

FORGES

1. There was a forge sometime ago situated near the bottom of Park Hill, where the garages belonging to 'The Forge' are now situated. The only remains of the forge, which stood here, were a stone base and a chimney. The smithy is mentioned on 2 maps dated 1890 and 1905. Before the present building was erected, the then owners of the land were told that planning permission would be granted only if they used the original chimney!

2. There was also a forge in the building used as a Tannery - this would have been sometime after 1850.

The following are all listed as being Blacksmiths living in the village:-

1841 Census-William Perkin of Chopes Bridge and Peter Pyke of Stantons.

1850 Whites Directory - William Ford and Adam Tucker - no addresses

1851 Census - David Tucker and John Short - no address.

1861 Census - David Tucker of Germans and Peter Pyke of Stantons.

1871 Census - David Tucker and his son William of Germans, John Clarke of Rose Cottage and Philip Gordon of Park.

1881 Census - William Ashplant of Moles Tenement; James Dalling of Southwood Cottage and Jesse Palmer of Richards Cottage.

1891 Census - James Richards - no address; and John Clarke of Chopes Bridge.

A Mr. Shaddick is known to have owned a Smithy but at the present time we have been unable to find any records of him. An Amy Shaddick owned a forge in the 1930's, thought to be on the site of the present bungalow



A typical forge

THE BIDEFORD WEEKLY GAZETTE
(September 11th 1906)

*The erection of a new Smith's shop for the village is a very desultory affair and unless matters are considerably expedited it is not likely to be completed before AD 2000. The village poet has composed a verse of an ode on the desolate view of the spot:-
Roofless and open to the sky*

*The "cob walled" ruin stands
The "boycott puff" is "all-my-eye"
And no support commands
Our "joey" smiles at their plight
He is both blithe and Jolly
The scheme to oust him was not "Bright"
It was the height of "Foll(e)y"
(With apologies to Longfellow)*

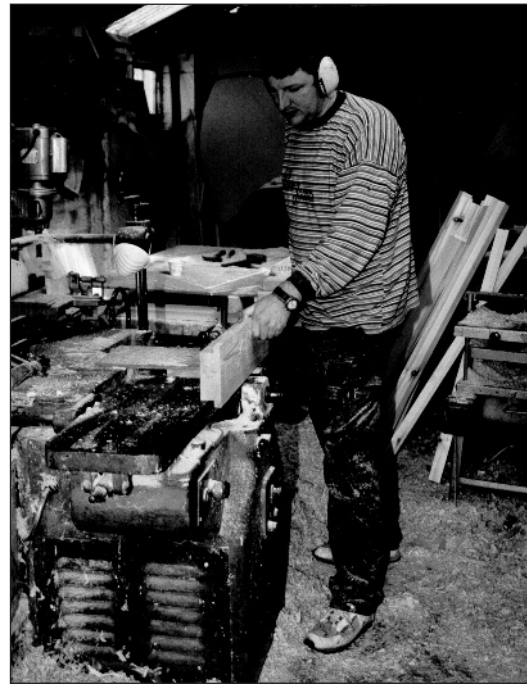
THE VILLAGE CARPENTER

The Editorial team came across this photograph via Peter Coad and could not resist a comparison of our village carpenters, over a 100 year gap.



JOHN CLARK,
VILLAGE CARPENTER

Born: 1856
At: Rose Cottage
Workshop: Opposite Ivy Cottage
Photo taken: c1905



DAVID CURTIS,
VILLAGE CARPENTER

Born: 1963
Lives: 1 Downings Cottage
Workshop: Rose Cottage
Photo taken: March 2001.