



The Broughton Social Group

Newsletter

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Broughton Christmas Advent Windows and Decorations



Many thanks to everyone who took part in the festive Advent Windows display.

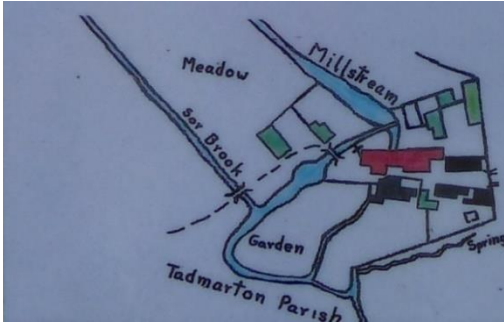
The montage in the middle page, very kindly put together by Len Tunncliffe, shows all the windows.

It is hoped we will do this again next year.



More Christmas lights on the back page.





After our walk to the Roman Villa site, several people asked about the lost village of Hazelford. Back in May 2016, Margaret Taylor came to St Mary's House to tell us all about the history of Hazelford. She also wrote this piece about Hazelford which was published in our newsletter at the time.

Until 100 years ago, the Parish of Broughton included Hazelford Mill, situated on the Sor Brook, one mile west of Broughton. Hazelford is first mentioned in a Saxon Charter of 956 as a ford over the Sor. It is thought the Mill was built on the site of a Doomsday mill.

Earliest records show that in 1444 Thomas Hazelford rented the mill, together with an acre of land from the Wykham Estate for 13s.4d. as part of a knight's fee. It was recorded as a fulling mill where wooden hammers would pound the cloth with fuller's earth as a means of scouring and cleansing it. It was known as Hazelford or Upper Fulling Mill. (Lower Fulling Mill and Dye Works, half a mile downstream is now a working farm).

By 1792 it had been converted to a paper mill and the first census of 1841 records the men in the village employed as papermakers. A map of 1851 shows the mill, four houses and industrial/agricultural buildings. In the late 1850s the mill closed and the villagers had to find work elsewhere – one man was employed as a butler at Broughton Castle.

By 1882 the mill was up and running again, this time as a corn mill. Nineteen people lived there, with three generations living in the same house. Most of the men worked the land. In 1887 fire broke out in the village – caused by children playing with matches – destroying the thatch roof of two cottages. It is clear that during the next ten years or so the village deteriorated, for by 1901 the mill was disused and only two houses were inhabited.

The children walked to North Newington School across the fields and there was friendly rivalry between boys from Tadmarton and Broughton who would meet for fights across the brook at Hazelford on Sunday afternoons!

The last villagers left in 1914 and the mill was blown up during WW1 for munitions. All that remains are two walls of a house and grass covered mounds where the mill and houses once stood. All that can be heard is the sound of the waterfall that once drove Hazelford Mill.