

Val Gossling, Claremont, Lower Road, Chinnor.. Wed. 25th June, 1986.

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My Aunt was friendly with Mrs. Dashwood at Aston House, and during the War they came down with her daughter and two of the girls and they were there for several weeks, I was a teen-ager then so I used to cycle over to see them. Also several years before that we had done this concert up in the ballroom. I also have a feeling that the troops which were based at Thame used it during the War. We then looked through the Auctioneers Brochure for Aston House which Miss Gossling lent us to photocopy and to photograph the pictures in this book.

The Hattons used to live in the house which has the barns next to it next to the Cherry Tree. They had the butcher's shop at Watlington.

When I remember back to when I was small you see Chinnor was self-contained. We had a chemists, and next door to that was a big drapers, but when all these shops died out we were worse off until recently when it all expanded. We tended to go to Wycombe to shop if there was anything we specially needed, because Surman's was here, the garage, and of course he had coaches. There was always a coach to Wycombe market on a Friday, and to Thame on a Tuesday, that was during the war/. There was about 1200 population here at that time. I gather that there was a very bad fire down this road many years ago a lot of the old thatched cottages went.

Mr. Paul used to have a school just along here, he used to have boarders. I think he was a retired clergyman. The boys lived there, I think it was a sort of grammar school. I don't know if you know that round there in Springfield there were these two rows of cottages, they were Quakers, they have all been knocked down. One of them had a thing with a bell. I think Mrs. Lockwood of Bakers Piece used to live in one of them. Oakley was a completely separate hamlet, Mrs. Lockwood as a little girl lived a Oakley that is where she grew up.