



THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
Restoration of Direct London Service via Oxford Line

LONDON IS NOW TWO HOURS AND THIRTY MINUTES FROM HEARTHCOMBE STATION.

The Directors beg to inform the public that the engineering works upon the Cotswold Line being now entirely completed, HEARTHCOMBE STATION has been officially designated an ALL SERVICES DEPOT & PRIMARY INTERCHANGE. Accelerated express steam trains, local valley parcels, and heavy industrial freights will make mandatory halts at the Heathcombe platforms daily.

STATION CALLS	Exp. 42	Parl. 11	Exp. 46	Coley Fr. 9
Paddington Dep	07:45 am	09:15 am	04:20 pm	—
Oxford	09:02 am	11:04 am	05:37 pm	09:10 pm
Kingham	09:58 am	12:20 pm	06:31 pm	10:42 pm
HEARTHCOMBE	10:15 am	12:42 pm	06:50 pm	11:15 pm
Moreton-in-Marsh	10:28 am	01:05 pm	07:03 pm	11:40 pm
Worcester Arr	11:05 am	02:15 pm	07:40 pm	01:05 am

THE LONDON EXPRESS — Departs Heathcombe Daily at 7:45 a.m. Arrives London Paddington 10:15 a.m. First and Third Class Carriages fitted throughout.

THE VALLEY PARLIAMENTARY — Local stopping service departing Heathcombe westward, calling at Thornwick, Upper Slaughter, and all valley stations. Departs thrice daily: 9:15 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:10 p.m.

HEAVY INDUSTRIAL FREIGHTS — Dedicated goods services for bulk transport, including coal and agricultural produce, available by arrangement. Enquire at Station Master's Office.



THE THORNWICK BADGER

Serving Thornwick and the Wider Valley — Est. MDCCCLXXXVII



The Only Honest Broadside in the Cotswolds — Published Independent of Manor or Mainline
Price: One Halfpenny, or a Pint at the Lower Taps — Saturday 17 July 1914

CONSTABLE BLAMES BEER FOR HIGH STREET "PHANTOM"

*Higgins Claims Working-Man's Ale Causes Sightings of Non-Existent "Telephone" Boxes
By "The Digger" Potts*

THE VALE — It seems the local constabulary has found a new way to avoid doing any actual police work: blaming our local brew for the presence of government-colored apparitions.

Word has reached the lower taps of a midnight encounter near the churchyard gates last Tuesday. Arthur Pendelton, after enjoying a quiet, honest pint—was walking home when he ran into a pair of eccentric strangers. Arthur describes the ringleader as a giant of a man in a preposterously long woolen scarf who offered him sweets before rambling about the "twentieth century." A sharp-tongued young lady with him quickly dragged him off into the fog, accompanied by a mechanical hum that sounded like a badly played cello...(cont'd pg3)

THE MIDNIGHT SPECIAL AT THE VALE SIDING

*Why Does "Estate Machinery" Require Armed Guards with Foreign Accents?
By Alfie "The Digger" Potts*

THE VALE — While the gentry at the Social House are busy patting themselves on the back, the working men at the railway siding are asking some very loud questions.

Late Sunday evening, a highly irregular GWR train slipped onto the Heathcombe siding, bypassing the normal timetable entirely. This wasn't your average coal drag or agricultural tender. It was a private train consisting of two heavily curtained passenger carriages and several massive, iron-bolted freight wagons, having traveled all the way from the Weymouth quayside.

THE REALIST'S WEATHER

While the gentlemen over at The Stag paint a pretty picture of seasonal sunshine, anyone holding a pair of dray reins knows we are in for a parched, sweltering furnace. A stubborn high-pressure ridge has locked itself over the vale, beating the unpaved lanes into a fine limestone powder that will choke every coat, lung, and wagon bed from here to Thornwick.



THE SOCIAL HOUSE, HEARTHCOMBE
Miss Sloane Duffy Requests the Pleasure of Your Company

THE WELSH RAREBIT FEAST — SUNDAYS FROM MIDDAY

In grateful response to the morning watch at St. Bridget's, the tap of the Social House remains especially all through the week. The seven dishes offered are: excellent tomato soup — the Welsh Rarebit Feast. Prepared with the finest sharp cheddar, stone-ground Whitefish mackerel, and robust Duffy & Ward's stout, roasted in a bubbling rich gold-spiced hand-cut rustic bread. Served in the table for families to share as they descend from the morning sermons. Wholesome, substantial, and entirely well worth noting.

Served to the table. No reservation required. All of Heathcombe welcomed. The bridge between the spirit and the pub has been forged — and heartily building plates at a time.

The Social House, High Street, Heathcombe. Tap open at midday. Miss Sloane Duffy, Proprietor.



THE HEARTHCOMBE GOLF, TENNIS & COUNTRY CLUB
THE VALE LINKS & ATHLETIC GROUNDS: OPEN TO ALL WHO PLAY.

In proud execution of the progressive civic spirit that defines our valley, the Directors beg to announce the completion of our expanded athletic campus. Open to every citizen without distinction of class, trade, or gender.

THE INLAND LINKS: Eighteen holes upon the downs. Red championship balls mandatory on the turn due to the calcified Martian Marf roughs.

LAWN TENNIS COURTS: Four newly rolled grass courts for single, double, and mixed gender play.

THE CRICKET CREASE: Open for parish tournaments and weekend matches.

THE JUVENILE BASEBALL DIAMOND
Introducing the Great American Pastime to the Valley

The Committee announces the formation of the Heathcombe Juvenile Baseball League under the exclusive instruction of Mr. Moses Walker, late of the American professional leagues — Head Coach and Master of Play. Mr. Walker brings a lifetime of expertise and a spirit of excellence to guide the next generation. League enrollment is now open at the Clubhouse. Training commences this Saturday at 10 A.M. No fees required. All equipment provided.

FOR HEALTH, FOR FELLOWSHIP, FOR THE FUTURE. — BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



THORNWICK & HEARTHCOMBE LIVERY OMNIBUS
HEARTHCOMBE TO THORNWICK AND ALL POINTS WEST. WE KNOW EVERY LANE.

With the Great Western Railway now routing ALL SERVICES directly into the Heathcombe Mainline Depot, our Livery stands ready at the forecourt. Comfortable enclosed horse-drawn carriages and modern luggage drays depart Heathcombe Station punctually to meet all incoming mainline arrivals, conveying passengers continuing onward into the rural valley where the steam tracks do not go. Commercial travelers, weekend visitors, and valley residents conveyed directly to High Street lodgings, farm gates, and all addresses the railway does not reach.

The lanes between Heathcombe and Thornwick are no obstacle in a valley horse. They never have been.

MODERATE FARES. Before bookings discussed for regular valley passengers. Leggers handling included. Safe transit guaranteed or the driver answers for it personally.

THE THORNWICK & HEARTHCOMBE LIVERY OMNIBUS CO.
Find us directly at the GWR Station Forecourt. WE WILL FIND YOU FIRST.



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THE GREAT WESTERN LAND-GRAB

Who Really Benefits from the Siding Extension?
 By Alfie "The Digger" Potts

The Parish Council and the GWR suits want us to cheer for the new siding extension as "valley progress." Let us call it by its right name: a high-handed land-grab designed to line the pockets of Great Western directors while pushing local draymen into the ditch. They promise it will bring cheaper coal and faster freight, but ask Arthur Pendelton how much GWR cares about local haulers when their heavy iron tenders blow steam directly into a skittish team of horses on High Street. Notice, too, whose pastures are being sliced through by the new right-of-way and whose prime timber lots miraculously avoided the surveyor's pegs. When the Council uses public funds to smooth the track for private railway dividends, that isn't progress—it's legal robbery with a brass conductor's whistle.

CONVICTS, CUT-OFFS, AND MUNICIPAL CRUMBS

The Council's Two-Pence Trap

By Alfie "The Digger" Potts

E. R. Thornton and his Council cronies have graced us with another official Proclamation, printed in that lofty, legalistic prose designed to make a working man's eyes bleed. Tucked beneath the puffed-up bureaucracy is a pair of very bitter pills for the parish to swallow.

First, they are throttling the auxiliary steam line at the Lower Mill works next Tuesday right in the middle of a shift—from eight in the morning until two in the afternoon. Thornton politely instructs factory overseers to "adjust operational schedules." What that actually means is mill hands lose six hours of piece-rate pay while the Council plays with pressure valves during the worst heatwave of the decade.

Second, to pay for this immaculate "inspection," they have fixed the general parish rate at two pence in the pound, starting August 1st. Isn't it remarkable how quick the Council is to dip into a laborer's pocket to subsidize steam lines that feed the big estates and GWR sidings, while the public hand-pumps on High Street yield nothing but rust and dry air? Pay your two pence, lads, and be grateful for the privilege of working in the dark while Thornton inspects his brass.

Our Advertisers



ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, HEARTHCOMBE
 Parish Notice — Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMENCES AT HALF PAST NINE.

Father O'Sullivan begs to remind all families of the parish that Sunday School instruction commences promptly at half past nine of the clock each Sunday morning. All children of the valley are warmly welcomed without distinction of household or circumstance. Families are encouraged to arrive in good time. The morning's instruction will conclude in sufficient order to allow the congregation to attend to whatever wholesome amusements they may have made for the remainder of the Sabbath forenoon.

Parents are reminded that special attention reflects well upon the household and the parish alike. Father O'Sullivan thanks the community for its continued cooperation in spiritual and civic matters.

ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, HEARTHCOMBE. ALL ARE WELCOME. HALF PAST NINE. SUNDAY



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STURDY COBS FOR THE STEEP HILLS.
CARRIAGES BY THE HOUR OR THE LEAGUE.
THE THORNWICK LIVERY & JOB-MASTERS

The Thornwick Livery & Job-Masters, having been established for over twenty years, are now in a position to offer the most complete and reliable service for the valley. Our fleet of stables, our expert drivers, and our modern carriages are all of the highest quality. We are also equipped with the latest in horse-drawn machinery, and our prices are the most reasonable in the valley.

Half-day hire rates reduced for valley residents through the winter quarter. Motor-carriage service by weekly arrangement.

New accounts for regular commercial drays welcomed.

FOR WHAT AILS YOU.
FOR WHAT INTERESTS YOU.



MANSEGH & CO. — Dispensing Chemists & Photographic Dealers

Mansegh & Co. dispense with equal expertness across two very different business fields. At the front counter, Mansegh's Chemist dispenses the latest in medicine and surgery, and provides relief for the dampstings and persistent coughs of valley life.

At the rear counter, fresh shipments of Eastman Kodak silver-gelatin plates, film, developing chemicals of the highest quality, and the latest in photographic apparatus are at the service of the valley's artistic community.

This fortnightly complimentary developing of one plate per roll purchased.

Long Tonic — three bottles for the price of two while the autumn stock lasts.

Mansegh & Co., High Street, Heathcombe. Dispensing and photographic requests welcome at separate counters, for the comfort of all concerned.



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(Cont'd from Pgr): But the real friction started when Arthur spotted a tall, bright red cabinet marked "Telephone" sitting on the High Street lane.

Nothing to See Here, Says Higgins

The next morning, Agnes Pendelton—rightfully worried that Arthur had finally cracked under the strain of his heavy drayage hours—dragged Constable Higgins out to the lane. Finding no scarlet box, Higgins immediately dismissed the entire affair as "over-indulgence" at the pub.

Let us be clear: Mose's Walker's Cream Ale is brewed from the valley's own springs and produces absolute clarity of mind. To suggest it makes a sober drayman see giant red telephone boxes is an insult to our intelligence.

(Cont'd from Pgr: Since when does a shipment of "estate supplies" require two luxury carriages? And more importantly, why were the GWR rail guards ordered to clear the platform while a group of men in heavy, foreign-cut military coats unloaded unmarked crates into the waiting drays of the Thornwick Livery?

Constable Higgins was, of course, nowhere to be found—likely sleeping off a pint of Moses Walker's Cream Ale. But The Badger is watching. Something heavy has just been smuggled into the valley, and it didn't come from London.

THE SOCIAL HOUSE SOUP & SHADY GENTRY Who's Sleeping Where, and Who's Paying for It?

The Stag prints the Gentry Directory to make us swoon; we print it so you know who is pulling the strings.

Swindon Engineers: A "delegation" from the rail works is taking up the best rooms at the Social House. Convenient that while they drink Sloane Duffy's fine draft, the rest of the vale deals with GWR coal smoke blowing through their kitchen windows.

Arthur's Watch: Constable Higgins claims he has Arthur Pendelton's dropped silver timepiece at the station. We suggest Arthur bring a witness when he goes to retrieve it—or Higgins might charge him an "auditing fee" just to hand it back over!

Our Advertisers



THE DARKNESS IS OPTIONAL.
HEARTHCOMBE GAS, LIGHT & COKE CO.

The valley's streets need not end at the lamp post. The Heathcombe Gas, Light & Coke Co. supplies clean-burning modern illumination in no longer a luxury of the city. It is available at the end of your lane.

shop frontages, and domestic cookstoves. No need. No tallow. No smoke. Modern illumination is no longer a luxury of the city. It is available at the end of your lane.

New domestic connections completed before the winter quarter. Commercial shopfront installations quoted free of charge. Existing customers — winter maintenance inspections available by arrangement.

Apply in writing or in person to the Company Office, Mill Road, Heathcombe. Gas is already in the ground. The connection is all that remains.



THE FINEST TABLE IN THE VALLEY BEGINS HERE.
T. NEWBURY — Purveyor of Fine Groceries & Provisioner

Fresh arrivals this week from Newbury's London warehouses — Cornish fish — shell fish, Cyprus preserves, season-appropriate vegetables, and more — all delivered to your door. Newbury's has provided the valley's finest foodstuffs and produce for over a century. Freshness, quality, and value are our motto. We guarantee satisfaction, or your money back — no questions asked.

or the side high-grade aged cheeses for the discerning palate. Newbury's has provided the valley's finest foodstuffs and produce for over a century. Freshness, quality, and value are our motto. We guarantee satisfaction, or your money back — no questions asked.

New accounts welcomed for weekly bulk delivery. Standing orders for the Christmas season accepted from the first of November. Trade accounts available for the hospitality establishment.

T. Newbury, Market Square, Heathcombe. Open on days. Closed Sunday. As it should be.



LATEST PARISIAN AND LONDON NOVELTIES FOR THE DISCERNING LADY.
MADAME CLERY — Court Modiste & Robes

Madame Clery begs to announce a fresh arrival of exquisite silk, delicate lawn, and fine French trimmings direct from her London warehouse. Specializing in tailored walking costumes for the modern lady — combining the highest elegance with the ease of country movement. Walking skirts, embroidered lace blouses, afternoon tea gowns, and elegant lace morning coats. Intricate millinery executed to order. Mourning costumes completed with the utmost dispatch and discretion.

Summer consultation appointments now available. New clients welcomed by introduction. Evening gowns — the newest, the most exquisite — have arrived and are available for viewing by appointment this week.

Madame Clery, Court of St. John, Heathcombe. By Appointment Only. Enquiries by letter or in person before eleven.



CLOTHING THE COTSWOLDS GENTLEMAN FOR TOWN AND FIELD.
CROSBY & FINCH — Gentlemen's Outfitters & Bespoke Tailors

Hand-out sporting tweeds in weight suited to the valley's particular exposure with the weather. Waterproofed driving capes for the modern motorist. Fine Egyptian cotton shirts fitted with the stiff detachable collars available south of London.

Crosby & Finch has dressed this valley's gentlemen for three generations — through the fields, the drawing rooms, and everywhere the valley has seen fit to throw its lot. Pleasant to measure. Attention completed within the week.

Autumn commission orders now being taken. Winter weight tweeds newly arrived from the Yorkshire mills. By Appointment preferred. Walk-ins accommodated when the schedule permits, which is less often than we would like.

Crosby & Finch, High Street, Heathcombe. By Appointment Only. Enquiries by letter or in person before eleven.



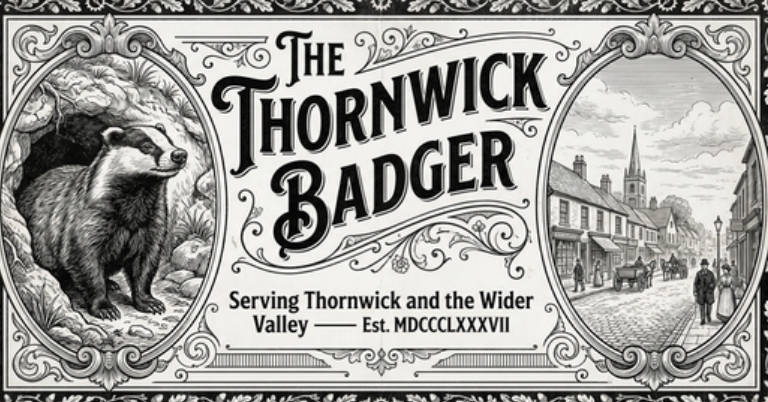
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GRAIN & MARKET REALITIES

Barley & Wheat: Lower meadow harvesting starts by month's end. Early two-row malting barley from the east slopes shows heavy bushel weight and clean husks—good news for local mash tuns. Wheat holds at 34s. 6d. per quarter with millers buying fast.

Hops & Hay: Hop vines look clean despite two dry weeks. Haymaking is wrapped up; yields are lighter than last year, but stacked bone-dry.

Livestock & Butter: Tuesday market saw fat sheep move briskly, prime wethers fetching 48s. to 54s. Grazing cattle held value, but thin pastures kept store beasts slow. Butter sits at 1s. 2d. per lb. on High Street.

THE MAGISTRATES' MOCKERY

The Lamp Trap: A freight clerk loses 1s. 6d. of his hard-earned wage just for cycling home in the dark without a lantern. Meanwhile, GWR's steam dray engines roll down High Street without a single light, spewing hot ash over everyone.

Tuesday's "Drunk": The poor soul grabbed by the arches was hit with 2s. court costs just to buy his freedom. Higgins calls it a stern caution; we call it a parish shake-down.

Closing Hours: Higgins boasts that every pub shut on time. Translation: he spent his fortnight harassing tavern keepers instead of catching actual thieves.

WHAT IS THE COMMODORE HIDING?

The Manor Gates Closed: Commodore Ward returns from the East, and suddenly public estate hours are suspended. If the Commodore is too busy to see his own tenants, what, precisely, is he hiding behind those high limestone walls—and who were those guards unloading his crates at midnight?

Our Advertisers



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Crosby & Finch, High Street, Heathcombe.
 By Appointment Only. Enquiries by letter or in person before doors.



DUFFY & WARD BREWING COMPANY
HEARTHCOMBE'S OWN ALE, PORTER & SEASONAL CASK.

Brewed in the valley, for the valley. Duffy & Ward has supplied the finest ales, robust porters, and seasonal cask offerings to the public houses, private tables, and hospitality establishments of Heathcombe and the surrounding parishes since establishment.

Every barrel leaves our cooperage iron-hooped and watertight. Every cask is filled with water drawn from the valley's own chalk springs and malted grain carried direct from the Cotswold fields. No shortcuts. No substitutions. No apologies.

THE HEARTHCOMBE PALE ALE — Light, clean, and honest. The working man's pint and the gentleman's second.

THE VALE PORTER — Dark, full-bodied, and built for cold mornings and long evenings alike.

THE SEASONAL CASK — Brewed to the harvest. Ask your landlord what is currently on.

Trade accounts welcomed for public houses, hotels, and private clubs. Wholesale cask orders accepted at the brewery gate. Delivery by Watts dray throughout the valley.

Duffy & Ward Brewing Company, Brewery Lane, Heathcombe. Enquire at the gate or through your landlord. The beer is already in the valley. You need only ask for it.