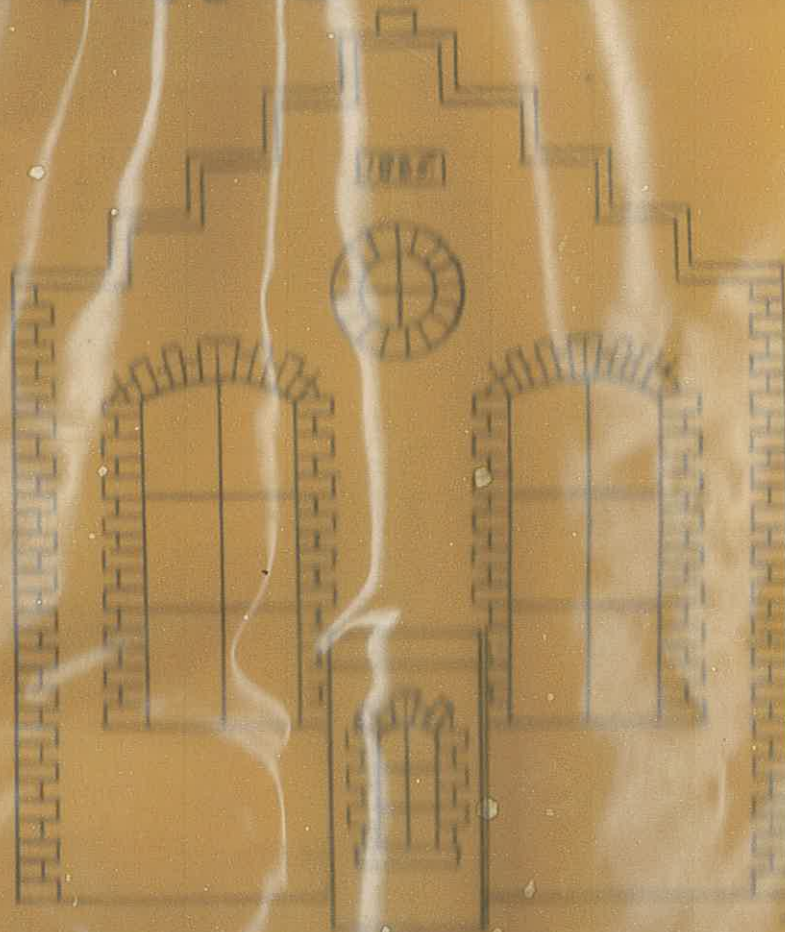


PATCHWAY



ROUND ABOUT

DESIGNED BY
JOHN BARRISH ADAMS

1942
391

PREFACE

Being a comparative newcomer to Patchway it was with some doubts and misgivings that I finally decided to compile a small booklet on "old Patchway". I was prompted to do this when I became aware of the speed with which some of the local landmarks - such as the old C of E school and the "old" Baptist church - were disappearing.

Already it is difficult to remember exactly how the landscape looked before the new railway bridge and road scheme were constructed. It has also saddened me to see at least five local farm-houses become ruins. Soon their fields - the only remaining "country" within our boundaries will be built on.

The last forty years have seen our neighbourhood change from a scattered agricultural area to a populous and thriving community which, to all intents and purposes, could be called a town.

I have no doubt that the following pages will contain some inaccuracies and errors and there will be some omissions - for all these I offer my apologies. Corrections and additional information will be welcomed.

For all which is of good and of interest I am greatly indebted to many of our older residents who have been kind enough to set down their memories in many pages of notes. Several members of the younger generations have also greatly assisted me.

Especially must I thank DR. D.H. FOX for writing the Foreword to this brief review of Patchway and Councillor C. ENGLAND for his copious notes, also to the REV. B.G. CARNE, Vicar of Almondsbury for allowing me to search through his bound volumes of old parish magazines dating back to 1880. My thanks are also extended to MRS. G. LANGMAN, MRS. E. LOVE, MRS. THEOBALD, MR. HILL, REV. J. FLORY, MISS ASH, MISS K. GAZZARD, MISS JUDITH MOULD, MRS. A. KING, MRS. M. TUCKER, Guide Commissioner, MRS. GUY, MR & MRS. ROSLIN, MR. L. BAYLISS, MRS. H. BRONSON, MRS. B.

HILLIER, MR. G. NICHOLAS, MR. J. PANTING and many others.

Time and ability have not permitted me to search the files of the "Gazette" nor to consult the numerous maps and reference books which are available in Bristol and Gloucester. Perhaps one of our younger residents will take up this interesting and worthwhile venture and - using these pages as a spring board - write a more informative book worthy of our Community.

JOHN P. AGATE
12 DYRHAM PARADE
PATCHWAY, BRISTOL.

EASTER 1979.

INTRODUCTION.

The Parish of Patchway as we know it today is very modern having only come into existence when the third St. Chad's church was dedicated in 1965. The new civil and ecclesiastical boundaries which coincide were decided upon at that time. However there is no doubt that our little patch of England has been inhabited as far back as the history of our country is known. For example less than a mile outside our present boundaries there exists the remains of a tumulus, an ancient hill fort, a Roman road and a Roman building where coins were found. It is known that this was the territory of the Hwiccas but the Dobuni and several other tribes have inhabited this area in their turn. An early decisive battle was fought near here in 577 A.D. and only a few miles away the last "battle" on English soil was fought in 1470. The ebb and flow of English history has moved over these few square miles which form our present parish but no major visible evidence in the form of castles, abbeys, or grand manor houses were ever found here. The humble cottages and farms and the fields are our heritage and these few remains are rapidly being obliterated by industrial and commercial expansion. It is the purpose of this little booklet to record the memories which remain and the domestic history of the homes which still stand in our midst.

In more recent centuries the fields and cottages of this small area found themselves within the ecclesiastical parish of Almondsbury. It was to this historic and ancient village that our people turned in times of joy and times of sorrow. The ancient church of St. Mary the Virgin watched over both their physical and their spiritual needs - baptisms, weddings and funerals, harvest thanksgiving, supplications for deliverance from plague, wars and drought, all these occasions and many others brought the early residents of Patchway along the dusty field paths and lanes to their mother church and also the village school in Almondsbury. These conditions remained right up to the childhood of many of our present residents. Indeed it was only in 1890 that the parish

kindly supplied me with copies of the deeds relating to the premises. The earliest Deed in 1698 (reign of William III) refers to the sale of the land "all that Paddock of Pasture Ground commonly called Causeway Close" - a name indicating that the land was inclined to be marshy and the main road had to be raised on a sound foundation. The transaction was between William Peasely of Almondsbury Yeoman and John Doule (?Powell?) of Hempton and Patchway Yeoman and £40 changed hands. No mention is made of any building on the site. In 1723 John Powell, of Hempton, Almondsbury bequeathed "my Close of Land called Causeway Paddock to my brother Thomas and thereafter to his son John."

In 1800 "Richard Powell of the parish of Almondsbury, Yeoman, being of sound mind -" here follows a long discourse on Life and Death and the Last Day - "give and bequeath to John Stephens of the parish of Olveston, Blacksmith, and Mary his wife, the house, garden, paddock and orchard for their natural lives and on their decease to their daughters Mary and Sarah."

"In the second year - fifteenth day of the Easter Term in the reign of George IV" Mary Willcox and Sarah Williams claimed and received their inheritance which consisted of "two messuages, three stables, three gardens, three orchards, five acres of land, five acres of meadow and five acres of pasture in the tithing of Hempton."

A Conveyance dated May 4th 1821 (George IV) which names among others James Willcox of Middlezoy, Yeoman and his wife Mary (who was Mary Stephens) John Williams of Alveston, Carpenter, John Langman of Thornbury, Yeoman, William Page of Patchway, Innkeeper and Daniel Mayo of Wick, near Berkeley, Carpenter. This Conveyance refers to - "all that Messuage, Dwelling house or Inn commonly called, or known by the name or sign of the New Inn with the Stable, Orchard, Garden, Paddock adjoining etc. "together with all the outbuildings, lands, meadows and pastures and - "Commons, Common of Pasture, Common of Turbary, - Minerals, Trees, Woods, Underwoods, Coppices

and the Ground and Soil thereof."

The mention of William Page - an Innkeeper, and of two Carpenters, also the first mention of an Inn on the site would suggest that the "New Inn" was built in the first or second decade of the nineteenth century.

The Inn and its immediate surroundings must have been the focal point of the district for very many years. Travellers, farmers and the inhabitants of Patchway Common must have been drawn to this spot to hear the news of the world from the passing traveller and the news of the locality from the neighbouring farms and hamlets. No doubt John Stephens "of the parish of Olveston" saw the potentiality of such a popular meeting place and set up his smithy here where the "passing" trade was brisk and the "local" trade a certainty. In the wall at the rear of the forecourt, partly hidden by trees we can still see the double gate giving access to the blacksmith's yard and one wall of the "shop" still stands. Mr. G. Pearce was the last blacksmith and many people still remember him. He was a Churchwarden of St. Chad's for many years.

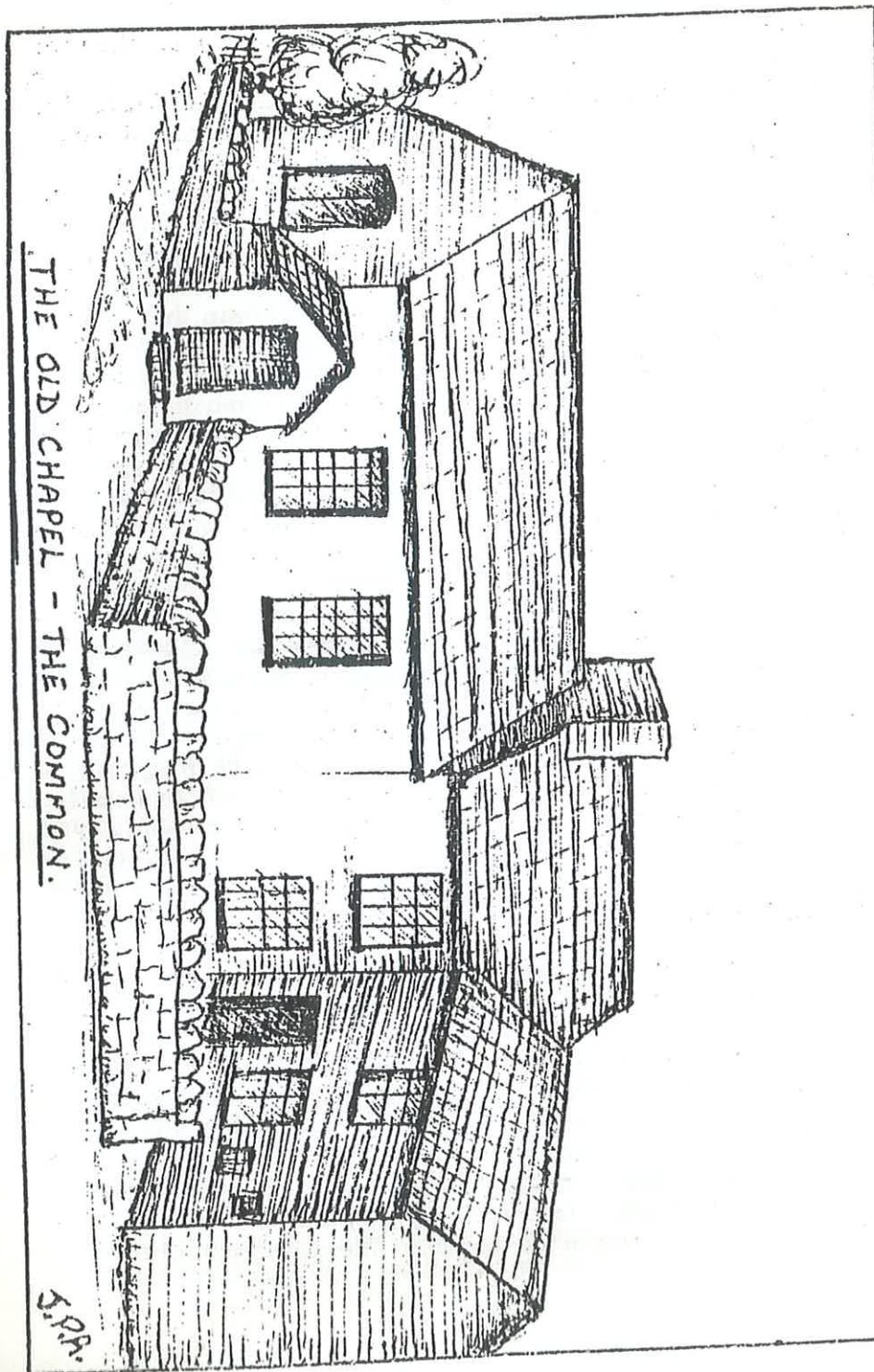
PATCHWAY COMMON

Turning off the main road to the left at the New Inn we now enter Patchway Common, which is the real kernel of old Patchway. There is nothing of architectural or archeological interest among the several cottages and three farms in this lane - which is the "high street" of Patchway - but every cottage has its humble story. Let me quote from the notes of a life-long resident of The Common. "On the right hand side of the Common was Mrs. Knight's cottage which later became a butcher's shop. Next door was the shoe mender Mr. Jeffries. On the left was Mr. Cooper's where he sold bread, next was Mr. Robbins who worked for the Lord of the Manor, Squire Lippincott of Over Court. Next is "North View" where lived Mr. W.S. Kingscott, a greengrocer. He also carried the mail and the "Mercury" newspaper from Bristol to Thornbury every morning in his horse and cart. The next row of four cottages were built by Mr. F. Cook who built the Gospel

Hall at The Grove and also the row of cottages facing the cricket ground (where Patchway Roundabout now is). And so the story unfolds and one gets the feeling that this was a very close and self-reliant little community. A group of people who could not only look after themselves but also went out into the great world of Bristol and Thornbury to help them also! No community is entirely self reliant and many years ago - in the 1880s it is thought - a small chapel was created (most appropriately "in a stable") in an outbuilding of Pond Farm. It is said that the chapel had Quaker origins but this cannot be confirmed. However the building is said to be at least 300 years old. The chapel is run by the Strict INDEPENDENT METHODISTS and services and Sunday School are held regularly. The current Baptismal Register dates from 1891. Mrs. Gwen Langman of "North View" is the present Steward.

Of the three farms on the Common the one just behind the chapel is POND FARM. Some local people tell me that this is a corruption of "Pound Farm" because it had an enclosure for stray animals. However a glance at an old map shows that there was a large pond in the front yard and another just across the road. These afford sufficient evidence as to this farm's correct name. Unfortunately its fields are now built over and although still the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Snow it is no longer an agricultural establishment. Further down the road on the north side one comes to the derelict ruin of GREEN FARM or Home Farm, once owned by Mr. S. Dowding, a local coal merchant and farmed by Mr. Knapp until recently. Almost next door there is another old farm house known locally as Weaver's Farm but geographically it is called COURT FARM. Incidentally the O.S. maps name it as Patchway Farm - although this is appropriate it is not correct as that name belongs to a farm just across the main road and farmed by Mr. Peter Foot and his brother.

Court Farm, now farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Clapp is still a working farm with a fine herd of dairy cows. The inevitable pond is just across the road and the usual farm



cottages are close-by. Some four hundred yards farther on the lane dips down and crosses a small gurgling brook. This is Patchway Brook once again and here it forms the N.E. boundary of the parish for some one thousand two hundred yards.

Immediately to the right of the road, just before it crosses the boundary stand two back to back cottages. The one facing away from the Brook is called "Primrose Cottage". At one time a Mr. Milliner owned the other one and in the kitchen he established a bread baking oven about 1900. The flue of this is still visible indoors. From the road outside one can still see the stable and coach house where he kept his bread van and horse. This was the first commercial bakery in Patchway and from this small bakery Mr. Milliner not only supplied the needs of the locality but also drove down into Bristol daily to supply the needs of the many city eating houses. One wonders how many hours he put in every day?

The cottages and farms of The Common and adjacent Hempton Lane are the original Patchway. From them the local men went out to the wars - Agincourt, Waterloo, Gallipoli, the Indian Mutiny, the Chinese Wars - to the High Seas and the Empire. Other men and women played their parts at home in industrial and social reform. Many others did a good hard conscientious day's work plying their chosen trade locally.

HEMPTON LANE

Let us now retrace our steps up The Common to the New Inn and the main road. Not so many years ago this was a country road with a foot path, grass-edged, along the eastern side, bordered with wild hedgerows on each side. Beyond these were the fields of golden corn and one could walk in the cool of the evening and enjoy the songs of the birds. Just across the road from the New Inn is the entrance to Hempton Lane which is really a cul-de-sac serving three farms. On reaching the western end of the lane one may turn north or south. The southern limb

passes an attractive pair of cottages now converted and modernised into a residence called "Court Cottage" which contains some interesting stonework - though it is not possible to discover the purpose of this feature. Beyond this the lane terminates in the yard of HEMPTON COURT FARM. Mr. Hall farmed this land in the early 1900's until 1921. The house is large and rambling and very old but apart from an attractive but neglected stone porch and a front garden sheltered by a fine stand of mature trees, conifer and deciduous, it does not have much to recommend it. For many years the farm was run by Mr. and Mrs. Turner. The latter, now widowed, continues to live there with her son. From the farm a private access lane runs eastwards to the main road where a farm cottage known as Hall's or Turner's Lodge guards the entrance.

Crossing the head of the main lane we find on the left the unpretentious buildings of LOWER HEMPTON FARM - owned by Mr. Shellard - surrounded by the usual group of cottages. During the 15th and 16th centuries this area was the site of a small mediaeval settlement and this is still recorded on some maps but no buildings of that era still survive. At the far northern end of the lane the gate of UPPER HEMPTON FARM, or Home Farm, bars the way. Just to the left of the gate can be seen a Gloucester County Council boundary marker but it is not immediately apparent as to why it should be in this position. Until recently this was a very prosperous farm run by Mr. R. Biggin. A plaque over the porch bears the date 1657. This farm house is a Listed Building. From the farm the lane continues in the form of a footpath passing "Oaklands" the home of the Hiatt Baker family and then on to Over Lane and Almondsbury. This footpath was the most direct route for the many Patchway people to reach the church and school in Almondsbury village.

This farm was the HOME FARM of KNOWLE PARK, which ancient residence (now rebuilt and "developed") lay just over the hill to the N.N.E. Knowle Park was the home of Colonel Thomas William Chester-Master whose family originally came from Cirencester. An ancient British camp

or fort once occupied the hill top.

This northern "leg" of Hempton Lane also gives access to a very interesting "modern" house of great character. "HEMPTON GABLES" was built in 1925 by Mr. Macauley Shellard of Lower Hempton Farm who was a brilliant mathematician and insurance expert with the Law, Union and Crown Insurance Company in Clare Street, Bristol. When the Company decided to demolish their office and re-build Mr. Shellard bought much of the ornamental masonry and stonework and arranged for one hundred and ninety eight cart-loads to be brought out and dumped in the field where the house now stands. Mr. Shellard then designed and planned "The Gables" and with the help of Mr. Ben Hall and all the family he built this splendid and most unusual country house which is now the home of Mrs. Northover. The original insurance building in Clare Street was designed by Henry Williams in 1897.

The same Mr. Macauley Shellard, bought much of the ornamental stone-work and masonry when Lady Cave's home - Cleeve House - at Downend was demolished in the 1920's. Much of this material was incorporated in the building of the two semi-detached houses known as "Sunnyside" and "The Portico" at the junction of the "legs" of the Lane.

On returning to the main road we notice several houses grouped together on each side of the lane near the road. On the left is "The Roses" the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hayward. Mr. Hayward in partnership with Mr. Dowding was also the local coal merchant with a coal wharf at Patchway Station. At one time a small sweet shop was set up in one of the rooms here by a Miss Ellis and this was greatly appreciated by the local school children. On the other side of the lane there was a small cottage which also functioned as a small shop. The husband, a Frenchman named Chialvo, converted a pig-sty into a store and operated a local newsagent's business from it. Advertising for both these enterprises can be found in the St. Chad's Church magazine for 1957.

THE HUT.

Just along the main road near The Common we see a wooden building known as "The Hut." After the First World War it was decided that a recreation centre was required especially for the men who had recently returned from the Armed Forces. During 1920 a big effort was made to raise money for this cause and £118 was accumulated. Mr. Hiatt Baker gave the plot of land for the nominal rent of 1/- per year and the CATTYBROOK BRICK COMPANY give the bricks for the foundations. In 1921 a suitable wooden hut was found in Shirehampton and bought for £95. Local farmers lent horses and waggons to transport the sections and the building was officially opened as "The Patchway Club Room" on Wednesday November 2nd 1921. Two hundred and seventy people were present, at this time - we read - "the Club was not complete - oil lamps, 50 more chairs, a porch, kitchen and dressing-room are all needed." It was also stated that "The Room did not belong to, nor was it run in the interests of any political or religious party being built chiefly as a Club Room for the Men and to be used as a social centre for this end of the parish." By the date of the official opening some £175 had been raised and £150 had been spent on the Hut and £25 on furniture.

It is very interesting to notice that even in a small rural community these three public buildings - the school, the church and the hut were all paid for mainly by local subscriptions. The school supplied several social needs in addition to its obvious function. At one time a working men's club met there once a week to play games and have a chat. Every year a Thrift Club was operated whereby people could pay in a few pence per week towards coal and clothing requirements.

The time came when it was found necessary to use both church and the hut to accommodate some of the school classes. Together these three buildings played a very important part in the life of the community. The church and the school have both been rebuilt in other parts of the parish and continue to flourish and expand. THE HUT

still stands and serves as a valued meeting place for numerous local organisations.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL.

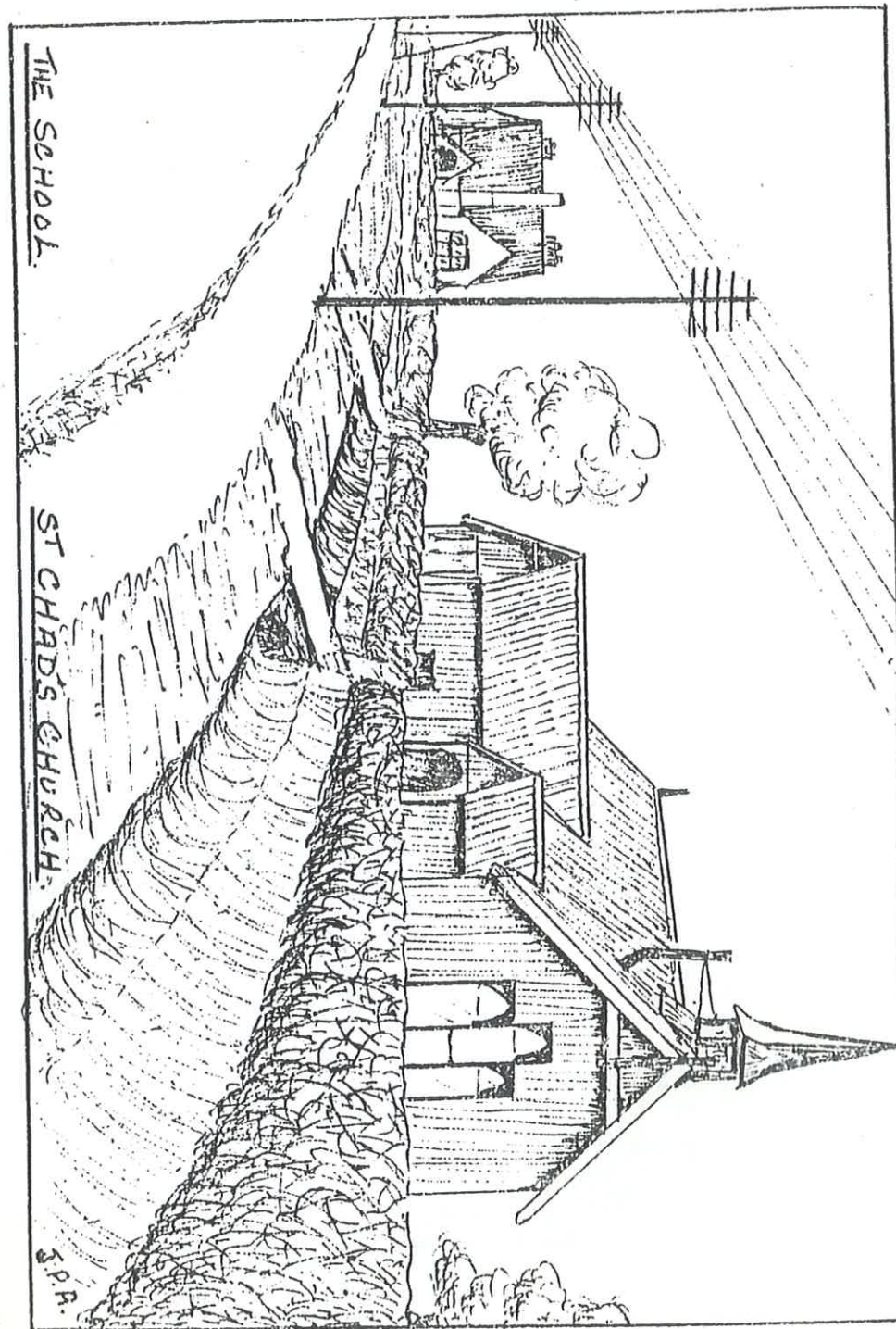
A hundred yards along the main road from The Common we see the village school on our left. In 1857 the Vicar of Almondsbury made plans to build a school to serve this remote corner of his parish. Parish funds together with a government grant of £227 enabled this school, with the head teacher's residence, to be completed in 1859. The total cost appears to have been £548. 0s. 9d. The National Society contributed £5 towards the cost of books. The ALMONDSBURY TRUSTEES gave a quarter of an acre of land for the school in 1858.

In 1900 a sum of £89 was spent to "improve" the sanitary arrangements. It is interesting to read in the School history that these same bucket and ash toilets were still in use until September 1944 when flush toilets were installed at a cost of £161. 13s. 6d.

In 1902 the first PATCHWAY WORKING MEN'S CLUB was formed. This Club met in the School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6.30 - 9.00. There were games - draughts, chess, ludo etc. and debates and discussions took place. Books were also available on loan. Members had to be over 15 years of age - fees were 1/6d per quarter - or 2 pence a week.

Local senior citizens still remember Miss M.A. Spittle who became Headmistress in 1904 and retired in 1937 a period of 33 years as Head. She died in 1955. A pair of MEMORIAL GATES were erected and dedicated by the Bishop of Bristol Dr. Cockin in 1957.

This local school was a great blessing to the district but even so when a boy reached the age of nine i.e. Standard II he was transferred to the parent school at Almondsbury or to Stoke Gifford school and if he could not cadge a lift in a passing cart attendance at either school en-



tailed a jolly long walk for little legs in all weathers. When the weather was particularly bad some of the ladies of Almondsbury used to send containers of hot soup to Almondsbury school at midday.

Mr. G.W. Wilkins who used to be a Churchwarden at St. Paul's, in Portland Square, Bristol came to Patchway in 1908 and built Woodlands Grange already referred to. He died in 1934. During his residence in this area he became a great benefactor both to the School and to the church. He loved children and every summer all the children of this school were invited to a grand tea-party and games in the grounds of the Grange. At Christmas the children, remembering his love for them, used to go to the Grange to sing Carols. Each child received a brand new silver sixpence - quite a fortune in those days. On his death the Grange passed to the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Smith and they too kept up this thoughtful tradition. They also revived the local Gymkhana which is still held annually.

ST. CHAD'S CHURCH.

Two fields away from the school - on the same side of the main road - we come to the "tin church" or the "little green church." Realising not for the first time - the remoteness of this corner of his parish from the village church, the Vicar of Almondsbury finally obtained permission to erect this little chapel of ease and it was first opened for services on July 16th 1890. By some strange oversight no one in the parish or in the diocese seemed to think a dedication necessary or desirable! However on October 13th 1899 this omission was rectified and the little church was dedicated in the name of St. Chad. At the same service it was also licensed for Baptisms. From old Almondsbury church magazines one learns that the services were well attended and the ministrations of the visiting Curates and Readers were greatly appreciated. We also read that Mr. George Watkins of "Woodlands Grange" presented this church with an oak altar rail and kneelers in 1923 and the following year he gave the church an oak pulpit. Miss MacWalter

of Almondsbury crocheted and presented to the church a beautiful lace Altar Cloth which incorporated a Chalice and Paten in its motif. Many other parishioners also made gifts according to their means and for nearly 50 years this beloved little church served the local community and it its turn was served and cared for by its congregation.

It is on record that round-about 1910 a COAL AND CLOTHING CLUB used to be held in the vestry once a week. Two or three pence a week could be paid in towards the cost of these necessities for the coming winter.

This "little tin church" was the first of three churches dedicated to St. Chad to be built in Patchway and a fuller history of these churches will be found further on in this booklet.

BROOKFIELD AND STATION ROAD.

The next building is a cottage some 200 yards ahead on the sight of the main road. This is Hall's or Turner's cottage i.e. the Lodge at the end of the private farm track leading up to Hempton Court Farm and already referred to. In common with all local people everywhere especially in the country the name of the local farmer at the time is often used when referring to his farm, his cottages or his lane etc. and this can lead to much confusion.

Are you lost at this point? - look ahead - 500 yards along the road between the hedgerows and trees there is a bridge and a cluster of houses on the left. This is the bridge carrying the main road over the railway cutting.

Immediately to the left of the bridge is Station Road. This was the first road to be actually made in Patchway - all the others had evolved from tracks and lanes. Flanking it on the side away from the cutting are five pairs of tall semi-detached houses. These houses were built to house the Railway Company's local staff - the Station-master himself used to live in number 10. It is said that

in number 1 a doctor used to hold a surgery and if it is true this was possibly the first medical practice in Patchway. This house and number 2 no longer exist having been bombed in the 1940 war. One local lady who used to live in one of these houses tells me that they were built with the bricks which were rejected as sub-standard by the builders of the tunnel and that some of the houses were offered for sale at £60 each. One of these was recently sold for £16,000. A pump in the road was the sole water supply when these houses were built.

Despite many enquiries and research I have not yet been able to establish the dates of the construction of this section of railway. The Severn Tunnel was finished in 1885 but I think there must have been a single line (the lower one) built rather earlier than this to serve the ferry service at the New Passage crossing of the Severn in 1863. This would account for the two lines - and the two tunnels - at different levels. It would also account for the position of the first PATCHWAY STATION. I am told that this was situated immediately in front of the houses - the entrance being where the wall is built back in a kind of bay. No doubt this was only a small halt serving only the near side line (or single line?) as my informant insists that it did not have two platforms. To support this conjecture the Deeds of the "RAILWAY INN" inform us that - "in 1884 the Great Western Railway acquired some land from the Trustees of the Will of the late Mr. Charles Hunt for the widening of the Bristol and South Wales Union Railway - excluding the Railway Inn - £250." This date of course coincides with the building of the Severn Tunnel. Another clue to support the view that one of our tunnels was indeed built long before the Severn Tunnel is this. The Manager of the Cattybrook Brick works tells me that the presence of the clay in the escarpment was quite unknown until the Patchway Tunnel was dug out. On discovering the clay it was decided to establish a brick manufactory at the lower entrance to the tunnel. By 1885 when the Severn Tunnel was nearing completion and the Railway Inn ground had been acquired to widen the line, the Cattybrook Brick Company had been

established long enough to enable it to produce no less than nineteen million (19,000,000) bricks towards the requirements of the tunnel and bridge builders. No doubt many Patchway men assisted in this great engineering enterprise.

It is on record that the Bristol and South Wales Railway purchased in 1861, one acre of land for £110, from the Almondsbury Trustees. This would be required for the single line cutting immediately to the east of the A38. With the advent of the double track main line through the Severn Tunnel a "proper" station was needed and the Patchway Halt was removed about 1890. The Station which now bears the name of Patchway is some 800 yards outside the parish and is now itself superseded by a much bigger and better station at Parkway. In its hey-day it was a "real" station with two long platforms each complete with ticket offices, waiting rooms, left luggage offices and a footbridge over the line. A photo of about 1910 shows a smart uniformed staff on the "up" platform probably consisting of Stationmaster, Foreman Porter, Porter, Assistant Porter and Ticket Clerk - the G.W.R. at its best!!

A local lady recalls that at about this time the few young people of the area used to collect in the waiting room of this station on one evening each week. Equipped with sandwiches, fruit and a couple of bottles of cider, a happy evening was spent together by courtesy of the co-operative Stationmaster. One supposes that this venue was the first Patchway Youth Centre! The evening ended by one of the young farmers driving the others round to their homes in a farm cart - happy days!! The same lady recalls that the local brook passed under the main road at the point where BROOKFIELD ROAD joins it. The low brick parapet of the bridge made a very pleasant "seat" from which to observe the world pass by and became the established meeting place and "forum" of the older local residents.

CLAY LANE - LITTLE STOKE.

Although we are just outside the Patchway boundary let us turn off Station Road and walk up Clay Lane and see the cluster of farmstead and cottages which form the hamlet of LITTLE STOKE (which is NOT the area around Gypsy Patch). Immediately on the left of the lane (where the present caravan site now is) stand the first pair of cottages and the outbuilding's of LITTLE STOKE FARM. The lane then crosses a small stream* which flows from a spring up behind Hempton Court Farm. In the paddock just to the right of the lane, the stream used to be dammed and utilised as a sheep-dip for the annual mid-summer ritual of cleansing the sheep before shearing-time. Almost at the point where the stream meets Station Road three interesting boundary marks can be seen. They are iron posts bearing a large circular head upon the upper face of which is embossed the legend "Great Western Railway Co. Boundary 1889."

Further up the lane on the left - after passing the walled kitchen garden with its cordoned fruit trees and green house - we come to the farm house. This farm house and its fields were the property of the Duke of Beaufort and the last of the tenant farmers was Mr. Howard Davis. Mr. Davis was a local naturalist and compiled many note-books of his observations of local bird and animal life and habits. It is probably of some small historical interest to learn that Peter Scott often visited this farm and spent many hours in the drawing-room of this local farm discussing and formulating the plans for the creation of the Slimbridge Wild Fowl Trust. I am also informed that a Bird Sanctuary on the Isle of Wight bears the name of "Howard Davis". Perhaps the local council may think it fit to name a local road or block of flats after this local pioneer of bird sanctuaries.

Eastward from the farm Clay Lane forks. The part on the right leads on to Stoke Gifford and the residential area which now bears the name of Little Stoke. The left hand fork bears northward passing several of the farm cottages within the fork before passing STOKE LODGE

This fine Victorian house standing in its own grounds was in more recent years used as a corn and seed factors and fodder merchants and owned by a Mr. Huggett. After turning westward through the fields the lane eventually passing the allotments on the left joins the main road. The railway bridge is just along to the left.

These same allotments between Stoke Lane and Brookfield Road, were, in the late 1800's the scene of a hutted encampment where lived the hundreds of navvies who toiled with picks and shovels and wheel-barrows to dig out the railway cutting and the tunnel which takes the railway down through the escarpment to the Severn valley below.

We have already looked at the houses in Station Road. Behind them there was a cart track leading to the field and this became known as BACK LANE. By 1900 the present eleven cottages were built on the north side and the lane became known as BROOKFIELD ROAD. In 1915 the Baptists built a beautiful stone church on the main road here just beside the Brook.

Between Brookfield Road and Station Road there used to be a terrace of three smart red-brick houses facing the railway bridge. The one at the railway end of the terrace had been planned as a small hotel - a wise idea probably inspired by its proximity to the railway station. However it never functioned as an hotel but fitted with a shop front it became the local corner shop. Eventually it also became the first Patchway sub-Post Office and functioned for many years in that capacity until about 1936.

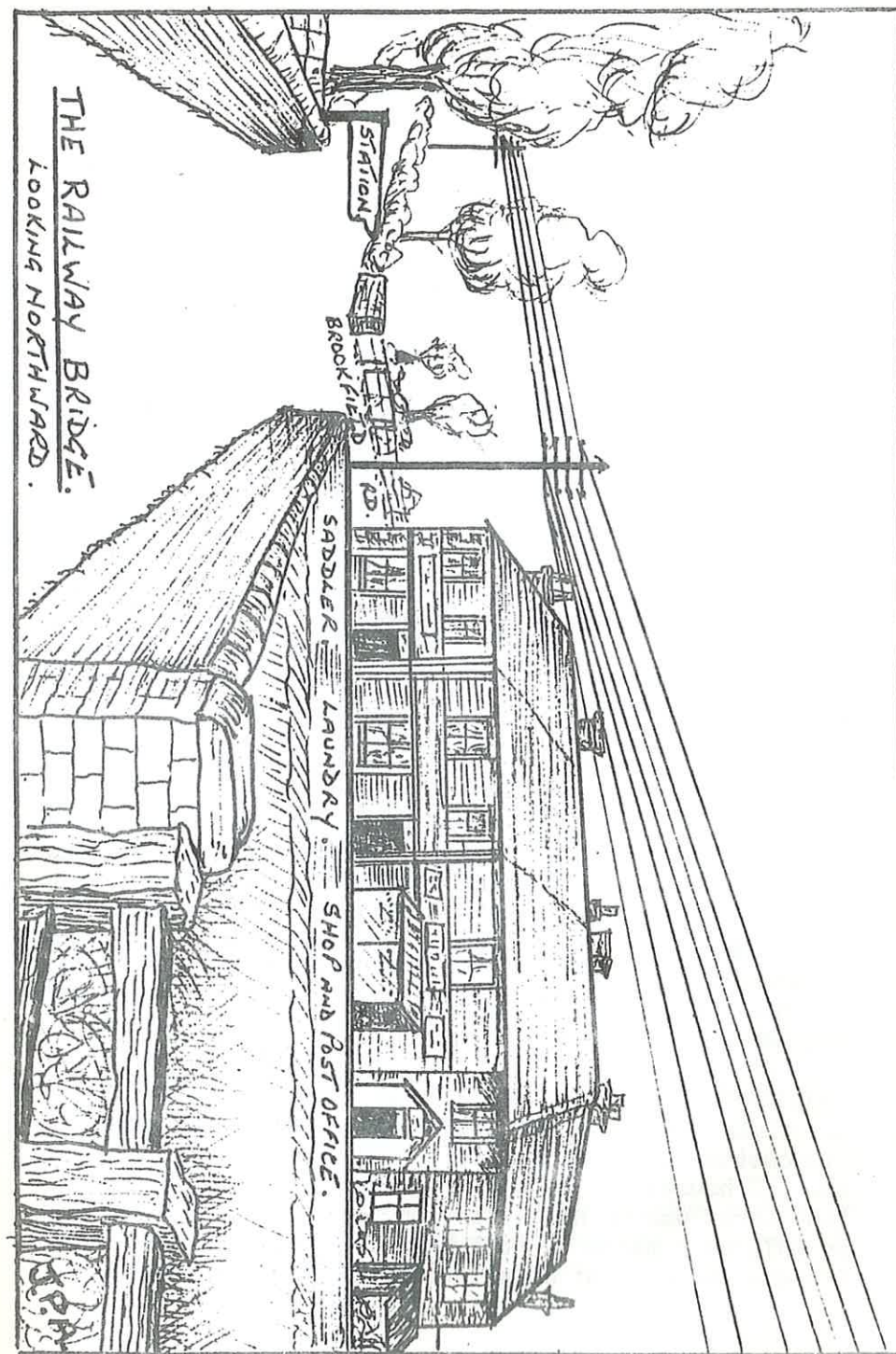
The centre house of the terrace was occupied by a widow - Mrs. Curtis - the grandmother of my informant. This lady used to employ several local women to work in her home laundry. Each morning she would get up at 5.a.m. and spend an hour in prayer and Bible reading before going downstairs to light up the coppers and start up the laundry operations. No doubt this must be the first

commercial laundry in Patchway. Next door in the end house nearest to the Baptist church a Mr. Ryland carried on a saddler and harness maker's business. Local people regret that road improvements in 1975 made it necessary to pull down this terrace of houses and the Baptist church.

In the early 1900 a Mr. Kingscott was the local carrier. With his horse and cart he collected and delivered the laundry, and carried the Royal Mails from the station to the Post Office. He also carried the daily copies of the Bristol "Mercury" to Thornbury. Two other local carriers are known to have operated in the district at this time.

Standing at the railway bridge and looking northwards along the way we have come the only buildings we can see behind the hedgerows are Hempton Court Farm cottage on the left and St. Chad's church and the church school on the right. Turning round and continuing southward we pass a row of seven cottages adjacent to the bridge. These were built by Mr. Cook of Patchway Common. Facing them on the right (where the Roundabout now is) was a large field used as the local cricket ground. There is no evidence that the famous W.G. Grace ever played here but it is very likely that he did. It is known that in 1900 Patchway Cricket Club could, and did put two cricket II's in the field. Our older residents recall with pleasure that over in the north-west corner of the field (where the present post office now stands) there used to be a pond and around this pond mauve and white wild orchids used to grow in profusion.

Between the row of cottages and the Railway Inn there used to be a pair of semi-detached cottages which were only recently removed as they were in the way of the recent road improvements. Standing with one's back to these and looking southwards, towards Filton, one could look straight down a long and beautiful avenue of mature elm trees lining both sides of this country road, as far as the Red House (now Benson's). Several of the



next houses on the left still bear names such as "The Elms" and "Elm House" etc. but not one tree of this fine avenue survives.

Reference has already been made to the "RAILWAY INN". Nothing of its earlier history is known but before the coming of the railway in 1860 it obviously bore a different name. In the early 1900's it was a small wayside inn with tea gardens at the rear and it specialised in catering for cyclists and wagonette parties from Bristol on a "special treat" into the country. Luncheons and Teas were served on the large lawn at the back. Dotted around the lawn were some half a dozen rustic bowers. It must have been a delightful place on a summer's afternoon.

The public house, which is referred to as an "Inn" in the deeds but calls itself an "Hotel" on its sign board, was modernised and enlarged to its present appearance in 1946.

A38 - "ELM AVENUE."

Next to the "Railway Inn" - where the modern garage now operates - there was built in 1905 a corrugated iron shed with stables at the rear. A chaff and cattle-feed business was established here by a Mr. Griffiths. Huge quantities of chaff and cattle-feed passed through the premises and the firm did all their own haulage. Eventually a Mr. Marsh took over the business and ran it successfully until it was destroyed by fire in the early 1920's. In 1926 the site was taken over by a Mr. J. Johnson - of whom more later.

Two pairs of well built spacious semi-detached houses now claim our attention. These are now numbered 176 - 182 Gloucester Road and bear the names of the long lost elms. No. 182 housed the second medical practice in Patchway (the first was in No. 1 Station Road). These were built in 1870 on a piece of land known as "Nine Acres." No. 178 was the home of a marine engineer named Johnson who

served in the ships of the Canadian Pacific Line. On retiring from the sea he became interested in motorcars and as a hobby became involved in repairs. A large shed was erected at the rear of the house complete with an inspection pit. A hand operated petrol pump was installed in the front garden and Patchway's first garage was in business. The original shed still stands - it is interesting to learn from the present owner of the house (who is Mr. T. Johnson's grand-daughter) that this early historic garage is built of timber which was salvaged from horse-boxes which were used in the Boer War. Mr. T. Johnson's son John became a keen motorcycle enthusiast and at one time rode in the Isle of Man T.T. races. After the disastrous fire at Mr. Marsh's fodder mills Mr. Johnson took the garage business to this larger site in 1926 and developed the first purpose-built commercial garage in Patchway. Eventually Mr. John Johnson took over from his father.

Number 176 Elm Grove until recently shared an indoor well with No. 178. This was achieved by having the well dug under the party-wall between the two kitchens thus giving both houses access to half a well - a very ingenious and practical arrangement which no doubt once also existed between Nos. 180 and 182. All the houses we have already noted were entirely dependant on a well or a pump for their water supply and many of these - or their sites can still be found. Number 176 Elm Grove at one time was occupied by a Mr. Levi Hopkins who was a local haulier and general carrier. The house then changed hands and sometime during the 1960's one of the main rooms was in use as a branch of the National and Provincial Bank and can thus claim to be the first Patchway Bank. The enterprise continued until 1971 when the Bank took over premises on the Roundabout. During this time I am told that a second room was also in use by a doctor as a Surgery.

THE GROVE

We have now come to a small lane leading off to the left. This is called "The Grove." My enquiries appear

to indicate that our Patchway Common builder - Mr. Cook - built this row of cottages for the use of railway workers round about 1890 1900. Halfway down the lane opposite No. 6 there is a large block of stone which indicates the site of the communal pump. The occupants of these cottages also had access to a second well in the back garden of No. 176 (which house also had half a well in the kitchen!). An old resident tells me that "The Grove" used to be called "Besom Row" because the 1900 house-wives could often be seen at their doors leaning on their brooms and gossiping. Several of these cottages have been greatly modernised and now make very pleasant residences in a quiet private cul-de-sac.

Returning to the main road and its delightful avenue of stately elms our attention is drawn to the three houses and a GOSPEL HALL on the southern corner of "The Grove." The stone at the apex of the Gospel Hall proclaims that it was built in "1885" - by Mr. Cook of course. From the front it is quite an attractive little building. The facade is of red brick set off with facings of yellow brick round the windows and at the corners. Closer inspection shows some irregularities in the red-brick courses and the only visible side wall shows a less favourable prospect. The stepped gable and the Mansard style roof are of interest. Unfortunately the building is now closed and in a poor state but many people would be sorry to see it swept away. One would think that some communal use could be found for it.

The local Baptist used this Hall for all their meetings and services from 1890 until they built their own stone church at the corner of Brookfield Road in 1915. They continued to use the Hall for part of their Sunday School activities until 1945. The Hall was then used by Mr. Foley who had formed the New Brethren. This organisation ceased to meet in 1969.

Hall Cottage (No.170) whose front entrance is just visible to the right of the Gospel Hall was originally the Caretaker's house. It has a well in the back garden. On

the left of the Hall is No. 174 built hard up against the north wall of the Hall and immediately behind this and joining up with the Caretaker's cottage at the rear is Grove House. A very compact group of buildings and probably all contemporary. No. 174 has had a shop-front built into it. This shop has served several purposes over the years usually as a general store or a sweet-shop. Local residents recall a Mrs. Barrett and a Mrs. Keeping as having presided behind the counter at different times. More recently it was a betting shop (no doubt the subject of many rousing sermons "next door" !) but now it has become part of the living space of the house.

The next two cottages - No. 186 "Pennant Cottage" and 166 "Diamond Cottage" are rather older than "The Grove" and the Gospel Hall group. The grand-father of the present occupant of "Pennant Cottage" Mr. Hargraves, was a railway building foreman and amongst other things was responsible for the building of the A38 bridge and the so called "blue bridge" further along the line. Diamond Cottage was the home of Mr. Croome. Round about 1900 this gentleman started up a small milk round. He used to cycle round the district on a bicycle fitted with a box-like side car containing the milk churn and pail. The pail was brought to the door and the milk was ladled out into your jug. Hard work over the years brought its own reward. The dairy flourished, pasturising plant and other amenities were installed and eventually a flourishing dairy business was sold to the present owners - Cliffords Dairies.

Now we come to No. 164 Gloucester Road. Do you remember at the start of our tour we found a small bakery business being operated by a Mr. Milliner from a small cottage right out at the end of Patchway Common? Early in 1907 Mr. Milliner moved to the present No. 164 and set up his business there. Eventually he retired and sold to Mr. Blimman who retired and went to live next door (162). The business then passed to Mr. Bayliss who had just returned from four years in the mud and slaughter of the Flanders battlefields. Mr. Bayliss built up a very successful bakery modernising the ovens and increasing the size

of the bread rounds until he in turn found it desirable to retire. He still resides at this address and only recently I was privileged to be shown the bake-house, complete with ovens and still looking ready to produce another batch if and when required.

REDFIELD ROAD.

In the 1890's this area was a large market garden. The land was acquired by Mr. George Dowding (son of the coal merchant). Eventually he built the houses on the east side of the road and these were finished by 1901. These five pairs of semi-detached houses were provided with two pumps which are still in their original positions and were used for watering the gardens during the recent hot spell. For many years he lived in the last of his new houses and eventually took over the coal wharf at the station from his father. It is only since the post-war (1946) developments that the road was opened up at the other end. However - a footpath always lead down past the two cottages - "Rose" and "Myrtle" cottages - which were the first residences in the road. This footpath lead across the fields to the "blue bridge" (so called because of the colour of the bricks). This is a farm access bridge uniting the fields which belonged to Little Stoke Farm. The footpath is also a right of way giving access to Patchway Station.

At the southern corner of the entrance to Redfield Road stands "BELMONT HOUSE." For many years this was the home of Mrs. Comfort Elizabeth Dowding the local Midwife and District Nurse. She carried out these duties from May 1915 to February 1938. Covering the whole of the parish of Almondsbury on her bicycle in all weathers she served the community lovingly and conscientiously for 23 years. The southern boundary to Patchway crosses the main road at GYPSY PATCH cross roads. There was only one other house between Belmont House and the cross roads and this was a large red brick Edwardian residence known as "CARLTON HOUSE." This was the residence of a Mr. Kingston a surgeon or doctor. It was often referred to as the Red

House (because of the red bricks), and was probably the best residence in the whole of Patchway. Today it is stone-coloured and known as "Bensons" and has become the Office Block of that industrial concern.

GYPSY PATCH - THE CROSS-ROADS.

The Gypsy Patch cross roads no longer exist. Prior to 1946 a lane continued westward and lead to the village of CHARLTON. This little village was demolished in 1946 in order to clear the ground for a big extension to the run-way for the Brabazon aircraft. The Charlton lane was also known as Hayes Lane because it also gave access to Hayes farm which itself was engulfed by the run-way as were several other farms in the Charlton/Westbury area.

Immediately after the First World War in 1919 Mr. J.C. Williams set up two wooden ex-Army Huts at the corner of Gypsy Patch Lane and the main road. These huts became the nucleus of an engineering firm which serviced farm machinery and incorporated a blacksmith's establishment. Moving with the times the business got more involved with cars and lorries and electrics and eventually evolved into Patchway Motors. Mr. George Hadrell was the last blacksmith and Mr. J.C. Williams the owner and founder of the business is in retirement. At the same time (1920) Mr. A.J. Saunders started up a market garden next door and supplied the B.A.C. canteens with all their vegetables.

Having reached the parish boundary at the Gypsy Patch cross roads we must turn-about and walk northwards along the main road and look at the west side of the road. This will not take long as the whole area from the cross road to the Cricket Ground by the railway bridge is open farm land behind the hedges. First of all we come to a farm track leading up to a small farm variously called "Sharrable" "Sparrable" and "SPARROW BILL" FARM. Some four hundred yards further on we come to the only building actually on the road on this west side. It is known as Barton's cottage. This farm cottage is at the end of the private lane which gives access to CALLICROFT FARM -

farmed by Mr. Barton. This lane still exists - it runs up by the side of the Midland Bank and crossing Hazeldene Road becomes the back lane of the houses on the north side of Callicroft Road. It is recorded in the Almondsbury Rate Book that "in the year 1764 the sum of 5s. Od. was paid to Thomas Edwards for mending windows at Black Hole." The Vicar of Almondsbury mentions this extract in the Parish Magazine for November 1910 and requests information as to the whereabouts of "Black Hole." A parishioner replies as follows:- "On the site of the present Callicroft Lodge (i.e. Barton's Cottage) on the Patchway road which was built some forty or fifty years ago there used to stand a miserable poor hut which went by the name of Black Hole. The name still survives in some local properties. Some local people were afraid to pass this hut at night because it had such an evil reputation."

In 1950, Hilda Turner, who used to live at Callicroft Farm and then went to Hempton Court Farm, wrote the following brief description of the farm before the new developments of the late 1930's. - "If we went up Callicroft lane at the top we came to the pond and the rick yard on the site of which is built the new Social Hall (Community Centre). Then on the other side of the yard was the field in which the hay-ricks were made to feed the cattle in winter. That is the ground on which is built the Methodist Church."

"On the other side of Callicroft Farm we come to some elm trees - a few of which are standing today - and then we came to the pear tree orchard on a part of which St. Chad's stands today. At the end of the Home Field are built the new Schools. Then we see the two fields with HIGHWOOD on the one side and GORSE COVERT on the other. During the winter months - on a Monday - the Berkeley Hunt could generally find a fox here. The other side of the Covert was the noted Pond Field (RAMSLEAZE POOL). At the top was the high PARK WALL. In the field were several lovely oaks and there was always plenty of water there for the cattle to drink however dry the season may be. Of course that is the Playing Field of

today (1950 - now built over). Sixty years ago (1890) Callicroft Farm was a long way from any other home." At one time this land formed part of the Lascelles estates. Squire Robert C. Cam - Lippincott of Over Court controlled most of the Patchway land at one time.

OVER COURT.

The "high Park Wall" to which Mrs. Turner refers marks the southern boundary of the centuries-old deer-park of Over Court. The mansion lies within a mile of this deer-park wall (which now forms the N.W. boundary of Patchway. The bottom courses of the stone walling can still be traced amongst the brambles and litter along the edge of the tar-mac footpath which encloses Eagle Drive).

This beautifully sited country residence has a very long history. The present edifice was built by Thomas, Lord Berkeley in 1485. In 1832 it came into the possession of the Lippincott family. Right up to 1940 the principal public rooms and bedrooms were hung with 17th century Brussels tapestries and the deer herd had been maintained without interruption. During the last war British and American troops were in residence and the property sustained the usual damage. I am told that after the war the War Office did restore the building but the clock from the "steeple" over the stable gate was never returned from the U.S.A.! Unfortunately the building remained empty. Lack of care and attention and the onslaughts of the local vandals have now (1978) brought this ancient home to a forlorn ruin.

It is said that the coffin of OFFA, King of the Mercians, was dug out of a great mound at Over Park in 1650 A.D. It is said that Over is a corruption of Offa (whose famous "Dyke" begins only some three miles away just across the Severn at Beachley).

At the time of the exhumation the entire bones of two men were found within the mound. One of these skele-

ons was of un-common size and enclosed in a vast stone coffin which was so artificially cemented together that no joint could be discovered. The stone which covered the coffin was very heavy and of a greyish, shining sparry substance within. Two coins were found inside one of which bore the impression of a falcon or hawk. On the other was a head of Claudius Caesar Emperor of Rome soon after the death of Jesus Christ.

The bones were those of a man whose height exceeded the ordinary stature of a man by more than three feet. The body was buried in the sitting position - which was the customary manner of burying kings as an emblem of eternity. "It is probable that this tomb is of later date than the Roman Occupation of Britain 50 - 60 B.C. If the tomb is not that of Offa (who is also said to be buried at Bedford) it is probably that of Eafa who was King of Mercia" (parish magazine 1896).

In this brief tour of "old" (1930) Patchway we have noticed about one hundred and sixty buildings. Most of them are cottages and farms and some twenty of them are not within the present Patchway boundaries.

Until the coming of the railway scored a deep chasm through the scattered community nothing much had changed for centuries. In fact two world wars were yet to be endured before the first major changes were to begin to transform the appearance of our community and bring it into the age of Concorde and the High Speed Train.

However there yet remain two local institutions which must have a place in this review of Patchway for both have played, and will continue to play an important part in the lives of the local residents. Both had their origins in the Parish of Almondsbury and because we were an integral part of that parish our residents still qualify for the material benefits which still continue to flow from these two robust and valued institutions. As we consider, and perhaps receive benefit from, these two sources of succour let us remember with thankfulness

the generosity of those persons who founded these institutions for the benefit of their neighbours in the parish.

The first of these is the Almondsbury Charities.

THE ALMONDSBURY CHARITIES.

The following notes taken from an old parish magazine give a brief description of these historic and greatly appreciated bequests. There are in all four Charities:-

- EDWARD TIRRELL'S CHARITY (25th Sept.1683)
- THOMAS JEFFERIS (30th Nov.1717)
- JOHN SILCOX (22nd July 1741)

and the CHURCH LANDS CHARITY.

The first three charities produced very little income for many years but the land in TIRRELL'S CHARITY - formerly allotments of about 4 acres in Patchway was sold in 1955 and thus the income has been greatly increased. Most of the income of JEFFERIS and SILCOX's is paid into the POOR FUND and the EDUCATION FUND. The whole of TIRRELL'S is paid into the POOR FUND.

The largest Charity is the CHURCH LANDS. It is not known how or when this Charity originated but it was known before the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

The Trustees or Feoffees have always carried out the intentions of the donors in that provision is first made to the needs of the parish church and secondly for the poor. In 1833 the Charities subscribed £100 towards the cost of building the old school - H.M. Treasury could only afford £80! The Charities also contributed to the erection of Patchway Church of England School in 1859.

Since 1892 the Charity has been administered by eleven competent persons, namely:- The Vicar and (2) Churchwardens of Almondsbury, The Vicar of Pilning, 5 representatives of the Trustees, 2 co-opted Trustees.

The distribution of money or tickets for coal are made personally by the Trustee living in the claimant's district. The Trustees Annual Reports and Accounts are submitted to the Charity Commissioner's and it is the custom to present the accounts to the Annual Vestry Meeting of Almondsbury Parish.

Grants can be made to assist local residents who are contemplating courses of higher education or training in athletics.

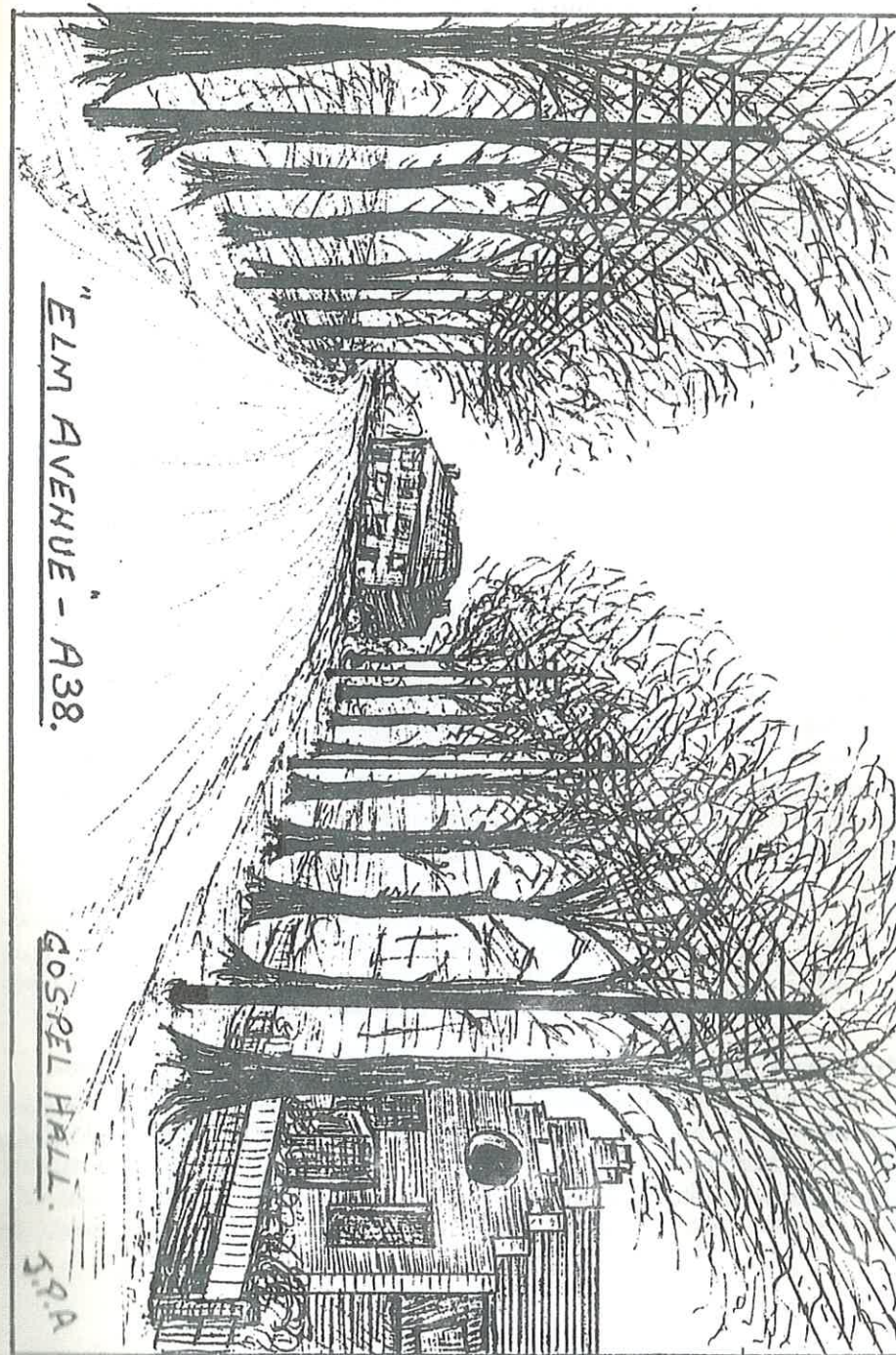
In December 1976 a Revised Scheme of Administration was inaugurated by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales. Under this Scheme the Vicar of the Ecclesiastic Parish of St. Chad, Patchway becomes an Ex-officio Trustee and the body of Trustees increased to fifteen. The "area of benefit" includes all the area of the Parish of Almondsbury as it was on January 1st 1881.

The second of our legacies from the past is The Almondsbury Memorial Hall and Hospital.

THE ALMONDSBURY MEMORIAL HALL AND INSTITUTE.

Standing on the eastern side of the main road immediately above the tip of the church spire we can see a magnificent building in red brick crowned by a beautiful clock tower. This is the Memorial Hospital built as a gift to the parish by one of its most generous residents.

Mr. Sholto Vere Hare lived at Knole Park for twenty years - a residence which he rented from the Chester-Masters family. He was an eminent Bristol industrialist having entered his brother's firm of John Hare and Co. in 1840. The firm was involved in the manufacture of oils, colours and floorcloths. He remained with the firm for 26 years. He was an Alderman of the City Council from 1856 - 1890 and served as Lord Mayor in 1862. For many years he was a Churchwarden of St. Mary Redcliffe and during his period in this office he was responsible for causing the statue of Bristol's boy poet, Chatterton,



to be placed in the churchyard. In addition to being the Conservative M.P. for Bristol (he defeated his Liberal opponent at three consecutive elections) he also found time to serve as Master of the Merchant Venturers and as President of the Dolphin.

When his wife died in 1890 Mr. Hare offered to build the Hospital as a memorial to her and in 1892 the handsome red brick building was officially opened and presented to the Parish by the DUCHESS OF RUTLAND. This lady was a great friend of the family and had often stayed at Knole Park. A portrait of the Duchess painted by Mr. Hare hangs in the main room of the Hospital.

The building was originally planned to be a Community Centre containing day rooms for men and women, a reading room and library, facilities for refreshments, a suite of rooms for a caretaker and his wife and two three-bedded wards (male and female) in which the parish sick could be cared for. Over the years the facilities have been modernised and enlarged. The premises served as a Military Hospital during two world wars and more recently as a maternity hospital. At present it is used for general nursing and geriatric cases under the overall administration of Thornbury Hospital. All the District Nurses were based on this hospital. The clock in the tower dates from 1893 and it is interesting to know that it has the same chime-tune as Big Ben i.e.

"Lord through this hour
Be Thou our Guide
So by Thy Power
No foot shall slide."

There yet remains one other link in our historic association with Almondsbury parish. When death eventually claims each one of us we may well sleep in tranquility in the Almondsbury Cemetery until we are awakened when the Trumpet shall sound.

BIRTH OF THE NEW PATCHWAY.

The foregoing pages give a general picture of Patchway as it was up to about 1920 - with one important exception. In the neighbouring parish of Filton a former tramcar depot was converted into an aircraft factory in 1910. Sir George White who embarked on this visionary scheme had already made his name in the engineering world having exploited the possibilities of both tramways and motor buses both in Bristol and elsewhere.

Within a few months BRISTOL BOX KITE biplanes were being produced at the remarkable rate of two a week and in November 1910 the BRISTOL AIRCRAFT COMPANY landed its first export order - eight Bristol Box kites - for Russia. In 1918 the Company produced 2,000 aeroplanes from its own factories and the payroll had risen to 3,000 employees. The two modest tramcar sheds had now become part of a factory with eight acres of floor-space. These premises were bounded on their northern side by Gypsy Patch Lane and Hayes Lane. Soon they were to extend into Patchway.

In the 1920's the bungalows along the west side of the A38 were built and the "mod. cons" began to appear in Patchway. The first water main had been laid in the early 1900's - but water was not available to every residence - for example - piped water did not reach the houses in Brookfield Road until 1945. It was not until 1929 that the first electric cable was laid along the main road to Almondsbury and in May 1930 the first sub-station in Patchway was built opposite Carlton House (Benson's). In October 1930 the second Patchway sub-station was built opposite the "New Inn." The first gas-main - a 12 inch pipe - was laid along the Gloucester Road in 1934.

However, it was not until the mid 1930's that the rumours began to spread to the effect that with the vast increase in the B.A.C. and ROLLS ROYCE work-forces a large number of houses were to be built in Patchway. In 1937 the rumours became fact. The local cricket field by the railway bridge became a roundabout. The railway bridge

was widened and the FILTON BY-PASS was constructed. At the same time the main road was "improved" and most - if not all of the "Elm Avenue" had been chopped down. Soon the fields of Callicroft Farm were disappearing under Callicroft Road and Southsea Road as the houses went up.

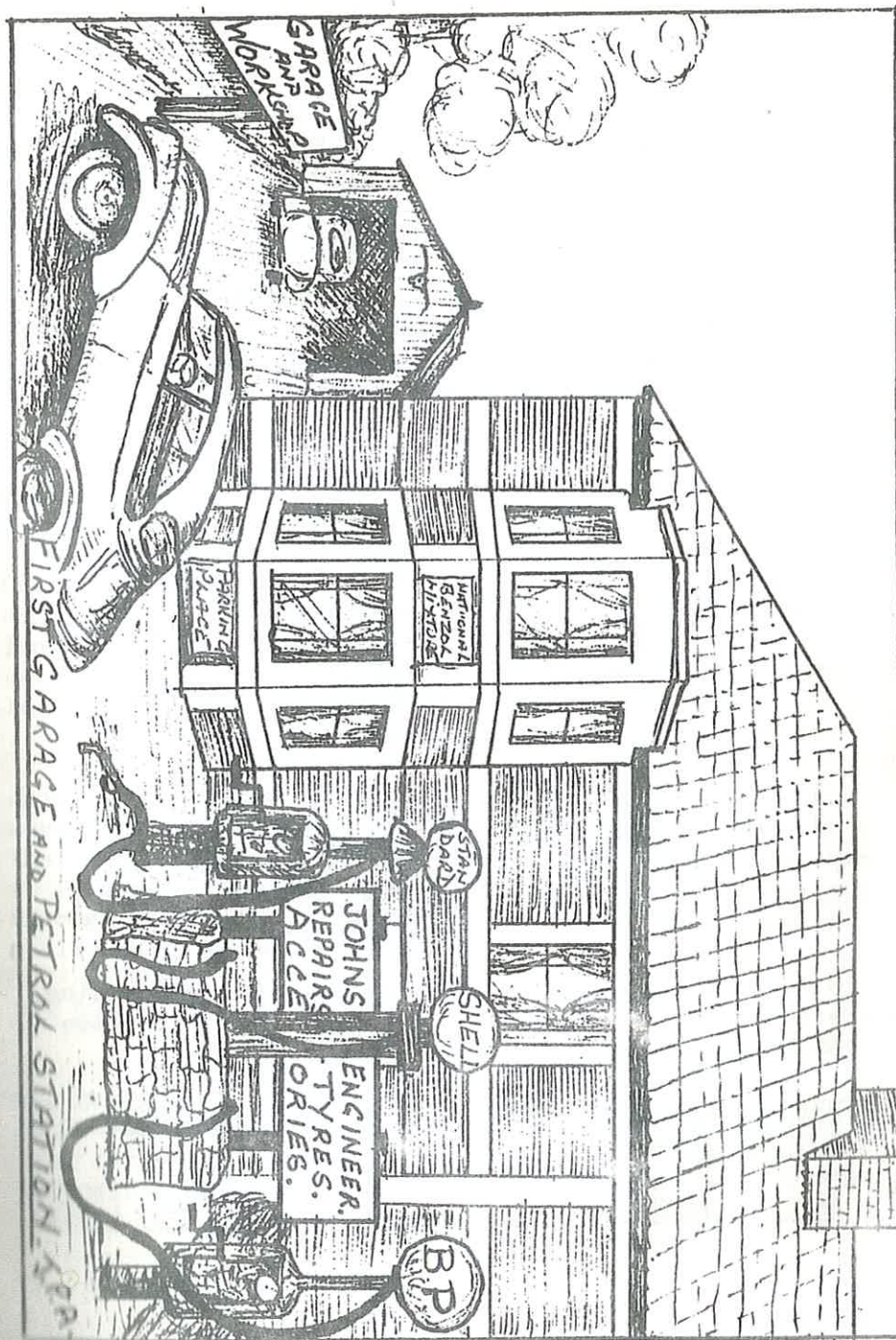
THE WAR YEARS.

Throughout 1938 and 1939 the new houses continued to rise and the houses and shops with which we are now so familiar began to form the new community. Being so close to the airfield and the workshops very many of the new residents were evacuated to Wales and many of the aircraft workers were also moved away to various shadow factories in order to increase production and ensure some measure of continuity in the event of partial destruction of the parent plant.

In September 1940 a daylight air-raid on the B.A.C. factories killed 91 and injured over a hundred work-people. No doubt a number of Patchway residents were among these casualties. There were daily air-raids and "Alerts" at one time but fortunately there were no other casualties in the parish. The only other damage to property was a bomb which damaged the first two houses in Station Road. These were found to be beyond repair and were later demolished. On the same occasion a stick of bombs was dropped along the railway line between the bridge and the station. These all fell in adjacent fields and the line remained un-damaged.

A small plane on a training flight crashed in Hazeldene Road. This remarkable accident caused no damage to any property and no injury or loss of life to any of the residents.

The NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE had set up a fire station on the land where Patchway Lending Library now stands. The AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS organisation had taken over the SOCIAL HALL as their headquarters and the Air-Raid Siren - affectionately known as "Moaning Minnie" was set up on the roof. The HOME GUARD also operated from this centre.



Amongst their other duties the Patchway Tunnels had to be guarded against sabotage and a close watch had to be kept on the Severn marshes and all the surrounding agricultural land in order to forestall any landings from the River Severn or by parachutists. In 1941 we were weak and alone and very vulnerable. Invasion was expected hourly and the whole of Southern England became an "armed fortress." It is still possible to see two concrete "strong points" in this area. One is on the railway embankment just above GYPSY PATCH BRIDGE and the other is by the side of the hill going up to Filton. Nearly every house and factory had its own air-raid shelter of course and shelters can still be seen along the west side of the A38 where it crosses the runway.

On the site of the HOLY FAMILY CHURCH there was a huge circular metal water tank. This was for the use of the National Fire Service fire engines for use during and after air-raids - especially when incendiary bombs were dropped and all the water mains were damaged.

Barrage balloons were stationed all round the B.A.C. in order to make things difficult for the low level bombers. One of these balloon sites was in the field where Ashford Road now is - another was at the rear of Windermere Road and another was in the area of Bradley Road. There were many others. Each site consisted of a couple of Army huts in a field with a winch to haul down the balloon for servicing when necessary. Several of these balloons were shot down by enemy aircraft.

As the new buildings began to go up a large hoarding was erected on the Cricket Field by the bridge. It bore the following legend:-

"BRISTOL AEROPLANE WORKERS - BUY YOUR OWN HOUSE
NOW FROM £350 OR £375."

APPLY - NORTHVILLE BUILDING COMPANY (JENNINGS & SON).

The Northville Building Company built a very large proportion of the early houses in Patchway.

THE CINEMA

A resident recalls seeing another large hoarding which was put up about this time - 1936. This one stood in a field on the A38 where the entrance to Ravenscroft Road now is. This hoarding announced to the world that - "This land is reserved for the new Patchway Cinema." - It proved to be a false prophecy - it was never built.

However the residents of Patchway were not entirely deprived of "the films". As early as 1911 they were able to go to Almondsbury School to see a programme of ANIMATED PICTURES of the Coronation Procession of King George V and Queen Mary. This programme is also referred to as LIVING PICTURES.

In the 1950's both the COMMUNITY CENTRE and ST. CHAD'S CHURCH HALL ran very popular CINEMA CLUBS for adults and children on several evenings every week. Modern full length films and the usual news reels and comedy features appeared in every programme. These Clubs were very popular and each had a large following of regular fans.

Early in the century there were "magic lantern" shows in the Gospel Hall. These "still" picture shows were similar to our transparencies of today except that the lantern used a paraffin lamp and the slides were used to illustrate "talks" on such subjects as "A Journey through the Alps" or "The Kings of England." Such a show really was magical in these un-sophisticated days.

THE SOCIAL HALL

The oldest public building in the new Patchway is the Social Hall already referred to. Built by Mr. Jennings and given by him to the community in 1938 it soon became the local defence centre and was used by the NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE, AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS SERVICES the

the local ambulance detachment and the HOME GUARD. No doubt it was also earmarked as a Casualty Centre in the event of heavy bombing in the area and as a Refugee Clearing House if large numbers of local people should become homeless.

After the war the building was able to begin serving the community as a Social Centre. At one time a Committee of twenty-one members ensured that Patchway never ran short of entertainment. Amongst other activities there were FILMS on Mondays, WHIST DRIVES on Wednesdays, ART and DRAMA on Thursdays, SOCIAL EVENINGS on Fridays and DANCES on Saturdays. PANTOMIMES and PLAYS were performed several times a year. From all these activities the Committee were able to raise funds in the range of £100 a week. All this was done by voluntary effort. Nor was this all. The original floor was of pine wood which soon started to splinter when dancing was in progress. To overcome this defect a willing band of volunteers under the guidance of a qualified carpenter re-laid the whole of the floor of the main hall with Canadian Maple Wood at a total cost of £600. This same floor nearly thirty years later is still giving excellent service. Amongst the other facilities available in this Social Centre were a full sized BILLIARDS TABLE, a SKITTLES ALLEY and a LENDING LIBRARY.

One of the first groups to get established in the Social Hall was the PATCHWAY GARDENS GUILD. They held their first Annual Show in September 1939. This Show was held in St. Chad's Church Hall because the Social Hall was already taken over by the Civil Defence and allied Services.

This Hall is, of course, now known as the PATCHWAY COMMUNITY CENTRE. Under the guidance of Mr. Daniel O'Neil the Centre's Warden and Secretary an Executive Committee supervises the activities of numerous Groups. Membership is open to any member of the community and if your especial interest is not already catered for by an existing Group why not come along and start up your own group or

club? In addition to these Groups which have their regular meeting nights Small Rooms and the Main Hall are available for letting to political, professional, social or industrial organisations for meetings and conferences.

PATCHWAY ANNUAL HANDICRAFT EXHIBITION

As part of the local Jubilee Celebrations the Community Centre Committee decided to put on an Exhibition of the handicrafts which local people indulge in at home. The response to the appeal for the loan of exhibits for GALLERY - '77 as it was called, was very surprising. All manner of items were entered and so great was the public interest during the two days the Gallery was open that the Committee decided to hold GALLERY - '78. Both the number and variety of the items submitted for display and the numbers coming to see them persuaded the organisers to make the Exhibition an annual event. It is grand to know that so much creative work ranging from patchwork and quilting to writing and clay modelling and of course drawing and painting goes on behind so many front doors! All the exhibitors are amateurs - often self taught - and many of the exhibits reach a very high standard indeed. Your exhibit will be very welcome.

PLAYING FIELDS

At about this time the farm land could be bought for about £65 per acre. Some of the local people being far-sighted endeavoured to buy some 6½ acres of the land for £80 an acre in order to provide the district with playing fields now that the cricket field had become a roundabout. To their surprise they found that they had been forestalled by the Thornbury Council, who had bought up all the available land at £120 for building the "new" Patchway.

Eventually the local councillors were able to obtain the use of a small piece of land at the end of Stroud Road just opposite Bradley Road. It was large enough for one football pitch. It was owned by the Almondsbury Parish Council who had bought up all the available land in 1937.

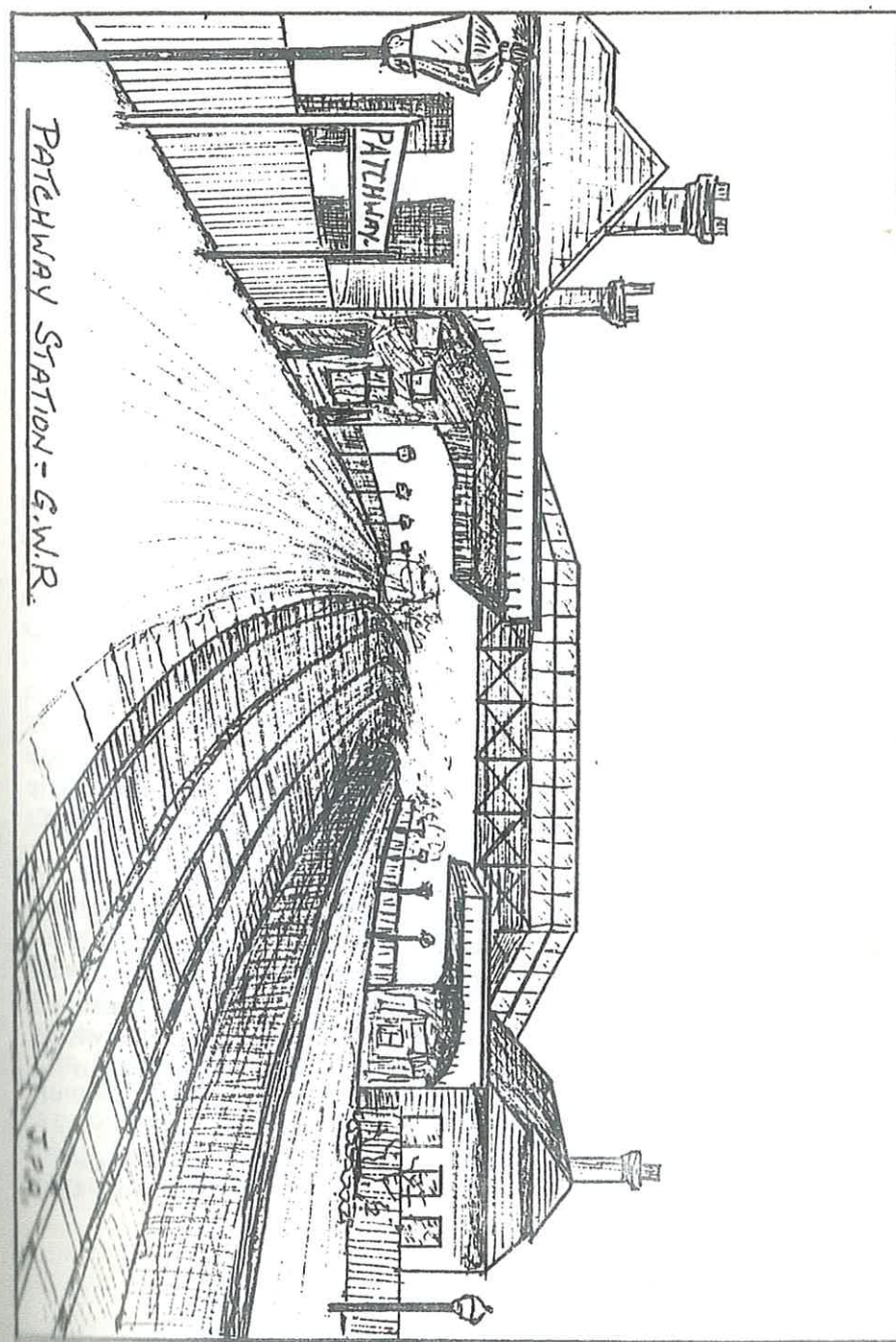
In the winter they let it out to the Patchway United Football Club and in the summer it was let to the old established Cricket Team who had lost their cricket field when the Roundabout was built. There were no other playing areas for children or adults. The Parish Councillors and the Rural District Councillors of Patchway were not at all happy with this most unsatisfactory state of affairs and they fought for $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres of ground to the rear of Windermere Road and Pretoria Road. Eventually their efforts prevailed and the Thornbury Rural District Council sold Patchway the $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres for £20,000. It will be remembered that in 1936 they had bought up that same land at £80 per acre.

The prime mover in all these negotiations for a playing field was Mr. Norman Scott who was the local representative on the Almondsbury Parish Council. In 1953 the Patchway Parish Council was formed and Mr. Scott represented this Council both on the Rural District Council (Thornbury) and on the County Council (Gloucester). It is not therefore surprising that when seeking a new name for the newly acquired playing fields the name of SCOTT PARK was met with immediate approval.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN PATCHWAY

Patchway was for many centuries part of the Parish of Almondsbury. The parish church of St. Mary the Virgin in the centre of lower Almondsbury could only be reached from Patchway Common and Hempton by a long walk or, if one was lucky, a ride in a horse and cart.

Eventually the vicar of Almondsbury obtained permission to erect a chapel of ease near Patchway Common. Numerous tenders were solicited and in due course the tender submitted by a Mr. Humphreys of Albert Gate, Kensington, London was accepted. This builder undertook to supply, deliver and erect a corrugated iron chapel (complete with nave, chancel and vestry all lined with wood) for the sum of £186. The tenders of the local Bristol builders all exceeded this sum by at least £200.



The local Cattybrook Brick Works supplied the bricks for the foundations.

On Wednesday July 16th 1890 the church was first opened for services. The preacher was the Rural Dean, The Reverend John Way, Vicar of Henbury. It was stated that the cost of the building was £186 and that £202 had been raised. Furniture and fittings had totalled £30. These fittings would have included some ten paraffin oil lamps.

A photograph taken about 1920 shows the church to be very beautifully furnished. One can see that the three lancet-type east windows appear to be glazed with coloured leaded glass, there is a beautiful oak reredos containing five panels each with a reproduction of a sacred picture. The Altar has at least two elegant Frontals and is furnished with a splendid brass Floriated Cross. The oil lamps hang from the ceiling. The choir stalls are divided from the nave by a sturdy oak rail decorated with ironwork and some forty chairs (at least) fill the nave. Heat was supplied by the usual coal stove and the bell-cote which surmounted the west end gable was complete with bell. Music was provided by a harmonium.

By some strange oversight no one either in the parish or in the diocese seemed to think that a dedication of the building was either necessary or desirable and this situation continued for nine years. On October 13th 1899 this omission was rectified and "the little tin church" was dedicated in the name of ST. CHAD. At the same service the church was also licensed for Baptisms. In October 1932 a Jumble Sale raised £12 towards the fund to have the electric light put in the church and on January 15th 1933 the electric light was first used and we are told that the £12 raised at the Jumble Sale covered the expenses. In February 1933 the Choir were robed in cassocks and surplices for the first time.

From the Almondsbury Church Magazines of that time we read that the services were well attended and that the

ministrations of the visiting Curate and Readers were greatly appreciated. The magazines also record that Mr. George Watkins of Woodland Grange presented the church with an oak altar rail and kneelers in 1923 and that in the following year he gave the church an oak pulpit. Many other parishioners also made gifts according to their means and for nearly 50 years this beloved little church served the small local community and in its turn was served and cared for by its congregation.

It is recorded that around 1910 a COAL AND CLOTHING CLUB used to be held in the Vestry once a week. On "Club Night" two or three hard earned pence would be paid in towards the cost of providing these essential commodities during the coming winter.

In 1935/36 rumours began to circulate that a big building programme was being prepared and thousands of new houses were to be built in Patchway. Immediately this became known plans were made to build a large church nearer to the site of the new homes. On July 14th 1938 the foundation stone of a new dual purpose church/hall was laid. The site was in a field to the north west of Callicroft farm in a newly built road called Rodway Road. The combined hall/church was rectangular and flat roofed and built of red brick. In the N.E. corner was the kitchen and in the S.E. corner was the vestry with the Chancel between the two.

On November 26th 1938 this second St. Chad's was dedicated. The Rev. C.A. Young, living at 57 Callicroft Road, became the first Vicar of Patchway. At the same time as the Dedication the new ecclesiastical parish of Patchway was formed. The new parish boundary extended from Gypsy Patch Lane in the south to Hempton Lane in the north. It included all of The Common and all the houses now on the south (Bristol) side of Hempton Lane. At the time of dedication, November 26th 1938 the church only had a harmonium but soon a 2-manual pipe organ became available for between £1,600 and £2,000.

During the following year (1939) various items were provided by the parishioners.

- Two new Choir Stalls to harmonise with the Altar Rails and Litany Desk - were made by a parishioner.
- An oak Sanctuary Rail was provided by the Women's Fellowship.
- An oak Hymn Board by the sisters of George Pearce.
- A Prayer Desk was provided from donations from Youth Fellowship.
- A Wand for the Vicar's Warden - by the Women's Fellowship.
- A Wand for the People's Warden - anonymously.

In January 1940 Mrs. Turner of Hempton Court Farm became the Secretary of the first St. Chad's Magazine.

A ST. CHAD'S TENNIS CLUB had been formed at "the little tin church." They held their First Annual General Meeting on January 21st 1938. Their courts were at "The Bungalow" Woodlands Lane and they met between 6 and 9 p.m. every Wednesday and Friday. Now that the church had "moved" to Rodway Road a new tennis court was laid out just to the west of the dual purpose building, over the site of the present lane, at the side of the houses. In the 1940's the first YOUTH CLUB was held in a wooden hut in the church grounds.

In 1954 the present CHURCH HALL was erected alongside the dual purpose church building. This Hall was opened on October 31st and dedicated on November 11th by the Venerable P.G. Reddick, Archdeacon of Bristol. In 1963 the present St. Chad's church (the third in Patchway to bear the name) was built on the site of the former dual purpose hall/church. The foundation stone was laid by Leofric, Bishop of Malmesbury on 6th April 1963, and the church was consecrated on March 2nd 1964 by the Lord Bishop of Bristol, the Rt. Rev. Oliver Tompkins. Until this date the church was still legally a part of the Parish of Almondsbury.

THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

Even from this brief survey of one small corner of a large rural parish it is interesting to notice that throughout the centuries the church has always had the wellbeing of its parishioners in mind.

Their spiritual welfare was ministered to by instruction in the Christian message and by the availability of the Sacraments. Their physical wellbeing was taken care of by the provision of food, clothes, fuel and lodgings for those in need. This was often done through money from the Poor Box or a grant from a Charity and shelter was provided by offering a home in an Almshouse.

The earliest "schools" were held in the church porch or in a room in vicarage or a cottage in the village. The physical needs of the adult members of the community were also met by the establishment of the Clothing and Coal Clubs in the vestry or school. The church hall or vestry often ran men and women's groups which not only provided social contacts but also gave opportunities for some degree of adult education. The first holidays in the secular meaning of the word came about in the form of the Sunday School Treat or the Parish Outing, when everyone clambered up into the farm wagons complete with picnic baskets and travelled ten miles or more to the sea-side for a whole day out. The big feasts, Christmas, Easter and Harvest were indeed real "holy-days" and after the right and proper religious celebrations and giving of thanks in the church everyone repaired to the hall or barn for the food and the merry-making. It is indeed a matter for regret that today so many people who now take their "holidays" as a "right" - and this of course particularly includes Sundays - do not realize that they are legally freed from work on these days in order that they may attend a place of worship. They forget that they require spiritual nourishment and this is freely available at any time from any of the churches which now serve our Community. The Christian faith has survived for 2,000 years - for you.

THE NEW COMMUNITY

It is indeed unfortunate that the planners made no provision to create a "Town Centre" for our new community. Consequently Patchway has now developed into a series of districts each having the aspects of a satellite - without the gravitational pull towards a centre.

THE COMMON AND HEMPTON LANE

Of these six districts two are situated on the on the eastern side of the A38. The more northern of the two has remained very much as it was at our first "visit" in 1900 or thereabouts. This district contains the STRICT METHODIST CHAPEL and the NEW INN - but no shopping facilities. Just around the corner on the A38 is THE HUT. This most useful building is still the focal point for nearly all the social activities at this end of the parish. It is the regular meeting place for the TOWNSWOMENS GUILD, the NORTH PATCHWAY OLD AGE PENSIONERS GROUP and several other organisations. Whist Drives and Jumble Sales are frequently held there also.

Just across the main road in Hempton Lane is the main entrance to PATCHWAY HIGH SCHOOL. This excellent School, which was built in 1952 as a Secondary Modern, became a Comprehensive School in 1970 and since 1974 it has been administered by the Avon Education Authority. At present it has a Teaching Staff of 70 and a student population of 1,250. A wide range of subjects is taught and the extra-curricular activities include:- the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Folk Dancing, Drama, Orchestra and Choir, and Crusaders. Large sports fields and a modern Sports Hall and an open-air heated Swimming Pool help to make up the Campus which covers some 40 acres. Fortunate indeed are the local children who are able to acquire an education at this excellent school.

STOKE LODGE

Immediately to the south of The Common is the dis-

trict known as Stoke Lodge which extends along the eastern side of the A38 to the railway line which forms its southern boundary together with the old Chipping Sodbury Rural District boundary which runs between Dyrham Parade and Breydon Avenue.

This district contains two church schools. The modern CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL in Cranham Drive replaces the original school which Almonsbury parish built in 1859. After 114 years of excellent service this building had to be taken down in 1973 to permit the widening of the A38. The present school was designed by the Gloucestershire County Council and was built by Messrs. Savage of Stroud. It has seven class rooms to accommodate 280 children and it cost £87,753. The original School Bell has been re-hung in the new hall and continues to signal the opening and closing of each school day.

At the southern end of this district in Amberley Road there is the "HOLY FAMILY" ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL. This school also has places for 280 pupils. It was built by Canon Lacey of St. Theresa's, Filton which parish had the care of this area in 1968 when the school was first opened. Children from non-Catholic homes are accepted at the School. The majority of the pupils usually continue their education at St. Bede's R.C. Comprehensive School at Lawrence Weston. In addition to these two modern schools this district also contains the modern STOKE LODGE INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS which stand in a cul-de-sac just off Bourton Avenue.

The shopping facilities consist of a parade of shops in CHELFORD GROVE amongst which can be found a dispensing chemist, a mini-supermarket and a newsagents shop. There are no post-office facilities on the east side of the A38.

The PATCHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH is also in this district and can be found at the junction of Amberley Road and Stoke Lane. This is the third place of worship which this congregation has had in Patchway. From 1890 to 1915 they met for worship in the GOSPEL HALL on the A38 at The

Grove. From here they moved into their new attractive stone-built church at the corner of Brookfield Road and then when the A38 widening scheme was planned the property was taken from them and the present modern and very attractive church complex was built to compensate their loss. The first service in this new "home" was held in 1975, since which date a schoolroom and other amenities have been added.

THE PATCHWAY ROUNDABOUT

This district somehow just misses being a real centre of the community although it is the hub of the road network. Here we can find quite a comprehensive range of shops not least of which is the principal sub-POST OFFICE, which is always very busy. One of Patchway's four Banks is situated here and just across the Roundabout the local Veterinary Surgeon runs a busy practice. The largest building in sight is the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY which was built about 1964. Previous to this services were held in the Community Centre for many years and also at the parish church of St. Theresa's, at Filton.

In this district only a short distance along Coniston Road will be found the PATCHWAY YOUTH CENTRE and next to it the premises of the PATCHWAY DETACHMENT of the ARMY CADET FORCE. Brief notes on these, and other youth organisations, will be found in the following pages.

GLOUCESTER ROAD

About half a mile along the A38 we come to another shopping area at the junction of Callicroft Road. Here a fairly comprehensive range of shops line both sides of this busy dual carriageway. In addition to the large Co-op supermarket and the local S.W.E.B. showroom one can find here three more Banks, a Chemist's and a Hairdresser's.

It is an unfortunate piece of planning which makes it necessary to cross this busy dual "speedway" in order to reach certain shops. This crossing can be achieved

by taking a detour through a long, draughty and unpleasant underpass - the alternative method being a series of hazardous dashes between the speeding vehicles.

CONISTON PARADE

The shops in this traffic-free precinct occupy two sides of a large paved square. In addition to the usual shops there is a sub-post office. The third side of this precinct is occupied by the LABOUR CLUB. This popular and well-appointed club originated in the old Day Nursery which was erected in Hazeldene Road in 1939 for the benefit of mothers with young children who were engaged in war work. When the Nursery moved out in 1950 the Labour Club moved in and remained there until the present club was opened in 196 . In addition to a well appointed Bar and Lounge regular sessions of Bingo and live entertainment of all kinds are provided.

Just to the rear of these premises the CONISTON ROAD INFANTS and JUNIOR SCHOOLS are situated.

RODWAY ROAD

Even though it does not possess a single building of architectural merit this district (though a considerable distance from The Common and Stoke Lodge districts) has some semblance of being the "town centre." Here we have grouped together not only a considerable row of shops - but also some other essential premises. However it is rather surprising to note that no bank or sub-post office conducts business in this district.

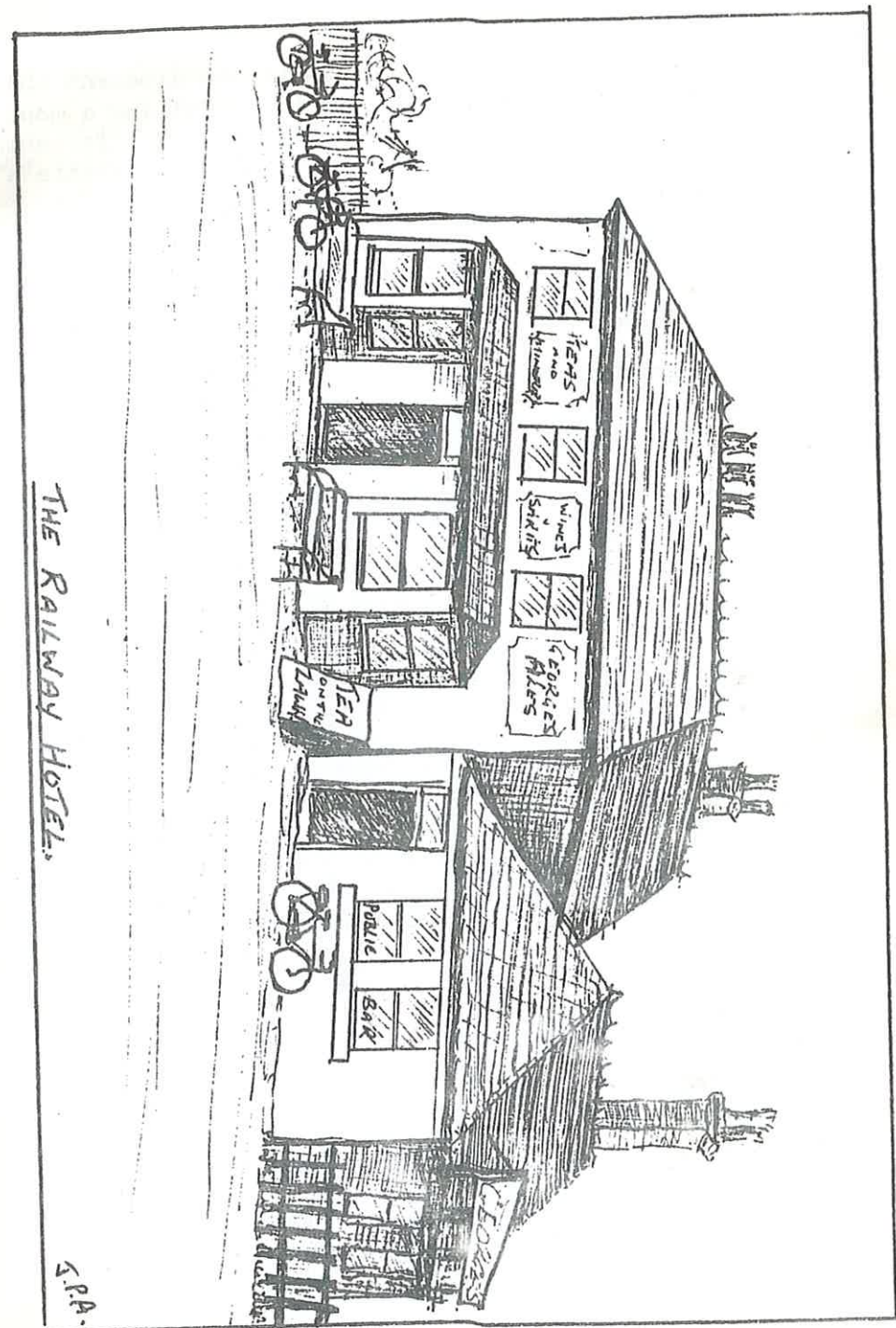
Grouped around this cross roads we have the PUBLIC LIBRARY the FIRE STATION, the HEALTH CLINIC, the COMMUNITY CENTRE, the WESLEY HALL, the ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, and two hundred yards further up the road - ST. CHAD'S ANGLICAN AND METHODIST parish church. The CALLICROFT INFANTS and JUNIOR SCHOOLS are only another hundred yards beyond the church. A DAY CENTRE will soon be built next to the Community Centre. The present WESLEY HALL was built in

1950 by the local members of the METHODIST CHURCH and the building was their Church until 1975, in which year an "ecumenical experiment" commenced. The members of the Methodist Church united with the Church of England congregation and all worship is shared in St. Chad's. At this time the Methodist Church building was given its present name of Wesley Hall and is used as an additional hall for meetings, youth activities and other parochial and community activities. Perhaps it may be said here that the "experiment" has proved highly successful and spiritually beneficial to all involved in this unifying act of faith. Meetings have already taken place to discuss the ways and means to enlarge the present facilities on the St. Chad's site to provide more accommodation for the church's increasing activities.

The first FIRE STATION in Patchway was erected in 1938 on the piece of ground now occupied by the Public Library. This corrugated iron Fire Station operated throughout the 1939-45 war and on until 1966 when the present well equipped and spacious Fire Station was opened by A.V. Thomas Esq. O.B.E., G.M.

The activities of the COMMUNITY CENTRE have already been noticed elsewhere, and the activities of the Royal British Legion and Library are all too well known to require further comment here.

The HEALTH CLINIC is the second oldest public building in "new" Patchway after the Community Centre. It was erected in 1939 to serve as a Day Nursery (together with one in Hazeldene Road) where all the local mothers engaged on war-work could leave their children in safety. After the war - in about 1950 - the two Nurseries were merged into this Clinic and the activities expanded. BABY CLINICS, CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS and RELAXATION COURSES for Pregnant Mothers are held regularly. In addition to these activities CHIROPODY and SPEECH-THERAPY CLINICS are held and the local PROBATION OFFICER, the DISTRICT NURSES and the MATERNITY NURSES have their base here.



From the above brief notes it will be apparent that this "temporary" war-time building is fulfilling a most useful role in our community. It has been felt for some time now that the Clinic should be re-built to create a larger and fully equipped HEALTH CENTRE. This would bring together all the local health and medical services under one roof.

THE PATCHWAY MINIBUS

The formation of the MINIBUS COMMITTEE in 1975 is one example of the way in which our Community is growing both in concern for others and in self help.

This Committee was formed by the WELFARE COMMITTEE and ST. CHAD'S CHURCH to operate a minibus for the benefit of the whole community of Patchway.

Thanks to a large grant from the Almondsbury Charities a Ford Transit 12 seater bus - fitted with a hoist was purchased in May 1976. This vehicle is in use daily and carries up to 100 passengers to meetings in the locality. The main beneficiaries being the young i.e. the Scouts, Guides, Youth Fellowship etc. and the elderly and infirm who are unable to drive a car and would otherwise be confined to their homes. All users make a contribution to the running costs of the vehicle but the major annual costs are met by donations from local businesses, individual well-wishers and groups.

It is the aim of the Committee to foster a community spirit by enabling people to do worthwhile things together with especial concern for the infirm and the aged. Funds are now required to build a garage for the bus. The Treasurer of this excellent Community Project is:- Mrs. P. Fox, Harts House, Gloucester Road, Woodhouse Down, Almondsbury.

Thanks to the ten volunteer drivers - who of course give their services free - the Minibus is at present able to fulfill all the journeys it is requested to make.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OLD AGE PENSIONERS.

There are two Groups of Old Age Pensioners in Patchway both of which belong to the National Federation.

The first Group originally met in the old Red Cross Society Hut which used to stand where Highwood Road now is. At this time Mrs. Penfound J.P. was the Captain of the Red Cross Detachment and she is now the President of this O.A.P. Group. After the war the Social Hall became available for meetings and Mr. George Pool organised the meetings in the present No. 2. Room. Before long the membership had grown so large that it became necessary to rent the Main Hall for the regular weekly Meetings.

This Group now has a membership of some 130 at their Thursday afternoon Meeting. On Monday evenings they hold a Whist Drive at the premises of the Royal British Legion Club - whose Committee make no charge for the use of their premises.

Mrs. E. Casson is the present Chairman of this Group whose Social Committee organise a full and varied programme of activities.

Patchway Parish Council have generously given a plot of land to the Pensioners for the purpose of building a Day Centre next to the Community Centre.

The second Group - the North Patchway O.A.P's - whose President is Mrs. Northover - meet every Friday afternoon at The Hut near the "New Inn". The Chairman of the Group is Mr. Caswell. The Group has been in existence for some 25 years and has a membership of about 70 most of whom live in the Hempton, Common and Stoke Lodge districts of Patchway.

THE GUIDES IN PATCHWAY

1st PATCHWAY GUIDES were started by Miss Dowling of Almondsbury in May 1939.

1st PATCHWAY BROWNIES were started by Miss Cook and met in the Community Centre. They were at that time in W3 District in Bristol with Miss Clements as District Commissioner. Mrs. Penfound was Captain of this Unit during the war.

2nd PATCHWAY BROWNIES started by Mrs. Andrews assisted by Mrs. Loney in 1965.

3rd PATCHWAY BROWNIES started in October 1966 by Mrs. D. Loney.

By this time Patchway had become part of the new N.W. 5 District with Mrs. P. Slade as District Commissioner, and all Units were meeting in the Youth Centre in Coniston Road.

1st STOKE LODGE BROWNIES started in February 1970 by Mrs. J. Trewin and they met in Stoke Lodge Junior School.

1st STOKE LODGE GUIDES started in February 1972 by Mrs. Carter

2nd PATCHWAY GUIDES also started in February 1972 by Mrs. N. Howarth assisted by Miss G. Tucker who later became Guider with the Unit which now met in the Methodist Church but eventually the Guides went to St. Chad's Hall and the Brownies returned to the Youth Centre.

2nd STOKE LODGE BROWNIES started in October 1977 at the Church of England School by Mrs. W. Wooster.

2nd STOKE LODGE GUIDES started in January 1978 by Mrs. M. Thompson.

3rd BRISTOL AIR RANGERS were started by Mrs. P. Slade in 1965 and met at the Youth Centre. In the following year they moved to Filton. In 1974 they returned to Patchway as a Ranger Service Unit until they ceased to function in 1976. Two years later - in October 1978 the Rangers were reformed by Miss Pat Hill.

In 1974 with the coming of Avon, the Guiding Districts were re-organised and Patchway became, with Little Stoke the new STOKEWAY DISTRICT within the Severn Vale Division with Mrs. Slade as District Commissioner.

Mrs. Mary Tucker became the District Commissioner in 1975 and continues in that office with Mrs. E. Orpen as Guider of the 1st Patchway Guides, Mrs. P. Phillips and Mrs. L. Hawkins as Guiders of the 2nd Patchway Guides. Mrs. A. Matthews assisted by Miss S. Weeks now runs the 2nd Patchway Brownies.

THE SCOUTS IN PATCHWAY

In 1940 Frank and Gladys Wallace arrived in Patchway from London where they had been the leaders of the 111th North London Scouts. At the request of local boys Frank obtained permission to use one of the outbuildings of Callicroft Farm as a Scout H.Q. and soon the 2nd PATCHWAY SCOUT GROUP - affiliated to the R.A.F. - was in business.

The PATCHWAY AIR SCOUTS had only been in being for a month when Gladys Wallace started up a Cub Pack and became Akela. Under the guiding hands of Frank and Gladys Wallace the Group flourished despite the frequent "incidents" caused by war-time activities. In 1944 the British Scout H.Q. appealed for trained Scout leaders to volunteer to form Relief Teams to assist the Army Civil Administration in Germany. Patchway's trained Scouters formed part of a valuable working unit assisting the refugees and the German populace. Their work took them to the infamous Belsen extermination camp. Later on they were required to go out to Hong Kong on a similar mission and while in that Colony they were instrumental in forming the Rosary Hill Scout Troop.

During the Wallaces' absence the Group in Patchway continued to flourish under their new Scout Master - Mr. Reece who was assisted by Mr. Jim Lucas and Mr. Ray Crawford. Mr. Penfound who had assisted Mr. Wallace

still continued his work. At this time the Group became part of the NORTH BRISTOL "POLAR" DISTRICT.

After the war (1945) the Group were able to move into the recently vacated Barrage Balloon huts on the present site of Bradley Road.

Today the Group, which consists of a Troop, two Cub Packs and a Venture Scout Unit own their own Hall and grounds in Worthing Road. This land was bequeathed by a kind benefactor. All the Units of the Group have waiting lists - BUT MORE LEADERS ARE NEEDED.

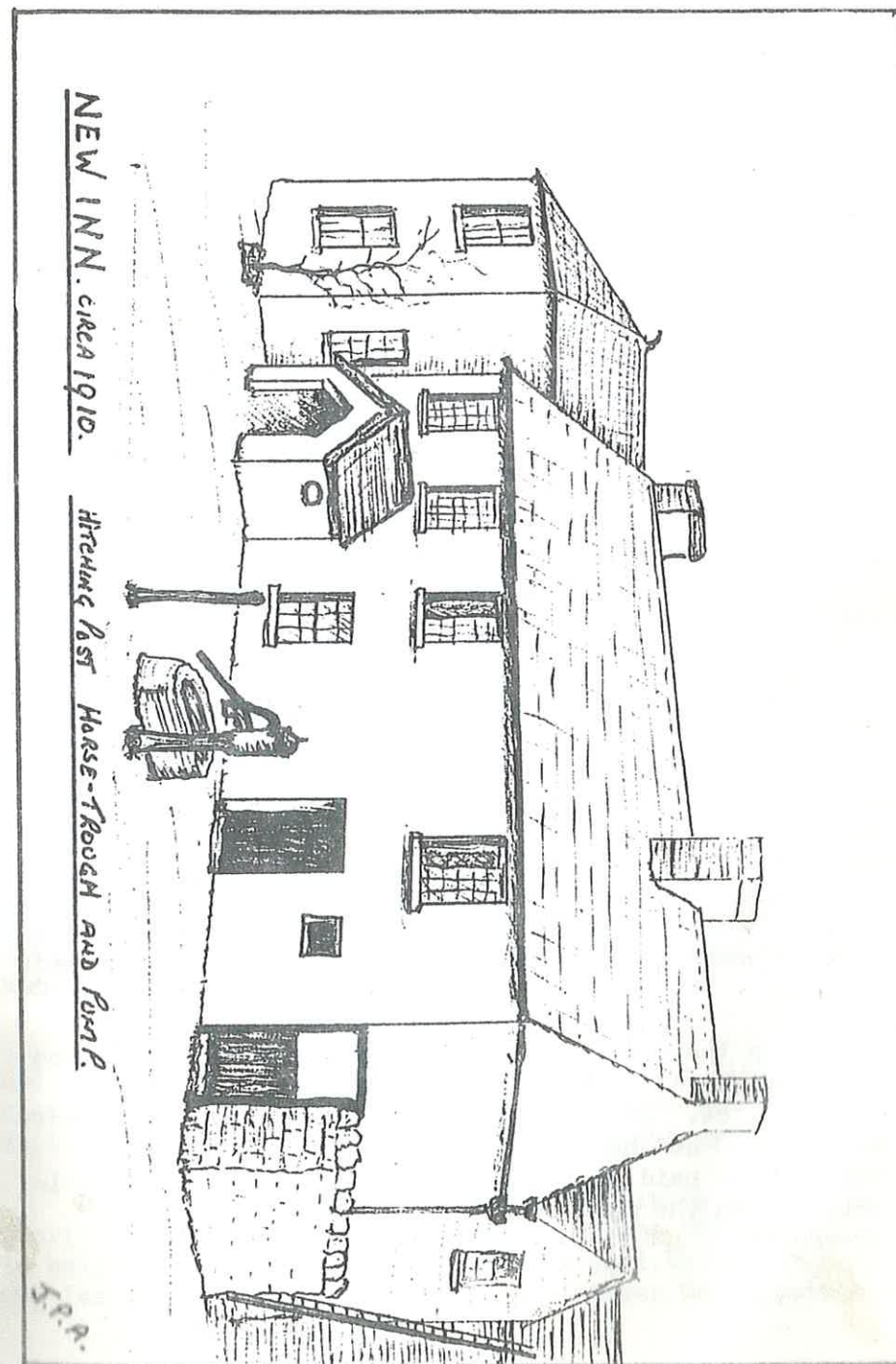
No information is available concerning the 1st PATCHWAY SCOUT GROUP. Perhaps you can assist the Scouts in un-earthing something of the history of this Group.

THE ARMY CADET FORCE IN PATCHWAY

The Patchway Detachment had its origins in the T.A. building in Old Market, Bristol and was for many years known as the "Old Market" Detachment.

In 1967 the old T.A. Centre was closed down and with the re-organisation of the T.A. the Cadets were moved out to Patchway where they established themselves in premises rented in the Pavilion in the Scott Playing Fields. At this time the Cadets still lived in the Old Market area of Bristol but of course local boys joined the Unit, before long all the Cadets were Patchway boys, and it really became the local Detachment.

In September 1969 the Patchway Detachment of the Avon Army Cadet Force moved into their own purpose-built accommodation in Coniston Road. Lieutenant Norman Fisher is in command and he is ably assisted by Staff Sergeants Ford, Cocking and Hibbs. There are 21 young men in the Detachment and I am told that of all the 27 Detachments in the County of Avon this Patchway Detachment is regarded as one of the best. Their smartness has often been favourably commented upon when



they march to St. Chad's for the Service of Remembrance on Armistice Sunday.

THE PATCHWAY YOUTH CLUB

In 1938 the Rev. Vernon Reece was responsible for the erection of a large wooden hut at St. Chad's Church Rodway Road, and this building served as Patchway Youth Club until about 1960.

The Club was started purely as a Church Club but eventually any youngster in the area was welcome to join. The Rev. John Smith arrived in the Parish in 1949 and found himself Chairman of a very efficient Management Committee and a very capable Leader in Mr. Les Jones. In the mid 1950's the Canteen was run by Mrs. Audrey King who later ran the Club for a period after Mr. Jones left.

By 1960 it became apparent that the wooden building had outlived its usefulness and would have to be replaced. At this time Mr. Trevor Walsh was Area Youth Organiser for Gloucestershire and he and Councillor Norman Scott went to great lengths to smooth the way through the tangle of local government regulations in order that a new Youth Club could be built. The youth of Patchway owe a great deal to these two gentlemen and also to a long list of local people who have given a great deal of their time to ensuring that such a Club is available for their use.

When the new Youth Centre opened in 1961 there was a membership of some 250 and another 50 were on the waiting list. At this time Mr. Ken Jones was the Leader of the Club and he had Mrs. Audrey King and Mr. Pete Pepworth as paid part-time Leaders while a rota of volunteers ran the Canteen. Mr. Tom King was the Hon. Treasurer.

PATCHWAY YOUTH CENTRE

This Centre, situated in Coniston Road is a single storey building of modern design specially built to serve the young people of Patchway.

The principal users of the Centre are the Youth Club and the Guides and Brownies but it is interesting to note that the Youth Centre also serves some seventy of our Senior Citizens every week! Under arrangements made through the Patchway Old Peoples' Welfare Committee a Dinner Club meets here every Wednesday. After enjoying a good dinner many of the diners remain in the Centre for the afternoon and enjoy a Bingo Session.

The Youth Club is run by a Management Committee. The President is Dr. D.H. Fox and the Chairman is J.T. Wightman Esq. J.P. The day-to-day activities are organised by Mr. J. Panting and assisted by a strong team of part-time workers they cope with some 500 youngsters every week.

The Club is open to anyone over 11 years of age and meets every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and a list of the Club's activities is surprisingly comprehensive. On Mondays and Thursdays there are social activities such as Disco-Dances and on Tuesdays and Wednesdays there are programmes which include:- Netball Coaching, Table Tennis Coaching and League Matches, Weight Training, Arts and Crafts, Judo, Mini-Badminton and Film Shows.

Holiday trips are organised to Spain and Majorca and Skating trips are organised to the Silver Blades Rink in Bristol. Skittles, Darts and Five-a-Side Football competitions also take place in due season.

Nor is this all - a Fund Raising Activity for Charity is usually in progress - at present this Club is helping to educate a young African girl by making regular contributions to Action in Distress Organisation.

This popular Club which has been lead by Mr. J.H. Panting since 1964 is working to its full capacity and like all our local voluntary enterprises it would welcome larger accommodation and more adult assistants.

Having briefly surveyed our community and some of the activities which go on within it we may perhaps be surprised to learn that there are people of all ages here who can say that Patchway is a "dump" - a dead place - where there is "nothing to do." Given the will to find it there is no end to the "home-made" comradeship and interest which can be found in our midst. For the young there are the Guide Companies and Scout Troops and the Army Cadet Force. If one does not like to wear a uniform then there is the Youth Centre with all its many activities. Should none of these appeal why not consider the Youth Groups run by the local churches? These all have much to offer during the week. Incidentally - have you realised that trying to understand and live the Christian life is in itself one of the greatest and toughest adventures - (and a full time one at that) that anyone can face up to? There is nothing soft or "namby-pamby" about it - it is a challenge which calls for more stamina and integrity than most of us can muster - on our own - yet everyone can succeed and enjoy the struggle.

For the older person of any age Patchway offers many opportunities of friendship and service. For example all the abovementioned organisations welcome Leaders and Assistants and supporters and everyone has something to offer. To "belong" to any group is to find friendship and pleasure.

Membership of the Patchway Community Association gives one the opportunity to join specialised Groups which cater for members of all age groups and tastes whether it be Drama (and this Group offers much more than just "acting". Can you make costumes, do scene painting, cope with electrics etc?).

If DRAMA or FENCING or BADMINTON do not appeal then there are other less strenuous activities such as an ART GROUP and FIRST AID TRAINING and of course there is a thriving Old Age Pensioners Association, why not call in and have a chat with the Warden.

Probably we in Patchway are more fortunate than many other modern local communities in the number and range of the groups of organisations with which the newcomer or the lonely may become involved. Unless one suffers from physical incapacity there is no need to be lonely or be at a loss for "something to do". However it must be pointed out that nothing is ever acquired without effort. One must make the effort to join the organisation of one's choice and then be prepared to put in a certain amount of time and participation before the friendships and the interests begin to materialise. To those who say "there is nothing to do" one must ask do you wish to "do" anything? or "do you expect entertainment, interest and friendship to "arrive" out of thin air?"

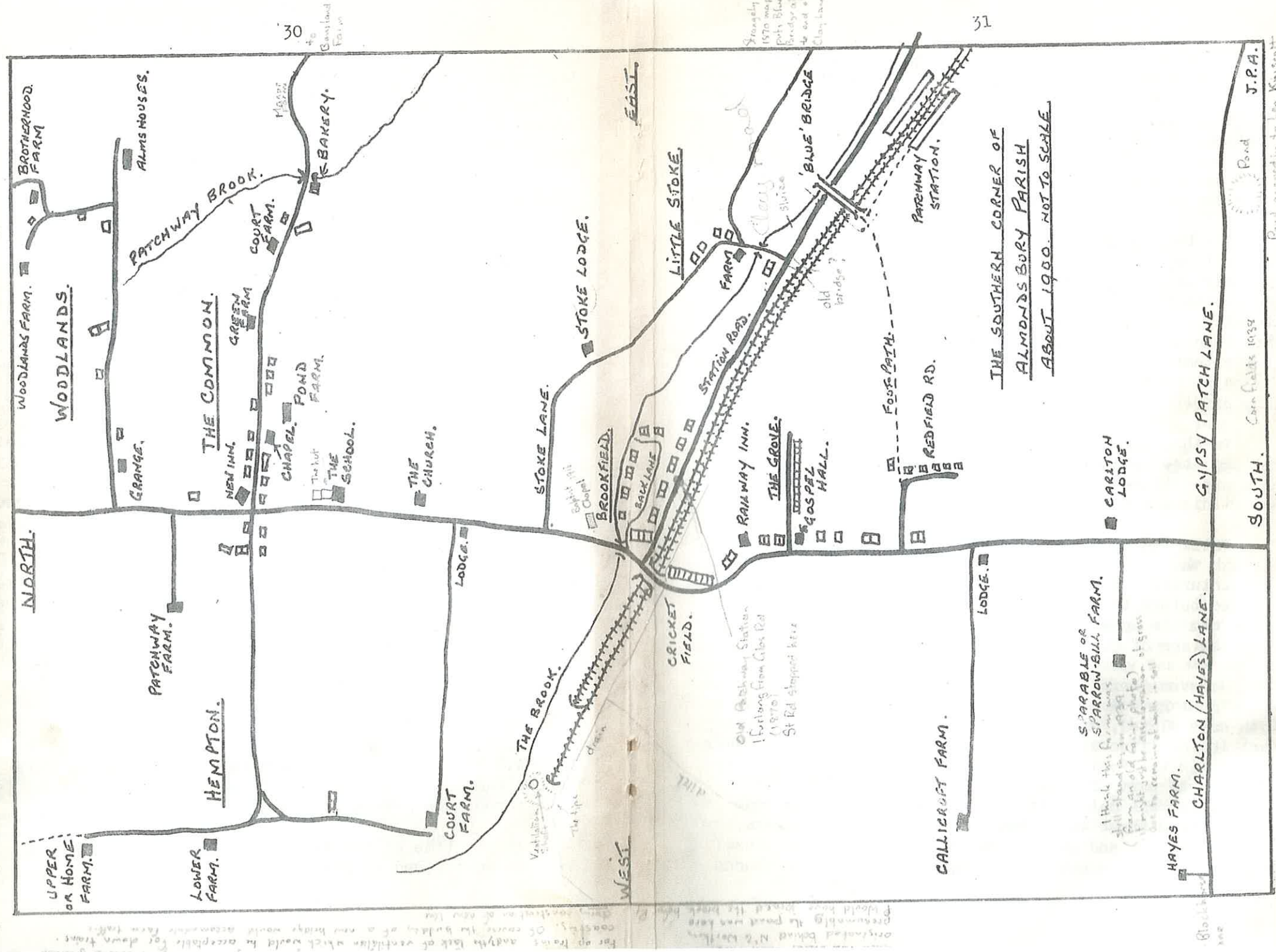
THE TRADING ESTATES

The building of houses in Patchway is still in progress especially at the upper end of Coniston Road and it is in this same north western corner of the community that one of the most recent and interesting developments has taken place. This is the PATCHWAY TRADING ESTATE. The Estate covers several acres and the tenants include John Laing & Son Ltd., Johnson & Johnson, B.O.C. Transfield Ltd., Tibbett & Britten Ltd., Haden Young Ltd., Magnet Joinery Ltd., Securicor Ltd., Osram (G.E.C) Ltd., Inter-County Express, Tempco, Severn Cold Storage, A.A. Relay Services, National Westminster Bank Ltd., C & A Modes, and Woolworths and several more large warehouses are being built. All these firms bring valuable business to the area and of course they provide many different types of employment for local residents. In this respect the huge complex of the CARRIFOUR Hypermarket adjoining

the TRADING ESTATE must also be welcomed.

The great success of this Trading Estate - which was built by Messrs. J. Laing during the last decade - and the need for yet more houses in the area has no doubt caused our planners to decide to "develop" the few remaining fields and farms to the north and east. The area from Hempton Lane to the M5 is designated for industrial development and will consist of factories, warehouses and offices. Adequate new roads to give good access both from Hempton Lane and the main access point which will be just opposite Woodlands Lane are planned. In the centre of the complex there is to be an AMENITY AREA. This will take the form of a shopping area consisting of banks, post office, cafes, restuarants and other services required by a large work force who are only in the area during the day. According to the present plans no residential buildings will be erected to the west of the A38. The residential development is planned to take place in the fields near the top end of The Common. When these two schemes are completed the rural and agricultural community which we "surveyed" in the first pages of this booklet will have become completely transformed into a modern built-up residential and commercial community. Let us all try to make it a pleasant and happy community.

the clay was... Therefore the deeper line would be the later as otherwise the old bridge could have been extended, but the deeper cutting would have undermined it. It would be interesting to look for remains of such a bridge on the west side



30

31

Strongly 1570 map
pink blue
boundary of
to end of
Clay lane

THE SOUTHERN CORNER OF
ALMONDS BURY PARISH
ABOUT 1900. NOT TO SCALE

SPARROW-BILL FARM.

I think this farm was
still standing in 1939
(from an old aerial photo)
might just be a remnant of grass
due to certain of walls in 1911

Old Patchway Station
! built from Gibs Rd
(1870)
St Rd stopped here

Pond
SOUTH. Green fields 10/39

J.P.A.

Parish map sent to Len Kingdon
where N 4 Shop is located. Aerial photo 1939

Block
map

For op trans analysis take of ventilation which would be acceptable for down trans.
coasting. Of course the build of a new bridge would be acceptable for down trans.
They consist of one line
I should have noted the brick house
originally behind the post was here