

These lay subsidy lists were much used by Allison, Beresford and Hurst in their research into deserted medieval villages, as they give an indication of relative size before the difficult years of poor harvests and famines in the 1310s and 1320s, and fifty years before the catastrophe of the Black Death.¹ The 1301 list shows that Walton (Grounds), Stuchbury, Purston, Steane and Warkworth, all of which would become deserted villages at some time between 1350 and 1500, were already small, with seventeen, twenty-one, sixteen, sixteen and twenty-two taxpayers respectively.

The contrast between the taxpayers of Newbottle and Charlton is noteworthy too. Newbottle was to become another deserted village: it survives to the present day as a manorial complex, church, vicarage and a few farm buildings. It had a few quite rich taxpayers in 1301. By contrast, Charlton is larger with many medium payers and no-one as rich as the landowners in Newbottle. Charlton is still alive and lively: there was no-one who held enough of the land to force enclosure and eviction.²

Book Reviews

Service, Sun and Settlement: And other tales of Old Eydon. Reports from the Eydon Historical Research Group, vol. 7, 2011. 64pp. illus. £5.00 + p&p from EHRG, David Kench, 20 High St, Eydon, Daventry NN11 3PP.

Another very worthwhile publication from the winners of our 2011 Local History prize: seven articles, ranging from accounts of the 1960s-1970s Womens' Institute activities, and of district nurse, Hope Douglas, and her distinguished forebears (Caroline Bedford), through the ramifications of the Eydon House water supply (David Kench), to sundials ancient and modern (Alison Cutler, Robert Taylor). Kevin Lodge's investigation of the likely origins of the village as a planned medieval settlement and the possible effects of earlier fires (before that of 1905) are mapped by Sonia Hawes. And there's an index.

The seven Records issues to date show just how much can be achieved by a few. For those with no village group publication we at *Cake & Cockhorse* will always welcome contributions of similar research. **J.G.**

¹ K.J. Allison, M.W. Beresford, J.G. Hurst, *The Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire*, Leicester University Dept. of English Local History Occ. Paper 18, Leicester (1966)

² For more about these two villages, see *Charlton & Newbottle: the History of Two Villages*, P. Hayter (Ed.), Charlton & Newbottle History Society (2000).