



## Cleeve Prior Chroniclers

### Priorsleigh

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**The following information is published with the kind permission of Mike & Pauline Chapman**

At the turn of the Century the Manor & Lands belonged to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England. In 1832 William Fifield Holtom, who was born in Alderminster to Stephen Holtom, Farmer, & his wife, moved with the rest of the family in to Cleeve Prior where they rented the Manor House & Estates. William married Juliana Tomes [born in 1825 in Cleeve Prior] on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1852, one of two marriages to take place between the families. The union unusually produced only one offspring daughter Julia, who was born in 1854. In 1886 the death of William is recorded at the Manor and the Manor stayed in the possession of Juliana who died in 1906. It passed to Julia who continued to live in the house.

Julia married William Garfield Hiorns [Henry Hiorns] from Honeybourne who bought the Manor & its Lands from the Church on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1917 & they continued in residence till his death at the Manor In 1921. The Manor was sold & Julia moved in to Mill House which became the possession of the family when they bought the Manor from the Church, along with the Mill by the river. She stayed here till her death in the house on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1945.

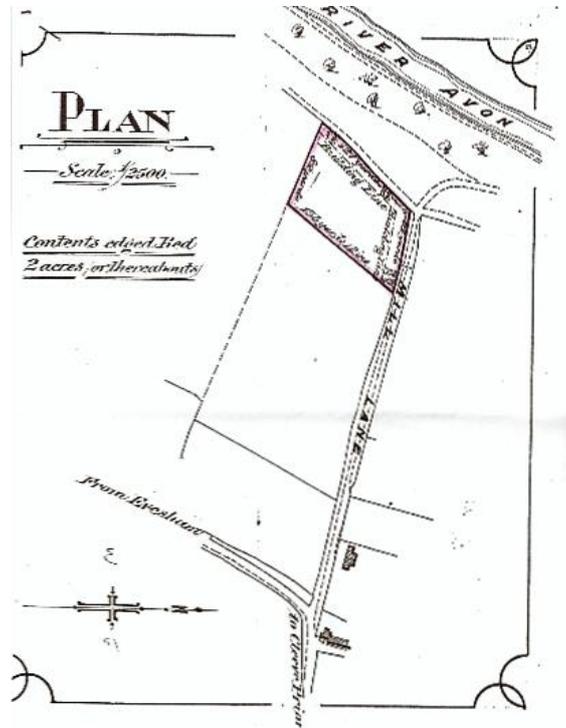
Part of Henrys estate purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners was a two acre area of land on which the house seen below, Priorsleigh, was been built in 1922, and as with the Manor & other properties, executors were instructed to dispose of all the assets on his death. We see in the document attached the indenture & deed of sale of the property from Julia Hiorns to the Purchaser Mary Shipway of Mosely for the sum of £300



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It can be seen from the plan attached to the land sale that this parcel of land had already been put together as a building plot as it stipulated the building line. The house "Priorsleigh" was built in 1922 it is interesting to see the other boundaries on this side of Mill Lane, which presumably indicated the selloff of plots for the development of individual houses



Other owners of the property have certainly been:

Mrs Shipway verified by the following article



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### CLEEVE PRIOR. LIBERAL MEETING.

On Wednesday a visit was paid by the Sparkhill (Birmingham) Women's Liberal Association to Cleeve Prior. About 30 members took part in the excursion and were hospitably entertained to tea by Mrs. Shipway in the beautiful garden of Priorsleigh. The Evesham Women's Liberal Association were kindly invited to send representatives to this gathering, and three members were accordingly deputed to attend. Mr. B. H. Swift also attended at the request of the Sparkhill Association, and gave a short address.

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Swift criticised the Government's addition of six millions to our expenditure on armaments, which was unnecessary when no enemy was in sight and our defensive forces were already so powerful. Such needless additions could only lead to retaliation by other nations, and ultimately to another war. The speaker commented on the Budget, and pointed out that, whereas national expenditure had been reduced each year since the war, the present Government were now for the first time adding to expenditure, which was being increased by something like two millions. They were deserting the path of true economy, which was a matter of considerable importance when our expenditure stood at such a high figure as it does to-day. Mr. Swift, while approving of the income tax reduction, which would benefit a large number of persons with small incomes and materially help trade, strongly condemned the Government's action in reducing super-tax and thereby making a present of 6 or 7 millions to the wealthiest class in the country—those having £2,000 a year or over. Such action showed how completely they were governed by the interests of the few as against the many, and how they failed to recognise one of the greatest evils of the day in the inequality in the distribution of wealth. The Government only represented a minority of the voters, as the result of the last election showed, and there could be little doubt that their policy as described in regard to both armaments and taxation was strongly against the wishes of the vast majority of our people. After referring to Free Trade, land reform, and other heads of Liberal policy, the speaker urged Liberals to organise and prepare for the next election.

Mrs. Gorwin (president of the Sparkhill Women's Liberal Association) also spoke, and short speeches were made by Mr. C. Grey (Cleeve Prior), Mrs. Hatler, and others present.

Mr & Mrs Leigh

Mr & Mrs Bedenham

There are also details of a conveyance on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 1986 from the Bedenham's to a Michael & Carol Ann Johns, of a parcel of land adjoining 'Badgers' on Mill lane



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The House sale



### **A. M. WADLEY**

Estate Agents, Auctioneers & Valuers

104 High Street, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 4EU  
Tel: Evesham (0386) 47197/8

### **Sale Particulars**

PRIORSLEIGH,

CLEEVE PRIOR, NEAR EVESHAM, WORCS.

A SUPERBLY SITUATED, LARGE, DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE  
COMMANDING EXTENSIVE VIEWS REQUIRING MODERNISATION  
AND SET IN GROUNDS OF SOME TWO ACRES.



built in 1888, and (since and occupied), the same family since 1945. This very soundly built, spacious family residence occupies an enviable position at the end of Mill Lane and is set well back from the lane amidst a level wooded site with extensive views across the Vale towards Evesham and westwards towards Salford Priors.

The property is situated on the edge of Cleeve Ridge, some 250 feet above the River Avon and was originally designed with the principal living rooms to be on the first floor so as to take full advantage of the outstanding views. The first floor can be approached by an external stone staircase.

The house requires further modernisation and improvement to bring it up to modern day standards, but it does lend itself admirably to a full renovation scheme.

**SITUATION** Situated at the western end of Mill Lane the house is completely screened from the road and is only visible after venturing down the approach driveway. Cleeve Prior is an extremely popular stone village having many fine cottages and houses fronting it's main street. It is a village which has seen only a limited amount of new development and has retained its appeal over the years. There is a village Stores, Post Office, Church and Inn, Primary School and a regular 'bus service.



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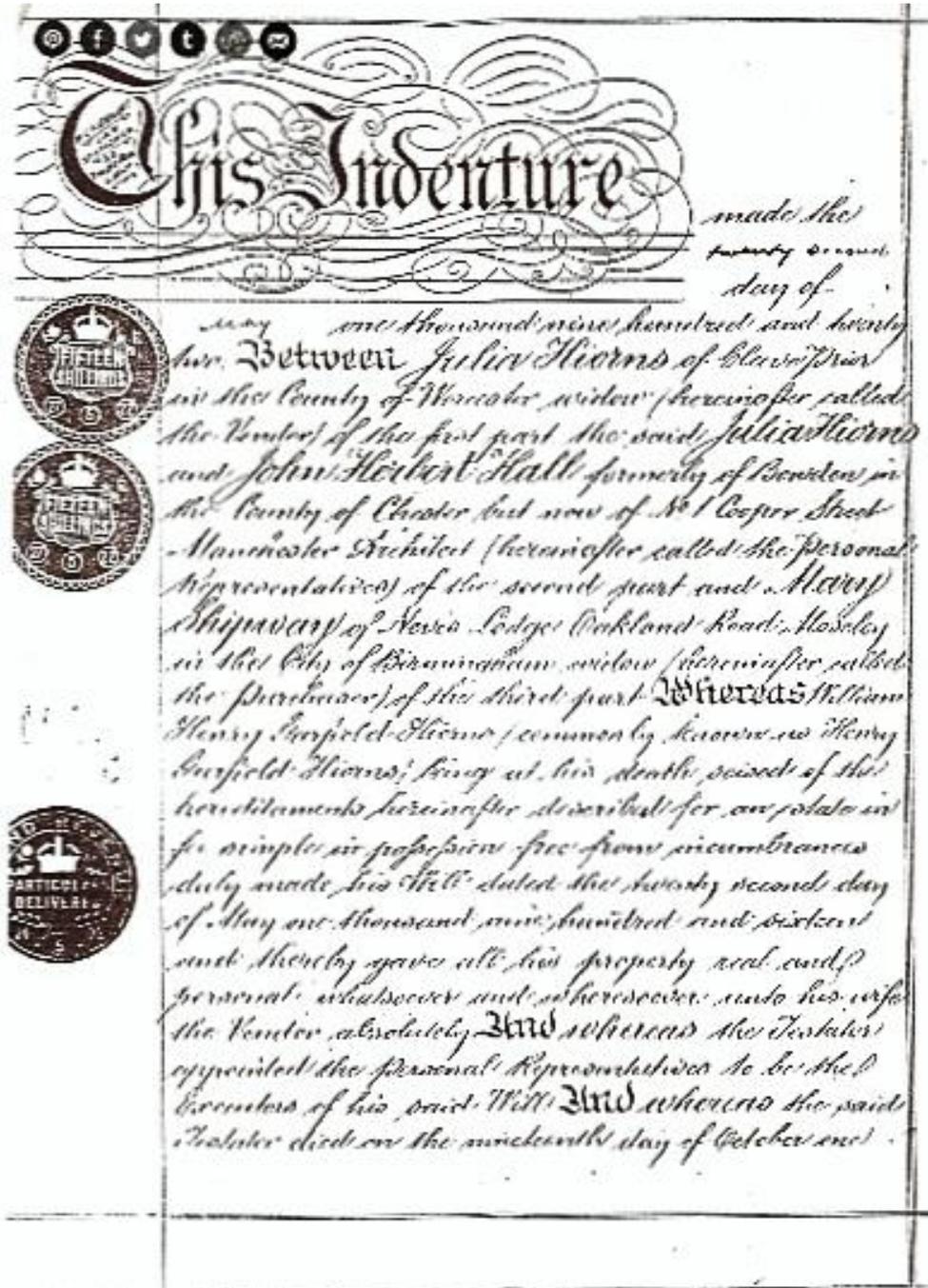
<u>Priorsleigh, Cleeve Prior</u>		- 2 -
<p>The area is ideally situated for quick easy travel to such centres as Stratford-Upon-Avon which is 10 miles; Evesham 5 miles; Sidford-On-Avon 4 miles; Redditch 15 miles; Chipping Campden 6 miles. Birmingham can be reached in less than an hour and within 20 minutes one can be on the main Alcester Road into Birmingham.</p>		
<p><u>CONSTRUCTION</u> The house is very soundly constructed, having been built originally for the owner of a timber firm. The timbers employed in the construction are of excellent quality and are visible both internally and externally. It is constructed of a rendered brick with exposed timbers under a plain tiled roof.</p>		
<p><u>THE SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATION COMPRISES ON THE GROUND FLOOR</u></p>		
<u>PORCH ENTRANCE</u>	to entrance hall	
<u>ENTRANCE HALL</u>	with quarry tiled floor, brickette fireplace, 13' x 11'. Door to inner hall. Further door to	
<u>STORE ROOM</u>	housing solid fuel boiler.	
<u>CLOAKROOM</u>	with W.C. and Belfast sink.	
<u>KITCHEN</u>	20' x 8' with Belfast sink unit, main gas fire, further access to garage.	
<u>SITTING ROOM</u>	24' x 18'. A very spacious room with wood block floor, impressive fireplace fitted with gas fire, windows to south and west elevations, exposed ceiling and wall timbers and wall panelling, four pendant light points.	
<p><u>FIRST FLOOR</u></p>		
<u>RECEPTION HALL</u>	24' x 8'. A most impressive room with windows and glazed doors on to the Sun Lounge, and four further glazed doors which can be opened up to incorporate the spacious Lounge adjoining.	
<u>SUN LOUNGE</u>	27' x 8' having South and West facing windows and extensive views across the Vale towards Abbots Salford, Salford Priory and Harvington, and the Leaches beyond. There is a flight of stone steps to ground floor and, as mentioned earlier, the house was originally designed for the main living area to be on the first floor to take advantage of the spectacular views.	
<u>SITTING ROOM</u>	18' x 14' plus large bay, with windows to west elevation and very large picture window to south elevation.	
<u>BEDROOM 1</u>	Approximately 13' x 11' with range of cupboards, small dressing room adjoining.	
<u>BEDROOM 2</u>	11' x 11'.	
<u>BEDROOM 3</u>	14' x 10' with bay window, hand basin.	
<u>BEDROOM 4</u>	11' x 10' with hand basin.	
<u>BATHROOM</u>	With roll top bath and hand basin.	
<u>SEPARATE W.C.</u>	W.C. and pedestal basin.	
<u>OUTSIDE</u>	The house enjoys an excellent area of ground surrounding the property on all sides offering considerable privacy. It is approached by a curving driveway of about 100 yards in length which winds through an avenue of Yew trees. There are spacious lawns and a number of splendid specimen fir trees, flowering shrubs, evergreens and flowering trees. Although the gardens are somewhat overgrown they do lend themselves admirably to further landscaping and possibly the provision of a pony paddock etc.	



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The Land sale





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thousand nine hundred and seventy one without  
having revoked or altered his said Will which  
was on the ninth day of January one thousand  
nine hundred and seventy two proved in the  
Worcester District Probate Registry by the executors  
named in the said Will. And whereas the Vendor  
has agreed to sell the hereditaments hereinafter  
described to the purchaser for an estate in fee  
simple in possession free from incumbrances at  
the price of three hundred pounds and the  
personal Representatives have at the request of the  
Vendor agreed to join in these presents in manner  
hereinafter appearing. Now this Indenture  
witnesseth that in pursuance of the said  
agreement and in consideration of the sum of  
three hundred pounds or before the receipt  
of those presents paid by the purchaser to the  
Vendor (the receipt of which sum the Vendor  
herely acknowledged) the Vendor doth hereby convey  
and the personal Representatives at the request of the Vendor and as Legal  
personal Representatives of the said William Henry  
Garfield Horn do hereby convey and confirm  
unto the purchaser. All that piece or parcel of  
land containing two acres or thereabouts situate  
in the parish of Cleeve Prior in the County of  
Worcester part of No 1911 on the Ordnance Survey  
Map for the said parish and delineated and  
described with the boundaries thereof on the plan  
entered on these presents and thereon set out



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Except and reserved unto the Ecclesiastical  
Commissioners for England, their successors and assigns  
all mines, quarries, and minerals whatsoever  
whether opened or unopened, within and under  
the said hereditaments or any of them, and lying  
below a depth of two hundred feet from the surface  
thereof, together with full powers for the Commissioners,  
their successors, and assigns and their executors and  
agents, and all persons authorized by them or any  
of them with workmen and others from time to time  
and at all times thereafter by means of underground  
workings or operations only to win, work, get and  
carry away the said mines, quarries, and minerals and  
any mines, quarries, and minerals in, upon or under  
any adjacent or other lands, and with full powers for  
these purposes to withdraw, vertical and lateral support  
from the surface of the said hereditaments and from  
any buildings or works thereon, erected or thereafter to  
be erected thereon, notwithstanding any subsidence or  
other injury or damage that may thereby be occasioned  
to the said hereditaments or any buildings or works  
thereon, or any other injury or damage or loss whatsoever  
arising whether directly or indirectly from any such  
workings or operations as aforesaid, which may be  
sustained by the purchaser, his heirs or assigns, so  
nevertheless that the person or persons actually  
working under or by virtue of any of the powers aforesaid  
shall pay to the purchaser, his heirs or assigns  
or other the owner or occupier of the said hereditaments  
reasonable compensation for or in respect of any



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injury or damage to be thereby occasioned to any buildings or works then erected on the said hereditaments such compensation to be fixed if the parties cannot agree by an Arbitrator to be agreed upon between them or in case of their not being able to agree upon such Arbitrator then by two disinterested persons as arbitrators one to be chosen by each party or their Agents and any such arbitration shall so far as applicable be governed by the provisions of the Arbitration Act 1889 or any statutory modifications thereof

**To hold** the same (except as aforesaid) unto and to the use of the purchaser in fee simple free from all liability for the repair of the Chancel of the Church of St. Andrew in the parish aforesaid but subject to all rights of way water light and other easements (if any) affecting the same **And** the purchaser for himself his heirs and assigns hereby covenants with the Vendor that the purchaser will forthwith and for ever hereafter maintain and keep in good and substantial repair a substantial fence to be approved by the Vendor ~~on the eastern and southern sides~~ of the land hereby conveyed **And** the Vendor hereby acknowledges the right of the purchaser to production of an Indenture of Conveyance dated the twentieth day of January one thousand nine hundred and twenty one and made between the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England of the one part and the said William Henry Garfield Harris therein called Henry Garfield Harris of the other part and the delivery of copies thereof and hereby undertakes for the safe custody thereof **And** it is hereby