

RINGMORE BUILDINGS

For over a thousand years Ringmore has been a settlement in which people have lived and worked. Yet, until the end of the last century, there was not one privately owned building in Ringmore village, at Challaborough or in the associated hamlet of Marwell. Apart from the few buildings on Glebe land, which were the property of the Church, everything belonged to the Lord of the Manor.

As far as is known, there has never been a Manor House, with a resident Lord of the Manor, in Ringmore. The holders of the title have been, in effect, absentee landlords. Some of them, such as Francis Kirkham who owned the Manor until 1759, took an interest in the upkeep of their property and the welfare of their tenants. Others appear to have done very little, apart from collecting their rents. When Rev. F.C. Hingeston-Randolph became Rector in 1860, he was shocked at the delapidated state of the buildings. (Ref). At that time the Manor was virtually bankrupt and in 1862 an attempt was made to sell it by auction in six lots. One of these, comprising the four coastguard cottages at Challaborough, was sold to H.M. Customs but, as far as is known, the remaining lots, including the six farms, the inn and the forty five cottages in the village, were unsold until they were bought in 1885 by a new Lord of the Manor - Mr Fellowes.

Mr Fellowes was a very good landlord. He had those cottages which were beyond repair demolished and the remainder repaired. Lists of the repair work carried out at that time still exist (Ref). After his death the village passed through the hands of a syndicate and in 1907 most of the cottages were sold off separately. Few, if any, Ringmore residents have Deeds dating from before that time and these Deeds give no indication of the age of the buildings.

There is however a little documentary evidence to help in determining the age of some of the village buildings. Manor Rent Lists give the names of the occupants of the cottages owned by the Manor and the rent which they paid; the Tithe map lists all the houses built before 1841; and the Sale documents produced when the Manor was offered for sale in 1862 and 1907 contain lists of all the farms and cottages.

It is very difficult to date Devon buildings stylistically, because building methods and materials were unchanged for hundreds of years. Walls were built of cob, ie earth mixed with straw and water (and sometimes dung) and trodden to a suitable consistency. The walls were built up in layers of the prepared cob on a stone base. Each layer was left to dry out before the next was laid. Cob walls were always very thick, often nearly one metre at the base, to give more strength. They were lime-washed inside and out, to protect the cob from damp while allowing it to "breathe" (Ref: Pam Egeland and Bob Vickery). Cob cottages were roofed with thatch, which was not made from water reed as in other parts of the country but from specially prepared wheat straw known locally as "wheat reed". The wheat for this "reed" was carefully threshed by hand and then combed to produce straight stalks. While a number of the old cottages in Ringmore retain their thatched roofs, much of the thatch is now made from imported water reed because suitable wheat reed is no longer available. Other old cob buildings, such as The Journey's End Inn, Middle Manor and Ivy Cottage have had their original thatched roofs replaced by slates, and earlier and steeper roof timbers can be seen in their lofts below their present roofs.

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The old houses of Ringmore village had low roofs and were built on sites which were hidden from the sea - possibly as a protection against raiders from the sea and also to avoid the effects of the prevailing westerly winds on their thatched roofs. Perhaps for similar reasons and also to establish level foundations at minimal cost, some of them were built into the sides of valleys, so that their downstairs rooms were below ground level at the rear. This is the case with Mount Pleasant and Rose Cottage; Spring Cottage and Well Cottage; Middle Manor; Walnut Tree Cottage and Hill Cottage. An extreme example is Hillside Cottage, which was formerly called Dinah's Cottage after Mrs Dinah Skinner who lived there until she died in 1894, after which the cottage was derelict for many years. The ground floor of this cottage is like a cave, cut into the bedrock of the village green. Although this cottage has recently been modernised and extended, it still retains its drainage channels cut into the rock of the floor and leading directly on to the road.

An additional complication in dating the old cob buildings in the village is that most of them have been altered and enlarged over the centuries and this process has accelerated with the modernisation which has been carried out in the past fifty years. Hill Cottage was built as a pair of one-up-and-one-down cottages, with a chimney at each end. A passage between the northern cottage and a stable or cowshed was subsequently covered by a hipped roof in order to enlarge the northern cottage. The two cottages were amalgamated in 1960, one chimney was demolished and a bathroom extension was built at the rear. Ivy Cottage was, until the last war, a row of four one-up-and-one-down thatched cottages with a store-room at the northern end. Sea View and Middle Manor were each built as two cottages. A study of the roof timbers of Barnford suggests that this building, which is now again a single residence, but which was sub-divided into two cottages in the early years of this century, was actually built as one detached house. It was re-converted to a single residence by Lady Auckland, who lived there from 1919 to 1927. Cumberland Cottages are still four separate cottages, as they have been for two centuries. However the asymmetrical shape of the building* the fact that the lofts of numbers 1 and 2 are continuous suggest that these two units were built as one substantial house. Number 4 which now has a modern extension at the rear, may have been a cow shed or stable with Number 3 as a passage between the animal quarters and the house.

The process of extension can be seen clearly in The Journey's End Inn. At the time of the sale of the Manor in 1862, the inn was described as comprising "kitchen, scullery, cellars, large parlour, brewhouse with garden, piggeries and stabling and five dwellings with gardens and piggeries." In 1796 the parlour had been known as The Long Room - the meeting place for Ringmore Town Council. This room, which is the oldest part of the inn, is the present Dining Room. Behind it modern kitchens have been built. On the other side of the entrance passage from the kitchen is a very old bar which is now disused. In front of this, a modern bar ~~bar~~ has been built and, even more recently, a conservatory and toilet block have been added. There is a small one-up-and-one-down cottage attached to the inn on the left of the front door. At some stage, this was incorporated into the inn under a hipped roof, the timbers of which can still be seen in the loft of the inn. A further hipped roof was added when Hillside

(now a separate private residence) was built for the owner

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of the inn. Hillside was owned by the inn-keeper until 1926. In recent years it has, itself, had a modern extension built to the north.

The farm-workers cottages were very small, being only one room deep and having only one or two rooms on the ground floor and the same above. Some had small cupboards and shelves carved out of the thickness of the walls, in place of furniture. They were often built in short terraces, as in the case of the four cottages now comprising Ivy Cottage. With their low ceilings and tiny rooms, these cottages had no space for normal staircases. Usually a door in the downstairs room led to a steep boxed-in ladder which emerged through the floor of the bedroom above. Middle Manor has a spiral staircase accommodated in a bulge in the outside wall, but this too has a door at its foot and leads directly into a bedroom. Some cottages had a "coffin-trap" in the ceiling of the downstairs room, so that a coffin could be hauled up to the bedroom. Such coffin-traps were to be seen until a few years ago in Hillside Cottage and in the small cottage which now forms part of the Journey's End Inn.

A result of building with ephemeral materials, which disappear completely unless the walls are kept dry, is that many cottages, which are known from early maps and documents to have been in the village, have disappeared - presumably after their thatched roofs have deteriorated and rain has got into the cob walls. Some of these lost cottages, such as three at Lower Manor Farm, were recorded as having been in existence in 1841, when the Tithe Map was drawn. Because of the nature of their building materials, it is very unlikely that even the best maintained of the cob buildings in the village date from earlier than the sixteenth century. This is not to say that the same site was not used over and over again. For example, it is very probable that, in the thirteenth century when the parish church was built, there was an inn on the site of the present Journey's End Inn which served the workers who built the church. It is likely that the oldest part of the present building, which was formerly called The New Inn was built in the sixteenth century, when Queen Elizabeth I inaugurated a network of New Inns for the use of travellers. In 1995, when the interior of the old farmhouse at Lower Manor Farm was completely stripped for conversion into a modern private dwelling, it was possible to see evidence of a much older building on the site. At the northern end there was a considerable amount of construction in cob and at the southern end, abutting the farmyard, there were indications of older foundations remaining as a cellar with an external door onto the farmyard.

In the gardens behind most of the cottages, stone privies can be seen - a reminder that main drainage came to Ringmore only in 1963. Similarly, such cottages as Well Cottage, Walnut Tree Cottage and Rock Cottage still have pumps and wells, most of which now have no function but which were invaluable in the days before mains water was installed in 1947. Electricity came to Ringmore in 1941. Before that there were of course no refrigerators and food was kept fresh in butter wells. These were stone shelves placed above streams. Examples can still be seen in the gardens of Middle Manor and Ringmore Vean.

The documents prepared for the sale of the Manor in 1862 show that most of the cottages had associated piggeries and some also had gardens. During the restoration of the village in the 1880's, gardens were provided for those cottages which had none. For example, the tenants of Cumberland Cottages were allocated the land on the opposite side of their lane, where Trewarne now stands. In this way, villagers were able to produce their own bacon and potatoes. Most of their other needs were supplied within the village. A few families, such as the Bardens, were fishermen a shoemaker worked at Challaborough Cottage, which was then an inn known as The Rising Sun and a carpenter and undertaker worked at Hill Cottage Studio. However, the main occupation was that of agricultural labourer for one of the farmers who rented land from

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Farm, Higher Farm, Cottage Farm, Mill Hills Farm and Marwell Farm. Not one of these still exists as a working farm, but the houses where the farmers lived and some of the old farm buildings can still be seen.

The farmhouse of Lower Farm is now called Lower Manor Farmhouse. It is unlike any other house in Ringmore, being built of stone with a slate roof and being comparatively large. It is three storeys high, with a semi-basement beneath, and has five bedrooms. The stone and slate farm buildings face the back of the farmhouse across a courtyard. When the farm was operational they included a calf house, a shippon with hay loft above, an adjoining shippon with a barn above, an adjoining tool shed with a feed store below and a two-bay implement shed. At the end of the courtyard is a stone and slate range of stables and loose boxes which has a weather vane and a striking clock. The farmhouse and buildings have been privately owned since the farm land was sold to the National Trust in 1995. The interior of the house has been completely modernised and alternative uses are being found for the buildings. The occupants of this house once played an important part in the life of the village. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, successive generations of farmers, all called Thomas Randle lived there with their families, servants and apprentices. (Ref: A Rocky Shore). Descendants of the last Thomas Randle to farm Lower Farm lived at Higher Farm; Cottage Farm and The Journey's End Inn.

Walnut Tree Cottage was, until about 1920, the farmhouse of Middle Farm. It was at one time called Homestead and was renamed after a magnificent walnut tree which stood in the front garden. The buildings of this farm have been disused for so long that it is not easy to recognise them. They may have included the present garage, the stone outbuildings behind the cottage and the building on the opposite side of the lane, which has been converted into a dwelling called The Little Barn. It is known that this was one of two thatched barns which had become derelict before 1923. The smaller barn burnt down in the 1930s. The last farmer of Middle Farm was Mr W.H.B. Ash, whose only son was killed at the age of 32 by falling off a horse.

The farm buildings of Higher Farm appear to have been re-built in the 1880's, shortly before the two farmers Mr John Moore and his brother Albert built a new farmhouse for themselves, now called The Manor. The main barn is built of stone with a slate roof. It bears the date 1882 and has a row of pigeon holes below the roof. The buildings are arranged round three sides of a square yard, facing the old farmhouse which was at one time called Virginia Cottage. Behind the enclosed yard are open barns, for the storage of hay and straw. This area was at one time used as an apple pound for the storage of cider apples and also as a coal depot from which coal arriving by sea at Challaborough was distributed. Until the 1960's, there was a milking herd at Higher Farm, which regularly walked through the village to and from the cowsheds behind the churchyard. These cowsheds have now been converted to the residence known as Scypen. In later years the farm concentrated on sheep and these too trotted along the main village road to and from their pasture. The farm buildings have not been used for agriculture since 1996.

The cob and thatched house now known as Cross Manor was the farmhouse for Cottage Farm and was called Ringmore Cottage. In the grounds behind the high walls surrounding this property are two stone and cob barns and a stone-roofed shed, which were the buildings of Cottage Farm.

Mill Hills Farm was considerably smaller than the others and it had no farmhouse as such. However it happens that, of the 25 tenements in Ringmore Manor known to have existed in 1755 (Ref), this is the only one which can be identified with certainty.

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In 1888, Rev. Hingeston Randolph wrote an article which included the following:-

I found one of these tiny farms, Mill Hills Farm, still lingering in 1860, the last relic of the state of things which prevailed in 1755; held too by a Coker, one of the old names, a little tenement of but six acres and a half, divided into no less than eight enclosures with miniature buildings and a comfortable but simple cottage home". (Ref)

Later, Rev. Hingeston Randolph recorded seeing a lease dated 1754 of this tiny tenement to John Coker for 99 years on lives. "This took the place of an earlier lease just expired, showing that Mill Hills must have been held continually by the Coker family for at least two centuries"

The Coker family lived in Hill Cottages, where the last of them Katterin Coker died in 1911. At the front of what is now Hill Cottage is a stone and cob donkey shed, with a tiny hayloft above it. On the opposite side of the lane is a tiny stone barn with a slate roof and the foundations of pigsties. It seems very likely that the most northerly room of Hill Cottage itself was at one time an animal shed. The farming of Mill Hills from this cottage probably ceased in 1870 when James Coker, the husband of Katterin died.

The Coker family also used the barn opposite Smugglers Cottage, which was later converted into a cottage, now known as Pleasant Cottage, by Mr. W.G. Luckraft.

Marwell Farm occupies the site of what was once a separate hamlet, named after St Mary's Well. Rev. Hingeston Randolph described how in 1860:-

"the farm buildings were of the most wretched description and, in fact, consisted of little more than the old thatched cottages of what was once Marwell Village, gutted of their contents and converted into stables, bullock houses and the like which at the best were as inadequate and unsuitable for their purpose as it is possible to conceive. The decayed timbers were giving way under huge accumulations of ancient thatch and the poor old cob walls were crumbling into dust. A friendly storm came----- and literally levelled the wretched hovels into the ground. Forthwith the ruins were cleared away and a model farmyard took their place and when it was finished a new farmhouse was also built." (Ref)

This farmhouse is now a private house. The fields were sold and the farm buildings converted into dwellings during the 1980s and 90s.

Apart from the buildings associated with the main farms of the Manor, there is another converted barn, which has an interesting history. "The Barn", opposite Higher Manor Farmhouse, was converted from a barn in 1942-44. Before that, it had been used by Mr William George Luckraft a small farmer who lived at Pleasant Cottage, to house his cows - with a hay loft above. However this building was not intended for animals. In the middle of the eighteenth century, it was given by the then Lord of the Manor, Mr Francis Kirkham to the poor of the parish as a house of refuge for their declining years. Although this was given to the poor not to the Parish, having no endowments for its upkeep it was claimed nearly a hundred years later as Parish property and became a reputed "poor-house". It was sold in 1839 to the then Lord of the manor, for the sum of £33. He turned it into a cattle house for his tenant of the Higher Farm. (Ref)

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The main building on the Glebe land was the Rectory. There must have been a series of rectories, possibly dating back to the early years of the Parish Church, but the earliest of which there is any knowledge stood on the site of what is now Windwood Farm. This rectory was burned down by the Parliamentary army during the Civil War, as a reprisal for the stand made against them by the Royalist rector of Ringmore, Rev. Lane. In 1812-1822 a new rectory was built for Rev. Ram, on the site now occupied by Oldcastle, and the site of the former rectory became a walled garden. The new building became much more grand after the arrival of Rev. Hingeston Randolph as rector and in 1871 he had it enlarged and castellated in the Victorian style. The Lodge, which is still to be seen at the roadside as a private house, was built in 1863 as a lodge at the end of the drive, which then led to the Rectory. The Rectory was much too large for later rectors and it was sold by the Ecclesiastical Commission in 1950. It fell into disrepair, was used as a pig farm and was eventually acquired by developers who converted a cowshed belonging to the old rectory into the house known as The Coach House and built the bungalow known as Windwood Farm. Mr and Mrs Albert Freeman, with their four sons and three daughters, lived in the old rectory building. Before acquiring this, Mr Freeman had bought a piece of Glebe land at Marwell Cross, which had been used as a searchlight battery during the 1939-45 war. Here he had a small-holding, from which he sold produce to the Burgh Island Hotel. This small-holding now belongs to Mr and Mrs Taylor and is known as Marwell Cross Gardens. In the hedge outside it is St. Mary's Well, over which Rev. Hingeston Randolph erected an arch in imitation of St. Minver's Well in Cornwall. The ornamental stone-work over the arch was found under the paving of the church during the restoration of 1861. (Ref.)

In the 1970s and 1980s Oldcastle was gradually converted again to a private residence. Meanwhile the Ecclesiastical Commissioners acquired the building now known as The Church House, which had been built on land away from the old Glebe, as a private dwelling.

The old Ringmore school was built on Glebe land for Rev Hingeston Randolph in 1863. The school closed in 1929 and for some years it was used as a lending library. Eventually it was converted to a private house, now known as Old School Cottage.

The only other building erected on Glebe land while it remained the property of the Church, was Belle View farmhouse. This was built in about 1900 and the land surrounding it is still a small farm, as is the case at Windwood Farm.

The Rev. Hingeston Randolph rented two buildings from the Manor. The first of these is now known as Ringmore Vean. This house was built on to an existing cottage as a rather grand residence for his mother. The second was part of what is now known as Wychwood, but was formerly called Rock Villa. It is believed that this cottage was rented by Rev F.C. Hingeston Randolph as a "Home" for two decayed families. (Ref) When the village was sold in 1907, this cottage and Rock Cottage next door to it were bought by Mr Frederick Ryder. He bought the extension at the northern end where he ran a Post Office. He also had a small-holding and his wife Bessie was well known for selling butter, cream, eggs and chickens on a stall at Plymouth market.

The barn associated with this small-holding was the stone building at the top of Cockle Lane, which was converted in 1975 to a dwelling, known as The Nook. It is believed that this barn stood on the site of the old village pound, where stray animals were kept.

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In May 1908, the site of three cottages which had burned down, together with land behind it was presented to Rev. F.C. Hingeston Randolph by the Syndicate (F and G Coyte and A. Podge) which had acquired the Manor of Ringmore from the late Mrs James Fellows, the last Lord of the Manor. The purpose was to build a Church Institute, with a Recreation Ground behind. (Ref) It is thought that the idea of a Church Institute grew out of the Erme and Avon Friendly Society which had been founded in 1865 by Rev. Hingeston Randolph to replace a Public House Club. The foundation stone of the Institute was laid by Mr F.A. Mildmay and Mrs Mildmay on 20th May 1908. The Recreation Ground, behind the Institute, was found to be unsuitable, because of its slope and it was sold in 1923, in order to raise money for the improvement of the Hall. The house known as Three Ways now stands on its site. In 1924, the Management Committee of the Institute decided to extend the building to its present size in stone to match the original building. The floor was made higher than that of the older part, so that it might be used as a platform and it was provided with sliding wooden shutters. The new extension which was built as a Memorial to the men of the village who died in the Great War, was to serve as a men's clubroom, with a billiard table. It was in use by 1926. In its early years, the Church Institute was very much a male preserve and when, in 1924, a Ringmore Women's Institute was formed, the women were not made very welcome to hold their meetings in the hall. In fact, friction was such that the women decided to buy land and have their own hall built. This was funded by the W.I. members making 10-year interest-free loans and, by 1929, the W.I. Hall, which still stands near the Church, was opened by Mrs Rogers, who had formerly lived at Ringmore Veau and had been a prime-mover in the project.

For a short time, there was a "dissenting" chapel in Ringmore - situated approximately on the site of the garage below Hillside. The Bishop's Licence for this chapel is dated 2.9.1817 and the building is shown on the Tithe Map. "Cavalcade of History" which was published on 26.6.1857 mentions the chapel as "Baptist. Small place of worship but no Minister"

The Cockle stream, which runs into the sea in Challaborough Bay, forms part of the boundary between Ringmore and Bigbury parishes. The western side of the Challaborough valley and bay belonged to the Lord of the Manor of Ringmore and was very important to the village, since it provided it with a "port" for fishing and the sea-transport of heavy materials, such as coal. The remains of a wooden jetty can still be seen among the rocks on the right hand side of the bay. For hundreds of years the lanes connecting Ringmore with the outside world were narrow, twisting, hilly and very muddy so that the availability of sea transport was a considerable asset. Coal was brought by sea from Wales to Challaborough and, after unloading from barges, it was hauled in carts and by pack-horses up Challaborough Hill to Ringmore village. Another useful import was limestone from Plymouth, for use on the land. In order to make it suitable for this use, it had to be burned with coal in a lime-kiln - of which there were three at Challaborough. The 1862 Manor Sale documents show that the three lime kilns were let to three different tenants - suggesting that they were operational at that time.

The Sale documents also mention fish cellars and beach with a right of fishery. At that time the Bardens, who lived on the Bigbury side of Challaborough, at Bigbury Down Farm, were the main fishing family at Challaborough (and on Burgh Island). Fresh fish, mainly mackerel and pilchards, was transported to Ringmore village by horse and cart and some pilchards were salted and cured in the fish cellars above the beach.

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Until towards the end of the nineteenth century, pilchards were an important item of food for Ringmore farm labourers and there were great celebrations in the village when a shoal was landed.

On the left side of Challaborough Hill, which leads to Ringmore, was a Coastguard Station, rented by the Manor to H.M. Customs and bought by them in 1862. The Station then comprised "four cottages with piggeries, gardens and a flagstaff." The cottages were built with thick, stone, slate-hung walls, slate roofs and storm doors in the front. At a later date, a so-called Captains House was added to the row and in front of this was a "Rocket House", which served as a store. Alongside the slipway leading to the beach was a coastguard boathouse.

By 1875, seine fishing had been abandoned at Challaborough and the fish cellars were no longer in use. In 1903 it was reported that one of the three fish cellars at Challaborough was in ruins (ref). By this time, the road system between Ringmore and Plymouth had improved, so that it was no longer necessary to import coal and limestone by sea. As the industrial use of Challaborough declined, it became a favourite seaside resort for Ringmore children and, in 1907 the occupants of The Veau were renting from the Manor a small tea-house on the cliff. Children also played in the unspoiled and marshy Challaborough valley. In winter this valley was often flooded but in summer families from Plymouth and its surroundings brought their caravans and camped there.

During the 1939-45 War, there was no public access to Challaborough beach, where the army had a look-out post. After the War, several enterprising people, including Mr Crookes and his son and Mr Jennings, developed Holiday Camps, with shops and fixed caravans in rows, which eventually filled the whole valley. A smaller camp was built on the cliffs below the old Coastguard Station, which had chalets instead of caravans. In 1987, Mr Crookes sold his camp to a firm known as F.W.F.C. Carter and, in 1991, they, in turn, sold it to Haven Leisure - a subsidiary of Rank - who also acquired the camp built by Mr Jennings on the Bigbury side of the valley and the chalets on the cliff.

Meanwhile, an old boathouse, formerly one of the three fish cellars on the beach,

and the adjoining coal store had been converted into houses called respectively Beach Cottage and Island View. A bungalow had been built alongside them and there were new houses and bungalows up Challaborough Hill. The six former coastguard cottages had all become private houses.

As Challaborough became entirely devoted to the seaside holiday industry, Ringmore itself became more closely associated with the sea. Whereas the old village had been almost hidden from the coast in a saucer-shaped hollow, twentieth century houses and bungalows were built around the edges of the old settlement, often on high ground with spectacular views of the sea.

Several village farmers built themselves new houses on high parts of their land and deserted their old lower-lying farmhouses. In 1900, Farmer John Moore built for himself the house known as The Manor and left his old farmhouse to a Farm Manager. Later The Manor was separated from the farm and sold as a private dwelling. A later owner of Higher manor Farm, Mr Vincent, built a bungalow for himself, known as Higher Manor, on one of his fields, again with a view of the sea, and this too was subsequently sold separately from the farm. In 1961, Mr Wells, the owner of Lower Manor Farm,

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had the house known as Ayrmer House built for him on high land, while the old farmhouse was occupied by a Farm Manager Both Ayrmer House and Lower Manor Farmhouse are now quite separate from the farmland, which is owned by the National Trust.

The house now known as Ayrmer Path was built in 1932, specifically for its view of Ayrmer Cove. It was owned by a retired doctor, Dr Goodall who ran a Market Garden and Poultry Farm exclusively supplying Burgh Island Hotel with fruit, vegetables, flowers and chickens.

In 1929, Mr Ernest Farley, a carpenter and undertaker, who had lived and worked in Well Cottage, where his wife's parents had brought up thirteen children, and his brother, Mr George Farley, built for themselves the two bungalows Greenway and Elmleigh in the field behind the Women's Institute Hall. At about the same time Westbury and Quarry Park were built on adjacent sites and the bungalows along the lane leading to Toby's Point were built.

A row of houses, known as Crossways, was built by the Council in 1949-50 to house agricultural workers, who were only too glad to move out of their dark and damp cottages. As agricultural work declined, later occupants of Crossways had no connection with farming.

The old cottages, deserted by agricultural workers were bought and modernised by incomers to the village who have 'improved' them and saved them from dereliction, but externally they they still look much as they have done down the centuries. Their appearance has been safeguarded by the fact that most of them have been Listed by the Department of the Environment as being of historic interest.

During the 1980's, the Planning Authorities refused to allow any further extension of village boundaries, but "in-filling" was encouraged. For example, two houses were built in the paddock of Cross Manor and two in the orchard of Hillside.

Holiday visitors came to stay not only in Chalfaborough, but also in Ringmore village. The Leddra family were among the first to come - arriving by pony and trap from Plymouth during the 1914-18 war. At first they spent their holidays with Mrs Bessie Ryder at Rock Villa (now Wychwood) and later they bought Inner and End Bohemia and Rose Cottage as holiday homes.

It was fairly common for people who had regularly spent their holidays in Ringmore to fall in love with the village and eventually to live there permanently. This was the case with Mr Leddra's daughter Nellie, who married Rear-Admiral Hubert Chapman and lived with him first at Rock Cottage and later at Smuggler's Cottage (then called Cypress Cottage). For many years she was the organist in Ringmore Church.