

## KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD, Rowanfield

[Jill Waller, CLHS, 2020]

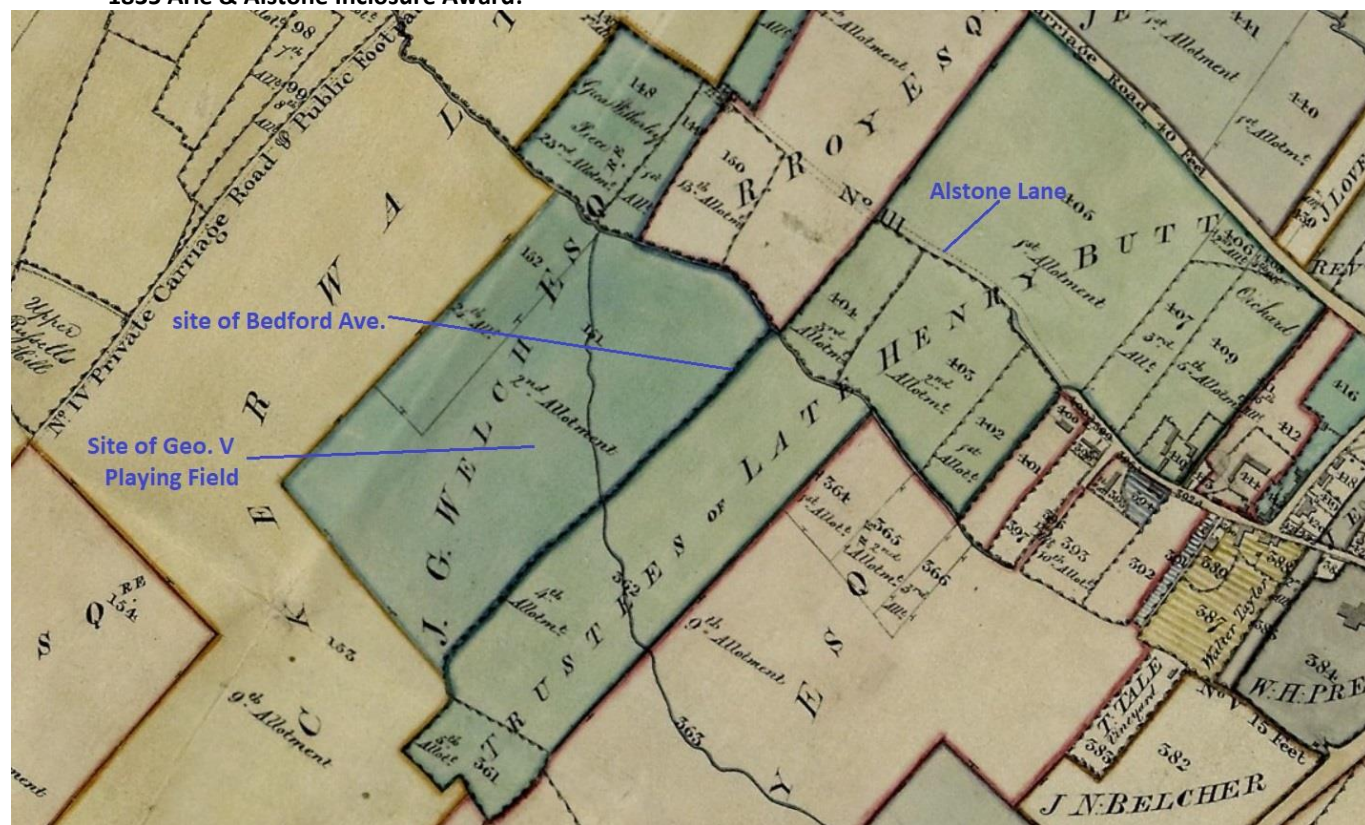
This playing field was established under the King George's Field Foundation, set up in 1936 after the death of King George V (1865-1936) to establish public playing fields. Money was raised locally to buy the land, assisted by a grant from the Foundation. After purchase the land was passed to the National Playing Fields Association, now known as Fields in Trust. Each King George's Field was distinguished by heraldic plaques at the entrance. These heraldic panels were issued as a gift by the Foundation to all approved schemes, becoming the official emblems of this national memorial. By the time the King George's Fields Foundation was dissolved in 1965 there were 471 King George Playing Fields, all over the UK. They are now legally protected by Fields in Trust and managed locally, either by the council of a board of local trustees. (Source: Wikipedia)

The King George V Playing Field sits in part of what was originally **Hill Field** in the hamlet of Alstone. For centuries this large field was divided into strip lynchets (ridge and furrow farming), the strip being allocated to a different people to farm. Gradually the land became enclosed with a number of strips being fenced together, and the end of ridge and furrow farming came to an end in the area with the 1835 Alstone Inclosure Award. Any remaining strip lynchet land was divided up into allotments which were awarded to the owners according to how many strips of land they had previously farmed.

The King George V Playing Field is sited on two such Inclosure Awards (Nos. 151 & 152), allocated to John Gregory Welch, who owned much land in Arle and Alstone. It was surrounded by closes of land with names such as Great Witherley Piece, Arcott Piece and Upper Hitchlands. Much of this land in Hill Field seems to have been meadow or pasture at this time, while the land nearer the hamlet of Alstone was used mainly for market gardening and as orchards.

The land which was to become the Playing Field had a small stream running across it, which originated in the area that is now the Lansdown Industrial estate. This joined a larger stream running down from the Vineyards area, eventually joining the River Chelt at Uckington.

### 1835 Arle & Alstone Inclosure Award:



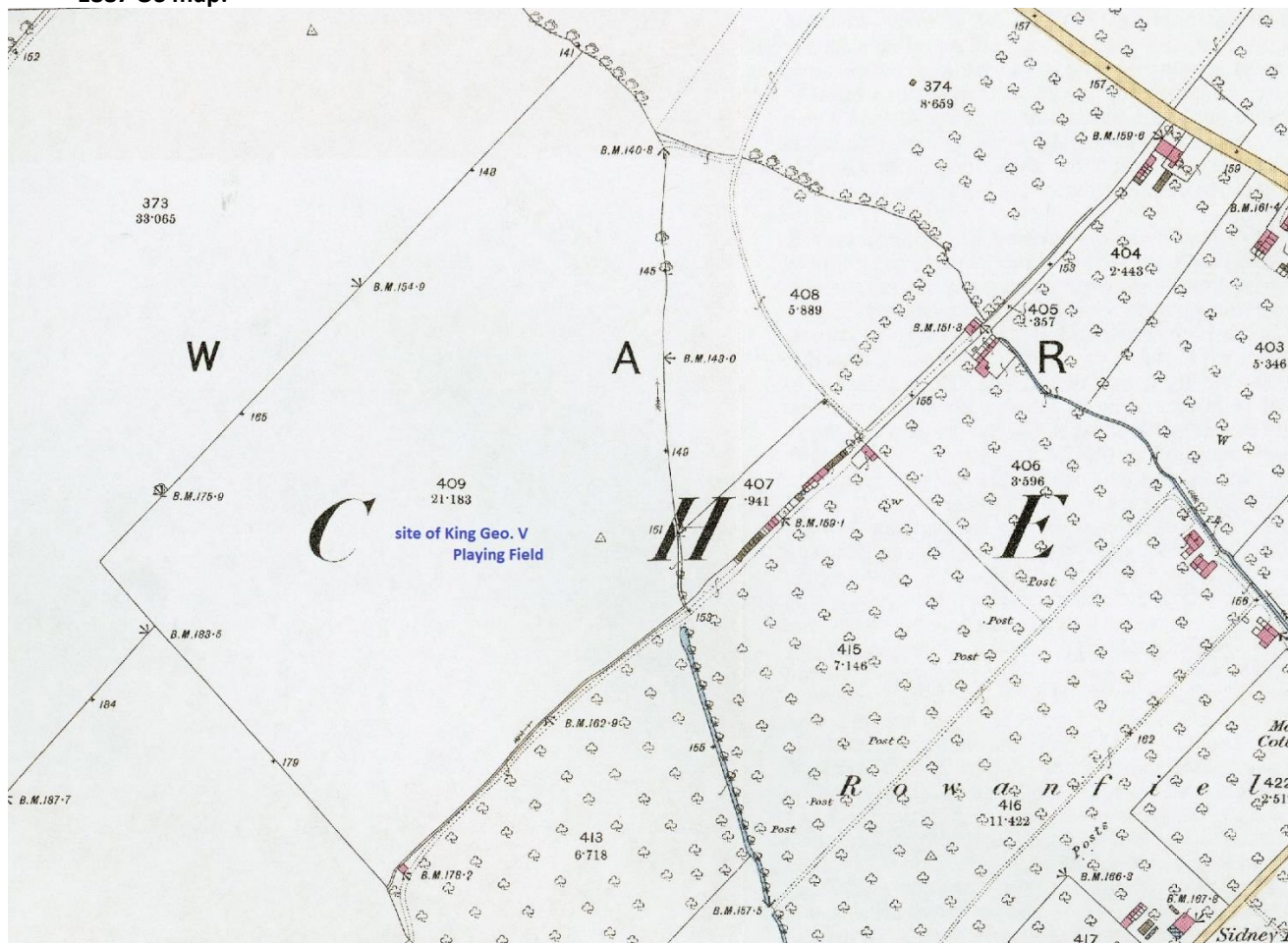
The late Peggy Ashton, who set up the hairdressing salon 'Neuvelle' on Gloucester Road, was born in 1921 and lived in Alstone Avenue for the first part of her childhood. Sharing her memories in 1998, Peggy recalled that in the 1920s Alstone Lane beyond the Paddy-gates (level-crossing) was just a cinder track with hedges either side. Beyond this was only fields. Down near Brooklyn Road, which was merely a sandy track, were the 'Humpty-Dumps' – lumpy bits of field they used to love running up and down. This is all that was left of the medieval strip-farming.

The land in the Alstone area that Peggy remembered in her childhood had lent itself to extensive market gardening since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The soil was particularly good for orchards and for other fruit, especially gooseberries; root crops included potatoes, and swedes. Most residents kept poultry and pigs. The market-gardening families included Cooke (Alstone Lane, South Bank, Arle Road), Sindrey (Rowanfield, Brooklyn Gardens), Boote (Rowanfield), Wasley (Benhall and St Marks), and Smith (South Bank, The Shallows).



The St Mark's 'Poets' estate was begun immediately after the First World War, when the borough bought 115 acres off Gloucester Road from Mr Unwin. The first 10 houses were ready for occupation on 24 Jan 1921. The first road on the estate was Tennyson Road. Brooklyn Road was laid out by 1921, connecting Tennyson Road with Arle Road. Further housing was required after the Second World War, and most of the remaining orchards and market gardening land was compulsorily purchased by the Council, changing the nature of the area for ever.

**1887 OS map:**



**1928 St Mark's estate, with Brooklyn Road in the background (courtesy of Britain from Above)**

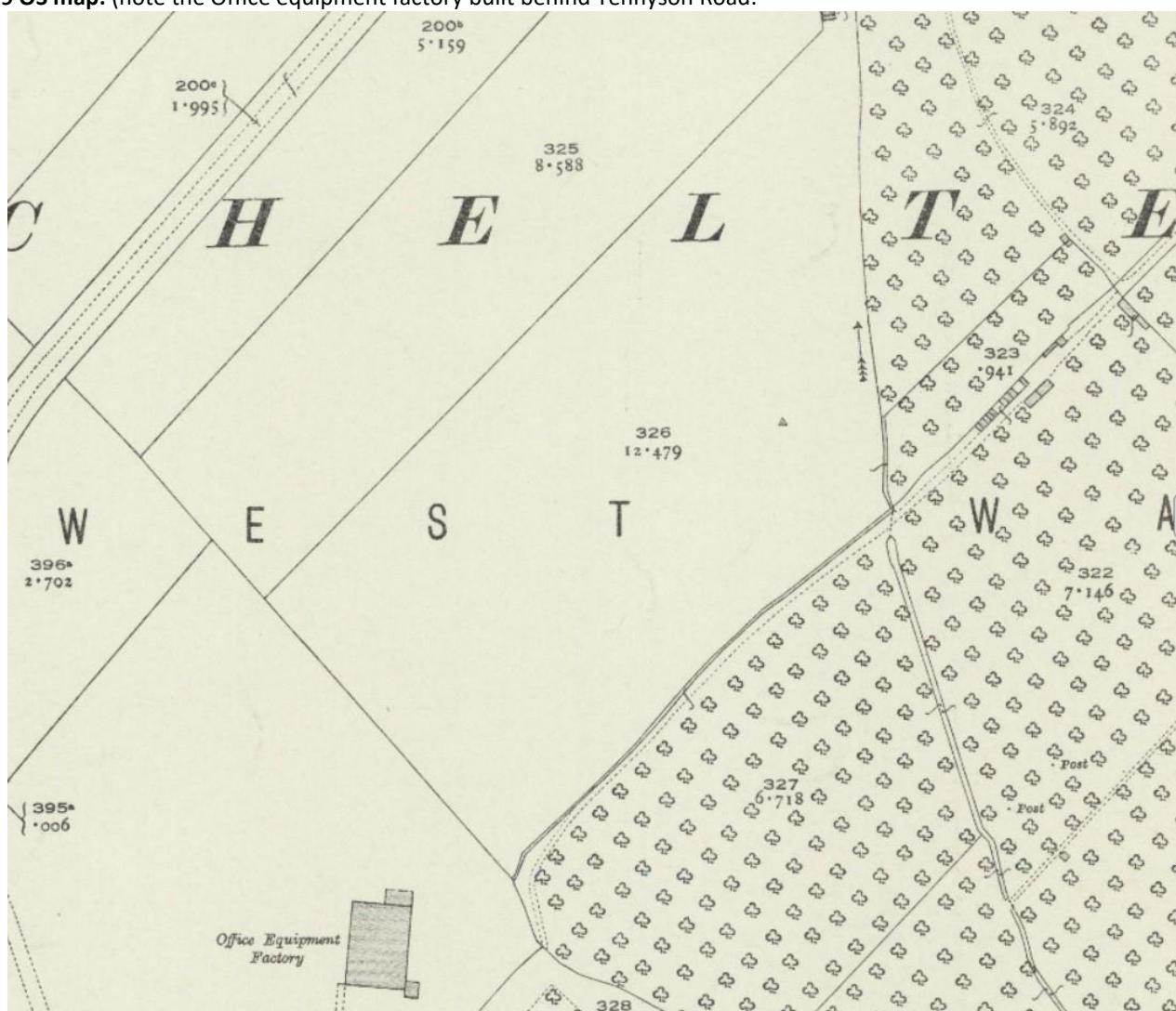




1931 (Courtesy of Britain from Above) – Sunningend & Railway station foreground; site of Playing Field in background.  
Shows the extensive market gardening in Alstone.

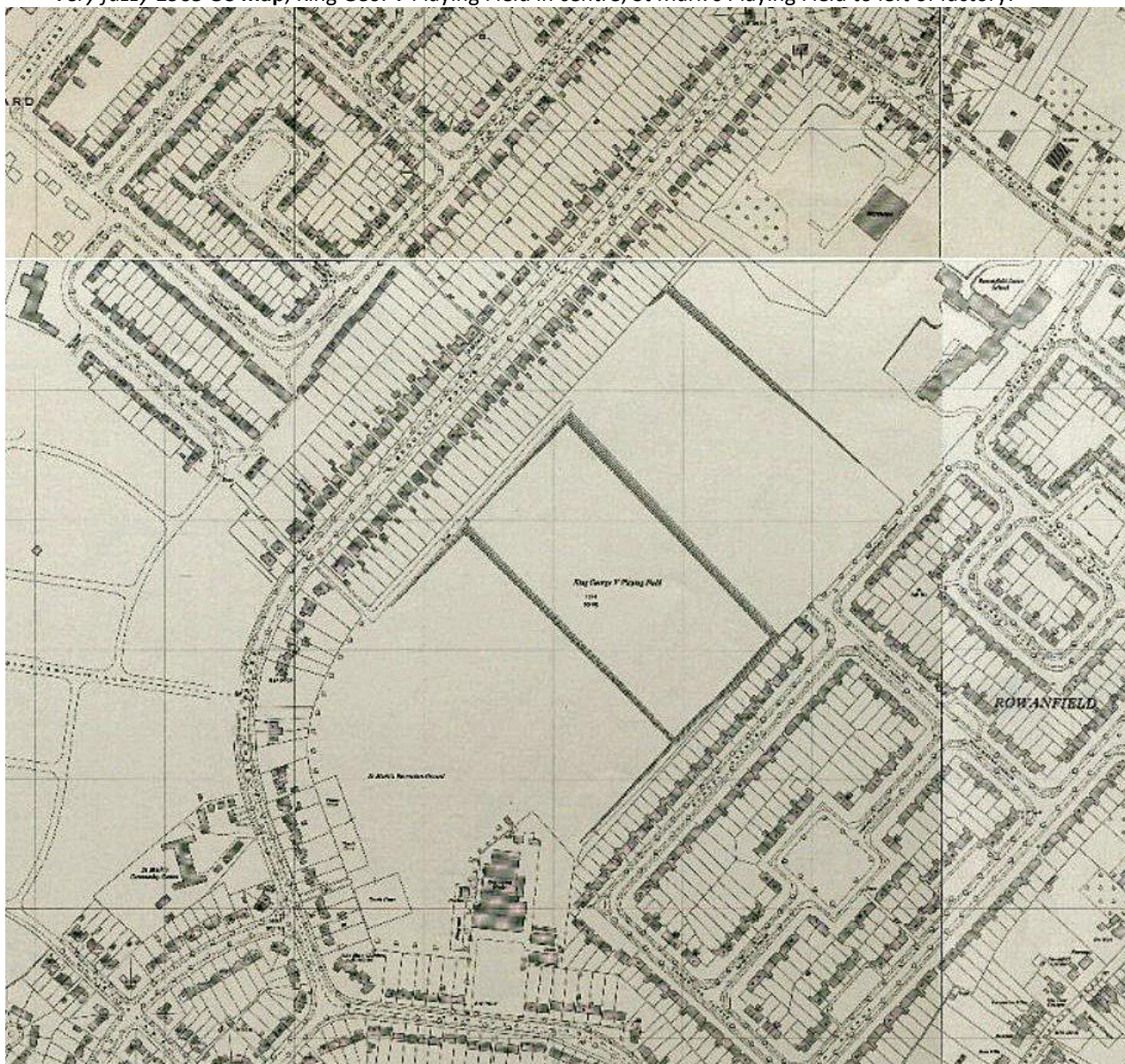


1939 OS map: (note the Office equipment factory built behind Tennyson Road.)





Very fuzzy 1965 OS map, King Geo. V Playing Field in centre; St Mark's Playing Field to left of factory.



## NEWS

### Cheltenham Manor Court Books, Court held 13 Apr 1694:

... No sheep to be kept in the **Hillfield of Alstone** until 14 days after it is rid; on pain of 10s for default. ...  
(The sheep were turned into the arable fields after the crops had been harvested – JW)

### **Cheltenham Chronicle, Sat 26 Aug 1922** – CHELTENHAM DOUBLE TRAGEDY – TWO MEN WITH THROATS CUT

EVENT STILL WRAPPED IN MYSTERY – One of the grimmest mysteries ever associated with Cheltenham shocked the public on Monday afternoon, when a small holding of Corporation land bordering on Brooklyn Road (a new thoroughfare connecting the municipal housing estate with Arle) was the scene of a ghastly tragedy, involving the lives of two men. The men were George Shephard (38) of Lyndhurst, Fairfield Road, Leckhampton, who for the past 12 months has been the tenant of the holding where the tragedy took place; and Fred James Parry, of 2 Old Millbrook Terrace, Cheltenham, who had, off and on, worked for him on the holding, but had for the last few days been employed by Mr Sidney Cook of Southbank market gardens, on the other side of Brooklyn Road.

The double tragedy must have taken place in full view of the road 30 yards away, but nothing appears to have been seen to arouse suspicion. The discovery was made about 2 o'clock by a roadman who had noticed Shephard's absence, and went into the garden to see where he was. The scene that presented itself was a horrible one. Parry was lying at the corner of the potato patch three or four yards from the small shed or hut. His throat was cut so deeply that the windpipe was completely severed, and he lay in a large pool of blood. Two or three yards away, and only a foot or two from the door of the shed, lay Shephard, also dead, his throat cut in two places, and several gashes on his wrists. He also lay in a large pool of blood, and at his side was a large razor, the blade of which was tied to the handle with string so that it might not close. The police being summoned, the Coroner's Officer (P.C. Attwood) proceeded to the spot and had the bodies removed to the mortuary at the General Hospital.

When the body of Parry was removed it was found that under him was a razor. Unlike that found at the side of Shephard, the handle of this was not tied. The fact that two razors were found, and that there were no signs on the ground of any struggle, suggested the possibility of the tragedy being a double suicide, but ... there are various circumstances that would not lend themselves to this conclusion, such as Shephard's wounds. ...

... The relations existing between the two men will, of course, be of prime interest in the inquiry into the tragedy, which has been adjourned until next Wednesday. Shephard, a single man, lived with his widowed mother and two sisters, and was of fine physique, at least six feet in height. He came from Malvern during the war to work at the Sunningend Aircraft Works as a joiner, being unfit for active service. At that time Parry, then 15 or 16, was a tearoom boy at the same works. The man seemed to have taken a liking for the boy, and the acquaintance continued after the end of the war had terminated both their engagements at Sunningend (*site of Lansdown Industrial Estate – JW*). About 12 months ago Shephard took the Corporation small-holding on the **Brooklyn Road**, and during most of the time that has since elapsed Parry worked there with him, the older man also doing a little dealing at the market. ...

#### **Evesham Standard, Sat 2 Sep 1922 – TRAGEDY AT CHELTENHAM – MALVERN MAN'S JEALOUSY**

VERDICT OF MURDER AND SUICIDE – Evidence of an extraordinary character was given at the resumed inquest at Cheltenham on Wednesday, into the deaths of George Shephard (38), a smallholder of Lyndhurst, Fairfield Road, and Fred James Parry (19), of 2 Old Millbrook Road, who were found dead with their throats cut on Shephard's holding, **Brooklyn Road**, on August 21, and at the close the jury returned a verdict of murder against Shephard *re*. Parry's death, and a verdict of *felo de se* in regard to his own death....

... Mrs Parry, mother of the deceased lad Parry, recalled, gave evidence of Shephard's apparent attachment to her son, remarking that they often went for walks together and that Shephard frequently visited her son at his home. Asked if she had ever seen any improper conduct between them, she emphatically declared she had not. ...

... Frederick Parry, father of Fred Parry, said Shephard asked his son four times to go out with him on the Sunday evening, and seemed annoyed when the lad refused. Witness added that his son had told him that he wished to break off his acquaintance with Shephard, but gave no reason for the dislike he had taken to him.

Laura Woodward, of 19 Sidney Street, stated that ... she walked out with Fred for about 12 months. Did Shephard object to your keeping company with Fred Parr? – Yes; Fred never gave me any reason, but it seemed as if Shephard wanted Fred all to himself. He objected even to boy company as well. In consequence of this I gave Fred up. About 3 weeks ago, she added, she met Fred, when he told her he was tired of everything, that Shephard had parted him from the girl he was engaged to, and that after every quarrel he had with Shephard the latter threatened to get him sent to prison for receiving money from the Labour Exchange while he was working for him (Shephard). Parry added, "If he does I shall get him (Shephard) to prison." and when asked "What for," Fred replied, "Oh, I know what for," and then rode off on his bicycle.

Gladys Kathleen Waite, a single girl, residing with her mother at 202 High Street, said she had known the Parry family, including Fred for many years. She became engaged to Fred and the engagement lasted up to March 12. She knew Shephard, to whom she was introduced by Fred. Fred sometimes came to her house for Fred, almost every day sometimes, and she several times went out with them both at the same time. The result was that you took a dislike to him? – Yes. Why? – Because he was always poking in where he was not wanted. ... Did Fred and Shephard often go for long walks together? – Yes. Did he ever tell you anything about those walks? – Yes; on the promise that I would not tell anyone. He said he did not like going out with George because he treated him as a girl and was always putting his arms around him; this was in the spring of last year. Fred told her this one day after having the previous evening been out with George Shephard for a long walk on Cleeve Hill. He seemed rather worried, and she asked him what he was worrying about. Witness repeated the statement of Parry and Shephard was always putting his arms around him. He always to my mind seemed afraid of Shephard.

Sidney Fitzroy Cooke, fruit grower, who had given Parry work, detailed two conversations he had had with Shephard regarding Parry prior to August 21, from which witness gathered that Shephard appeared to that think that Parry had said, or was going to say, something about Shephard, who was his former employer. ...

CORONER'S SUMMING UP – The Coroner said there was no doubt that the relations between the two men were, to say the least, of a somewhat peculiar character. That Shephard at one time had considerable affection for Parry there could be no doubt; whether it developed beyond proper and natural affection was difficult to say. He read to the jury extracts from letters which Shephard had written to the Labour Exchange complaining that Parry had been drawing unemployment money from the Exchange when he ought to have been at work; that when at work Parry was a shocking bad timekeeper; that the money he received from the Exchange only encouraged him in his laziness, and that he would never trouble to get work so long as he could get 15s a week from the Exchange. Shephard further threatened to expose a fraud done on the Exchange by Parry in taking a week's money when he was at work at a gramophone shop. All this the Coroner observed, was inconsistent with the friendship shown for the lad, unless they took the view that Shephard was a man of abnormal character.

There was no doubt Parry wished to break from Shephard, but he seemed to have been in difficulties over the matter because of the threats held over him by Shephard. It there were an improper relationship between the men, that might throw some light on what happened on Aug. 21. The anxiety shown by Shephard as to whether Parry had said anything to Mr Cooke about him seemed to suggest that there was something under the surface which it was difficult to clear up. The jury must exercise their common sense, and draw proper inferences from the facts as given in evidence, which certainly showed that the relationship between the two men was not quite what it ought to be.

The jury found that Parry was murdered by Shephard, who afterwards committed suicide (*felo de se*).



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**Cheltenham Chronicle, Sat 1 Apr 1944 – TOWN COUNCIL**

... A new item in the accounts of the Parks & Recreation Grounds Committee is the sum of £400 for the new **King George V Playing Field** in **Brooklyn Road**. ...

**Gloucestershire Echo, Wed 13 Dec 1944 – EVEN BETTER PARKS; BIG PLANS FOR RECREATION**

A Zoological collection and a camping site on Leckhampton Hill, a miniature golf course at Pittville Park, with terrace garden; and improvements to the Athletic Ground, to make it a first-class sports centre with accommodation for 15,000 spectators – these are among the suggestions put forward by Mr J W Smith, Cheltenham Parks Superintendent, in his report on post-war planning and reconstruction of the Borough's parks, gardens and recreation grounds. ...

... Already provision has been made for four football, two hockey and five cricket pitches on **King George V Playing Field**, in addition four tennis courts, one bowling and one putting green are suggested for **St. Mark's Recreation Ground**, the two jointly making a recreational area of major importance. ...

**Gloucestershire Echo, Tues 4 Apr 1944 – CHELTENHAM RATES UNCHANGED**

The Town Council decided at Monday's meeting that the rates for Cheltenham in the year just beginning shall remain at 11s 2d in the pound. ... The various Committees have carefully estimated their requirements. ... The Parks Committee ask for £323 more. ... There is the laying-out of the **King George V Playing Field**, £400. ...

**Gloucestershire Echo, Wed 4 Apr 1945 – TOWN COUNCIL**

... The Parks and Recreations Grounds Committee underspent by £866 last year owing to shortage of labour, but ask for an increase of £4,091 for the new financial year. £1,453 more is required for Pittville Park due to increased labour costs and numerous outstanding repairs. £495 extra is required for the Athletic Ground, chiefly for fencing. Agg-Gardner Recreation Ground, £698 for special repairs; and the balance of £1,445 spread over the other parks and gardens, including £200 for **King George V Playing Field**. This Committee is to be commended for taking care of the properties of the Council.

**Gloucestershire Echo, Wed 15 Aug 1945**

The following are the arrangements made by the Council for Public Entertainments during Wednesday and Thursday: ... **St. Mark's Playing Field**, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Gramophone Records. ...

The times mentioned are approximate; where possible temporary lighting will be provided at the grounds mentioned to enable dancing to continue after dark. The amplifying of records at the various grounds will be provided by the radio amplifying equipment of Messrs. Fear, Syd Tonge, and Dale, Forty & Co. Ltd.

During one or both days, Punch & Judy Shows will tour the Sandford Par, Naunton Park, **St. Mark's**, St. Peter's, Agg-Gardner and Alstone Recreation Grounds.

**Gloucestershire Echo, Sat 27 Oct 1945 – PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS**

Consideration is being given by the Cheltenham Town Council's Allotments Committee to the suggestion by the Gardens Superintendent that, pending provision of allotments at Hesters Way, approximately one acre of the food production site at **Brooklyn Road** be allocated for allotments, for a period of three years or until it was decided to include the land in the layout of the King George V. playing field.

**Gloucestershire Echo, Sat 9 Aug 1947 – TODAY'S GOSSIP**

PLAYING FIELD – Local cricketers will have the pleasure of playing on expertly laid down wickets when the work on the **King George V playing fields** adjoining the **St. Mark's Recreation Ground** is completed. Section I of this new municipal venture – about 8 acres – is proceeding at full speed. It will be ready for sowing in mid-September, and it is hoped that play will be possible next summer.

It is proposed to lay down cricket wickets and maintain them in first-class order, and Mr J W Smith, the Parks Superintendent, is also considering the possibility of a matting wicket. A matting wicket would, we believe, be an innovation in the town, although before the war the Coombe Hill cricket club had one in use. There will also be facilities for association football and hockey.

**Gloucestershire Echo, Sat 4 Dec 1948 – 3 CONCRETE PITCHES FOR TOWN**

If Cheltenham Town Council on Monday accepts a recommendation of its Parks & Recreation Grounds Committee, three concrete wickets may be available in the town next season. The Council will be asked to approve in principle the construction of one concrete pitch on each of three recreation grounds – Agg Gardner, Clyde Crescent and Naunton Park. ...

... The **King George V Playing Field** is not included as the cricket tables are considered to be of such a high standard that concrete pitches are unnecessary. ...

**Cheltenham Chronicle, Sat 5 Feb 1949 – CHELTENHAM'S PLAYING FIELDS:**

ACREAGE BELOW MINISTRY'S STANDARD – It might come as a surprise to many who know Cheltenham as a town of parks, gardens and playing fields to learn that in the last-named respect the town is considerably below the acreage which the Ministry of Health think to be the requirement for a place of similar population.

Actually, this can be regarded as somewhat unfair on Cheltenham, for there are few towns where there is such easy access to what might well be termed natural playing fields. The town is, in addition, richly endowed with school and college sports fields, which, even if they may not be described as public, do at least cater for a large number of the population. ...

... If Cheltenham does not come up to the point that the ministry thinks to be desirable, then it is not hard to think of many towns which have not even begun to understand the need for making a real start in this direction. The provision of playing field and recreational facilities has always been regarded as of high priority by the Town Council, whose members cannot be "blamed" for the fact that the population has increased by something like 50% in a comparatively few years.

NEARLY 200 ACRES – I learn that with the ultimate use of the whole of the **King George V Playing Field** at St Mark's the town's total acreage for this purpose will be nearly 200. Eight acres of the field will be opened this summer, and it will eventually extend over 25 acres – from **St Mark's Playing Field**, which it adjoins, to the new Rowanfield Housing Estate. In view of the rapid developments taking place in this part of the town, the **King George V field** will undoubtedly be among the most valuable in the borough, and should vie for popularity with that slightly larger area – **Brooklyn Road's** 30 acres. ...

... **Alstone Lane Ground** is another centre which is to have considerable time and money spent on it. Today there are being harvested the fruits of its old use as a tip, and it is intended, I am told, that attention shall be given to sinkage there, while turf re-instatement will be attended to at the same time. The work is due for an early start.

**Cheltenham Chronicle, Sat 15 Apt 1950 – ADVT.**



**Gloucestershire Echo, Sat 30 Sep 1950 – TOWN COUNCIL**

... Also to become before the Council from the same Committee (*Parks & Recreation Grounds*) is a proposal to erect three changing rooms at the **King George V Playing Field, Brooklyn Road**, at a cost of £4,035, to be defrayed from loan sanction. The Committee recommend that consideration or the erection of a main pavilion be postponed for the time being.

The Borough Surveyor reported to the committee that, in view of the size of the ground and the sports facilities provided, it would be necessary to erect changing rooms on each terrace of sufficient size to accommodate two teams. He also recommended that in due course a main pavilion should be provided. The cost would be £5,500 without a custodian's flat, or £6,551 including a flat. In his opinion, having regard to the necessity for adequate supervision, a custodian's flat was desirable.

**Gloucestershire Echo, Tue 3 Oct 1950 – SPORTS PAVILION**

The recommendation that in due course three changing rooms and a main pavilion should be provided at the **King George V Playing Field, Brooklyn Road**, was not accepted by the Cheltenham Town Council yesterday. Members were not against the provision of these facilities, but they supported Coun. W G Tucker Brown, who thought everything should be accommodated in one building. The recommendation was therefore referred back to the Parks & Recreation Grounds Committee.

**Gloucestershire Echo, Tue 7 Nov 1950 – TOWN COUNCIL**

PAVILION ROOM – In connection with the development of the **King George V Playing Field**, it was observed by Ald. Lipson that one pavilion would be more satisfactory than three separate buildings, which would cost more in the end. He moved an amendment that the minute referring to pavilions be referred back for further consideration. Coun. K J Fisher, seconding, stated that three pavilions would mean triplicating future catering, hot water, and any other facilities. It was observed by Coun. H Midwinter that the "staggering" of matches could not go on indefinitely; otherwise floodlighting would be necessary. After further brief discussion, the amendment concerning the pavilion accommodation was carried.

**Gloucestershire Echo, Sat 4 Nov 1950 – MORE PAVILIONS PLEA TO COUNCIL**

In an endeavour to meet certain points raised by Cheltenham Town Council at its last meeting, the Parks & Recreation Grounds Committee are to make a fresh recommendation to the Council on Monday with regard to pavilions at the **King George V Playing Field**. They now recommend that the Borough Surveyor submit a revised scheme on the lines of two changing rooms to be erected in 1951, leaving a third to be undertaken when section 3 of the layout is completed. When completed, the playing field would comprise approximately 21 acres.

*(Gloucestershire newspapers have not yet been archived post-1950 – JW)*

**Gloucestershire Echo, 11 Apr 2009 – LITTER ON FIELD IS NOT ACCEPTABLE (Letter)**

Every day my husband and I go to **King George V playing field** at St Marks to exercise our dog. After the weekend, when sports teams take over most of the field, litter that is left by these teams is incredible. I even saw a football boot. Most of it is drinks bottles and tape. I feel this is unacceptable. Most days my dog is injured due to litter that has been chopped up by the grass cutter. I've contacted the council twice about this matter. The first time they answered that they would be sending a letter to the clubs that play there, stating they would be fined if the litter is not collected. The second, I heard nothing. – S.M., Cheltenham.

**Gloucestershire Echo, 19 May 2009 – CHELTENHAM MAN IN A CRITICAL CONDITION**

A man is in a critical condition after he was hit by a Jeep in **King George V playing field**, in Cheltenham, on Sunday. The 45-year-old suffered serious leg injuries when the green Jeep Wrangler, which was later found abandoned in Othello Close in the town, collided with him at 3.30 p.m. He was taken to Cheltenham General Hospital where he is still receiving treatment. Two men, a 21-year-old and 22-year-old, both from Cheltenham, have been arrested and are currently being questioned by police. Officers are appealing for witness to come forward. ...

**Gloucestershire Echo, 15 Jan 2010 – FENCE TO BLOCK CARS FROM CHELTENHAM FIELD**

A Playing field in Hester's Way is to be fenced off in a bid to stop nuisance drivers. The **King George V Playing Field** in Brooklyn Road has been plagued with anti-social drivers who race cars and motorbikes on the grass. Between April and the end of December there were eight incidents of "nuisance and inappropriate use of vehicles" on the playing field, and 17 reports of anti-social behaviour, police say.

Cheltenham Borough Council is now going to put a fence up in certain areas of the space, which is popular with dog walkers and football and rugby players. Adam Reynolds, parks development manager, said: "We understand the concerns of residents regarding the misuse of vehicles in the park. "To stop this from happening in the future, we're going to be putting up a low barrier fence at the most vulnerable parts of the park. This is currently being constructed in the workshop and should be installed by the end of January. We hope this gives reassurance to the local community."

There is currently nothing stopping motorists and bikers driving straight onto the field. Last May, a man had his legs amputated above the knee after an incident there involving a Jeep.



Ray Butters, who assists his wife Jenny in Be Lucky Angling, in Edinburgh Place, has welcomed the move. He says there has been a problem with nuisance drivers of cars and motorbikes for the six years he has been there. He said: "Most of the people who use the field will welcome this. It will be a relief for everybody. I heard there was a 4x4 being driven around the park last week in the snow with a sledge attached to it." ...

#### **Gloucestershire Echo, 24 Nov 2012 – CYCLE PATH GO-AHEAD**

Plans to build a cycle path across a playing field in St Mark's have been approved. Cheltenham borough councillors discussed the proposal to construct the path across the **King George V playing field**, just off Brooklyn Road, at the Municipal Offices on Wednesday evening. The 2.5 meter wide pathway, which will also be used by pedestrians, will run from the Bedford Avenue field entrance to the entrance at Brooklyn Road. The move comes after council consultation revealed residents use the field as an access route for local facilities.

#### **Gloucestershire Echo, 28 Oct 2013 – PICKIN UP TRUTH ABOUT LITTER**

Children from Rowanfield Infant School in Cheltenham made good use of a walk around **King George V Playing Field** as they took part in a litter pick. The Year 1 children hunted down any litter they could find along the route, which included Alstone Land, Brooklyn Road and the playing fields. After an hour of collecting the children returned with big bags of rubbish, including crisp packets, cans and even a broken umbrella.

As they went round in small groups led by teachers, the children tallied each piece of litter they collected. CBC's community ranger Janice Peacey helped the pupils by providing litter picking equipment and arranged for the bags of litter to be taken away by staff from the council's waste and recycling service provider, Ubico. Janice said: "It is great to get children involved in issues of recycling and rubbish from an early age." ...

#### **Gloucestershire Echo, 8 Aug 2014 – MOPED TORCHED ON PLAYING FIELD**

Firefighters tackled a blazing moped in a Cheltenham playing field as flames spread to a nearby building. The incident took place at the **King George V Playing Field**, in Brooklyn Road, Rowanfield. Gloucestershire police are appealing for witnesses to the incident from anyone else who may know how the fire started.

#### **Gloucestershire Echo, 20 Aug 2014 – NEIGHBOUR'S ANGER AT COUNCIL HOMES**

Fears over traffic, anti-social behaviour, flooding and general loss of privacy and peace have united residents in Rowanfield against a plan to build on a greenfield site. Gloucestershire County Council owns a patch of grassed land next to the **King George V playing field** in Rowanfield, bordering recent housing developments in Stone Crescent and Lavinia Mews. It has applied for permission from Cheltenham Borough Council's planners to build 13 houses on the land, with a view to selling the land, with planning permission attached, to private developers. Road access to the development would be from Stone Crescent.

But residents in houses surrounding the patch of grass are up in arms. ... Mandy Dix and Tim Andrews both live in Lavinia Mews. Mrs Dix said: "I don't want this at all. I'm most concerned about access. We've had a lot of trouble already with people climbing over the fence, cutting through the park, especially those from around Coronation Square. If they build on the land there then that will get worse. I'm not happy at all about this." Mr Andrews said: "That land is a soak-off. We already get trouble with drains flooding in heavy rain, if the water runs off a new development there then it'll just get worse." (*Perhaps they should never have culverted the stream – JW*)

For the county council, Mark Parker, property services client liaison manager, said: "We've applied for planning permission to develop surplus land which we own. The application for 13 houses is currently being considered by Cheltenham Borough Council. No sale of land has yet been agreed."

#### **Gloucestershire Echo, 28 Nov 2014**

A flasher was spotted in a park next to a Cheltenham primary school. Staff at Rowanfield Junior School called police after a man was seen exposing himself on **King George Playing Field**. A 33-year-old man from Cheltenham was arrested on suspicion of indecent exposure by police in connection with the report. Headteacher of Rowanfield Junior School, Shirley Clarke, said the school did not want to comment on the incident. ...

#### **Gloucestershire Echo, 24 Mar 2015 – SARACENS LOOK TO BIGGER FUTURE AS PLAN IS APPROVED**

Second in the league and hopeful of promotion, Cheltenham Saracens are a club on the up. The team is becoming so popular that it needs more space and better facilities at its **King George V Playing Field** home to fulfil their ambitions. The Club asked Cheltenham Borough Council, the owner of the site, for permission to extend its lease on the land, to extend the pavilion club house and to install floodlight to allow for evening training sessions – and the authority has said yes. That means Cheltenham Saracens can start planning for the future. – (*Similar issues to nearly 70 years ago!! – JW*)

... The borough council's cabinet decided to give support to the club at a meeting. The terms of the lease will allow the club to use the fields and pavilion for the next 25 years. That long term security should allow the club to access charitable funding. The club was originally granted a lease for the site in 2008. ...