

Michael and Judith Dewar
Benefactors of St Nicholas
and Little Horwood Village

1945 to 1950



St Nicholas's Church,
Little Horwood.



This window was restored
in memory of
Mary and Albert Smith
who worshiped together in
this Church for 62 Years.

Enlargement of the
memorial inscription

This window was restored
in memory of
Mary and Albert Smith
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this Church for 62 Years.

Michael and Judith present Albert Smith with Best in Show Cup for his Ayrshire Cow “Fay” at British Timken Show at Duston, Northampton 1948











Slide 8

TS2

Terence Smith, 17/12/2020

1940 Britain Alone
National Debt High
Little Horwood Bells Silent

Not Like 2020 Then

Churchill was desperate to get America into the War

London Docklands were bombed heavily

Coventry was blitz bombed, obliterating 60,000 buildings in one night 14th November 1940

My Auntie Hetty at North Crawley stood for hours on Chicheley Road watching the City and Cathedral Burn

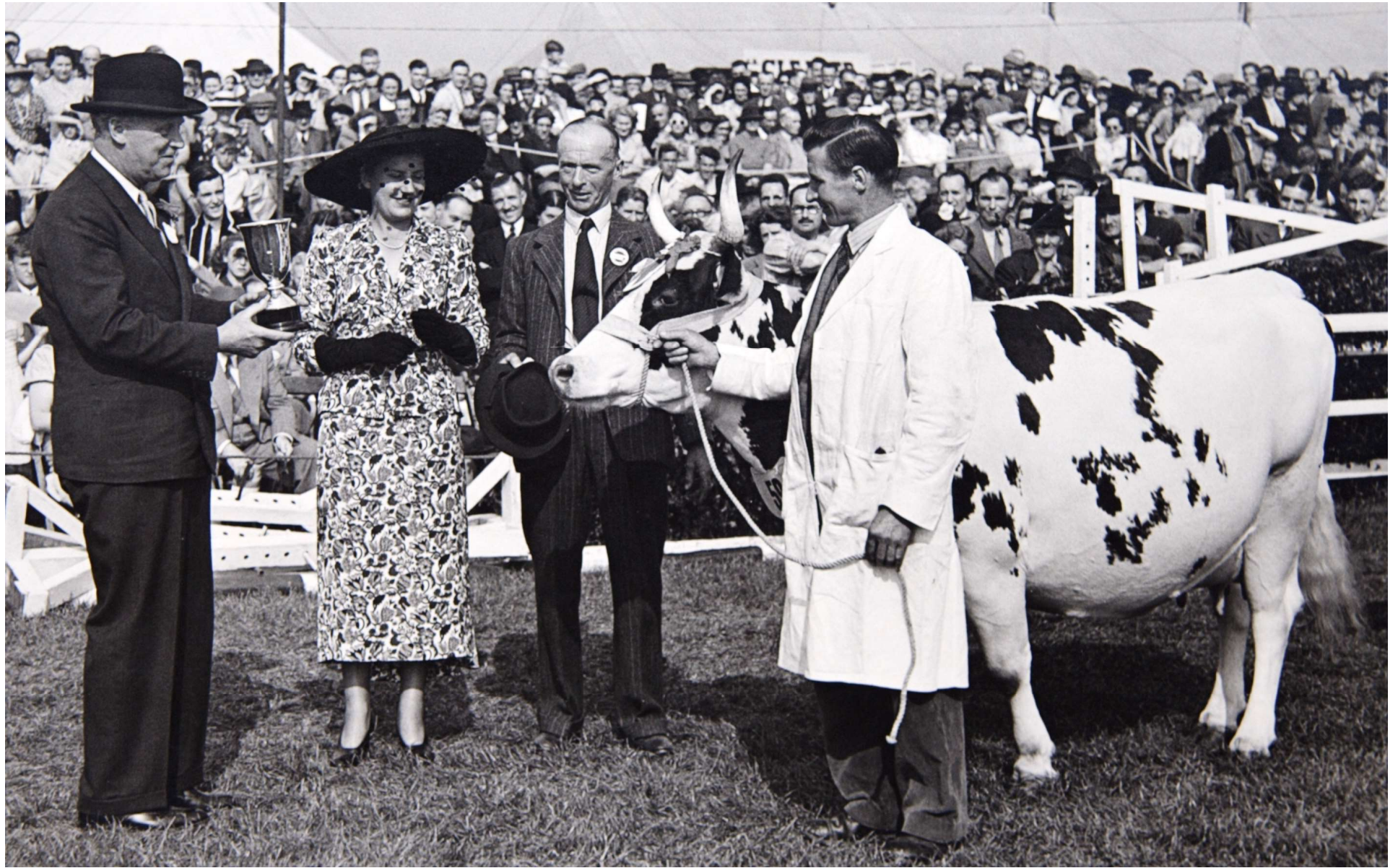
Churchill uses his American Wife Clementine to try to convince F D Roosevelt of the cause

Brings in his Munitions Expert from the first world war Michael Dewar

who was running an American subsidiary ballbearing company for the Automotive industry at Duston Northampton "British Timken"

Michael leads the Mission to Washington in 1941, assists US Ordnance with design of Sherman Tank

He agrees the Loan Lease deal and the First Sherman Tank imported named Michael is on show at Horsecross's Parade. Now at Bovington Tank Museum in Dorset



Who was Michael Dewar

Born Cheltenham 1886

Educated Rugby School and Trinity College Cambridge

Apprentice Vickers Sheffield

War Office in 1916 then The Ministry of Munitions in charge of Munitions

Assistant Controller of shell production

The first World War saw the invention of the tank for the first time ever

Served on Allied Committees

Employment Exchanges in 1920

Ministry of Labour delegation studied industrial conditions in Canada and US in 1925

MD of British Timken 1928-1951

F D Roosevelt signs
The Lend Lease Act
1941.

In Britains case it was
the loan of equipment
viz the Sherman Tanks
in exchange for the
American use of
British Bases



The M4 Sherman Tank

Designed by Michael Dewar and U S Ordnance

1st Tank Imported was Displayed on Horse guards Parade

Now at The Tank Museum at Bovington, Dorset

Features on this first Model A main armament sight on top of the Turret

And an extra pair of Machine Guns operated by the driver at the front



£600,000 Will Of Mr. George Gee

MR. GEORGE GEE, chairman and managing director of Messrs. Gee, Walker and Slater, Ltd., contractors, London and Derby, who died on February 23 at the age of 55, left £600,807 with net personalty £212,339.

He went to London as a representative of the firm in 1923, and his home was at Little Horwood, Buckinghamshire.

Mr. Gee was a son of the late Mr. Samuel Gee, and succeeded his father as the head of one of the best-known constructional firms in Great Britain.

MANOR FOR SON

He left £1,500 to S. J. Gosland, a director of the firm, and £250 to Frank Westall, agent, if still in his service; £250 for the staff of Little Horwood Manor; Little Horwood Manor and land he left to his son, Francis; and personal belongings, furniture, etc., live and dead stock, and an annuity of £2,000 to his wife; £1,500 to Leonard Beavor, and the residue upon trust for his children.

Probate has been granted to his sons, Francis N. Gee, of Cornhill Cottage, Pattishall, Towcester, Ronald J. Gee, of Creslow Manor, Whitechurch, Aylesbury, his brother, John A. Gee, of Duffield Bank, Duffield, and Leonard P. Beavor, of Thorndown, Fursley, Bucks.

Norman Gee , his fathers Executor sells the Manor Estate 1st October 1945

- Estate Workers are fearfull of their future
- Michael Dewar buy's everything
- In October 1945 marries his secretary Judith Mullens at Peterborough
- December 1945 throws a huge party for Estate Staff at the Manor House Little Horwood with conjurers and photographers and games
- Albert Smith knows everyone so Judith asks him to go to Aylesbury with her to buy presents for everyone
- It was the start of a life long relationship as Albert was her Barometer for insights in to everything that was going on in Little Horwood

December 1945 at Manor Staff Christmas Party
Mary Smith and Albert Smith with Margaret and
Terry





WARREN FARM
COWHOUSE



WARREN FARM
ESTATE OFFICE
AND BUILDINGS



WARREN FARM
MILKING PARLOUR

Allison Uttley visits Warren Farm in 1940's researching her book on "Buckinghamshire"

- She comments on several pages in her book
- I was sorry to leave this delightful place which was so well kept and happy
- We thought we had seen one of the finest sights in Bucks that day
- Relating to the Ayrshire herd- Albert was as proud of them as if they had been his own



British Timken Factory

- Based at Duston, Northampton
- Employed 4000 people
- Manufacturing Ball and Roller Bearings , 70% exported to Continental Europe
- Held a huge Agricultural Show featuring livestock and International Show Jumping
- Held Cricket matches often with Northants County Players like Dennis Brooks

Michael and Judith present Albert Smith with Best in Show Cup for his Ayrshire Cow “Fay” at British Timken Show at Duston, Northampton 1948



ABOVE :
Joella of Rye Hall.

BELOW :
For the second year in succession Mr. Michael Dewar, Chairman of British Timken Ltd., won the British Timken Cup for Dairy Cattle with his pedigree Ayrshire cow, Blackbyres Gay Lass. He is seen here presenting the cup to a member of his own Agricultural Staff.



Who was Albert Smith

- Barnadoes Boy age 9 arrives at Swanbourne Station in 1925 in a snowstorm with no one to meet him. Walks with his case to Mount Pleasant on the Winslow Road
- Milks cows at the White House every morning before school.
- Went to Little Horwood School with Percy Thrower
- Takes a correspondence course in Animal Husbandry with Aylesbury College
- Employed by George Gee to manage his Ayrshire Herd at age 23
- Chairman of Little Horwood Parish Council for 25 years
- Church Warden, Recreation Ground Trustee, School Governor and many other offices



Medieval Wall Paintings

E. CLIVE ROUSE



The Medieval Wall Paintings

- A survey by E Clive Rouse was made in 1947 instigated by the Dewars
- He was the leading expert in the country for many years
- He was a former President of the Bucks Archaeology Society
- When Ted Bull and Terry Smith launched the LHSAA in 1968 it was on the list of many village projects to be done.
- In 1995 Terry Smith led the project for restoration with Ann Ballantine one of Mr Rouses Pupils doing the work.
- It exposed a doorway blocked up from the 1889 restoration built with Little Horwood Bricks from Joe Gunthorpe's Brick and Tile Works.

St Nicholas' Church, Little Horwood

Little Horwood Brick.

This is to certify that this brick was locally produced
from local clay, was hand made and wire cut
in the year of our Lord

One thousand eight hundred and eighty nine
and was almost certainly produced at the kilns of

Joe Gunthorpe's Brick and Tile Works
(behind what is now Terafield Farm)
Little Horwood.

For one hundred and six years this brick was used
to block up the North Door in the interior of
St Nicholas Church, Little Horwood.

and was recovered from the church during restoration
work to the Medieval Wallpaintings in the year of our Lord
One thousand nine hundred and ninety five

Certificate No. 2/50

GRAND MIDSUMMER FAIR

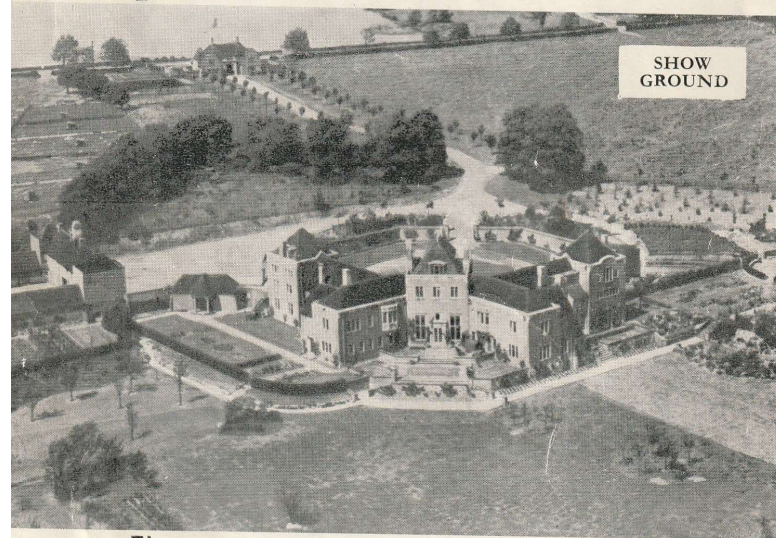
TO BE HELD AT
LITTLE HORWOOD MANOR

ON

SATURDAY, JUNE 18th, 1949
FROM 10-30 A.M. TO 7-30 P.M.

ADMISSION: ADULTS 1/6 - CHILDREN 6d.

By kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dcwar



IN AID OF THE OXFORD DIOCESE
LAITY CHALLENGE FUND AND THE
MURSLEY DEANERY CHURCH FUND

FOR MAP SEE BACK PAGE

PROGRAMME - PRICE 6d.

Michael Dewars projects for Little Horwood 1945-51

- Renovation of the Church Heating System
- Survey of Wall Paintings
- Installation of New Radiogram in the School
- Start to Donate School Close as a Recreation Field
- Later his Widow donated a new East Window in his memory
- Donated New Church Pews
- Was always 1st with a £100 cheque donation on Church Fete Day

Another Shock Death

On 21st December 1950 when Michael died he was in negotiations with Little Horwood Recreation Ground Trustees for them to acquire School Close.

His death and subsequent Estate Administration meant that this matter could not be completed until 1964 when it was acquired for a nominal 100 guineas from his widow.

Terry Smith was appointed recreation ground secretary and asked to write up 13 years minutes of The trustees.



Who was Michael Dewar

Born Cheltenham 1886

Educated Rugby School and Trinity College Cambridge

Apprentice Vickers Ltd , Sheffield

Married a Baronets Daughter 1910

First World War served with Royal engineers

1915 Transferred to the War Office in connection with Munition Production

1916 Moved to Ministry of Munitions

Appointed Director General National Projectile Factories

Assistant Controller of Shell Manufacture

At the end of the war served on several inter Allied Committees

After the war was Director of Leeds Forge Company and Managing Director of

Metropolitan Carriage Wagon and Finance Company Ltd

Member Committee of Enquiry into Employment Exchanges in 1920

Member Ministry of Labour Delegation studying industrial conditions in Canada and United States in 1925

Who was Albert Smith

A 9 years old Barnados Boy who arrived on his own at Swanbourne Station in 1925 in a snow storm

No one was there to meet him so he walked up to Mount Pleasant on the Winslow Road carrying his case with all his worldly possessions on his own.

Lodged with Joe Haley, milked cows at the White House before school every day

Attended Little Horwood School with Percy Thrower

Took a correspondence course on Animal Husbandry at Aylesbury Agricultural centre

1939 George Gee engaged him to manage his Ayrshire Herd of Cattle at age 23.

Moved to Sandhill Farm, (Now Fir Tree Farm) a council Farm run by Joe Haley's son Ernest Healey

Midsummer Day 1941 had his way with a Land girl in a field at Warren Farm. (Thank Goodness)

November 1941 marries Mary and moves to 11 Church Street.

Wages £1.19s.0d a week Rent of Cottage 7s 6d

John Hyland was relieved at the marriage as he could now take Alberts room at Sandhill instead of living in the buildings.(He was one of several Barnados Boys living there.

His Duties in Little Horwood were:

Chairman of Parish Council for 25 years

Church Warden

Recreation Ground Trustee

Hall Entertainments Committee

Home Guard

Special Constable , and School Governor and Supporting everything that was going on in the village



British Timken Ltd

Created in 1920 by Timken Roller Bearing Company of Canton Ohio as a manufacturer of ball bearings in UK

1928 Appoint Michael Dewar as Chairman attached to an option agreement to purchase his shares if he died

Head Office at Ward End, Chester Road Aston Birmingham 7 where a fully equipped modern Factory operated

Supplied Automotive industry and Aircraft Industry.

1941 the company builds works on a greenfield site at Duston Northampton, clearly in connection with the import of Sherman Tanks which Michael had helped design together with US Ordnance.

Factory Employed 4000 people

1945-1950 put on huge Agricultural Shows , Cricket Matches involving county cricketers, International Show Jumping

After Michaels Death in 1950 the American Company exercised their option to buy his shares

In 2002 the Duston Factory Closed Down with production moving to Poland