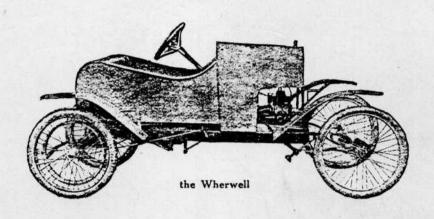
Wherwell

Anthology III



Wherwell Playing Field Sports & Fete Programme

August 30th, 1976

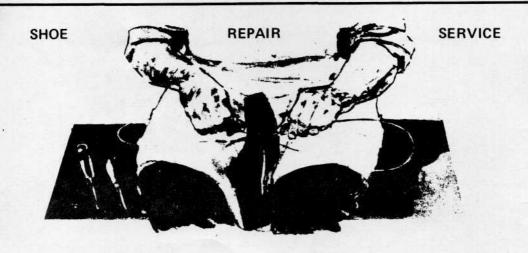
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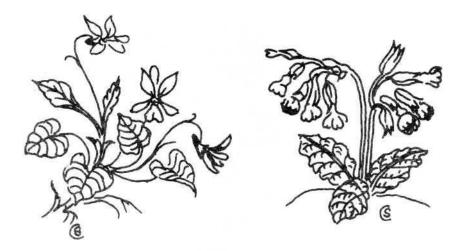
WILD PLANTS AROUND WHERWELL

The countryside around Wherwell is a veritable paradise for naturalists. The differing habitats bring a tremendous variety to all forms of wild life including trees and flowers. My husband and I have listed these within a two mile radius of the village and have a total so far of three hundred and ninetyone. Two hundred and sixty nine species grow in our own garden, the majority in the area that we have left wild and which is part of the old railway line.

The first flower of the year, the coltsfoot, appears in February. It has a pretty dandelion-like bloom and grows where vegetation is sparse. Soon the lesser celandine, with its glossy golden petals, stars the roadside banks and the cherry-plum comes into flower in the hedgerows.

In the forest the pussy willow buds burst and when fully out make the tree look like a giant cream coloured powder puff. Under foot demure violets of varying hue peep through the snow-white drifts of wood anemones. A little later primroses dot the woodland glades and the forest is finally covered with a mist of bluebells. By April buds on the oak, birch, beech and other trees open into leaf, making the light too dim for most flowers to compete. The Spring glory of the woods is over for another year.

There are now white clouds of blackthorn along the lanes; this will be followed by the equally showy hawthorn and guelder rose, while below on the banks a foaming froth of cow parsley adds to the beauty of the scene. Later will come rough chervil and hedge parsley.



Meanwhile, down by the river, the marsh marigold has opened its flowers making a brilliant splash of gold in the wet Spring meadows. In a week or so the cuckoo-flower can be seen. It owes its name to the fact that it blooms when the cuckoo arrives in this country. Next to appear are the pink ragged robin and the bogbean, with large trifoliate leaves and conspicuous spikes of white flowers, the petals fringed inside with white hairs like Turkish towelling. The yellow flag and deep pink marsh orchis follow and the water meadows take over from the forest with their display.

In the drier pastures in April, patches of cowslip, gay and beloved with its fragrant yellow flowers can still be found, though becoming ever more scarce. Big white moon daisies shoot up in May and smother the smaller plants, but here and there, where the turf is short grows the milkwort, white, pink and blue. The frail little fairy flax trembles in the breeze and the birdsfoot trefoil spreads in cushions over the ground. Wild vetches abound including the hairy tare, with tiny white flowers and purple tufted vetch which, like the yellow meadow pea, often climbs up hedges. The grass vetchling, with delicate pure crimson blooms has leaves so like grass it often remains undiscovered. Indeed it is quite a rarity as is the Fyfield pea which grows only in one or two places.

June is the month when delicious perfumes fill the air; sweet briar after rain and honeysuckle at night. The horseshoe vetch and white clover attract the bees with their subtle fragrance. Lady's bedstraw, which smells of new mown hay is followed by the aromatic scent of thyme and marjoram. There is now a profusion of mauve field scabious, purple knapweed, rosebay willowherb, yellow parsnip, mullein and St. John'swort. Woven between them is the lacy white flower of the hedge bedstraw and wild carrot. Dog rose and old man's beard cascade down the railway embankment and drape themselves over the hedges.

By August the season of flowering is on the wane, but rest harrow, teasel and the sweet scented, handsome musk thistle are still in bloom. Purple gentian, small scabious and the occasional pink or white pyramidal orchis can still be found on the short turf.

There are so many plants I have not mentioned, but a longer list might become tedious. To conclude I would add that many of our species are in danger of extinction as more land is made part of the 'concrete jungle'. With the introduction of the Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act of 1975 it is now illegal to uproot wild plants on any land without the permission of the occupier. This will help to preserve them, but indiscriminate picking of flowers prevents regeneration. Since we came to live in Wherwell many primroses have vanished from the woods and marsh marigolds and bogbeans by the river are getting less each year. Please, therefore, do not pick the flowers, but leave them for others to enjoy.

Jeanne M. Nolder.



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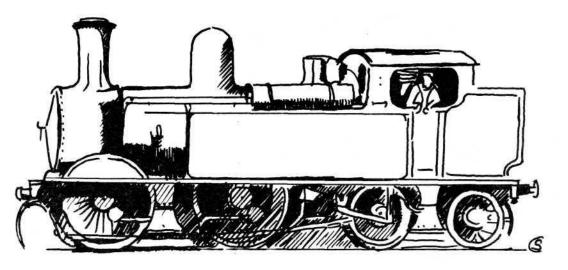


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WHERWELL'S RAILWAY-A Main-line that Might Have Been

Many people living in Wherwell must have been struck by the massive engineering features of the derelict railway line which runs through the village. If any of them have looked up old maps, they may have been even more surprised. The short line from Hurstbourne, on the main Basingstoke-Andover line, to Fullerton Junction was closely paralleled by the older Andover-Fullerton-Romsey line, and hence at first sight would seem to have been built only to serve Longparish and Wherwell. In fact, however, the line was built as part of a complicated set of manœuvres in the battle for the valuable rail traffic between Southampton, the Midlands and the North.

In the early 1880s, when the Wherwell line was built, the monopoly of railway access to Southampton was held by the London and South-Western Railway. However, this monopoly was being challenged by a new company, the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton, nominally a small independent company, but generally considered to be a protege of the Great Western Railway. As its title suggests, this company sought to build a new, direct line from the Midlands to Southampton. The London and South-Western, fearing to lose its monopoly, hastily promoted the Hurstbourne-Fullerton line, hoping to cut short the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton at Whitchurch. The plan was that trains would come down from Didcot to Whitchurch over the new company's line, travel along the existing main line to Hurstbourne, then down through Wherwell to Southampton. Hence the Hurstbourne-Fullerton line was built to main line, double track standards.

In fact, though, the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton rashly pushed on with its own line south of Whitchurch, through Winchester to a junction with the Basingstoke-Southampton main-line. If its directors had been wiser, however, they might have concentrated their efforts and money on building a faster, double track line to Whitchurch only, although admittedly even that would have been very expensive. Had they done so Wherwell today might reverberate to the roar of heavy oil trains from Fawley and container trains from Southampton Docks heading for the Midlands and the North, as well as holiday trains to Bournemouth and Weymouth in summer.

In the event, the line through Wherwell remained a quiet backwater, usually carrying four passenger and one goods train each way until the passenger service was withdrawn in July 1931, during the economic crisis of that year. It had already been reduced to single track in 1913. In 1936 the line north of Longparish was closed even to goods; but the remaining section, from Fullerton to Longparish retained a goods service until May 1956. The whole line must always have been highly uneconomic, but before the Great War the big profits made on main-line railways were able to subsidize such uneconomic lines. With the growth of road transport, this was no longer the case. In any event the value of the passenger service to people living in Wherwell was rather limited. Branch trains mostly ran from Whitchurch to Fullerton. At the latter place good connections were provided towards Stockbridge and Southampton but mostly very poor ones to Andover-sometimes involving a wait of over an hour. In the other direction connections were mainly with stopping trains to Waterloo, Nevertheless, it was possible in 1909 to travel from Waterloo to Wherwell in 129 minutes, a time which it would be difficult to equal today by public transport, with the necessity to change buses in Andover even to reach Andover station!

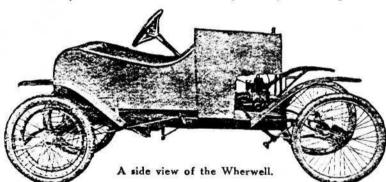
U. Casebourne.



THE WHERWELL CYCLECAR.

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is a 5.7 h.p. air-cooled, horizontally-opposed Coventry-Victor, having a bore and stroke of 75 mm. by 78 mm., the cubic capacity being 688 c.c. Ignition is by a Thomson-Bennett magneto, the mixture being supplied by a Capac carburetter. Lubrication of the engine is provided for by an ordinary hand pump, c22

working in conjunction with a drip feed, fitted in such a position as to be seen by the driver. Full advantage is taken of the oncoming air, as there is no dummy radiator, whilst the sides of the bonnet are also left open. Four speeds and a reverse are provided by a

simple form of friction transmission, the

final drive being by chain.

Suspension at the front is by long quarter-elliptic springs, and at the rear by cantilever springs, the forward ends of which are anchored to helical springs. Braking is carried out by a foot-operated band brake bearing upon the countershaft, and a hand brake, also of the band type, operating on the rear wheels. The wheels are 26 ins. by 2½ ins., motorcycle type, fitted with Dunlop tyres.

The manufacturers of this machine guarantee that 75 m.p.g. can be obtained with two passengers up, whilst the highest and lowest speeds on top gear

are claimed to be 50 m.p.h. and 6 m.p.h. respectively. The Wherwell has a wheelbase of 7 ft. 6 ins. and a track of 3 ft. 10 ins., whilst its weight, unladen, is 4½ cwt. Without accessories, the price of the machine is £130. Delivery can be given, to order only within one month from the date it is placed.

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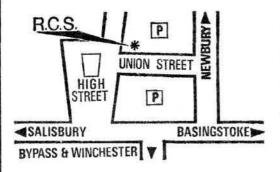
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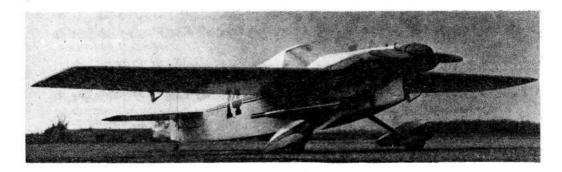
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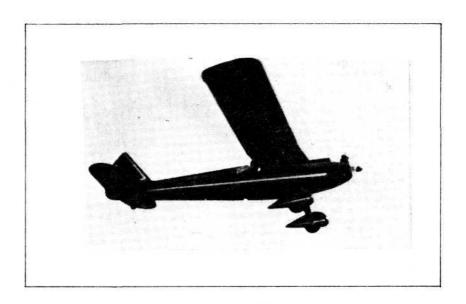
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The Flying Druids Model Club was formed in 1965 and has increased in membership from Five to it's present Sixty-Five.

All types of Aircraft including Gliders and Helecopters are flown and several contests are held to establish a higher standard of Model Flying. The models here today range from High speed Aerobatic stunt Aircraft to perfect scale built Aircraft which truly represent the full size machine. If you are an enthusiastic Aircraft lover, nothing can surpass the scale version of your favorite Aircraft, to actually see it fly in direct comparison is the final reward.

The high speed machine gives another kind of thrill with speeds in excess of 100 m.p.h. And an aerobatic schedule that no full size Aircraft can copy.

Other types of Aircraft like the Free Flight Model are much simpler to build but great care is taken to trim the machine to ensure a perfect flight, because once it has left the ground it is on it's own.

Model Helecopters are very sophisticated and Four controls are used simultaneously to keep them Airborne. These Aircraft could kill if flown out of control, so please obey the stewards and do keep well away from the Take Off and Landing Area when we are airborne.

You are most welcome to visit our area when we are not flying. Our members hope you enjoy our Display and anyone who is interested is welcome to join the Flying Druids Model Club.

WHERWELL F

PROGRAMME OF SPORTS TO BANK HOLIDAY, MONE FIELD OPE

> OPEN PENALTY I (Entries by Mon

		p.m.
1	Super Sports Star - 100 metres	2.00
2	Men $-$ 14 and over $-$ 100 metres.	2.05
3	Boys & Girls, 5, 6, 7 - 60 metres	2.10
4	Toddlers' Race, Boys & Girls, 1, 2, 3, 4	2.15
5	Boys & Girls, 8, 9, 10, Sack Race - 60 metres	2.20
6	Ladies - 14 and over, Egg and Spoon - 25 metres	2.25
7	Boys & Girls, 11, 12, 13, 14, Sack Race - 100 metres	2.30
8	Boys & Girls, 5, 6, 7, Wheelbarrow - 25 metres	2.35
9	Boys & Girls, 8, 9, 10, 3-legged Race - 60 metres	2.40
10	Super Sports Penalty Competition	2.40
11	Boys & Girls, 11, 12, 13, 14 - 200 metres	2.45
12	Men - 14 and over, Sack Race - 100 metres	2.50
13	Ladies - 14 and over Flower Pot - 25 metres	2.55
14	Model Aircraft Display by The Flying Druids	
	(See previous page)	3.00
15	Boys & Girls up to 15, Pick-a-Back - 60 metres	3.20
16	Toddlers, Boys & Girls, 1, 2, 3, 4 - 25 metres	3.25

GRAN

Sideshows : Skittles : To

AYING FIELD

BE HELD ON THE SUMMER

Y, AUGUST 30th, 1976.

IS 1,45 p.m.

NG COMPETITION

ay, August 23rd)

		p.m.
17	Boys & Girls, 5, 6, 7, Sack Race - 60 metres	3.30
18	Boys & Girls, 8, 9, 10 - 100 metres	3.35
19	Super Sports Star, 100 metres Running Ball Control	3.40
20	Boys & Girls, 11, 12, 13, 14, 3-legged Race - 100 metres	3.55
21	Men - 14 and over - 200 metres	4.00
22	Ladies - 14 and over, Sack Race - 60 metres	4.05
23	Boys & Girls, 5, 6, 7, Obstacle Race - 200 metres	4.10
24	Super Sports Star — Throwing the Football	4.15
25	Flying Druids	4.30
26	Boys & Girls, 8, 9, 10, Obstacle Race - 200 metres	4.50
27	Boys & Girls, 11, 12, 13, 14, Obstacle Race - 200 metres	4.55
28	Super Sports Star, Running and Shooting with Ball at Targets	5.00
29	Men & Ladies, 14 & over, Obstacle Race	5.15
30	Penalty King Finals	5.30
31	Super Sports Star - 1 mile	5.45
32	Presentation of Prizes	

DRAW

bola: Trampolines: etc.

SUPER SPORTS STAR - 1976

The idea for this competition was conceived by Mr. S. Rowles who wishes to thank Mr. Turner, Mr. Price and Mr. D. Churchill (Andover Sunday League) for their help and co-operation. Mr. D. Churchill has done a lot for football in the area, and we are proud to have him as Vice-chairman of Wherwell Football Club.

SIX EVENTS TO FIND THE SUPER STAR FROM THE WINNING TEAMS OF THE ANDOVER SUNDAY LEAGUE

The Competitors:

Laverstoke Par		*6	(4)	59	M. Hack		
King's Somborne .				*	×		I. Oram
Great Bedwyn	Royal	British	Leg	ion	*	25	
Wherwell .	96			20			G. Collins
Sutton Scotney	/						
Boot United							
Wakeham Boys				-			C. Wake

See Centre Programme for Details.

WHERWELL PENALTY KING COMPETITION for the

MARJORIE, COUNTESS OF BRECKNOCK CHALLENGE CUP

The competition will take place at the Wherwell Playing Fields on Monday, 30th August, at 2.00 p.m. and will be open to all ages.

All entrants will be divided into sections (amount of sections depending on entries).

Each competitor will take six penalty kicks, top competitor in each section to qualify for final later the same day. In case of ties sudden death play off will decide both in heats and finals. Block or individual entries will be accepted, but must be on official entry forms, with competition entrance fee of 10p - per person and named below.

All entries to: MR. E. W. ROWLES, 7 Beech Grove, Wherwell, Andover, Hants. SP11 7JE.

LAST YEARS WINNER: DAVID HALL

It is with great pleasure that we announce the forthcoming event in the Church of St. Peter and Holy Cross, Wherwell, on Saturday, 4th September, 1976:

"THE PENANCE OF AELFRYTH" (ELFREDA)

A fantasy based on history.

by Rachel Lloyd.

To be produced by Bill Fooks with the St. Edward Players

Thirty six years after the murder of St. Edward, King and Martyr, at Corfe Castle, Wulfstan, Archbishop of York, delivered his slashing attack on the morals of his countrymen in his "Sermon of the Wolf to the English". He wrote, "Edward men betrayed, killed and then burned; Ethelred they exiled." (King Ethelred had fled to France that year ostensibly to escape the invading Danes), Wulfstan was an important man in the life of his country; no one in a better position to know the truth than he.

Round Wulfstan's startling statement about Edward, this play is written. It is difficult to reconcile it with the generally accepted story of his burial at Wareham, and later at Shaftesbury (Shaston), where pilgrims visited his tomb to receive miraculous cures for their ills. But it is possible to weave a path between these two versions of his death and burial, and this play attempts an explanation which may not be far from the truth.

During the last decade of the 10th Century, Queen Aelfryth, (Elfreda) retired to the nunnery at Wherwell to do penance for the murder of her step-son, King Edward. Wherwell had been the home of her first husband Athelwold, who was supposed to have been murdered by King Edgar, in order that the beautiful widow, Aelfryth, should become his Queen. Later in the century the nunnery at Wherwell was founded in expiation for this crime.

Aelfryth's son by Edgar, King Ethelred, was now known as the "Unraed" (= lacking counsel) that divine power which God bestowed on kings. His weakness was thought to be God's punishment for Edward's murder; so too were the increasing invasions of the heathen Danes. Paganism, which Christianity had never extinguished in England, flared up with their arrival. Aelfryth's life at Wherwell, depicted in this play, emphasises the clash between the two faiths. The story told is fantasy, but it is based on solid facts.

Bede tells us that the Feast of the goddess Hreda, took place in the middle of March. The 10th Century Aelfric wrote that the pagans regarded March 18th as "the first day of the World", the day of Creation. It was also the day of Edward's murder. Eventually March 18th became his Feast Day, the usual transformation of a pagan feast into a Christian one.

The three years of the young King Edward's reign, 975—978, were distracted by a religious civil war; there were portents of disaster, followed by a great famine. Strong action was needed to terminate the country's miseries.

In the Ancient World, ritual sacrifice of the Priest-King to secure fertility of the crops was a regular practice. But in time this rite went underground, and was openly replaced, sometimes by the sacrifice of a King-substitute, always by that of animals.

The pagan Anglo-Saxon still had his holy Priest-king, of Woden descent, who made oblation for his people to the gods. With the official adoption of Christianity the king was transformed into "the Lord's Anointed", and to kill him became a crime against God himself. A pagan virtue had become a Christian sin.

For God had sent his son, Jesus Christ, to be the last great sacrifice to redeem mankind, and that had happened not so very long ago.

It is possible that the murder and burning of Edward was an outburst of paganism, a clash between the two religions brought into the open. The eventual result of the crime was the triumph of Christianity, and twenty three years later, the making of a Saint.

But it is unlikely that we shall ever know the full truth of what happened at Corfe Castle on March 18th 978

Rachel Lloyd.

Rachel Lloyd, the distinguished historical authoress and playwright took four years to research the murder of King Edward the Martyr and the life of Queen Aelfryth. "The Penance of Aelfryth" is the second play that she has written on the subject.

This play was originally performed by the St. Edward Players in the Church of St. Edward the Martyr, at Corfe Castle, on Good Friday, April 16th, 1976. It was a most professional production. So well did the cast portray their parts under the direction of producer Bill Fooks that one felt drawn into and part of this tragic epic.

The Penance of Aelfryth took place in Wherwell almost one thousand years ago and it seemed only right that this play should be performed where it actually occurred.

The St. Edward Players together with their producer Bill Fooks and Rachel Lloyd have kindly consented to travel from Corfe Castle, Dorset, to Wherwell on Saturday 4th September and we sincerely hope that your interest in the history of our village and gratitude to these dedicated artists will result in a maximum audience.



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Front: (Left to right) P. Lisle, M. McGiloray, T. Ranson, (Mascot), C. Baker, M. Hewlett, J. Moore
Back: (Left to right) M. Sheldrake, D. Smith, R. North, B. Ranson, K. Williams, B. Ford, P. Rowles, E. Shinton, E. Rowles, (Manager), M. Dangerfield (Trainer)
Inset: V. Browning (Hon. Secretary)

WHERWELL FOOTBALL CLUB Double Champions

Division II Championship Winners of I-II-III-IV Trophy

In the 1975–76 season the Wherwell Football Club celebrated its coming-of-age and celebrated it in a very outstanding way. They won the League Championship and the Cup and as their President I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations on such a magnificent achievement. Poor South-ampton only won just one Cup! It really was a wonderful effort and I am sure the village is as proud of you as I am.

It would be unfair to single out any players for special mention as teams win matches, not individuals, and your team work must have been exemplary. Mr. V. Browning, the Honorary Secretary, and Mr. E. Rowles, the Team Manager, have worked hard for the Club for many years and must now feel very proud to see them bring home not one but two trophies. In last year's programme you were asked to give the editor something to write about — you certainly have!

Mr. Mike McGilvray I understand is leaving for New Zealand in the autumn and will be a great loss to the team, but our best wishes go with him.

You have set a very fine standard this season and I feel sure you will go on to even greater heights. Good luck for the 1976–77 season!

D. A. Rowles

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DAYDREAMS

I wander for hours, I drift and dream, Over the hills and along by the stream. I wade through fields of tall grasses and flowers. Brush hedges, fresh green, after showers. I rest for a while to drink in the view. lay on the moss and gaze into the blue, I cannot explain the peace I have found. The air is heavy with scent and sound. I see Swifts sweep the expance of the skies, Broadcasting their freedom with excited cries. I see scarlet Poppies ablaze in the corn. Convolvelus and Wildrose cascade from the thorn, I feel strength in the mighty Beeches that tower, The Turtle Dove purrs from his secret bower. I've briefly captured treasured memories past, The elusive dreams, are realities at last,

J. Rowles.

CONCLUSION

And so we close the 'book on Wherwell' for another year — this small village has a vast store of interesting knowledge that could fill our programmes for years to come.

On behalf of the Wherwell Playing Field Committee I would like to thank the contributors for the excellent material provided in 'Anthology III'.

Marjorie, Countess of Brecknock for her article congratulating Wherwell Football Club in its triumphant year; Mrs. Jeane Nolder who has the beautiful world of nature at her finger tips; Mrs. Rachel Lloyd for an intriguing article on Aelfryth; Mr. Jeffery Rowles for yet another beautiful poem; Mr. Utrick Casebourne for his interesting and enlightening article on Wherwell's Railway; and to Sally Chetwyn, (where would we be without you)? who has illustrated all three books so beautifully. This gifted and busy artist willingly gives her precious time to ensure the success of our book.

To the traders, who, by placing their advertisements, cover the cost of printing. We sincerely hope our readers will see that they benefit for giving us their kind support.

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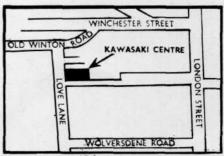
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