

COBBLESTONES AND THE NUTSHELL



**BARBY LOCAL
HISTORY GROUP
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COBBLESTONES

At Enclosure in 1778 there were no buildings on the site of *Cobblestones, 18 The Green*; it was part of the plot which covered the site of the *Black Horse*. By 1840 however a house had been erected, possibly after the land was sold when the *Black Horse* was bought by the Woodfields in the 1830s.

Cobblestones is No 433 on the Oakley Map below, occupied in 1840 by William Webb and owned by Maria Benn and Catherine Butlin, daughters of a prominent Rugby family who owned land and several other properties in Barby.



The Oakley Survey of 1840

Northamptonshire Record Office, ZA 431 & Map 4418

By 1910 *Cobblestones* was owned by Arthur J Tompkins of *Moat Farm* (later known as *Manor Farm* in Ware Road). He arrived in Barby soon after his marriage in 1886, living at the farm, and by 1911 was described as Farm Bailiff for the absentee owner Jonathan Swingler of Rugby. The cottage was occupied in 1910 by the widowed Sarah Bedding, who was later living at 8 *The Green*.

Cobblestones is No 185 on the 1910 Valuation Survey map.

Right: The National Archives,
IR126/5/125 & IR126/5/191



Arthur died in 1914. In 1939 his widow Eliza was living in the cottage, so he had probably bought it to provide a home for himself and his wife when he was no longer working or she was widowed, and rented it out in the meantime. Eliza died in 1950.



Cobblestones in the 1930s from a postcard by Victor Long

Barby Local History Group (BLHG) P02/087B Village Centre

It seems to have been rented out for most of its existence. Although it was put up for sale in 1969 with its neighbour, *Nutshell Cottage*, it is not known to have changed hands until it was bought and renovated in 2017.

Right:

Rugby Advertiser, 14 November 1969

BARBY

Two cottages in need of modernisation situated in the centre of the village.
PRICE £1,600 or near



Cobblestones in 1999, Nutshell Cottage beyond to right, BLHG P04/026



Renovating April 2017, BLHG PD 2017/034



A similar view to that shown above in 1999, in 2017

BLHG PD Barby 2017/017

THE NUTSHELL/NUTSHELL COTTAGE, PITTOMS LANE



BLHG PD 2021/072

The Nutshell is No 434 on the 1840 Oakley Survey map; it then had a small outbuilding attached to it which was in the yard of *The Black Horse*. The section of the northern wall of the cottage nearest the road is of cob, seen internally at its recent renovation, covered by rendering on the outside. It must have been part of the original outbuilding and incorporated into the property.



The rendered north wall of *Nutshell Cottage*

BLHG PD 2019 /172

In 1840 it was owned and occupied by John Salisbury, mason and bricklayer. The subsequent occupiers of the cottage, and *Cobblestones*, up to 1910 are as yet unknown as the 10-yearly censuses seldom give a specific address in the village.

In 1910 it was owned by Thomas Townsend of *Barby Wharf* on the Hillmorton Road, and occupied by Amy Smith. It still had a little hovel attached which was later removed, maybe when the whole *Black Horse* site was sold for building in the 1960s. The Surveyor remarked “rather poor, wants a shave”, an odd comment which implies it was thatched, but it was built of brick and tile. It was obviously rather rundown.

Like *Cobblestones*, the cottage seems to have been rented throughout most of its existence until it was renovated and put in private hands in 2021.



Nutshell Cottage in 1999

BLHG P18/088