

Village Allotments

In the decades around 1900, there were three areas of allotment gardens, all fully utilised, for growing wheat, vegetables and fruit (with surpluses for sale) and sometimes for keeping chickens or other livestock. Catpits allotments occupied the area where Cherry Tree Farmhouse now stands and Waterfurlong allotments were in the field almost opposite the present Warmington Hill Garage. The longest surviving allotments, still in use today, are the ones on Goose Bank. The name derives from an ancient area of common for geese.

In some villages, the allotments can be traced back to an Inclosure Award of the late 18th or early 19th century, when an area was set aside for the use of the poor. No such allotment was made in Warmington.

The Goose Bank allotments, more extensive probably than they are today, were provided by the rector on part of his Glebe farmland. The following rental list relates to Michaelmas 1877. William Harrison, rector, was buried in November 1877; it seems likely the allotments were first made available sometime during his long incumbency. The list shows thirty eight allotment holders. Analysis shows that twenty four were agricultural labourers (including a thatcher and a shepherd), three were women, one was a smallholder and ten were craftsmen or tradesmen. The amounts paid for the plots are remarkably diverse.

The script in italics is editorial comment. The names of streets and properties are today's names. Many families rented their cottages, some moving at intervals within the village. Several agricultural labourers tenanted cottages which belonged to the farmers for whom they worked.

Allotment Rent, Michaelmas 1877

Francis Hawkins 3s.2d *A tailor, aged 57*

Mathew Cox 3s 0d *Agricultural labourer, aged 45*

William Hawkes 4s.7½d *Blacksmith, parish clerk, later school attendance officer, 45*

James Jobson 5s.3d *Smallholder owning 7 acres, lived Westering, aged 66*

John Greenway 2s.3d *Labourer, aged 57. Probably left village on wife's death that year*

Charlott Coggins 3s.0d *Widow of John. Aged 62, lived Middle Street*

William Key 1s.6d *Ag.lab., aged 54, lived in Keys Lane*

Leonard Neal 3s.0d *Innkeeper's son, butcher, later innkeeper The Plough. Aged 29*

William Beesley 1s.10d *Ag. lab., widower, lived alone on Church Hill*

Thomas Richards 4s.10½d *Painter and glazier, aged 44. Owned a few cottages*

Daniel Ferber 2s.7d *Police constable, later carpenter, aged 47, lived Gourdon.*

David Hone 3s.0d *Plumber & glazier, aged 54*

Noah Bloxham 1s. 10½ *Ag.lab., aged 50, lived Church Hill*

Henry Garrett 2s.5d *Ag.lab., aged 42, born Williams cote*

George Norton 4s.9d *Probably ag.lab., lived in cottage, now incorporated in Brooklands*

Zilpha Taylor 1s.6d *Laundress, 67*

Thomas Dix 2s.3d *Ag lab, 47, lived in part of Sunnyside*

John Grant 5s.10d *Ag.lab., formerly baker, lived in part of Mistletoe Cottage.*

George Grant 5s.10d *'Grant the Thatcher', ag. lab., 65, lived in School Lane*
George Mitchell 3s.0d *Ag.lab., 71*
Joseph Cox 1s.6d *Ag.lab., 49, lived in cottage, later incorporated in Foresters Hall*
William Willis 4s.6d *Carrier, 70 operated service from Bachelors Cottage*
Phoebe Herbert 3s.0d *Widow, 75, cottage later part of Brooklands*
Josiah Haynes 7s.4d *Ag.lab., widower, 47*
George Coggins 3s.0d *Ag.lab., widower, 62, cottage later part of Brooklands*
Henry Robinson 2s.9d *Ag. lab., 60, cottage in Soot Lane*
Edward Coggins 3s.0d *Ag.lab., 41, Church Hill*
Caleb Willis 5s.7½d *Either son of William, born 1851, or son of Samuel, born 1845*
William Robinson 1s.11d *Not identified for certain*
Joseph Grant 2s.3d *Two men of this name, one born 1805, the other 1851*
Richard Wyatt 5s.1½d *Wheelwright, 42*
John Bachelor 3s.0d *Shoemaker, 45, lived Middle Street*
John Cleaver 3s.0d *Ag lab., 64, lived Middle Street*
William Cleaver 6s.0d *Ag lab., 33, lived in cottage now incorporated in Brooklands*
Joseph Haslewood 4s.6d *Shepherd, 64*
George Herbert 2s.3d *Ag.lab., 51*
George Hawkes 4s.6d *Ag.lab., 43, lived School Lane*
William Wyatt 5s.3d *Carpenter, aged 50*
£6.14s.0½d