

Notes and Sources

We have used numerous sources in compiling the Millennium History, including villagers' memories. Wherever possible, we have acknowledged all the sources below and we apologise if any acknowledgements and references are missing. Some copies of photographs were passed to the late Phillip Willison and then to Anita Bilbo; we no longer know who supplied them. We will gladly add acknowledgements and amend any errors on our website (finmere.history/virgin.net), in Newsletters and in subsequent editions of this book. Copyright of photographs remains with their owners.

Notes

Prices. Our estimates of the current value of historic prices is based on the Price Index in *Inflation: the Value of the Pound 1750–1998*, House of Commons Library Research Paper 99/20, London 1999.

Permissions. Our thanks to the following organisations for permission to reproduce documents: Huntington Library; Centre for Oxfordshire Studies; Oxfordshire Record Office; BBC; Royal Commission on Historic Monuments; Colour Rail; Lens of Sutton; Buckingham Advertiser; Oxford Times; Bicester Advertiser.

Abbreviations. BRO: Buckinghamshire Record Office. COS: Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. HL: Huntington Library. ORO: Oxfordshire Record Office. VCH: Victoria County History.

Main Sources

Many sources survive for Finmere's history. The most important used in compiling the Millennium History are described below. Local memories have also been very important.

Rectors' Book. This notebook was begun by Thomas Long about 1750 and maintained by Finmere Rectors until 1956. The book begins with a lengthy record of the inclosure of the open fields. The Rectors later developed the book into an occasional diary in which they recorded the major events in the parish; ORO, PAR/105/9/MS/1.

Parish Registers. The Registers begin in 1560. The earlier registers contain many notes by the Rectors about local matters, with some references to national events. Causes of death are given by William Jocelyn Palmer for 1826–53 and Henry Trower for 1904–18; ORO, PAR/105/1. The register has been transcribed by Oxfordshire Family History Society and a copy is in COS.

Vestry Minute Books. These survive from 1815; ORO, PAR/105/2. The most detailed minutes are for the years 1815–27.

School Log Books. The log books run from 1874 to 1948; ORO, T/SL25. Log books for the 1959 school are in possession of the current school.

Stowe Estate Records. The Huntington Library in San Marino, California holds an extensive set of letters, accounts and maps relating to the period where Finmere was part of the Stowe Estate—from the beginning of the seventeenth century to its sale in 1848–53.

Blomfield. James Charles Blomfield's history of the village is an essential source for our history and includes many details not included in our text, especially for pre-1800. *History of Finmere, Oxon*, J. C. Blomfield MA, Walford, Buckingham, 1887. Republished in 1998 by Finmere and Little Tingewick Historical Society with a short biography of Blomfield by Andy Boddington, ISBN 0 9533253 0 X.

Burton. Dean Burton's character sketch of William Jocelyn Palmer and Finmere in the early 1850s is one of the more interesting sections of Blomfield's *History of Finmere*: 1887 edition: 58–68; 1998 edition: 71–81.

Victoria County History. The VCH was established was founded in 1899 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Finmere's history is described in detail in *Victoria County History of Oxfordshire*, V6, pages 116–125. The compilers did not, however, draw on the material in the Huntington Library.

National Census. The first national census was held in 1801 but this was little more than a headcount by category of employment. We have made extensive use of the detailed 1851 census, transcribed by Oxfordshire Family History Society, and some use of later surveys to 1891.

Directories. Directories for Oxfordshire, including Finmere, begin with the *Post Office Directory of Berkshire and Oxfordshire* 1847 and continue under various publishers until Kelly's *Directory of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxon*, 1939. The three post-War directories are: *Oxfordshire Directory*, 1958; *Blair Directory of the County of Oxfordshire*, 1967; *The County of Oxfordshire Directory*, 1969.

1840 Tithe Commutation. The tithe map is the first complete map of Finmere. The accompanying Award gives a list of tenants of farms and tenements. The map has been redrawn by Andy Boddington from ORO, PAR/105/15/M/1 and a microfiche copy in COS.

Hello Finmere. This 29½ minute recording was aired on BBC local radio, 13 June 1971. John Simpson interviewed Bert Horwood, Olive Bates, Dorothy Carter, Cecily Carmichael, Alf Lepper and George Barnes. Transcripts by Andy Boddington reproduced with permission. © BBC.

Finnmere Village Plan. In 1974, Oxfordshire County Council wrote a discussion document about Finnmere, a copy of which is in COS. It provides a sketch of the village at that date and a number of recommendations, including that ‘village expansion should be resisted.’

References and Acknowledgements

The references and acknowledgements below add to those in the text.

The Millennium History

A Millennium of Village History. Research on archaeological remains by Barry Cranfield and Andy Boddington. See also, *An Archaeological Excavation and Watching Brief on the Finnere B4031 Diversion, Oxfordshire*, AOC Archaeology 1998. Finnmere’s early history is largely based on Blomfield and VCH. Graph drawn by Keith Rogers.

Finnmere and Little Tingewick

The interpretation of Finnmere placename is from *The Concise History of English Placenames*, ed. Eilbert Ekwall, Oxford 1960 and *The Placenames of Oxfordshire*, M. Gelling, English Placename Society 1960. The interpretation of Little Tingewick is from *The Place Names of Buckinghamshire*, A. Maver and F. M. Stenton, Cambridge 1969. Village map drawn by Andy Boddington.

The Village in the Nineteenth Century

Palmer’s Finnmere. The text draws extensively on Blomfield, Burgon, the Rectors’ Book and documents in HL and ORO. Louise Ashwell’s watercolours are in private possession. Emigration of Robert Paxton recorded in VCH. 1813 map is in HL, ST Map 138. Diversion of Water Stratford Road in 1809 described in letter from WH Barnard to Stowe Steward, Mr Parrot: HL, STG Box 480. Palmer’s rules for tenants are from Burgon. Ashwell’s pictures are from photographs of paintings once in the village.

The 1851 Census. Based on the 1851 census, transcribed by Oxfordshire Family History Society.

Palmer’s Later Years. Palmer’s biography is based on an anonymous text in *The History of Mixbury*, J. C. Blomfield 1890, 38–41 (the unnamed author is undoubtedly Palmer’s son, Roundell as the text is similar to *Memorials. Part 2: Personal and Political*, R. Palmer, Edinburgh 1892.) Our thanks also to Edwin Sparrow for his help. The faculty to remove cottages is in ORO, PAR/105/10/A1/1. Houses and tenants map drawn by Andy Boddington.

St Michael’s Church

Palmer’s Legacy. William Jocelyn Palmer’s returns for the ecclesiastical census are noted in *Church and Chapel in Oxfordshire 1851*, ed. Kate Tiller, Oxfordshire Record Society, 1987.

Frederick Walker’s Rebuilding. The picture of St Michael’s Church in 1824 is from VCH.

Seymour Ashwell’s Woodcarving. Blomfield dates the font cover to 1878, the Reredos to 1883 and the west window to 1886. Our dates of 1879, 1881 and 1884 are based on Seymour Ashwell’s notes in the Rectors’ Book. Blomfield’s text might be read as implying that Ashwell carved the corbels that support the roof; the Rectors’ Book makes clear that he paid for them to be carved. Photographs of Ashwell’s font by Andy Boddington.

Frederick Walker’s Rebuilding. A plan of George Street’s north aisle is in Lambeth Palace Library. Donations and costs are recorded in the Rectors’ Book.

After Ashwell. The signatures are drawn from a wide range of documents in ORU and at the Rectory. The text is based on notes by Ricky Yates.

Church Attendance. Walker’s attendance figures are from *Bishop Wilberforce’s Visitation Returns for the Archdeaconry of Oxford in the Year 1854*, ed. E.P. Baker, Oxfordshire Record Society XXXV, 1954. The Registers of Services 1919–89 are in ORO, PAR/105/1/R7. Graphs drawn by Keith Rogers. Current registers are held by St Michael’s Church. Photograph of the Millennium Service by Andy Boddington. Photograph of grave of Elizabeth Sikes supplied by Alan Tunks.

The Churchyard. The decision to apply for a faculty to level mounds is recorded in the Parochial Church Council Minutes; ORO, PAR/105/3/A1/4.

Catholics and Nonconformists. The Vestry petition is copied in the Vestry Minute Book, ORO, PAR/105/2/A1/1. Details of Lady Gifford’s chapel based on local memories. Information on Quakers and dissenters from VCH.

The Rectories

The introduction, including the reference to Capability Brown, is based on Blomfield.

Seymour Ashwell’s Rectory. The plans of the Rectory are in ORO, PAR/105/10/7/1–2.

The Parish Land

The seventeenth century map of the Warren is in HL, ST Map Box 4 (1). The changing landscape 1840–2000 is based on a wide range of maps, plans and personal observations; drawn by Andy Boddington.

The Landowners and their Farms. Details of landowners before 1547 can be found in Blomfield. The 1820s map of land purchased for the Stowe Estate is in HL, ST Map 139. Richard Grenville's statement 'I am very unwilling...' is quoted in *The Rise and Fall of the Grenvilles*, John Beckett, Manchester 1994. This informative volume sets Finmere in the broader context of the Grenville-Temple family's fortunes, including many details of the sale of Finmere. William Treadwell's death is recorded in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 1 December 1849. The auction of Finmere and other estates at Garroway's Coffee House is noted in the diary of Richard Grenville, 3rd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos in HL, ST124. Information on the Merton College land holdings was provided by Dr Steven Gunn, Archivist, Merton College. The proposed sale of Finmere Grounds and cottages to West at Silverstone is detailed in letters in HL, ST22. The sale map of the Glebe land is in ORO, PAR/105/10/3D/1.

Ewes Make History. Mrs Gladys Allen provided a copy of the article from *Farmers Weekly*.

Finmere Quarry. Ian Hudson provided the protest poster.

The Roads and Railways

Details of turnpike based on 'Turnpike Roads of Buckinghamshire,' K. Edmonds and others, *Records of Buckinghamshire*, 35, 1995, 31–44. The toll income is from an advertisement to let the tolls of Dropsheet and Finmere in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 26 March 1785.

The Stowe Road. The map, drawn by Andy Boddington, is based on a sketch in HL, ST Map 142.

The Buckinghamshire Railway. The text is based on *Oxford to Cambridge Railway*, B. Simpson 1981 and *Jackson's Oxford Journal*. Aylesbury Reference Library holds a photocopy of Charles Whitehall's memoir. Map by Andy Boddington.

The Great Central Railway. The text is based on *The Great Central: Then and Now*, M. Hawkins, Newton Abbott, 1991, *The Banbury to Verney Junction Branch*, B. Simpson, Oxford 1978 and the local newspapers cited. The picture of the Station Master in 1910 was provided by Mrs Jan Woodworth, the station in 1961 by Lens of Sutton, the Station in its final years by ColourRail, and the Station Master in 1904 by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments. Our thanks to Lens of Sutton, ColourRail and RCHM for permission to reproduce the photographs.

A Well Regulated Parish

The Vestry. Main sources are the Churchwardens Account Book, ORO, PAR/105/4/F1/1, and the Vestry Minute Book. William Jocelyn Palmer invited Stowe Steward, Thomas Beards, to the Vestry in December 1844; the letter is in HL, STG Box 35 (28).

The Parish Meetings and Council. Sources are Parish Meeting and Council minutes in possession of the Parish Council, the Rectors' Book and the *Bicester Advertiser*.

Poor Relief. The poor relief distributed in 1765 is recorded in a document in HL, STG 48 (60). Details of relief schemes after 1817 are from the Vestry Minute Book. Migrations in 1831 and 1832 noted in VCH. The fate of emigrant Thomas Smith is recorded in letters from Palmer in HL, STG 35 (25 & 27)

Charities for the Poor. The 1843 note of charity payments is from the Finmere Charity Book, currently in private hands. Blomfield gives the location of Keat's land as Bread Furlong but the name is Breech on the 1840 Tithe map. Other charity details are from Blomfield, Vestry Minutes, the Rectors' Book and Parish Council minutes. Finmere Friendly Society details located by Ian Hudson.

Health and Medicine. Data on age and causes of death is from the Parish Registers. Graph drawn by Keith Rogers. The letter from Dyson Wood is copied into the School log book. Palmer's letter to the Radcliffe is noted in *Church and Chapel in Oxfordshire 1851*, ed. Kate Tiller, Oxfordshire Record Society, 1987. Dr Clark's medical kit is in possession of Clementina Sikes, whom we thank for use of the photograph.

Crime and Policing. Crime details are drawn from the *Buckingham Advertiser*, *Bicester Advertiser* and *Jackson's Oxford Journal*. Tony O'Gorman helped with the text on Neville Heath.

Water and Services

Many details are based on Parish Meeting and Council minutes and local memories. Research on the wells and village pumps by Tim Killeen. For further information on Roberts Ltd, see *Deanshanger: Images of a Village*, Deanshanger Village Heritage Society, 2000. The photograph of the flood was taken Andy Boddington and the photograph of Mere Road well by Phil & Jackie Hodgkinson. Details of sewage and refuse from Parish Council minutes and *Bicester Advertiser*.

My Poor People, They Be Well Instructed

The main source is the school log books, which also contain copies of the Inspectors' reports. The Duke's letter on schools is in HL, STG Box 202 (63). Rev. Walker's notes on the schools are from *Bishop Wilberforce's Visitation Returns for the Archdeaconry of Oxford in the Year 1854*, ed. E. P. Baker, Oxfordshire Record Society XXXV, 1954. Ann Molder and the children are recorded in the 1851 census. The school account books are in ORO, PAR/105/14/F1/1. The pass rates are drawn from duplicate examination schedules in ORO, PAR/105/14/A1/1–7. The picture of pupils in 1936 was provided by Wilfred Davis and the 1938 picture by Ron Wakelin. COS supplied the photographs taken in 1906 and gave

permission to publish. Background information is from several sources, including *Village Education in Nineteenth Century Oxfordshire*, P. Horn, Oxford Record Society LI, 1979.

A Unique and Boldly Revolutionary School

Our text was compiled with the extensive help of architects David and Mary Medd. They discovered the essay on grass in the files of the former Department of Education accompanying the 1962 Inspection report. Information on the sale of Finmere House Paddock is from a deed owned by Alison Plant. The picture of children shopping was provided by COS and is reproduced with its permission. Transcripts of *Hello Finmere* are reproduced with the permission of the BBC. Our thanks to Jonathan Harris for his recollections and report card. The OFSTED reports are available through its website. Photographs on page 78 by Anita Bilbo (1983 and 1990) and Andy Boddington (2000).

The Village Landscape

The Village Pond. Sources are Parish Meeting and Council minutes. Photograph of the pond by Andy Boddington.

The Commemorative Trees. Main sources are Parish Meeting and Council minutes. The alterations to the road at the Cross Tree about 1809 are mentioned in a letter in HL, STG Box 480. Photographs of the planting of the Millennium Tree by Andy Boddington. Photograph of planting of Silver Jubilee tree supplied by Rosemary Crabtree. Other photographs through Anita Bilbo.

Villagers and Their Houses

Houses of Rubble and Thatch. Our thanks to Wilfred Davis for loan of his identity card.

Twentieth Century Developments. The text is based on Parish Meeting and Council minutes and local memories.

Village Views. Photographs provided by: Joan Chritchely, Mere Road in the 1920s; James Allingham, Finmere Garage and Red Lion in 1921. Other photographs through Anita Bilbo.

Villagers at Home. Photographs provided by: Joan Chritchely: Percy Clifford; Fred and Sylvia Barnes, Barnes family. Other photographs through Anita Bilbo.

Larger Houses. The accounts for the building of Glebe House are in the HL, Parrott Estate Day Books, ST 197–9. Information on Stone House from Blomfield. The 1928 auction catalogue for Cedar Lawn is in Buckinghamshire Record Office, D/WIG/2/6/444. Our thanks to Mrs Shirley for information about the Barrett family and the photographs.

Finmere House

Our thanks to Paul Woodfield, Towcester, for help with dating the buildings.

Origins. Text largely based on Blomfield. Plan drawn by Andy Boddington, who took the photograph of the rainwater heads. Photograph of Tudor House provided by Caroline Walker.

John Pollard. Interview with George Barnes from Hello Finmere. Text largely based on Blomfield.

The Clark Brothers. Text largely based on Blomfield. Photographs provided by Clementina Sikes.

The Symes-Thompsons. Our thanks to Mr C. Stephen Dehn, Mr Edmund Dehn and Mr William L. Weber for a wealth of material about the Symes-Thompson family. Photograph of Edmund Symes-Thompson provided by Mr C. Stephen Dehn.

The Flowers. Based on information from Mrs Jean Flowers who also provided the photograph of Jean and Jack and the House in the 1960s and Finmere House in the early 1960s. The swimming pool photograph was supplied by Rosemary Crabtree.

After the Flowers. The photograph of the House at the Millennium by Ian Macpherson.

The Public Houses

Robert Holt's brewing equipment is described in an auction advertisement in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*.

Kings Head. William Jocelyn Palmer's opinions about the Greaves family are set out in the *Rectors' Book*. The letter to Thomas Beards is in HL, STG Box 35 (28). Picture of customers provided by Wilfred Davis. The story of James Shaw is from the *Bicester Advertiser* and *Buckingham Advertiser*.

Red Lion. Photograph of customers provided by Wilfred Davis and the photograph of the Drag Hunt by Andy Boddington.

Finmere at Work

Jonas Paxton poster is in COS. We do not know the location of Stone's Cottage. Delivery Van photographed by Anita Bilbo.

Working the Land. Picture of agriculture workers provided by Mrs Shirley. Photograph of Cookie Coach provided by Anita Bilbo. Auction poster is in COS.

Rural Dissenters. The events in 1873 and 1874 are recorded in the Buckingham Advertiser. The 1879 meeting in Fimmere is noted in Oxfordshire Record Society XLVIII 1974, ed Pamela Horn.

Lacemaking and Service. 1851 and 1881 details from the census.

Shops, Garages and Markets. Details of postal deliveries to Fimmere, Warren Farm and Widmore Farm are from minutes held by Post Office Heritage—Post 35: 1889, 1447; 1884, 903; 1893, 2123; 1898; 19058; 1903, 7822; 1904, 3893; 1906, 8952. The bill head for Freeman’s Garage was supplied by Mrs Hilda Martin (nee Freeman) of Tintagel, Cornwall. Details of Robert Dewett are partly based on documents rescued by Jon How from Hearn and Hearn, formerly solicitors in Buckingham, supplied by Ian Hudson. Freeman’s Garage photograph supplied by Joan Chritchley. Douglas Hull poster from *Buckingham Advertiser*. Alfred Horwood and post office photographs through Anita Bilbo.

In Hall and Field

The First Village Hall. Text largely based on *Buckingham Advertiser* and Parish meeting Minutes. Photograph of actors supplied by Joan Chritchley and of walkers by Rosemary Crabtree.

A Prize Winning Hall. Picture of celebrating villagers © Don Williams Photography Ltd; we have been unable to locate this company to obtain copyright permission. Original appeared in *Grapevine Newsletter* 13, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, 1986.

The Playing Fields. Sources are Parish Council minutes and local memories.

Making Our Own Entertainment

VE Day 1995 photographs by Ian Hudson. FMMMM photographs by Andy Boddington.

Garlands at May Day. May Day parade photograph provided by Wilfred Davis. May Day 1940 photographs provided by Fred and Sylvia Barnes.

Celebrating Royal Coronations. Coronation photographs provided by Ron Wakelin.

A Golden Wedding. Photographs of Barretts provided by Mrs Shirley. Photographs of four boys provided by Frank Hitchcock.

Sports and Shows

Fimmere Sports Club. 1952 winners photograph hangs in the village hall; several people have noted that J. Dickenson is pictured with an exceptionally large head, suggesting it was substituted in the photographer’s dark room for reasons now unknown. The Ladies Cricket

Team photograph is from the *Buckingham Advertiser*, 14 June 1952; our thanks to Jake McNulty for providing a copy.

Fimmere Show. Based on information provided by Mrs Gladys Allen.

Horticultural Show. Text by Anita Bilbo, who also provided the photograph.

Guides, Cubs and Rangers. Photograph of Eric the Fox supplied by Bev. Mallion. The photograph of the Cubs in 1988 is possibly from Oxford Times. The Brownies in 1999 were photographed by Karen Hudson. Our thanks to Dawn Aris and others for correcting errors in FHS Newsletter 9 relating to this photograph.

The Women’s Institute

Photograph of collage by Ian Hudson. We do not know who supplied the Pancake Day photograph.

Fimmere During the Second World War

The Evacuees from Edmonton. Ration book supplied by Fred and Sylvia Barnes. Airfield plan redrawn by Andy Boddington. Photographs of Leslie Valentine, David Saunders in 1994 and Betty Baker in 1995, supplied by Tony O’Gorman.

The War Memorial. The photographs of the War Memorial and the Clifford family were supplied by Joan Chritchley, Tingewick. Information on those killed and their graves is from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Information from the Clifford family suggests that Arthur and Will Clifford joined the South Nottinghamshire Hussars. CWGC records show that Will was in the Royal Sussex Regiment at his death.



Finmere's Mad May Millennium Mayhem, May 2000