

Hillman & Bond Copy Letter Book, 17th March to 8th October 1937

Summarised by Team member Diane Shaw, Jan 2014.

Introduction

On many pages of this book the ink is too faint for the page to be read. Also often the ink from the copies of typewritten letters has soaked through the page and obscured the writing on previous & following pages.

On the 31st Jan Alban Wiscombe of 36 Broad Street died of pneumonia at the age of 67. He was a partner in the building firm A & F Wiscombe. At the start of this book Mr Ramsbotham is trying to get all accounts outstanding at the time of Mr Wiscombe's death paid so that his affairs can be settled. Probate went to his widow Annie. Mr Ramsbotham is very busy with several other probates, including Mr E W A Collbran and Mr W Barratt of Whitchurch Canonicorum. Mr Ramsbotham is still doing work, mainly property management, for the Bullen family of Catherston Leweston and Yealmpton, Devon.

During August there were several letters written relating to the Magistrates Court both before the case came before the bench, and afterwards informing people of the results. The cases were usually to do with traffic offences and non-payment of debts. Also during August there were several letters sent to people who had booked accommodation paying a small deposit but who had not arrived or sent any message saying they would not be coming. Mr Ramsbotham requested the balance of payment should be settled, this was usually quite small sums of less than £10, but still worth chasing for the accommodation providers.

Addresses (NB – people waiting to buy property in L R will often stay in Hotels and Guest Houses, therefore not everyone in this list is the owner or tenant of the property.)

Doctors Lumsden, Cook & Chamberlain, Springfield
Mrs Aldis, The Red House, Sidmouth Road
Mr Allen, Pyne House
Miss Ardarth, Hill View, Axminster Road, Charmouth
Mr A A Baker, The Angel Inn
Mrs M A Bass, Volunteer Arms
Mr R W Betterton, 20 Church Street
Mr H I Blanchard, 20 Sherborne Lane
Mr Boalch, 6 Bridge Street
Miss Bowyer, 56 Church Street
Mr E C P Bragg, Crown Hardware Stores, 2-3 Bridge Street.
Mr J Bragg, Bridge Street
Mr R K Brewer, 11 Broad Street
Mrs H Broom, Brookside Millgreen
Mr R Broome, 32 Sherborne Lane
Mr H G Brown, Woodmead Lodge, Woodmead Road (also called Woodmead Villa in a different letter)
Mr A G Case, Broad Street
Mrs F Case, Somerset House, 63 Silver Street
Mr T Chick, 41 Colway Mead
Mr A H Clubley, 2 Monmouth Street
Mrs Collbran, Coombe, Hill Road
Mr A Coombes, 5 Silver Street
Mrs Cooper, Sunny Bank
Mr & Mrs W J Cooper, St Kilda
Mr J P Copp, Old Mill, Lyme Regis
Mr A D Cozens, 26 Corporation Terrace

Mr H L Cozens, 4 Cobb Road
Mr Curtis (tenant) Miss Reeves (owner), Pine Cottage, Charmouth Road
Mrs Dale, Lima, Millgreen
Mrs Daniels, 5 East Cliff
Mr & Mrs Dring, 6a Coombe Street
Miss E C Edwards, 5 Sherborne Lane
Mr E R Emmett, 1 Millgreen
Mr W J Emmett, Iverna, Ferndown Road
Mr C H Farrow, Spring Bank, Woodhouse Hill, Uplyme
Mr P Foxwell, Bridge Street
Mr S R Forrest, Seacroft, Charmouth Road
Miss A E Franks, 14 Sherborne Lane
Miss A E Franks, Woolcombe Cottage, St Mary's, Yawl Uplyme
Mr K Furzey, The Haven Harcombe, Uplyme
Mrs Gaitch, 7 Sherborne Buildings, Sherborne Lane
Mr E C Gale, Raymond House, 29 Broad Street
Mrs Gibb, Green Shutters, Coram Avenue
W Giles Esq, White House
Mrs Gollop, 18 Sherborne Lane
Mr F Gollop, 19 Corporation Terrace
Miss B A Govier, 51 Silver Street
Mr & Mrs H Govier, 27 Sherborne Lane
Messers J & F Grattan, 25 Marine Parade
Mrs Hains, 2 Jordan Cottages
Mr L D Haddon J P, 26 Broad Street
Mr E Hallett, 10 East Cliff
Mr H C Hallett, Builder, The Cobb
Mrs K Hallett, Drop Anchor, East Cliff
Mr F J Halliday, 16a Coombe Street
Mr T E Handsford, 15 Broad Street
Mr R H Harris, 14 Corporation Terrace
Mr W Hart, Jordan
Mrs Harvey, 15 Coombe Street
Mr Hawker J P, Glenmead, Colway Lane
Mrs Hayes, Garston, Sherborne Lane
Mr W G Hayward, 25a Church Street
Mrs E Healey, 24 Colway Mead
Mr A E Hodder, Newhaven, 1 Pound Street
Mr J D Hodder, 22 Sherborne Lane
Miss K Hodder, 35 Sherborne Lane
Mr A Holman, 3 Sherborne Lane
Mr J R Homyer, The Cobb
Mrs Homyer, 7 George's Square
Mrs J Homyer, 26, Coombe Street
Mr H Hooper, 10 Millgreen Court
Mrs B Jefferd, 25 Sherborne Lane
Mrs Jeffrey, Lilac Cottage, Uplyme
Mr R Larcombe, 1 Windsor Terrace
Mr W Larcombe, Builder, Uplyme
Mr F A Lee, 9, Silver Street
Mrs Legg, 25 Coombe Street
Mrs B K Loder, 11 Silver Street
Mrs Long, Perhams Farm, Holcombe
Mr A J Love, St Andrew's Hotel
Mr C Love, 13 Corporation Terrace

Mr J Loveridge, 30 Colway Mead
Mr F N Mantle, Victoria Hotel
Mr Marker, Chywyn, Sidmouth Road
Mrs C V Merrett (Merritt), 15 Monmouth Street
Mr L Messer, 17 Church Street
Mrs Mills, Pool's Court (sic)
Mr & Mrs F Moore, 7 Church Street
Messers J & P Moore, Church Street
Mrs A E Moore, Handel House, 7 Church Street
Mr H J Moore, 11 Church Street
Miss Neville, Old Tudor House, Church Street
Miss Nicholls, Portland View, Charmouth
Mrs L Norman, 7 Millgreen
Miss Osborn, 5 Marine Parade
Mr Paul, Beau Sejour, (View Road)
Mr Plum, Coombe Street
Mr G Potter, Mill Lane
Mr R Powell, The Cottage, Rocombe, Uplyme
Mrs Purse, Halcyon, View Road
Mr Radford, 19 Broad Street
Mrs Rattenbury, 47 Church Street
Mr H A Rattenbury, St Lucia, Hatchett
Mr J Reed, Iverna, Ferndown Road
Miss Reeves, Pine Cottage, Charmouth Road
Mr F Rice, 48 Colway Mead
Mr W G Rice, 74 Colway Mead
Messers A & B Richards, 4 Silver Street
Mr P A Richards, 62 Broad Street
Mrs Rootham, 23 (?) Silver Street
Mr A E Rowe, 28 Marine Parade
Miss Saunders, Old Tudor House Hotel (employee)
Mrs E Saunders, The Corner Cottage, Uplyme
Mr Searle, 4 Coombe Street
Mrs Shepphard, (Old) Tudor House, Church Street
Mr E C Smith, 62 Silver Street
Mr W Smallshaw, Old Woodhouse, Uplyme
Miss Smallshaw, Old Woodhouse, Uplyme
Mr Maurice de Soldenhoff, 10 Cobb Terrace
Mr A L Sole, Bay Garth, 11 East Cliff
Mr C J Stapleforth, Devon Hotel, Uplyme
Mr H Stone, Mentone, Marine Parade
Mr R J Stratton, 27 Broad Street
Mr Sweetenham, Lane End Farm, Uplyme
Mrs Tahourdin, Undercliff, Cobb Road (owner Mr Bullen)
Mr B & Mrs Tidewell (sic) Tidwell, Jordan House
Mr S Toms, 32 Corporation Terrace
Mr F Trott, Cannington, Uplyme , Devon
Mrs Tuck, 31 Sherborne Lane
Miss G Tucker, 7 Sherborne Lane
Mr D H Vivash, 34 Coombe Street
Mrs Walker, Sun Trap, 14a Marine Parade
Mr R D Ward, 18, Coombe Street
Mrs E M Watson, Motor Engineer, 41 Broad Street
Mr C G Weeks, Sunny Mead
Mr S W R Wellman, 12 Broad Street

Mr G H Williams, O B E, Winsford, Ferndown Road
Mr G R Williams, 62 Broad Street
Mrs Wiscombe, 36 Broad Street, also Cliff Edge, East Cliff
L A Woodward, Esq, The Chalet, Cobb Road
Mr Woolls, Manager, Bradford & Sons
A Wright Esq Pitt House Hotel, Broad Street
Mr A J Wyatt, 15 Broad Street (Pound Dairy)
Mr Wynch, Pine Hill Crawley Drive, Camberley, Surrey (Mr Ramsbotham & Mr L M Wynch were working on the probate of Miss Goatcher of Rosehill Silver Street L R).

March (p 1)

To: Miss B M Govier, "We wrote to Mrs Marchant that her son should now contribute more than the 5/- per week he is now doing towards the maintenance of the child. She has today called upon us, she is quite definite that her son is not prepared to make any further offer.

April (p 67)

To: The Chief Relieving Officer, E C 1: "We have been contacted by Mr John Hodder of 83 Sherborne Land L R, respecting your letter to him. There can be no liability on our client in the matter as he states that she left his house in June 1923, taking all monies & valuables and, he understands had committed adultery. Our client was left with four children to bring up & has never heard from his wife since she left.

To: The Clerk of The Peace Dorchester: "At a meeting of the Borough Justices held this morning it was decided to appoint Mr George Henry Worth of Devondore L R to serve on the County Probation Committee for this year."

To: Mr W J Emmett, "Mr Charles Hallett has seen us in reference to your purchase of land etc adjoining Charmouth Road & East Cliff. We understand that the purchase price is £200 & should be glad to know whether it is to be in your name or that of Mrs Emmett. Has any deposit been paid?"

Re outstanding accounts to A & F Wiscombe: summonses are to be issued to: Skett, Williams, Plum, Moss, Chick.

To: Sun Insurance Office, Dorchester "We have received an inquiry from a local resident as to whether he can insure a sailing boat, which he proposes to let out for hire, against wilful damage. If so, please let me know the rate. The boat has a motor & is about 12 feet. The enquirer is a person of independent means & apparently has the idea that local boatmen might resent his action in letting the boat for hire. (DS Owner was Mr de Soldenhoff, the reply was that the insurance company did not underwrite the risk, but they would endeavour to find a quote if the owner filled in a Proposal Form.)

A Wyndam Payne of Wargrave-on-Thames is selling his property Parkway (Alfred Place) to Mr E S Heurtley for £1400. Mr Ramsbotham is acting for both vendor and purchaser...(DS The purchase fell through when Mr Heurtley discovered that the garage, leased from Mr Worth on a 21 year lease could be terminated at 7 and 14 years by either party. The proposed buyer pulled out of the deal as he felt this would devalue the house should he need to sell.)

May (p 249)

To: Mr H Stone, we have been consulted by Mr A Boalch in reference to your threats made to himself and his wife to chastise their son Donald, if the latter comes into the turbine house. As you are no doubt aware, it is not your business to correct other people's children and we are instructed to give you notice that should you attempt to carry out your threat, immediate proceedings will be taken against you for the assault. Mr & Mrs Boalch will, of course, do their upmost to keep the boy out of your turbine house.

Mr & Mrs Staples (of 55 Broad Street) complete their purchase of Coram Tower

To: Mr C H Farrow, ".... you have sold your house Colway Dene to Mr E S Heurtley for £1475." (DS Colway Dene was previously called Little Colway and was next to Horndene with a private lane running past Horndene to Colway Dene.)

To: Sun Insurance "Re H Vivash. A small fire occurred at 34 Coombe Street last night & the insured has asked for a claim form."

Captain John St John Balguy has agreed to buy Packway for £1350.

June (p 395)

July (p 522)

Mr Ramsbotham is away on holiday for the first two weeks of this month, although he continues to receive and send work related letters and even attempts to arrange a business meeting in London early one morning before he goes to watch play at Lords. His clerk keeps the office running in his absence.

To: Mr Furzey, Mr Furzey has been ignoring repeated requests to settle an account for £10-1-0 with the Cottage Hospital. Eventually he sends a letter to Mr Ramsbotham for a reduction of the amount he owes and more time to pay. "...your letter has now been considered by the Committee who feel strongly that you have treated them very badly in ignoring all previous letters & and not making your request for a reduction at an earlier date. In all the circumstances, they are prepared to reduce the account and will give you the opportunity of paying it in weekly instalments of 5/- per week, if you so wish, in which case it might be allowed to drop at the end of the year.

Garston, Sherborne Lane sold by Mrs Hayes to Spencer.

August (p 646)

To: Mr Washer, The Bungalow, Central Station Road, Southampton, "I now send you the conveyance of 27, Sherborne Lane & the strip of garden ground to Henry Govier...."

Mr Ramsbotham has taken on work on the probate of Mr G T Fleming of Weirside, Woodmead Road, his sister Miss B G Fleming is the executrix. Mr Ramsbotham has also been instructed to prove the will of Mr G F Jefferd, executrix is Miss A E Franks.

To: Mr Wallis, Holmcroft "I have now heard from the Town Clerk that the Corporation are willing to repeat their offer of £40 for the site of the recently demolished cottages at Jordan. This I am sure you will be prepared to accept & should I approach Mr Stevens (a mortgagee to whom Mr Wallis owes money?) & tell him you will in all the circumstances be prepared to let him have his principal & interest out of this?"

To: Van H Allen & Co, contract and letter asking Mr Allen to get the contract was signed by both parties in the sale of Bincleaves, Avenue Road from Mr Chalker to Mr Boalch for £700.

To: Mr F A Lee re the sale of St Agnes (6 Pound Street) from Mr Paul to Mr Lee for £610.

A Miss Mogg of Surry is quite interested in purchasing Temple house, owned by Mr & Mrs Staples with Mr Van Allen acting as agent but she is unable to agree to the price they are asking.

The Briars, Uplyme has been sold by Mr Brewer to Mr Lenton.

September (p 802)

In early September Mr Ramsbotham writes to several financial companies informing them that his mother will not be able to sing documents in the near future, if ever, as she has had a stroke.

To: Mr E Elliott: "We have been consulted by Miss Kathleen Hodder of 35 Sherborne Lane who is at present in service at Axmouth, respecting your breaking off the engagement to marry her. We understand that the wedding was to have taken place on the 27th of this month & naturally our client had been making arrangements for her trousseau etc, & is very much distressed at you breaking off her engagement. Our client is obviously entitled to substantial damages for your action & we shall be glad to hear from you as to what offer you are prepared to make in the matter.

To: His Worship the Mayor, Westhill L R, "Dear Sir, Owing to the very great increase in my work as Clerk to the Justices I feel compelled to apply to you for an increase in my present salary of £50 pounds per annum, out of which I have to buy all necessary books, forms etc and pay all other expenses of the office.

The present salary was increased from £35 to £50 early in 1918 during my absence in France. The fall in money has since then been very great and the work and responsibility of the office have greatly increased.

As instances of the increase in the work I would mention the very complicated and voluminous legislation or orders dealing with the driving and licensing of motor cars, the altered and increased duties imposed on magistrates by the Childrens & Young Persons Act and the Adoption Act, all of which mean apart from the actual cases, the keeping of further records accounts and extra correspondence with the Government departments concerned.

For purposes of comparison I have obtained the following information as to salaries paid elsewhere. Dorchester £200 per annum & Bridport £160 per annum both these cases the Clerk to the Justices, like myself provides the necessary books, forms etc and Mr A Whetham of Bridport estimates these in his case at £22 per annum exclusive of any share of office or staff. At South Molton in Devon with a population of 2830, the Clerk is paid £70 per annum, but in this case, books, forms etc are paid for by the Town Council.

Perhaps I ought to remind you that the expense which falls on the Corporation is very much less than the salary paid, as all fees and most of the fines, other than those connected with motoring offences, are paid to the corporation.

I trust the Bench will give this matter early and favourable consideration...."

On 24th September Mr Ramsbotham wrote to the L R Town Clerk to inform him that the Justices had agreed to increase Mr Ramsbotham's salary to £70 per annum

Sale of a small bungalow behind "Mentone" (which is on Marine Parade opposite the Royal Standard), for £310.

30 Coombe Street is to be sold by Mrs Hallett to Mr H Fowler (address Silverdale, Woodmead Road).

17th September, Mr Ramsbotham writes to the Mayor "I have just heard from my brother that after a month's illness my mother passed away this morning."

Mr Ramsbotham and his sister Mary are executors of the estate.

Seacroft, L R has been bought by Mrs Elliot-Drake

Mr T W Symes of Coombe Street is purchasing Nos 14 & 15 Monmouth Street.

No 6 Bridge Street has been sold by Mr Boalch to Mr Searle.

To: The District Valuer, "Hadleigh Villas Silver Street, These properties were owned by the late Mrs Blanche Cooper who died about a fortnight ago. One is let at £60 per annum on a three year agreement. The other was until recently let at £50 per annum on a 3 year agreement but was

unoccupied by the date of the death. The houses are not in a good position & have no garages and it would be very difficult to add these. We suggest £800 & £700 respectively.

Since writing you (sic) we have learnt that Mrs Cooper was the joint owner of another house near the above known as St Kilda. This was occupied by her husband and herself and though a nice house is not well situated and we suggest a figure of £700.

14 Sherborne Lane, a small cottage was owned and occupied by the late Mr G Jefford who died on the 29th July this year, value £200

11 Broad street This was the joint property of Mr Alfred Clarke and his widow. Mr Clark died on the 16th inst. The premises consist of lock up shop and dwellinghouse, the shop is let to Mr R K Brewer, we believe at the rate of 25/- a week inclusive. It is all rated together, and the rest of the house is occupied by the owners. These are premises in the main street and the lease does not expire until March 1941. We think a fair value for this would be £1400.

Mr Stowell has completed the purchase of The Roost, Uplyme from Mr & Mrs Handsford.

Mr J W Boalch sold 6 Bridge Street to Mr Searle and bought and moved to Bincleaves. He also bought Trafalgar Cottage from Miss E M Griffin.

Miss Reeves of Pine Cottage received 13 weeks rent for 10, George's Square of £5 -19-10 (£6-3-6 less 3-8d Mr Ramsbotham's commission).

October (p 954)

Mr Washer is selling Moorside.

To: Mr Powell, The Cottage, Rocombe, "I herewith send you your rent book."

Mrs Hallett of Ferndown Road is selling No 30 Coombe Street to Mr Harry Fowler of Silverdale, Woodmead Road.

To: Mr E V Merritt, 15 Monmouth St "Acting on instructions from Mr T W Symes of 33, Coombe Street we herewith send you notice to quit & deliver up possession of No 15 Monmouth St which you occupy as his tenant."

Rev A Pearce of Redhill Surrey is to take over the tenancy of one of the Hadleigh Villas.