

CHARLES HAWKSLEY 1886 -1974

Charles Hawksley was born in London in 1886, the youngest of eight children to Thomas Paton Hawksley, a surgical instrument maker. He was apprenticed to him in 1899 and in 1907 qualified as a scientific instrument maker.

In 1918, he married Joan Leadam.



As a scientific instrument maker, Charles Hawksley had his own firm in London at 83 Wigmore Street, W1.

In the summer of 1929 the Hawksley family – Charles, Joan and five children - moved to Cherwell in Bulmer. For the first few years, and for two or three times a week, Charles Hawksley would walk to Sudbury station, commute by train to London and walk home the same day.

He also built a small workshop on the first floor of Cherwell. In 1934 his company was taken over by Baum and Co of the United States who promptly dismissed the English staff. He was thus out of a job for six months before becoming a technical representative for the scientific instrument firm of Watson Baker Ltd. On their behalf he visited educational and business institutions up and down the east coast and advised users of their instruments how to use them properly and to repair the instruments as occasion demanded. For this job he bought and learnt to drive a car, the first one being a Morris 10 with the number PV 81, and at the same time (in 1934) the telephone was connected to the house, the number being Sudbury 289.



In WW2, Charles joined the Sudbury branch of the Royal Observer Corps and served until the end of the war.

He is pictured here on Constitution Hill Sudbury 1944

Charles died in 1974 and is buried in Bulmer with his wife, Joan and sister, Dorothy. He left a comprehensive collection of photographs of Bulmer, now reproduced in 'Snapshots' by his son Robert.

For further information please see 'Snapshots' by Robert Hawksley
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Bob Hawksley May 2011