Visit to Mrs Marie Maul and her Brother Ken Little sat 22nd March 2013

About 27 BT, owned/occupied at some point pre 1965 by Ernest Crook, after that the Gordon family.

During WW2

Film shows in the village hall (timber hut) of a propaganda nature

Evacuees in the village swelled numbers at school to in excess of 200, 150 in one class alone?
2 classes in what is now the hall. (Marie Maul thinks it was more like 100 total in the school – more accurate)
Miss Shelly was a teacher at the time, a northerner with a strong accent. Children struggled to understand her, Ken said. He was told to 'mend the stove' (tortoise stove in classroom) which meant she wanted the fire built up.

Children had to walk from all over the parish to school, many without adequate footwear or clothing.

School walls inside ran with water in winter from condensation and children had to wear coats in class because of the cold in winter

Children encouraged to bring in old socks to make mittens out of.

5 or 6 bombs landed near Bincknoll, believed jettisoned from German aircraft retuning from raids on Bristol or Bath.

Guns from Toothill firing on enemy aircraft caused shrapnel to fall over Cotmarsh

At the top of BT hill was a deep quarry, the area near the top going up in the gully on the left. This was used for practising the recover of an old tank. Is it still there?

1942 with army on manoeuvres on land at Littles Farm opposite Cotmarsh turn, testing smoke screens a round got into a pile of faggots and set them alight.

Iron railings around Methodist church yard cut down for war scrap drive but never taken away.

Vicar Rev Warren during war

Mr Little sold wood from tree tops during WW2, (rest was taken for war use) sold round village for 9d a bag. Provided useful service to village during the war for fuel supply

Ken remembered air raid drill in the school hall

Vicar came to school to tell them about Dday landings, took prayers and they were sent home telling them to expect many casualties.

Ken remembered convoys of tanks coming through the village, driving not on transporters lasting up to 3 hours at a time, road not metalled at the time just crushed flint. They kept 60 yds apart length between telegraph poles.

Despatch riders guided them to Salisbury plain and on to embarkation points.

In 1942 a despatch rider ran down a party of people returning from the village hall. A group of 5 or 6 with a babe in a pram. Mrs Picket had a split in her arm and was stitched up in Jim Brierleys house by Dr Watson from WB. The baby in the pram was lost in the hedge row for some time before being found OK. Difficulties due to no lights because of black out. Thompson family evacuees were involved.

Village hall.

The Mauls ran whist drives and bazaars to raise money for new hall

All labour was voluntary

Mervin Maul was a builder who built the hall with Roland Douse, Ken and Eddie Bourton and Trevor Hillier. Worked days nights and weekends when they could.

Jean Douse provided all refreshments. Ian spent time as a child with them building

Cliff Cowtan spent about a week fitting out the kitchen

Old hut pulled down in 1968. Stood on staddle stones which were sold to raise funds for the new hall. New hall opened on 19th sept 1969.

Methodist Church

Now the garage was the Methodist and before that Primitive Methodist

Mrs Maul says that she wasn't allowed to play ball or knit on a Sunday and had to attend chapel 3 times a day on Sunday.

Congregation at the end was just 7. Minister came from Bassett or Brinkworth.

Mrs Master? Major? From Cotmarsh was a strict Victorian type lady to avoid going home on Sunday she came to dinner with the Littles. Ken was stopped from playing or making things, remembers being told not to make model tractors with cotton reels and elastic bands, lived in fear of the woman. 'must you make that on a Sunday' quote

Little family have a lot of members in the chapel burial ground.

Undertaker Landsdown came from WB with coffins on a push cart for funerals. Picked up the body from the home an took it to the graveyard. Everyone drew their curtains when a funeral was taking place.

BT had and undertaker, Charley Miles a carpenter in Back Lane made coffins and provided service as well.

Church bell not rung during WW2

Was rung after for funerals once for a man twice for a woman.

Mauls married at the chapel in march 1951 chapel closed in sept 1951. Chapel was closed supposedly as it was close to falling down – still standing today.

When the chapel was built it had an organ installed. Old folk objected to god being worshipped by machine assistance. Took out organ and dumped it in Thick Thorn pond at Thornhill

Mr turner was the last minister. Brinkworth circuit.

Mr Crook was a staunch Methodist his wife wasn't. As he ran the shop and PO he often had sweets in his pocket. The children would try and get them from him after services.
School

Mrs Maul remembers playing hopscotch in the road at schools and at home used chalk from the hill to mark out grids

Others

Redhills built around 1946 first people moved in in 1947.

Mrs Maul worked in PO and was whistled at by builders at Redhills. When Ken left school in 1946 the are was still being used as a sports field.

The 4 houses where John Watts and Barbara Philips lived were built in 1946 the 3rd from WB end was used as a dentist for a while.

Lane on the RH end of Cotmarsh lane was Folly lane

Granny Driscoll lived in Josie Clewleys house at the end of Pye Lane

Mrs Mathews was at Marston Farm – Chapel organist possibly?

Littles farm opposite the Fields, Brownlesses house was farm barn and stables

Cottages this side of Snow Cottage Little Town washed through by flood and landslide from the hill and demolished.

Honeyhill cottage further on from Little Town was occupied by Gamekeeper called Painter.

Pavement put through village in 1971

Nancy 'Annie' Crook worked in PO Mrs Maul took over from her when she was 15.

Before Bourtons came to Manor Farm it was run by Jim Price. He moved opposite into middle of row of cottages lived in later by Herbie Bishop. Had a car which was rare in the village and twice ended up crashing into brook near the Fields.

Pub closed in 1993

Post office demolished in 1990.

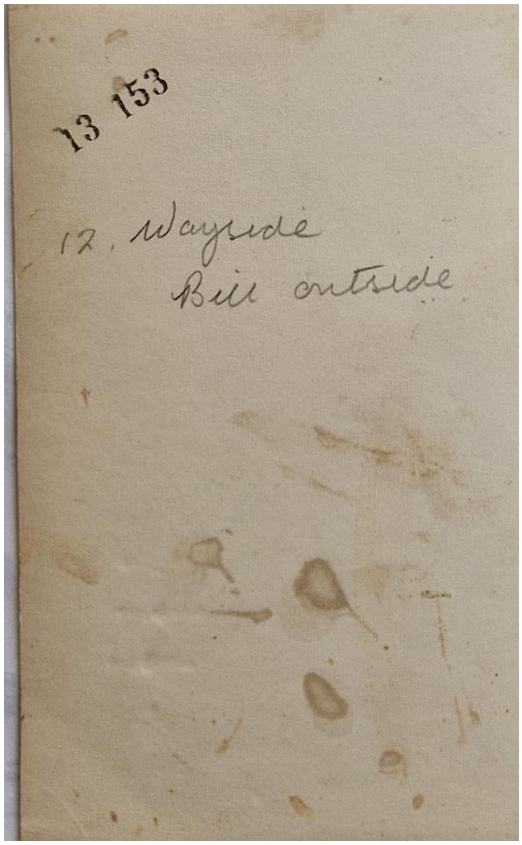
in 1975 the Sunday school opposite the chapel was demolished.

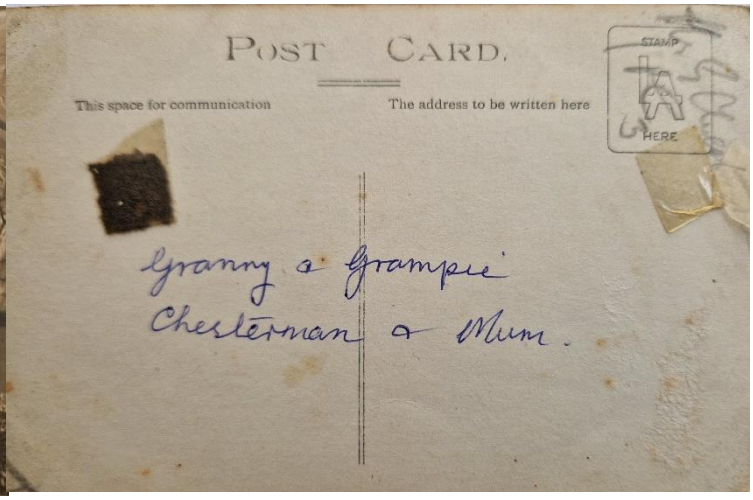
Mr Gabb lived in a shepherds hut on the Tamarisk cottage side of the gateway at 27. He was a blacksmith/farrier. He had a stove or hearth and shod horse mainly.

Mr Toffee Bishop had the allotments where Broad Acres is. Lived in the cottage that was sited on the land that has Brian Smiths muck heap. It burnt down in 1942. Everyone gave up stuff for them to start again and they soon had more stuff than need and had to sell some, ended up better of than everyone else!

A Scratchly and Coates also had B/acres site at one time or another.

Mrs Maul pick blackberries at 12lb a time at Bincknoll and sold them at market via toffee bishop at 2d a lb. Bought her first coat with the earnings.





Broad Town Football Club.
SEASON 1898-9.
J. S. PROTHEROE, PHOTOGRAPHER.
SWINDON.
J. MAULL.
H. TUCK.
G. LOVEDAY.
W. KING.
G. SIMMONDS, Capt.
J. HALEY.
J. LITTLE.
T. SIMMONDS.
F. COMLEY.
W. CHILD.
M. TOPPIN.
R. MILES.
F. COMLEY.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST
CHURCH
1807-10 CENTENARY 1907-10
FIRST CAMP MEETING HELD MAY 31ST., 1807.
FIRST CLASS FORMED MARCH, 1810.
PSALM CXXVI 3. "THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US, WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD."
MAY 1910
Sarah Chesterman
IS AT THIS DATE A MEMBER OF THE ABOVE CHURCH.
William C. Tonbs MINISTER
SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEMPERANCE
MISSIONS
COLLEGE

I Promise to Abstain from all Intoxicating Drinks as Beverages
Broad Town
BAND of HOPE
This is to Certify that
Emily Chesterman
Having signed the above Pledge
has become a Member of this Society
Dorothy Mastell
Secretary or Registrar
Date June 27th 1904
Pledge Card E.
Copyright.—United Kingdom Band of Hope Union, 60, Old Bailey, London, E.C.
May also be had including "TOBACCO" in Pledge.

OVERSEAS CLUB
HIS MAJESTY THE KING
General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C.

Empire Day
1915

This is to Certify

that Emily Chesterman

has helped to send some Comfort and Happiness to the brave Sailors and Soldiers of the British Empire, fighting to uphold Liberty, Justice, Honour and Freedom in the Great War.

The underlying motive of the "Overseas Club" is to promote the unity of British subjects the world over. Its chief objects are:

(1) To help one another.
(2) To render individual service to our Empire.
(3) To draw together in the bond of comradeship British people the world over.
(4) To maintain our Empire's supremacy upon the Seas.

"The land we from our fathers had in trust,
And to our children will transmit or die;
This is our maxim, this our piety;
And God and Nature say that it is just."
(Wordsworth)

AUSTRALIA · CANADA · NEW ZEALAND · S. AFRICA · INDIA · TERRA NOVA NEWFOUNDLAND

SEAL OF THE OVERSEAS CLUB

The underlying motive of the Overseas Club is to promote the unity of British subjects the world over. Its chief objects are:
(1) To help one another.
(2) To render individual service to our Empire.
(3) To draw together in the bond of comradeship British people the world over.
(4) To maintain our Empire's supremacy upon the Seas and in the Air.

Presented on Empire Day · 1916

To Emily Chesterman

Who has helped to send some comfort to the brave Sailors & Soldiers of the British Empire who are fighting to uphold Honour, Freedom and Justice

OVERSEAS CLUB
General Buildings, Aldwych
London, W.C.
Patron:
HIS MAJESTY THE KING

SEAL OF THE OVERSEAS CLUB

Printed by Sir Joseph Causton & Sons Limited London

WILTS COUNTY COUNCIL.

GENERAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Regularity of Attendance.

Broadtown C.E. School.

This is to Certify that Emily Chesterman

was Never Absent from School and Never Late during the Quarter ended

September 30th 1907

H. B. Child
Head Teacher.

J. Pullinger
Director of Education.

J. LANSDOWN & SONS, TROWBRIDGE.

Primitive Methodist Central C.E. Council.

"Sprinkstraw" Roll of Honour.

AWARDED TO

Emily Chesterman

For One year unbroken attendance at the

Broad Town

P.M. Junior Society of Christian Endeavour.

Date May 1914 to May 1915

Signed Charles Rumble General C.E. Secretary.

Junior Leader.

PRIMITIVE · METHODIST · CHURCH.

1807. 1907-10.

Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.

Resolution of Conference, 1907. "That this Conference places on record its profound sense of gratitude to Almighty GOD for our existence as a Church. It rejoices exceedingly in being privileged to witness the inauguration of the Centenary Movement, and offers devout Thanks to GOD for the Grace and Blessing so richly bestowed upon us during the Hundred years of our history. It recalls the lowliness of our origin, the difficulties that beset our earlier course, the disadvantages, and at the same time the clearness of vision, the steadfastness of purpose, the breadth of sympathy, the splendid heroism & unselfishness of the Pioneers who laid broad & deep the Foundations upon which we build. The Conference is of one mind in its grateful recollection of the Men whose names are inscribed high on the Church's Roll, who served in exalted positions, the great Administrators & Ecclesiastical Statesmen who inspired & shaped the Connexions policy in the past, but not less gratefully does it cherish the memory of the nameless Host who in Town & Village, in quietness & obscurity, served their day & generation, making Society sweeter by their labours, and who looked for no reward on earth. It rejoices greatly in the good we have been enabled to do, in the success that has been realised in every department of our Work, in the New Methods & Organisations that have been called into existence to meet the new needs of an ever advancing civilisation and of our developing Church life, and for the influence we are exercising on the Public life of this Country to-day. The Past comes to us as an example and benediction, and it should be an inspiration. We have come into a splendid heritage, and We look forward to the New Century with abounding Hope. To make the Future secure & worthy of our past, the Conference Calls upon all our Members and Adherents to give themselves in a spirit of renewed consecration to Christian Work, & earnestly prays that during the period covered by the Centenary Celebration all our Churches may realise increased Spiritual prosperity. It also affectionately urges that all our People will join in making the Thanksgiving Fund the greatest success in our history, and so assist in the further development of our Work."

George Chesterman ..Member's Name.

(Signed) Wm. C. Toms.

February, 1908.

Minister.

"Christ among the Doctors" after Fra Angelico 1387–1455.

Certificate of Merit

awarded to

Emily Sarah Chesterman

for Composition

Broad Town Day School

October 24th. 1911

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY'S DEPOT 27 PETER STREET WESTMINSTER S.W.

PRINTED IN AUSTRIA

VILLAGE LIFE

● Village hall chairman Mervyn Maull beside the stage mural. Mervyn has been involved with the hall since 1952, including the rebuilding project in 1968.

Broad Town

Broad Town: not the usual sort of picture-book village

QUIETLY sitting under a hill past Broad Hinton on the road from Marlborough to Wootton Bassett is a peaceful village called Broad Town.

A relatively new village, it once boasted a general store and post office. But also, like so many other rural villages, the competition from nearby supermarket chains forced the closure of the small shop, such an important ingredient in English village life.

'People used to have to walk past the shop to take their children to the village school, and they usually called in on the way back,' said Betty Bastin, a well known figure in the Broad Town community.

'The trouble is that now there is no point of contact; no post office and no village shop which was the centre of village life.'

Broad Town was formed into a separate ecclesiastical parish from parts of Clyffe Pypard and Broad Hinton in 1845 — before that it was part of these two villages.

Its population has grown in recent years as a result of new housing developments which attracted people who work in Swindon and the surrounding areas. Its situation close to the M4 has attracted home-buyers who commute to London and Swindon, and many of the new

'Broad Town is not your [illegible] village,' said Betty Bastin. 'It does have a real rural community. I remember when most of the men from the village used to cycle to Wootton Bassett to catch the train to work at the railway works in Swindon.'

Lisa Cartman, who moved to the village just over a year ago, believes the village is 'dead' in some ways. She and her partner, Dave Matton, own and run the Queens Head pub.

'Apart from a few loyal regulars from the village — and they are really fantastic — there are very few local people who come into the pub,' she said. 'Out of a total of 443 voters in Broad Town only five per cent are regulars.'

The Queens Head had been closed for some time before Lisa and Dave bought it. The pub does, however, attract customers from nearby Wootton Bassett and Broad Hinton, and it has breathed new life into Broad Town with its full take-away menu and frequent theme nights.

The old Methodist church was closed in 1951 because it was thought at the time that the structure was unsafe.

'It's still very much standing today, it has been turned into a very successful garage,' said Mervyn Maull. He and his wife, Marion, were the last people to be married at the church.

Nowadays the chapel is used by car enthusiast Michael Harris as a second-hand car sales centre.

Despite all the changes to Broad Town in recent years there is still a lot of activity going on behind the scenes, the most noticeable being the committee recently set up to restore the village's White Horse.

The White Horse on Broad Town hill was originally cut in 1854 by local farmer George Simmonds but it had faded in recent years. The committee last year raised funds to restore it and used 100 tons of chalk to do the job.

● All 62 pupils with their teachers outside the village school. The school has been in use since 1860.

Words by
Nancy Connolly
Pictures by
Paul Stallard

The other main attraction in Broad Town is the annual flower show held every August which attracts people from far and wide. A show's list of activities includes dog shows and horse shows, and competitions for flowers, fruit and vegetables.

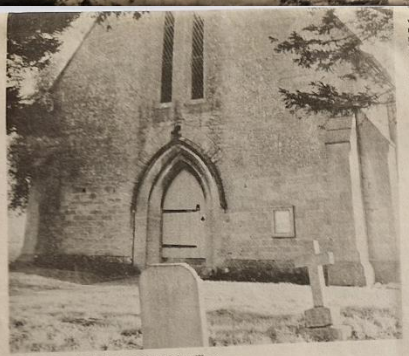
The village hall, originally a wooden army hut, was built in 1968 and remains a hive of activity to this day. One of its most recent attractions has been the unisex keep-fit sessions every Monday night under the instruction of local tennis coach Jonathan Bastin.

The primary school, with its 64 pupils, takes children from nearby Clyffe Pypard and Winterbourne Basset, who arrive by bus each morning. The school remains very much a part of village life and events held there are well attended by local people.

The village church, Christchurch, was built in 1845 to coincide with the formation of Broad Town as a new parish.

Melvyn Maull, attempting to sum up the mood of the town, said not all of the changes seen in Broad Town in recent years had been for the better.

'It was a much more friendly place in times gone by, but we are working very hard to keep the community spirit going and there is still a lot happening here.'



● Christchurch lies in the centre of the village.

● One of the two churchwardens and chairwoman of the school governors, Judith Rendell, outside her cottage in the village.

● Diane Foulds, chef of the Queens Head. The pub offers not only meals inside but also a take away service.

● David Gardiner, garage assistant at the former old chapel, which has been a garage for the past 40 years, selling second hand cars.