

## The Village of Pewsey

1. A good place to start our walk is by the bridge, in the small space by the willow tree. A few thousand years ago this would have been part of an island formed by branches of the River Avon coming down the Vale from the north and east. The surrounding area would have been marshy and liable to flooding. The Saxon name – *Pefisigge* - means Pev's island or shore. The earliest settlements, avoiding the floods, were up on the Downs. You can see the remains of a Bronze Age camp at Martinsell on the edge of the Marlborough Downs. The remains of other settlements have been found on Pewsey Hill.

King Alfred owned much of the land in the Pewsey area. Legend has it that when he went off to war he left his wife in Pewsey. He promised to celebrate with a feast if he returned victorious: this is the origin of the Feaste and Carnival held every year in Pewsey in September. His statue here was unveiled on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1913 to commemorate the coronation of George V.

The Domesday Book mentions 7 mills in Pewsey.



### The Centre of Old Pewsey, and the Statue of King Alfred

One of them would have stood just upstream of the bridge. As successive millers improved their mills they diverted the north stream - which you can see coming through a culvert by the willow tree - and

strengthened the bank downstream to accommodate the millrace and create the ford beside you.

In summertime carts, horses and cattle would happily splash through the ford but, without a bridge, there would have been little through traffic during autumn rains and winter snow. Those who had to travel probably went down Ball road and found their way along the field tracks to Woodbridge to cross the river there. Tracks would have led from the fields to the village farmsteads and to the church and mills. The road from Marlborough to Salisbury bypassed the village to the west. The High street came down to the mill beside a small brook and then I think turned in front of what is now System Smart and crossed the river further down.

There were several footbridges over the river,



### The River Avon and the old Ford, Pewsey, 1929

one probably where we are now, crossing from Bridge cottages (17<sup>th</sup> century), which you can see just over the river and linking with an Inn - possibly the Phoenix – which was said to be here in 1538. Other lanes came down to the mills from beyond the Church to the south and from Wilcot to the north.

It was the Reverent Joseph Townsend, the talented Rector of Pewsey, who sometime about 1790 decided that a bridge would make a fine addition to Pewsey. This was partly to give access to land where ‘low life used to congregate’ but also because he had heard the canal was coming. He

hoped the provision of a good bridge and improvements to North Street and High street would allow Pewsey to benefit from trade on the canal. We have maps drawn by Andrews and Dury for the canal builders of the centre of Pewsey at that time. Rev. Townsend was obviously successful in raising funds for in the Gentleman's magazine of 1797 there was a report that, "a bridge has been built by public subscription in the centre of Pewsey giving people access to a marshy ground on the other side of the river, the waters whereof having for so many years proved so fatal to cattle as well as almost a total obstruction to travellers." The town miller objected



**Rev. Townsend's 1796 Bridge, with the Army watering their horses.**

to the bridge. He vigorously flushed the millstream down river endeavouring (unsuccessfully) to wash away the brickwork. The ford was still used in my

grandfather's time. In summer time he and other farmers would drive their carts back and forth through the ford to clean the wheels and expand the wood tight against the metal tyres but in winter the wheels were washed by the rain!

Looking across the road you can see Phoenix Row, which has a date on it of 1823. It was built as the Parish Poor house. It couldn't have been the Parish Poor house for long because in 1837 the Poor Law came into operation. This combined Pewsey Union with another 23 parishes, which then built the workhouse on the Wilcot Road.

2. Leaving this corner, (a prison lockup once stood here), cross the bridge towards the High Street. The Police station used to be in the premises now occupied by Merrimans. Look over the bridge on that side to see the remains of the millrace. The mill and miller's house were where the Floral Fayre and Maclaines now are. Down the side road you can just see the Heritage Centre which is well worth a visit (It's free).

On the other side where System Smart is now was Miss Heck's sweet shop. When I was a small boy I used to go in there with my sweet ration card and get my sixpennorth of sweets. It was once Mr Marshall's Hygienic Steam Bakery. I think the road turned there before the bridge was built and went behind the cottages. You can see how the shop faces the bridge, supporting this view

Where the comparatively new block of flats is there was once a cottage, which was demolished to make way for the Rex cinema. This later became the Copydex glue factory, which in turn was pulled down to make way for the flats!

The first building on the left in the High street used to be Jack Fellowes' ironmonger's shop. You can see his name still on the wall. On the other side of the road, where Oddjobs is, was his store room; in those days Fellowes had every conceivable piece of kit that you could possibly want stashed away in one or the other of their sheds or attics.

The clock shop used to be my mother's milk bar, selling soft drinks and milk shakes. We have the sign



## Fel Iows' Shop, High Street, Pewsey

for it in the Heritage centre, which we found some time ago in our shed. Fortunately it still works. I lived in the flat above the milk bar until 1946. I can remember just two things from the war when we were living there: one was to come out one day to find a tank transporter parked outside which went from the clock shop right the way up to the chemist. And the other was when my cousin Jessie brought her husband to see my mother. She had married an American serviceman who had a uniform, which was not only a different colour to everybody else but also had his name on it - something British soldiers didn't have.

Back on the left-hand side the next shop used to be Harold Amor's tailor's shop. I would be sent over by my grandfather when he wanted his suits mended to Mr Amor, who sat in his room upstairs completely surrounded by suits and clothes

Next door, the house with the blue door, is the home of Gladys Jones. As far as I know the Jones family is the only family in Pewsey who have lived in the same house for the whole of the last century. Gladys' grandfather came here when he retired from the Wiltshire Regiment in about 1890 and Gladys still lives there now.

Next door was a teashop and next, the house with the big window, was Mrs Townsend's house. Beatty Townsend lived there all her life with her husband Vick. She gave me his bell which I ring at

Carnival in memory of him. Mrs Townsend was a funny old lady- she had no teeth. She told me once that she had taken all her teeth out herself because she'd never been to the dentist, she seemed to think it was an achievement and I suppose it saved her a bob or two.

The chemist's shop opposite, Moss's Pharmacy was, when I was a small boy, Arthur Phillips's paper shop. It had been in Victorian times a draper's shop - McAteer and Parsons. In the photograph you can see a small boy standing outside



### High Street, Pewsey, I looking West.

it wearing a skirt and clogs obviously shouting up to somebody at the top of one of the houses.

Martin's, the present newsagent, was the chemist's shop. In the 1950s or 60s the owner of the chemist's shop bought the paper shop and switched the two premises around. We have some interesting old books from the chemist's shop. You can analyse from them exactly what the patients were suffering from since each one of their medicines was mixed up in the back of the shop. We had the ledger on show once and a gentleman from the chemist's shop said "Oh look at that. Do you know what that is?" and I said "No" expecting something quite colourful and he said, "Toothpaste!"

The premises just before Sedgewicks' Printers on the left once housed St Francis' school which is

now up near the canal – the playground was round the back where the carpark is now.

When I was a small boy Sedgewick's shop was Whitbread's saddler's shop. A man who worked with him called Saddler Stag was the only member of the Home Guard who had a wound stripe, which he was given because he cut himself sharpening his bayonet! Mr Whitbread had a workshop across the yard and up the steps. He was also a motor leather trimmer. At that time you couldn't buy purpose built motor seats; the seats were made in leather and the motor leather trimmer repaired them in the village. He worked in close co-operation with the Lampards who used to make their own buses.

Caroline Dalrymple's shop was originally part of Waylen's Stores. The Waylens married into a family called Winter who had had the shop in Pewsey since the civil war. Local rumour has it that the Winters were related to the Winters brothers who were executed in the Guy Fawkes plot. However when they came here they became prominent members of the local church whereas those involved in the Guy Fawkes plot were Catholics; but anyway that is the story. The name Winter appears in Pewsey in Churchwardens' records and in place names and has done for hundreds of years. The left-hand side of the shop was Waylen's furniture shop. Later the right hand side became the Ministry of Labour run by Hector Ward who was the civil servant in charge and one of the most powerful man in Pewsey at that time.

Lloyd's bank on the other side was originally the Wilts and Dorset Banking Company. There were two banks in Pewsey – the Wilts and Dorset Banking Company and the Capital and Counties Bank. I guess it was constructed in about 1870 but we have little information on that - I'd very much like to know more about it. The house on the other side of the entrance to the bank is of the Queen Anne period. It was the doctor's house in Pewsey for many years

The little arcade is the other part of Waylens, their grocery shop. It had a large central area with counters around the left and right hand side in a sort

of a horseshoe. Right at the end, sitting in a glass box, was Dorothy Absalom who used to take the money. I would come down here with my mother's order book, fill it in, pay the bill to Dorothy for last week's groceries and *leave* the book at the counter. Charlie Strong would later deliver the box of groceries to the farmhouse.

3. The big house with the very fancy patterned tiled roof is called the Chantry. It's a nice piece of Victoriana. I'm glad that when they had it re-roofed they went to the trouble of matching up the coloured tiles. It was supposedly built for the church but never used, which is why the name the Chantry appears.



Chantry House, showing roof details

On the other side of the road the Pewsey gallery was Farmer Jeeves' butcher shop. Look for

the gully by the side of the house which goes down into the drain. Various older members of Pewsey told me that when they were little they knew when animals were being slaughtered because they'd see the blood pouring down there and into the drain. This was an object of great excitement for small boys in those days.

What is now the Moonrakers was the King's Arms. It once belonged to my grandfather. During the First World War it was the Warrant Officer's and Sergeant's mess for the Lord Strathcona's Horse, Royal Canadian Cavalry Regiment. They were billeted here in Pewsey when their camp at Enford was flooded out. They kept some of their horses in the stables behind what is now Lloyds Bank. One sad story from that time was the fact that while they were there my Aunt Carrie, who was then fourteen and very beautiful, contracted meningitis. My grandmother wouldn't let her go to Tidworth general hospital because it was full of soldiers. She stayed here in the house and subsequently died. My grandfather had the street outside covered with straw so that the noise of the carts going up and down the road wouldn't disturb her too much.

The little house next to the Moonrakers was the Goddard brothers' cycle shop. The Goddard brothers were famous in Pewsey for their cycles. One of the Goddards saw decorated cycles being used in a fete in France and suggested that a procession of decorated cycles might form the first procession of Pewsey Carnival to raise money for Savernake Hospital. Next to the shop was the home of other members of the Goddard family. It has been described as Bisley House because one of the family was a champion shot, but it was also called the Manse because, before the Goddards had it, it was the home of the preacher of the Primitive Methodists. At the back of the house was the Primitive Methodist Mission hall.

The little track here is called Brunkards Lane. I always thought this was a corruption of Drunkards lane, but when I was looking at the tithe maps recently I noticed there is a field called Brunkards,

which is right over by the canal. Possibly Brunkard was a local family name.

On the other side of the road was originally Walton's Draper shop. My great grandfather Sam Edwards built the light brick house immediately behind there when he retired and had a shop built which he let out. It remained as a shop until the 1960's when it was demolished and used as a car park before the new houses went up. There was also a little coal yard there where my grandfather Bill Plank started off a coal business. My uncle, Guthrie Plank, subsequently built it up and ran until it was nationalised. Somewhere on that site there was supposed to have been another non-conformist chapel, I suppose the forerunner of the Primitive Methodist Mission Hall.

The three red brick terrace houses on the left-hand side are said to have been built on the site of an Inn in Pewsey that burned down. There were a large number of Inns - beer and cider houses rather than Inns - in Pewsey. In fact there were so many that a petition was sent to the county licensing authorities saying that some of them should be closed down.

The little group of cottages opposite going up the High Street is known as Waterloo Terrace. I suppose they're early Victorian, late Georgian, so they could be contemporary with Waterloo. One of the reasons they're up high is because underneath the pavement where we're walking now is the stream that flows down the side of the road and comes out into the market place. That would have been an open stream till about Georgian Times and basically used as a very useful (and smelly) drain! It ran all the way down the south side of the High street. If you stand over the manhole covers you can hear the water running now.

4. A little further up the High Street on the left is The Willows. This was probably a farmhouse that was built around a square. If you look at the side wall of the house that butts on to the road you can see where there were other windows and extra bits added on. At the back of the house you can see a hatchway which is level with what would have been

a field. I suspect that you could load the hay straight from field level and then dispense it to the animals underneath. The wall that's behind there which goes right the way on up around the back is interesting, its very, very old and it's one of the few walls around here that is Wiltshire hatted and bootied - hatted with thatch and bootied with sarsen stone.

**5.** This is Ball corner. The plinth post here stood in the market place until 1913 when Alfred took its place. The light on top is the old standard that was originally a gas lamp. Pewsey had a gas company in 1865 but it went bankrupt later because nobody wanted that newfangled stuff in their houses! Here's where the road from Burbage used to turn down Ball road and go towards Newton. Near here the spring rises that formed the stream down the High Street. It was capped in 1904.

**6.** The big house to the left, Ball House, was a farmhouse and its farm, which you can trace quite easily on the tithe map, went all the way down where the bungalows are and to the end of the old wall.

**7.** The black and cream timbered cottage, which is standing in front of us, is the oldest house in Pewsey, parts of it dating back to the fourteenth century. It has a double cruck construction; you can see the huge beam on a base of sarsen stones with a wattle and daub infill. In those early times we think it was a farmhouse and the part that we can see now – on the left-hand side – was the parlour of the house. It's probably one of the architectural gems of the Pewsey Vale. A number of people have visited it and been up in the roof to see the amazing way that the timbers were utilised in a property of this type. It was for a many years the home of the Hiscock family, Rose Hiscock still lives in the adjoining property, which dates from the sixteenth century. The rest of the row is a little more recent.

**8.** Looking over to the road on your left up the rise, the little cottages over near the entrance to Hollybush Lane were the home of the Lovelock family and the Noyes family. The Lovelock family who lived on the left-hand side were Pewsey's wheelwrights. They used to make their wheels in the



## Ball I Cottage, Pewsey's oldest house

workshop and then take them over to the blacksmith's shop behind us in Ball road, where there was a large metal plate on the ground until not long ago. The wheels would be put on the plate then a metal rim would be put round the wheels and shrunk into place. Finally the wheels would be soaked so that the wood would expand hard against the metal rim and keep the wheels firm. (WalkA)

St John's Close, on your right, was originally Etwell's sawmills. There was a large logging and sawmills industry here until about 1950, which I guess was fuelled by timber from the forest, some of which was brought down by canal boats. One of the most unusual things about the sawmills was that it provided the first home in Pewsey after the war for Mr Desmond Longcrane. When he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese in Malaya he discovered that you could, in the absence of having needles and thread, stick your clothes together with a rubber solution from the local rubber trees. He experimented with liquid rubber and various forms of adhesion. His preliminary work here led to the opening his Copydex factory. This employed many

people in Pewsey and was in operation till the middle of the 1970's.

**9.** We'll continue now up the Milton road, which is a slight rise in front of us until we get to the white thatched farm house on the right hand side about a hundred yards up. This is Ball farmhouse which I'm very attached to because this was my family home. My grandfather bought it in 1919 when he retired from the King's Arms. He had a dairy business which was based in the farm behind. If you want some idea of how the agricultural industry in this village has changed, my grandfather had 52 acres and he employed 17 people. He had 3 full time milkers, 2 dairymaids and a number of milk roundsmen. I remember going out of that gate with the roundsman on his pony and trap and the excitement when Frank Barnes, who was the foreman, came with a horse-drawn wagon that had a seat in the front which was covered over for the driver to sit in! That was progress in the late 1940s.

The house itself was originally a redbrick double fronted cottage - the back has been added on. As you look at the side of the back you can see the house is built on sarsen stones but the back extension was just built along the top of garden wall! The header bricks for that you can see in the side of the house. The house was subsequently extended but even so the original cottage and the whole farm itself was a very sizeable property. If you look at it on the tithe map you can see that it was built as a farm around a complete yard. In the fields behind you can see mounds which have no relation whatsoever to the strata of the ground. I suspect if you put a bulldozer through them you'd find the walls of the building, probably 3 or 4 feet thick. On the tithe map you can judge that there is an enormous barn parallel to the road about 50 yards back that went right the way across the top of the field.

**10.** Returning from the farmhouse we come to a new development on the left-hand side - farm buildings which have been renovated into a very nice group of cottages. The horse weathervane on the top of the roof was the trade sign of Mr Bence, the

horsedealer, who in Victorian times and the early part of last century had this as his dealing yard. I'm sorry to say that as a small boy I used to fire airgun rifle pellets at the tail and make it spin round. I think you can see the odd mark up there still.

11. We're now back in Ball road. One of the little cottages I like is No2, Mrs Whiteman's cottage, which was originally the sweet shop. One lady told me that when she was a little girl she used to go by there and each Wednesday the old ladies who kept the sweet shop would make a tray of pink cakes for the children in the workhouse. She was envious because she didn't have cakes that often.

On the back of the cottage is a little lean-to, which was originally the office of Fitzherbert Lye, the auctioneer. When I was a small boy I was sent down by my grandfather to the Phoenix to discover



### Ball Road, Pewsey - 1929

if a row of cottages that he had for sale in Knowle had fetched a £100 each. My grandfather was most distressed to find that although they had fetched £100 each they'd been bought by another farmer called Abraham Pocock! All my grandfather could say was", What's he bought them for, what's he bought them for?"

Farther along Ball Road was the blacksmith's shop and forge, which has now been converted into a bungalow. On the bank outside was the big metal rim on which they placed the wheels before the

blacksmith put the metal rim round the edge. I can just remember, I suppose it would be about 1948, Mr Randall shoeing horses in there.

12. In front of us as we walk along here now is the Somerset farm. In old documents this is spelt Summersett and it is said that the Summersetts who used that spelling were the illegitimate descendants of the Somerset family who owned most of Pewsey in Tudor times. We have a strange situation in Wiltshire in that the Dukes of Somerset are Seymours; but the Dukes of Beaufort have the family name Somerset. If the story has any truth I suspect their strange version of the name Summersett comes from the Somerset title that the Seymours have.

The little house on the end, Little Thatch, was originally John King's cooper shop. A



## Somerset Farm, and Little Thatch

community like Pewsey would have had a cooperage which would have made barrels, not just for beer but for storing all sorts of liquids and salt and things like that. I guess it was connected with the Coopers Arms which I think the Kings also had at one stage.

Where the two bungalows are now on your left there was a big tithe barn that belonged to my grandfather. Later Rex White had his builder's yard there and his carpenter's shop in the tithe barn.

**13.** We've been walking along Ball Road but now turn right up the road to Easterton Lane. Easterton Lane (formerly Chapel Lane) is one of several lanes that run through Pewsey. Tradition has it that they connected the community with the various churches. Some time ago when we were examining old documents about the church, we noticed that the rector of the day asked if the path from the Domestic Science Room to the church could be diverted and the Church would accept responsibility for its upkeep. Whether these tracks had a role in providing people with access to the various religious houses in Pewsey or not I don't know, but it does seem that's the way they ended up.

Turn left along Easterton Lane keeping the football ground on your right. On the old Victorian Ordinance Survey maps it's listed as the cricket ground. We had a very posh cricket team. We have a photograph of them about to leave to go on tour to Devon. Pewsey had a football team in those days but I don't know where it played. In later years it played at Swan Meadow. In addition to the football pitch, there were children's' allotments here.

Every boy at Pewsey school had an allotment patch and belonged to a gardening class. We have several photographs of gardening classes from before the 1st World War right up to one that was taken in the 1930s.

**14.** As you reach the corner, before turning right, divert to the single story brick building just to your left which was the Church Mission Room (1878) and was later used as a Domestic Science Room for the girls whilst the boys were gardening.

Back on the path continue past the old Senior School, which has been converted into houses. When the path branches into three take the central path through the trees. The Old Rectory can just be seen on your right.

**15.** The Old Rectory house was probably built for Rector John Thorpe in about 1710. It became the headquarters of Pewsey rural district council and is now the home of the Barnabus Foundation. It had the first swimming pool in Pewsey which was



**Boys from Pewsey School at their  
gardening class**

in the gardens, a pretty crude place but, nevertheless, a swimming pool. When I was a small boy it had recently been the home of Colonel Bell, who lived there in the early part of the century. He was related to Vanessa Bell, the artist. I think she married his brother and it would be interesting to know whether she and any of the Bloomsbury set ever came to the old rectory. I know that whole families used to work for the Colonel and had done so for years. It is a beautiful old building but it's a bit rambling. When the church owned it, all the ground around here was part of the rectory gardens. I can just remember when there was a pump by the side of the gate as you came in from the bridge, which pumped water,



**The Old Rectory, Pewsey**

maybe into the swimming pool, but certainly into a big lily pond then through a series of streams and little ponds back into the river. One of these was quite a big pond, a small lake, and you can just trace the outline of it now.

**16.** We've come now around by the river to the little bridge that goes across to the Old Rectory, a nice quiet part of Pewsey. Cross the bridge and on the right hand side is the old village school now converted into a group of dwellings. It has a very interesting architectural style - it is supposed to be by Butterfield who was a well-known Victorian architect. When I was a boy this was the little school where the small children went before they were old enough to go up the lane to the school by the side of the football pitch, known as the Big school. Old Pewsey residents tell me that they used to time their going to school either by Colony hooter (at the Pewsey Hospital) or the hooter on the top of Whatleys. They knew that if they were the other side of the bridge by the time the hooter went they would



### The Old Village School , Pewsey

get to school in time, but if they were this side of the bridge they would have to run.

Up the road in front of us on the left hand side where the Professional Woodworkers is, was Lampard's garage. Lampards had two garages, one

in River Street and one in North Street.

Further along, the black and white half timbered house which I think is William and Mary, was known as Courthouse and was probably an earlier Rectory.

We'll turn right, back to the centre of the village now but if you wish you can continue up to the Church on the left which was built, originally by Saxons, well away from the possible flooding of the river. You will find a separate guidebook available there.

17. Coming back down River Street, next to the school is Avon House. It used to be called Cordova house and was the home of a man called Alec Bryden who was the local bookie. He had been married to my grandmother's sister and was supposed to have come here as the ganger on the railway when it was being widened. He met and married my great aunt. Alec's father was the only man to escape from Kabul after the massacre of the British army by the Afghans. He was depicted in a famous painting by Lady Butler, a classic piece of



Church of St John the Baptist, Pewsey

Victorian art.

Victoria House, which is next to it, was for a

long time the Apothecary's shop. On the register of 1881 one of my grandfather's sisters is listed as living there as an assistant in the shop.

On the other side of the road used to be Howse and Milllichamp's baker shop with the bakery in the back. We have a photograph of the baker's cart outside on the other side of the road waiting to deliver bread to the houses on Pewsey Hill.

When I was a small boy Finishing Touches and the hairdresser's shop next to it was the Co-op. The Co-op had a draper's shop here and a grocer's shop in North Street. Later they all combined. Older people know this as the Hassell's Drapers store. Upstairs the Misses Hassell had their original school for the children of the gentry.

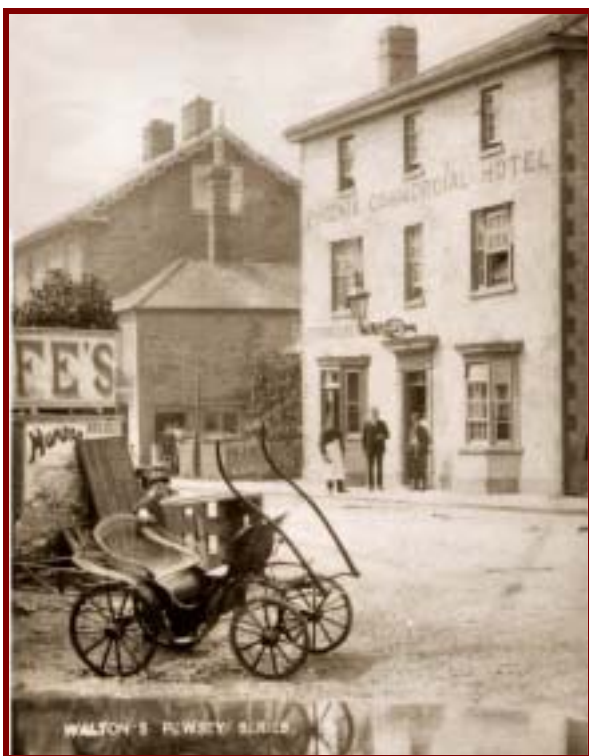
On the other side of the road, where there are now new houses, was a magnificent Carolian building, which was the original Phoenix Inn. Its out buildings stretched all the way down from where the new houses are to the side of Virginia Lodge. It had stabling for horses and it had, in what later became the original Bouverie hall, its own sample Corn Market which used to take place there every week.

I don't know when the new Phoenix on this side of the road was built .It has recently been converted into a block of flats and houses have been built in the old yard. Its actually quite a fine building and the conversion, seems to be a very nice job.

**18.** Now we're back into the market place which was," the marshy area in the centre of Pewsey where low life used to congregate" and which was considered almost inaccessible in the winter before the bridge was built.

The first property, Change Gear, was Sam Willis' barber's saloon.

The next shop to it, which is at present the Pine and Toy shop, was the Saunder's family shop. When I was young this was kept by Mr Whittle who married one of the Saunder's daughters. The Saunders family had a number of daughters who were very attractive and were part of my grandmother's dancing troupe. I used to come in here because there was a sweet shop on the left-hand



## The original Phoenix Hotel

side of the building, which interested me far more than Mr Whittle selling greengroceries on right.

The double fronted white shop was the earliest Post Office in Pewsey that I've been able to trace, kept originally by the Misses Fisher.

There must have been some form of posting office in Pewsey before that because I have a letter signed by the Rev Townsend from the late 1700s with the Pewsey frank. The shop later belonged to the King family who were builders and undertakers. The door on the right hand side of the property is slightly wider than a door would normally be. It is supposed to have been built so that a coffin could be carried through lengthways without having to tilt it or its contents

The big building, London House, which is

now divided up into three or four properties used to be owned by the Nicol's family as Pewsey's departmental store. The first big property, which is now the video shop, was the furniture store and then



The Market Place, Pewsey, at the end of the 19th century

there was the shoe shop, the draper's store and men's outfitters. The middle part of the shop was one of those wonderful shops where you could get



Pewsey's first Post Office

anything – all sorts of things that people complain

that you can't get in Pewsey today. It was all connected up at the back so you could go from one to the other. Originally the first part of the property was the New England Coffee Tavern and the end property was a school. The Nicol family bought the two middle pieces in 1905 and later extended out and made it all into one shop. One of my big treats as a little boy was to come down here at Christmas because they always had a wonderful toy display with trains run by Bob Nicol.

The Dragon Inn used to be Miss King's wool shop.

Wootons was Lampard's Avondale Garage founded by Howard Lampard in 1912, which had the first hand operated petrol pumps in Pewsey. In the back of the Avondale Garage the Lampards used to make everything, even their own busses. They made my grandfather's first bus on a Model T Ford lorry chassis.

Earlier, the whole of this row right up to the long cottage, belonged to the King family. There was a big thatched double fronted cottage that faced on to the road about where the Dragon Inn is and then there were two cottages. They were originally King's saddler shop and house. The site of the present Post Office was all part of King's shop.

**19.** The Wesleyan Chapel, which is on the other side of the road from the Post office, is the last of the



North Street, the Marlborough Road

Non-Conformist religious houses that is left in Pewsey. There were once Zion Baptists, Primitive Methodist and general Baptists but today all that is left is the Wesleyan Methodist, I'm glad to say it still has a faithful little following.

Next to the Wesleyan Chapel is the Greyhound Inn, formerly owned by my great uncle, Alfred Reynolds, who was a famous greyhound trainer. He won the Waterloo Cup and a number of other big greyhound races. The previous landlord of the Greyhound had a picture of his son, Lesley Reynolds, with his four greyhound Derby winners all in a row besides him. He also had a photograph of Great Uncle Alfred leaving the gates of the Greyhound to cycle to London and back within 24 hours on a penny farthing bicycle. He completed this in 18 hours for a wager of £5. When you consider the state of the roads in those days I bet he was sore when he got home!

Farther up on the left, Head and Robbins was the butcher's shop, Siney Brothers and Shepherd. They were great characters in Pewsey. We have photographs of their Christmas display with whole bullocks and goodness knows what hanging up. I suppose the public health inspectors today would go



**The Greyhound Inn, once the sporting centre of Pewsey**

potty but the old chaps told me it never hurt no one!

One of the highlights of Pewsey in the twenties was the pushball game, a dangerous game involving a ball about 6ft high, which had an ability to send you flying through the air if you hit it at the wrong place. The butchers always had their own pushball team and I guess from the number of the people in it, it was probably sponsored by Siney Brothers and Shepherd.

Next is the Royal Oak, which used to be the home of the Foresters who were a friendly society. The hall by the side of the Royal Oak has the Foresters Logo in it and is now incorporated into the



### Siney Brothers and Shepherd, Butchers of quality

Oak itself. The Oak used to belong to my great-grandfather Samuel Edwards. He had a tailor's shop in what is now the big bar at the front. When I was young there were three or four bars, all different, probably one that ladies could go in and one that ladies were advised not to go in, as most pubs had in those days.

**20.** Before crossing the road look ahead to another red brick farmhouse on the other side of the roundabout. This was Inlands Farm, one of 13 farms in Pewsey parish with a milking herd. The last milking herd in Pewsey was sold just a few years ago. The old road going up left to Wilcot can just be

seen. Cross the road carefully.

The house with the large porch next to

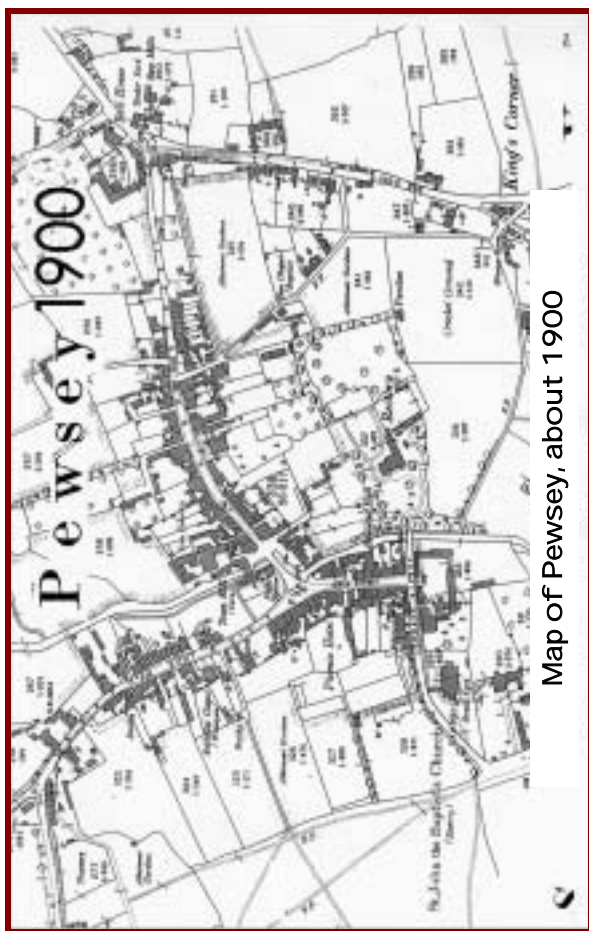


**Pewsey Butcher's pushball team, with  
the pushball**

Marshall's used to be another doctor's house. Marshall's bakery is the oldest commercial premises in Pewsey and I think is the only shop that has been in existence in the same family through the whole of the twentieth century. Whatleys, where the Heritage centre is situated, were also in business all through the twentieth century but they're not really what I would call a shop.

The old fire station (compare the size with the present one) is now used as a store for the Carnival, a big event in Pewsey which draws in thousands of people from far and wide.

We're now back by the bridge, I hope you've enjoyed your walk round the Pewsey of my childhood – if you would like to stretch your legs a little further try the extensions at A, B or C or for more information visit the Heritage Centre or the Church.



Map of Pewsey, about 1900



An Ariel view of the Centre of modern Pewsey.

Most of the walk described in this booklet can be followed on this picture