

* * *

Randwick's 15th Century Drain Pipes. MAY 8/36

Last week we made brief reference to the fact that during the laying of a water pipe through Randwick Vicarage gardens some old drain pipes had been discovered. These, consisting of channels cut lengthwise in large blocks of stone, follow the course of the new water pipe for some distance, and the discovery was made by Mr. F. Turner, who was carrying out the work. Mr. W. St. Clair Baddeley visited the spot and dated the pipes as belonging to the 15th century, and it therefore seems extremely likely that they belonged to the old Church House.

* * *

The Ancient Church House.

An old account of the parish, which appeared in the "Stroud News" of 1876, gives the following details of this Church House:

"In the year 1450, a piece of land, 65 feet in length and 35 in breadth, was given by the lords of one moiety of the manor to build a house to the honour of God, the blessed Virgin Mary, and All Saints, in the Church of Randwick (as it is expressed) 'for the health of our souls, of our ancestors, benefactors and all the faithful.' It afterwards became an old house—a sort of cell—inhabited by poor people, under the name of 'the church house.' It has since been taken down, and the materials employed in the erection of a suitable manse site about the year 1845, which has since acquired the name of 'the vicarage.'"

* * *

The 18th Century Workhouse.

Whether the materials were in fact used for the building of the Vicarage does not seem quite clear, because from an old manuscript book of quotations from Churchwardens' accounts, etc., prepared by a former Vicar, and given to Mr. F. Turner, who has been Churchwarden for the past 25 years, the following extracts appear:—

1781. We agree to take down the Church House and erect a workhouse for the poor of the parish.

1782. Feb. 23th. Agreed as follows: (1) That Mr. Keck's (?) plans for the workhouse approved, and resolved to be carried into execution.

1782. March 7th. Agreed that Mr. William Franklin and Mr. Edward King should erect the workhouse, agreeable to the plan delivered by Mr. Keck for the sum of £320.

1785. Dec. 7th. We do agree to give Thomas Pearce four shillings per week to take care of the poor in the workhouse and also his maintenance.

1786. We do allow a ninth rate of one shilling in the pound to put the workhouse in order and to put the poor into it.

The workhouse stood on the site of the Church House, and a portion of the old buildings remain in a corner of the Vicarage garden.

* * *