

Tonight's topic is the area known as

‘Oaks Nook’

Ainsworth

The dictionary describes a 'nook' as –

a recess, or a 'secluded retreat'

The name ***Oaks Nook*** implies that this may once have been a secluded spot in a large wooded area.

Today the area contains far fewer trees and is home to a cluster of 18th century historic buildings including the 300 year old Presbyterian Chapel.

The Chapel is regarded by many as a hidden gem. This little altered chapel with its mullioned windows and fine interior is an important example of a nonconformist chapel, in an attractive burial ground.

The special character and historic interest of this area puts it at the heart of the Ainsworth Village Conservation Area.

How old is this area of the village?

I have read many times that Oaks Nook is an ancient part of the village.

The earliest documented mention of Oaks Nook that I have found is in the Presbyterian Chapel deeds dated 1715. Here it states that the new building is to be erected in an area of Ainsworth known as '**Oakes Nook**'.

So the area was already called Oaks Nook well before 1715.

SUMMERS

made the Nineteenth ~~th~~ ~~th~~ ~~th~~ ~~th~~ ~~th~~ day of March ~~th~~ ~~th~~ in the year
of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defend^r of the Faith &c. **Between** Robert Aspinwall of London
and Daniel Hamor William Kirkman Jun^r Thomas Kirkman John Kirkman and John Bradley all of them of
the County of Kent and hereinafter mentioned to be granted or released And that he is minded and
is lately Erected and Built by several Protestants Dissenting from the Church of England upon the said parcel of
of the Summ of Three pounds ~~out~~ Money of Great Britain to him in hand paid at or before the Sealing and Soli-
in Kirkman and John Bradley ~~his~~ Receipt whereof is hereby Acknowledged And for divers other good Consideration
Grant Mien Bargain Sell Enforce Release and Confirm unto them the said Thomas Baron William Kirkman
him before and hereafter mentioned by virtue of one Indenture of Bargain and Sale thereof to them made for the
The said Edifice and Building newly Erected as aforesaid And all that parcel of Land with the Appurtenances
tain whose or parcel of Land is hereby called and known by the Name of the Gate-Moore The Indenture
And will be divided from the same ~~by~~ called the Gate-Moore by a Wall of Stone or Brick The said Wall to be
other Gates passages Entries Easements Liberties profits and hereditaments to the said new Erected Edifice and the
Estate Right Title Interest Demand whatsoever of him the said Robert Aspinwall of in and unto the
or released or mentioned or made to be hereby granted or released with their Appurtenances unto them the said
To the Use and behoofe of them the said Robert Aspinwall Thomas Baron William Kirkman Jun^r John Aspinwall
in the Soverall and respective Trusts and Confidences and to and for the particular Intents and purposes herein
Thomas Baron William Kirkman Jun^r John Aspinwall Daniel Hamor William Kirkman Jun^r Thomas Kirkman
hereafter Donvert Imploy and Dispose of The said Edifice and Building newly Erected as aforesaid and the said

The relatively small area known as ***Oaks Nook*** contains no less than **8 Listed buildings**, although some of them are grouped together under a single listing. Let's take a look at them and I will share with you what I have learned about them over the last 20 odd years that I have lived in Oaks Nook.

The buildings are -

The Presbyterian Chapel 1715 - grade 2*,

The Duke William Inn 1737 - grade 2,

The Duke William stables – grade 2

The Old Stables 1768 - grade 2,

Hooks Cottage 1773 - grade 2.

Can anyone tell me the other 3 'listed buildings' ?





1731 chest tomb Rev. Peter Seddon, 1773 chest tombs to Peter Baron, Samuel Baron



The oldest building in *Oaks Nook* is the 1715 Presbyterian Chapel



ERECTED A. D. 1715.
ENLARGED A. D. 1773.
ALTERED & REPAIRED A. D. 1845.











The Duke William Inn, erected 1737



The Duke William Inn was built in 1737 when George the II, the last Monarch to lead his troops into battle, was on the throne.

His second living son, William, then sixteen years of age and his parents favourite, had been made Duke of Cumberland some 10 years earlier (1726).



Apparently he was esteemed by the owners of the new hostelry, who named it after him.

It was a splendid choice, for in later years he became an eminent soldier though he was also said to be proud and unforgiving and proud of war for its own sake.

William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland (1721- 65)

Hailed as a hero after his defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Scottish rebels at Culloden Moor, on the 17th April 1746. However, he became far less popular when tales of his soldiers treatment of the Scots after the battle reached English ears and earned him the name of "**Butcher Cumberland**".

A flower was named after him to mark his success at Culloden. In England it is known as the Sweet William; it is a fragrant plant named by the King after Culloden.

In Scotland the name 'Stinking Billy' was applied to a weed by the Highland Scots - it is Ragwort which is smelly and poisonous to horses. They are different plants with different names but relate to the same battle and the same person - the **Duke of Cumberland**.



The Old stables, erected by the Chapel Trustees in 1768



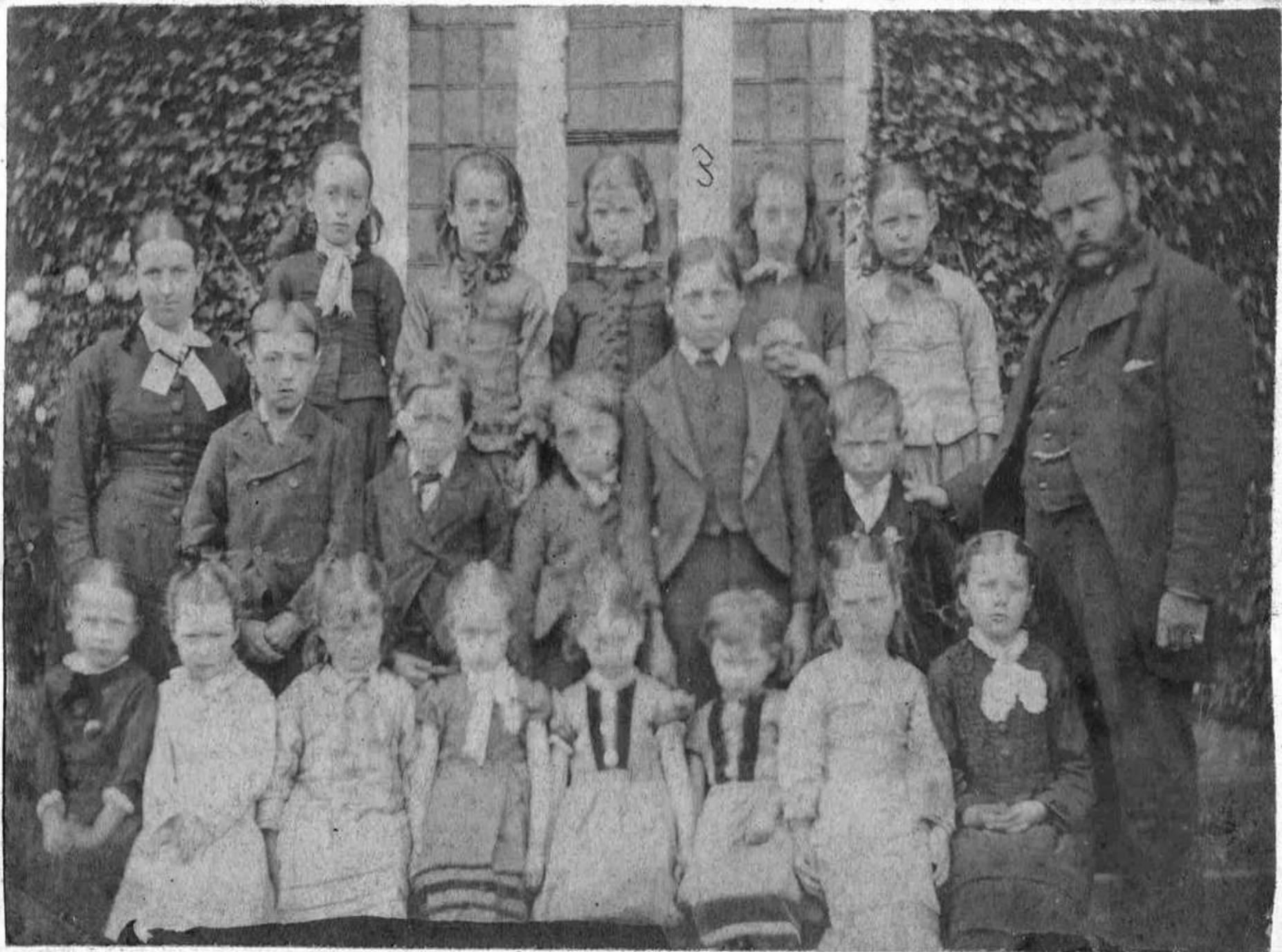
This article appeared in “The Journal”, Friday 3rd October 1924

built in 1768 in this little corner of the World known as **Oaks Nook**, one of the oldest parts of the village.

It was as a place where worshippers that had travelled some distance could have a meal, which they generally brought with them, before heading off back home. The congregation in the old days came from miles round the district, from Little Lever, Walshaw, Bury, Bolton and from places further afield, including many farms on the Harwood and Affetside hills.

It was not uncommon either for worshippers to come on horseback and attached to the building are mounting steps. The ground floor was formerly the stable where visitors stalled their horses during a service.

It was next used as a **school** (shown on 1808 map).





In 1884, a **Liberal Club** was formed in the village and the old stables building was taken over from the Trustees of the Chapel at a nominal rent.

The next phase of the old building was that of a **social club** for the Sunday school. Then around 1919 a **Liberal club** was again formed and the old building taken over.

In 1924 the building became a **Reform club**.

The old stone steps leading up to the middle floor that are worn with the feet of countless departed villagers. The reading and games rooms are in the middle storey and a large billiards room is in the top storey.

The village in winter time is made more pleasant by this old club and on a cold winter night it is pleasant after a days work to turn into the well-lighted, comfortable rooms.









1965 - Hooks Cottage, built by farmer Nathan Brooks in 1773





Late 1980s Note – the chimneys have been removed.

Abstract of title of the devisees in trust under the will of Nathaniel Brooks late of Ainsworth in the county of Lancaster farmer - deceased, to a plot of land and premises situate in Ainsworth aforesaid -

23rd December
1775 -

Indentures of Lease and Release the latter being made between Robert Andrews of Rivington in the county of Lancaster Esquire of the one part and Nathaniel Brooks of Ainsworth in the said county Chapman of the other part -

Stamp 3/6. rec.
4 3/6. val.

After reciting an Indenture of lease bearing date on or about the first day of July 1773 made between the said Robert Andrews of the one part - and the said Nathaniel Brooks of the other part, whereby the said Robert Andrews, for the considerations therein mentioned, did demise lease set and to farm let unto the said Nathaniel Brooks his executors administrators assigns -

The plot piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in Ainsworth aforesaid and hereinafter particularly described, for the term of 999 years to commence as therein mentioned. Under the yearly rent of six shillings payable at the said

as the
in the
upon

B
N.A.
1773





B
N/A
1973

Poll books continued to be used for various elections until the secret ballot was introduced in 1872.

Poll books will not list all residents of an area. Until 1832, most voters were freeholders and others who could meet property requirements for the franchise, and poll books list only those who actually cast a vote.



115889

1836

SOUTHERN DIVISION OF THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.
HUNDRED OF SALFORD.

No.	Christian Name and Surname of each Voter at full length.	Place of Abode.	Nature of Qualification.	Street, Lane, or other like Place where the Property is situate; or name of the Property, or name of the Tenant.
AINSWORTH.				
1	Aldred, Robert	Davenport, Ainsworth	Occupier of house & 12a land	Davenport's farm
2	Baron, Samuel	Hay cottage, do	Freehold house and land	Hay cottage farm
3	Bailey, John	Broomfield do	do do	Broomfield farm
4	Brooks, Nathan	Old barn do	Freehold houses	Oaks nook
5	Brooks, Robert	Antomy fields do	do do	Club row
6	Bradley, John	Lower farm do	Freehold house and land	Lower farm
7	Cussons, George	Bank field do	Occupier of house & 5 1/2a land	Bank field farm
8	Denham, Richard	Lodge do	do do 20a do	Lodge farm
9	Greenhalgh, John	Moorside do	Leasehold houses	Bottom o' th' moor
10	Greenhalgh, John	Paddockleach do	Occupier of house and 9a land	Paddockleach farm
11	Horrocks, Thomas	Willows do	Freehold houses	Willow street
12	Hulton, William	New road do	Freehold house and land	George Cussons, tenant
13	Hulton, Nathan	Hall lane, Little Lever	Freehold house	Matthew Hampson, tenant
14	Hulton, James	Rothwells, Ainsworth	do do	Rothwells
15	Horrocks, Henry	Coach and Horses do	Occupier of house	Coach and horses, new road
16	Kirkman, William	Top o' th' Carrs, do	Freehold house	Empty
17	Kirkman, William	Booths do	do do	John Butterworth, tenant
18	Laycock, William	Cowgrave fold do	Occupier of house & 40a land	Cowgrave fold farm
19	Leigh, Peter	Haslam ley, Elton	Freehold land	Thomas Groves, tenant
20	Morris, Jacob	Plantrees, Ainsworth	Occupier of house & 40a land	Plantrees farm
21	Makinson, Henry	Openshaw fold do	do do 30a do	Openshaw fold farm
22	Olive, John	Barrack fold do	do do 24a do	Barrack fold farm
23	Pollitt, Bentley	Three arrows do	Lease of houses for years	Three arrows, new road
24	Pilling, Thomas	Hall do	Occupier of house & 5 1/2a land	Ainsworth hall farm
25	Scholes, Thomas	School side do	do do 10a do	Tituses farm
26	Scholes, Richard	do do	do do 9a do	Kilnclough farm
27	Scowcroft, William	Wall street do	Lease of houses for years	Well street
28	Stanfield, Samuel	Black moss, Radcliffe	Freehold house	William Kirkman, tenant
29	Tootill, John	Moorside, Ainsworth	Freehold land	Higher green
30	Thompson, Richard	Rose bank do	Leasehold cotton mill for years	Lesse, Cussons and Thompson, tenants
31	Whitehead, James	Broom field do	Freehold house and land	John Greenhalgh, tenant
32	Whitehead, Thomas	Bank house, Little Bolton	Lease of house & land for years	Thomas Pilling, do
33	Williams, Thomas	Mill, Ainsworth	Occupier of house & 12a land	Mill farm

ANGLEZARK.				
34	Bibby, Thomas	Sidow fold	Occupier of 34 1/2a. of land	Sidow fold
35	Gerrard, Miles	Jepsons	do 28a. do	Jepsons
36	Gerrard, Roger	Lester mill	do 16a. do	Lester mill
37	Halliwell, John	Parson's bulloughs	do 28a. do	Parson's bulloughs
38	Shaw, Richard	Sim's farm	do 52a. do	Sim's farm
39	Waddicar, Thomas	Kerahaws	do 50a. do	Kerahaw

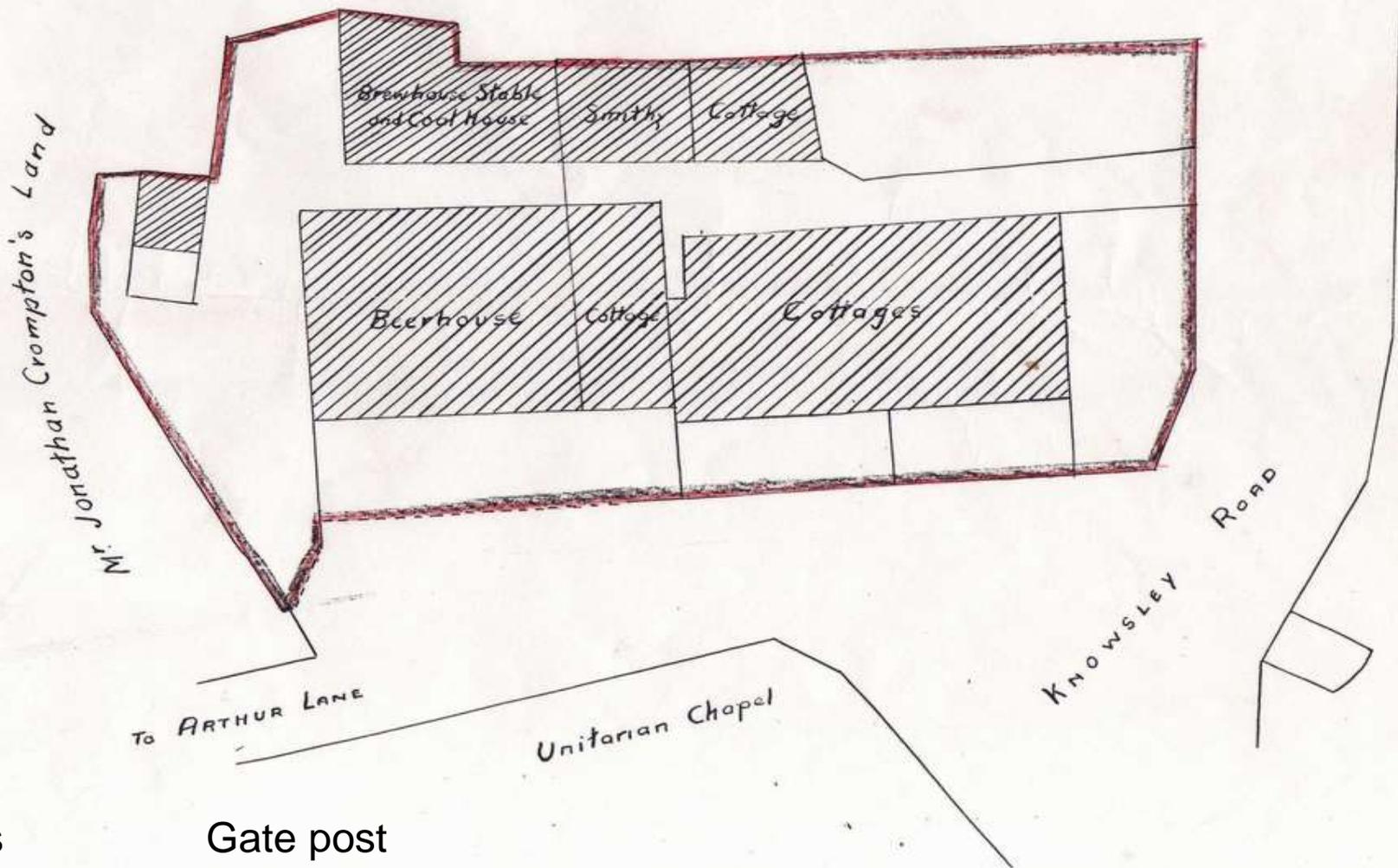
ALKRINGTON.				
40	Butterworth, Edmund	Middleton	Leasehold houses for 999 years	Winks brook, Alkrington
41	Butterworth, James	Lower green, Alkrington	Occupier of house & 20a. land	Lower green farm
42	Coupe, Joseph	High barn, do.	do do 68a. do	High barn farm
43	Lever, Darcy	Alkrington hall	Freehold land and buildings	Alkrington hall
44	Smith, James	Bradshawfold, Alkrington	do do do	Bradshaw fold
45	Stubbs, John	White moss, do.	Occupier of house & 19a. do	White moss farm
46	Wolstenhulme, James	Round thorn, do.	do do 12a. do	Round thorn farm
47	Wright Abbott, Edward	Green hill, Oldham	Leasehold colliery for years	Alkrington colliery

ARDWICK.				
48	Acton, William	Chancery lane, Ardwick	Freehold house	Briscoe street
49	Ainsworth, John	76, Northgate, Blackburn	do land and houses	Dark lane
50	Ainsworth, James	107, Great Ancoats street, Manchester	do land	do
51	Ainsworth, Thomas	Blackburn	do do	do
52	Ashworth, Edmund	26, Piccadilly, Manchester	do houses	Briscoe street



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1	Aldred, Robert	Davenports, Ainsworth	Occupier of house & 12a land	Davenport's farm
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5	Brooks, Robert	Antomy fields do	do do	Club row
6	Bradley, John	Lower farm do	Freehold house and land	Lower farm
7	Cussons, George	Bank field do	Occupier of house & 5½a land	Bank field farm
8	Denham, Richard	Lodge do	do do 20a do	Lodge farm
9	Greenhalgh, John	Moorside do	Leasehold houses	Bottom o' th' moor
10	Greenhalgh, John	Paddockleach do	Occupier of house and 9a land	Paddockleach farm
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22	Olive, John	Barrack fold do	do 24a do	Barrack fold farm
23	Pollitt, Bentley	Three arrows do	Lease of houses for years	Three arrows, new road
24	Pilling, Thomas	Hall do	Occupier of house & 55a land	Ainsworth hall farm
25	Scholes, Thomas	School side do	do 10a do	Tituses farm
26	Scholes, Richard	do do	do 9a do	Kilnclough farm
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32	Whitehead, Thomas	Bank house, Little Bolton	Lease of house & land for years	Thomas Pilling, do
33	Williams, Thomas	Mill, Ainsworth	Occupier of house & 12a land	Mill farm

PLAN referred to



I neglected informing
you there is some waste Land at the
End of the Golden Lyon that was formerly
a Stone Delph - and the Landlord
wants a little Land to Build a stable
You may measure him what he wants
so as to leave a good Road in to it -
or if you could agree with the Blacksmith
perhaps he would have no objection to
Build Boath his house and Smithy
in that place as he would have no
Sinking - and the Chif would come
Lower - but I am of Opinion
He will prefer the Road side -

17th October 1817

My dear General's letter
regarding the above on 17th of
Oct - on 17th of Nov -



An Old Red Lion relic,
240 year old stone gate post

the said Mary Holt & her heirs

All that Beerhouse called the "Red Lion" or
situate at Cokes Nook Amsworth nr Rugby
ad^d with the brewhouse stable & Coal house
also belongg then occup^d by Mr. Chas Auderton
as tenants shof

And also all those 5 Cottages ady^g the
sd Beerhouse & pres then occupied by Mr. Mr.
Taylor & ors as tenants shof

To^gr with the land forming the sites of the sd
Beerhouse Cottages & pres & belongg also which
sd hells were more particularly delineated & desc^d.
in the plan shof drawn on those presents & shewⁿ
edged red.

And to^gr with the rights &c.

Plan

BOROUGH OR DISTRICT COUNCILS (other than METROPOLITAN BOROUGHES)

ENQUIRIES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

- N.B.—(1) This form of enquiry is approved by The Law Society, the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Urban District Councils Association, the Rural District Councils Association, the Society of Town Clerks, the Society of Clerks of Urban District Councils, and the Society of Clerks of Rural District Councils, and is printed by authority of The Law Society. The Law Society advises solicitors to use this form and the local government bodies mentioned above recommend their members to answer enquiries made upon this form.
- (2) The replies below are furnished after appropriate enquiries, and in the belief that they are in accordance with the information at present available to the officers of the Council, but on the distinct understanding that neither the Council nor any officer of the Council is legally responsible therefor.
- (3) It is pointed out that, so far as the replies may relate to proposals, they may yet change.
- (4) References to the property concerned in the enquiries and replies are intended to include reference, where appropriate, to any part of the property.
- (5) References to any Act, Regulation or Order are intended to include reference to any amendment or re-enactment thereof.

Insert name of Borough or Urban or Rural District and delete as necessary.

To the
Town Clerk..... RADCLIFFE Borough Council.

Clerk of the..... District Council.

Insert short description of property.

Re Plot of land formerly the site of Nos. 3, 5, 7,
Knowsley Road, Ainsworth

The undersigned is acting in connection with the above property and requests you kindly to reply to the enquiries overleaf sent *in duplicate* for which the fee of 10/- * is enclosed.

Delete and complete as necessary

A Requisition for an Official Search for Local Land Charges (Form L.L.C.1), together with the prescribed fee, † accompanies these enquiries [~~was submitted on~~ 19.....
Your reference (if known) is.....] [~~will shortly be submitted~~].

Dated this 25th day of March 1963.

PHILIP S. PORTER
Solicitor.

1963



The Ainsworth Choral Society

HIG TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY WILL GIVE A

MISCELLANEOUS CONCERT,

IN THE

UNITARIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM,

AINSWORTH, ON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1883.

CONDUCTOR Mr. WM. HOLT PIANIST Mr. JOSH. LEES, of Bury.

PROGRAMME.

GLEE	"England" - J. L. Ballou	Chorus
PIANO SOLO		Mr. Josh. Lees
SONG	"The Owl" - J. E. Thomas	Mr. W. F. Park
TRIO	"Lullaby" - Mrs. M. Tinsley	Miss Emma Bacon, Miss J. H. HARRIS and T. H. PARKS
PIANO DUET		Mr. W. F. Park and T. H. PARKS
GLEE	"Hallelujah Chorus" - Handel	Chorus
SONG	"The Swan is Dead" - W. T. Whigham	Mr. T. H. PARKS
DUET	"The Flower Gatherers" - Miss Susan TOTTEN & Annie HERRICKS	
SONG	"The King of the Fens Glads" - E. J. Laker	Mr. ROBERT HOPE
GLEE	"The Days of Day" - Samuel May	Chorus

INTERVAL.

PIANO DUET	"Hallelujah Chorus" - Handel	Misses E. HOPE & Wm. ALDRIDGE
GLEE	"The Swan is Dead" - W. T. Whigham	Chorus
SONG	"The Flying Dutchman" - John Perry	Mr. ROBERT HOPE
TRIO	"Fair Play Deeds" - Emily	Miss EMMA BACON, Misses T. H. PARKS and Wm. HOPE
SONG	"Blow the Colours" - John L. Ballou	Mr. J. H. HARRIS
GLEE	"Hail in God's Tent" - Lord Mornington	Chorus
SONG	"Little Me Bids" - H. Waller	Mr. T. H. PARKS
DUET	"Angels are Working Us" - Stephen Glover	Misses EMMA BACON & EMMA BACON
SONG	"There are kind Hearts everywhere" - J. E. Thomas	Mr. ROBERT HOPE
GLEE	"Now by Day's Setting Lamp" - Bishop	Chorus

DOORS OPEN AT 7. TO COMMENCE AT 7:30

Admission: Sixpence and Threepence. A few Reserved Seats, One Shilling.

The Ainsworth Choral Society

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1883.

CONDUCTOR ... Mr. WM. HOLT. PIANIST ... Mr. JOSH. LEES, of Bury.

PROGRAMME.

GLEE.....	"Eng and"— <i>J. L. Hatton</i>	CHOIR
PIANO SOLO.....	Mr. JOSH. LEES
SONG.....	"The Owl"— <i>J. R. Thomas</i>	Mr. W. FOLT
TRIO.....	"Excelsior"— <i>Miss M. Lindsay</i>	Miss BESSIE HAYES, Messrs. J. H. HAYES and T. H. PARKS
DUET.....
GLEE.....	"Since first I saw your face"— <i>Thos. Ford</i>	CHOIR
SONG.....	"Thy voice is near"— <i>W. T. Wrighton</i>	Mr. T. H. PARKS
DUET.....	"The Flower Gatherers"— <i>Misses SARAH TOOTHILL & ANNIE HORROCKS</i>	
SONG.....	"The King of the Forest Glade"— <i>F. L. L.</i>	

GLEE.....	"Since first I saw your face"— <i>Thos. Ford</i>	CHOIR
SONG.....	"Thy voice is near"— <i>W. T. Wrighton</i>	Mr. T. H. PARKS
DUET.....	"The Flower Gatherers"—Misses SARAH TOOTHILL & ANNIE HORROCKS	
SONG.....	"The King of the Forest Glade"— <i>E. J. Loder</i>	Mr. ROBERT HOLT
GLEE.....	"The Dawn of Day"— <i>Samuel Reay</i>	CHOIR

I N T E R V A L

PIANO DUET.....	"Hallelujah Chorus"— <i>Handel</i>	Messrs. R. HOLT & WM. ALDRED
GLEE.....	"The Gipsy's Life"— <i>Edwin Flood</i>	CHOIR
SONG.....	"The Flying Dutchman"— <i>John Parry</i>	Mr. ROBT. HOLT
TRIO.....	"Fair Flora Docks"— <i>Danby</i>	Miss EMILY BROOKS, Messrs. T. H. PARKS and WM. HOLT
SONG.....	"Simon the Collarer"— <i>John L. Hutton</i>	Mr. J. H. HAVES
GLEE.....	"Here in Cool Grot"— <i>Lord Mornington</i>	CHOIR
SONG.....	"Little Mr. Binks"— <i>H. Walker</i>	Mr. T. H. PARKS
DUET.....	"Angels are Watching Us"— <i>Stephen Glover</i>	Misses MARIA & EMILY BROOKS
SONG.....	"There are kind Hearts everywhere"— <i>J. R. Thomas</i>	Mr. ROBT. YATES
GLEE.....	"Now by Day's Retiring Lamp"— <i>Bishop</i>	CHOIR

G O D S A V E T H E Q U E E N .

D O O R S O P E N A T 7, T O C O M M E N C E A T 7:30.

A d m i s s i o n : S i x p e n c e a n d T h r e e p e n c e . A f e w R e s e r v e d S e a t s , O n e S h i l l i n g .



Ainsworth Unitarian Dramatic Society

presents

“HERE WE COME
GATHERING”

A Comedy

by

Philip King and Anthony Armstrong

Sat. and Wed., November 8th and 12th, 1958

PROGRAMME





The Merchant of Venice































So, could this cellar be the oldest 'building' in Oaks Nook?

Why is there no mention of it in the Red Lion's deeds or site plans?

Was it constructed for the Red Lion or did it have a far older purpose?