

Newinnton Lodge
(originally *New House* to 1865, *Newington Lodge* to 1875,
***Scotleigh* to 1958 then *Newinnton Lodge*)**
77 Old Exeter Street

1798 – 1806 : Mr M Batt

Potentially as *Taverners* occupied by Mr. Mark Batt, land agent to Lord Clifford. The EFP of 11 September 1806 carried a for sale advertisement (see left), stating that the occupier, Mr Batt,

CHUDLEIGH, DEVON.
TO be SOLD in FEE, all that neat and genteel DWELLING-HOUSE and PREMISES, situated in Chudleigh, now occupied by Mr. Batt, who is going to reside at Lawell House, near Chudleigh.—The house consists of a lobby, dining-parlour, withdrawing-room, seven bed-rooms and closets, two kitchens, store-room, pantry, wine and other cellars, with an inclosed court; two walled gardens in the highest state of cultivation; an excellent three-stalled stable, with a granary annexed; coach-house and court. In front of the house is a shrubbery, planted with the best chosen shrubs, intersected with gravel walks, and an hot-house, with vines now in their prime, and of the best selection.
The premises, although in the town, are totally unconnected with any house, being a considerable distance from the street, and inclosed with stone walls; are in good repair, and fitted up in such a manner as to make it a desirable residence for a genteel family.
There are three packs of hounds kept within a quarter of an hour's ride of Chudleigh, and the river Teign, abounding with excellent trout, runs near the town.
For the above purpose a public survey will be holden at the clifford arms inn, in Chudleigh aforesaid, on Saturday the 27th day of this instant September, by four o'clock in the afternoon.
Application to be made to Mr. Batt.
Dated 8th Sept. 1806.

*Mr. Batt's house 'for sale' notice – possibly Taverners or New House.
(EFP 11 September 1806)*

was moving to reside at Lawell. He remained at Lawell until moving to Lawn Cottage (1822–27). Batt died aged 74 at Tormoham, Torquay on 28 February 1845 (*Gent. Mag.*)

In his *Chudleigh, A Chronicle* (p80), Anthony Crockett suggests that Mark Batt – Charles Lord Clifford's land agent – was residing at *Taverners*, later known as *The Retreat*. However the EFP description could well also suit *New House* (later *Newinnton Lodge*).

On leaving the house in the winter of 1806, Mark Batt moved to Lawell, a move that co-incided with his job as land Agent for Lord Clifford.

At the top of Old Exeter Street (close to Little Silver) was a detached property owned by Christopher Hellyer (attorney) and as Batt had come to Chudleigh as junior partner to Hellyer it is likely to have been the house shown on the Tithe Map near Little Silver.

On 22 May 1807 was the event that came to be known as 'The Great Fire of Chudleigh'. We know from various EFP notices that Richard Rose, whose coaching inn, *The Kings Arms* (Town Hall site), had burnt out and was given the use of Christopher Hellyer's house which he used until the latter part of 1808.

1806 – 1822 : Mary Bidgood

The Basic Rate List for 1810 gives the name Mary Bidgood for *Taverners* and other property. Mary, born in 1740 was the widow of William Bidgood '*Mariner of Chudeigh*' who had died in 1802. Mary died in 1822 and they are buried together in the churchyard close to the northeast corner of the church. There are PCC Wills for them both, dated 17 July 1802 and 10 February 1823 respectively.

1822 – 1834 : occupiers not known

1835 – 1861 : Scott Family

The EFP 12 June 1834 carries a 'For Sale' advertisement (see right) for a property 'on the High Road from Chudleigh to Exeter' and by the description could well refer to the detached freehold house that was to be purchased by the retired Vice-Admiral Sir William Isaac Scott RN (1779–1861) in 1834/35 and throughout his occupation called *New House*. William Isaac Scott's name first appeared in a parish apprenticeship of 1835.

The 1838 Tithe shows William Isaac Scott as owner and occupier of a building on the site of the existing house (no. 970 in the Apportionment) and another homestead (no. 972) a little to the west which remains today and appears much older but which seems not to have been put to residential use for a considerable amount of time. This was originally likely to have been the coach house and stables. The adjacent Boyer Hole Meadow was part of his estate; in 1811 (Basic Rate List) Borehole Meadow was owned by Rev John Comyns, rector of Bishopsteignton.

CHUDLEIGH, DEVONSHIRE.

Detached Freehold Villa Residence, with Offices, Garden, Pleasure Ground, and Pasture Land, the whole upwards of Six Acres.

BY MESSRS. FAREBROTHER and CO., at
GARRAWAY'S COFFEE HOUSE, CHANGE ALLEY,
CORNHILL, LONDON, on MONDAY, June 30th, at 12 o'Clock,
A MOST DESIRABLE
FREEHOLD VILLA RESIDENCE,
of handsome modern elevation, approached by a Carriage Drive from the High Road from Chudleigh to Exeter, seated on a fine Lawn, and surrounded by Garden, Pleasure Ground, and Pasture Land, the whole about Six Acres and a Quarter. The House contains seven pleasant bed-rooms, and two servants' sleeping rooms; drawing and dining rooms, each 20 feet by 15 feet 6; library, and breakfast parlour; with a profusion of domestic offices. Also, detached coach-house, stabling, cow-house, dairy, &c.

The situation of the Estate is particularly desirable, being in one of the finest parts of Devon, near to many fashionable watering places, and at an easy remove from Exeter.

The Estate may be viewed, and particulars had on the Premises, at the New London Inn, Exeter, and Ashburton; at GARRAWAY'S, and at Messrs. FAREBROTHER and Co's, 2, Lancaster Place, Strand, London.

New House 'for sale' notice
(EFP 12 June 1834)



Scott was born in Plymouth (St Andrews) in 1779 and entered the Navy in 1792 (Crockett, *Chudleigh, A Chronicle*, p109). He first served on *HMS Windsor Castle* and other vessels, mainly in the West Indies. Six years followed in frigate service off France and then again in the West Indies (a period that spanned Trafalgar) followed by two years on half-pay. Promoted to Captain in 1814 he saw no further service until retiring in the rank of Vice-Admiral in 1846. He had married at Lostwithiel, Cornwall on 15 November 1804 to Elizabeth Bower. A son, William Bower Scott was born at Cattistock, Dorset in 1808 followed by a daughter, Frances born in 1810 (Beaminster) and a third child, Elizabeth (Lostwithiel) in 1814. Elizabeth had come to Chudleigh with her parents and went on to marry curate Charles I.N. Thomas at Chudleigh (regd. Dec QTR 1850). They lived together at Chudleigh Vicarage until his death in 1867.

Crockett suggests that the house was built on the site of an earlier group of dwellings which in the early 1800s were in the ownership of Mr Christopher Hellyer. From his research into the fire of May 1807 he found that Richard Rose moved to Mr Hellyer's house at the top of Exeter Way, it may be that Hellyer owned the land prior to William Isaac Scott but certainly by 1838 Hellyer only had the land where The Elms was built on the other side of the street and on the north side of Colway Lane (Littlehill). Hellyer owned Little Silver in 1811 and in 1815 Colly Lane Meadow was owned by Thomas Pulling. The 1838 Tithe has Christopher Hellyer about where Home Lodge is, on the east side of Old Exeter Street. His widowed daughter Mary Arscott (aged 54) lived next door to him. He is shown on the 1841 Census at about the same location aged 88 (solicitor). He died there on 3 October 1843 aged 90 years.

When Mr and Mrs Hadow (see later) had the house redecorated, alongside a large centrally-located fireplace were discovered closed up windows, as this wall was then an internal one this suggests at one time the wall was an external one. It was also said that it was Admiral Scott who had the top floor and new roof added.

By the time of the 1841 census three cottages just below Scott's house (in Little Silver) were in the occupation of labouring families with Admiral Sir William Isaac Scott at *New House*.

Sir William Isaac Scott also owned a large tract of land to the rear of his new property (in the Tithe named Boyer Hole Meadow and New House Meadow), bounded on the south by Woodway Street across to what much later became Highlands Park. Extending beyond the modern A38 cutting to the north-west, Crockett suggests that New House Farm (today Highcourt Park, previously Rivendell and originally Home Farm) was included in this estate. The 1838 Tithe Apportionment listing confirms William Isaac Scott in ownership and occupation of unnamed houses, etc, totalling 20 acres 0 roods 25 poles. He is also listed in the 1838 Electoral Roll. In that list New House Farm shows Robert Cleave as occupying the land and that homestead. Although Crockett suggests Scott owned New House Farm this could only have been subsequent to the 1838 Tithe Apportionment. In fact other sources say that New House was the home farm to Filleigh.

Scott's wife Elizabeth died at the house in October 1840 and Sir William twenty-one years later on 12 January 1861. On the 1841 census as *New House*, William Scott was listed aged 60 (as a navy man on half pay) with his unmarried daughter Elizabeth (25). In 1851 the house was still *New House* and Sir William was there with his twelve year old grandson and three servants. In his final years he shared the house with a widowed daughter-in-law Frances E. Scott; it was probably his daughter Elizabeth who donated the stained glass window (north wall of the chancel) in Chudleigh

Church to both him and his wife Elizabeth. His son, also living in Chudleigh by the mid-1830s was Mr William Bower Scott, a solicitor of Church Hill House, Fore Street (now The Grey House) who inherited the house on his father's death in 1860.

At the 1861 Census date, the house (still as *New House*) was in the occupation of his widowed daughter-in-law Frances E. Scott (51) described as clergyman's widow, along with her three daughters; Frances E. (19), Mary K. (17) and Charlotte M. (10), the eldest two born at Beaminster, Dorset and Charlotte at Battiscombe, also Dorset.

1861 – 1921 : Various Military Tennants

Sometime following 1861 Frances Scott departed the house and her brother, William Bower let the house to a succession of retired ex-military gentlemen. By 1866 the house was in the occupation of General John Blaxland and his wife Ann. He was the son of Christopher Blaxland of Kent (1770–1812) whose estate there was called *Newington*, hence the house name-change. Christopher's two younger brothers John (1769–1845) and Gregory Blaxland (1778–1853) had emigrated to New South Wales, Australia and named their estate (and house) at Silverwater, *Newington House*, and is still named that today.

In 1866 William Bower Scott donated a piece of land adjacent to the house (Boyer Hole Meadow) to the parish for the building of a reservoir. Today its site can be seen on the left side of the entrance to Highlands Park, most of which was built on the remainder of Boyer Hole Meadow.

The 1871 Census has John Blaxland (born 14 February 1805 Wandsworth, died 8 July 1882 Cheltenham) and Ann Pyke Blaxland (58, born Barnstaple, nee Salmon, died Cheltenham 1893) at *Newington Lodge*. They had married on 9 January 1841.

In 1873 (7 May and 28 May – Exeter Flying Post, see right) *Newington House* on 'very dry and rising ground, near the town of Chudleigh' was advertised to let, stating that 'for many years past the property had been in the occupation of General Blaxland'. In addition to describing the house the advertisement also stated coach house, stables, piggery etc with an excellent garden, conservatory and with about seven acres of most productive land. The Blaxlands had moved to Cheltenham from Chudleigh and on the 1881 Census they were living at 5 Priory Street. He was described as a retired Major-General Madras Army. Their son John Salmon Blaxland had been born in India in 1842 (died Cheltenham 10 March 1898).

CHUDLEIGH,—DEVON.

TO be LET, from Michaelmas next, for such Term as may be agreed upon, all that commodious and very desirable RESIDENCE, containing drawing, dining, and breakfast rooms, of suitable dimensions, spacious bed rooms, with all the necessary offices for a gentleman's residence, called "NEWINGTON HOUSE, situated on very dry and rising ground, near the town of Chudleigh, is at present and has been for many years past in the occupation of General Blaxland.

The out offices comprise coach house, stables, cow sheds, piggery, &c., also excellent garden, conservatory, with about seven acres of most productive land.

The picturesque scenery and the salubrity of the air, together with the excellent hunting and fishing, in which Chudleigh abounds, as well as the advantages that a railway already commenced will give to the neighbourhood, offers an opportunity of obtaining a residence of this description, with land, rarely to be met with.

The present tenant will allow the house to be seen by cards only, which may be had and every information obtained of Mr. EDWARD ELLIS, Land Agent and Surveyor, Muirgrave's Alley, High-street, Exeter.

*Newington House 'to let' notice
(EFP 7 May 1873)*

In 1878 the house was in the occupation of a General Maister and the name had changed to *Scotleigh* about the same date, no doubt as a memorial to Vice Admiral Scott, certainly by 1880 the house was known by that new name.

The 1881 Census details a family by the name of Lord. The head of the household was Robert G. Lord (60) born in Ireland. With him his wife Annie (40) born Headley, Middlesex. Their four sons were also present, the eldest three born in Ireland, the youngest, aged 1 was born in Chudleigh.

The Lord family did not stay long; from 1886–1891 the house was in the occupation of Dr Charles Henry Wade (born 1853 Redruth) who stayed for about ten years, leaving not long after the 1891 Census when he was at the house with his wife Mary (nee Douglas, born 1848 Durham) and their two daughters, Minnie (1884 Forest Hill) and Georgetta (1886 Upper Norwood). It was during his time there that the first two telephones were set up in the town (November 1886), one being installed at *Scotleigh* which linked him with his colleague Dr George William Lillies at Fore Street, in the house that is now Alpha House.

The lawns were often used for fêtes and one such occasion occurred in May 1885 when an event was arranged to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chudleigh Volunteers. The 1893 town directory has a Mrs Scott in residence.

By 1902 the town directory lists a Mrs Dawson along with the Misses Hare. The 1901 Census appears (poor writing) to show widow, Catherine R. Dawson (60), a widow living on her own means possibly born Diptford, Devon with 3 servants. (The 1901 online transcript has the surname as Darrow) Mrs Dawson continued until no later than 1914.

In 1919 the house was in the occupation of Capt. Charles Henry Cardozo (late 8th Batt, The Buffs), he was followed by two further retired military men, Lt-Col Thomas Charles Bedford Holland (1923) and Col George Browse DSO MD (1926–30).

1921 – 1958 : Post-Scott Owners

The house had remained in Scott family ownership until 26 November 1921 when it was put up for auction by Col Woodward Scott at the Globe Hotel, Newton Abbot. Although in Scott ownership it may have been let, as a document at Plymouth & West Devon RO shows an Emily Catherine Hare of *Scotleigh*.

In 1935 Mr John Patrick Hepburn JP moved in with his wife Mrs Rose Marion Scott. His family retained it through the war years and up until the close of 1957 when the family moved to Torquay. During their occupation the extensive gardens were often used as the location of fundraising events in support of the many local charities of the time.

On 5 February 1944 the daughter of John Hepburn, Josephine Ruth married at Chudleigh to Franc Granby Saddleir. Born 20 August 1917 at Weymouth, he joined the Devonshire Regiment, 2nd Batt in May 1940 and initially went to Gibraltar and then to Malta. During his time there he was awarded both a George Cross and MBE. He later moved to Egypt and Italy before moving to France. He was killed in action there on 19 June 1944 aged 26. He was buried in the CWGC Cemetery at Calvados, France. His name appears on the Chudleigh War Memorial.

J.P. Hepburn had also owned three attached properties in Little Silver numbered 73, 74 and 75 Old Exeter Street. In February 1938 they were included in demolition orders but it was later agreed that after necessary works they were suitable for habitation for at least the following five years. Number 73 (today Sylva Thatch) has a date-plaque high up on the front elevation, marking



its reconstruction, the plaque carries the year 1938 and the initials 'JPH'. On the 1888 OS map Sylva Thatch is originally shown to be two cottages (they were later numbered as 73 and 74 Old Exeter Street). Its attached neighbour is today called Moon Cottage (75 Old Exeter Street).

Little Silver is mentioned as early as 1730 in the Overseers Rate List when in the ownership of John Pike Jnr. In 1811 it was owned by Hellyer.

Borehole and Barn Meadows were also listed in 1811, shown to be in the ownership of Rev John Comins, rector of Bishopsteignton 1801–1856. Lived at 'Wood', Bishopsteignton.

1951 Voter List as *Scotleigh* : John P and Rose M Hepburn

1958 – 1994 : Edward and Lettice Hadow

Major Edward A. (Teddy) and Mrs Lettice Hadow came to Chudleigh and bought the house in early 1958, having discounted The Lawns, The Laurels and Westwoods. They disliked the address "*Scotleigh*, Chudleigh" considering it to be a tongue-twister and reverted the name (incorrectly) back to *Newinnton Lodge* which they believed from the Hepburn's that had derived from *New Inn* that formerly stood close by. However they did not particularly like that name either saying that it was too long and no one knew how to spell it correctly. They also did not think the house was formerly an inn.

Two years after coming to the town, Mr Hadow accepted the position of Civil Defence organiser. They lived at the house for the next thirty-four years selling it in 1994 to Viv and Alan Summerfield.

On leaving *Newinnton Lodge*, Major and Mrs Hadow moved to 2 Highlands Park and on widowhood in 2005, Mrs Lettice Hadow moved to a bungalow at 2 Clifford Close.

1994 – 2009 : Summerfield Family

The Summerfields had come from Bovey Tracey where they ran a small electronics business. The 1994 Voter List had Vivian and Jessica Summerfield at Alma House, 6 Old Exeter Street. That business, relocated to *Newinnton Lodge* in 1994, became very successful in Chudleigh and went on to become a world-wide success.

The business moved out to Heathfield in 2006 and the house remained empty apart from some use as office space by their son, Anthony, who then lived in new Exeter Street. Alan, his father tended the grounds while his mother lived in Italy. In May 2009 Mr Anthony Summerfield applied to Teignbridge DC for Change of Use permission from light industrial to residential.

In 2012 the house seemed to be lived in again and various work was occurring in the outbuildings to the rear. Felling of some trees in the grounds has also recently taken place.



Resources

Crockett, Anthony (1985) *Chudleigh, A Chronicle*. [128 pages, Devon Books (May 1985)
ISBN-10: 086114757X ISBN-13: 978-0861147571]

Gentleman's Magazine

Exeter Flying Post (EFP) newspaper

1838 Tithe Apportionment and Map