

IN THE NEWS

Looking back 100 years

The Remarkable Rise and Fall of the Acclaimed Simpson Bulb Nursery!

Mr Bourne of Olde Warfe House, Simpson, 1909 - 1916



Old Wharf House, Simpson showing the glasshouses



Aerial view of Holmfield 1967

The Olde Warfe House Nursery, alongside the Grand Junction Canal in Simpson Village, has prospered. Its first catalogue was published in 1911, its daffodil bulbs sent all over the kingdom, and its new breeds have won prizes at shows.

The Bulb Nursery was established in 1909 with extensive greenhouses by Mr Christopher Bourne and his wife Alys who moved from Lincolnshire. Mr Bourne, interested in growing bulbs since childhood and encouraged by his father's wide knowledge of daffodils and tulips, bought Olde Warfe House with an inheritance.

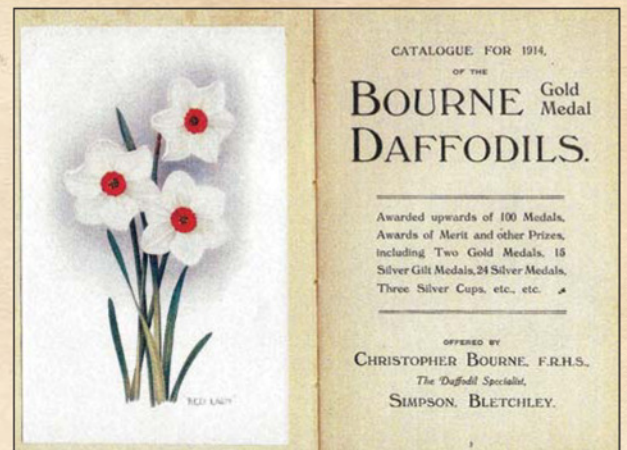
However, The Daffodil Year Book of 1915 is the last significant output from the business. Many workers have left to fight in the War and food production has assumed priority over flowers. Narcissus root fly has also caused serious damage. Mr Bourne has therefore sold Olde Warfe House, moving to Fenny Stratford, and will follow his father's footsteps once more to train for the ministry.



Christopher Bourne



Alys Bourne c1910



Gold Medal Award winning bulbs advertised in the 1914 Catalogue