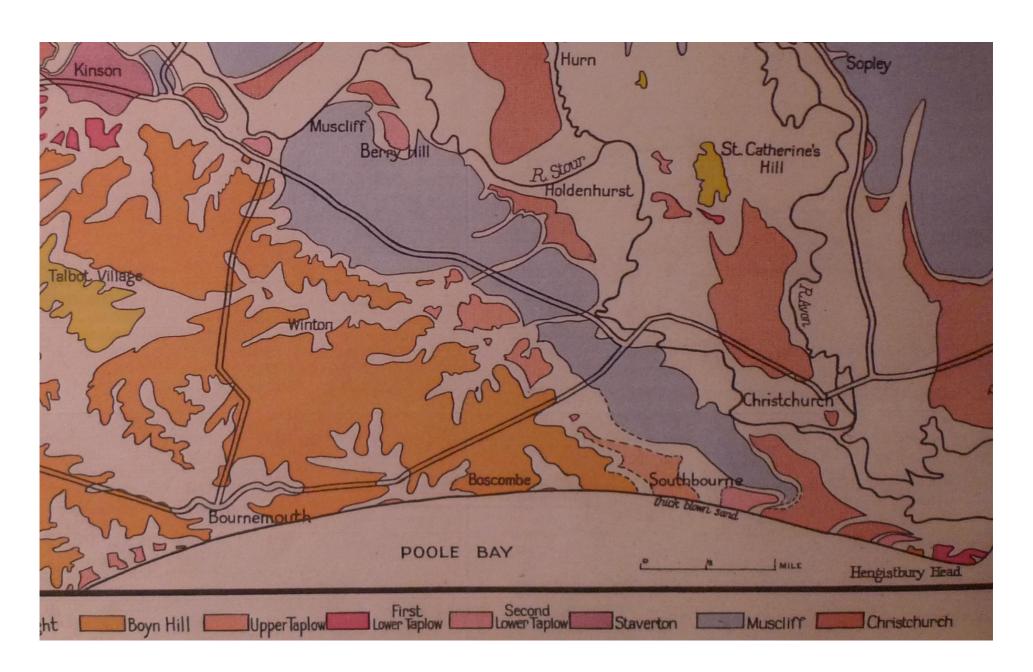
THE VILLAGE OF TUCKTON, 35,000 BC – 1926

(INTERSPERSED WITH INGENIOUS REFERENCES TO MOORDOWN)

BY
ALEX McKINSTRY

The Muscliff Delta



The Muscliff Delta

Also known as 'the Muscliff Terrace', this is the gravel bed that lies under much of north and east Bournemouth – formed c. 35,000 BC, when 'the Aurignacian oscillations', a series of temperature changes, engendered a melting of ice-sheets.

The Solent and its tributaries were inundated; the result was this very flat gravel terrace, where the Stour, then in its embryonic stage, ran a smooth course.

Cranleigh Road



'Very flat, Tuckton'







The Broadway area



A brief history of Broadway

- Mainly cabbage fields until 1910, when hedges, allotments, etc were grubbed out to make 'the Southbourne aerodrome'.
- This was for the so-called Bournemouth Centenary fêtes, the unintended highlight of which was the Hon. Charles Rolls, managing director of Rolls-Royce Ltd., crash-landing his plane onto the present playing fields of St. Peter's School.
- The band pretended nothing had happened, and struck up with the Barcarolle from Offenbach's Les contes d'Hoffman.
- Most of the land vested, at that point, in the executors of James Druitt (1816-1904), Herbert Druitt's even more cantankerous father.

A brief history of Broadway

- 1925: land immediately east of Belle Vue Road was sold, by James Druitt's executors, to Alfred Curling Hunter (1873-1949).
- Hunter developed 'the Brightlands Estate' there, and cut the first stretch of Broadway in 1925.
- As cut by Hunter, Broadway terminated at Springfield Avenue which led onto Thornbury Road, the ancient road to Double Dykes (then known as 'Broadway Lane').
- Broadway was only extended to Hengistbury the following decade, following the purchase of the Head by Bournemouth Borough Council; the works were eventually completed on 2 January 1939.

A brief history of Broadway

- 4 May 1925: Isaac White (1878-1934), a Romany labourer nicknamed 'the Black White', unearthed a 5.1 inch-long handaxe while digging beneath the Broadway area, trenching for sewers.
- Herbert Druitt's diary, 7 May 1925: 'At 7, Isaac White of 16
 Livingstone Rd brought me a flat Palaeolith found by him
 Monday last 4th 12-13 ft. deep on sand excavating sewer in
 Day's Field between the two lanes below Coastguard'.
- Druitt was so impressed by the item's mint condition, he paid eight shillings for it.
- A similar hand-axe also in perfect condition was unearthed just east of the Wildown Road turning in 1931.

Sub-Broadway Palaeoliths



Sub-Broadway Palaeoliths

White's palaeolith side-on, c/o the Red House. Its Wildown Road counterpart reposes in the British Museum.

'That these two items were devoid of wear suggests they belonged to an ancient land surface which had passed beneath the Broadway gravels; mindful of this, Calkin dated both objects to the Middle Palaeolithic period (85,000 – 35,000 BC), the era of Cro-Magnon man.'

- A. McKinstry, *The Village of Tuckton,* 35,000 BC – 1926 (Christchurch: Natula, 2015), p. 2.

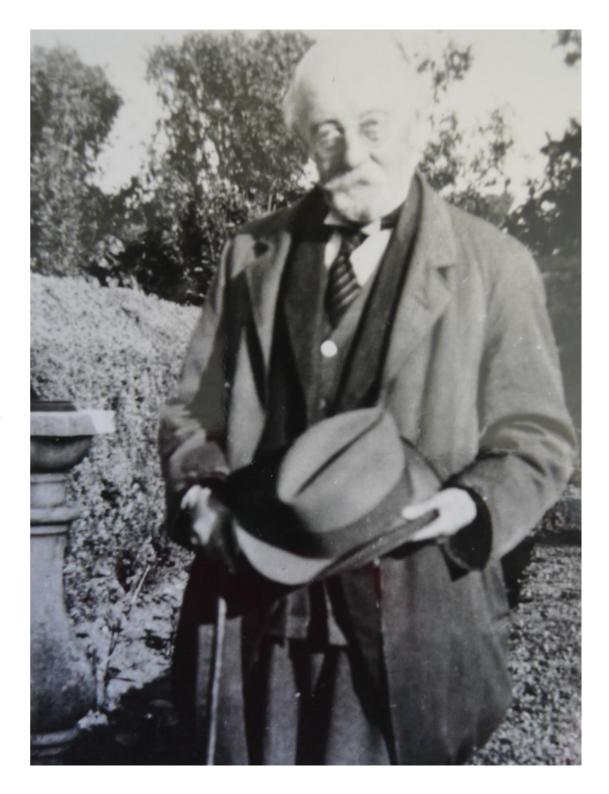


Herbert Druitt, 1876-1943

Founder of the Red House Museum. Devoted antiquarian whose collection of *objets trouvés*, mostly associated with Christchurch, forced him out of two sizeable properties and almost out of a third.

'I asked Donovan Lane if he ever visited Herbert Druitt at Woodstock [43 Barrack Road, Christchurch]. Oh yes! It was impossible to get through the front door due to all the books. They were everywhere, including the bedrooms. He used to eat his meals sitting on a pile of books in the passageway.'

- Allen White's notebook, 1967



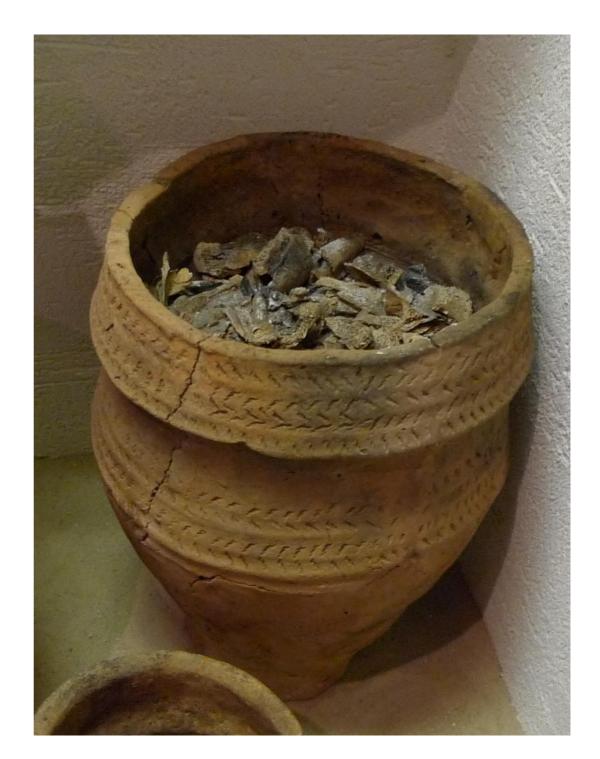
The Wick Lane necropolis



Urn exhumed at the Magnolia Close site, 1927

'In evening I examined Pot A finding nearly all the pieces ... I wish that fool of a navvy hadn't broken it "for fun" '

- Herbert Druitt's diary, 18 July 1927



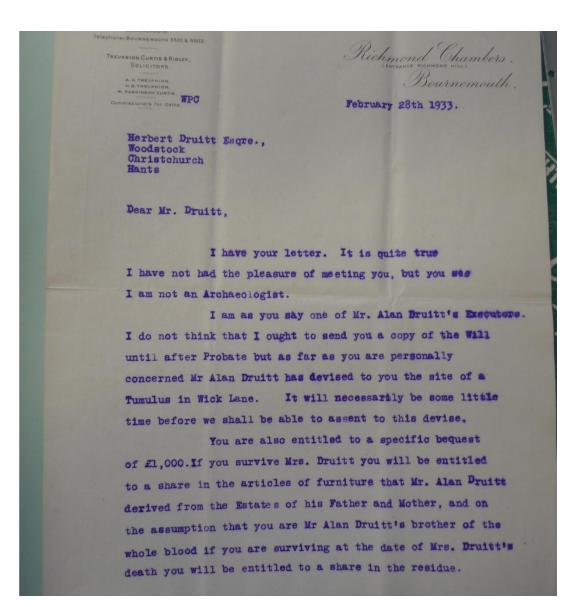
Bournemouth's largest tumulus



Bournemouth's largest tumulus

Purchased by Alan Druitt from the trustees of his father's estate (in 1925), and bequeathed to Herbert Druitt in 1933. This is a round barrow, typical of the Early Bronze Age (c. 1900 BC) and the largest of the five remaining tumuli in the Bournemouth borough.

It has never been excavated, though the police were called when some nocturnal digging took place here in 1963 . . .



"Any rural digging would have been suspicious . . ."



The Tuckton bucket

Unearthed on the site of The Riverside Inn (right) in 1882; this was a bucket-shaped cremation urn with four lughandles, typical of Late Bronze Age settlers (c. 800 BC).

'In quality and design the pottery of the newcomers was much inferior to that which it displaced.' - J. Bernard Calkin, 'The Tuckton Urn' (1940)



The Tuckton bucket

- The vessel somehow entered the keeping of T.
 J. Hankinson, first Mayor of Bournemouth, whose executors donated it to Bournemouth Borough Council in 1906.
- Vaguely associating it with culture, the Council placed the urn and its cremated human contents on display in 'the Free Library', Old Christchurch Road, transferring it to the Lansdowne reference library in 1913.

The Tuckton bucket

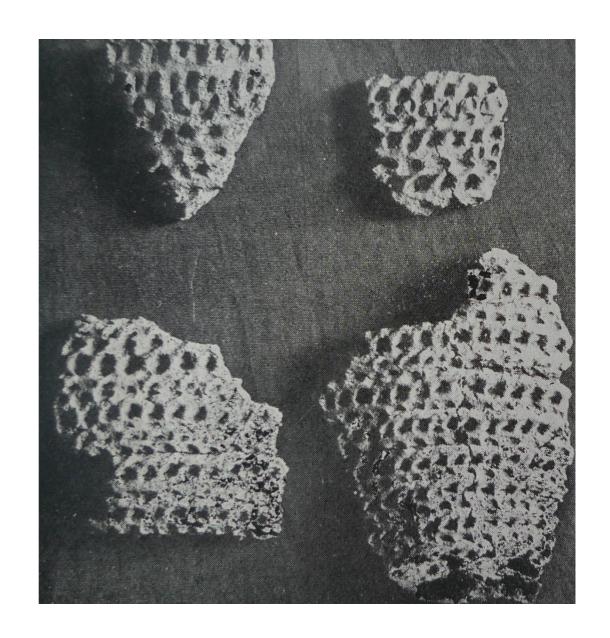
The urn was damp-dusted throughout the 1930s by a twenty-stone library assistant, Miss 'Jumbo' Gubbins, who used to sign her name with a drawing of an elephant.

In 1940, with bombs raining down, the urn was put into storage. What became of it thereafter is a mystery, though the Lansdowne Library sign happily survives . . .

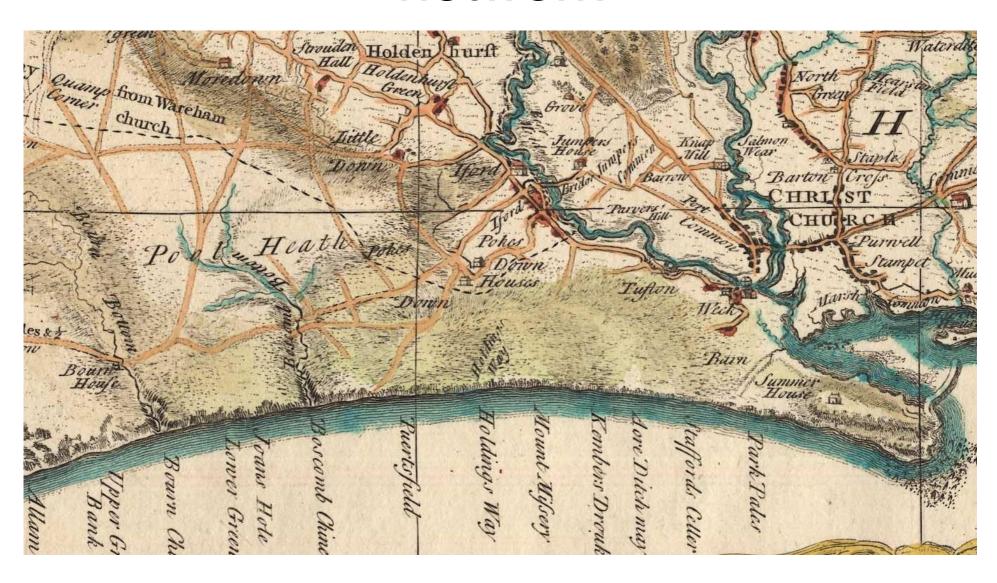


Superior rusticated ware

Some far classier Late Bronze Age pottery was found in Moordown, when the lower end of Nursery Road was under development, 1929. 'Unfortunately the greater part of it was thrown away.' – J. Bernard Calkin, 'The Bournemouth District in the Bronze Age' (1935), p. 32.



The Anglo-Saxon strategic road network



Anglo-Saxon toponymy

 Kinson – personal name Cynestan + OE tūn, 'enclosure'; listed as 'Chinestanestone' in Domesday, 1086

Moordown – OE mōr, 'wilderness' + dūn, 'hill'

 Holdenhurst – OE holēgn, 'holly' + hyrst, 'copse'; listed as 'Holeest' in Domesday

Iford – OE yfer, 'slope'. Recorded as a bridging place ('pontem de Huver') c. 1140.

Anglo-Saxon toponymy

 Tuckton – personal name Tocca + OE tūn, 'enclosure'

Wick – OE wīc, 'farm' (usually a dairy farm)

 Hengistbury – personal name Heda or Heddin + OE burh, 'fortification' ('Hedenesburia', c. 1152; nothing to do with Hengist or Horsa).

Earliest known reference to Tuckton

Tocketon

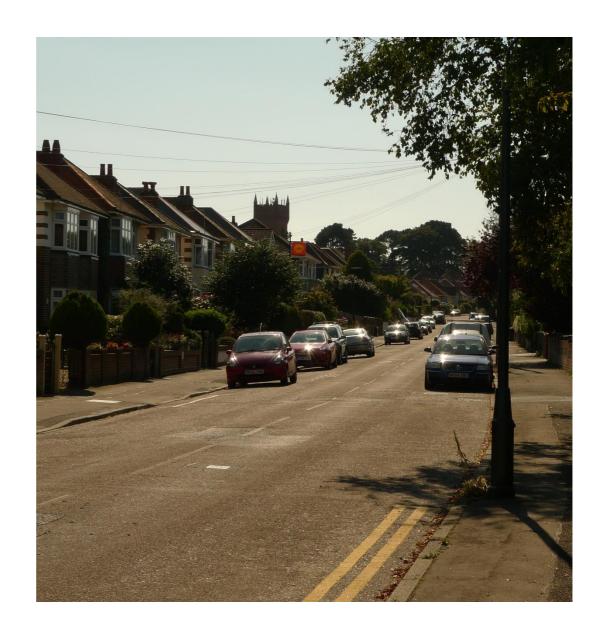
Rob le Koc ten di virgate de acr xiii. aqd. et. i. aqd pu. et. di. redd mde. v. s. v. d.

Rental survey in the Christchurch cartulary, 7 February 1271.

Origins of **Tuckton Road's** residential stretch?

Under a charter of Baldwin de Redvers. c. 1140. the Christchurch canons were granted the right to take two cartloads of turf from the heath west of Tuckton per day, to fuel their kitchens.

'To collect the turf, the monks would probably have forded the river at Wick, proceeding to the heath via Tuckton and the lane that branches to the southwest.' – McKinstry (op. cit.), p.



The Manor of Wick

A large fish ("uni magno piscis") was washed up at "La Bournemowthe" and taken to the Manor of Wick in Westover ("portes ... est in mani di compte vocatu Wyke apd Westore") where it was cut into forty pieces ("conscisus in xl rondis").

Earliest known reference to Bournemouth – from a note in the Christchurch cartulary. The fish was washed up on 13 October 1406.

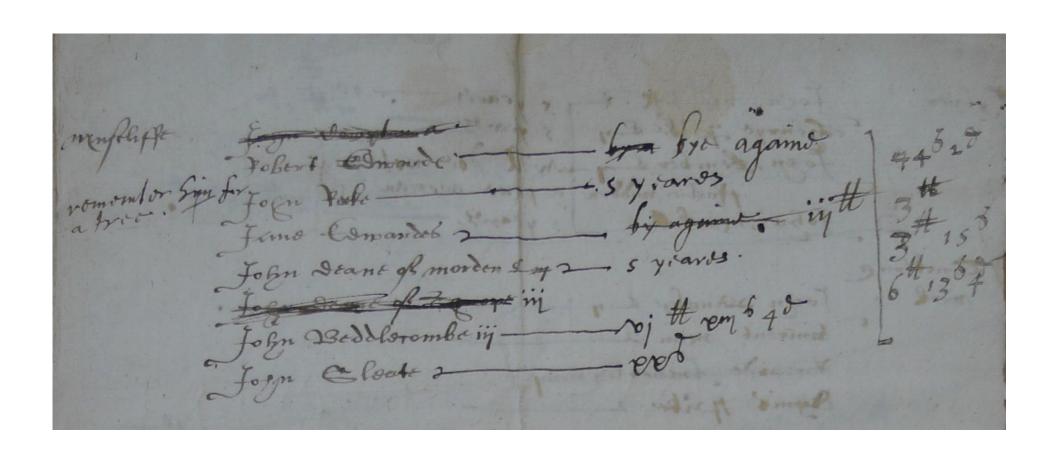
The Tithing of Tuckton and Wick

- Administratively, Tuckton and Wick was a tithing in the Hundred of Westover and included all the Southbourne and Hengistbury areas (1,163 acres). Moordown, meanwhile, formed part of the Muscliff tithing.
- This remained the case until the Local Government Act 1894 replaced tithings with civil parishes / rural / urban districts.
- At that point, Tuckton and Wick became part of the Southbourne Civil Parish, while Moordown became part of the Winton and Moordown Urban District.
- Both areas, in turn, formed part of the Christchurch Rural District until 1901, when they were absorbed into the Borough of Bournemouth.

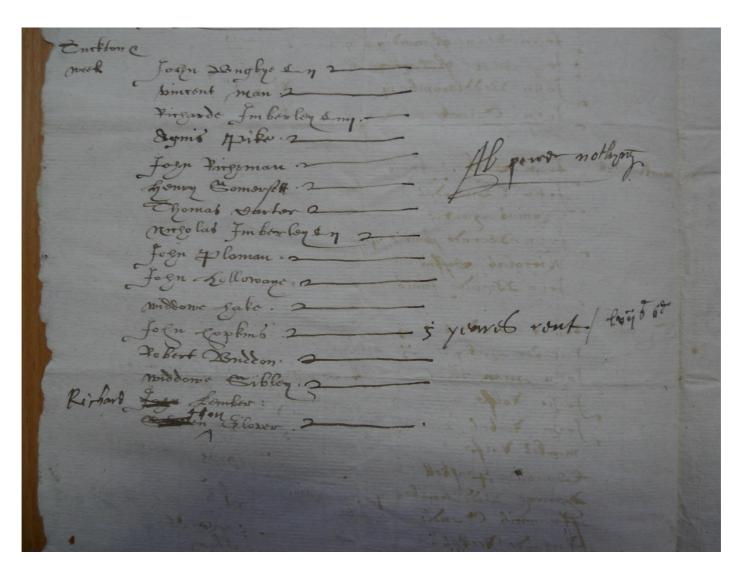
The Hastings survey, c. 1597-1601

- In 1597, the Manor of Christchurch was assigned to Henry Hastings of Woodlands, Dorset, who sold most of it to Lord Arundell of Wardour in 1601.
- Before the sale, Hastings carried out a valuation exercise asking his tenants how much advance rent they would 'willinglye grante' him.
- Those in the Tuckton and Wick tithing pledged to pay him 'nothyng', on the grounds that they were 'all poore'.
- The Muscliff tithing included 'John Deane of Morden Esq.', who
 pledged to pay Hastings 5 years' rent.
- Directions for Muscliff were given in the survey: 'remember [the] sign for a tree'.

'John Deane of Morden Esq.': the Hastings survey, c. 1597-1601



'All poore': the Hastings survey, c. 1597-1601



Extravagant transvestism

Alleged portrait of Edward Hyde, MP for Christchurch until 1701. His father, the 2nd Earl of Clarendon, began selling off the Manor of Christchurch – including most of Tuckton – in the 1690s, to cover his son's excessive lifestyle costs.

The large copyhold estate at Tuckton, including most of modern Southbourne, was sold for £350 in 1698.



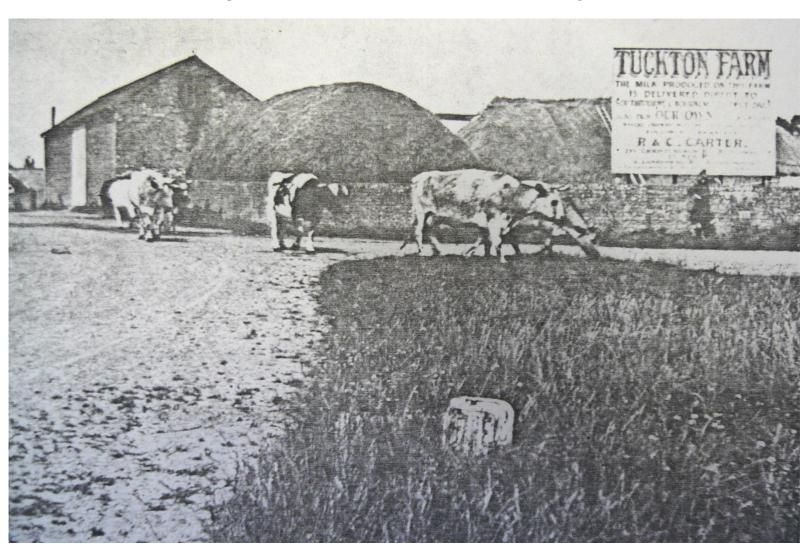
Tuckton, mother of Southbourne



The first 'Tuckton Farm'

- Consisted of land south of Tuckton Road, but extending as far as the present Southbourne cliffs.
- Went through various owners and was purchased in 1792 by John Sloman (c. 1760-1823), an Islington draper, along with Wick House.
- Inherited by his son, a second John Sloman (1804-1880), who
 used the clifftop land to build pigsties; the foundations were
 10ft. deep, to outwit the local rabbit population.
- Sloman despaired of his investment and sold the clifftop land to Wadham Locke in 1850; eventually this was conveyed to Dr. Thomas Compton (1838-1925), who founded the resort of Southbourne there.

The second 'Tuckton Farm' (*c.* 1840-1926)

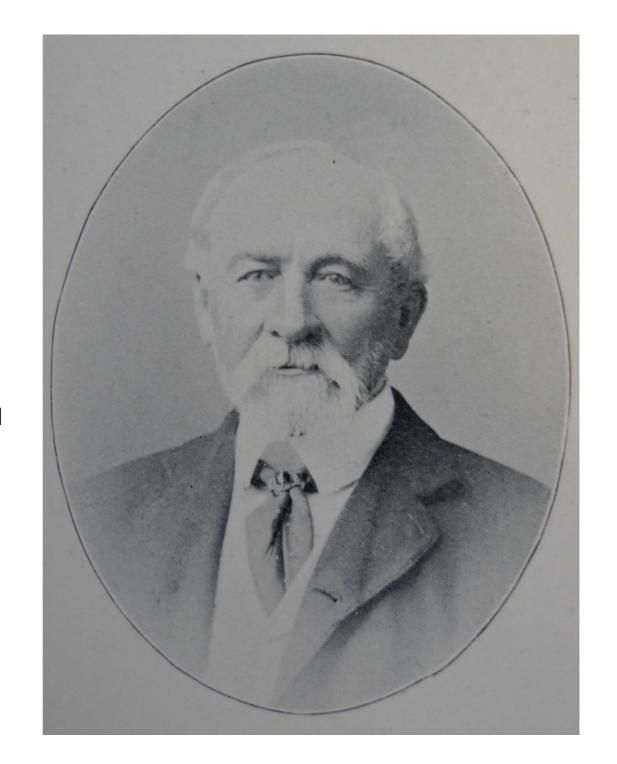


Frederick Moser (1822-1911)

Iron merchant, born in Southwark.

Retired to 'Carbery' (22-room Gothic property above Tuckton), 1865, with his second wife.

Purchased Tuckton Farm, 1870-3, in a two-stage manoeuvre; most of Tuckton's owner-occupiers will have Moser's name among their property deeds.



Carbery (built c. 1857 – demolished 1960)



Carbery (built *c*. 1857 – demolished 1960)

'Carbery ... stood on the site of Belle Vue Close, and some residents will recall its later incarnation as Southbourne Preparatory School or "Southbourne Prep", demolished in 1960 after the retirement of its last headmaster, Frank Morgan ... The building had changed little, externally at least, in the 1950s – save for an aluminium toilet block beyond the French windows, and a 160-ft. model railway track, with replica colliery engine, that ran around the school grounds."

- McKinstry (*op. cit.*), p. 57.

Tuckton House (built c. 1880 – demolished 1965)

Built by Frederick Moser for his son as a wedding present, *c*. 1880, but sold in 1891. Known, much later, as 'Tuckton Nursing Home' or 9 Saxonbury Road.

'Tuckton House ... had been built by a rich man for his son + the son's wife did not like it.' – Theresa Valois (1882-1986), an affiliate of the Tolstoy colony at Tuckton, 10 April 1968. It was purchased by Yelizaveta Tchertkoff c. 1900 for use by the said colony.



Vladimir Tchertkoff (1853-1936)



The Tolstoy colony

- Headed by Vladimir Grigoryevich Tchertkoff, friend and literary agent to Leo Tolstoy, exiled from Russia in 1897 on account of political beliefs.
- Choosing an English exile, he joined an experimental colony at Purleigh in Essex, who were looking to put certain Tolstoyan pieties – teetotalism, vegetarianism, renunciation of property – into practice.
- Moved to Tuckton after in-fighting among the Purleigh colony in 1900.
- His mother Yelizaveta, an Anglophile, had been holidaying at Southborne since the 1870s and eventually purchased 'Slavanka' ('house of peace') in Belle Vue Road – demolished in 2006.



The colony outside Tuckton House, *c*. 1900: Tchertkoff and his son, Vladimir Vladimirovich – born 1889 – are in the back row. Front row, second right, is Tchertkoff's wife Anna (1859-1927), trustee of the colony's funds. She had ruptured a lung during childbirth, and spent half her life in a wheelchair, yet she outlived several people in the photograph – including her nurse, Sarah Stranden (d. 1905), who is seated on the right.



Melita Norwood (1912-2005)

'The spy who came in from the Co-Op'

Born Melita Sirnis at 402 (now 890) Christchurch Road, Pokesdown, 1912

Daughter of Alexander Sirnis (1881-1918), editor and manager of the Free Age Press at Tuckton, 1909-18

Spent 40 years spying for the KGB and was finally exposed, though not prosecuted, in 1999. Almost certainly developed pro-Russian beliefs while still in her pantaloons at Tuckton House.



Olga Tolstoy, *née*Dieterichs

Sister of Anna Tchertkoff, and spouse to Andrei Tolstoy, son of the novelist, until leaving him on account of his infidelities.

After separating from Andrei she came to Tuckton and lived at 'New Home', now 31 Saxonbury Road (right). 'There are suggestions she did not quite fit in with the colony ... donning pearls and black lace before sitting down to dine with peasants' – McKinstry (op. cit.), p. 117



Arthur Fifield (1867-1945)

- Joint editor (with Tchertkoff) and business manager of the Free Age Press, 1900-2: this had been set up at Purleigh to bring Tolstoy's religious and ethical works to an English audience.
- They produced dirt-cheap, cloth-covered publications, whose texts were gleaned from Tolstoy's papers and diaries – to which Tchertkoff had exclusive access.
- Fifield was also appointed joint translator for the Free Age Press, even though he knew no Russian. Before falling out with Tchertkoff, he lived and worked at 6 Old Priory Road ('3 Priory Road' on the 1901 census).

6-8 Old Priory Road



Translating Tolstoy

Fifield and Tchertkoff would start work in the latter's first-floor study at Tuckton House, thrashing out a draft text.

'At home I would rewrite the whole of the trial translation, attempting a more uniform level of the exaltation and passion with which Tolstoy generally wrote ... At our next meeting I would read out my amended version, while the Russian partner would check it word by word by the text; after which at home I would make a complete final draft for the printer.'

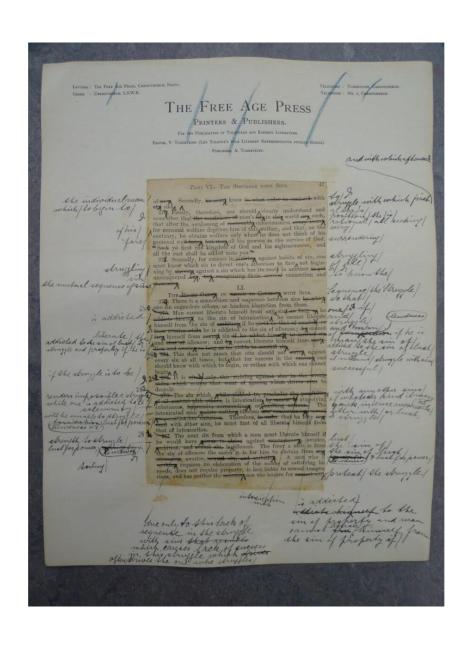
- A. C. Fifield, 'The Free Age Press ... A Brief Statement of its Work' (1933), p. 11

Translating Tolstoy

'... I kept Tchertkoff himself so much up to the mark in this continuous slavery that he would often protest and attempt to procrastinate – generally in vain. In the end he would praise my persistence and welcome the results; thereby sealing his fate at the next effort.'

- Fifield (op. cit.), p. 11

Draft translation of 'The Christian Teaching', published by the Free Age Press in 1901



The Iford Lane printing works



The Iford Lane printing works

Erected as a pumping station for the Bournemouth Gas and Water Company in 1880-1, to pump water from the aquifer here to Boscombe – specifically, to the 72-ft. water tower in Palmerston Road.

Abandoned by the water company in 1887, after silt from the aquifer kept blocking the pumping equipment.

Sold to Anna Tchertkoff in 1906 (having initially been rented by the colony). Later used as a coachbuilding works, and converted into luxury homes – River Park – in 1989.



The back office at Tuckton House, added 1906



The back office at Tuckton House

'Here was a strongroom worthy of the name. Unsupported by any other part of the house, it stood equipped with locks, alarms, a massive inner door, a steel grille, and reinforced concrete walls four feet thick. In later years, when Tuckton House was used as a nursing home, an attempt was made to convert this room into a bedroom; the attempt was called off after a week, when workmen had only managed to cut a four-inch diameter hole through one of the walls. Subsequently, the matron kept the room intact, and used it for storing her best china.'

- McKinstry (*op. cit.*), pp. 116-7



'The gardening brigade', Tuckton House, 13 May 1907

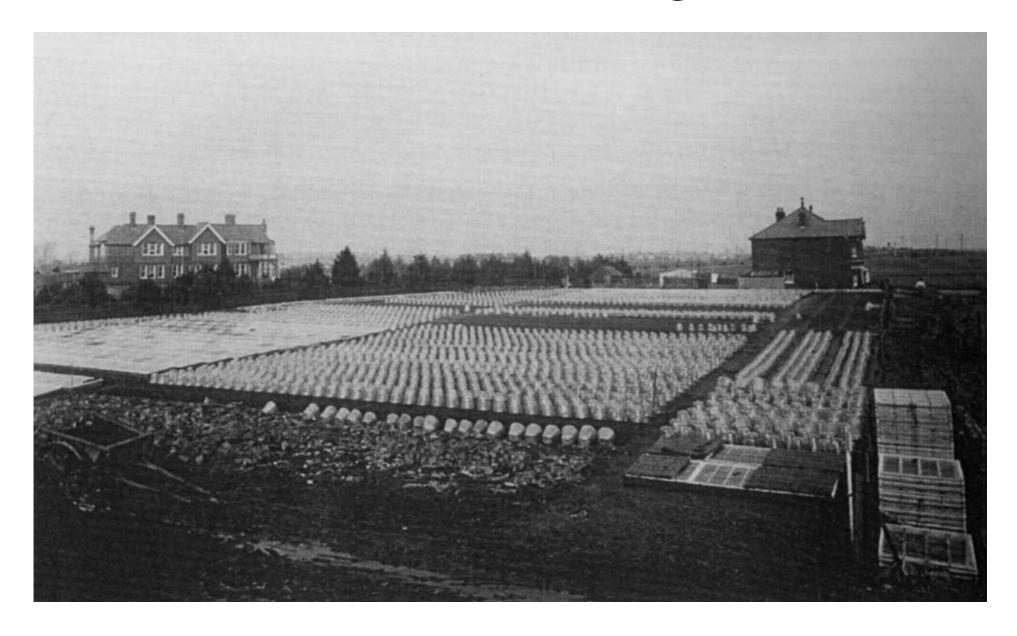


'The gardening brigade'

Most of the colony returned to Russia in 1908, Tchertkoff benefiting from a general pardon to political exiles – wrought from Tsar Nicholas II after the strikes and riots of 1905.

The Tuckton House groundsmen, mainly locals, found new employment with 'the French Gardening Company' across the river in Stour Road ...

The French Gardening Co. Ltd.



The French Gardening Co. Ltd.



The French Gardening Co. Ltd.



... until 5 November 1916. The company relocated shortly afterwards.



The end of a village

- Tuckton House was sold in 1929, following the death of Anna Tchertkoff; it was used as a nursing home until its demolition in 1965.
- Moser conveyed most of his remaining land at Tuckton to his two sons, to avoid death duties, in 1910.
- The Mosers proceeded with the cutting of Carbery Avenue and Watcombe Road in 1911-12. Further land was conveyed to Bournemouth Borough Council – hence Stourfield Infants' School (opened in 1912) and the Iford Lane playing fields.
- The remaining portions of Tuckton Farm were auctioned off for housing and shop sites in the 1920s.

The end of a village

- The French Gardening Co. Ltd. relocated to the site of the Douglas Avenue allotments, further down Stour Road. Their land was eventually sold off in 1923.
- The company's previous site in Stour Road enjoyed an interesting afterlife ...

The Tuckton Golf Course (1932-72)



The Tuckton Golf and Leisure Park, 1972-86 (incorporating the 'Tucktonia' model village, 1976-86)

