

NOTICE IN ST JAMES' CHURCH TYTHERINGTON

Undated, author not named

THE VILLAGE OF TYTHERINGTON

A reference to "TEDRINGTONE" in the Domesday Book mentions it "as belonging to Earl Aubrey, being about 2 hides (about 240 acres), a mill worth 30d., and five acres worth 20s. a year".

There is little known about the village until the middle of the 12th century, when Matilda, daughter of Henry I, gave the income from 28 acres of land to the Church and an area of common land for two chaplains to reside in Tytherington.

In 1452 Tytherington was one of the estates mortgaged for 10 years by Lady Hungerford to pay for the ransom of her son, Lord Robert Molyn, taken prisoner in France during The Hundred Years War, and any articles of value were confiscated by Edward VI's commissioners in 1553 for the King's use.

Tytherington, in common with much of Wiltshire, was an agricultural community, concerned mainly with wool, and it is thought that a number of wool workers from Heytesbury, which was an important wool centre, lived in the village. These, together with the larger numbers of men required to work the land during the 18th and 19th centuries, meant that the population was several times today's figure of 45. Coincidentally, the same figure has remained after the black death of 1350.

The gardens of cottages pulled down at the end of the last century can be seen between the Church and the cottage called "Littlecroft" on the East side of the village. Many of the houses were improved and added to in 1747 but the reason for this is not known at present.

In 1785 the Marquis of Bath bought Tytherington from the A'Court family for £363. 4s. 4d., but by the Heytesbury Enclosure Act of 1785 had exchanged it for parcels of land in Horningsham near to his estates, owned by the Reverend Charles Green.

The two farms situated within the village are the Manor Farm at the North end with land stretching nearly to Heytesbury, and Church Farm which lies in the long triangular stretch of country between Corton and Sutton Veny. The road between Corton and Sutton Veny, passing by the Church at Tytherington, was one of the first turnpike roads to be built between 1725 and 1750.

Traces remain of a settlement beyond Tytherington Hill, south of the Church. The last dwelling was pulled down about 30 years ago. The demise of this settlement was probably caused partly by its remoteness, and partly by the activities of the army during the last war.

Tytherington is fortunate in having an independent water supply. A borehole near the village feeds a small reservoir on Tytherington Hill, from which the village is directly supplied – with immense pressure!

In 1980 Sir Francis Holmes A'Court sold the two farms mentioned above, to Legal and General Insurance Limited, and within the last ten years Legal and General sold them and they are now individually owned and managed by two well known Wiltshire families.

Transcribed by: Colin Moretti

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