

# **BRIZE NORTON**

## **OFFICIAL GUIDE**

ISSUED BY APPROVAL  
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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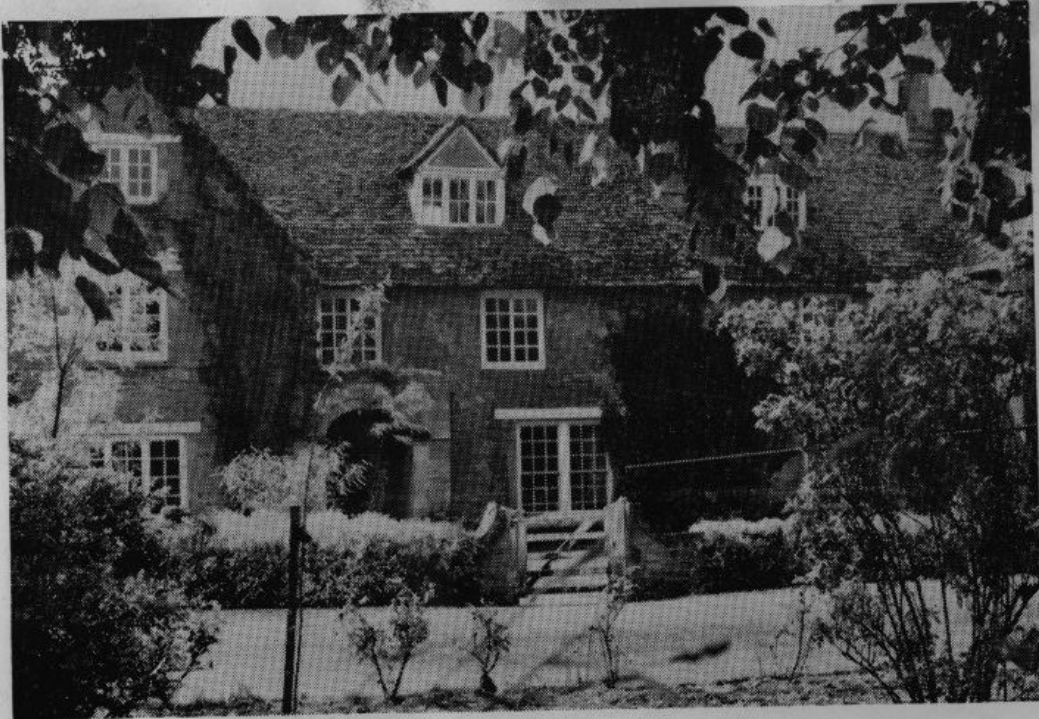
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*The Manor Farm House*

# BRIZE NORTON

OXFORDSHIRE

## Official Guide

ISSUED BY APPROVAL OF  
THE PARISH COUNCIL

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Alan Walker of Witney

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**OPENING TIMES DAILY**

12 noon—2.30 p.m. 3 Course Special Lunch

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*The Post Office Stores and Church Road Junction*

## INTRODUCTION

The Parish of Brize Norton is situated within the Witney Rural District in West Oxfordshire. It is some  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles west of Witney,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Bampton and 1 mile east of the fast developing township of Carterton.

The Church, for the most part Early English but originally of Norman foundation, is dedicated to the French Saint — St. Britius. It has a Transitional font, some decorated windows and a 14th century piscina. In the aisle is the 14th century tomb of Sir John Daubigny, a Crusader Knight who, as the legend goes, was returning from the Holy Land when he fell ill and died at Brize Norton.

There is an old Manor House the site of which at one time was believed to be a Priory. Alongside the Manor House and abutting the Witney-Carterton Road stood the thirteen ancient elm trees known as the Twelve Apostles. These trees were said to represent Christ and the Disciples. As the trees were considered unsafe they were very recently felled but replacements have been planted in the field on the opposite side of the road.

The Lords of the Manor are the Dean and Chapter of Christ Church, Oxford.

The village is typical of its kind to be found in the area. A mixture of the old and the new. There are fine old Cotswold stone houses and cottages, interspersed with small modern housing estates. There are one or two very beautiful old barns built in the traditional Cotswold style, in particular there is a very fine old dove cote at Grange Farm.

In common with most other villages, agriculture employs but a few of the inhabitants who mostly travel to places of employment afar afield as Oxford and Swindon. There is some rural industry — a blacksmith, builders' merchants and one or two small builders. There is a modern Post Office Stores, two other shops and three licensed premises.

The City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd. operate a frequent bus service between Carterton, Witney and Oxford but the local railway line fell under the "Beeching Axe" some years ago. The village has all main services — electricity, water and main drainage.

Brize Norton's main claim to fame in recent years is in connection with the nearby Aerodrome which bears its name — Royal Air Force, Brize Norton. Since 1965, when the United States Air Force vacated, the Station has been undergoing transformation. The Royal Air Force is developing it as one of their largest strategic bases for long range aircraft — the VC10 and the Belfast. It sports the largest hangar in Europe and a housing estate of over 1,000 houses is at present being built at nearby Carterton, two-thirds of which are within the parish of Brize Norton. The full effect of all this development will make a strong impact on local communities and the surrounding areas.

Within the village itself there is little development in the way of new housing. The Rural District Council are building a new estate of 24 houses — to be called "Daubigny Mead" — but otherwise any expansion is very strictly controlled by the County Planning Authority. Brize Norton has retained much of its character and charm and is a very pleasant village in which to live.

the ... **BRIZE NORTON — "SNIPPETS"**

YONRY SIS  
to 'gnimr

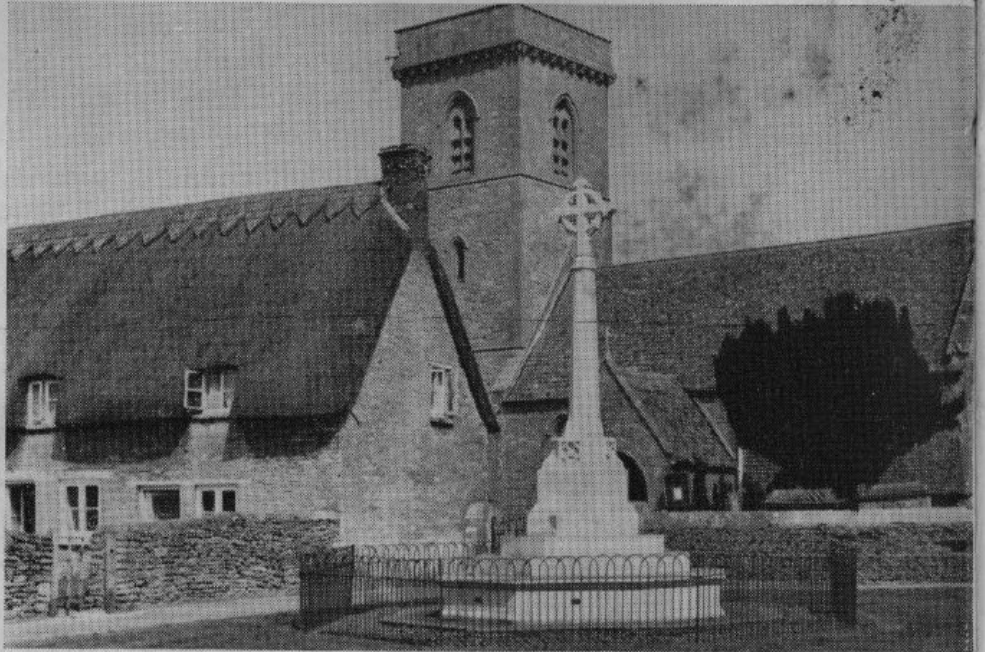
by "NARTNER"

Brizé Norton in Domesday Book is "Nortone" — north village of Bampton. The population of Britain then was about one million, Oxfordshire 5,500, Oxford 1,600. To distinguish it from other Nortons its owner's name Brown (Brun) was added, Brown—Brun—Breise—Brize. They built the church porch, probably the tower and lowered the roof: the mark of the old roof can be seen on the east side of the tower, a defensive tower — its only entrance is from the nave. In the porch weddings partly took place, also baptisms, the big font had been for immersion; churching of women; business settled there was inviolable; it was also used as a school; the corpse would be taken from the communal coffin; public notices were hung in the porch — as now. The nave was — "by turns or simultaneously public hall, theatre, warehouse, market, court of justice and place of worship." It belonged to the people, the chancel was the vicar's. The screen was a real screen and generally had a door. As a boy I was most fascinated by the effigy of our crusader; when detailed for "blowing" the organ I used him as a seat except at evening service when it was very creepy with no light. "Johnes Daubyng" was his name and the date 1343. We were told his crossed legs denoted he had been on a "Crusade", but, alas, that denoted nothing of the kind. His great uncle, Philip D'Albini, signed Magna Carta and died on a Crusade; another great uncle, William of Belvoir, was one of the 25 trustees of Magna Carta.

Subsequent owners of Brize Norton were Eynsham Abbey, Henry VI gave it to the Lovels until Henry VIII confiscated it and gave it to the Bedfords; Wenmans of Caswell (some of the moat is still there) built the north aisle and chapel, then the Woodds occupied the Manor and begged Charles II to repay the money they had given to Charles I, but Charles II did not, or could not. Widow Woodds had nine sons one of whom was killed at Preston, and two daughters. The Greenwoods next owned it, they were descendants of Sir Thomas More. "Margaret"



*School  
and C...  
Primary*



*The  
War Memorial  
and St. Britius  
Parish Church*



*The  
Twelve Apostles  
(now felled)*



Greenwood was buried in the church: named — I like to think — after the “Margaret” who forced her way onto the scaffold to comfort her father, Sir Thomas More, as he was about to be executed.

The Throckmortons of Buckland, influential Roman Catholics, owned Lower Haddon, and there Edmund Campian spent the night before he was arrested at Lyford.. Thus the Lord Chief Justice in sentencing Campian said — “Ye shall be drawn upon hurdles to the place of execution, and there be hanged and let down alive, and your privy parts cut off, and your entrails taken out and burnt in your sight; then your head be cut off and your body divided into four parts to be disposed of by Her Majesty’s pleasure. And God have mercy on your soul.” It was seen that his nails had been torn off.

In earlier days no one could leave the village without written permission. One could be hanged for stealing anything over the value of fivepence; for shooting a hawk, poaching etc. he could be blinded, ears cut off or a limb. Church was compulsory. One man missed going was asked why. He blurted, “I am not in love and charity with my neighbour.” Communion was three times, at most four, a year. Joseph Arch, first organiser of farm labourers, gave up church and went to chapel because at communion the vicar pushed him aside saying, “Make way for your betters first!” His wife was refused church soup because she had not humility. Every man had to give a day repairing roads. According to Giles’s History, there was no road leading to Bampton until late eighteenth century. Names were drawn from a hat as to who should be village constable for the year and who soldier. Substitutes were allowed. Another day had to be given to the lord of the Manor. The village blacksmith was always prominent in lively village life, and always warm and friendly his smithy — like the chapel. Down to recent times he was always the animal leech, and ready to pull out human teeth (by one who knows!) and diagnose fractures, etc. It wasn’t a Norton blacksmith who gave the following advice concerning an ill heifer, “No, don’t kill her. Let her die. Her might live.” There were three famous generations of blacksmiths about 1760-



*Kem  
House,  
Burford*

*Children's Play  
Area, The  
Recreation  
Ground*



*A general view  
of the  
Recreation  
Ground*

1830, the Silmans. If they were as good as Albert Print, they were first class, he was also chairman of the Parish Council, and it was fitting that Albert it was who uncovered this footstone epitaph of John Silman :—

My fledge and hammer lies declined  
My bellows to have lost their wind  
My fires extinct my coals decayed  
And in the dust my vice is laid  
My days are spent  
My glass is run  
My nails are drove  
My work is done.

J.S.

Most villages had dame schools, some more than one. In 1723 Goddard Carter of Alvescot endowed a school at Brize Norton to teach six promising children — “reading, writing, addition”. The Education Act, 1870, laid it down, “No child may go to work under nine years of age, or between nine and eleven unless they have passed the second standard, or have attended the school 250 times during each of the two previous years”. Schooling was not yet compulsory. In my time children when twelve took the “Labour Certificate” to enable them to start work. We had good teachers. The inspector watched them teaching: if they were successful they became acceptable as “Article Sixty Eights”. Our mother was one and didn’t we half tease her at home — but not at school! How grateful I have been for having had “the Three Rs” drilled in to us. A smiling inspector once asked Lil Faulkner, the old chestnut — “If a herring and a half cost three ha’pence, how many would you get for a shilling?” Like lightening Lil let fly, “Please, Sir, twelve mental ’rithmetic and thirteen ‘Fishy’ Harris.” “Fishy” Harris was the travelling fishmonger. We others sat back and relaxed. He would want to know who “Fishy” was and ol’ Lil would play him like a fish. If Lil had had her rights she would have been “Minister of Fisheries” by now!



the  
*The Footway*



*Squires Close*

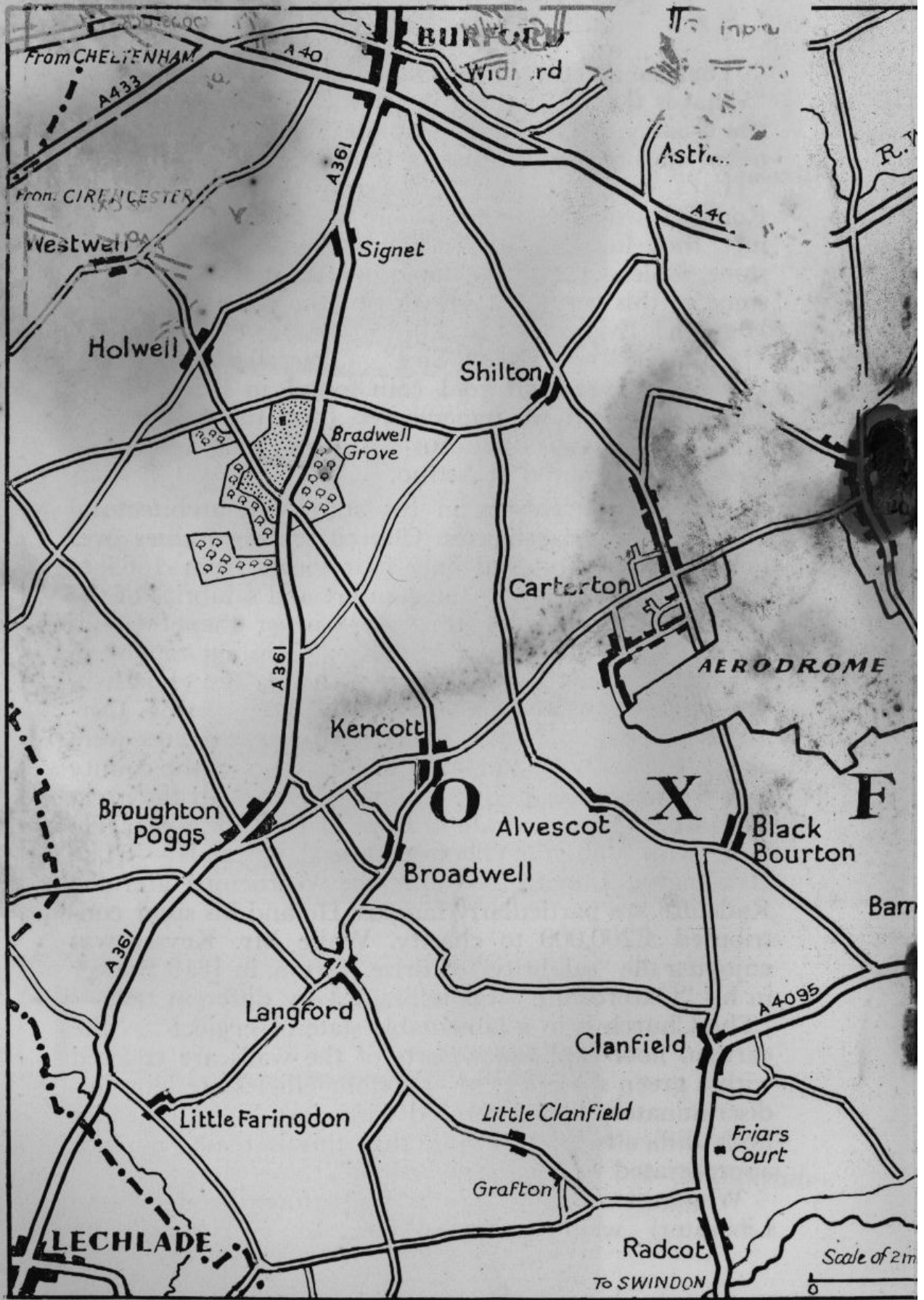


*A Countryside  
Walk*

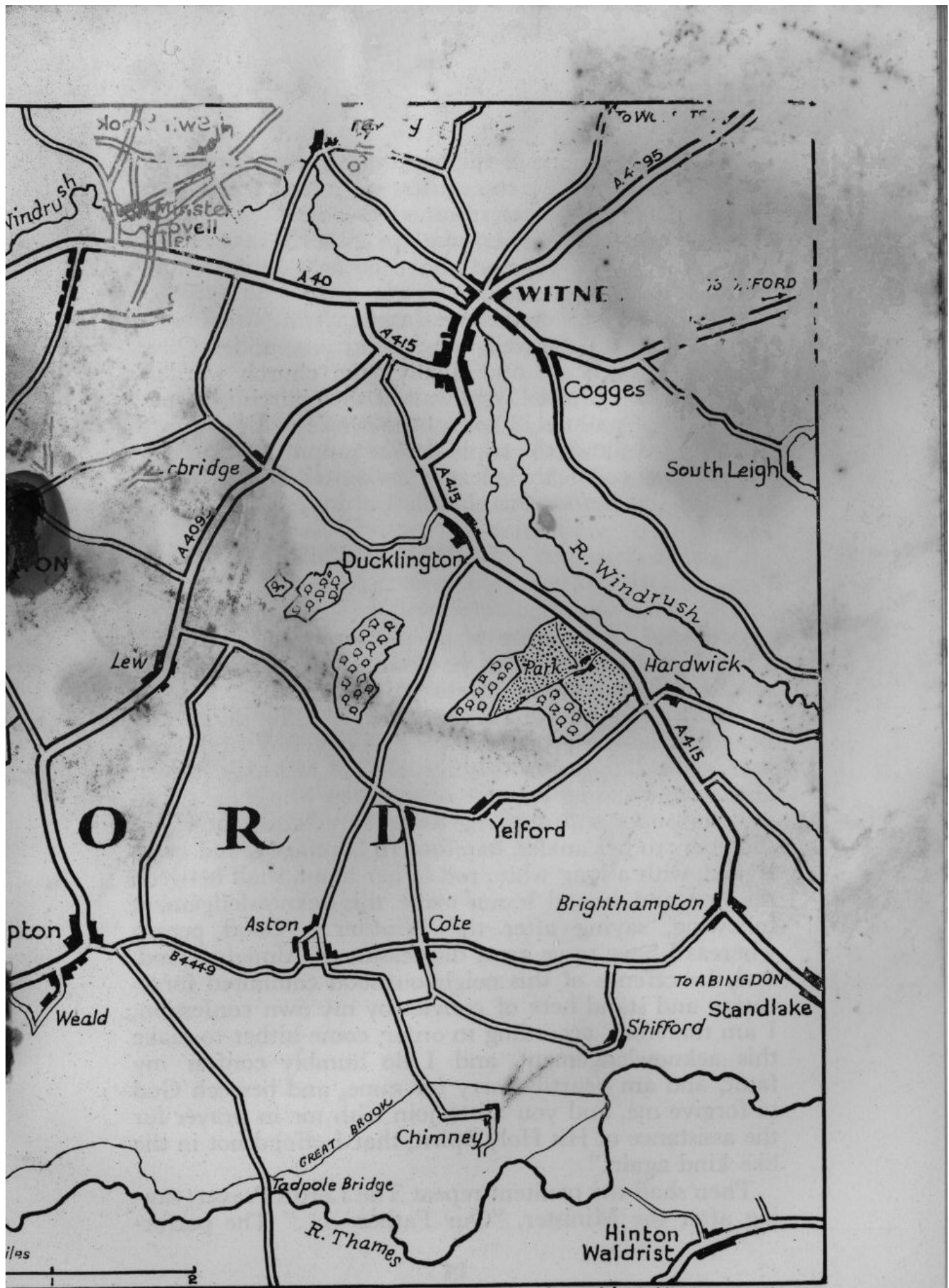
Then he asked Dick — Dick had grinned too soon — “What is the oldest thing in your village?” “Please, Sir, Quarry, Sir”. Though no-one worked in it now in olden days twenty teams at a time would be loading up. <sup>1822</sup>That’s very interesting”, the inspector said, “In the Roman town of Silchester, where five great Roman roads met, they found a very unique tessera, that is, mosaic stone, which experts say could only have come from the stone of this very quarry over two thousand years ago.” He won! Every Jack and Jill of us put our hands up. “Please Sir?” — “Please, Sir?” . . . We all wanted to tell him of the very old gold coin found in Brize Norton ages ago, which we remembered from the sentence — “He spat at us — Epaticcus”. And not long ago Saxon remains were found at Astrop.

Mr. Charles Keyser in his admirable architectural brochure on Brize Norton Church sentimentalises over the village having had only four vicars from 1663 to 1858 which “testifies to the comfort and salubrity of the village”. In the event they were never there! Good-enough ran a school in Middlesex, Kipling taught in Thame Grammar School, Penson had a big church in Oxford and Eckley kept a curate in Brize Norton. Curates were paid less than farm labourers. Curates were either good or very bad. Half of the vicars in the county in 1813 were non-resident. Samuel Warneford the great philanthropist was curate in Brize in 1787 for a year. He built with Vaughan Thomas several hospitals — The Headington Lunatic Asylum, the Warneford and the Radcliffe are particularly famous. He and his sister contributed £200,000 to charity. While Mr. Keyser was enjoying the “salubrity” of Brize Norton, in 1819 Brewer in his “Oxfordshire” was telling a very different tale — “The Church is in a lamentable state of neglect . . . the earthen floor and lower parts of the walls are covered with a green slime . . . several stone effigies are lying indiscriminately and disfigured with dust . . . a beholder finds difficulty in believing that this is really a place appropriated to religious worship.”

Whatever “Soapy” Sam Wilberforce (son of the Liberator) was e.g. “everything to everybody”, he



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turned out to be one of the best houses that I have ever seen. Brize Norton is the dirtiest church in any county, but not for long, for instance, Goodenough Church. Altogether Bishop Wilberforce spent £700,000 on Goodenough Church alone. I have never seen the church since it was built today.

It suffered three slashings—the worst under Cromwell, the second one under Oliver Cromwell, the puritans and finally “the church warden’s” On the west wall of the church is a small painting, painted by one of the Morley girls of Marsh it shows the triple decker pulpit, the box pews and the corner of the clear glass instead of Kempe’s glass tint before the church wardens changed them all.

#### GODLY DISCIPLINE

*(Vicar's comment!)*

A Forme of Penance to be performed in the Parish Church of Brizenorton in ye County and Archdeaconry of Oxon on Sunday the twenty fifth of October 1713 by Mary Braddle of the Parish aforesaid. The said Mary Braddle shall be present in ye Parish Church of Brizenorton the 25th day of October 1713 at Morning Prayer, and then, standing in some open place where the Minister shall appoint, in a long white sheet down from her shoulders to her ankles, barefooted, barefaced, and barelegged, with a long white rod in her hand, shall between the first and second lesson make this acknowledgement following, saying after the Minister: “Good people whereas I have to ye great displeasure of Almighty God, and the offence of this neighbourhood committed fornication and stand here of convict by my own confession, I am therefore, according to order, come hither to make this acknowledgement, and I do humbly confess my fault, and am heartily sorry for same, and beseech God to forgive me, and you all to join with me in prayer for the assistance of His Holy Spirit, that I offend not in the like kind again.”

Then shall the penitent repeat The Lord's Prayer, saying after the Minister, “Our Father .. .” The perfor-



15. nroodit'rof is white certified under ye hand  
Minister and church wardens of ye Parish aforesaid.  
the Court Day in time and place of Court.  
-20- We, ye Minister and churchwardens of  
Brizenorton aforesaid do hereby certify  
Braddle on ye day above appointed  
in ye Parish Church of Brizenorton aforesaid  
to ye order and Form above directed in  
us."

And Norton's foster child, Carterton?  
years ago Mr. Carter converted Rock Farm  
ing estate, the cheapest house with land  
pounds! Till then there was only the farmhouse and a  
pair of cottages on each side a narrow country lane. The  
Crossroads and Shilford Bottom were the camping  
ground of tramps. The first settlers seemed real  
foreigners, the men dressed like Sherlock Holmes, their  
ladies spent half their time listening to sky-larks. A hand-  
ful of years later came the Aerodrome: O my Cuckoo-  
Pen: O our courting lane of long ago! Whoever would  
have dreamt that soon the newspapers of the Western  
World would be showing huge maps with only two  
names on them — Brize Norton and New York with, out  
of charity poor London tucked away in a corner. How  
come? The American Air Force flew a mechanically  
controlled plane from New York to Brize Norton.



*The Dove Cote, Grange Farm*

### **BRIZE NORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Brize Norton Parish Council consists of seven members as follows.

*Chairman :* F. J. Faulkner, Esq., 1 The Fosseway, Brize Norton.

*Vice-Chairman :* T. E. Thomson, Esq., 2 Squires Close, Brize Norton.

*Members :* F. Bellenger, Esq., The Kithicks, Station Road, Brize Norton.  
W. H. Bushell, Esq., "Chantries", Burford Road, Brize Norton.  
R. A. Print, Esq., West View, Brize Norton.  
W. W. Upjohn, Esq., The School House, Brize Norton.  
L. W. Wilkins, Esq., The Homestead, Brize Norton.

*Clerk to the Council :* K. N. Hadland, Esq., 9 Squires Close, Brize Norton.  
Telephone Carterton 570.

The Parish Council is elected triennially and the members hold office until 1971, while the Clerk remains in office during the Council's pleasure.

*Council Meetings :*

Meetings are held in the Victory Hut, Brize Norton, the press and members of the public are cordially invited to be present. Meetings commence at 7.00 p.m.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is held on the first Monday after the 20th May each year. Ordinary meetings are held on the second Monday of each month excepting the months of May and June.

*Parish Meetings :*

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting is held during the month of March each year and all electors are entitled and encouraged to attend. Any other Parish Meeting is convened as and when required.

*Parish Council Representatives :*

Royal Air Force/Local Authorities Liaison Committee :

T. E. Thomson, Esq.

Witney & District Sports Advisory Council :

R. A. Print, Esq., (Hon. Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee).

Board of Management of the Brize Norton County Primary School :

F. J. Faulkner, Esq., R. A. Print, Esq.

(As the "minor authority" the Parish Council is entitled to nominate one-third of the School Managers).

*Parish Representatives :*

Witney Rural District Council :

W. H. Bushell, Esq., "Chantryes", Burford Road, Brize Norton. Tel : Carterton 423.

Oxfordshire County Council :

Miss D. Graeme Thomson, Beam Cottage, Bampton. Tel : Bampton Castle 206.

## STATISTICS

Area of Parish : 3,314 Acres.  
Population (Est. mid 1968) : 1,050.  
Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1969 : £80,818  
\*Estimated Product of 1d. Rate 1969/70 : £548/17/4  
\*\*Number of Properties : 234.

\*This item includes a contribution in lieu of rates from the national exchequer in respect of that part of the Royal Air Force Station which falls within the parish of Brize Norton and is equal to about 90 per cent of the total.

\*\*Excluding any part of the Royal Air Force Station.

## OXFORDSHIRE BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITIONS

- 1964—Best Kept Village Competition—A runner-up.  
1967—War Memorial Competition—Winners of the  
“General Class”.  
1967—Best Kept Village Competition—A runner-up.  
1968—War Memorial Competition—Winners of the  
“Winners Class”.  
1968—Best Kept Village Competition—A runner-up.  
1969 War Memorial Competition—Winners of the  
“Winners Class”.  
1969—Best Kept Village Competition—A runner-up.

## SERVICES, AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### Accessibility

The City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd. operate a frequent Bus service between Lechlade/Carterton/Witney and Oxford — Service No. 57. Official Timetable obtainable from Carfax Travel Bureau, 138 High Street, Oxford, price 1/6 or 2/3 including postage and from the Company's offices. In addition Carterton Coaches Ltd. operate a service to Swindon three times each week.

### Allotments

The Parish Council let out the Bampton Roau Allotments and application for tenancies should be made to the Clerk to the Council whose address is given on page 16 of this Guide.

### Churches

St. Britius Parish Church :—Vicar : Rev. David F. F. Evans, The Vicarage, Carterton, Oxford. Tel : Carterton 429.

The Methodist Church :—Circuit Minister : Rev. Norman Baker, 'Springfield', Fernway Road, Faringdon, Berks. Tel : Faringdon 2227.

Mothers' Union :—Meetings first Wednesday of each month.

Bright Hour :—Meetings third Wednesday of each month.

Sunday School :—Interdenominational — Every Sunday afternoon in the St. Britius Parish Church.

### Cricket

The Brize Norton Cricket Club has recently been reformed and have completed a fixture list for the 1969 season. Home matches are played in the Recreation Ground. Enquiries to the Secretary—P. A. Timms, Esq., 'Orchardene', Bampton Road, Brize Norton.

### Education

The Brize Norton County Primary School caters for children between the ages of 5 and 11 and school

dinners are provided. H. J. Teanner—W  
Upjohn, Esq., The School House, Brize Norton  
Tel: Carterton 488. Higher education is available  
at Burford, transport provided, and Further Edu-  
cation at the West Oxfordshire Technical College  
at Witney.

### **Electricity**

Supplied by the Southern Electricity Board. Show-  
rooms and offices at Welch Way, Witney. Tel:  
Witney 3521.

### **Entertainments**

Concerts, socials, dances and similar events are  
held in the Victory Hut (village hall). Among sev-  
eral flourishing local clubs are:—

Women's Institute Group—Meetings second Tues-  
day of each month.

Happy Circle Club for senior citizens—Meetings  
third Tuesday of each month.

Youth Club—Meetings every Friday.

Olde Tyme Dancing Club—Meetings alternate  
Wednesdays.

### **Football**

The Brize Norton Football Club has two teams in  
the Witney and District League, home matches  
being played on the Recreation Ground. Secretary  
R. T. Watts, Esq., 6 The Fosseway, Brize Norton.  
Tel: Carterton 7210.

### **Industry**

Brize Norton is in a mainly agricultural area but  
there is some rural industry. Most residents com-  
mute to the nearby towns of Witney, Oxford and  
Swindon where there are large scale industries.

### **Health Services**

Doctors J. W. Bullen, A. D. Cole and R. Landray,  
Manor Cottage, Bampton, Oxford. Tel: Bampton  
Castle 257.

District Nurse/Midwife—Miss E. Jones, 5 Mile-  
stone Road, Carterton, Oxford. Tel: Carterton 286.

Welshfield Welfare Clinic—Women's Institute Hall,  
Brize Norton Road, Carterton, Oxford. Every Tues-  
day.  
Nuffield Health Centre, Welch Way, Witney, Oxon.  
Tel : Witney 3641.

### **Library**

The village is served by the South-West Oxfordshire Mobile Library Service—alternate Mondays, and there is an excellent branch of the County Library at Welch Way, Witney.

### **Local Government**

Brize Norton is served by a Parish Council full details of which appear on pages 16 & 17 of this Guide. It is in the Witney Rural District and is one of 39 parishes. The County Authority is the Oxfordshire County Council.

### **Newspapers**

The Oxford Mail (daily), The Oxford Times, West Oxfordshire Standard, Witney and Carterton Gazette (weekly). A Parish Magazine is published bi-monthly under the auspices of the Vicar (price 6d.). The Parish Council publish a 'News Sheet' in March and September each year, which is delivered free to every household.

### **Parliamentary**

Brize Norton is in the Banbury Constituency.

### **Public Footpaths**

The Parish Council is at present engaged in repairing and reinstating the public footpaths as shown on the Definitive Map, which is available for public inspection on request. It is proposed to signpost each footpath and provide direction markings in addition to repairing stiles and bridges. These footpaths provide many attractive walks in the countryside which can be enjoyed by the public.

### **Post Office**

Post Office Stores, Brize Norton. (Proprietor Major P. R. Faulkner). Tel : Carterton 211.

### **Recreation Ground**

The Recreation Ground of some 5½ acres is maintained by the Parish Council. Children's playground equipment is provided and both the Brize Norton Cricket and Football Clubs play their home games here. An enclosed hard tennis and netball court has been provided this year while work is in progress on a fully equipped Sports Pavilion. The Elder Bank Car Park was officially opened on 9th August, 1968, and is provided as part of the amenities of the Recreation Ground. The wrought iron entrance gates were made and given to the village by the former village blacksmith, the late Albert E. Print, Esq. These gates together with the natural cotswold dry stone walling and trees and shrubs around the Recreation Ground, make it an idyllic and picturesque setting for leisure activities.

### **Street Lighting**

The Parish Council has provided a modern footway lighting system of 32 street lights, consisting of 80 watt mercury vapour lanterns. The scheme was installed in 1962 at a cost of over £800. The lamps are lit from half-hour after sunset until midnight all the year round and from 6.30 a.m. until dawn during the months of November to February inclusive each year.

### **Village Hall**

The village hall known locally as The Victory Hut because it came into being following the First World War, is available for hiring for both private and public functions. It was fully modernised in 1962 at a cost of some £1,500. Particulars of hiring may be obtained from the Secretary—E. Faulkner, Esq., The Warren, Burford Road, Brize Norton. Tel: Carterton 499.

### **Water and Sewerage**

Water is supplied by the Oxfordshire and District Water Board, Denton House, Iffley Turn, Oxford. Tel: Oxford 78261. The main drainage authority is the Witney Rural District Council.



### Some Useful Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Ministry of Social Security, Marlborough Road, Banbury, Oxon. Tel: Banbury 2860, 2869 and 4704.

Ministry of Social Security (Pensions and National Insurance), 28 Bridge Street, Witney, Oxon. Tel: Witney 2427.

Oxfordshire Association for the Care of Old People, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, Hadow House, 20 Beaumont Street, Oxford. Tel: Oxford 43105.

Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, Oxford. Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the Council — G. G. Burkitt, Esq., LL.B., Tel: Oxford 48613.

Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Civil Defence Headquarters, Welch Way, Witney, Oxon. Tel: Witney 3062.

Witney Rural District Council, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon. Tel: Witney 3051. Clerk of the Council—E. Rowles, Esq., D.P.A. (Oxon.).

## CARPENTERS ARMS

(Prop.: Jim Bolton)

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