By letter dated 23rd February 1993 the Vicar was informed of a

See I 299 Books legacy bequeathed to Laffitt Church under the will of the late Mrs H M Davey of Greenway "In memory of Raffy and sad occasions AND I DIRECT that my daughter Beryl shall decide if this should be spent on the organ if necessary or in the interior of the Church".

The legacy was for £500.

It was subsequently decided that 100 books be provided for use in Church Services and with some samples available at the Annual Parochial Church meeting on 22nd April 1993 it was agreed to purchase "Songs of Fellowship"

These were obtained and dedicated at the Family Service on 25th April 1993.

Copied from "The nine Tailors"
by Dorothy L. Sayers.
First published in January 1934

Seen on an ancient box tomb.

Bells Here lies the body of SAMUEL SNELL
That for fifty years pulled the Tenor Bell
Through Changes of this mortal Race
He laid his Blows and Kept his Place
Till Death that Changes all did Come
To Hunt him Down and Call him Home
His Wheel is Broke his Rope is Slackt
His Clapper Mute his metal Cracked.
Yet when the great Call summons him from Ground
He shall be Raised up tuneable and Sound.
MDCXCVIII 1698
Aged 76 years

Luffitt Packet July 1993

Commons

Luffitt Commons

There are many popular misconceptions held by the general public about common land, for instance, that it has no particular owner, or perhaps more inaccurately, that it is owned by and open to the public at large. This is of course far from correct, although it is possibly quite understandable why there is so much confusion on the subject. As you will see later, some common land is owned by Local Authorities and open to the public.

It would be impossible for me to cover every aspect of the ownership of common land and the rights thereon in this short article, or to distinguish between National Parks, National Trust land, Public and Private open spaces and village greens in any detail. However, there is a need for those living in the parish of Luffitt to understand the law and rules that apply to this magnificence area of common land, that runs through almost every corner of the parish.

In order to begin to understand what common land is all about there is a need to look at its origins, the roots of which date back to the manorial system, introduced by the Normans some 900 years ago. Commons are therefore a remnant of the country's economic life in the middle Ages. The land itself was vested in the Lord of the Manor and the whole of England was divided into separate manors, but the rights enjoyed by the cottagers, of grazing, gathering wood etc. were accorded legal recognition by the Courts. This meant that the Lord of the manor could not inclose the waste or common land and thus prevent the commoners exercising their rights, unless he obtained the authority of Parliament, and this rule still applies today.

Common Rights

It was always the need for more food that drove men of all ages to reclaim the wastes and turn them into productive farm land. This same analogy can be applied to the farming community of Luffitt between the years 1940 to the mid 1980's. It is often forgotten that prior to World War II we were only self-supporting in dairy produce; our beef came from the Argentine, our sheep from Australia and New Zealand, our corn

from the U.S.A. and Canada, and latterly, our pig meat from Denmark. As a result, post war, there were enormous pressures placed on the farmers to produce more food and between the late 1950's and 1980's we achieved our aim of becoming self-supporting in everything but milling wheat which is still imported from North America. Though it has to be said, this was not achieved without a price to be paid to the environment and countryside. So once again we see full cycle, resulting in the present surplus of food and farming depression.

However to return to the manorial system and a much earlier cycle which had more or less the same result as just described. It was the great agricultural reformers - Turnip Townshend, Thomas Coke of Norfolk, William Corbett among many others, who in the 18th century brought immense improvements in agricultural techniques and made it both possible and profitable to cultivate land hitherto regarded as grazing or waste land. Thus, there came the great Inclosure movement, culminating in the Inclosure Act of 1845. Though even before this, between the years 1760 to 1840, 2500 parishes were inclosed.

1845

The principle of the 1845 Inclosure Act was that the Lord of the Manor and commoners would each receive an allotment of freehold land in exchange for the legal extinguishment of their hitherto existing rights. Whereas the objective of the Act was to speed up and facilitate the inclosure of common land. However within 30 years of the introduction of this Act, economic and social forces (just the same sort of forces that prevail today) began to work against inclosure. Firstly, the end of the American civil war in 1865 and the opening up of the corn growing mid-west by the railways led to massive imports of cheap foodstuffs into Britain. This removed the main incentive to inclose common land for arable farming. Secondly, the industrial revolution was creating towns of densely packed populations, which need open spaces for recreation and exercise, therefore by the end of the 19th century the economic reasons for inclosing commons had all but disappeared, whilst the social reasons for preserving them was growing

Common Rights

as each year passed. Thus although many hundreds of thousands of acres of good fertile common land were inclosed during this period, less fertile and favourable areas such as Dartmoor, Exmoor, the North Yorkshire moors and indeed Duffitt remained very much as they had been for the past 900 years.

There followed a number of Parliamentary Acts, all directed at easing the necessity for inclosure and regulating commons, such as the Metropolitan Commons Act of 1866 and the Commons Act, some ten years later in 1876.

Common Rights

Common land today is thus the remnant of the great mediaeval open land system. As can be seen with our own commons "rights", especially grazing are still of considerable importance. Elsewhere the traditional rights of commons have fallen into disuse and the main value of common land is for public recreation. It was under section 193 of the law

1925

of Property Act of 1925, that the public were given a legal right of access for air and exercise to all commons within BOROUGHS and URBAN DISTRICTS, such commons now being owned by ~~some "legal person". As mentioned above this is the Lord of the Manor~~ the local Authority. Nevertheless it must be emphasised, the public do not have a legal right of access to all common land. Still less do the public "own" commons. Under English law a common, like any other land must be owned by some "legal person". As mentioned above this is the Lord of the Manor and in many cases the Lordship of the Manor still survives as is the case in Duffitt.

To be continued next month

Noel Page Turner

NOTE:- Inclose variant form of Enclose, being the legal and statutory form, in reference to the inclosing of common and waste lands.

Luppitt Packet August 1993

Luppitt Commons

Continued from July issue

Now let me deal more specifically with Luppitt Commons. Until the middle of this century Luppitt Commons were owned by the Lord of the Manor. As stated in a previous article, the Manorial Rights (Lordship of the Manor) was purchased by a Mr John Madge on the break up of the Combe Raleigh Estate in 1921. Mr Madge in turn sold the Lordship to Mr Norcott of Woodhayes in 1959. It is at this point that a quite new initiative to place, for a year later Mr Norcott conveyed the freehold of the Luppitt Commons to the commoners themselves, vesting this interest into the hands of the four managing trustees, with the National Westminster Bank acting as Custodian Trustee. It was therefore this Deed of Transfer of the Lordship of the Manor, which has set the pattern for the administration of the commons as we see it today.

Common Rights

Luppitt Commons are a Private Open Space and the public have no rights of access to the common land. In County Hall, Exeter there is an up-to-date register of all those individuals who possess "rights" upon the commons and it is these individuals who collectively own the commons, and it is these commoners who in turn elect annually their managing trustees, who have the responsibility, together with the Trustee Committee for administering the commons and safeguarding the interests and rights of the commoners who own it.

During the past year the Trustee committee, aware of the tremendous pressures being placed on the environment by an ever increasing population and use of the motor car, coupled with the pressing need for the protection of the countryside; have looked critically at our adminstration and objectives. We have an undisputed obligation to preserve and protect the commons, while at the same time, perhaps a moral, rather than legal responsibility, to endeavour to find a way of making the commons more accessible, at least to those living within the parish, albeit in a controlled and limited manner.

The Trustee committee have been concerned by modest encroachment on to common land in one

or two, thankfully isolated situations. We are also concerned by the growing incidence of rubbish and litter being left on the commons and in some cases, by individuals helping themselves to flintstone and sand. There is also the question of people walking their dogs on the public footpaths crossing the commons, but letting, albeit unintentionally, them chase after sheep. We do not wish to be unusually restrictive about keeping dogs on leads, but where sheep are about, perhaps a little more consideration would go a long way to fostering good relations between the farming community and those out for exercise and air. If we are to preserve this unique and wonderful piece of countryside, teeming with wildlife, then we are all going to have to be more vigilant and seek the help and cooperation of all those living in the parish.

I realise that some concern was felt by local residents at the burning of the commons earlier this year. However, this was carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods code of practice for the burning of commons and the 1986 Regulations. Nevertheless, we will review our procedure for future years. I believe also, that there is a need for the farming community to do their bit towards protecting our environment; we cannot expect to be excluded from any initiative and so it behoves us to ensure for instance, that discarded plastic and black plastic bags are disposed of and not left to litter the common.

There have been some most enterprising initiative by those living within the parish over the last year or so, such as the planting of trees. Such actions in my opinion, should be encouraged, so long as they are done with the authority of the Trustee committee. Recently, due to our concern at gates being left open and cattle straying, we have erected a stile on Hartridge, adjacent to the railway hut. We are at the present time working on a scheme, which we hope to launch, initially for a trial period, to licence individuals to ride horse over a defined track on the common land.

The Treasurer (Mr Eric Franklin) will be responsible for administering the scheme. The Trustee committee have identified a track which will allow people living within the parish of Duffitt, to ride their horses off the public highway. For a modest licence fee (which protects the rights of the owners), individuals will be able to ride over the common land but they must stick to the designated track (maps will be provided and of course there will be no charge to registered commoners). They will however be required to identify themselves by wearing a yellow arm band 2" wide. Anyone interested should contact Mr Franklin (Tel. 89124+1).

It would be quite impossible for us, the Trustee Committee, to please or satisfy everyone, doubtless there will be those who will feel that either we have done too much or too little. But we are endeavouring to move forward in both protecting the commons and the wild life in a practical way, while allowing some wider use of the commons by those living within our parish.

I do hope the readers of this article will find it informative, at the same time as giving a clearer picture of the history of the commons and their present administration.

Noel Page-Turner
Chairman of the Trustee Committee

hcv/993

John Ploughman's Talk By C. H. Spurgeon.

A book of short pithy sayings on 24 subjects.

Try If at first you don't succeed, Try, Try again.

Verses

Once let every man say TRY
Very few on straw would lie,
Fewer still of want would die;
Pains would all have fish to fry;
Rich would fill the poor man's sty;
Want would cease and need would fly;
Wives and children cease to cry
Poor rates would not swell so high;
Things would'nt go so much awry —
You'd be glad, and so would I!

By little strokes
men fell great oaks

The stone is hard
The drop is small
But a hole is made
By the constant fall

178

4/1/94 Visit to Honiton Library

FONT 'Fonts and Font Covers' By Francis Bond 1908 729/913

On page 178 are three photographs of Duffield font showing Duffield East, Duffield, North west; and Duffield, northeast.

Table of contents

Part I

Ch I The original import of the Rite of Baptism
" II Methods of Administration " " " "
" III The Baptistery and its Piscina.
" IV Transformation of the Baptistery Tank into a Tub font, a Font on legs, a Pedestal font, a Glalice font, a metal Basin, or an Earthenware Bowl.

Part II

Ch V Classification of Fonts: Symbolism
" VI Fonts with Appendages and Accessories
" VII Fonts of Gold Silver Bronze Pewter Brick and lead
" VIII Position of Fonts, Construction and Dimensions of Fonts. Plinth and Steps. Fonts Recut & mounted. Conversion of Alters, Columns, and Pillar Crosses into Fonts.
" IX Inscriptions on Fonts.

Part III

" X Pre Conquest Fonts
" XI Font Design in the Twelth Century
" XII " " " " Thirteenth "
" XIII " " " " Fourteenth "
" XIV " " " " Fifteenth and Sixteenth C.
" XV Post Reformation Fonts
" XVI Desecration and Destruction of Fonts

Part IV

" XVII Font Covers

Indese Locorum
" Rerum

P 155 Masks are frequent — Duffield
P 167 Turning to the Old Testament, one finds a great contrast. All the main events in the Gospel story are evidently familial to every one; the Old Testament, on the other hand, with the exception of the story of Adam and Eve, is largely an unfamilial book. The subjects represented on fonts are at Darenth and Duffield. At Darenth King David is shewn with the Rack. at Duffield (178) one holds a huge nail, another is driving it into somebody's head (there is not room for his body); naturally one thinks of Sisera and Jael

but in the great paucity of Old Testament subjects it is not certain that this would have been represented.

P181 Masks are very common. Usually they are placed at each corner of the bowl, as in many Cornish fonts; e.g. Launceston (203) and Luppitt (178)

P183 At Luppitt (178) is a centaur carrying a spear, and with a big foliated tail, while in front are fearsome beasts facing one another with grinning jaws. Some of these may be figments of the imagination — "Gorgons and hydras and chimaeras dire" — more probably everyone had a meaning to him who wrought it.

The texts from page 144 to 205 are in the chapter XI headed Norman fonts of the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

Verses Seen in a young lady's autograph book many years ago:-

On the last page

"By hook or by crook, I'll write last in your book."

and on the inside face of the back cover, opposite:-

"Did you never discover you could write on the cover!?"

The booklet containing the following "Valuation List for the parish of Luppitt in the Honiton Union in the County of Devon"

Valuation List 1871 was handed to me by Mrs B. Hardwick of Greenway Farm in March 1974 having come from the papers of the late Mr John Bishop and Miss Maud Bishop of Newmans Luppitt.

X Unfortunately it has no date but I suspect that its approximate date is in the 1870's as grandfather John Sage was listed as living at Pound Farm. It will be deposited with the Rate Books as copied in Vol I page 283 in April 1976; at the Devon Record Office.

X later noticed faint date at end 23 March 1871

Number	Name of Occupier	Name of Owner	Description of Property	Name of or situation of Property
1	Abbot John	Trott Chas	House Garden & Shop	Part of High Park
2	Anstis Robt	Valentine Revd	Land	Gammons Meadow
3	Bright John	Helyars Mrs	House & Land	Whitehall Pt Smith
4	Bishop Henry	Worth & McKenzie Esq	" " Coppice	Lower Shelvin
5	Broom William	Forwards Robt Esq	" "	Pitt
6	Broom Henry	Scott John Esq	" "	Roolshays & Everlangs
7	" "	Feoffees of Honiton	" "	Stockers Week
8	Broom Simon	Blake G.P. Esq	" "	P. Greenway
9	" "	" "	" "	Part of Dolish
10	Blake G.P. Esq	" "	" "	Greenway House
11	" "	Pearce Miss	Cottage & Garden	Mill Cot
12	" "	Blake G.P. Esq	Cottage Garden & Orchard	Snooks
13	" "	" "	" " "	Corner House
14	" "	" "	" " "	
15	" "	" "	Land	Pt of Greenway
Page 2				
16	Burrough ~~Richd~~ John	~~Burrough Richd~~ John	Hs & Land	Hamborrough
17	Bradley Jane	Bradley Jane	" "	Scotshayes
18	Burrough James	Burrough James	" "	Shelf & Hamdenshays
19	" "	Newbury & Others	Cottage & Land	Little Town
20	Bishop ~~James~~ Henry	Helyar Esq	House & Land	Mohuns Ottery
21	~~Billing Chas~~ Lodes John	Kings Escors	Cottage & Land	Turf House
22	Burrough Edwd	Bernard W Esq	House & Land	Huggins Week
23	" "	Burrough Edwd	" "	Week & North Week
24	Bernard W Esq	Bernard W Esq	Coppice	Coppice
25	Bright Wm	Graves Escors	Land	Bywood Meadow
26	Davey Jas	Burrough Edwd	Hs Garden & Land	Mill Cot
27	Clapp John	Bradley Jane	Cottage & garden	Cate Birds
28	Coles Saml	Blake G.P. Esq	Hs & Land	Dolish & Hayward
29	" "	Worth & McKenzies Esq	" "	Sansomes
30	" "	" "	Shelvin Coppice	Coppice
Page 3				
31	Coles James	Bernard W Esq	House Garden & Shop	Board's Cot
32	Davey Robt	White John	Hs & Land	Budgels
33	" "	Blake G.P. Esq	Hs Mill & Land	Mill
34	Doble Saml	Worth & McKenzie Esq	Hs & Land	Winsor
35	Dimond Jas	" "	" "	Shapcombe Pt Pulshay
36	Farrent Saml	Farrent Saml	" "	Birds Overday
37	Grainger Revd	Grainger Revd	Rentcharge commuted at 140	
38	" "	" "	Glebe Land	