

Bell, Trivetts and the Hall; one hundred years of Bells

By John Bell



One hundred years of Bells in Cossington; six generations. Great-grandfather Walter Bell came to Cossington in the early 1900's and farmed at Millmoot having moved from Poole farm Woolavington. He

had four sons which farmed in the Village: Metford at Manor farm, Ivor at Brookhayes (my grandfather) Lennard and Wyndom at the Dairy House. Lennard moved to Wiltshire. Wyndom to Priory farm Woolavington. Grandfather was 1 of 4 trustees of the old village hall and served on the Parish Council being chairman for a good length of time. When the village was naming the lanes they honoured him by calling one Bell lane. He lived just long enough to see the new sign erected. Father and mother when married moved to Westhay to farm at New House farm where my two brothers were brought up. When Susan and I were married we took over Brookhayes and we are still here with son Matthew and his two sons William and Robert and Kate. Father bought Trivetts in 1969, from Clifford Sparkes, (John Sparke's father) Cliff bought it in 1944 from John Stradling (Charles Stradling's uncle) When Edward and Molly married they moved in to farm it. Molly worked as a Sister in the Premature baby unit at Musgrove park hospital Taunton until her untimely death. Their two daughters Lucinda and Harriet following in mothers footsteps; Lou has just qualified in

medicine and Harriet will soon qualify as a General Nurse. Over the years several applications for development on Trivetts have failed; it has been in and out of the structural plan of the Village.

The Village had been looking in to replace the old hall and how to fund it. The farm site had become derelict as Edward had to retire from farming because of ill health. One day I was round Mothers with Mike Peglar and Martin Dare. Martin was the chairman of the Village Hall Committee at the time. Mike had with him the latest planning rule book as we had just been refused a planning application ourselves. Looking through it I came across a section that allowed planning outside the structural plan if it met community criteria. So we decided it was worth a try. We would give the land for the new hall site beyond Edwards buildings. To allow the value of the old site to pay for a new hall and with a contribution from Edward which incidentally turned out more than expected. The planning granted stated in the 106 agreement the site had to provide the new hall. Over quite a while Mike Peglar, Martin Dare and Tony Jones took on the job of meeting planning officials to guide the application along, with the backing of the Village Hall Committee and villagers who gave a majority Yes for the hall in a questionnaire. After a while Martin resigned and Tony Jones and Mike Peglar passed away. John Sparkes became the new chairman, Derek Gibson became project manager (a retired Architect) John Turner, treasurer (a retired bank manager) and Ian Walker (Tamlyns) With the resignation of John Sparkes with poor health Geoff Cross became the new Chairman. Strongvox the builders started and a year and a half later the hall is now a reality.