

UNATTRIBUTED CHEDISTON HISTORY NOTES CIRCA 1970

In the late 20's my husband often spent his holidays in Suffolk coastal resorts, later we both worked in Suffolk, and often visited the coastal areas at week- ends. We left Suffolk early in 1939, on visiting the area once again in the 1960's found there had been little change and thought it would be nice to live in Suffolk after our retirement.

The estate agents description of our bungalow was, "overlooking the village green", we came to inspect this and liked it, also the very nice view overlooking open fields and grazing meadows, but no sign of the village green. We took possession of the property in autumn 1968, but did not take up permanent residence until summer 1970. After getting ourselves sorted out the village green still niggled, no one could tell us why or when it disappeared. This led us to do a bit of delving into local history at the record office in Ipswich, and of course one thing leads to another, our bungalow is built on "Little Common Meadow" a part of what was the village green. The Green is shown on the ordnance survey map of 1880. The following are some snippets from our notes as a result of our research, which I thought might be of interest.

CHEDISTON PAST

Our name: according to Norfolk Author George Ewart Evans ("The Patters under the Plough p.133"), the absence of indigenous rock in East Anglia has also invested with special interest those boulder stones that have been exposed. One of these has given its name to a villages in Suffolk – Chediston – from old English Ceddes Stan or Cedd's Stone. Known as the Rockstone. It is in the garden of Rockstone Lodge.

Our Parish comprises 2492 acres, population 350 – 433 over the period 1800 – 1900. The Parochial school was attended by about 30 children in 1871, 39 in 1900 maintained by fees and subscriptions. Around 1900 the chief crops were wheat, barley, beans, turnips and mangold-wurtzel, with some pasture.

OUR VICARS

Records commence with Thomas de Chotesham instituted 1299 under the patronage of the Prior and Convent of Pentney in Norfolk.

SOME NOTABLE EVENTS

1575 Almshouses for five persons provided by Henry Claxton together with adjacent Land.

1627 Death of Alderman Henry Smith, a prosperous London Merchant. His will directed That the poor and aged of 209 parishes (of which ours is one) should receive an annual gift of food and clothing, But specifically excluding "any persons given to excessive drinking, whoremongers, common swears, pilferers or otherwise

Those whose servants they have been, or any vagrants or such as should not have inhabited the parish for 5 years or being able, should refuse work.

1722 Indenture in consideration of the sum of £10,000 for the purchase of estate.... all those manors of Norton Bavents Chediston alias Wrights known by of Cheston Hall and Cheston Hall farms of 160 acres etc.

1829 Resolved that Parish Officer be instructed to lay information against all persons who shall suffer upon their premises any raffle, lottery or game. Also, no parochial allowance to be given to any person absent from his or their home after hour of 9 o'clock in the evening unless they come forward voluntary and account for such absence.

1832 Claxton Almshouses rebuilt, one of these was still occupied in 1968. This was condemned after the 1968 floods and the lone occupant had to move. It was sold in 1973 for £6,000. A modern bungalow has been erected on the site in the style of the 1832 building.

1858 An organ having been offered to the parish by the Rev. Smart, it was resolved that the same be accepted and placed in the church, to be maintained by voluntary contributions.

1917 A sale at Angel (Halesworth) of outlying farms of Chediston Hall estate:

Paradise Farm	£650	55 acres to W.H.F.Hurren.
Ash Farm	£1000.	to R.J.Tyrell
Winter's Farm	£1000	to E Harper
Grove Farm	£1335	to C. Hurren

1919 Sale at Angel (Halesworth) of the Chediston wind and steam mill with dwelling house etc. to Mr. C.E.Ingate £375 comprising 1 acre 19 pole.
Hill Farm of 84 acres fetched £1050 and Rockstone Manor Farm of 168 acres £1950.

Things are not what they seem.

A conspicuous horizontal atone slab near the south porch of Chediston Church records members of the Bareley family from 1681 onwards and would appear at first sight to be the oldest memorial stone in our churchyard. However, in 1830 there were several headstones to the Badeleys including William Badeley died 1734 and his wife Sarah died 1739. These headstones no longer remain; either Joseph Badeley or his son who were Rectors of Halesworth – with – Chediston from 1835 to 1850, wishing to commemorate their ancestors by a imposing monument, removed all the family headstone and with them paved the cellar of

Halesworth Rectory. In place of these headstones he put within iron rails a large flat slab of stone bearing inscriptions for 11 members of the family.

Extract from editorial in E.A.D.T. Sept 1969.

“ The Haywains have gone, and so have the forges and the millers, but the countryside of Suffolk in many areas remains much the same as recorded by Constable, Corbett, Crabbe and Bloomfield,

It is indeed a fortunate county and one that deserves to be cared for.”

As I sit writing this on a very lovely spring morning with the view from my window I too think it will be, so that future generations may enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our countryside especially our village.
