

THE WEATHER

Overcast skies expected across the valley. Temperatures seasonal. Rain likely by evening. Carry an umbrella.

THE HEARTHCOMBE

STAG AND STANDARD

Est. MDCCCXXI — Hearthcombe, Cotswolds, England

Saturday Morning Edition — 4 July 1914

COMMODORE WARD ESCORTS ARCHDUKE HOME AFTER PEACEFUL RECEPTION

Telegram from the Balkans Brings Reassurance to Hearthcombe

By Owerton Crosby, Correspondent

London - This morning, a telegram arrived at the Duffy & Ward Social House carrying reassuring news from Commodore Burton Ward, currently in Bosnia as an honored guest of Governor General Oskar Potiorek.

The message reads simply: "Reception proceeded without incident. We escorted the Archduke safely back to Vienna. We anticipate returning to Hearthcombe within the week."

In a time when many feared political violence and unrest, the absence of incident at the reception and during the Archduke's return journey is a welcome relief to a world on edge.

Alongside Baron von Kessler and retired Field Marshal Otto Krieger, Commodore Ward has been representing Hearthcombe with the quiet dignity and steadfastness for which he is known. Locals at the Social House received the news with a measured optimism, raising their glasses in tribute to the men who carry Hearthcombe's name beyond its borders...Con't Pg 3

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 parliamentaries, and heavy industrial freights will make mandatory halts at the Hearthcombe platforms daily.

STATION CALLS	Exp. 42	Parl. 11	Exp. 46	Coley Fr. 9
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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 Hearthcombe Daily 7:45 a.m. Arrives Paddington 10:15 a.m. First and Third Class Lavatory Carriages fitted throughout.

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

THE COLEY COMMODITY FREIGHT — Heavy agricultural and industrial haulage.

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 Hearthcombe Mainline Depot, our Livery stands ready at the forecourt. Comfortable enclosed horse-drawn carriages and modern luggage drays depart Hearthcombe Station punctually to meet all incoming mainline arrivals, conveying passengers continuing westward 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 Hearthcombe and Thornwick are no obstacle to a valley horse. They never have been.

MODERATE FARES. Return bookings discounted for regular valley passengers. Luggage 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.

ESTATE CLEARANCE: THE LOWER MANOR FARM

By order of the Executors of the late Mr. Thomas Gidley. The entire live and dead farming stock, household furniture, and effects to be disposed of without reserve on Thursday next.

LIVESTOCK: * Three (3) Prime Dairy Cows (Shorthorn), in full milk and quiet to milk. * One (1) Sturdy Gloucestershire Old Spots Sow, with a litter of seven. * Two (2) Sound Cart Cobs, well-seasoned to the steep valley lanes.

IMPLEMENTS & IRONMONGERY: * A varied collection of stable ironmongery, including four pairs of heavy plough traces, two branding irons, and a brass-bound malt shovel. * One manual turnip-cutter by Bamfords, in excellent working repair. * Three hundredweight (cwt) of Martian White Marl super-fertilizer, tightly bagged and stored dry under stone canvas.

HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS: * One (1) Solid Oak Dresser, English-felled and hand-carved, fitted with three deep drawers and three open plate-shelves. * A brass-faced grandfather clock by a local maker, striking on the hour. * Six stone storage jars, assorted sizes, suitable for salt-pork or lard...Cont'd Pg 3



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 Marl 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 Hearthcombe Juvenile Baseball League under the exclusive instruction of Mr. Moses Walker, late of the American professional leagues — Head Coach and Master of Play. Boys



THE HEARTHCOMBE STAG AND STANDARD
 Est. MDCCCXXI — Hearthcombe, Cotswolds, England



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 arrangements they may have made for the remainder of the Sabbath forenoon.
Parents are reminded that punctual attendance reflects well upon the household and the parish alike. Father O'Sullivan thanks the community for its continued cooperation in spiritual and civil matters.
 ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, HEARTHCOMBE. ALL ARE WELCOME. HALF PAST NINE. BIDDAY

Saturday Morning Edition — 4 July 1914

Parish News & Social Chronicles (The Village Gossip)

High-Street Movements: Madame Clery reports that multiple commissions have been received this week for tailored linen motoring coats. It appears the ladies of the valley intend to embrace the modern speed-carriages with an elegant defiance of the limestone road-dust.



LATEST PARISIAN AND LONDON NOVELTIES FOR THE DISCERNING LADY.
MADAME CLERY — Court Modiste & Robes
 Madame Clery begs to announce a fresh arrival of exquisite silks, delicate lawns, and fine French trimmings direct from her London wholesaler. Specialising 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 structured linen motoring coats. Intricate millinery executed to order. Mourning commissions completed with the utmost dispatch and discretion.
 Summer consultation appointments now available. New clients welcomed by introduction. Existing clients — the autumn silhouette patterns have arrived and are available for viewing by appointment this week.
 Madame Clery, Court Modiste, High Street, Hearthcombe.
 Appointments by letter or personal call. Discretion in all commissions assured.

Recreational Notes: A mixed-eleven recreational baseball match is being organized for the upcoming bank holiday under the guidance of Mr. Moses Walker. Several older traditionalists in the parish have voiced loud concerns that the overseas game is "unnecessarily loud," though the local youth appear entirely undeterred.

Coley-On-The-Hill

Mainline Lodgings: Traveling merchants arriving via the GWR Excursion train are reminded that the Mainline Coffee Rooms near the forecourt offer warm porridge and hot chocolate from six o'clock each morning.



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

OUR LADIES' LETTER

By "Clara"

HEARTHCOMBE — The arrival of mid-summer sunshine has brought a most delightful animation to the valley, and my desk is quite buried beneath invitations to lawn gatherings and parish committees! A most elegant assembly took place on Wednesday afternoon upon the south terrace of the Country Club. There was a time when a lady's participation in outdoor sports was limited to croquet, but the beautifully rolled grass tennis courts at Downs Ridge have changed the scenery entirely...Cont'd Pg 3

The Social Circle:

Mr. John Bennett of Lower Slaughter has returned home following a brief illness in Bristol. He begs to thank the turnpike guards for their assistance with his luggage dray during the midnight storms.

Church and Chapel:

Church and Chapel: The rota for the cleaning of the brasses at St. Brigid's Church has been posted in the vestry. Volunteers are urgently requested for the mid-summer rotation, as the industrial smoke from the lower foundries has left a heavy film upon the altar rails.



STURDY COBS FOR THE STEEP HILLS. CARRIAGES BY THE HOUR OR THE LEAGUE.
THE THORNWICK LIVERY & JOB-MASTERS
 The Thornwick Livery has supplied the valley with reliable horse-drawn broughams, sound hunters for seasonal hire, and experienced coachwork for thirty years. We know these hills.
 We know hills. Our horses know them better.
 For those arriving by the never-conceivable, the Livery is pleased to offer secure covered storage and basic mechanical accommodation for the modern motor-carriage — a service offered, the spirit of progress and the full knowledge that the cobs are still faster on the upper lanes.
 Half-day hire rates reduced for valley residents through the winter quarter.
 Motor-carriage storage by weekly arrangement.
 New accounts for regular commercial drayage welcomed.
 The Thornwick Livery & Job-Masters, West End, Thornwick.
 Enquire at the stable gate. Someone will be there. They always are.

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

The valley's streets need not end at shop frontages, and domestic cookstoves, the lamp post, The Hearthcombe Gas, Light & Coke Co. supplies clean-burning incandescent mantles for paraffin lamps, shop frontages, and domestic cookstoves. No vent. No yellow. No excess. Modern illumination in 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 to writing or in person to the Company Office, Mill Road, Heathcombe. Gas is already in the ground. The connection is all that remains.

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ST. BRIGID'S CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, HEARTHCOMBE. ALL ARE WELCOME. BOLD TYPE TONE. BOLD

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IMPERIAL & FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

Debates in Parliament: A lively discussion arose in the House of Commons on Tuesday regarding the proposed budget extensions for postal dray routes in the western counties. Several members argued that the modernization of railway tenders should supersede horse-drawn transport, while traditionalists maintained that rural lanes remain unsuitable for automated locomotives.

News from the Colonies: A dispatch from the Cape Colony reports an exceptionally bountiful citrus harvest along the eastern valleys. Merchants in London anticipate a welcome stabilization in the price of imported goods by the close of the autumn shipping season.

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

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A STEADY HAND IN FOREIGN FIELDS

The True Value of Valley Steadfastness in Uncertain Times

By The Editor

HEARTHCOMBE — The arrival of this morning's telegram from the Balkans will do much to quiet the anxious whispers that have occupied the smoke-rooms and counting houses of this valley over the past fortnight. That Commodore Burton Ward, acting alongside Baron von Kessler and Field Marshal Krieger, has successfully escorted the Archduke back to the Austrian capital without incident is a testament to the power of a measured British presence.

There will be those in the capital houses of London who wonder why a retired naval gentleman of the Cotswolds should find himself so intimately entangled in the delicate governance of foreign empires. To them we say: look to the soil. The same iron discipline that built the great mills of the Vale and shunted the GWR mainline tracks through our limestone downs is precisely what the continent requires in its hours of political friction.

While the European press corps continues to hyperventilate over the threat of political violence, Heathcombe has sent its finest sons to serve as the anchor. We await the Commodore's return to his rightful place at the head of our table, secure in the knowledge that while foreign crowns may rattle, a valley hand does not shake.

OUR WEEKLY SERIAL FICTION THE MAID OF DOWNS RIDGE

Chapter XIV: The Shadow on the Turnpike
The midnight frost hung heavily upon the limestone tracks as Lady Beatrice hurried past the abandoned stone quarry. Her breathing was shallow, her heart hammering against the stays of her tailored traveling costume.

Behind her, echoing through the mist of the lower foundries, came the unmistakable, rhythmic clop-clop of a lone dray horse. But this was no merchant arriving from the GWR mainline platform. The heavy, unhurried gait belonged to the midnight carriage—the one the villagers whispered was entirely uncoupled from any earthly station.

She reached the iron gates of the Lower Manor, her fingers trembling against the cold latch. "Help!" she cried out into the dark, but her voice was swallowed by the wind rising from the valley stream. A lantern flared suddenly from the stable yard, revealing not the friendly face of the yard-master, but a towering silhouette cloaked in absolute shadow...

(To be continued in our next edition.)

**FOR WHAT AILS YOU.
FOR WHAT INTERESTS YOU.**

MANSERGH & CO. — Dispensing Chemists & Photographic Dealers

Mansergh & Co. dispenses with equal expertise across two very different human needs. At the front counter, Mansergh's Celebrated Lung Tonic for the Cotswolds Chill — proven relief for the damp mornings and persistent coughs of valley life.

At the rear counter, fresh shipments of Eastman Kodak silver-gelatin plate film, film, developing chemicals of the highest pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical purity, and imported French lavender water for those whose ailments are of a more pleasant variety.

This fortnight: complimentary developing of one plate per roll purchased. Lung Tonic — three bottles for the price of two while the autumn sales lasts.

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