

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEWTON

Introduction

A description of Newton in William White's directory of Suffolk for 1855 quotes 'Newton-near-Sudbury, a pleasant village, scattered around a green of 40 acres, 3 miles east of Sudbury, has in its parish 499 souls and 2197 acres of land in the Manors of Newton Hall and Bottelers.'

There are currently 229 houses in Newton, and a population of probably a little over 500. In 1801 there were only 47 houses with a population of 354, and in 1831 there were 84 houses with a population of 432. Thus whilst the number of houses has increased substantially, the density of occupation has reduced from 7.5 per property in 1801, to 4.2 in 1831 and as low as 2.2 in 2018. It is interesting to note that the population of the village has increased very little in the last 100 or more years.

The centre of the village is of course the Green, and the description 'pleasant village' ought to be extended to 'a pleasant and beautiful village'. What more beautiful sight could you have than that which lies before you as you take in the views across the Green, particularly in spring when all the daffodils are in full bloom?



The postal address of the village for much of the 20th century was Newton Green, near Sudbury, so that it was not confused with Old Newton near Stowmarket. In my opinion, the name Newton Green better describes the village, and many people still refer to it as such.

In an article published in 1961 the then Rector, the Rev A G Ensor wrote “The psychological centre of Newton Green is the Green itself”, and appealed for this attractive open space to be saved from being spoilt. He continues “One wonders what those 18th century Newtonians would think of the changing pattern of the Suffolk countryside today, of modern amenities, of our radio and TV and our rapid means of communication and transport. Yet those of us who live in Newton have inherited from them this piece of common land which is part of our parish as it was in their day. No doubt its appearance has altered much but it is still a pleasant spot however we make use of it or merely stand to admire it. One can only hope that the Green as part of Newton will remain a heritage worthy to be handed to those that come after us so that they will experience the same enjoyment that we do today.” Those sentiments are still very valid, and should extend also to the whole of this village with its many beautiful views and locations. Every effort must be made to preserve and protect such a beautiful place.

The Golf Club

It is relevant at this point to consider the importance of the Golf Club to the village. Just try to imagine what the Green would be like if it was not as neat and tidy as it is kept today; you would need to go back over 100 years and visualize the Green then. It would have been a mass of blackthorn bushes and brambles, impenetrable gorse bushes, and



grass which would have grown to waist height. True there would have been cattle and sheep allowed to graze along with various other animals, which might have kept the vegetation down somewhat. I can remember in the 1950's Lizzie Hurst at The Plough keeping flocks of ducks and guinea fowl, and a stinking billy goat. Frank Morley at Potash had a flock of geese which would

chase off the unwary, whilst Arthur Davey and Herbert Humm had chicken huts in the pits, with the hens roaming freely.

A proposal to build a golf course on the Green was mooted in 1901 but firmly rejected by the Parish Council. A few years later in 1906, under pressure from the then Lord of the Manor, Earl Howe, the village gave in and the golf course was laid out, with play commencing in 1907. No doubt the presence of the Gentry, and then business men playing golf had an effect on the village, but a great rapport grew up between the villagers and the golfers. Many of the village lads were encouraged to learn to play golf, and they later represented the club on many occasions. As the village changed however with many new people coming to live here, perhaps some of that closeness has been lost, but the Golf Club continues to be a very important part of the village.

The Village Hall



Newton School 1906
Freddy Grimwood behind ball

The Village Hall is an important meeting place and was originally the village school.

By the 1830's the village needed a place of education for its children. The site which was chosen was part of the village green. The attractive building was erected in 1835 and was paid for by public subscription. It operated as a school for just over 100 years, closing in 1938

because there were too few children attending to make it viable. The village children were subsequently bussed to other local schools, firstly Great Waldingfield, then Assington, and later Boxford. After closure as a school the building began to be used as the village hall (it had previously been used as a village meeting place – press reports in 1906 show that it was the location for a meeting of the village to decide whether to allow a golf course to be laid out on the Green). In 1943 Diocesan Trustees were appointed and there followed protracted negotiations to claim village ownership of the building. In 1948 the Diocesan Board and the Parish Council signed an agreement on the use of the hall, but it was not until 1957 that the hall and land was sold to the Parish Council for a sum of £550, which again was raised by public subscription. In

effect having originally given the land and paid for the cost of construction, the village had to buy it back again! Substantial renovation work was carried out. There had been a wood and glass partition to create two separate rooms for the school, and this was removed to form the large room we have now, and the floor was replaced. An extension was built on the rear of the building to provide toilets and a kitchen, and a committee room was constructed at the side. Beyond this the outside lavatories were incorporated into the building to create a store room. In 1961 a management committee to be responsible for the running and maintenance of the hall was appointed.

The land at the side of the hall had been used as allotment gardens, the hall being approached by a single driveway with a gate at the road end. To celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 it was agreed to use the lane on the left to create the Jubilee Garden. A few years later the land on the right was used to create the car park. In the early years of the



21st century major works were carried out to modernise the kitchen and toilets; the front porch was redesigned, the committee room extended and a much needed larger storeroom was built. With gardens and a patio area being created outside we now have an attractive and well used village hall in very pleasant surroundings, and with excellent facilities.

Newton Green Trust

The ownership of the Green had traditionally been regarded as being in the hands of The Lord of the Manor. Following the passing of The Common Lands Registration Act in 1965, the then Lord of the Manor, Roland Oliver, took the opportunity to transfer the ownership of the Green to the Village. This involved the Green being registered as a village green, and the creation of the Newton Green Trust to receive ownership and be responsible for the future management of the Green for the benefit of the village. Complying with all the legal requirements took several years and it was not until 1976 that the Trust was formally created. Following this a formal licence was granted to the golf

club with provision for an agreed annual rental. The Trust Deed provides that the income received by the Trust is to be applied for the benefit of the village.

The Playing Field

One of the problems which arose from the Green being used as a golf course was that there was nowhere available for other sports, particularly football and cricket, to be played. In 1966 Roland Oliver approached Cecil Smith the owner of the field behind the village hall to ask whether he would be prepared to let or sell the land to the Parish Council for use as a sports field. He was agreeable to making the field available to the village, but would only let it to Mr Oliver, not to the Parish Council. This was agreed and Mr Oliver arranged for the Golf Club to maintain the field in return for being able to use it as a practice ground. Football and cricket pitches were created on the field and were well used for many years. Sadly, there is now no football or cricket club in the village and the pitches have become disused. Following Mr Smith's death negotiations began to purchase the field and the ownership passed to Newton Green Trust in 1978 at a cost of about £8000, which was initially raised by interest free loans within the village. It is interesting to note that when this land came up for sale by auction in 1929, it was bought by Cecil Smith for £160! It was described as 'The valuable freehold enclosure of highly productive arable land known as 'Gravel Pit Field' No 166 on the OS map with a long road frontage and an area of 8a.2r.12p.'

The History of the Village



During the 1960's, Mrs Eileen Bean (headmistress of the school until it closed in 1938, a great supporter of the Church, and generally the organiser of most of the events which took place in the village) researched and compiled a comprehensive history of Newton from the time of the Domesday Book.

Newton was a Saxon settlement for protection from the Danish threat, as its Saxon name Neuton suggests. The Domesday Book shows the name as Neutune, Neutuna or Niwetuna. The name Niewetuna is Saxon. A Tun was a collection of dwellings fortified in an enclosure. The town

was a new one to the inhabitants of Edwards tun and Assing tun and was probably formed when the Danish incursions resulted in the defeat and death of St Edmund in the 9th century.

Imagine, says Mrs Bean, a forest from the Green to Edwardstone, and from Gouldings to Assington. This would give a fair idea of the village in the 8th and 9th centuries or earlier. Newton is on highish land between the valleys of the Stour and Box, in a clay belt having a strip of heathland. The 200ft contour line runs up to a point near Newton Hall and the Church. The rainfall is low, the heavy clay land will support good grain, but the Green soon looks parched.

The Domesday Book tells of Neuiton and the important buildings which were the Church, the Hall, Seyham (Siam) Hall, and the Boteliers (Butlers). There is a huge amount of information about the ownership of these Manors over the years.

After 20 years of Norman rule, Sayham (Siam) Hall is rated higher than Newton Hall. There is a reference to a church in Sayham but none in Newton. Had the Saxon church in Newton burned down – they were all built of wood and thatch! In fact none of the original buildings from that era still exist. The oldest buildings we know in the village today are of Tudor origin – but of course that's 500 or so years later.

So if the village originally centred around the Church, how and when did that change to where it is today, around the Green? Were the original buildings so dilapidated that they fell or burnt down or were destroyed? An article in the East Anglian Daily Times in 2007 quoted an extract from "What's in a name – Newton" by Simon Young, historian and author of AD 500. "In the early 8th century villages often broke up in the search for better land; this is why many ancient villages have a church at the edge or outside their bounds, the church stands on the original site of the village".

In 1801 there were 47 inhabited houses in Newton and a population of 354.

By 1901 there were 90 inhabited houses and 205 by 2015.

Newton's Ancient Buildings

So let's consider the ancient buildings we have in Newton, starting with those which are listed buildings.

The Church

The Church is a Grade II* listed building, listed for its historical value. It is of flint construction with some dressings of Norman origin, but mainly of 14th C work. The west tower has diagonal buttresses with a brick castellated parapet. The south porch is 15th C (restored in 1975) with a cambered beam and crown post. The chancel has a 15th C altar tomb on the north side, with an ogee arched recess, with the figure of a lady. There is a 15th C octagonal font. The north door of the nave is blocked to form a window but retains the Norman



doorway with zig-zag ornamentation in the arch, 2 shafts and scalloped capitals. The Church was extensively renovated in the 20th century; the nave was taken over by the Redundant Churches Fund, the chancel subsequently accommodating the Church services.

Rogers Farmhouse

A Grade II* listed, timber framed and plastered house of circa 1600. The south front has a jetted upper storey on curved brackets, 3 window range with 3 light double hung sashes with glazing bars. At the rear a long single storey wing of outbuildings extends to the north. Roofs tiled, with the bases of 4 grouped octagonal shafts on a square base and rebuilt square shafts above. At the east and west ends there are end external chimney stacks (one has a single octagonal shaft). The interior has good 17th C wall paintings dated 1623 depicting the life of Samson and the Martyrdom of St Stephen, with ligates in 17th C costume.

Newton Hall

A Grade II listed timber framed and plastered house with mainly 17th and 18th or early 19th C external features but incorporating a 16th C timber frame. The north front has cross wings at the east and west ends and a wing extends to the south at the west end. The south front has a jetted upper storey, with a window range of double-hung sashes with glazing bars. A 19th C gault brick porch with an arched doorway and a castellated parapet projects on the front. The north front has 4 window range of early 19th C double-hung sashes with glazing bars and 'Gothic' arched heads. The main block was built out in the 19th C between the cross wings. Roofs are tiled with a 17th C chimney stack with 2 diagonally set shafts to the south wing. The main block has old tiles, steeply pitched. The interior has good early 19th C features.



To the south of the Hall is a Grade II 19th C flint wall about 7ft high extending approximately 50 yards. It has red brick piers and capping and at the west end of the wall is a 'Gothic' traceried opening.

The hall was put up for sale in 2002 the particulars given being:

'A 590 acre arable farm in south Suffolk, Newton Hall Farm at Newton, near Sudbury, featuring a manor house with a 1000 year history, is likely to provide an early test of the agricultural land market. A manor has existed on the site of Newton Hall since well before the Norman conquest of 1066, and the property is recorded in the Domesday Book. The present house is thought to date from the 13th century. During the Middle Ages, Newton Hall Manor passed through the ownership of the Earls of Northampton, Salisbury, Westmoreland and Warwick and later came into the hands of the Crown and Queen's College, Cambridge. It then passed to a succession of local gentry before being purchased in 1922 by Paul H Oliver who founded the auctioneers and estate agents business in Sudbury. Newton Hall which is Grade II listed, features Georgian rendered facades which, together with the underlying timbers and

the roof have been completely refurbished in recent years. The ground floor includes a drawing room and a dining room, either side of an entrance hall, plus a kitchen/breakfast room, utility rooms and a small study. From the kitchen there is access to a west wing, formerly used as a dairy and currently forming three store rooms. Upstairs the main part of the house includes five bedrooms, two of them with en-suite facilities, plus a further bathroom. There is also a cupboard which disguises the presence of a central chimney which, unusually, arches over the hall to serve the fireplaces in both reception rooms. Separate from the house is a traditional stable block which houses the farm offices, and a range of former cart sheds which is being converted into a two bedroom annexe. A lawn in front of the house is enclosed by a flint wall, creating a courtyard effect. There is a larger garden with views towards the village church. There is a guide price of 1.05m for the house and buildings.'



Siam Hall

The original house was destroyed by fire some 30/40 years ago.

However the range of barns dating back to the late 17th to 19th C survives and has Grade II listing.

The Butlers

A Grade II listed building situated to the west of the Church, formerly known as Botelers. It is a 17th C timber framed and plastered house built on an L shaped plan, possibly incorporating a medieval frame. The south was refronted in the 18th C. On the west front the timber framing has been exposed and the old window



openings have been restored. There is a 3 window range on the south front with double hung sashes and glazing bars. A central 6-panel door has panelled pilasters and a flat hood on brackets. The west front has mullioned and transformed casements and small high level casements (restored). The roof is tiled, hipped at the south end, with a large central chimney stack.

The Old Rectory

A Grade II listed building situated on Rectory Road about a mile from the Church. This is a large house of 16th – 17th C origin partly timber-framed and plaster, and partly faced in brick, and colour washed. The house was largely refaced or rebuilt in the 18th and 19th C. The original house appears to have been built on an L



shaped plan with wings to the west and north. It has 2 storeys and attics. The windows generally are double hung sashes with glazing bars and on the south and east fronts are 18th or early 19th C splayed bays. The roofs are tiled, with 2 original chimney stacks with 4 grouped octagonal shafts on square bases on the

wing extending to the north, and one original stack with 2 octagonal shafts with moulded caps and bases on the wing extending to the west.

The Saracen's Head



A Grade II listed building situated next to the main road to Sudbury at the north east end of the Green. The name suggests that the building might originate from the era of the Crusades, maybe the 12th or 13th Century.

It is a timber framed building mostly of the 18th Century but incorporating fragments of an earlier frame, and altered and renovated in the 20th Century. Built on an L shaped plan with wings extending to the north-west and south-west, 2 storeys, 5 window range on the south-east front, mainly 20th Century casements, and 3 window range on the north-east front, double hung sashes with glazing bars. The ground storey has 2 cantered bays and a central doorway with pilasters and a pediment. The roof is tiled, with a large square central chimney stack on the south-west wing.

The pub was in the hands of the Glass family for about 100 years from 1850 to 1950, during which period it served as an ale house and provided accommodation.

There used to be various barns and buildings on the Green side of the pub, which were demolished probably in the 1980's. On the main road side were the maltings and the brewery where the beer was made; these were demolished probably in the 1940's. On the opposite side of the road were sheds which we



knew as the ten-pin shed (although it was no longer played there), with a garage at one end. The field opposite the pub also housed the golf professional's hut, and behind that was an area used to dump rubbish. We used to go hunting there for discarded beer bottles which we then took back to the pub to claim the 2d deposit! In the 1960's the golf club was looking for a site to build a club house, being no longer allowed to use a room in the pub after the new landlord Mr Robbins took over. The club drew up plans to erect a clubhouse on this field, but permission was refused because of the danger of vehicles emerging on to the main road. For many years the field was derelict because no development would be allowed, but in the 1970's Arthur Hayward cultivated it as a strawberry field during the time he was running the village shop. After that the field again became derelict, but a cheeky request from the Parish Council that the brewery might donate it to the village so that it could be tidied up met with no response. It was not until recently when a site for affordable housing was being sought that another approach was made to the brewery. This was again refused, but the land was then put up for sale with development potential. It now houses eight new properties. How things change!

These days the Saracen's Head is probably the most important amenity in the village, providing excellent food and refreshments for both residents and passers-by. Recently refurbished it is an attractive venue and meeting place.

The Deans

Situated on the north-east side of the Green this Grade II listed building is a large 16th Century and later timber-framed and plastered house refaced in red brick in the 18th Century. Wings extend to the north-east at the rear on the north-west and south-east ends. It has 2 storeys, a 7 window range on the front, double hung sashes with glazing bars in flush cased frames. A raised brick band extends across the front between the storeys. A 20th Century gabled porch projects at the south-east end of the front. The roofs are tiled. At the north-west end there is a large external chimney stack with 2 octagonal shafts

with moulded caps and bases (restored or partly rebuilt).

This had been the residence of the Hart family for many years, but after their departure in about 1945, the



house stood empty for some 20 or so years and became derelict.

It was extensively repaired and restored in the 1960s. At that time the adjacent land was sold off, and the Links View development was created. Another property, a substantial bungalow called Sherwood Croft was built on part of the garden.

The Deans came on the market again in September 2009 with a guide price of £1.2million. It was described as a Grade II listed period village home set in its own formal gardens and grounds, and overlooking Newton Green golf course. 'This 5 bedroom, 5 bathroom home is timber framed with a brick exterior and 18th century windows, under pitched tiled roofs. Original features include a partly panelled and beamed drawing room, open fireplaces, and a Tudor chimney breast. There are landscaped formal gardens, a courtyard, and a hard tennis court. The entrance porch gives access to the front door and sitting room, dining room and drawing room which has doors to the garden. The kitchen has access to the utility room which has a door to the attached double garage. There is also a study. On the first floor in addition to the 5 bedrooms/bathrooms there is a dressing room, and games room/bedroom six. The grounds are approximately 1.4 acres'.



Brook House

A Grade II listed building occupying a prime site on the north-east side of the Green, this is a 16-17th Century timber-framed and plastered house, restored and renovated in the 20th Century with modern doors and windows but in style. A narrow gabled 3 storey wing projects on the front, probably a staircase wing added in the 17th Century. The upper storey is jettied on the north-west side of the front on either side of the wing, on exposed joists.



Brooke House, (15th Century), Newton Green.

The timber-framing is exposed on most of the south-west and north-west fronts. The windows are casements with leaded lights, 2 gabled porches project on the front. The porches and the 3 storey wing have carved bargeboards (20th C) to an old design. At the south-east end a slightly lower wing extends, probably this was originally a granary or outbuilding, but now converted to become part of the dwelling. The wing at the rear on the north-west end has a large external chimney stack with tiled offsets. The roofs are tiled, hipped at the north-west and south-east ends.

The house was occupied for much of the 20th Century by the Wickes family who dealt in antiques: Royalty is rumoured to have visited. The house was also used in 1937 to accommodate refugee children from the Basque region during the Spanish Civil War.

Brooks Farm House was offered for sale by auction in 1929. Described as 'The Freehold Picturesque old-fashioned gabled dwelling house of timber, plaster and tiled construction, possessing a considerable amount of old oak with many exposed beams and studs. The house contains Porch, Entrance hall, Drawing room, dining room fitted with modern stove with oven and large store cupboard, passage, larder and beer cellar, pantry, work shop, indoor E.C., living room, large scullery fitted with portable range, copper and sink, cool dairy, front and back stairs, landing, five bedrooms (three with fireplaces), two attics on second floor. Adjoining the house is a large timber, tiled and iron-roofed building, formerly a blacksmith's shop, with large copper. This building contains some fine old beams, rafters and studs. At the rear is a garden with fruit trees, a brick, flint and tiled range of four hen houses, E.C. Pump and well of water, together with small paddock, orchard and kitchen garden. The sale was passed at £ 340.

In 2002 an article in the East Anglian Daily Times headed 'Tudor Magnificence' describes Brooke House as an 'Exceptionally fine Tudor house, where Queen Mary used to buy antiques'. In the front of the house a green borders the road and on the other side is Newton Green golf course. Inside the house there are fascinating historic features at every turn. In the drawing room, the carved oak bressummer bears the faint Latin inscription 'beata pacificus'. In the dining room a similar bressummer spans another fine fireplace. The kitchen, with Aga, still contains an old bread oven, and there is a walk-in larder, laundry room and flower room nearby. A family sitting room, partly panelled, and a study complete the ground floor along with a lofty staircase hall with cloakroom off.

From a small rear hall, an ancient secondary staircase with leaning treads rises to both upper floors. The four principal bedrooms are on the first floor, including a master suite with bedroom, dressing room and bathroom, and there is a family bathroom. On the second floor is a fifth bedroom,



and a loft room reached by ladder from one of the first floor rooms. Jacobean wall paintings are concealed in a guest bedroom towards the rear of the house. There are gardens of one and a half acres including a spacious decked dining area, large outdoor swimming pool with pool house containing changing area and shower, and a fine 40ft timber-framed barn. On the market with Bidwells , the guide price is £825,000.

The house was on the market again in 2015/16 described as 'A beautifully presented and important Grade II listed village house offering exceptional accommodation in established grounds of approximately 1.4 acres. A detached barn provides a versatility of use including garaging/ dance studio. Guide price £ 1,275,000.'

Hurrell's Farmhouse

A Grade II listed building situated on Boxford Lane, this is a 16th or 17th Century timber-framed and plastered house with a cross wing jettied on the upper storey on curved brackets at the east end, with 2 storeys and attics it has a 4 window range with casements with leaded lights (20thC) and 19th Century stucco square label moulds. A 19th Century gabled porch with a Gothic arched doorway projects on the front. The roof is tiled with 2 original chimney stacks with 2 and 3 octagonal shafts.



Jarvis Farmhouse

A Grade II listed building situated on Assington Road

this is a 17th or 18th Century timber-framed and plastered house of one storey with attics. It has been renovated and altered in the 20th Century being faced with cement and replacement casement windows and door. A gabled porch projects on the front. The roof, originally thatched, with 2 dormers, is now tiled.

Jarvis Farm was put on the market in 2013 with an asking price of £895,000. 'Jarvis Farm has been used in recent years to run a highly successful business with a high profile location just off the A134. The 4 bedroom farmhouse has considerable character throughout and the equestrian facilities include paddocks, 2 stable blocks, tack rooms etc. The substantial buildings extend to over 6,500 sq. ft., with a small coffee shop and large retail areas. This rare opportunity would suit a range of different lifestyles and commercial enterprises. In all about 5.6 acres.' The former large agricultural building has since 2014 been in use as an auction venue.

Sparrows Cottage

Situated just along from Jarvis Farm this is a Grade II listed 18th or 19th timber-framed and plastered cottage of one storey with attics. It has small casement windows and is thatched with a tall central chimney stack at the south end. The cottage has been extended and modernised in the 20th Century.

The cottage was sold by auction in 1929, being purchased for £70 by a Mrs Mann. The sale particulars describe it as 'The freehold timber, plaster and thatched detached cottage situated by the side of the main road to Assington, being No 170 on the OS map and covering an area of about 0a.0r.16p, with garden and a well of water. Let to Mr Robert Sparrow a yearly Michaelmas tenant at £4.11s.6d per annum.' As the Sparrow family lived here for many years, it became known as Sparrow's Cottage, although I had always thought it was called 'Sparrows' because of the large numbers of sparrows which nested in the thatch!

In 2005 a professional outline historic building survey was carried out, to accompany an application for listed building consent. 'Sparrows Cottage is an unusually complete small domestic house of the early 18th century. Its timber-framed and thatched structure stands just 7ft high at the eaves, and consists largely of second hand material. The house lies at right-angles to the adjacent road and contains three rooms of which only the central hall-cum-kitchen

possesses a fireplace. The present entrance lies in the eastern side of the building, but its original front door, which is now blocked, lay in the opposite western elevation and the house appears to have faced the nearby green. Sparrows Cottage is a rare survival of national significance. Small single storied cottages of this kind were common in the 17th and 18th centuries but very few have escaped either demolition or major alteration and extension. The internal layout is that of a complete domestic house (rather than an outbuilding such as a bakehouse) and its proportions and poor materials suggest that it was designed for an artisan or smallholder at the lower end of the social hierarchy. While the nature of its carpentry indicates a date of circa 1700 its arrangement is more closely related to the middle ages than to fashionable houses of the same period; the central of its three rooms was still open to its roof in medieval tradition, despite the presence of a large fireplace, and the cottage would have been outmoded even by the standards of its day. The cottage must be regarded as one of the last 'open hall' houses to be built in the area, and is therefore of considerable historic interest.'

Valley Farmhouse

Situated on Valley Road this is a Grade II listed timber-framed and plastered house with 18th Century features, possibly incorporating an earlier frame. It has 2 storeys, 4 windows with double hung sashes and glazing bars. A 19th Century porch projects to the front. The roof is tiled with a central chimney stack. The house had fallen into a dilapidated state but has recently been completely renovated and modernised.

Hills Farmhouse

Situated on Sudbury Road this Grade II listed property is a late 18th or early 19th Century red brick house of 2 storeys and attics. It has a 3 window range with double hung sashes and glazing bars, in shallow reveals. A central doorway has a boarded door with fillets. The roof is tiled, half hipped at the north-west and south-east ends, with a central square chimney stack.

The house was converted into 2 separate dwellings in about 1960, each of which has subsequently been extended and modernised.

Rogue House

Previously known as Newton Green Stores and House adjoining, this is a Grade II listed 18th Century red brick house of 2 storeys and attics with a single storey addition at the north-west end. It has a 3 window range, double hung sashes with glazing bars, in flush cased frames, with white brick flat arches. A white brick band extends across the front between the storeys. There is a central 6 panel door with the upper panels glazed and a moulded wood architrave and cornice. The roof is tiled with end chimney stacks and stopped gables and 3 flat headed dormers. The front has a brick dentil eaves course.

The house is situated facing the Green at the corner with Church Road. This was the former village shop and Post Office, operated by Abigail Ward from at least 1841, and subsequently by her daughter Eliza Ward who was shown on the census records as a grocer and draper. By about 1900 it had been taken over by Arthur Hughes who ran it as a bakers, grocers and Post Office, until 1929 when it was taken over by Louis James. He operated as a General Stores, petrol station, car for hire and Post Office. At some point he also ran a café from one of the adjoining buildings.



The shop itself was not part of the main building but a double bay shop built out at the front. Mr James was followed in the early 1940's by Mr & Mrs Jowett who continued to run a successful business for many years. When they retired, probably in the

1960's, the shop was taken over by a Mr Tinsley for a few years before it was sold to Mark and Renee Wilson; Mark had worked in and been a mainstay of the shop for many years. They ran a successful business until Mark became ill and died. Renee carried on for several years but eventually decided to retire about 1971. Unfortunately no buyer for the business could be found and it closed. The new owner David Salter ran it as an antique shop for a time, and during his period of ownership a Roman well was discovered in the building at the rear. The property was sold again a few years later, but by now the shop had become quite dilapidated and the new owner had it demolished, the petrol pumps removed, and the underground petrol tanks filled in. The house

has subsequently been occupied as a private residence and has changed hands a few times, but remains an important feature of the village.



The house was offered for sale in 1998: 'For sale at £245,000, the house which was formally the village stores many years ago, is one of contrast, the front being late 18th century, whilst the rear is considerably older. It has a beautiful

galleried living room, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and utility room, with four bedrooms and a bathroom and shower on the first floor and two further bedrooms on the top floor. The house stands back off the road behind a low brick wall with lawns to the front and the main gardens are behind the house surrounded by hedges and a brick and flint wall.'

The house was advertised for sale again in 2014. 'This Grade II listed detached family home features an elegant Georgian façade and views of the neighbouring golf course. The spacious house includes six bedrooms, two bathrooms, and three reception rooms over three floors, decorated with period charm and character features. It also offers a double detached garage, two driveways and a large garden. Situated in the quiet village of Newton it has lovely views of the village common and golf course. Asking price £690,000.

Long Gardens

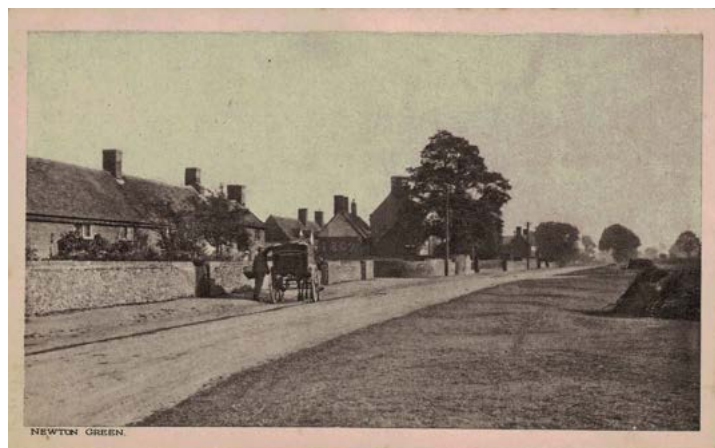
Just to the south-east of Rogue House lies Long Gardens, a row of 18th Century timber-framed cottages refaced in the 20th Century in red brick. Of single storey with attics they have casement windows with segmental heads. Porches project to the front (one is gabled), the roof is tiled with 2 central chimney stacks and 4 gabled dormers. These were originally 3 or 4 cottages with no rear access, but with long front gardens leading to the main road. One small cottage has been retained, but the remainder have been converted into a single spacious residence, Poppy Cottage. The



property at the end of this row nearest to Rogue House was used as a garage for the shop, but was converted to a residence when Renee Wilson retired from the shop. In the garden of Poppy Cottage is a small property 'The Little Bungalow', built end on to the road. Originally it was probably little more than a brick shed which has been extended over the years. It has no vehicular access. We always knew this bungalow as 'Hannah's Bungalow' after the old lady who lived there. One bonfire night the village lads raided the bungalow by letting off bangers outside the window. Hannah didn't appear, but the light inside the bungalow went out. For years afterwards the lads used to chant 'where was Hannah when the light went out?'. This bungalow was offered for sale in 2014 for £139,995, described as overlooking golf course, having lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and gardens.

The Row

These Grade II listed cottages are facing the main road and at the corner of Church Road and are a range of 17th and 18th Century timber-framed and plastered cottages which have been much altered and renovated. No 5 is faced in red brick and No1 has a 20th Century addition at the north-west end. They are single



storey with attics, with casement windows. The roofs are tiled with 7 dormers (3 sloping roofed, and 4 gabled). I was born in No 5, which was then called 'Green View'. It was a two up, two down cottage with a scullery at the back and an outside privy. Water was drawn from a well in the garden of No 1, and it was lovely clean fresh water. Quite often the bucket would come off the chain with which it was lowered down, and father would get the creepers (a set of large hooks on a long rope) to try to hook the handle of the bucket to get it out of the well! Who said life was easier then?

We lived there until 1949 when my grandfather died and we moved into his house which is now 'Barn Cottage'. Miss Kate



Hurrell, a great friend of my mother, lived in No 1. During the war she accepted two refugee boys, Jimmy and Gussie Haycock, who lived there for the duration of the war. My father owned the whole of the row of five cottages, but I don't know when he acquired them. Before World War II the cottages had been condemned as unfit for human habitation, and father was anxious that they would have to be demolished. After we moved he sold the row of cottages to Roland Oliver for £600! What are they worth now?

Tudor Cottage

Situated on the north side of Sudbury Road this is a Grade II listed 17th Century timber-framed and plastered house of one storey with attics, possibly incorporating remains of an earlier frame. An 18th Century 2 storey block was built at the north-west end; now two tenements. The older south-east wing has small casement windows and the 18thC block has mainly double hung sashes with glazing bars. The roofs are tiled, hipped on the north-west block with a central chimney stack and with one gabled dormer to the south-east wing. The interior has good 17th Century moulded beams and joists.

The single storey cottage was offered for sale in 2015 for £295,000: 'A beautifully presented period cottage situated in this attractive and sought after village. The property offers a wealth of character and comprises sitting room with inglenook fireplace and log burner, beamed dining room, cottage kitchen, large utility room, beautifully presented bathroom, landing study area and two



double bedrooms. The gardens are a real attribute of the property, and benefit from off road parking, garage and garden office.'

The two storey house was advertised for sale in

2017 for £275,000: 'A grade II listed semi-detached period cottage with a fine timbered interior, set just before the village green with a large garden adjoining open fields. Good parking, garage space and great potential for some improvement and/or enlargement. Entrance lobby, sitting room, kitchen/dining room, landing, two bedrooms, bathroom, outbuildings.'

A new bungalow, Flippets, was built in the grounds of the house in about 1990.

Gothic House

Located on Sudbury Road opposite Tudor Cottage this is a Grade II listed 17th-18th Century timber framed and plastered house with early-mid 19th C fenestration (probably of the date 1840 formerly inscribed on the front). It has 2 storeys, 2 window range, casements with 'Gothic' arched glazing bars in the upper lights. A gabled porch projects on the front. A lean-to addition extends



at the north-west end. The roof is tiled with a central large chimney stack.

The property was sold by auction in 1920. It was described as 'The freehold residence and wheelwright's

shop known as 'Gothic House'. The house is brick and plaster built and contains:- on the ground floor – porch, hall, dining room with register stove, living room with range, pantry, coal place and cellar. On the first floor – two large bedrooms and box room. The outbuildings comprise:- range of brick and slated Chaise house, with tool place, two loose boxes, with loft over all. Timber and corrugated loose box. Brick, timber and tiled Wheelwright's shop with sawpit. Brick and tiled smithy with forge.' A note in the sale catalogue shows the successful bid was by Warren for £305. In recent years the garden at the rear has been substantially enlarged by acquiring part of the field leading down to the golf course.

The wheelwright's shop was clearly in use in 1855 when William White's Directory of Suffolk showed William Amos as the wheelwright. He also appears on the census records for 1861 to 1891 as a master wheelwright but the 1911 census shows the wheelwright as Alfred Siggers. I expect the business continued for many years after that.

Hayward Cottage

Grade II listed in 1978 as Newton Post Office and cottage adjoining. Situated in Church Road this is an 18th century cottage fronted in red brick, of one storey with attics and small casement windows. The mansard roof is tiled with end chimney stacks.

The property was offered for sale by auction in 1920, described as a pair of brick, plaster and tiled cottages situated in Church Road. Let to tenants Mr A Hayward, 4 rooms at £4 pa and to Mr J Hayward (distant cousins of mine), two rooms at £3 pa. The property was purchased by my uncle Jim Vince for £105.

The Haywards continued to live in the property until John Hayward died in squalor aged 81 in 1937. The report in the East Anglian Daily Times of the inquest into his death had the headline 'Aged Man Was Roasted – death follows exposed to heat and cold'. His brother Albert died two years later aged 73.

After uncle Jim died the ownership of this property passed to my uncle Fred who promised me that he would leave it to me in his will. When he died in 1969 he left a home-made will leaving everything to his nephew. Unfortunately he didn't specify which nephew, and there were three, so the property had to be sold, which it duly was, for £1200, to Arthur Hayward (another distant cousin). A couple or so years later the Post Office Stores (at what is now Rogue

House) closed and Arthur decided to open a shop and Post Office in his cottage (the larger one with 4 rooms). The other 2 roomed cottage was occupied by my Aunt Gladys, but after she died Arthur extended the shop into both cottages.



A few years later Arthur retired and passed the shop on to his nephew Peter Pilgrim and his wife Jean, who continued to run the shop for several years. However insufficient use of the shop by the village meant that it was no longer viable, but efforts to sell it as a going business were unsuccessful and

it closed in 1995 with the Post Office closing a year later. Peter and Jean continued to live in the property, and Peter asked me one day if I could think of an appropriate name for. I suggested that as it had been the home of the Haywards for so many years it should be called Hayward Cottage, which Peter was pleased to adopt (his mother was also a Hayward from the same family).

After Peter and Jean sold the cottage the new owner made considerable improvements and an extension was added to the property.

The house was put on the market in 2014 for £365,000. It was described as a charming Grade II listed property with sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, utility room and cloakroom, 3 bedrooms (2 en-suite) and family bathroom, with off-road parking and generous private garden.

The property was sold again in 2016 with an asking price of £475,000. What might have been if Uncle Fred had left a proper will!



Hollyhocks

Situated in Church Road this Grade II listed 17th – 18th Century timber-framed and plastered house is single storey with attics and small casement windows. Originally built as 3 or 4 small farm workers cottages, now amalgamated to form one house. A small porch with a lean-to roof and a boarded door projects to the front. The roof is thatched, hipped at the north end, with 2 dormer windows.

See notes below under Barn Cottage regarding the sale of these cottages by auction in 1921.

Barn Cottage

Situated in Church Road adjoining Hollyhocks and incorrectly listed as Green View (which was in fact No 5 The Row). The Grade II listing shows it as a late 18th or early 19th Century timber-framed and plastered house, whereas two of the original rooms were part of Hollyhocks and were thus probably



17th Century. Two further rooms were added at a later date, with further 20th Century additions. The house is 2 storeys, 2 window range with glazing bars at the south end with later casements at the north end. The roof is tiled (old tiles), hipped, with a central chimney stack.

The property was offered for sale by auction in 1921, described as 'A small occupation comprising a semi-detached four roomed cottage of lath, plaster and tiled construction, with brick and tiled bakehouse, pig's places, yard and garden. Let to Mrs Vince (my grandmother) at £7 per annum. Together with three old thatched cottages with gardens etc. (two of which are unoccupied). These three cottages are the property which became Hollyhocks – see above.

Also small paddock in rear, No 117 on OS map, containing 1.031 acres (this is now Plampin Close).

Also Farm Premises including a good doubled bayed barn, yard, two loose boxes and cart shed, and a lock-up shed. (These buildings were demolished in 1974 to provide the access for Plampin Close).

The whole of this lot realised £175 at the auction!

Stow Cottage

At one time known locally as Paraffin Hall and situated at Little (or Corner) Green this is a small Grade II listed timber-framed and plastered cottage of one storey and attic. It has casement windows, the roof is tiled, mansard, with one sloping roof dormer.



The name 'Paraffin Hall' came about because the lady who lived there in the 1940's used to sell paraffin among other things. You could take your own can and purchase a gallon of paraffin. During WW II she was also the source of supply in the village of National Dried Milk (for babies), cod liver oil (which we hated) and concentrated orange juice, which had a distinctive taste.

The property has been extended and much improved in recent times.

The Thatch

A Grade II listed building incorrectly listed as The Hatch.

Situated at Little (or Corner) Green and formerly known as Lilac Cottage this is a 17th Century timber-framed and plastered house of one storey with attic. A lean-to addition projects on the front. It has a boarded door and small casement windows. The roof is thatched with a central chimney stack with 2 octagonal shafts.

The property has come on to the market in 2018, and is presented as a period house which has been sympathetically enlarged and altered over the years whilst retaining much of its original character. The property offers considerable versatility with four bedrooms and is benefitted further by a double garage, large studio, a parking area and generous gardens. The asking price is £525,000.

Holly Cottage

Situated at Little (or Corner) Green, originally 2 cottages, and formerly known as Grajons but incorrectly listed as Crojons. This Grade II listed property is a 17th Century timber-framed and plastered house with an 18th Century front, renovated in the 20th Century. It has 2



storeys, a 2 window range with double hung sashes and window bars. A 20th Century gabled porch projects on the front. The roof is tiled.

When it was two cottages, one was occupied by the district nurse. She was fully qualified and was allowed a house free of rent, coal, and lighting, and a bicycle. Villagers who wished to be on her books paid a few pence per week. It is believed that the other cottage was the postman's; the current owner of the property found a Victorian button in the floorboards which could have come off a postman's jacket. When John Matthams, a police officer from Essex retired in 1945, he and his wife bought the two cottages, but could only occupy one as the other was occupied by evacuees. When it came available, John turned the two cottages into one. Grace Matthams took an active part in the Mother's Union and the W.I. John Matthams did a brisk trade shoe repairing for the village. He was also caretaker of the village hall. They lived here until the early 1970's.

Potash

Situated at the south west corner of the Green this is a Grade II listed 17th – 18th century timber-framed and plaster house, having two tenements, of single storey with attics, and casement windows. The south part of the house (No 2) is older and was



probably extended in the 18th or 19th century when the north tenement was built or refronted. The roof is thatched with 3 gabled dormers. At the south end there is a large external chimney stack with tabled offsets.

Bob and Pat Rowland who live at No 2 tell of stories of their house being used by gun runners and of guns being hidden up the chimney (though they've never found any!)

In 2013 Potash No 1 (the cottage on the north side) came on the market with an asking price of £ 345,000, later reduced to £ 315,000, described as a Grade II listed semi-detached thatched cottage with views over the golf course to the front and the



links to the rear. The accommodation comprised reception hall, sitting/dining room, conservatory/dining room, kitchen with breakfast bar, side porch, shower/cloakroom, landing/dressing area, 2 bedrooms. Oil central heating, garage, front and rear gardens with thatched Wendy house. In the 1930's my mother's step grandfather lived in No 1 with his wife, but after he died 'Granny Green' continued to live there and we would often visit. In the 1950's she took a lodger, a Mr Hufford ('Old Huffy' to us), and I can remember that he had one of the first televisions – a tiny screen with a barely watchable picture – but it was a real novelty to be able to go and watch it.

Burchetts

Situated just off Rectory Road at the south of the Green this is a Grade II 16th – 17th Century timber-framed and plastered house which has been renovated and extended in the 20th Century. It is of 2 storeys with



small casement windows. The roof is thatched with 3 dormers on the north side and 2 on the south. At the east end there is an external chimney stack. The interior has exposed timber framing.

The position of the garden of this house indicates that it was originally a part of the Green. I can remember in the 1950's or 60's this garden was further extended onto the Green by the then owner Col. De Wilton. Whether or not he had permission to do this from the Lord of the Manor (Roland Oliver), I do not know!

Little Gables

Situated on Rectory Road behind Burchetts this Grade II listed building is a 16th – 17th Century timber-framed and plastered house of 2 storeys with casement windows. The roof is thatched, hipped at the north end, with one gabled dormer on the front. It is believed that this property was at one time used as the village workhouse. The small adjoining cottage known as South Cottage has I believe now been incorporated into the main house

Watkinsons

Situated at the far end of Rectory Road this Grade II listed building is a 15th Century (and thus one of the oldest in the village) timber-framed and plastered 2-bay hall house with a floor and fireplace inserted in the 16th or 17th Century. A number of the small casement windows have original features such as diamond mullions (restored) and shutter grooves. The roof is thatched, hipped at the north and south ends. The interior has exposed tie beams and timber framing. The house has been renovated and restored in the 20th Century.

The property was offered for sale by auction in 1929, described as ' The pair of commodious picturesque freehold timber and plaster cottages situate in the parish of Newton, by the roadside, near Goulding's farm, together with good gardens, being No 212 on the OS map and covering an area of about 0a. 1r. 3p. Pump and well of water. Let to George Butcher at £4.15s 0d pa and Charles Green (my step great grandfather) at £5.4s.0d pa.' The property was sold to S T Gillbard for £70.

Gouldings Farm

Grade II listed house and barn situated in an isolated position in Rectory Lane.

The house is timber-framed and plastered with a 17th Century red brick chimney stack with diagonal shafts at the north end but probably with an

earlier timber frame. One storey with attics, it has small casement windows and a thatched roof.

The barn is a 3 bay, timber-framed barn of the late 16th or early 17th Century, modified in the 19th and 20th Century, aligned north-east to south-west with a 19th Century brick shelter shed attached to the west and a late 20th Century brick addition facing south.

Extensive works in the 21st Century have seen the farmhouse completely renovated, whilst the barn has been sympathetically converted into a modern attractive residence. What was a neglected area has been transformed into a most attractive part of the village.

Thatch Cottage

Situated in Rotten Row this Grade II listed building is a timber-framed and plastered house with 18th Century features of one storey with attics. It has small casement windows, the roof is thatched with a higher eaves level at the south-east end and one dormer.

Pola Negri

Situated at Sackers Green this Grade II listed building is a timber-framed and plastered house with 18th Century external features probably incorporating a 17th Century timber frame. It has 2 storeys, a 2 window range with double hung sashes and glazing bars. A gabled porch projects in the centre of the front. The roof is tiled, double pitched with older end chimney stacks to the front range.

Until a few years ago the house was in Great Cornard but became part of Newton following some minor boundary changes. At one time it was apparently part of the Abbas Hall Manor; the name Pola Negri is recent, previously it was referred to as Greys Green or Sackers Green. The Hayward family (distant relatives of mine) had lived there from about the mid 1800's. I remember Percy Hayward living there. Percy was a tall man having two large bumps on his head, and I think he wore a bowler hat to cover them. Percy was a farmer and dealer; his grandson Robyn Brown donated many of his old account books and farm records to the village. Percy's son Freddy Brown and his family also lived there. Freddy was as short as Percy was tall! Freddy loved to collect mechanical things and at one time he had a steam roller and two Rolls Royces. He used to supply milk to the village, and delivered it from a churn in the back of one of the Rolls Royces! He would ladle the milk from the

churn into the housewife's own jug. Having your milk delivered by Rolls Royce in a country village must be a unique occurrence!

*Freddy
Royce*



Brown's Rolls

War Memorial



The War Memorial situated on the Green at the top of Church Road is a Grade II listed building. Constructed about 1920 of rusticated granite its whitewashed base supports a tapering plinth inscribed with the names of the Fallen in both World Wars. A Celtic cross rises above the plinth. The memorial was erected in memory of the 20 Newton men who died in the first world war, the name of the one who was killed in the second world war being added later. With such an enormous loss of life it is of little wonder that the population of the village declined considerably.

Other ancient buildings

There are many other old or ancient buildings in the village which do not have listed status. Nevertheless these are important properties and deserve to be recognised as such.

Corner Cottage

Previously known as 'Mud 'n Beam' this cottage is believed to date from the 16th century but is not listed, although apparently it was in the past. Originally two cottages, it was offered for sale by auction in 1929 described as 'The pair of freehold timber, plaster and tiled cottages situate near Brooks Farm in the parish of Newton, together with garden ground at the side, being pt No 108 and pt No 105 on the OS map. Water is obtained from a well near by, the owner paying a proportionate share of keeping the said well in repair. The property was bought by Charlie Lingley (who lived there for many years until about the 1960's) for

£100. Also offered for sale was the valuable enclosure of arable land, with orchard, to the rear of the cottages, known as 'House Field' and covering an area of about 3a.



3r. 36p. This was bought by W J Hill for £75. I can remember potato picking on this field for Bill Hills in the 1950's.

The cottage was advertised for sale in 2007, described as a period cottage in the historic village of Newton Green with four bedrooms, three reception rooms, en-suite to master bedroom, garage and a plot of two acres. The guide price was £575,000. The property was extended and put on the market again in 2015 at £ 699,950. With further improvements and extensions the property came on the market again in 2018 with a guide price of £725.000. It was described as having attractive period features and a sympathetically designed extension; three spacious reception rooms, five bedrooms, one ensuite, three further bathrooms, kitchen/breakfast room with range style cooker, garden, extensive outbuildings, and grounds of about two acres.

Mill House

Old maps indicate that there was a mill on this site and the miller's house would have been an important building. Apparently the sails blew off the windmill in the great gale of 1881. The Mill House was advertised for sale in 1979 and the sales particulars give some information about it. It was described as 'a period



country house with two acres, occupying a unique situation on the edge of the nine hole golf course of Newton Green. The house is probably of 18th century origin, of part timbered, part brick construction, with tiled and slated roofs. The accommodation comprised entrance lobby, sitting room, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC'. The asking price was £37,000. The two acres of land were originally two separate orchards of one acre each owned by Lizzie Hurst and Jimmy Vince. As a lad I used to pick the apples for Lizzie Hurst.

By 2008 when the property was again advertised for sale, the two separate roofs had been replaced by a single span; there were 4 reception rooms, an indoor swimming pool, Aga kitchen/breakfast room, utility/boot room and cloakroom, 5 bedrooms (one en suite) and family bathroom, triple garage/workshop and landscaped gardens. The asking price was £850,000.



The Yew

Situated on Assington Road at the corner with Airey Close, this timber framed and plastered cottage with slate roof was originally two cottages.

The auction sale catalogue from 1920 describes the property as two semi-detached cottages known as 'Carlton' and 'Joan' cottages, built of brick, plaster and slated containing Hall, front room with register stove, living room with range, and two bedrooms. Large garden at rear, good supply of water from a well, two earth closets. The property was sold for £165 to J.O. Steed.



The property was later owned by Cecil Smith (who owned the Playing Field) who lived there for many years until his death, when he bequeathed it to Harry Buckledee. I think Harry must have had it converted into one dwelling, and renamed it as 'The Yew'. Following Harry's death in 2018 the property was acquired by developers who have again converted it back to two cottages, and completely renovated and extended them. The cottages now renamed as 'Carlton' and 'Buckledee' cottages are on the market for £395,000 each.

Plough Cottage

Plough Cottage is situated at the south of the Green just a short distance from Mill House. The premises were in use as a beer house for many years; the first record I have found is from William White's directory of Suffolk for 1869 when William Hughes is shown as the beer retailer. By 1900 this had changed to John William Hurst, but in 1929 it was William Hurst, as shown in Kelly's Directory.

The property had been offered for sale by auction in 1920, and was described as 'The very valuable off-licensed beer house with cottage adjoining. The property is situate facing Newton Green and is built of brick, plaster, and tiled, and contains the following accommodation:



beer cellar, living-room with range, scullery and two bedrooms. The cottage adjoining contains two down and two upstairs rooms. The property is let to

Messrs Mauldon & Sons Ltd at a rental of £22 10s. 0d. per annum'. The property was bought by Messrs Mauldon (the brewery which supplied the beer) for £600.

I remember the business being run by Lizzie Hurst during the 1940's and I think it was the late 1950's when it finally closed. As it was an off-licence, drinking was not allowed on the premises but there was a hut outside next to the pond where the drinkers congregated. A favoured few were allowed inside Lizzie's parlour on a Sunday morning, and I was allowed to join them on the odd occasion when I was invited to lunch. This was because my Uncle Fred lived in the adjoining cottage. He and Lizzie had been sweethearts since childhood, but because Lizzie's mother lived in the house, Uncle Fred had to live next door. Most of the youngsters in the village used to call there to buy fizzy drinks, and it also attracted trade from the passing golfers. When Lizzie left the property, the house was still in exactly the same state as described in the auction sale catalogue of 1920!

Over the years the two cottages have been amalgamated into one, and many alterations and improvements have been made. There have been several changes in ownership since that time, but the house is now a desirable property occupying a very enviable position.



Motts Farm

Situated in Rectory Road just past Little Gables is Motts Farm. The property is I would think timber-framed, and plastered with a slate roof. Its age is not known but I would think it must be at least 18th or possibly 17th century.

This property is where the Vince family settled in Newton. My great, great grandfather James Vince was born in Hadleigh in 1793 and married Sarah

Bonnett from Wickhambrook at Kersey in 1818. Their first child was baptised at Great Waldingfield, but later children were baptised at Newton in 1820, 1822, and 1824. The Vince family lived there until the death of Harry Vince in the 1990's. Over the years their occupations have been shown as butchers, cattle dealers, pig dealers, higglers, and farmers.

The property occupies quite a large site with various outbuildings and stables, although some of these have been demolished and not replaced. In the front of the property was an ancient brick and flint wall which sadly has been removed. Behind the property is a large paddock which adjoins the former allotment gardens.

The Leys Farm

To the west of the village and bordering on to Great Cornard, the Leys Farm has been in the ownership of the Wheldon family since about 1930. The property including about 100 acres of land and a good range of agricultural buildings came up for sale by auction in 1918, together with the adjacent Gouldings farm. The farm was planted with orchards by Peter Wheldon in the 1930's and continued as a valuable fruit farm until recent years when it became uneconomical, and most of the trees were grubbed out, the land reverting to arable use. The farm house has also been sold separately in the last few years.

Tinkers Croft

Situated at Little (or Corner) Green near to Brook House this property was offered for sale by auction in 1920. It was described as 'The substantially built pair of brick-and-slatted cottages situate in the Assington Road; each cottage contains front room with range, scullery and two bedrooms'. The lot was purchased by George Wade for £140, and was occupied by his farm workers for many years. In recent times it has been the home of the Mortlock family and includes a large workshop where Gordon carried on his carpentry business.

Pond Cottage

Situated behind the village hall this property was offered for sale by auction in 1920. The description was: 'A pair of semi-detached cottages adjoining the school. They are built in brick, plaster and tiled, each containing living room with range, scullery and two bedrooms. There is an outhouse for the joint use of the tenants'. The property was bought by Gillbard for £125.

I remember that in the 1950's it was occupied by a Miss Jordan, and I think by that time it was being used as a single dwelling. Miss Jordan was nicknamed 'Nuttie Slack' by the locals after the inferior quality coal that became available at that time, although I am not sure why she was awarded that name. One bonfire night several of the village boys, loaded with pocketfuls of bangers decided to raid her house, and divided into two groups, one at the front and the other at the back behind the village hall. At a given signal, the bangers were ignited and thrown simultaneously at the front and back doors. Nuttie Slack came tearing out threatening to call the police, but we had all legged it as fast as we could, and were never caught!

After Miss Jordan came Reg and Joan Bell who were good neighbours and were always prepared to help with the village hall.

Tanglewood

Situated in Rectory Road and created by the amalgamation of two cottages originally called Polo and Twildo. The former one of these was for sale by auction in 1920, described as 'The semi-detached brick and slated cottage situate on the Rectory Road. Newton Green, comprising living room with range, scullery and two bedrooms. One shilling per quarter has been paid to the owner of the adjoining property for the right to draw water from a well'.

The property was purchased by Hurst for £75, and was later where Lizzie Hurst and my Uncle Fred moved to after the Plough off-licence closed.

Butchers Cottages

Situated on the corner of the Green near the start of Rotten Row, these were originally three small brick built cottages.



Two of these have in recent years been converted into one, and the third was extended by adding a building parallel to the existing cottage.

Saracen's Cottage, Greenways, and Pondside

These cottages are situated at the edge of the Green behind the Saracen's Head and have been much improved over the years. They were offered for sale by auction as one lot in 1920: 'Four cottage tenements situate on the north side of Newton Green comprising three brick-built and tiled tenements let to quarterly tenants:-

Mrs A Rudland – front room with range, pantry & two bedrooms £4.0.0. pa

Mr J Morley - ditto £3.15.0 pa

Mr J Elmer jnr – two rooms and out place £3.10.0 pa

Bakehouse for joint use of the above lots.

(I would guess that the first two lets now form Greenways, and the third one is now Pondside)

Also Brick, weather-boarded and tiled cottage containing two down and two upstairs rooms, let to Mr J Debnam at £4.10.0. pa.

Good supply of water from a well'.

This last property is Saracen's Cottage. The whole lot was purchased by Steed for £260.



Jordans

Situated on the Sudbury road, this is the last property on the left as you leave the village. It appears as a plastered and tiled cottage, but may well be built on a timber frame. It has been extended in recent years, and may at one time have been two cottages. It stands on a sizeable plot of land which backs onto the golf course.

The Gavel

A detached house situated on the Assington road just after Corner Green with a sizeable garden. A sale advert in 2013 describes the original house as 300 years old.

Nicholson's Barn

This is the original timber and tiled barn on the field where Nicholson's Court was built. It lies behind Hayward Cottage and has access from Church Road, and was I believe retained by the owner when the field was sold for development. There is of course the possibility that this might be converted to a residence at some point.



Barn Conversions

Most of the ancient timber barns in the village have already been converted into dwellings. These include the ones at Hill Farm, Newton Hall, Brooks Farm, and Gouldings.

Later Buildings

Moving on from timber framed buildings we need to consider the houses that date from probably the late 19th century and into the first part of the 20th century.

Red House Farm

Situated on Sudbury road, this property was advertised for sale in 2012. Described as 'A rare opportunity to acquire a Victorian home with views over Newton Green golf course. Sitting room, kitchen/dining room and utility, 3 bedrooms and bathroom, 4 garages and workshop. In all about 1.8 acres. Guide price £425.000. Permission has I understand already been granted for the house to be demolished and replaced by a modern property, with a small development of 9 or 10 houses on the land behind. I believe permission has also been given for further development on the adjoining field. This area adjacent to the Sudbury road had long since been regarded as one where development should or would not be allowed, but should be preserved as an open green space.

The site also includes the original village blacksmith's shop – the boarded shed alongside the main road, which may well still contain the old forge which I can remember being used. My father told me that he was apprenticed to the blacksmith there, a MrTurkentine, but he found the work too heavy and left to go to work at one of the farms. Kelly's directory of 1929 confirms that the blacksmith then was called Turkentine. This old blacksmith's shop forms part of the history of the village.

Chapel Cottage

Situated facing the Green, this was built in 1864 as a Primitive Methodist Chapel, to replace the makeshift chapel that had been used in the barn in Church Road, which stood at what is now the entrance to Plampin Close. The chapel was by all accounts well used for many years, and at one time even had its own silver band. The big event every year was Harvest Festival, and we village children would be roped in to go round the village with a barrow or cart to collect fruit and vegetables and other produce for the occasion. My mother and others would make cakes and jam tarts as well. The harvest festival service was always well attended because after singing all the favourite harvest hymns, all the produce would be auctioned off, by John Sparrow who was the caretaker, preacher, and generally the person in charge. The bidding was brisk, particularly for the jam tarts which were consumed rapidly there and then!



My mother regularly played the harmonium and was accompanied by John Sparrow on his euphonium. Preachers were provided by the Methodist circuit in Sudbury, supplemented by local lay preachers. One of these, Marshall Smith, was renowned for his sermons, and



could often be heard by golfers out on the Green – ‘Look at them out there’, he once said, ‘they’re all going to Hell!’ He also helped the hymn singing along by playing his cornet very loudly! Over the years however, attendances dwindled and the chapel was no longer viable as a place of worship. It became disused and stood empty for several years until it was sold and converted into a residence probably in the late 1970’s. It has seen several changes of ownership since then, and is a desirable residence but has very limited grounds.

Priory Cottage

Situated facing the Green, next to Chapel Cottage, this was originally two cottages. The one nearest the chapel was occupied by Mr and Mrs John Sparrow. John was the caretaker and general custodian of the chapel as well as being a part time lay preacher there. He was also the village carpenter and had a large workshop in the back garden; I used to love watching him work in there.

The other cottage was occupied by Bob Griggs and his family. Bob was a cowman at Butlers Farm. He would keep a stack of faggots (bundles of sticks used for kindling) on the Green opposite his cottage, but he made sure to bring them into his back yard well before bonfire night, before the village lads could get their hands on them.

The property was offered for sale by auction in 1971. ‘The property, formerly two cottages, was converted into one dwelling about four years ago; it is situated in one of the most favoured localities in West Suffolk being immediately opposite



the delightful village green with its 9 hole golf course and adjacent to the Sudbury – Colchester Road. Priory Cottage which is constructed of red brick with tiled roof is a pleasant property in a most attractive position and now that consent has been obtained for a vehicular access it is ideally suited for further improvement, enlargement or reconstruction. The accommodation is Dining room with Rayburn cooker, kitchen, bathroom, sitting room with tiled fireplace, and three bedrooms. The garden is reasonably large and provides ample space for an extension to the cottage if required, and also for a garage’.

Hall Cottages

These were built as farm worker’s cottages (as were the matching pair on Valley Road). The date of construction is not known, although they do appear on the 1886 O.S.map. In recent years they have been extended and modernised and are now attractive residences.



Painswick

Between Prior Cottage and Long Gardens was a wooden bungalow called Roadside Cottage, where the Misses Outing lived. I cannot say when this might have been built, but there is a well recorded story when in 1948 while playing golf and driving off from what was then the 9th tee (just outside the ‘Deans’ – the hole used to play across the main road) the ball hit by Sudbury solicitor Alan Phillips (father of Lord Andrew Phillips) was badly sliced, broke through the Miss Outing’s window and smashed into the butter dish (or was it the sugar bowl) whilst they were having tea!

The bungalow was demolished and the new bungalow ‘Painswick’ was built in a completely different style in the 1980’s.

Rectory Road

There are brick cottages of a similar age at Nos 1, 2 and 3 Rectory Road which have been modernised over the years, and these are adjoined by 'Ashend' which has also been considerably extended.

Boxford Lane

Whilst perhaps a bit remote from the main village, these cottages at the corner with Siam Hall Lane should not be overlooked. As well as Trotts Cottage there are 1 & 2 New Cottages, then Dogscroft Cottage and Highfield, Maskells Farmhouse and Box Valley Barn. On the other side, at the far end of the village is Willows End and Langley Hall which replaced the two small cottages which were very close to the road. Surrounded by open fields there could be the possibility of future development in this area.



20th Century Buildings

Moving on into the 20th century we should consider just how much development has taken place in the village in the last 100 or so years.

Broomfield



Built in 1913 in Tudor style (by the Warner family, proprietors of the Gainsborough Silk Weaving Company) this detached house is set in a secluded position, just past Chapel Cottage, and enjoys good views over the Green. In large grounds of one acre or so, it was for many years the home of the village fete, courtesy of the Warner family, and the large cabin in the grounds was used by the youth club. In more recent years another substantial detached property, 'Hook End' was built in the grounds.

Whisper Wood

This plot of land, originally part of Broomfield was sold in the 1950's for the erection of one bungalow called 'North Green', with a covenant that no further houses could be built on the site. However when the property came on the market about 8 years ago, it was bought by developers, who despite fierce opposition from the village obtained permission in 2011 to demolish the bungalow and build three large executive houses on the site.

Newton Lodge

This substantial brick property facing the Sudbury Road was I think built by the Wade family in the 1930's. Again the large grounds of the property were made available to the village to hold summer fetes and similar events. The property has changed hands several times over the years, and part of the large garden sold off to accommodate the building of three sizeable detached houses, Cathrich House, Cragston, and Wrenwood.

In 2013/14 the property was substantially further enlarged to its present size.

Sudbury Road

At the Sudbury end of the village, in the grounds attached to Hills Barn is a modern dwelling called Greensprings. This is the last house in the village along this main road.

Between Newton Lodge and Tudor Cottage several bungalows were built in the 1940's or 1950's, Glencoe, The Birches, Squirrells Oak, and The Pippins. These have all been very substantially enlarged over the years, and most of the properties on this side of the Sudbury Road have extended their gardens and grounds into the farmland at the rear, possibly with a view to further development at some time in the future. Further along, past Tudor Cottage, is the pair of brick built houses Penfold, and Golf View. Again these have been modernised and extended in recent years. On the opposite side of the road,

between the Saracen's Head and Gothic House is the bungalow 'Oak Leys' (previous 'Dunroamin') set well back from the road, but with a substantial garden at the rear leading down to the golf course. Between the field opposite the pub, and The Row, were two chalet bungalows called Cotswold and Dormy, built about 1930. Cotswold is still there but Dormy was bought by a builder about 20 years ago, and in the course of reconstruction it collapsed! A new property, also called Dormy, has since been built there and blends in well with the existing cottages.

Council Houses

The 6 houses in Church Road and the 4 in Assington Road appear on the 1927 OS map, but those in Rectory Road do not, so presumably they were built slightly later. The land on which they were built was clearly farm land, and of course in keeping with the times, they had very large gardens so people could be self sufficient with chickens and vegetables and the like.



Along Assington Road, the Airey houses were built after the end of WW II on a site which during the war housed a searchlight; there was also a pill box which is still there. Although the houses were of pre-fabricated construction they were good solid houses, well liked by the people who lived in them. Having survived for about 50 years, the council decided they were not up to modern standards, and demolished them in 1997, replacing them with the properties that now stand in Airey Close.



Over the years most of the council houses have passed into private ownership, and many of them have been extended far beyond their original size, to make modern desirable residences.

Rectory Road

Just past Motts Farm are the three chalet bungalows, Kintore, Little Motts and Orchard House, which were built in the 1970's or 1980's. Along from them is another site before the orchards which lends itself to development. Permission has been refused for a house, but there is currently an application to erect three dwellings on this site. On the opposite side of the road is Abbey House erected about 1990. This is a large property with stables and outbuildings, and I believe permission has been sought to build further properties at this location.

Further along Rectory Road just before the council houses, various barns and buildings have been constructed. It remains to be seen whether there might be an attempt for these to be converted to dwellings. Modern buildings have been built in the grounds of the Old Rectory (Cherry Orchard House) and others further along the lane (Twin Oaks and Oakwood). 'Trollbo' was built for Mr and Mrs Bean in the 1930's. These properties have large gardens which have been extended into the farmland behind. There may be room to build more properties along the lane, but the narrowness of the road would surely preclude any further development here.

St Michael's

This detached house in Rotten Row was probably built in the 1930's, and I remember it being the home of the Maskell family. In recent years it has increased considerably in size, and many improvements have been made.

Fairway

This bungalow, between Potash and the Golf Club was built in the late 1940's, and is in fact the only residence to have been erected around the edge of the Green for many years. It was built for and occupied by Cecil Deeks and his family in conjunction with his smallholding business which was on some 11 acres of land now part of the golf course. The Golf Club had tried unsuccessfully to buy this property to convert it into a clubhouse when it came up for auction in 1977. Further accommodation has been added on this site

over the years, and it occupies a large plot of land with good access, which might lend itself to further development.

Links View

This was the next major development in the village, built in the late 1960's on land that had been part of The Deans' estate. It is a well designed attractive area with its own green space. The 23 houses are mostly of chalet design and many of them have been altered or extended over the years. It is a very desirable area in which to live.

Little (or Corner) Green

Juglans was built between Corner Cottage and The Gavel probably in the 1970's. The only other new property built in this area is Brook Lodge in about the 1990's. Apart from the land behind Corner Cottage, there is probably little scope for any further development in this area.

Assington Road

Just past Corner Green, between The Gavel and The Yew, are two modern bungalows called Opus and Carey, built I would think in the 1970's. Further along past Airey Close is open farmland which could perhaps be regarded as having development potential.

Valley Road

New Barn, along a lane off Valley Road has I think been refurbished or rebuilt in recent years. In Valley Road itself are 1 & 2 Oak Lodge cottages which were originally farm cottages matching the two in Church Road. There is also Valley Farmhouse which has recently been completely restored and modernised, and The Bungalow which was probably built in the 1980's. On the opposite side is Valley Fields, an attractive bungalow. There are many areas of open farmland along Valley Road which might lend themselves to development, and of course this road leads to Great Waldingfield where huge areas have been built up. Will we see Newton and Waldingfield joined up at some time in the future? We should also not overlook that the Newton boundary now extends further towards Sudbury along the main road. It includes the garden centre (now Perrywoods) which has large areas of land which used to be nursery gardens but which are no longer used as such. Watch this space!

Church Road

Church Road has seen the greatest amount of development in Newton in recent years. Lowes bungalow was probably the first, built in the 1960's, followed by Nicholson's Court in the mid 1970's, a development of executive houses built on the field where Bill Hills had kept his (working) horses, and later reared pigs! Plampin Close, a development of six old people's bungalows, was built in 1974 on the paddock behind Barn Cottage. This parcel of land had been bought by my father in 1924, and included the ancient barn which stood alongside Church Road, together with various other buildings. An orchard was planted on the land, and the barn became a wonderful playground for most of the children in the village! In the late 1960's, the District Council were looking for a site on which to build bungalows for the old people of Newton, and my Aunt who was a district councillor put this land forward as suitable. A compulsory purchase order was placed on it, and my father had no option but to sell it to the council. The price he got for it was fair, but I remember him being in tears the day his barn was pulled down. Bill Hills saw the opportunity for development on Nicholson's field and sold it soon after to a local builder. Private enterprise ensured that work started on Nicholson's Court before the council got started on Plampin Close!

At about the same time the two farm cottages opposite Nicholson's Court were built, followed by more bungalows along Church Road, and Harrowdown at Butlers Farm a few years later.

In the early 1980's the bungalows in Alston Court were built by the Orwell housing association, and the two houses The Willows and Alston House were built in the gardens of what had been Hall Cottages. Now I understand it is proposed to build further affordable houses in the field behind Alston Close.

When I grew up, Church Road, or Hall Lane as it was sometimes called, was a quiet country lane with the traffic being a few small farm tractors and the odd car. The vehicles using it have increased beyond all belief in recent years. The number of houses has increased dramatically and with maybe 2 or 3 cars in every household, coupled with enormous agricultural machinery and numerous 40 tonne lorries, this narrow lane has to accommodate an extraordinary amount of traffic. Whilst there are further development possibilities on the land alongside Church Road, any further building ought to be strongly resisted. The speed of the existing traffic creates a distinct danger to both the young children and many older people who live here. The access

on to the main A134 is already difficult, and it often takes ages to be able to join the main road. A mini roundabout, or some other form of traffic control is desperately needed, as it is at both ends of the village at Boxford Corner and Valley Road. Maybe one day the County Council Highways Authorities will listen to our pleas.

Conclusion

I hope I have covered all the properties in Newton, but there may be some that I have missed, and some areas that I am not very familiar with. This village is now very different from the place where I grew up in the 1940's and 1950's. Then it was basically an agricultural community where everybody knew everybody else, and it was a very close knit community. There was no mains water until about 1930, no electricity until 1953, and the sewer was not connected until 1964. We always had a shop and Post Office, firstly on the main road at the corner with Church Road, and later in Church Road, but with the advent of the supermarkets in Sudbury, the village did not support the business well enough and it inevitably failed. We still have the Church, but the Chapel closed because of dwindling attendances; we still have the Saracen's Head, but the off-licence at The Plough closed many years ago. Just how many more dwellings could this village satisfactorily accommodate?

However, as my father always used to say 'There's nowhere better than Newton Green', and I still think he was right!

Alan Vince

2018