

No. 0158

25p

# Wherwell

Anthology VII



"Miss Marjorie" Vintage 1900

## Wherwell Playing Field Sports & Fete Programme

August 25th, 1980

Admission Free

Field Opens 1.45 p.m.



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## **THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND HOLY CROSS, WHERWELL**

When the old church was demolished in 1865 a number of gravestones were also removed. Some of these were replaced close together in the churchyard, others were incorporated in the surrounding walls and some, broken by accident perhaps, were buried by the builder of the new church behind the house in which he lived. These came to light when the trench was dug for main drainage in 1962 and proved very useful as a firm foundation for the pipes in the boggy ground.

In the Priory grounds some pillars can be seen and what is possibly an architrave, now used as a seat. It is not known whether these came from the old church but it seems likely. The Iremonger Mausoleum is supposed to be constructed from the best bits of the old church and there are many small pieces of decorative and plain stone inserted into the walls of houses in the village. May Cottage, where Mr. Holdway the builder lived, has a small stone figure on the wall of the house and a number of fragments in the boundary wall.

Two or three years ago an oak pew end which must have come from the old church was found, half buried in a hedge in the Old Vicarage garden. The name "Clement Barker 1605" was carved on it. He would have paid a sum to the church for the privilege of having a pew for himself and his family. Until

the early 19th century free seats were not introduced by the Church of England and those who were too poor to afford one had to stand at the back. It is interesting that the Incorporated Society for Building Churches granted £150 towards rebuilding the new church "upon condition that 287 seats, conveniently placed and in conformity with the plans approved by the Society, be set apart for the use of the poorer inhabitants for ever: these sittings being subject to annual assignments by the Churchwardens to such of them as are most regular in their attendance". The plaque recording this is hung on the west wall of the church.

Until the clock in the tower was presented to the church by the villagers, Mr. Harding, who was head gardener at the Priory, used to climb the stairs to the bell tower every night to sound curfew. This he did for thirty years and every family in the village would put their clocks right by the chiming bell.

The field leading to the church was marked as the Mizmaze on a plan of Wherwell drawn in the book by Rev. R. H. Clutterbuck. This is interesting as it is well known that in medieval times certain mazes were constructed under ecclesiastical patronage, formed in tiles in the place of worship or built in or near churchyards. There is a ritual significance of mazes, both as protection against supernatural powers and as a path which the dead must follow on their way to the world of spirits. It is reasonable to suppose that it was made during the time Wherwell Abbey was in existence as it is thought that the same church served both nuns and people of the parish. No evidence survives except the name.

The churchyard and fields around are white with snowdrops in the spring: the bulbs of these are known to have been used by the monasteries as medicaments in the middle ages. It is quite possible that the nuns had some in their herb garden which multiplied and spread to fill the vast area which is a delight to the eye early in the year.

Lastly I wonder if the so-called "corpse lights" seen by some in the churchyard could be the light from glow-worms reflected on rising mist.

Jeanne Nolder.

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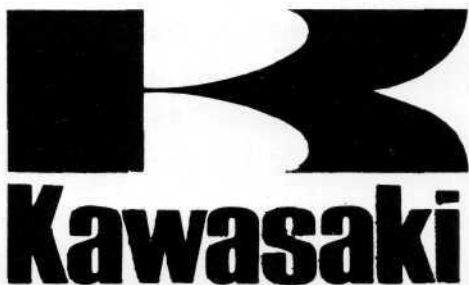
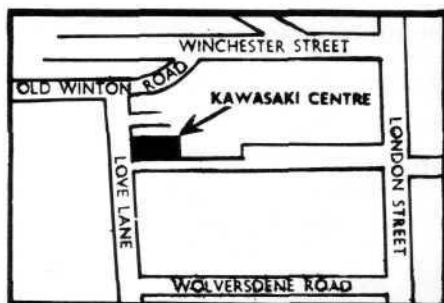
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**PROGRAMME OF SPORTS TO BE HELD ON THE SUMMER  
BANK HOLIDAY, MONDAY, AUGUST 25th 1980**

**Field Opens 1.45 p.m.**

1. Men, 14 and over: 100 metres	2.00
2. Boys and Girls, 5, 6, 7: 60 metres	2.06
3. Toddlers, 1, 2, 3, 4: 25 metres	2.12
4. Boys and Girls, 8, 9, 10: 60 metres Sack Race	2.18
5. Ladies 15 and over: 25 metres Egg and Spoon	2.24
6. Super Sports Star 100 metres (on running track)	2.30
7. Boys and Girls, 11, 12, 13, 14: 60 metres Sack Race	2.36
8. Boys and Girls, 5, 6, 7: 60 metres Sack Race	2.42
9. Boys and Girls, 8, 9 10: 60 metres 3 Legged	2.48
10. Boys and Girls, 11, 12, 13, 14: 200 metres	2.54
11. Super Sports Star Penalty Competition (at goal near end)	3.00
12. Men, 15 and over: Sack Race, 100 metres	3.00
13. Ladies, 15 and over: Flower Pot Race, 25 metres	3.06
14. Boys and Girls up to 15: Pick-a-back, 60 metres	3.12
15. Toddlers Boys and Girls, 1, 2, 3, 4: 25 metres	3.18
16. Boys and Girls, 5, 6, 7: 3 legged, 60 metres	3.24
17. Super Sports Star, Running Ball (on running track)	3.30
18. Boys and Girls, 8, 9, 10: 100 metres	3.40

**GRAND DRAW**

Sideshow — Skittles — Tombola — Trampolines — etc.

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19. Archery Exhibition: Andover Archery Club	3.45
20. Super Sports Star, Longest Throw (at goal near end)	4.00
21. Men 15 and over: 200 metres	4.00
22. Ladies 15 and over: Sack Race, 60 metres	4.06
23. Boys and Girls, 5, 6, 7: Obstacle Race, 100 metres	4.12
24. Boys and Girls, 8, 9, 10: Obstacle Race, 100 metres	4.18
25. Boys and Girls, 11, 12, 13, 14: Obstacle Race, 100 metres	4.24
26. Michelmersh Silver Band	4.30
27. Super Sports Star, Target Shooting (on running track)	4.50
28. Men, 15 and over: Obstacle Race, 100 metres	4.56
29. Ladies, 15 and over: Obstacle Race, 100 metres	5.02
30. Men over 40: 100 metres	5.08
31. Ladies over 40: 60 metres	5.14
32. Boys and Girls up to 15: (Handicap) 100 metres	5.20
33. Boys and Girls, 11, 12, 13, 14: 3 legged, 100 metres	5.25
34. Super Sports Star: 1 mile, (on running track)	5.30
35. Penalty King Finals	5.40
36. Tug of War, Presentation of Prizes, Grand Draw	

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*Miss Marjorie.*

## **VINTAGE 1900**

Nineteen hundred was certainly a vintage year for notable births. While the great British public shows its love and admiration for Elizabeth the Queen Mother the villagers of Wherwell have the added bonus of celebrating entrée into the distinguished ranks of octogenarians of Marjorie, Countess of Brecknock, D.B.E.

In this short anthology, it would be impossible to do justice to the life of Lady Brecknock, which could easily be a major biography.

Marjorie Jenkins was born on 28th March, 1900 in London. She was to be the only child of Colonel and Mrs. "Teddy" Jenkins.

Her paternal grandmother, the Countess of Lovelace, rented Wherwell Priory in 1899 from the Iremongers, who then owned the property. The young Miss Jenkins visited her grandmother at Wherwell from time to time though most of her early childhood was spent "following the drum", as her father was in the 'Rifle Brigade'.



*Miss Marjorie with Edwina Ashley.*

There were times when Colonel Jenkins was stationed in places unsuitable for a small child and on these occasions Marjorie was usually with the 'Ashley' children, often sharing a governess with her cousin Edwina Ashley, her lifelong friend and companion, who later became Countess Mountbatten of Burma.

On the death of his mother, Lady Lovelace, in 1907, Colonel Jenkins took over the lease of the Priory but the family did not live there until 1908 when he was commanding the Rifle Brigade Depot in Winchester. In 1913, Mrs. Jenkin's uncle, Sir Ernest Cassel, bought the Priory from Mr. Iremonger and gave it to his niece.

During the 1914—18 war, when the mechanic was called up, Miss Marjorie took over the running of the electricity in Wherwell Priory. She also worked in a convalescent home for soldiers at Marsh Court, Stockbridge.

In 1920 she married the Earl of Brecknock (later Marquess Camden). Her first child, now Lady Mary Pawle was born in 1921 and her second child, the present Earl of Brecknock in 1930.

From 1937—1939 Lady Brecknock was Lady-in-waiting to Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, and it was during this time that she made her first contact with the St. John Ambulance Brigade.



*Marjorie, 1937*



*Teenager.*



*In service with the ATS.*



*Miss Marjorie.*



*Looking over mountains in Austria on a recent holiday.*



*Lady Brecknock, Wendy, Ikey 1941.*



*Miss Marjorie, vintage 1900.*



*Chief President with Maj.-Gen. P. R. Leuchars, Commissioner-in-Chief in Barbados last year.*



*Lady Brecknock and Mrs. Jenkins after receiving St. John awards 1959.*

The following extract is taken from the St. John's Review, 1970 on Lady Brecknocks' retirement as Superintendent-in-Chief of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

BRIGADE MEMBERS all over the world will be sad to learn that Lady Brecknock, Superintendent-in-Chief of the St. John Ambulance Brigade since 1960, retired on June 27 after 24 years of service.

But retirement is not likely to be interpreted by Marjorie Brecknock as most of us understand the word; we hope—nay, we know—that her remarkable abilities and personality will not be completely lost to the Brigade.

Her first contacts with St. John were before World War II, when she was Lady-in-Waiting to the Duchess of Kent.

In 1938 she joined the FANY's as a Private (later to be embodied in the ATS), and during the war she served first with motor companies, then with the anti-aircraft artillery, and at the end of the war she was the senior British woman officer at SHAEF in France. Mentioned in dispatches and awarded the Bronze Star (U.S.A.).

Those of us who have marvelled at the ease and competence with which she drives hundreds of miles at night and alone, to return home after St. John inspections and conferences, may not have realised that her efficiency at the wheel also applies if anything goes wrong under the bonnet. A past Commissioner-in-Chief considers her the best woman driver he knows, while from her ATS days the following story rings very true of Marjorie:

A major could see only the behind of a female corporal who was working under the bonnet of his Brigadier's staff car outside H/Q. The gallant major approached, then diffidently asked if he could help. Marjorie's oil-bespattered face turned to him: 'I'm perfectly capable of coping with the engine, but you could post this letter for me.' The letter, it seems, was posted.

In 1946 Lady Brecknock joined St. John Headquarters as Staff Officer to the Superintendent-in-Chief, the late Lady Mountbatten, who was her cousin.

In 1950 she became Assistant-Superintendent-in-Chief (Overseas), a titled later changed to Controller of the Overseas Department. She held this position until April 1 1960, when she became Superintendent-in-Chief in succession to Lady Mountbatten, whose death took place in Sabah while on a St. John tour in February 1960. One's admiration for anyone who took over from a personality such as Lady Mountbatten and in those circumstances must be great; but for someone who at the same time was suffering the tragic loss of a close relative with whom she had been brought up, one's admiration for this remarkably courageous woman becomes even greater.

During her 10 years as Superintendent-in-Chief Lady Brecknock visited St John units throughout the Commonwealth, always at her own expense, and it is safe to say that after trips to India, Ceylon, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Sabah, the West Indies, East and West Africa, Mauritius, Malta and Cyprus she knows more than anyone about the Brigade overseas. The ground she covered and the amount she achieved on these extended tours has made many a strong man pale just to read about them!

Naturally a person such as Lady Brecknock has many other commitments, in London and in her home county of Hampshire, in addition to her St John work.



*Last Annual Inspection of the St. John, May 10th 1980*



It is in Hampshire, where she runs a farm with the same energy and know-how as she has applied to the Nursing Corps and Divisions, that a stirring sight meets one at harvest time when she takes her turn driving the enormous combine harvester. To this part-time work, part-recreation can be added her real hobbies of gardening, fishing and music. She is also an extremely good shot and must have been one of the first women to take up this sport.

During the war Lady Mountbatten was visiting hospitals and other units in Europe for the Joint War Organisations of the Red Cross and St John and asked Lady Brecknock, who was serving in France but was on leave, to accompany her. They were flying in a small aircraft to Nijmegen in Holland, and by mistake flying over the German lines they were fired at. They then turned back, and on arrival at Brussels the aircraft was found to be damaged in several places from the attack, and it occurred to Lady Mountbatten, if not to her cousin, that if they had been shot down in enemy territory Lady Brecknock would not have been covered by the Geneva Convention and would have undoubtedly become a prisoner-of-war.



*The aircraft and crew after landing at Brussels, showing the damage to the wing.*

On her most recent overseas tour in March 1970 she arrived in Cambodia for a sight-seeing visit to Angkor the day before the coup d'etat. On her return to London her only comment on being caught in a revolution was the inconvenience of not being able to leave the country as planned (she was delayed two days), and the disappointment of not having seen anything exciting!

Lady Brecknock was made a Dame of the Order in 1959 and a Dame of the British Empire in 1967. Dame Grand Cross Order of St John — 1971: Order of Mercy.

After her retirement from the office of Superintendent-in-Chief, Lady Brecknock became Chief President of St John, a position she still pursues with her customary vigour.

Dispite the heavy demands that public life makes on this remarkable personality, she has always willingly given her time and energy to the village. The Church, Parish Council, Football, Cricket, Fêtes, etc., etc., are all supported to the full extent.

A recent example of Lady Brecknock's devotion to Wherwell was apparent last year. On August Bank Holiday Monday, although suffering great personal grief, she still came to the Sports Fête, as previously promised, to present the prizes. Only a few hours earlier she had been informed of the murder of her close friend Earl Mountbatten of Burma and members of his family.

This much loved and familiar figure is frequently seen driving a Land Rover around the village, her devoted black Labrador, Conker at her side. Certain villagers travelling in the direction of London have been overtaken by a dark green Jaguar driven at a great speed and handled in the congested London traffic like a mini! Octogenarian extraordinaire!

In the 1975 Anthology Lady Brecknock wrote that she had inherited the 'goodwill' of the village from her mother, who died in 1959. I think it can safely be said that she had earned the love and respect of us all by her own efforts and personality.

T.Y.R.H.

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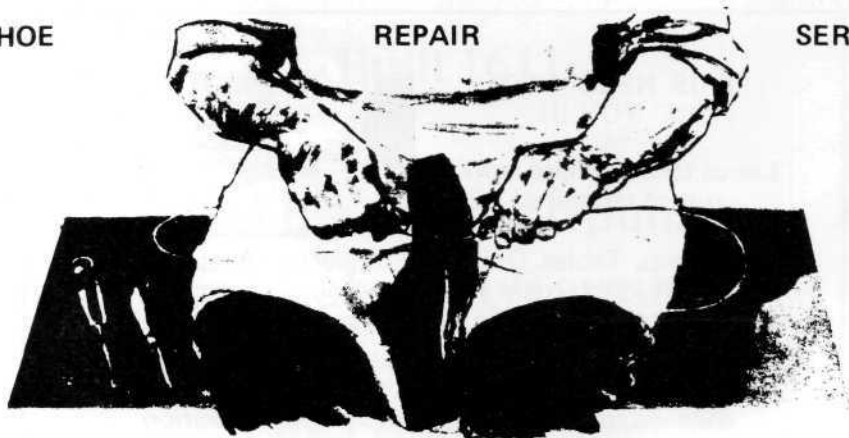
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The earth and sky combine in a wonderful kaleidoscope of colour.

Not a breath of wind or bird dare utter as the sky grows duller.

The world spins relentlessly towards the darkening sky where the first stars break through.

The mind is opened to deeper thoughts, as far more distant worlds come into view.

This is the window into space, through which it seems, the past, present and future unite.

Heart, mind and spirit are combined under the great amphitheatre of night.

The full moon rides aloft to shower her silver image upon the rippling sea.

The shimmering light on each wave's crest, stretches from here to eternity.

Almighty God, designer and constructor of all planets, suns and solar systems

Help us to understand and appreciate your gift of love and wisdom.

As night draws on the hills will rise up into the light of dawn.

The never ending cycle of life, when we die is just to be reborn.

Jeffrey Rowles.

## FOOTBALL

1979—80 Season by our own standards was not very successful, the 1st Team finishing in the bottom half of the Senior League but with the Reserves doing a little better finishing in 5th position.

In the Presidents Cup of which we were the holders we were rather unlucky to lose to Laverstoke Park Albion in the Semi-final on penalty kicks after drawing 1—1 after extra time, with Laverstoke Park Albion going on to win the Trophy.

Five a side we again did very well 'A' Team winning the A league for the 4th successive season and the 'B' Team finishing in 2nd place to Enham who went on to beat our 'A' Team in the Overall League play off.

The Five a side Knock-out Cup was an all Wherwell affair with the 'B' Team easily beating the 'A' Team in the final.

The Player's Player for the past season were:

RITCHIE LANGTON  
ROBBIE WARWICK  
MARK PHILLIPS

1st Team  
2nd Team  
Lads

E. Rowles.

*D. A. Rowles*

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Gill and Utrick Casebourne, Immy and Jo would like to thank the people of Wherwell again for all their help and kindness after the fire, and now that we have received insurance cover for most of our loss, beg them to accept a gift for the village in token of our gratitude.

'The Casebournes'.

N.B. A cheque for £100 has been given to the Playing Field Committee by Mr. and Mrs. Utrick Casebourne to purchase a seat to be placed by the children's playing area. This is gratefully received on behalf of the village.

T.Y.R.H.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Wherwell Playing Field Committee wish to thank all who have contributed to this Anthology.

Mrs. Jeanne Nolder.

Mr. Jeffrey Rowles.

Mr. "Ernie" Rowles.

A special thank-you to Miss P. Schreiber of Appleshaw, for her assistance with the article about the life of Lady Brecknock and for the use of her photographs.

T.Y.R.H.

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