poor of Wheatley, with the payment of per annum, the said Thomas Westbrooke charged his messuage or tenement and close in Horspath and that the same had been paid constantly by the owners of the same at Xmas, yearly: and the commissioners therefore, ordered the same to be paid accordingly, for the use of the poor as there-to-fore.

2. The Town Meadow Charity. In an account of charities belonging to Wheatley, entered in the chapel warden's book in 1802, by the then incumbent, and copied by him from an older book, it is stated, that there were certain estates anciently given to this parish, and after suits judged to belong to it, in the time of James I to be used and employed by the inhabitants, to the use of the poor of the said town, the setting forth of soldiers, and payments of fifteenths for the poor inhabitants.

It is further stated, that the estates consisted of some tenements and small parcels of land, all memory of which was then lost, except of the following:-

Two butts abutting on Howe Lane

Three ditto on Combo Wood

Three ditto in Piegape, then divided into six.

The statement then adds, that the above, except the first, were then called Sims' Butts, and they were all let with the Town Meadow, and were not above two acres together.

The several pieces of land, first above mentioned, are now given up for an allotment adjoining the Town Meadow, containing little more than an acre of arable land.

The Town Meadow (called in the inquisition Fokin's meadow) consists of about five acres of meadow land lying within 200 or 300 yards of the Town meadow and supposed to have been purchased at the same time with it.

Simon's Close rent Charge.

By the inquisition above referred to, it was further found that there was the sum of £5 per annum to be for ever issuing out of a close of Sir Sebastian Smith, in Wheatley, called Simon's Close and that the same was payable by the owners or occupiers of the said close at Christmas and Easter, or within twenty days next after each of the said feasts by equal portions to the use of the said poor.

By an inquisition taken under a commission of charitable uses, dated June 2nd, 1686, it was found, that one Mr. Archdale did theretofore give the sum of £100, the interest and increase whereof was to go to and for the use and benefit of the poor of Wheatley in the county of Oxford, for ever: and that the yearly interest of the same was for several years, bestowed and distributed to and amongst the said poor till such time as one Mr. Powell took the same on his own bond, and kept it in his hands several years without paying any interest for it, so long as the said £100 was increased to £150, and that by a joint charity of many of the chiefest sort of inhabitants of the said town, the same was called in, and made up to £240 and laid out upon a purchase of a meadow in Wheatley aforesaid, called Pokin's meadow, containing about five or six acres, in the possession of one Henry Mont, and Nicholas Blea, in the names of Robert Whorwood, gentleman, Thomas Tims, John Robinson and Edward Pangbourne.

Candle.Auction. The ancient custom of candle auction still exists in Wheatley. This auction is held once in three years to let the Town Meadow which belongs to the parish charity.

The meadow consists of eight acres of land by the river, and this is the procedure of the auction:™ one inch of candle is lit and the highest bidder before it burns out has the land for three years. (One inch of candle is cut off and burnt, the thinnest candle possible is obtained).

The rent is distributed at Christmas to hospitals, and in coal to the poor of Wheatley. The trustees are the Vicar of the parish, the church wardens and three members of the Urban District Council.

The fast candle auction was held on March 25th, 1928, when the highest bid was £10 per year.

3. Lady Curzon's Charity. "Dame Elizabeth Curzon, widow of Sir Thomas Curzon, formerly of Waterperry, about the year 1688, gave £100 to be paid forth upon lands, and the yearly rents and profits to be for ever applied and disposed of for the apprenticing and putting forth and schooling of poor children of the said town of Wheatley."

Mr. Sims of Wheatley gave another £100 which, with Lady Curzon's £100 and the interest, was laid out in 1773 in the purchase of six acres in Chalgrove Field and 2 ½ acres of arable with five pieces of meadow and certain commons at Ford in the parish of Denton.

4. Dr Cyril Jackson's gift. "Dr Cyril Jackson, in his lifetime, gave £100 for the benefit of the poor of Wheatley as Mr. Downes, the then curate, should appoint. Mr. Downes having expressed his desire that the distribution should always be at the discretion of the minister of Wheatley alone. As Dr Jackson had previously done, this stock was transferred into the names of the present Bishop of Oxford, the Reverend Richard Downes and the Reverend Thomas Ellis, three of the trustees of the trustees of Bishop Moss's School."

#### Establishment of Schools

Extracts from the Report Concerning; Charities 1824. (This book belongs to the Parish of Wheatley).

Inscription on the book; To the trustees of the Curzon and Sims Charity the Gift of Mr. Ashurst.



Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed May 26th 1825. (Lent to the N.I, July, 19'29 by the Vicar).

The school founded in pursuance of a codicil to the will of Dr Moss, Bishop of Oxford, dated December 7th, 1811.

Certain premises were purchased and fitted up at the expense of upwards £550. They were conveyed by deed, dated November 17th, 1818 to the present Bishop of Oxford, the Reverend Richard Downes, the Reverend Thomas Lee and the Reverend Thomas Ellis in trust. The buildings on the purchased premises were partly newly erected and partly altered, so as to form two schoolrooms sufficient to accommodate 55 girls and 95 boys on the national, system together with a dwelling house for the master and mistress.

The sum of £1500 at 3% consols was transferred into the names of the same trustees as a perpetual endowment for the school. The annual expense of the establishment was between £90 and £100 and the expenditure was supplied partly by subscription of the neighbouring gentry and the inhabitants, and partly by a small payment made by every child received into the school.

A master and mistress were appointed in 1819. They receive a salary of £40 a year and certain further weekly payments which are not to exceed £55 a year. They live in the schoolhouse and are bound to receive such of the children of Wheatley, Cuddesdon, Denton, Chippenhurst and the neighbouring villages as shall be sent to them by the trustees.

The Children are taught reading, writing and arithmetic and the girls in addition, needlework. The children are supplied with books, stationery and Bibles and the school is in connection with the Central School."

Old Names. Blenheim - a name given to a district entirely composed of cottage property. Similar districts are called Blenheim in the neighbouring villages of Horspath and Cuddesdon, probably a satirical allusion to Blenheim Palace.

The Racks. The Racks allotments - probably where cloth was hung on racks to dry.

The Manor House. On the front of the Manor House are the letters "T.A." These stand for Thomas Archdale who owned the Manor in 1601. In olden days if the owner of the Manor had no writings etc., definitely showing his right to possession a case was made. Someone was paid to dispute the claim and the case was taken over to court. Thomas Archdale made a case and it was heard before the famous Thomas Walsingham, of Queen Elizabeth's time. When the owner's claim was established the parchment (which was the equivalent of modern writings) was divided into three parts. The owner and the disputant each had 1/3 and the bottom 1/3-, called the "foot" was kept by the court and placed in the Exchequer, and now in the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane. These are known as the "Feet of Fines".

Note given by Mr. A. Cullum, August, 1929

When the railway was made the line cut through the old strip fields running from the village up towards the Howe. The upper parts of the strips were too small to be of use, so they were thrown into one rectangular field. The field above the railway, used for grazing by Mr. Cullum, is thus formed by the upper part of three strips, Simon's Close, Chapman's Close, and one other. The lino of the old hedges can still be seen.. Mr. Cullum pays £5 per annum rent charge to the church charities for this field under the bequest of Sir Sebastian Smith. (See page 10).

The field between Farthing's orchard and Hiss Barnes' was a strip field. "Long Close," a narrow field lay by Mr. Hunt's farm.

Customs.. May 29th. As recently as fifteen years ago it was the custom on May 29th, "Oak Apple Day" of the school children to wear a sprig of oak. Special value was attached to a

piece with an oak apple, if you hadn't a piece anyone who could stepped on your toe. In Mr. Cullum's time boys carried a piece of oak with which they struck people, calling out "Shig-Shag."

It is considered unlucky by many people in Wheatley Lo take may or hawthorn into the hone.

It is general belief that snakes only die at sunset.

The people, who live in the house where the martins build, will never be in want.