

SNIPPETS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Deborah Hayter

Newbottle Glebe Terrier, 1682 [N'hants R.O., Newbottle Glebe Terriers.]

'A Terrier of the glebe-lands and other the possessions of the vicaredge of Newbottle taken by the view and estimation of those whose names are underwritten

Anno Dom' 1682 April 23'

One dwelling house of two bayes; One kitchin of one large bay

One stable of one bay; One barn of one bay

One small orchard one churchyard somewhat lesse than half an acre

One close of an Acre and somewhat more

Four Acres onely of glebe-lands and those lyeing in the fields of Charlton

In the East field, one Acre abutting into Steane-hedge, Line on the East,

Matthews on the west

One land at Sandford, Matthews on the West, Phipps on the East.'

The terrier goes on to list eight more 'lands' which were the parson's strips in the open-field system of Charlton, and at the end adds *'Eight sheepes common belonging to the vicaredge which lye in Newbottle-side-fields of Charlton throughout them.'*

The terrier is written and signed by Thomas Harris the vicar, and Francis Wyatt, William Line, John Jarvice, John Evans and Martin Atkins all assent to the document with their individual mark.

There were no maps of Charlton before the Ordnance Survey so a terrier was a verbal map giving the position of each strip in a subdivision of the open-field system (East field), and then in the particular furlong or groups of strips (Sandford), and then pinpointing it exactly with the neighbours on each side. Glebe terriers were drawn up to list the possessions of the benefice whenever the archdeacon or the bishop made a visitation. We can see from this terrier that the vicar of Newbottle was very poorly-endowed with only four acres of land for crops, and his house was small and mean to match, with a detached kitchen; a later terrier of 1820 still lists the detached kitchen, so there had not been any money to rebuild a better house by then. Thomas Harris was living in a smaller house than many of his parishioners in 1682, whereas, shown by other contemporary glebe terriers. many parsons lived in the largest houses in their parish, with sizeable establishments, farming anywhere between fifty and a hundred acres of land.