

A Broderip lends his name — join us on this fascinating journey

By Julie Goode

The Broderip Room

While the focus of recent local interest has rightly been the main hall of the new Cossington Village Hall, there is another space adjoining it worthy of our attention. It is the 7 x 4 m room between the entrance foyer and the kitchen, which is henceforth to be known as the Broderip Room. Unlike the little room adjoining the old village hall, this one is suitable for small functions for up to 20 people – club activities, parties and private dining as well as meetings and training sessions – and can be used independently of the main hall. Book the Broderip Room today by phoning Marilyn Pascoe (683243).

Why Broderip?

The Cossington Village Hall Management Committee recently voted to name the smaller function room after the family that owned the land on which the original Cossington Memorial Hall was built.



E. F. Broderip, J.P.

Edmund Francis Broderip (1868-1935), Lord of the Manor of Cossington, sold the 'Plantation near Trivetts Farm House' (28 perches, or 847 square yards) in September 1920 for £10 to trustees of the Parish of Cossington for the purpose of erecting

a 'Parish Room' for any meetings or such other objects as may be permitted by the Trustees, having in view the intellectual moral or social wants or welfare of any of the inhabitants of the Parish of Cossington'. The indenture was co-signed by Mark Leonard Thorp (Rector of Cossington), John Stradling (farmer and church warden) and Ivor David Bell (farmer) and their legal representatives.

Broderip, himself, was a third-generation magistrate, a director of several companies, a school manager and the last of four Broderips to hold the title of Lord of the Manor. His great-great grandfather, Edmund Broderip of Wells (died 1828), had purchased the Manor with Benjamin Greenhill in trust for the marriage of their son and daughter in 1806. His great

grandfather Edmund (died 1847) was involved in the creation of the Glastonbury Canal, which ran through his property, in 1833 and rebuilt the manor house in its present style in the early 1840s.



His grandfather was Edmund Greenhill Broderip (1811-1895) (Patron of the Living and commemorated in brass in St Mary's) agreed after protracted negotiations to allow the Bristol and Exeter Railway (B&ER) to run a country line through his property in Cossington, linking Bridgwater to the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway. The line, with a station in Cossington, finally opened in 1890 and was used to transport over 100,000 gallons of milk from local farms per year and provided a means for local people to travel to London without paying express fares. The line was initially very busy, with nine trains a day each way, but never profitable. *Kelly's Directory of Somerset* mentions stationmasters at Cossington by name; the railway line closed to passengers in 1952 and finally to freight in 1954, but as early as 1927, 'daily omnibuses from Bridgwater to Glastonbury' were providing travelers with an alternative.

His great uncle, Reverend John Somerville Broderip (1814-1866) was appointed Rector of Cossington in 1844, a post he held until his death. John Somerville married Frances Freeling Hood (1830-1878), a prolific writer of books for

children, in 1849. One volume, *Merry Songs for Little Voices*, published while she lived in Cossington (1865), contains musical settings by Thomas Murby of poems by Mrs Broderip and her brother Thomas Hood, who also charmingly illustrated it.



The Broderips continued By Julie Goode

Edmund Francis Broderip's father, also Edmund (1843-1918), was educated at Cheltenham College and Sandhurst before serving in the New Zealand War of 1863-66 with the 57th Regiment. In Cossington he was responsible for the 1900 restoration of St Mary's. In addition to the new oak seating, pulpit and lectern, he funded two of the stained glass windows in the nave in memory of members of the Broderip family.

Father and son were early motoring enthusiasts. They quickly amassed a fleet of vehicles, purchasing their first car, a dark green four-seater Locomobile (Y86), in December 1903 and two the following year: in April 1904 they registered a dark green 6 h.p. Vauxhall (Y178) and in October a 12/14 h.p. dark blue Argyll (Y278).



Edmund Francis Broderip put the manor and 1,095 acres up for sale in 1919 but didn't find a buyer until 1925. Recognising the need for a 'Parish Room' and the desire of the community to commemorate the sacrifices made by Cossington men in the Great War, Broderip agreed that a small portion of the manor estate could be sold separately for these ends.

Julie Goode is enormously grateful to Godfrey and Sue Hebdon for their research and Geoff Cross for the image of Locomobile. The image of E F Broderip is taken from T.H.S. Escott: *Somerset, Historical, Descriptive, Biographical* (Bournemouth, Southampton, London, 1908).