

# **Manor Road Memorial Park, Wantage**

**Urban/Recreational Park Project  
Oxfordshire Gardens Trust Research & Recording Group**

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December 2020**



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COUNTY	Oxfordshire	<b>Manor Road Memorial Park, Wantage</b>
DISTRICT	Vale of White Horse	
PARISH	Wantage	
NGR	SU 398 872	

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Overview**

A public park was opened on Manor Road, Wantage in 1920 as a memorial to the fallen of the First World War. The park offers leisure space with sports and play amenities, whilst providing the people of Wantage with opportunities for enduring commemorations. The land is linked to two important Wantage families – the Towseys and the Ormonds. The Towseys were a longstanding local family and the Ormonds were newcomers yet the two became interlinked through the land which has become Manor Road Memorial Park.

### **Artistic value**

A pleasant and well-used recreation ground, planted with a variety of trees and hedges, which gently slopes up to the east and offers views northwards over the town and southwards to the Ridgeway and Downs.

### **Historic value**

Since it opened, the park has continued to develop as a public amenity and there have been several memorial gifts, plaques and plantings. The centenary of the park's opening was held on 13 May 2020 when, following armistice celebrations, there was a parade from the town's Market Place to the park.

## **HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT UP UNTIL THE OPENING OF THE PARK**

### **The Towsey family**

John Rocques' map of 1762 identifies the area as *Wantage Fields*. The 1806 enclosure map shows William Towsey Esq. as being the owner of the land, part of which is now Manor Road Memorial Park. The 'Towsey allotment' was a field of 63 acres (25.5 ha) in the East White Field, which stretched across the east end of the town. At the time of enclosure Wantage had four common fields (East White Field, West White Field, Limborough and Chainhill).

The Towseys of Wantage were tallow chandlers. They were among the wealthiest in the town, on a financial par with brewers. The land and property they owned stretched beyond Wantage into the surrounding villages and they were proprietors of a shop in Newbury Street (see Appendix 2).

William Towsey Esq., named on the tithe map, died in 1810. His considerable estate was divided equally between his two daughters – Mary and Charlotte. Mary married John Wise, agent for the Royal Exchange Fire and Life Co., whose father had been the Wantage postmaster and his grandfather a well-known clockmaker. They had one child, Mary, born 1801, who married the Reverend Josiah Burd, in 1826. The 1841 tithe map indicates Rev. Burd as owner of the 'Towsey' field, leased to a Mr Trinder. Burd died in 1854 and is buried

in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul in the centre of Wantage. His wife survived him by 17 years and is noted for charitable works in the town. There were no children. Charlotte Towsey remained a spinster and left her wealth to her sister during her lifetime and then to her niece Mary.

### **The Ormond family**

The first Ormond to settle in Wantage was John, born in 1761 in Pembrokeshire in Wales and orphaned at an early age. He was brought up by relatives in the west of England. At the age of 15, he was apprenticed to Timothy Dowell a surgeon in Malmesbury. After seven years he went to London for further study. In 1784 he set up practice next to the Bear Inn in the Market Place, Wantage in a house called 'Gibbons'. Four generations of Ormonds worked and lived in the building. It was pulled down in 1965 to make way for a new Royal Mail sorting office (see Appendix 3).

John married Catherine Kirby, daughter of the local ironmonger. They had 12 children, two of whom became doctors and two solicitors. William, the sixth child (born 1794) became the most celebrated of the Ormonds. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the drafting, negotiating and canvassing of the *Wantage Improvement Act*, passed by Parliament in 1828. This addressed: "lighting, watching, cleansing, paving and otherwise improving the town of Wantage in the County of Berks". His energy and drive saw him take on many roles in the town (see *1841 UK City and County directories*). By 1873 he owned 469 acres of land and a growing number of properties. The next two generations of Ormonds followed in William's footsteps and became prominent members of the community.

### **The Ground**

The Ormonds acquired the 'Towsey' field sometime after Mary Wise's death in 1871. Chainhill Farm and land, adjacent to the 'Towsey' field was in Edward Ormond's (William's son) possession prior to 1906. It was reported that he had sold at auction his entire farmstock, 'live and dead, as he had relinquished farming and let out his lands' (The Faringdon Advertiser, 1906). The Land Valuation Map 1913–1914 lists Edward Ormond as the owner of Chainhill Farm, Chainhill Farmhouse and 165 acres of land. It was let out to one Harold Philip Peplar and the 'Towsey' field was used for pasture.

This land became the solution to a long held problem in the town of where to situate a recreation ground.

As early as 1884 a meeting of the town ratepayers was held to secure a recreation ground and discuss where it was to be placed and how it was to be paid for (Jackson's Oxford Journal, 1884). At the Quoits Club Annual Dinner, 1889, it was mentioned '...a town the size and importance of Wantage should have a recreation ground where these clubs [Cricket, Quoits & Football] could be accommodated' (Reading Mercury, 1889). In July 1911, the Town Property Committee passed a resolution in favour of the ground. Although the resolution was deemed "abstract" one member of the committee endorsed the motion 'if it was intended to be a playground for children it was certainly required, as the roads were dangerous at the present time' (The Faringdon Advertiser, 1911).

Until the final resolution by Wantage Urban District Council, the matter was repeatedly raised. Letters and petitions were sent expressing ever increasing support:

#### A RECREATION GROUND WANTED

A letter was read from Sister Kathleen of St Mary's Home, enclosing a petition signed by 868 persons – mostly boys and girls, who also sent a long petition of their own, asking to be provided with a place in which to play instead of the streets (North Wilts Herald, 1917)

Despite support from the Council the seemingly unsolvable problem remained – where the land should be found and how it was going to be funded. The town was in complete accord with the Public Health Act (1875) which gave them authority to purchase or lease land for recreational use. They understood the necessity of space for recreation for young boys and men in a safe environment.

The solution came with a public vote addressing the town War Memorial in June 1919 (The Faringdon Advertiser, 1919). The Council put forward the options of a Comrades Club building, a new cottage hospital, public toilets or a recreational ground. The result overwhelmingly supported the idea for a recreation ground. In August 1919 Edward Brookes Ormond (Edward's son) offered the whole of the 'cricket field', as it was then referred to, for the recreational ground on behalf of his father (The Faringdon Advertiser, 1919). The ground was formally opened on the following 13th May 1920. A parade travelled from The Market Place along Newbury Street to the gates which were ceremonially unlocked by Mrs Dorothy Ormond. Speeches followed and then a cricket match was played between Wantage Town and King Alfred's School (The Faringdon Advertiser, 1920).

#### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

Created as a war memorial park (Imperial War Museum, WMR-31902) and developed as a recreation ground, this park was originally called Wantage War Memorial Recreation Ground, but is now referred to as Manor Road Memorial Park although known locally as 'the rec'. The park was planned as a recreation ground for exercise and sports, children's play, and leisure in general including strolling and rest, but not as an ornamental ground (North Wilts Herald, 1911). In the 1920s, 'living memorials' such as this were often favoured over symbolic memorials because of their provision for the next generation as well as for veterans and widows (Lambert, 2014). The park is currently managed by Oxford District Vale of White Horse. It has no tree Preservation Orders or Green Flag Award, and is not an Historic England Registered park.

#### **Location, area, boundaries, landform setting**

The 7 ha site lies 500m due south of the Market Place in Wantage town centre, on the A338 road to Hungerford. It is sub-rectangular in form, orientated approximately NNE – SSW. It lies on the edge of the town with the main road to the west, agricultural land to the east, and mid-20th century housing development to the west and south alongside the A338. One of the three local turnpike roads – the Besselsleigh Turnpike (Oxford to Hungerford Road), ran along the western edge of the field and is now the A338, edging the park. A road or track may have existed for many years before it was designated a turnpike in c.1771. A toll house was erected by the Besselsleigh Turnpike Trust in Newbury Street bearing a plaque dated 1833 (now No. 69, a private residence).

Overall there is a slope of about 15m upwards to the east, with the incline continuing through the adjacent field towards Chain Hill whose summit (143m OD) lies 740m from the park's east boundary. The southern two-thirds of the park shares the same chalk geology as Chain Hill to the east and the Ridgeway and Downs to the south, whereas the north-west third of the park is Upper Greensand and Gault clay, the same geology as the town (Ordnance Survey, 1979). The park lies just outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The west boundary, length 374m, follows the A338, here called Manor Road, reflecting the slight bend in the road before it joins Newbury Street to the north of the park from where it runs in to the town. The boundary itself is to a public pavement currently formed of a hedge of privet and mixed deciduous plantings over a post-and-wire fence. However, it seems very likely that the west boundary originally comprised iron railings because these are depicted in a photograph that shows King George VI on a visit to the park on 12 January 1940 (*Visit of George VI*, 1940). The railings were very likely requisitioned for the war effort, as were the main memorial gates to the park.

The north boundary, length 184m, orientated WNW–ESE, has a post-and-wire fence with mixed hedging that separates the park from the Comrades Club and Wantage Church of England Primary School.

The east boundary, length 344m, reflects the bend in the A338 road. The boundary was originally marked by a post-and-wire fence (wood posts visible) although this is now in poor repair and in places only mixed vegetation separates the park from the adjacent field. The north section is banked steeply by about 4m up to a field of cereal. The 1912 and 1937 OS maps indicate a 'stone' within the east boundary at the beginning of the bank (at SU 3999 8731). Other 'stones' shown on the same maps form an approximate ring around Wantage town but their purpose is not known.

The south boundary, length 188m, runs almost due east from the A338 road, initially bounded by the fence of house No. 1 Manor Road, while the east part butts the same cereal field as the east boundary. Here the boundary comprises a post-and-wire fence with occasional mature deciduous trees and shrubs.

### **Entrances and approaches**

There are five entrances to the park, all from the A338 road. The main gates are at the north-west corner and these are the principal (replaced) memorial gates, comprising a pair of vehicle-accessible decorative iron gates and a single pedestrian-accessible decorative iron gate. The gates are supported by three brick piers with stone (or imitation) cappings and engraved white stone (marble?) plaques. The plaque between the single and double gates reads: 'Wantage War Memorial Recreation Ground. This ground was presented to the town by E.B. Ormond esq. and was officially opened May 13, 1920 by Mrs E.B. Ormond'. The plaque to the right of the gates reads: 'These gates were given in 1948 in memory of Sarah Adkin to replace the original gates given by John Nicholas Arbeny which were requisitioned in the Second World War'. The gates were officially opened by the sisters of Sarah Adkin, who had been a prominent member of Wantage Urban Council (Didcot Advertiser, 1948).

Further south along the west boundary (130m from the main gates) is a pair of iron gates that lead to the car park. These are decorated in a similar but not identical design to the main gates and are also set on brick piers with stone (or imitation) cappings. The car park exit is 38m south and formed of a pair of plain iron gates on wooden posts. There are two pedestrian wooden gates; one lies at the end of the overflow gravel car park and the other lies at the south-west corner of the park.

## **BUILDINGS, FEATURES AND FACILITIES**

The available Ordnance Survey (OS) historic maps examined here for the development of the land as a park are the 1:2500 maps for 1878 (1st edn), 1899 (1st rev.), 1912 (2nd rev.), 1937 (3rd rev), 1968 and 1976.

The 1899 OS map shows a field with the same east, south and west boundaries of the park as it is today, although to the north, the field also includes land that later becomes the Comrades Club and the school. There was also a small building (at SU3982 8736) which seems to have become a pavilion within a cricket field on the 1912 OS map. This cricket pavilion was built 1891-92 (Reading Mercury, 1892). The cricket field was then an irregular six-sided 1.5 ha area (centred at SU 3987 8738), occupying the north-west part of the field including land that now belongs to the Comrades Club and the school.

By 1937, the park occupied the same land area as today. The cricket pavilion was still extant although the cricket field no longer exists because the Comrades Club and the school occupy part of that area. There is a new pavilion building 60m to the south of the cricket pavilion (called 'shelter' on the 1937 and later OS maps) that was given to the town in 1934 (see later). There was a 'tennis ground' (centred at SU 3987 8733), three tree clumps in the positions that survive today, and entrances at north-west and south-west corners.

The 1968 OS map shows that the 'tennis ground' has now become a bowling green and a new tennis court has been created 60m southwards, with an adjacent putting green to the east. There is a paddling pool near to the cricket pavilion and a drinking fountain nearby (SU 3979 8733). A small car park exists at the same location as today's. There are trees shown along the north and the east boundaries of the park, as well as on both sides of the beech avenue. The 1976 OS map shows the cricket pavilion to have disappeared and a new small rectangular building appears just north of the now larger car park.

Subsequent changes that appear on the 2019 OS map show that the bowling green and the tennis club both have clubhouses and the putting green has become the Lawn Tennis Club. The car park now allows for overflow. For the first time the bandstand becomes visible.

### **Sports and play amenities**

Wantage Lawn Tennis Club was formed around 1920, based in Foliat Drive, Wantage but relocated to the park in 2016. There are now six courts in total, four of which are run solely for the benefit of the tennis club members, while the other two are public courts. The tennis club now has a clubhouse and a separate kiosk that used to sell tickets for the tennis courts and the pitch and putt course.

The bowling club was founded in 1922, based in the gardens of The Bear Hotel, Wantage. In 1961 it moved to the present location to occupy space that was originally a

lawn tennis ground, with the clubhouse built in 1992. Initially founded as a Men's Club, in 1997 a Women's Section was formed.

There was a putting green where today there are tennis courts, and this putting green was subsequently re-located near the south centre of the park. There was also a pitch and putt golf course near the south-east corner of the park; uneven ground levels are still visible as well as six or more features on a Lidar map (NLS).

A children's playground was developed to the west of the bowling green and tennis courts, although it does not show on OS maps before 1968. By that time the playground had at least a paddling pool and a sand pit, and a wooden fort was built in the north-east of the park. Today the playground occupies 0.5 ha. It is hedged and gated, and incorporates a drinking fountain (see below), an interactive water feature that replaced the paddling pool in 2009, numerous climbing frames and other play equipment, and a pavilion (see below).

### **Bandstand**

The bandstand lies 50m from the main memorial gates. It is not shown on any early OS maps but it is thought to have been erected at the end of the 1980s/early 1990s (Hancock pers. comm.). It was refurbished in 2018. A commemorative plaque reads: 'This bandstand was refurbished by the Vale of White Horse District Council and the people of Wantage to commemorate the centenary of the armistice of the Great War. November 11th 2018. May their sacrifice never be forgotten – we will remember them'. It is hexagonal in form, 18m in circumference, and raised by three steps from the ground. The flooring and steps are of beige stone (or synthetic stone) slabs and red brickwork. The eight sides comprise green (previously light grey) painted ironwork and each side is decorated with a set of three squares topped by hand railings except at the entrance, which faces the main gates of the park, where there is a single decorative square plus an iron orb on both sides. The roof beams and struts are of brown painted wood with a synthetic covering, and tiles outside. There are park benches set away in the surrounding lawns but facing each of the eight sides.

### **Drinking fountain**

The remains of a cast iron water fountain lies at the intersection of four paths within the playground and is in line with the beech avenue. It post-dates the pavilion erected in 1934 and was first shown on the 1968 OS map. It is now incomplete; the water delivery system is missing although the collection grate is present in the ground below. It is decorated with various scrolls and a knob on top, and was most recently painted black. There is no date or maker's information. It is similar to, but not necessarily the same as, the one that was adjacent to King Alfred's statue in the Market Place, which was relocated to the park (Trevor Hancock, pers. comm.).

### **Pavilion**

Within the playground is a building that was erected and presented to the town in 1934 by Misses Adkin in memory of their father. It is a stone-faced elongated hexagonal building with a clock above, which served originally as a shelter with seats. A memorial tablet within the building is said to read 'This pavilion was presented to the town of Wantage in memory of Charles Duncan Adkin, 1934' (North Wilts Herald, 1934).



## **Benches**

Benches are distributed around the park, some along boundary walks, eight around the bandstand, others that are close to amenities, and elsewhere. In fabric, they range from wrought iron, planked wood, to modern ones with recycled plastic planks on cast iron supports.

## **HORTICULTURE**

The principal tree features in the park are a beech avenue, tree lines around the boundaries, and three small groups of mature trees. Additionally there are single trees and a number of plantings of younger deciduous trees that generally form rows inwards from the tree lines at the north, south and west boundaries, and also as small clusters elsewhere. In 1933, Wantage Urban District Council agreed to initially plant 50 trees in the recreation ground with another 33 as a later possibility (North Wilts Herald, 1933). Today there are rather more than that number and a Lidar map (NLS) suggests that there have been even greater numbers in the past in the three tree groups and along the park boundaries.

The earliest map showing the presence of trees is the 1937 OS map which indicates trees in three distinct groups on the east side of the park. The 1968 OS map shows also single lines of trees along the north and east boundaries of the park, and the beech avenue cutting across from east to west, however there are no trees shown on the west and south boundaries of the park. The most common trees visible today in these tree lines are Common Lime (*Tilia vulgaris*) particularly on the west, east and south boundaries, and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) on the east boundary.

The beech avenue crosses the park from east to west, extending from the east boundary through the sports facilities to within the playground. It comprises 22 mature beech trees that are spaced roughly alternately on the sides of the path. On the north side of this avenue there are 10 trees including two within the playground. On south side there are 12 trees including one within the playground that is sawn off at ground level. The largest tree has a girth of 3.42m.

The tree lines (rows or tree walks) are here described clockwise from east to north. The east tree line is a straight row of 29 mature trees with the possibility that there were another four trees where today there are tree holes visible (equivalent to Trees 7, 9, 31 and 33 when counted from the north). This east tree line is a row of alternately planted Common Lime and *Acer* (Sycamore and Norway Maple) with the four missing trees presumed to be *Acers*. The largest tree here is an *Acer* of girth 3.65m. The south tree line is formed of a row of 11 mature Common Limes and one cherry; this row begins well away from the west boundary and runs to the south-east corner of the park. An inner row comprises 11 trees (6 ash, 3 Cockspur Thorn, 2 lime). The west tree line comprises 33 trees in total, all mature Common Limes, of which the largest has a girth of 3.13m. The north tree line was originally formed of horse chestnuts of which only five survive. There are now 11 trees comprising, from west to east: silver birch, field maple, cherry, five horse chestnuts, ash, lime, ash. An inner row of eight trees includes several English oaks.

The three small groups of mature trees (shown on the 1937 and later OS maps) form a line towards the east side of the park. The group at the north now contains four trees (2 cherry, 1 silver birch, 1 rowan or ash), the group at the centre contains seven trees (4 *Acer*, 2 limes,

1 ash), and the group to the south contains six trees (alternating lime and *Acer*). Between these three groups of mixed trees there are three isolated Coast Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) which lie in an approximate line from the beech avenue to near the south boundary.

Other trees in the park include 16 that lie within and close to a triangular area at the south-east corner of the park. These include cherry, pine, acacia and other ornamental species. There are also areas of recently planted trees, including four near to the west boundary, ten just south of the tennis courts, plus others close to car park. Other plantings include hedging around the playground and the bowling green of mainly evergreen shrubs, commonly cotoneaster. Floral displays of annuals in 2020 were restricted to three small 'D' shaped flower beds.

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[*Visit of George VI*] (1940) © Weald & Downland Museum

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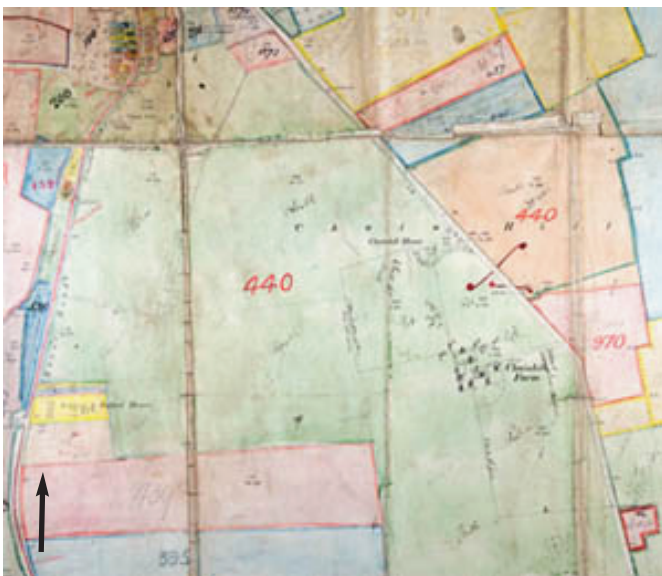
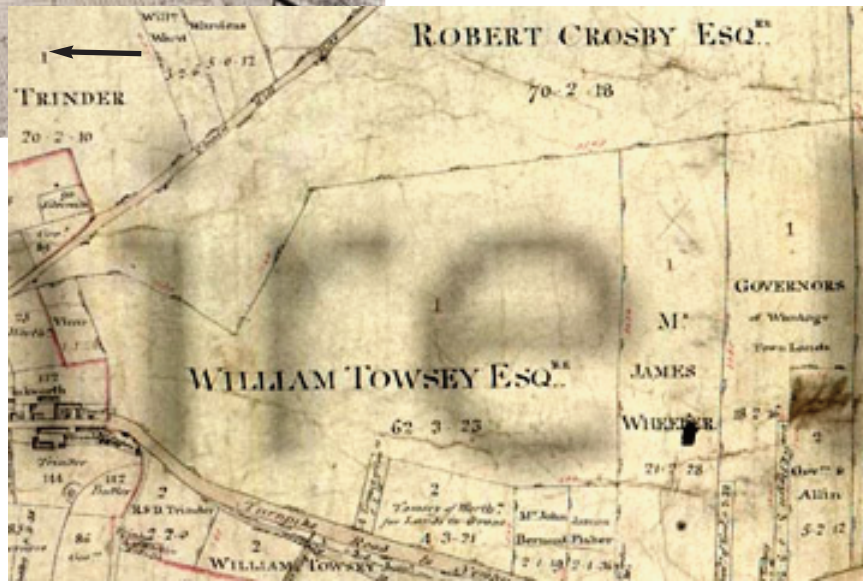
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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

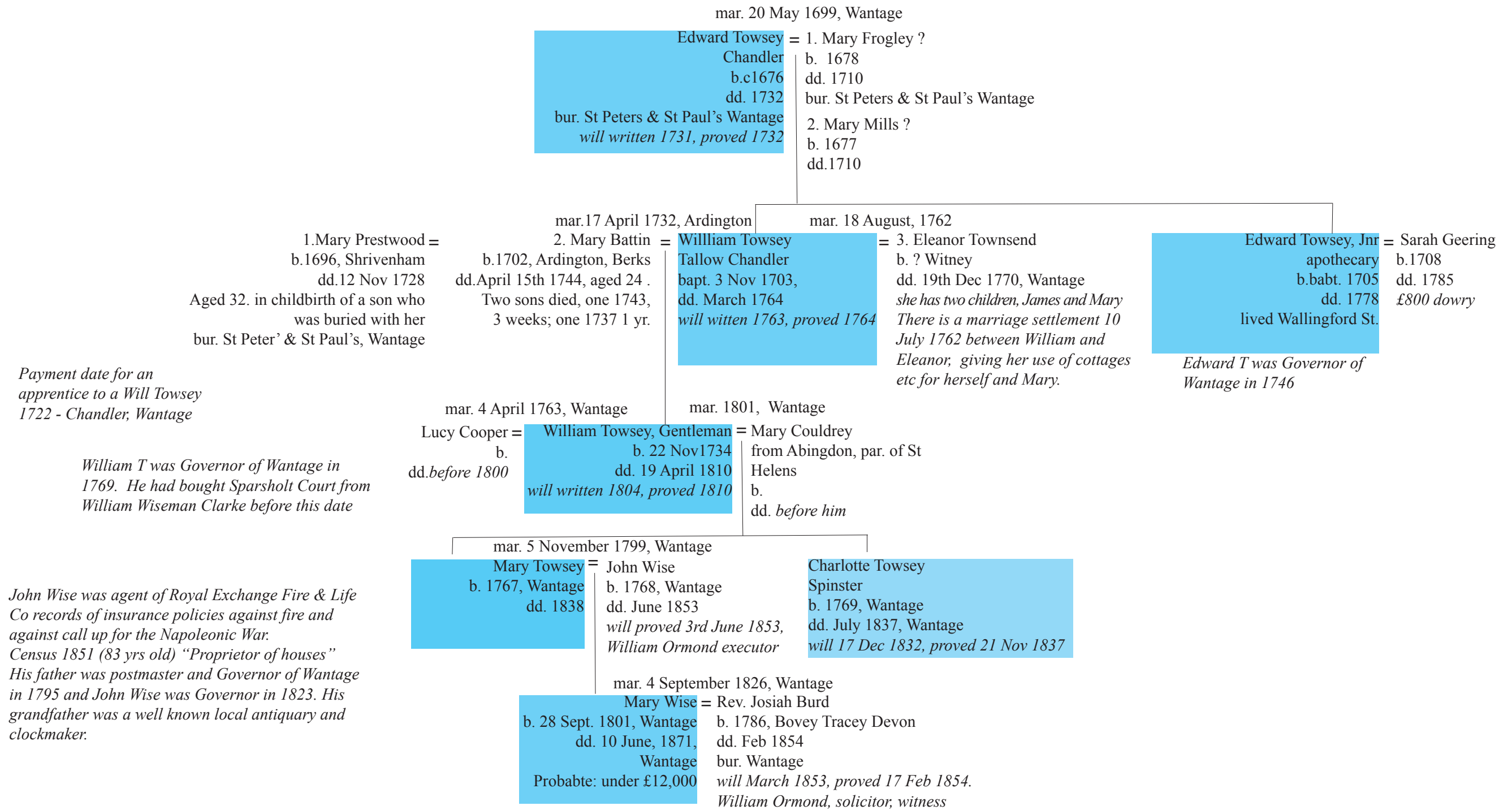
We are very grateful for help and advice from: Claire de Carle (Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust), Trevor Hancock ([whitehorseancestors.co.uk](http://whitehorseancestors.co.uk)), Dr Keith Kirby (Dept of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford), Suzie Tilbury (Curator, Vale and Downland Museum), Mark Rowe (Wantage Lawn Tennis Club) and Marian Stradling (Secretary Wantage Bowling Club).



Historic maps of Manor Road Memorial Park ground.  
 Top left: 1761, John Rocque Berkshire map  
 Middle: 1806, Enclosure map, indicating Towsey fields  
 Lower left: 1913-15 Land Valuation map, indicating Ormond lands nos. 440



# The Towseys



The Ormonds

13th June 1776 John was living in Marlborough, apprenticed to Mr Timothy Dewell of Malmesbury, surgeon, for 7 years, cost £105. Subsequently he may have been a pupil of Dr Hutchley of Windmill Street, London. When he was indentured he was 15 years old.

mar. 18 April 1786, Wantage

He set up practice in Wantage in 1784, either on his own or might have joined Edward Towsey in Wallingford Street. His first sole practice was next to the Bear Inn in the Market Place. The house was called 'Gibbons' and 4 generations of Ormonds resided there.

John Ormond, apothecary  
b. 7 April, 1761 Uzmaston Parish, Pembrokeshire, Wales  
dd. 2 Nov, 1841, Wantage  
bur. St Peter & St Paul, Wantage

= Catherine Kirby  
b. 11 March, 1768, Wantage  
dd. Oct, 1840, Wantage  
bur. St Peter & St Paul, Wantage  
she was a minor when she married John but had consent of her parents

Daughter of John Kirby of 13 Wallingford St., ironmonger. Catherine had 12 children; two died at birth, one at 3mths but the rest survived

mar. 2 Oct 1825, Wantage

John Ormond, Dr  
b. 1788, Wantage  
dd. 1870/1, Bath  
Practiced at 'Gibbons', until c1830, then moved to Alton House, Wallingford St.  
mar 1. Elizabeth Church, no issue, 2. Elizabeth Young

1. Louisa Williams =  
b. 4 Nov 1798, West Lavington, Wilts  
dd. 29 Dec 1834, Wantage

William Ormond, solicitor  
b. 26 April 1794, Wantage  
dd. 1859, Wantage  
bur. St Peter & St Paul, Wantage  
Articled clerk to William Beckett, founded Ormond and Fullalove, DATES??  
Governor of Wantage 1846

= 2. Mary Petties Hanson  
b. 1795, Southampton  
dd. 21 Jan 1865, Reading  
left £6,000  
1851 Census William and Mary Pettius Ormond living Market Place with 23 year old Edward, articled solicitor

Henry Ormond, Dr  
b. 1796 Wantage  
dd. 1839 Wantage  
practiced at 'Gibbons' until 1830, lived Tanner Street, mar. Emma Williams, sister of Louisa (both neices of William Beckett)

James Ormond, solicitor  
b. 1804  
dd. 1849, Abingdon  
mar. Mary widow of D. Trinder, 22 April 1868

mar. July 1862, Wantage

William Ormond, solicitor  
b. 16 Aug 1826, Wantage  
dd. 21 Nov 1908, Faringdon  
mar. Georgina M Lamprey  
left: £49,891.00

Edward Ormond, solicitor  
b. 16 Jan 1828, Wantage  
dd. 29 Oct 1920, Wantage  
bur Chain Hill Cemetary, Wantage  
left £96,315 3s 6d  
Governor of Wantage 1860

= Eliza Charlotte Brooks  
b. 1833  
dd. 1913  
bur. Chain Hill Cemetary, Wantage  
Her marriage settlement left the Ormonds total beneficiaries of large estates.

John Ormond, Rev  
b. 26 April 1829, Wantage  
dd. 1914  
mar. Susan Trinder

In 1848 William was:  
Actuary to the Savings Bank  
Agent to the Protection society  
Clerk to the commission of the Besselsleigh Turnpike Trust  
Clerk to the Magistrates  
Treasurer of the County of Berks

Edward bought Chain Hill Farm as a family home and a working farm. It was nicknamed 'Ormond's folly' by the locals. It is said that they only used it as a summer retreat, as Mrs Ormond found it unbearably windy!

One of his prestigious achievements was the construction of the Wantage Tramway.

mar. April 1904, Wantage

Edward B Ormond, solicitor  
b. July 1863, Wantage  
dd. 1946, Bournemouth  
lived at the 'Croft', Portway  
prob. £97,818 3s 3d

= 1. Dorothy L Jotcham  
b. July 1868, Wantage  
dd. 29 Oct 1931, Wantage  
prob. 14 Dec £238. 3s 3d  
bur. St Peter & St Paul, Wantage

Wilfred Alfred Ormond  
b. 1865  
dd. 1903

Louisa Rose Ormond  
b. 1870  
dd. 1935

E. B. joined the Roll of Solicitors in 1887, set up practice on his own but joined the family business in 1891. He retired in 1924 died whilst playing golf in 1946.

Dorothy's father was Llewellyn Jotcham. He was a Wantage solicitor and well known member of society. 1871 they lived in Newbury St.

2. Levena Jones  
mar. July 1933, East Preston, Sussex

On EB Ormond's death numerous properties and trusts were sold and wound up including the Stirlings Estate and Chain Hill Farm; a farm in Belmont, another in Grove Bridge together with adjoining properties in Grove and Childrey; cottages on Grove Road, together with properties in Market Place Nos 25, 35 & 36), Grove Street, Wallingford Street Nos 21 & 23), Newbury Street, Manor Road, Priory Road, Portway, Belmont Orchard and Denchworth Road, and one on Letcombe footpath; allotment land at Town Ham and Grove Street; pastures off Portway and an orchard at Belmont, arable land at East Hanney, Childrey and freehold land in Grove Street which fetched a total sum of £39,760.00 at auction (11 out of 31 lots unsold).





Fig 1. The park in 1930s and 2020 looking south © (b&w photo) The Weald & Downland Museum

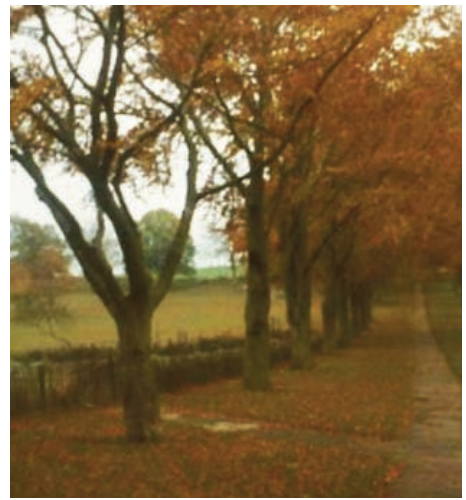


Fig 2. Beech avenue in autumn, looking east c1940s © 'Old Wantage'



Fig 3. Beech avenue, looking east, 2020



Fig 4. Visit of George VI, 1940, standing at south gate © Weald & Downland Museum



Fig 5. Plaque on the brick pier to the left of the memorial gates



Fig 6. The replacement memorial gates, with plaques and view through to the bandstand