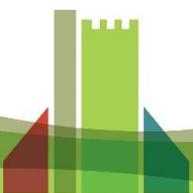


Villages of the Meon Valley

2010

Author: Michael Collins

www.friendsofdroxfordchurch.org.uk



Villages of the Meon Valley

Peter R. Watkins

Swanmore Books

2010

Isaac Walton was steward to Bishop George Morley at Worcester, and then at Winchester. Lived some of the time at house of William Hawkins (prebend of Winchester) in the Close at Winchester. Friend of curate of Droxford, John Darbyshire, and of Sir Francis Morley of Manor House. Walton died at Hawkins' house in the Close in 1683.

Dr Hawkins lived much of the year in the close at Winchester where, according to the Hearth Tax returns, his house had 13 hearths, whereas the Rectory at Droxford only had ten hearths.

18th century Church of England a place of laxity and complacency, only reformed under Charles Sumner from 1827 (resigned seat in 1869). Droxford Deanery included 32 parishes. Huge medieval deanery of Droxford divided in 1856, and 24 new deaneries created. Charles Sumner made appointments that were in his gift to like-minded evangelicals.

In 1810 Droxford was the richest living in the Meon valley, worth £799. William Garnier employed curates to carry out church services. In 1810 Edward Nott was paid £75 per year plus £15 towards accommodation. William Garnier became Lord of the Manor of Wickham in 1819. He died in 1835, and is buried at Wickham.

Chapels of ease built at Shedfield in 1829, and Swanmore in 1845, later replaced by present churches.

In 1851 the living at Droxford was worth £1103.

On 30th March 1851 recorded that church attendance at Droxford was 163 in the morning, and 185 in the afternoon, out of a parish population of 2005 (including Shedfield & Swanmore).