



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.

GWR WEEKDAY TIMETABLE

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 Lavatory 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 4 July 1914

THE GREAT BALKAN BLUFF: COMMODORE WARD PLAYING COSSACK IN THE SHADOWS

While the Upper Houses Drink to Imperial "Peace," the Common Man Foot the Bill for Foreign Misadventure

By Alfie "The Digger" Potts, Under-the-Floorboards Correspondent

HEARTHCOMBE — The high-and-mighty patrons of the Duffy & Ward Social House were seen clinking their crystal glasses yesterday morning over a telegram sent straight from Bosnia by our very own resident imperialist, Commodore Burton Ward. The official word from the governor's mansion in Sarajevo is that the Archduke was escorted back to Vienna "without incident".

We are told to breathe a great sigh of relief. We are told that the steady, iron discipline of the Cotswold gentry is the only thing keeping the continent from going up in flames...(cont'g pg3)

THE BOOT UPON THE LIMESTONE

An Editorial on the So-Called "Restoration" of the Oxford Line By The Blacksmith's Hammer

THE VALE — The Great Western Railway Company has graciously informed us that London is now a mere two hours and thirty minutes away. They call Heathcombe a "Primary Interchange". They expect us to bow to the directors for the privilege of having massive express steam engines shake the foundations of our cottages every hour on the hour. Do not be fooled by the gleaming brass on the timetables. This direct London line wasn't built to bring civilization to the valley; it was built to drain the valley dry...(cont'd pg3)

THE REALIST'S WEATHER

It's going to bloody rain. The sky is gray as wet limestone and the wind is coming hard from the foundries. Leave your fine Parisian silk parasols at home and wear a sturdy wool cap; the valley weather doesn't care about High Street fashions.



DUFFY & WARD

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

THE WELSH RAREBIT FEAST — SUNDAYS FROM MIDDAY
In grateful deference to the morning watch at St. Bridget's, the tape of the Social House remains respectfully all through the week. The Welsh Rarebit Feast, the Social House offers an excellent dinner tradition — the Welsh Rarebit Feast. Prepared with the finest sharp cheddar, stone-ground Whitefish mackerel, and robust Duffy & Ward Cornish pork, roasted in a bubbling rich gold spec'd thick hand-cut rustic bread. Served to the table for families to share as they descend from the morning sermons. Wholesome, substantial. And entirely full of real food.

Served to the table. No reservation required. All of Heathcombe welcomed. The bridge between the parish and the pub has been forged — one beautifully building plate at a time.

The Social House, High Street, Heathcombe. Open on 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 turf due to the calcified Martin 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 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 livery. Comfortable enclosed horse-drawn carriages and modern huggie dogs depart Heathcombe Station punctually to meet all incoming services, carrying passengers continuing westward into the rural valley where the steam tracks do not go. Carriage services, weekend visitors, and valley residents covered directly to High Street lodgings, farm gates, and all addresses the railway does not reach.

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

MODERATE FARES. Return bookings discounted for regular valley passengers. Leggins handling included. Safe travel 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.



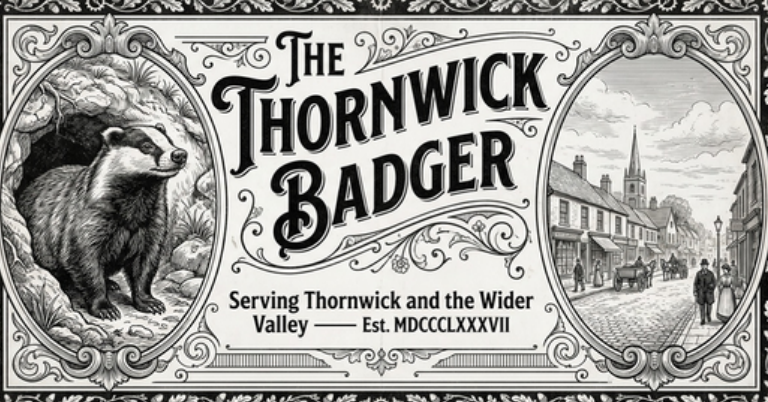
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THE RADICAL SOCIAL REVIEWS

By "The Scullery Maid"

HEARTHCOMBE — The mid-summer sunshine has brought out all the valley's finest hypocrites. While the elite gather on the south terrace of the Country Club to congratulate themselves on their progressive spirit, the rest of us are left to clean up the mess.

They boast that their new lawn tennis courts are "open to every citizen without distinction of class". Try walking onto those perfectly rolled grass lawns in a pair of soot-stained drayman's boots and see how quickly the club secretary calls for the turnpike guards. And note their mandatory rule: Red championship balls only because the calcified Martian Marl roughs are so thick from industrial runoff that they keep losing their expensive white imports.

As for Mr. Moses Walker and his "Juvenile Baseball League," the kids are mad for it, which is the only decent thing about the whole athletic circus. The local traditionalists are crying out that the American game is "unnecessarily loud"—mostly because they can't stand the sound of working-class youth making a racket instead of working the turnpike-cutters.

If you truly wish to see where the modern world is heading, avoid High Street entirely. Madame Clery's parlours are filled with ladies buying tailored linen motoring coats to shield themselves from the road dust generated by their husbands' expensive speed-carriages. A marvelous ease of movement, indeed—if you have the luxury of moving without ever having to lift a hand to work.

IMPERIAL & FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

(As Intercepted and Re-Interpreted from the Fleet Street Syndicate Packets)

The Talking Shop in London:

Parliament spent Tuesday arguing over whether to strip the postal dray horse routes of their remaining funding in favor of automated locomotives. A typical tactical move by the rail monopolies to force independent horse-masters off the lanes entirely.

The Global Grab:

While London brags about a "bountiful citrus harvest" out in the Cape Colony colonies, the dock workers in Bristol are threatening a full walkout over starvation wages. The empire gets the fruit; the working man gets the rind.

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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 THE MAJOR LINKS & ATHLETIC GROUNDS. OPEN TO ALL WHO PLAY.

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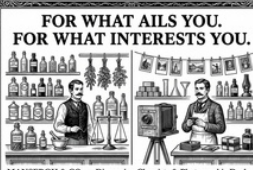
STURDY COBS FOR THE STEEP HILLS.
CARRIAGES BY THE HOUR OR THE LEAGUE.
THE THORNWICK LIVERY & JOB-MASTERS

The Thornwick Livery, established in 1887, has been a mainstay of the valley for over a quarter of a century. Our fleet of stables, our expert drivers, and our modern carriages are all of the highest quality. We are now offering a special discount on our long-haul services to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Bookings for the summer season are now open. We are also offering a special discount on our long-haul services to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Bookings for the summer season are now open.

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

New accounts for regular commercial drays welcomed.

The Thornwick Livery is situated, near the GWR Station, in the heart of the valley. It is the only livery in the valley that has been in business for over a quarter of a century. We are now offering a special discount on our long-haul services to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Bookings for the summer season are now open.



FOR WHAT AILS YOU.
FOR WHAT INTERESTS YOU.

MANSERGH & CO. — Dispensing Chemists & Photographic Dealers

Mansergh & Co. dispense with equal expertise across two very different human needs. At the front counter, fresh shipments of Eastman Kodak silver-plate glass plates, developing chemicals of the highest quality, and the latest in photographic equipment are on hand. Behind the counter, we have a full range of the finest French brandy, wine, and champagne for the discerning palate. We also have a full range of the finest French brandy, wine, and champagne for the discerning palate.

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

Mansergh & Co., High Street, Heathcombe. Dispensing and photographic requests welcome. In separate rooms, for the comfort of all concerned.



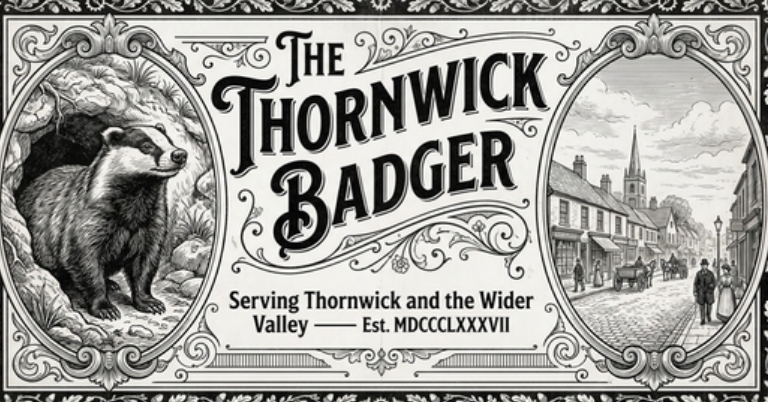
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THE LOWER TAPS PARISH NEWS
 (What the Gossip Columns Won't Print)

The Road-Dust Nuisance: The speed-carriages owned by the gentry are turning the valley turnpikes into a choking white fog of Martian Marl. If you walk the High Street lanes, cover your mouth; the gentry's elegance is leaving a film on everyone else's lungs.

The Church Cleaning Conspiracy: The Altar Guild is begging for volunteers to clean the brass altar rails at St. Brigid's because the industrial smoke from the lower foundries has coated them in grease again. Notice how the factory owners who profit from the smoke are never the ones holding the scrubbing brushes.

The Bristol Sickness: Mr. John Bennett is back from Bristol after his "brief illness". The rumor around the dray yards is that it wasn't a fever that took him down, but an administrative dispute with the mainline customs agents regarding his regular commercial drayage rights.

The Morning Porridge Trap: Travelers are warned that the Mainline Coffee Rooms near the station forecourt have raised the price of warm porridge yet again. They claim it's due to the GWR excursion train schedules, but it looks a lot like plain old greed.

(Cont'd from Pgi) **Great Balkan Bluff:** What they don't put in the telegrams is the cost of the coal burning in the private steam tenders carrying these gentlemen across the borders, while working families in the valley are paying double for a sack of fuel to spark their winter hearths. They don't mention that while Ward, Kessler, and Krieger are playing at high diplomacy with European aristocrats, the foundries in the lower valley are coughing black soot onto our children's schoolyard day in and day out.

Let the Social House toast their anchors and their crowns. The rest of us know that when the grand structure finally rattles, it won't be a retired naval gentleman standing between the working man and the blast—it will be the working man left to clear the debris.

(Cont'd from Pgi) **The Boot Upon The Limestone:** It was built so the agricultural haulage can pull heavy freights of our agricultural wealth out to the London markets before our own valley residents can even bid on a bushel of grain at the market cross. The Cotswold Line is fully completed, yes—but the shackles around the independent carriers of the valley are just tightening.

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 incandescent mantles for parlour lamps, shop frontages, and domestic cookstoves. No mist. 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-ripe fruit. T. Newbury's has procured the valley's best kitchen — select before the season begins. Fresh meat and game cut into steaks, chops, and joints, or done to specification, available by the rubler or without apology or compromise.

New accounts welcomed for weekly box 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 dramatic lace evening gowns. Limited quantities. The valley's most exclusive modiste. Mourning costumes completed with the utmost dispatch and discretion.

Summer consultation appointments now available. New clients welcomed by introduction. Evening gowns — the summer-showering person here arrived and at available for viewing by appointment this week.

Madame Clery, Court Modiste & Robes, 11, High Street, Heathcombe. Appointments by letter or call. Modiste in all seasons accepted.

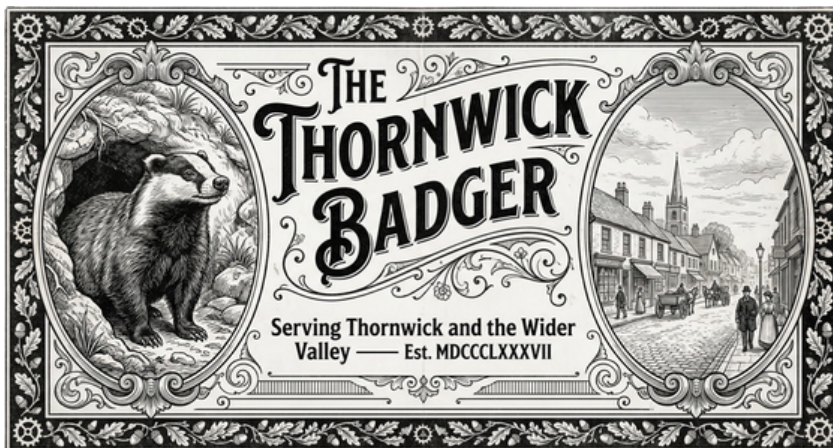


CLOTHING THE COTSWOLDS GENTLEMAN FOR TOWN AND FIELD.
CROSBY & FINCH — Gentlemen's Outfitters & Bespoke Tailors

Hand-out sporting tweeds in weight suited to the valley's particular exposure with 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 every day of the year. Not even fit to throw at both. Perfect fit to measure. Alterations 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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FACTUAL FICTION FOR REBELLIOUS MINDS
THE DRAYS OF THE LOWER VALE

Chapter I: The Broken Axle

The limestone tracks were slick with industrial grease as Thomas hurried his team past the perimeter of the Lower Manor grounds. The cart cobs were seasoned to the steep lanes, but the weight of the unclaimed timber wheels in the dray was pushing the axle to its absolute limit.

Behind him, through the smoke of the lower foundries, came the sharp, mechanical hiss of a GWR engine idling at the siding. The railway guards were watching from the platform, their brass buttons gleaming in the gray light, waiting for any excuse to claim the commercial cargo as "abandoned freight" under the company bylaws.

Thomas reached the turnpike gate, his knuckles white against the leather reins. He didn't cry out for help from the stationmaster; he knew the railway company answered to no one in the valley. Instead, he reached beneath the dray canvas for a heavy iron branding iron—the only stable tool heavy enough to serve as an argument should the company men decide to cross the line...

(To be continued when the printer avoids the law.)

UNLICENSED CLASSIFIEDS & DIRECT INDEPENDENT SERVICES
ALFIE POTTS — REAL COUNTRYMAN'S SERVICES

Leave Word Clear of the Station Forecourt — Ask for the Badger's Friend

Vermyn Swiftly and Permanently Removed. Ferrets of Unrivalled Breeding available for the thorough clearing of barns, the reclaiming of independent property, and the general discomfiting of unwanted guests, estate executors, and bailiffs of all varieties. Discretion Guaranteed. Reasonable Rates—and completely free of mainline tariffs. Rabbits traded directly for blacksmith work. If you bring a gamekeeper near my stable gate, the ferret will be the least of your concerns.

No character names or radical sentiments are registered with the Sloane Duffy Media monopoly. All rights reclaimed by the folk of the valley. Reclaim the Lanes!

Our Advertisers

