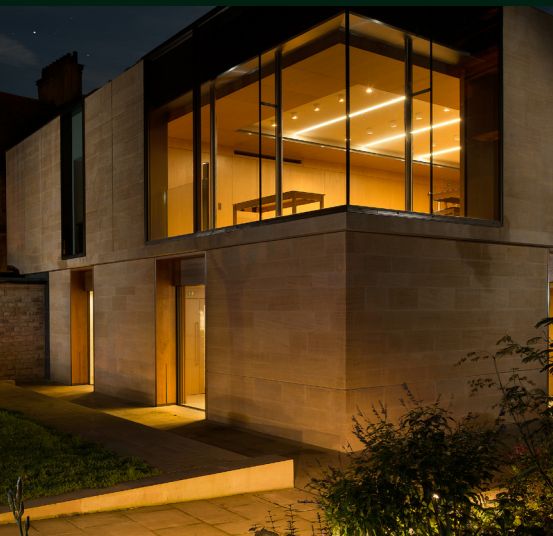





Kingerlee Ltd


celebrating 150 years of craftsmanship in construction

1868 - 2018

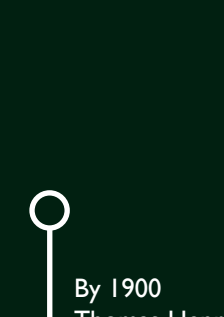




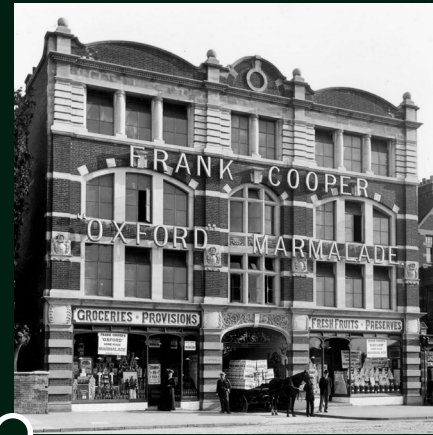
Thomas Henry Kingerlee, aged 25, took over his father's plumbing and glazing firm in Banbury.




Kingerlee had their own brickworks near Wolvercote until the 1930s.




By 1900 Thomas Henry Kingerlee was the biggest housebuilder and landlord in Oxford and wielded considerable power in the city.




Kingerlee built Frank Cooper's Marmalade Factory in 1903. The building still stands today and is listed.




The Oxford Ice Rink on the Botley Road was one of the largest single-span buildings in the country when it was built by Kingerlee in 1930.




By the mid-1930s the company had built over 700 new houses throughout Oxford's suburbs, making it by far the city's largest developer.




The joinery workshop moved to Lamarsh Road (off the Botley Road) in 1958.




Kingerlee did a lot of work at Blenheim Palace and throughout the 1960s and '70s we still had a team of painters and plumbers permanently on site. A project to stabilise the Palace's South West Tower was carried out in 1977.



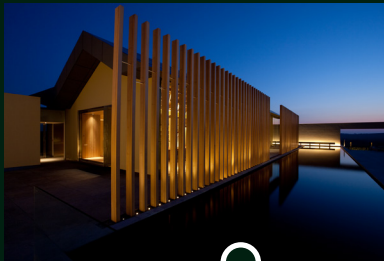
Kingerlee re-started the development business, building a number of prominent apartment blocks in North Oxford to create more than 200 new homes in all.



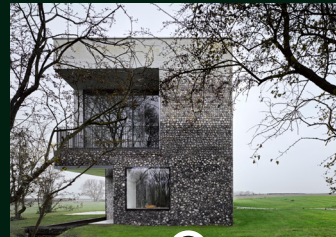
In 1988 Kingerlee built the BBC Radio Oxford studios in Summertown.




In 1999 Kingerlee moved to brand new purpose-built premises, with extensive yard and joinery workshop facilities, at Langford Locks, Kidlington.



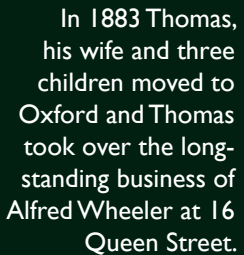
Kingerlee carried out major projects for the Rothschild Foundation, St John's College and Pembroke College, and built a number of bespoke private houses.




Kingerlee built Flint House on the Waddesdon Estate, which went on to win the 2015 Grand Designs House of the Year.




Thomas Henry Kingerlee lived with his family at 5 Butcher's Row, Banbury, a property that Kingerlee later refurbished in 2014 for Charity, Style Acre.




In 1883 Thomas, his wife and three children moved to Oxford and Thomas took over the long-standing business of Alfred Wheeler at 16 Queen Street.



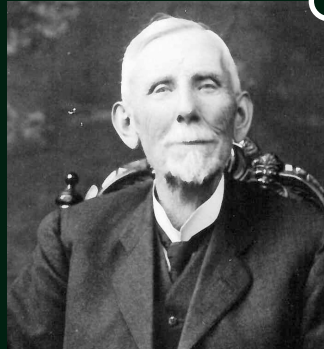
One of Thomas's first major commissions in Oxford was in 1884, the new isolation hospital for infectious diseases at Cold Harbour, a mile out of the city along the Abingdon Road.




Thomas was elected Mayor of Oxford for 1898/99, and for a second term in 1911/12.




In 1911 Kingerlee built the Oxford Picture Palace on Jeune Street off the Cowley Road in east Oxford. The building is now the Ultimate Picture Palace, Oxford's oldest surviving cinema.




Thomas's son Charles and grandsons Cyril and Jack all fought in the First World War.



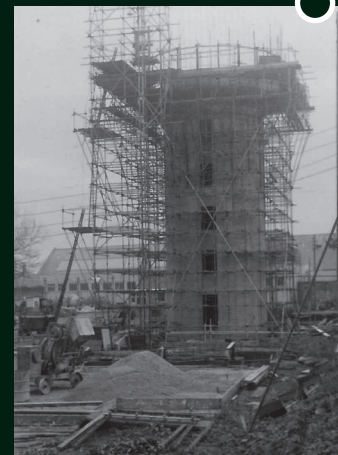
Thomas Kingerlee died in 1928 but by then his two sons and a grandson had joined the business and continued to manage a variety of activities, which included a joinery workshop and builder's merchant.




In 1928 Kingerlee began the first of many projects on site at Pressed Steel.



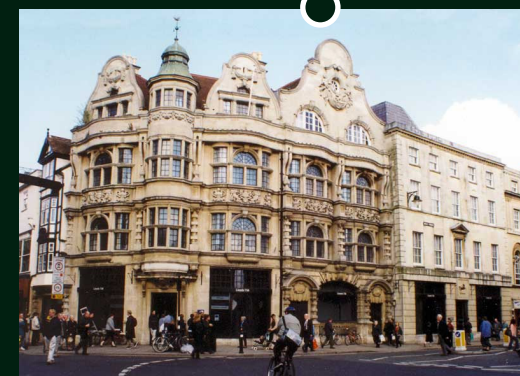
The company carried out a good deal of work in London up to the Second World War. One of the last building projects there was the St John the Baptist Church in Tottenham, completed in 1939.




During the war Kingerlee built various MoD facilities around Oxfordshire, and joinery production continued.




Kingerlee carried out extensive work at Wolvercote Paper Mill until the mid-1950s.




By 1962 Kingerlee's head office had moved from Queen Street to Lamarsh Road to join the joinery works already established there.




The construction of the paint shop at Pressed Steel was the first Kingerlee project worth over £1m.




In the mid-1970s the firm carried out extensive work at Lloyds Bank at Carfax in Central Oxford.




After 55 years, Kingerlee finished on site at Pressed Steel.




In 1995 Kingerlee built the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building for St Hilda's College in Oxford.



Kingerlee carried out a major redevelopment project at the former Morrell's (Lion) Brewery site in St Thomas's in Oxford.



The Park End Street development followed in 2004.



The firm is now under the management of the fifth generation of the Kingerlee family and in 2018 celebrates 150 years trading.



Researched, written and compiled by Liz Woolley and Siân Smith

Published by Kingerlee Ltd, 2018

Thomas House, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 1HR

www.kingerlee.co.uk

Cover and book design by Siân Smith

The right of Siân Smith and Liz Woolley to be identified as the Authors of this work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without the permission in writing from the Publishers.

ISBN 978-1-5272-2378-3

Printed in Great Britain by Hunts, <https://hunts.co.uk/>

All images are from the Kingerlee archives unless otherwise stated.



The Kendrew Quadrangle at St John's College, Oxford
Photograph by Chris Honeywell

Foreword

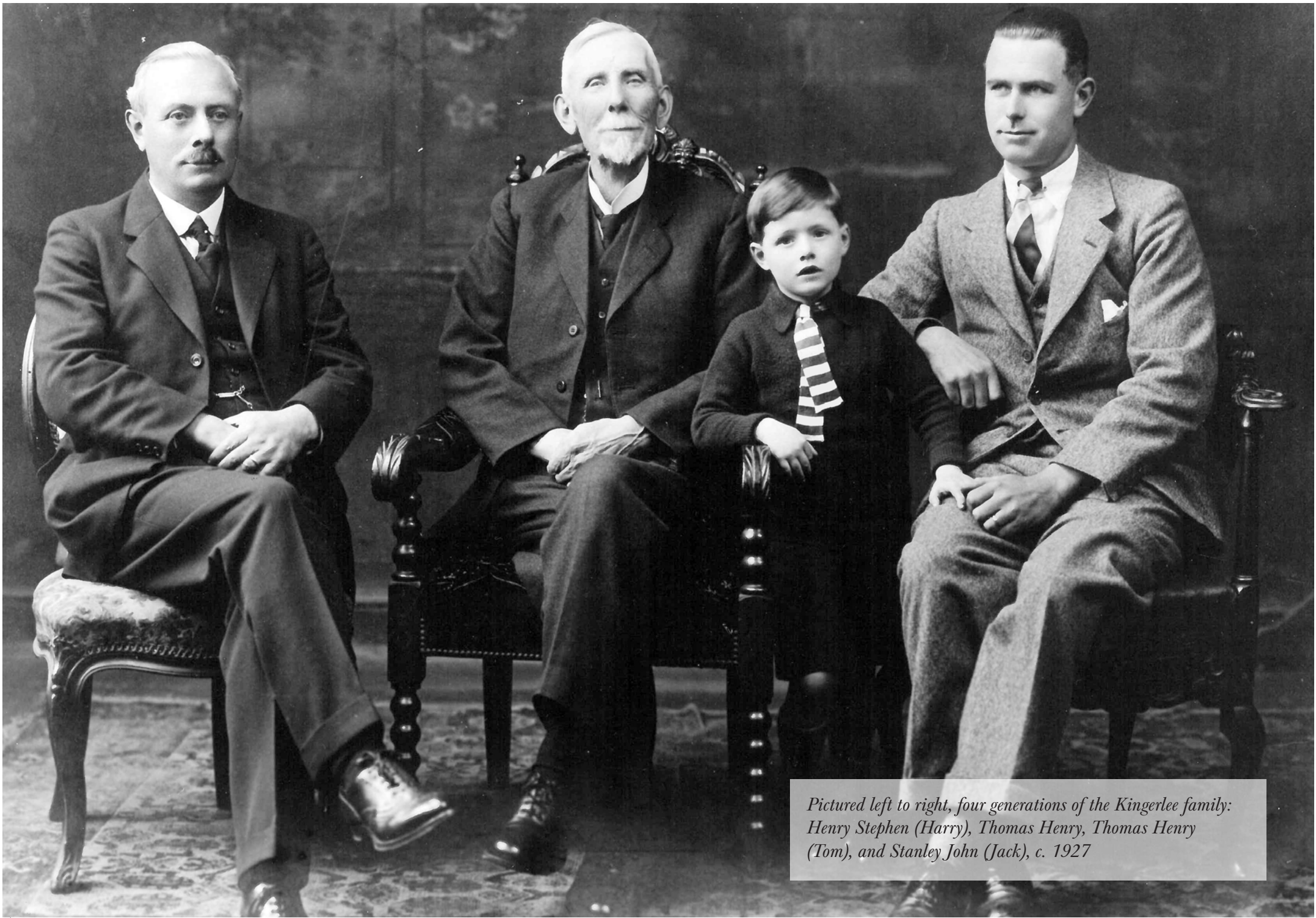
We are delighted to be celebrating the huge milestone of Kingerlee's 150th anniversary. Founded in 1868 by our great great grandfather, the Kingerlee business is all about people, and over the last 150 years we've built thousands of high quality buildings in and around Oxford, and across the South East, for people to live, work and be entertained in.

We have been working through our own archives and local history resources with the help of Oxford historian, Liz Woolley, and film maker, John Tolson, to put together a book to document our fascinating company history. We hope you enjoy our story.

Richard Wilsdon (Purchasing Director) and David Kingerlee (Chairman), 2018.

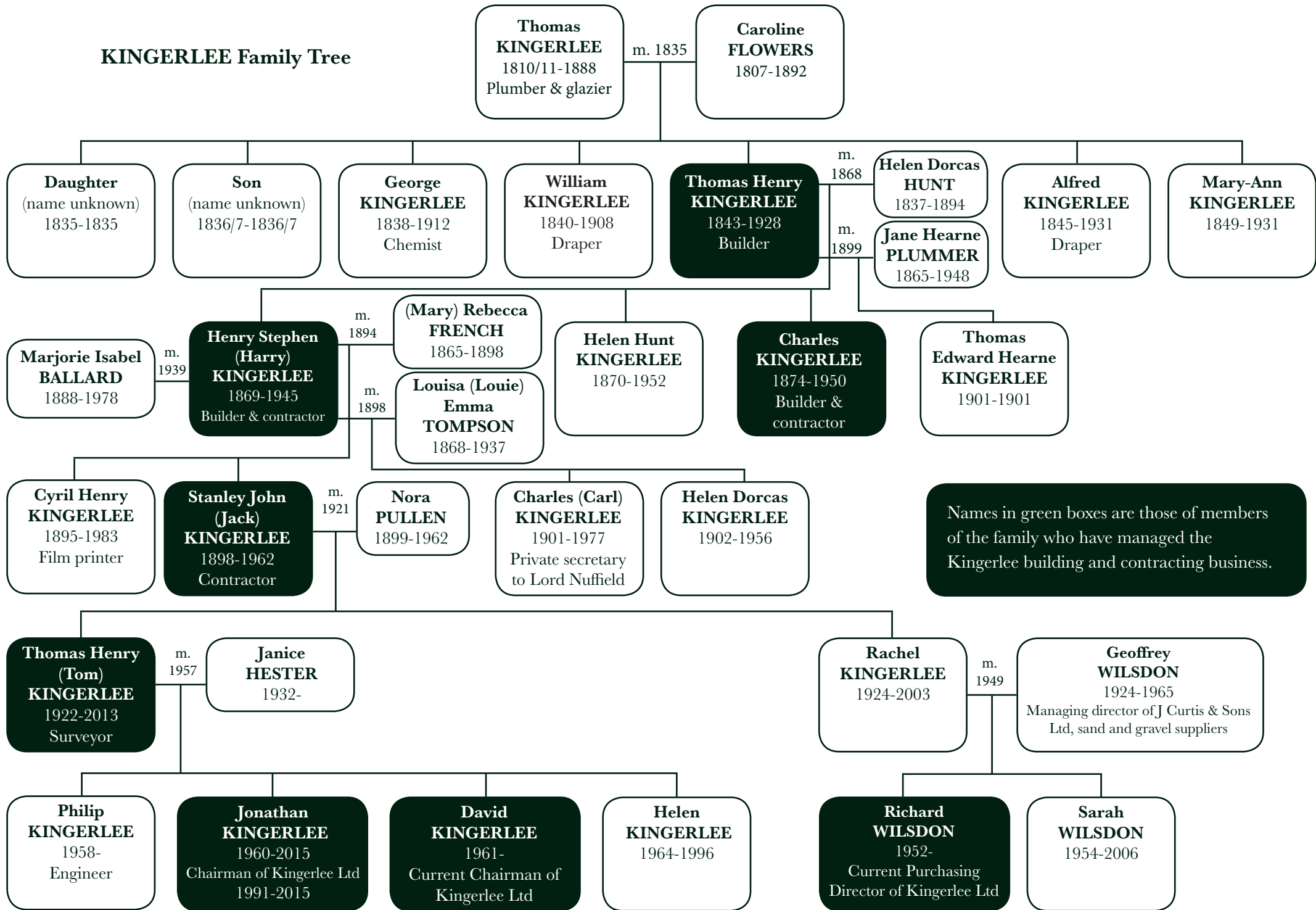


Photograph by Ryan Cowan



*Pictured left to right, four generations of the Kingerlee family:
Henry Stephen (Harry), Thomas Henry, Thomas Henry
(Tom), and Stanley John (Jack), c. 1927*

KINGERLEE Family Tree





Picture courtesy of Four Shires Magazine



Photograph by Keith Shackleton

Thomas Henry Kinglerlee (left) was born on 26 January 1843 at 10 Parson's Street, Banbury, Oxfordshire. His parents, Thomas and Caroline, and their two eldest sons, George and William, had moved to Banbury from Blockley in Worcestershire (now in Gloucestershire) in 1841 when Thomas snr took over the plumbing, painting and glazing business of Mr Bromley, to whom he had been apprenticed.

Soon after Thomas Henry's birth the family moved next door to 11 Parson's Street in Banbury. From the mid-1870s both 10 and 11 were the premises of a 'fancy repository and fancy drapers' run by Thomas's younger brother Alfred. The store remained until the 1970s (above left) and a plaque in the pavement nearby commemorates it (above right).

Dear Brother

William refuses to finish
the note therefore father wishes
me to do so for him. How
school Master was married to

Ms Bliss she is going to give
up the British school. A little girl
of Neithrop was burned to
death last week we all give
our love Alfred sends his love
and Mary Ann wants to see
you again

Thine truly affectionate Brother
H Kingerlee

Thomas Henry (aged ten) completed this letter (left) started by William to their elder brother George in September 1853. George had left home to begin a five-year apprenticeship with Mr J Lewis, a chemist of St Albans. He later moved to Buckingham and practiced as a chemist and druggist there for the rest of his working life.

Dear Brother

William refuses to finish the note therefore father wishes me to do so for him. Our school Master was married to Ms Bliss she is going to give up the British [Non-conformist] school. A little girl of Neithrop was burned to death last week we all give our love Alfred sends his love and Mary Ann wants to see you again

From your affectionate Brother

H Kingerlee

Thomas Henry and his brothers George, William and Alfred were educated at the Academy, run by Mr Hill and later Mr Harley, at 21 Horse Fair in Banbury. Their sister Mary Ann attended Miss Pratt's school on the same street. In 1853 William wrote to his brother George (who had left the Academy the year before) that "Mr Hill is as cross as ever".

24 Male Birmingham
 Thomas Henry born January 26th 1843 at
 No 10 Parson's St. Banbury and at present
 thinks of learning my Father's business
 of Plumber Glazier &c with him
 Alfred born January 26th 1865 and

In 1858 Thomas Henry's eldest brother, George, wrote that Thomas Henry (aged 15) "thinks of learning my father's business of Plumber, Glazier etc with him" and indeed by the time of the 1861 census Thomas was working as a plumber, probably for his father who was now employing two men. The family had moved to 5 Butcher's Row in Banbury but only Thomas Henry (aged 18) and his sister Mary Ann (11) were still living at home; George was living nearby at 12 Market Place and working as a druggist's assistant; William had moved to Luton as an assistant to a draper there (he later moved to Guildford and became a draper himself); and Alfred, aged 16, was in Birmingham working as an assistant to a Scottish linen draper.

Interestingly in 2015 Kingerlee refurbished the property on Butcher's Row in Banbury that the family had occupied for so many years. The building had been a nightclub and was now derelict. The project saw Kingerlee convert the building for local charity StyleAcre, who offer support for people with learning disabilities.

Left - the completed refurbishment of 5 Butcher's Row

Photos left by Ryan Cowan, right by Keith Shackleton



In 1868 Thomas Henry, at the age of 25, took over his father's business. He also got married, to Helen Dorcas Hunt, who was originally from Thame. Their first child, Henry Stephen, was born the following year (below) and a daughter, Helen Hunt, in 1870.

2s. 7d. If required subsequently to registration, a Search Fee is payable in addition.

Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Acts, 1836 to 1874.

Registration District **Banbury**

1869 Birth in the Sub-District of **Banbury** in the County of **Oxford & Northampton.**

Columns:—	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name, if added after Registration of Birth.
145	Fifteenth April 1869 Butcher Row Banbury	Henry Stephen	Boy	Henry Thomas Kingerlee	Helen Dorcas Kingerlee formerly Hunt	Plumber and Glazier	Helen Dorcas Kingerlee Mother Butcher Row Banbury	Twenty Sixth May 1869	Thomas Bonner	
									Registrar.	

L. Charles Daniel Benson, Deputy Superintendent Registrar for the District of Banbury

By 1871 Thomas, Helen and their two young children were living at Thomas's childhood home, 5 Butcher's Row in Banbury, his parents having moved to Guildford to live with their other sons William and Alfred, who had set up a drapery business there.

In 1874 Thomas and Helen's third child, Charles, was born and by 1881 Thomas was describing himself as a 'master builder' and was employing twenty men.

100	1881	1	Thomas H. Kingerlee	Helen	Mar	38	Builder Master employ 20 men	Banbury
			Helen D.	Do	Wife	42	"	Thame
			Henry S.	Do	Son	11	Schooler	Banbury
			Helen H.	Do	Daughter	10	"	"
			Charles	Do	Son	6	"	"
			Walter Watts	Servt	Dom	20	General Servt Domestic	Warrington

Extract from the 1881 census, the Kingerlee family at 5 Butcher's Row, Banbury

16, QUEEN STREET, OXFORD.

TRANSFER OF BUSINESS.

FOR more than a quarter of a century I have been favoured with liberal patronage from the public generally.

I beg to tender my sincere thanks to all who have so kindly supported me.

I have this day retired from business in favour of Mr. Kingerlee, of Banbury, whose name and reputation is sufficient to guarantee your confidence.

The business of a Builder, Contractor, Plumber, Decorator, Glass Cutter, etc., will be continued as usual, with every modern appliance.

A. WHEELER,

Fireroft, Park Town, Oxford.
June 25th, 1883.

THOMAS HENRY KINGERLEE,

IN taking to the above business, trusts he may receive a continuation of the support and confidence for so many years bestowed upon his predecessor.

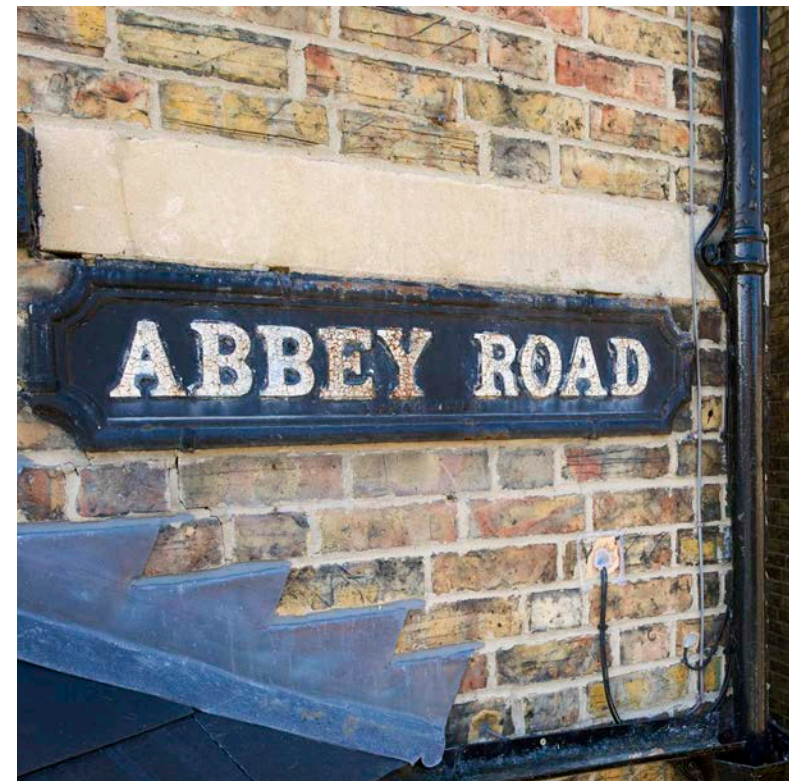
Having had 25 years' experience in the Building, Decorating, and Sanitary Engineering trades, begs to say that no effort shall be wanting on his part to carry out any orders entrusted to him in a business-like manner. Estimates given.

STEAM SAW MILLS, AND JOINERY
WORKS, BANBURY.

The Oxford Times, 4 August 1883, p4b

In 1883 Thomas, his wife and three children moved to Oxford where Thomas took over the long-standing business of Alfred Wheeler, builder, plumber, painter, decorator, lead and glass merchant, patentee of the Oxford flushing cistern and recently Mayor of Oxford.

The premises were at 16 Queen Street (where Marks & Spencer is now) and by 1887 Kingerlee also had a timber yard and steam powered joinery works at Abbey Road, off the Botley Road in west Oxford. For a while Thomas continued his building business in Banbury as well, but he had left there by the mid-1890s.



Photograph by Ryan Cowan

**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
LEAD, GLASS, AND PAPER HANGING
WAREHOUSE.**

**T. H. KINGERLEE,
LATE WHEELER,
16, QUEEN STREET, OXFORD.**

Dealer in all kinds of
**WINDOW GLASS, FRENCH SHADES,
PROPAGATING AND OTHER GLASSES.
PAINTS, OILS, AND COLOURS.**

**PLUMBERS' BRASS WORK,
LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES FOR CASH.**

**BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR.
PLUMBER AND HOUSE DECORATOR.
ALL ORDERS CAREFULLY & PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.**

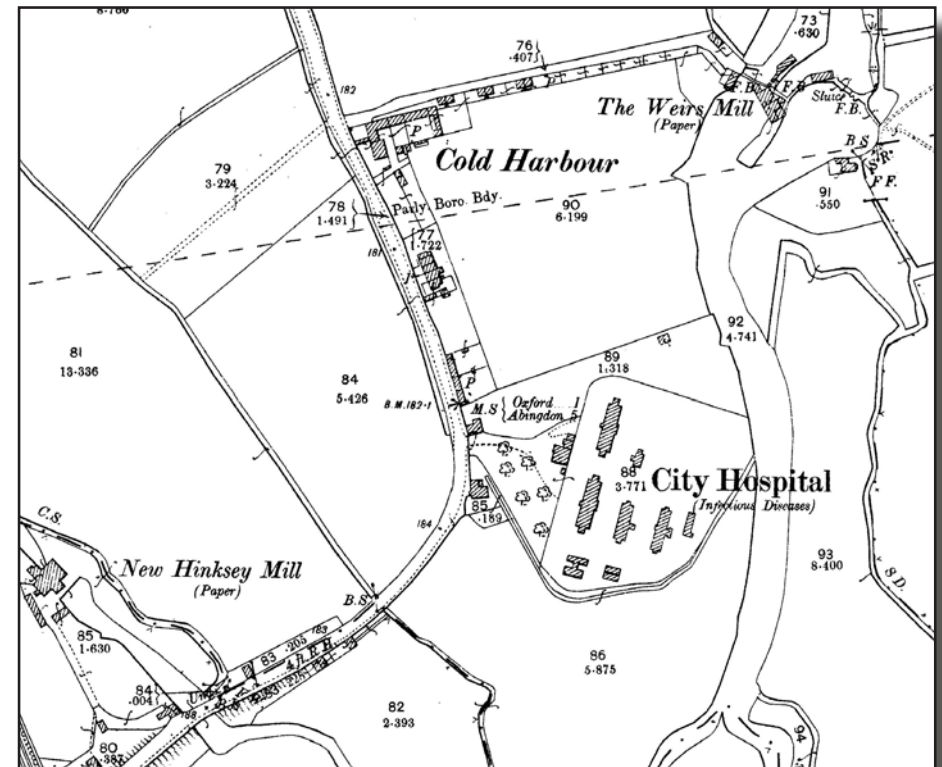
Thomas Kingerlee moved to Oxford at a time when the city was expanding rapidly. Its population doubled between 1851 and 1901 and its footprint quadrupled as the suburbs grew up all around the city's medieval core, what the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins disparagingly called 'Oxford's base and brickish skirt'. Hence builders were in great demand. In 1883, as Thomas was moving his business to Oxford, there were already at least 36 other builders in the city; by 1887 there were almost fifty.

The Oxford Times, 7 July 1883, p1a



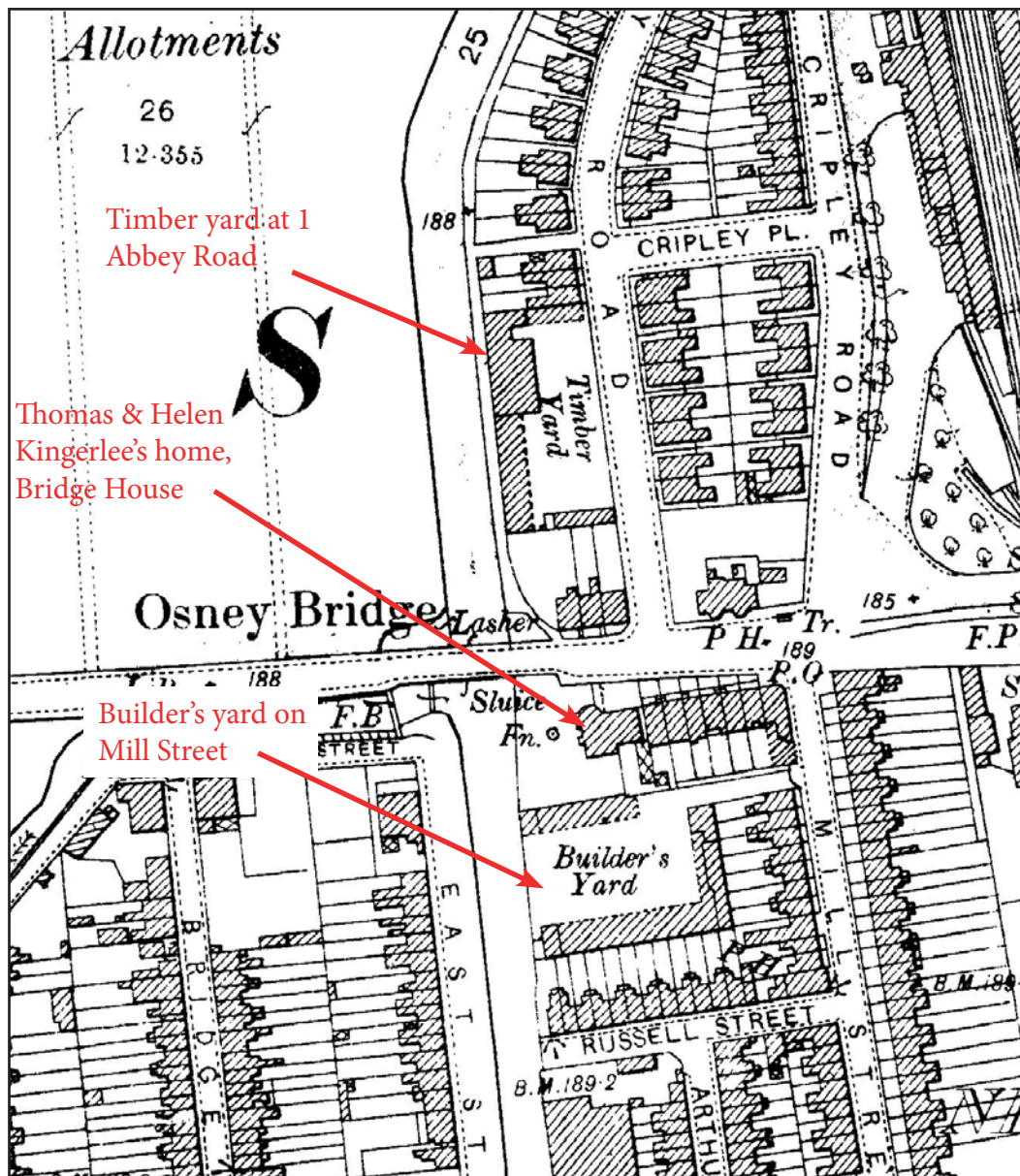
Photograph by Ryan Cowan

One of Thomas's first major commissions in Oxford, which he began in 1884, was the new isolation hospital for infectious diseases at Cold Harbour, a mile out of the city centre along the Abingdon Road. Kingerlee's fee for building male and female wards, a nurses' day room, bath room and offices, an administrative block, kitchen, detached lavatories, ambulance house, mortuary, coal house and disinfecting house, was £7,258.



Reproduced from the 1899 Ordnance Survey map with the kind permission of the Ordnance Survey

In 1987 the hospital became the Rivermead Rehabilitation Centre and now blocks of flats occupy the site; only the original gatehouse (left) remains, which is occupied by the Oxford Association for the Blind.



Reproduced from the 1899 Ordnance Survey map with the kind permission of the Ordnance Survey

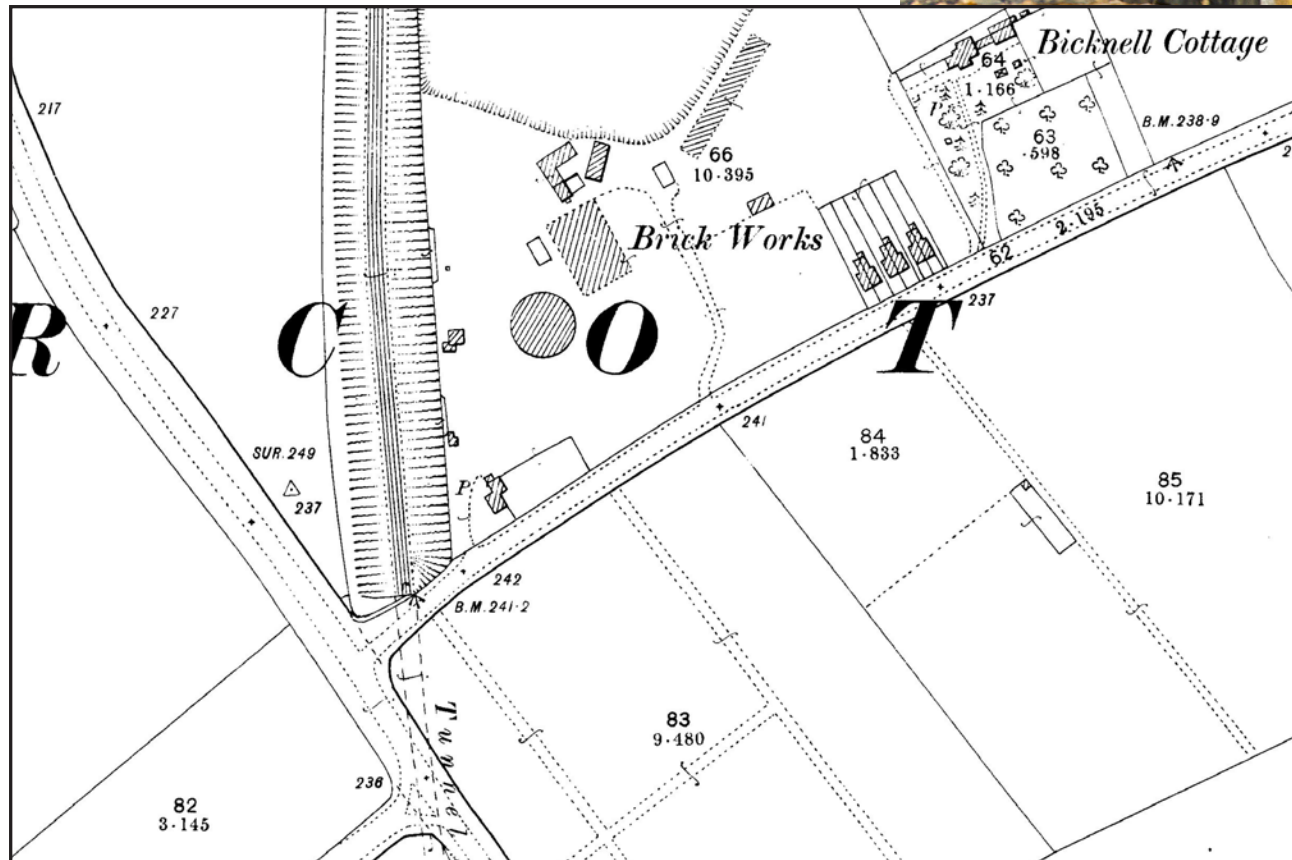
In the mid-1880s Kinglerlee rented a yard at 1 Abbey Road, off the Botley Road in west Oxford, to which timber could easily be delivered by river. Carpenter Ken Charwood remembered that when he followed his father into the firm in 1939, wood was still being off-loaded from barges north of Osney Bridge and taken across the towpath by handcart. In around 1904 Thomas Kinglerlee rented the builder's yard off Mill Street, which was also handy for delivery by water. At the time the firm had additional premises at the nearby London & North Western Railway Station.

In this photograph below the workshops of Kinglerlee's timber yard at 1 Abbey Road can be seen beyond Osney Bridge.



From James Dredge, "Thames Bridges, from the Tower to the Source" (John Wiley and Sons, 1897)

Kingerlee had their own brickworks just north of Wolvercote, and many of the company's buildings were built using bricks made there from the Oxford clay. Like many other brickworks it closed during the Depression of the 1930s. Once the pumps were turned off the brick pit filled with water, and Tom Kingerlee remembered going fishing there with his uncle Carl before the war. Later the site was bought by Hinkins and Frewin, and housing now surrounds the lake on Lakeside and Linkside Avenue (named after the nearby golf course).



Reproduced from the 1899 Ordnance Survey map with the kind permission of the Ordnance Survey

Photograph by Ryan Cowan



Photograph by Ryan Cowan

The Abbey Road yard had previously been occupied by the surveyor and developer John Galpin, who had begun to build houses on the nearby streets in the late 1870s. However, Galpin was declared bankrupt in 1883, and Kingerlee instead completed the estate, building almost seventy new houses on Cripsey and Abbey Roads (above) by 1887.

At the same time the firm was building more than seventy houses on an extension to Warwick Street, off the Iffley Road in east Oxford (later to be called Stratford Street). These were to be the first two of Kingerlee's major speculative house building projects. The business expanded rapidly and by the late 1880s was employing several hundred men. Very few other Oxford employers (apart from the University Press) operated on such a scale. By the mid-1930s Kingerlee had built over 700 new houses throughout the suburbs, making it by far the city's largest developer.

THE VACANCY IN THE WEST WARD.

ENTHUSIASTIC LIBERAL MEETING.

A vacancy in the Town Council having occurred in the representation of the West Ward, in consequence of Mr. Parish having gone to reside away from Oxford, a meeting to promote the candidature of Mr. T. H. Kingerlee was held on Monday in the Girl's Schoolroom, Blackfriar's Road. Councillor J. J. Hughes presided, and there was a very large attendance. Amongst those present were Mr. Sheriff Training, Councillors Clark and Alden.

Oxford Chronicle, 13 November 1886, p2

ABBEY WORKS TEMPERANCE STRING BAND.—On Monday evening the members of this band, together with several friends, sat down to an excellent spread, given by the head of the firm, Mr. T. H. Kingerlee, at Mr. Dodson's Temperance Hotel. The host catered in his well-known style, and the dinner was done full justice to. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Watson was called upon to take the chair, and he filled that position with his accustomed geniality. The Secretary (Mr. F. Clark), to whose energetic exertions the band owes its existence, read the report, from which it appears that the band has given six performances since its foundation in May last—four in the lecture room of the Wesley Memorial Chapel, one in St. Ebbe's school room, and one at Garsington. The object of the band is for the mutual improvement of its members and to help forward the temperance cause. During the evening the following pro-

Oxford Chronicle, 6 November 1886, p5

Thomas Henry Kingerlee was politically a Liberal and in 1886, not long after he had arrived in Oxford, he was elected as a city councillor, representing the West Ward. He remained a member of the council for many years and sat on numerous committees.

The desire to encourage company loyalty by providing leisure activities for employees, part of the so-called 'rational recreation' movement, was strong in this period.

Kingerlee had its own cricket team and a temperance string band for staff at the Abbey Road works. Thomas Kingerlee was himself a teetotaler (and treasurer of the United Temperance Mission) and no doubt hoped for abstinence amongst his employees as well. Kingerlee has continued over the years to support and encourage employee leisure activities. Below are the Kingerlee football team in the late 1970s and cricket team in the early 1980s.



flourishing condition, and it is intended that there should be no exception to the rule.

ABBAY WORKS SOCIAL EVENING—PRESENTATION.—

On Wednesday evening a most interesting meeting of the employees of Mr. T. H. Kingerlee was held in the Central Schools, Gloucester Green, for the organization of a Provident Society in connection with the works. Upwards of 220 of the employees were present; and, including guests, 250 sat down to a substantial repast, provided and presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Kingerlee. After justice had been done to this, appropriate sentiments were proposed in neat and forcible speeches by the men, and seconded by Messrs. Watson, Harris, Reaa, Hastings, Booth, and Kingerlee. The company then adjourned to the upper schoolroom, where the project of forming a society to help the men in time of sickness or accident was expounded, discussed, and unanimously agreed to, and a committee appointed to carry out the scheme. The rest of the evening was devoted to instruction and entertainment, the latter being provided by the band connected with the works, by amateur instrumentalists and vocalists, assisted by Mr. R. J. Grubb, and by Miss Kingerlee, and Miss Eltham at the pianoforte. Addresses to the men were delivered during the course of the evening by the Rev. R. Harley, F.R.S., M.A., on Temperance and Thrift, illustrated by some capital stories; by Professor Massie, on Economic and Political Fallacies, and What to do with my vote; by the Rev. J. Stringer Rowe, and by Dr. Murray, on the nobility of honest work, and the true end of education to ennoble work, and fit us to do it better, and make all workers gentlemen, rather than to help a man here and there to rise above his work, and leave work to the less educated as if it were degrading, which latter notion he showed to be an effect of survival from ages of wrong, when work was left to slaves, and idleness considered to be the distinction of a dominant caste. The speakers were all bright, pointed, and incisive, and were enthusiastically applauded; not least when they bore testimony to the intelligent appearance of the men, and the splendid feeling between them and Mr. Kingerlee, who evidently knows how to solve the great modern difficulty of the relation of capital and labour by "going and doing it." A quite unexpected feature was the presentation to Mr. Kingerlee of a valuable time-piece, bearing an appropriate inscription, subscribed for by 200 of his workmen. The presentation was made, amid the boundless enthusiasm of the meeting, which greatly enjoyed Mr. Kingerlee's surprise, by Mrs. Clarke in an eloquent speech, and briefly but warmly acknowledged by Mr. Kingerlee. A very chaste and elegant afternoon tea set was also presented to Mr. Kingerlee. The meeting closed at ten o'clock with universal expression of delight and hopes that it might be followed by many a successor.

The company also supported the formation of a Provident Society for staff. Such work-based mutual improvement and support groups were common in this period, and of great assistance to men who, despite the building boom in Oxford, were still earning wages which often only just covered the rent and the basic living costs of their families.

At the founding of the club in February 1887 Thomas Henry Kingerlee was presented with a 'valuable timepiece', paid for by 200 of his employees. The gold pocket watch is still in the family today and is shown below.



Oxford Chronicle,
5 February 1887,
p5



In 1888 Kingerlee built the Wilberforce Temperance Hotel (left) at 35 Queen Street to designs by the Reading architect Frederick Albury, at a cost of £5,000. Kingerlee moved his offices and builders' merchant to the ground floor of the new building and the company was to remain here until 1960.

When the hotel first opened *Jackson's Oxford Journal* reported that there were two spacious shops on the ground floor, one occupied by Mr Kingerlee and one by Mr Radbone [a grocer, and the father of Edward Radbone who would later marry Thomas Kingerlee's daughter Helen]. Mr Kingerlee had two large rooms – one 70ft by 23ft, and the back one 30ft by 24ft, besides offices. The building was in red brick, manufactured by Kingerlee. The windows, the newspaper noted, looked “very curious ... more than anything reminding one of the open mouth of some monster, with huge teeth pointing inwards all round”.

Photograph by Ryan Cowan

**T. H. KINGERLEE, IRONMONGER,
OXFORD.**

THE "LARBERT" RANGE,

TRADE No. 41,104. MARK.

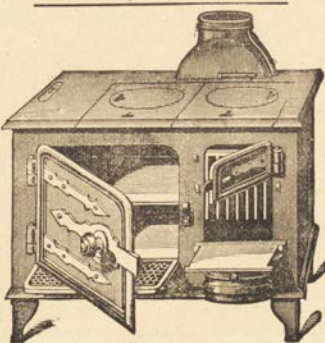
Made in various sizes and styles to suit all sorts and conditions of Families.

It is Strong, Sure, Economical, and Efficient!

Rapid and
Reliable
Kitchener!

Simple in
Construc-
tion!

Cures
Smokey
Chimneys!



Self-
Setting!

Works
Anywhere!

Burns the
Cheapest
Fuel!

Cooks
all Foods!

WITHOUT BOILER—

Sizes—20" 24" 26" 28" 30" 32" 33" 36" 38" x 23" or 27" High.
Prices—32/6 40/50/50/52/6 52/6 55/65/ each.

WITH SIDE BOILER & BRASS TAP—

Sizes— 28" 30" 32" 36" 42" x 23" or 27" High.
Prices—52/6 55/55/65/85/

EXTRAS.

Galvanised Boiler 2s. 6d. extra; Sheet Copper Boiler, Tinned Inside, 7s. 6d. extra; Skirting put on Back and Sides 7/6 extra.

The 30 in., 36 in., and 38 in. Oven and Sham, and the 36 in. and 42 in. Oven and Boiler "LARBERTS" can be fitted with a reversible Open and Close Fire for 5s. each extra.

This Celebrated Range is practically and genuinely admired by 100,000 Thrifty Housewives. In point of DURABILITY, ECONOMY, POWER IN WORK, and ease of MANAGEMENT, compared with the SEVERAL IMITATIONS offered to the Public, the verdict is in favour of the "LARBERT" RANGES.

**COMING OF AGE OF MR. HENRY
S. KINGERLEE.**

In celebration of the coming of age of Mr. Henry Stephen Kingerlee (whose twenty-first birthday was on Tuesday), eldest son of Mr. Thomas Henry Kingerlee, builder and contractor, of Queen Street, Oxford, the latter gave a soiree to his *employes* and friends in the Town Hall on Thursday evening. The proceedings commenced about seven o'clock, when upwards of 300 of Mr. Kingerlee's workmen and their wives and others partook of a substantial tea, the tables at which were tastefully embellished with plants and ferns. After full justice had been done to the good things provided, a concert was given by various friends. The programme was admirably carried out, and there were several encores in the course of the evening. Amongst those who took part were the Misses Kingerlee, Slaughter, Pearce, and Watson, Ada Clark, Mrs. Collier, and Messrs. Embury, Kingerlee, Nixey, Tickner, Lindsay, Barnes, Baycock, Piggott, F. Harvey, C. Wyatt, Chaundy, Sylvester Whittaker, Jones, and others, all of whom were warmly applauded. Amongst those present were the Sheriff (Mr., R. J. Grubb), Councillors Kingerlee, James, and G. H. Cooper, Mrs. and Miss Kingerlee, and Mr. H. S. Kingerlee, Messrs. Coldrey, J. Harris, and Watson. All present seemed thoroughly to enjoy and appreciate the liberality of Councillor Kingerlee, whose son was the recipient of a handsome gold Albert, which had been purchased by the subscriptions of about 150 workmen.

*Oxford
Chronicle, 19
April 1890,
p5*

Reproduced by permission of The Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, John Johnson collection, Fires, Grates & Cooking Ranges 27, ref: johnson51-fz1-0001

By 1888 Kingerlee was supplying a variety of goods both to trade and to the public, including numerous versions of the 'Larbert' cooking range.

In April 1890 Thomas Henry hosted a lavish party at the Town Hall to celebrate the 21st birthday of his oldest son Henry Stephen, who was presented with a gold Albert – a pocket watch chain – by Kingerlee staff. Henry was already working with his father as a builder and contractor and was poised to take over the running of the firm.



Photograph by Ryan Cowan

When Thomas Henry and his family first moved to Oxford they lived at 139 Woodstock Road, but by 1891 they had moved to 9 St Frideswide Terrace on the Botley Road, with a cook and a housemaid. Bridge House, as it was later called, had been built in the 1870s and previously occupied by Thomas Sheldon, the master miller at nearby Osney Mill. Thomas and Helen Kingerlee's neighbours on the terrace were the families of a grocer, a parcel agent, a retired corn dealer, a watchmaker, a fishmonger and a corn merchant; Helen's mother Elizabeth and sister Susannah were living nearby at Cripsey Road, in a house newly-built by Kingerlee.

Thomas and Helen's house, now the River Hotel (above), was added to Oxford Heritage Asset Register in April 2015.

THE DIACONATE OF GEORGE STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.



This photo of the diaconate of the George-street Congregational Church was taken in connection with the departure of the Rev. J. Robertson, the pastor from 1897 to 1914, and represents:—Back row: Mr. W. Betts, Mr. Frank Nixey, Mr. Hugh Howes, Mr. W. Johnson Tims, Mr. A. H. Harvey and Mr. H. W. Beesley. Front row: Mr. Edward T. Beaumont, Alderman Kingerlee, J.P., Rev. James Robertson, M.A., Sir James Murray, D.C.L. and Mr. Richard Evans.—(Photo, Hills and Saunders).

Thomas Henry Kingerlee (front row, second from left) was a leading member of the Congregational Church in Oxford, whose main premises were on George Street. Nonconformity had begun to gain ground in the city in the mid-nineteenth century and by the 1880s many prominent Oxford families, including Underhills the grocers and Salters the boat builders, were Congregationalists or Methodists.

Oxford Journal Illustrated, 4 February 1914, p3

Other leading Congregationalists included Frank Nixey (back row, second from left) who had been a pupil at the City of Oxford Boys High School with Thomas Henry's son, Charles, and began working for Kingerlee when he left school at fourteen in 1887. In 1930 he was made a director of the company. The gentleman with the impressive beard, front row second from right, was Sir James Murray, chief editor of the Oxford English Dictionary.

In 1885 Kingerlee's firm carried out extensive renovations to the George Street Congregational Church, and in 1911 completely rebuilt the interior to accommodate a growing congregation.



Photograph by Ryan Cowan

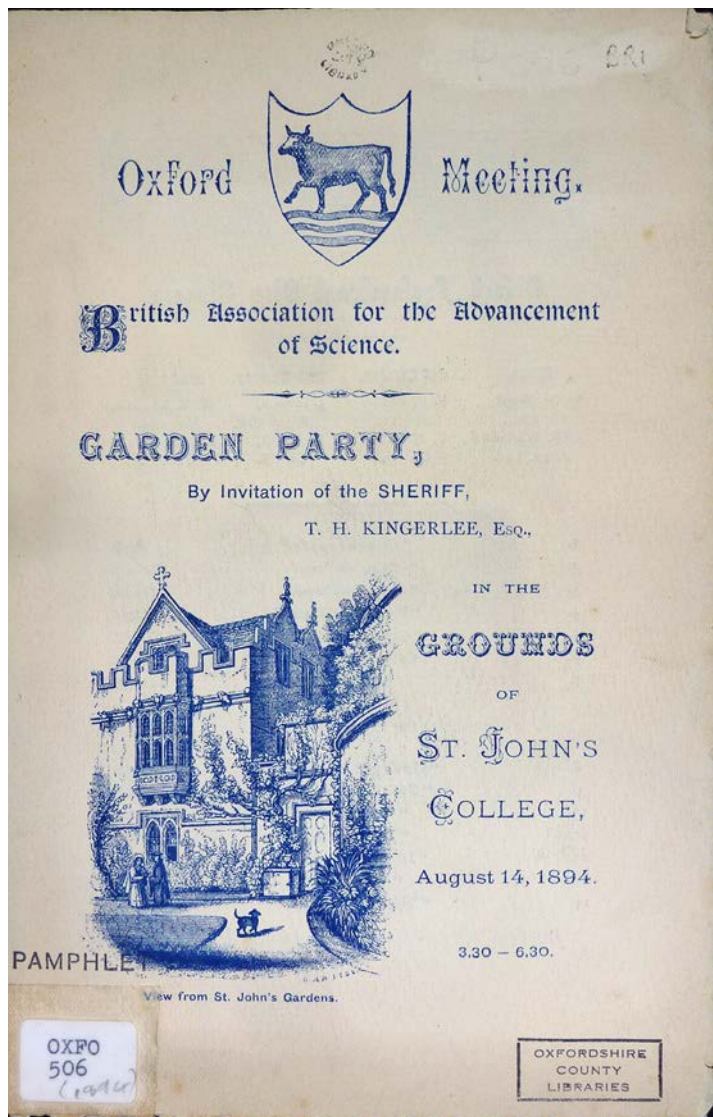
In 1893 Thomas Henry Kingerlee gave a site on the Banbury Road for the building of a new Congregational Church in Summertown (now the United Reformed Church). The building was designed by Kingerlee himself and *The Oxford Times* report of the laying of the foundation stone (right) noted approvingly that “greater attention [has] been paid to the solidity of construction than to elaborate ornamentation. It should be mentioned that Mr Kingerlee has generously furnished the drawings and details, which have given great satisfaction, and relieved the church of considerable anxiety and expense.” In 1901 Kingerlee built the shop next door for the grocer (and fellow city councillor) Francis Twining.

CONGREGATIONALISM AT SUMMERTOWN,

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW CHURCH.

The Congregational Church at Summertown was originally a preaching station in connection with the church at George-street. Early in 1843 it was decided to form a distinct society, and in that year 22 members detached themselves from the mother church for this purpose. Since the church was founded in 1844, the village of Summertown has undergone a remarkable and important transition, especially in recent years, since it has grown to be one of the most important suburbs of Oxford and now it is included within the City boundary the extension and development of Summertown has been still more definite and marked. Sunnymede, which is thickly studded with houses, was a grass field within the recollection of boys who have scarcely left school; South Parade was a veritable “slough of despond,” and the sanitary and lighting arrangements were of the most primitive character. Now all is changed; a well-arranged system of drainage has been organised, the roads thoroughly made, gas laid on, and the whole mechanism of the neighbourhood vastly improved, and in a few years at the outside there is every reason to suppose that the population of Summertown may reach several thousand souls. Taking these facts into consideration, the Nonconformists feel not only fully warranted in meeting and providing for the altered conditions of affairs, but that they would be neglecting what is an imperative duty if they shrank from so doing. The new church will be erected on a commanding corner site on the main road, in the very heart of the district. Mr. Councillor Kingerlee is entrusted with the execution of the plan, which will include a nave, north and south transepts, and, ultimately, school and class rooms, vestries, and the usual offices, the whole forming a Greek cross with the arms shortened. At present it is proposed to erect the nave only, and this will consist of three bays, each lighted by a double lancet widely splayed

The Oxford Times, 17 June 1893, p6



In 1893 Thomas Henry was appointed Sheriff of Oxford and during his year of office hosted this garden party for members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: OXFO-506-1894



Photographs by Chris Honeywell

The foundation stone (above left) of the Corn Exchange and Fire Station in George Street (above right), laid in 1894 by the Mayor Walter Gray and Alderman Thomas Kingerlee during his year as Sheriff. Gray was a developer and he and Kingerlee had worked together on building projects before, but in this case the contractor was Thomas Axtell, a rival builder. However, Kingerlee refurbished the building in 2010 for homelessness charity Crisis Skylight Oxford.



In the spring of 1894 Thomas and Helen's first son Henry Stephen married Mary Rebecca French, the daughter of a plumber. The couple moved to Summertown and a year later their son Cyril Thomas was born. A second son, Stanley John (known as Jack) followed in April 1898 but sadly Mary died in childbirth, aged 33.

Later that year Henry married Louie Emma Tompson, the daughter of a cabinet maker. They had two children, Charles Tompson (known as Carl), born in 1901, and Helen Dorcas in 1902. By this time the family were living at Denver Lodge, 102 Woodstock Road, and Louie was running the Café Royal at 45 Queen Street (left), the building to the left of Carfax Tower.

DEATH OF MRS. KINGERLEE.—It is with regret that we announce the death of Mrs. T. H. Kingierlee, the wife of the Sheriff of Oxford, which took place at Bridge House, Osney, early on Thursday morning. Mrs. Kingierlee, who for some years past has been an invalid, was 56 years of age. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Sheriff Kingierlee and his family in their sad bereavement.

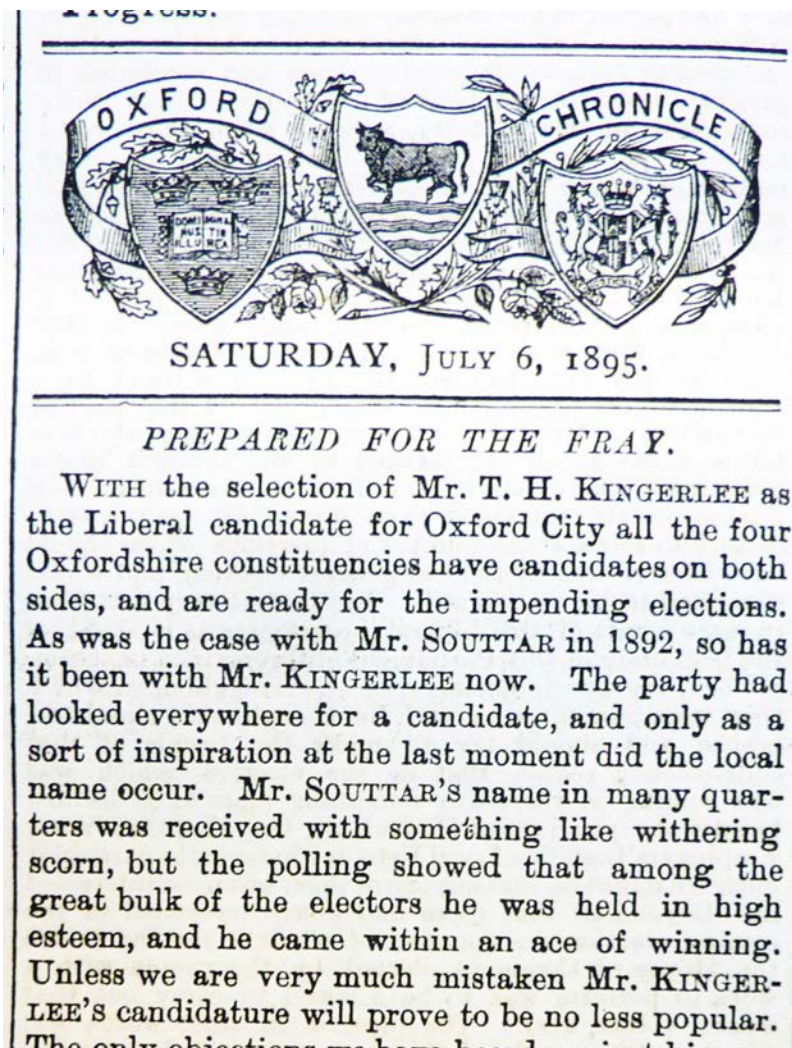
Jackson's Oxford Journal, 25 August 1894, p8a

Thomas's wife Helen Dorcas Kingierlee died on 23 August 1894 and was buried at Botley Cemetery.



Photograph by Liz Woolley

In 1899, when he was 56, Thomas Henry married his second wife, Jane Herne Plummer, who was the daughter of a farmer and eighteen years his junior. They had a son, Thomas Edward Herne Kingierlee, in July 1901, but sadly he died only three days later.



Oxford Chronicle, 6 July 1895, p5

classes". In fact bricklayers had been on strike against Kingierlee and other master builders for several weeks, demanding higher wages, and Kingierlee had been accused of employing non-union workers in their place. Whether this affected the outcome of the ballot is unknown, but there was a nationwide swing to the Tories and Kingierlee was defeated (by 3,623 votes to 2,975) by the Irish peer Viscount Valentia, who was to remain as Oxford's MP until 1917.

At the general election in 1895 Thomas Henry Kingierlee was chosen by the Liberal Party to contest the Oxford seat, which was held by the Conservative Sir George Chesney. Concerns had been expressed that Kingierlee was "not a man of high birth, has not received a university education, and lacks any special oratorical gifts" but the *Oxford Chronicle*, a Liberal newspaper in which Thomas Henry had shares, dismissed these criticisms and noted that he was "the largest employer of labour in Oxford, one of the chief ratepayers, and very popular among the working

**Mr. T. H. Kingerlee,
Builders' Merchant, Contractor, etc.,
35, Queen Street.**

This extensive establishment cannot fail of notice, in its prominent situation on the left hand side of Queen Street, before reaching Carfax from the station. The premises consist of a high stone faced building, with massively framed plate glass window and entrance, the whole comprising a frontage of thirty feet, and extending back for a distance of 150 feet. The premises are divided into a front and rear block, in which are contained a number of handsomely appointed show-rooms and warehouses, with light and commodious workshops, where a number of skilled workmen, plumbers, gas and water-fitters, metal workers, etc., are constantly employed. This part of the premises is reached by a separate vehicle entrance on the right of the office. A large section of the spacious show-rooms is devoted to the display of stoves and grates, tiled hearths and chimneypieces, set up to appear as they would in position. This exhibition ranges up to a very high and costly class of goods. There is a separate

department for kitchen grates, ranges, heating and ironing stoves, etc., of which there is a very extensive and complete stock, including the very latest designs and improvements. The sanitary branch of the business is very extensive, and is kept constantly in touch with the latest scientific improvements in that art, everything known to the trade in this department being kept constantly in stock. Painters' and decorators' materials occupy several large rooms, which are filled with paints of all kinds, varnishes, oils, brushes, etc. The finest stock of wall papers in the town may be seen here, many thousands of different patterns being made up in book form every year, and sent out over a wide area. Builders, engineers, plumbers, coach builders, joiners, etc., find all the requisites of their respective trades. Mr. Kingerlee also carries on an extensive brickyard at Wolvercote, and supplies the town and all the surrounding country with timber, deals, match and other boards, etc., from his timber yard and steam joinery works in the Abbey Road, and, as a builder and contractor, has done an immense deal of work, both private and public, in Oxford and the surrounding country.

Pike's Views & Reviews, Oxford, 1897

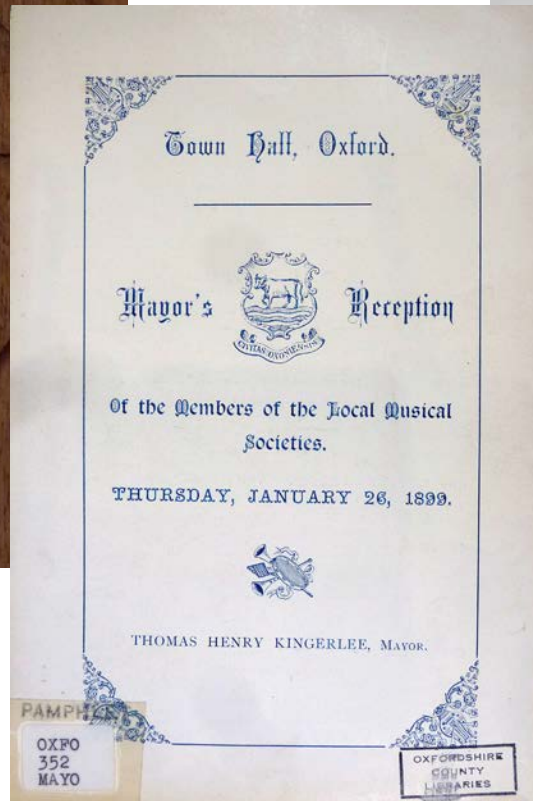
By 1897 both of Thomas's sons, Henry and Charles, were working with him, and the firm was soon being referred to as 'TH Kingerlee & Sons'. The company was formed as a partnership between Henry and Charles on 25 March 1911 with capital of £17,763 10s. The business became a limited company in early 1930.

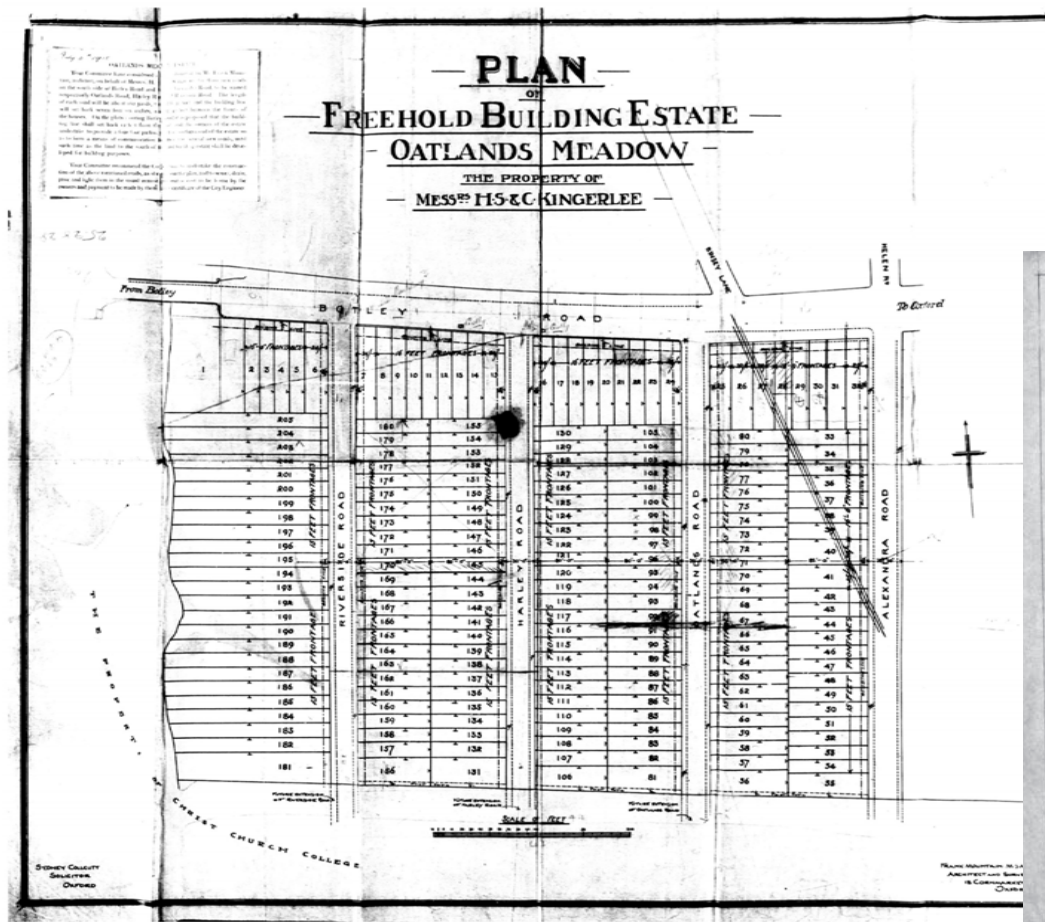


Thomas was elected Mayor of Oxford for 1898/99 (right), and for a second term in 1911/12, and the Kingerlee coat of arms decorates the panelling in the Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall. The shield incorporates a sun resplendent, part of the coat of arms of Banbury, Thomas's home town, and a martlet, a bird with no usable feet which is thus unable to land and so is said to signify a constant quest for knowledge, learning, and adventure.

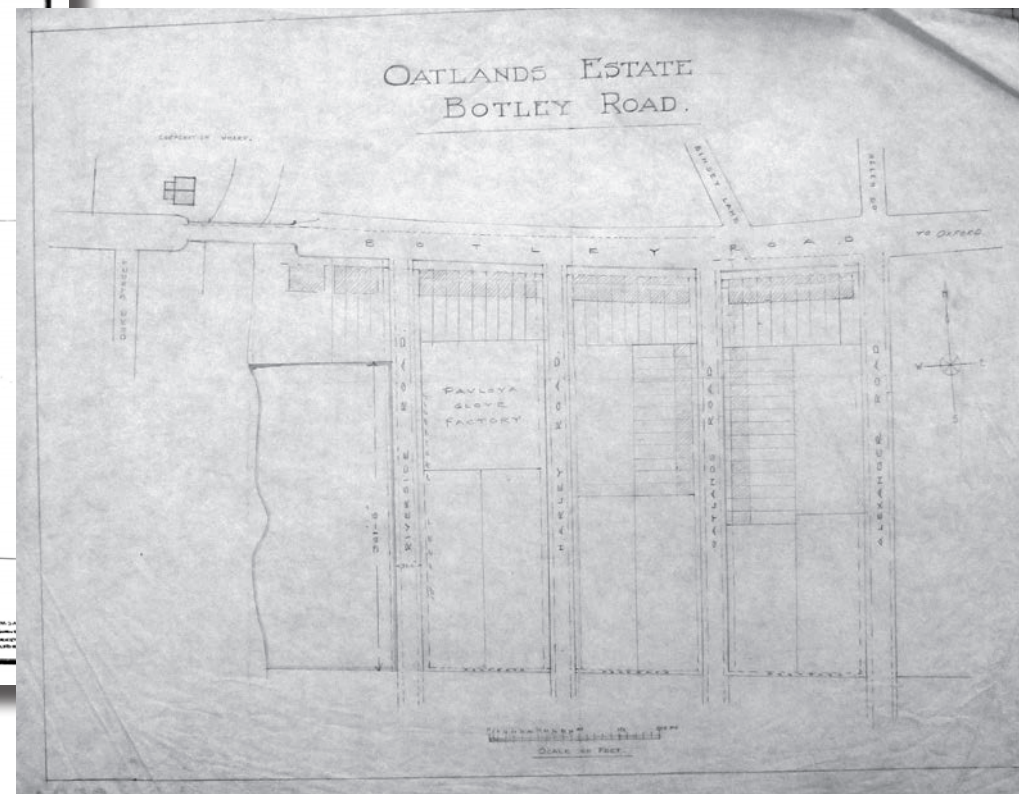


Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: OXFO-352-MAYO



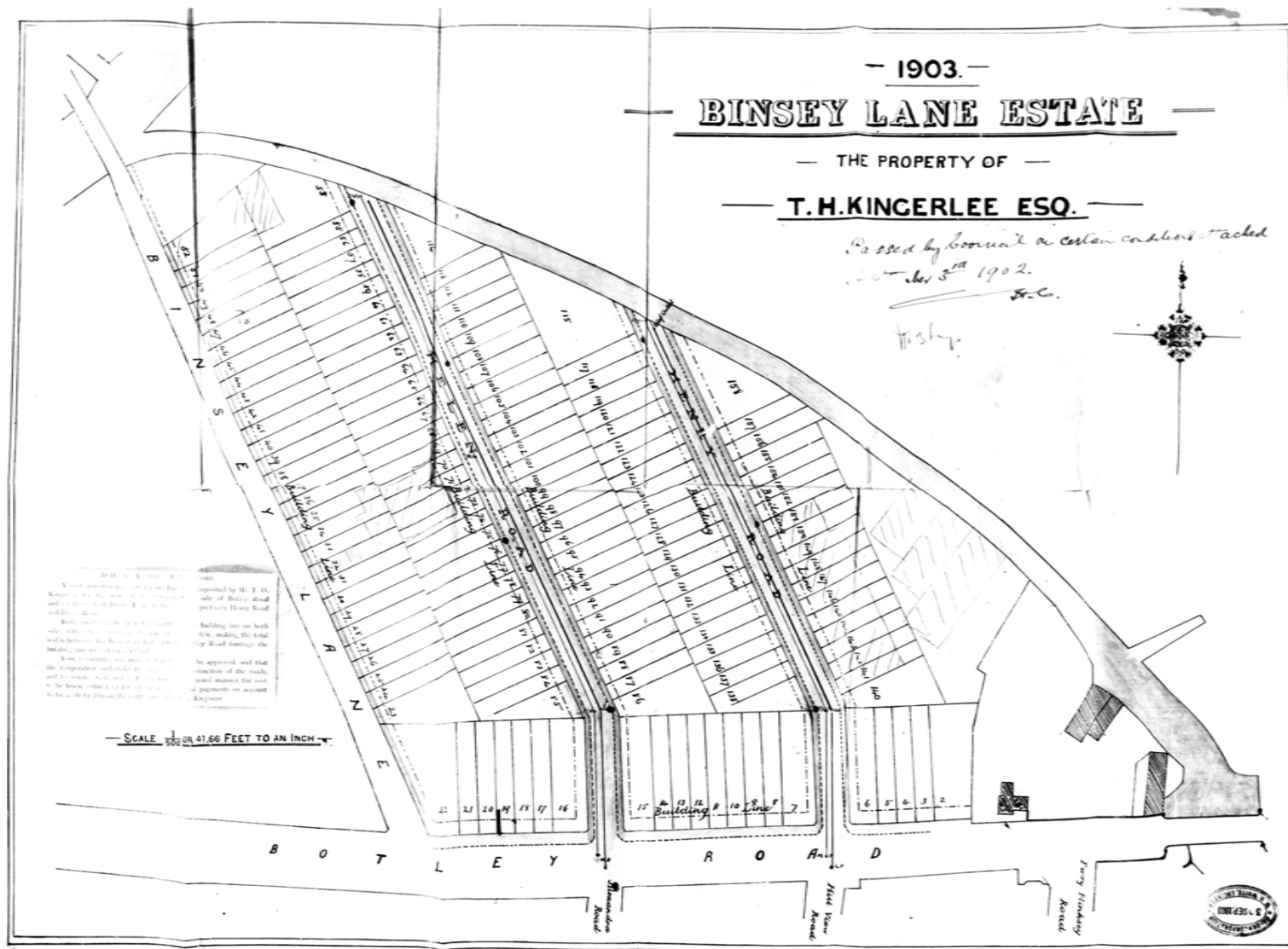


Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, City Engineers Deposited Estate Plan no. 2



Reproduced by kind permission of Oxford City Council (City Archives, Oxford Town Hall), ref: OCA3/1/Y5/2/26

In 1896 Kingerlee acquired building plots south of the Botley Road, along a newly laid out road called Hill View. By July 1901 the firm had acquired the rest of the Oatlands Meadow estate and secured approval from the City Council for a plan by the Oxford architect and surveyor Frank Mountain to lay it out in 205 lots, some on the Botley Road and the rest in four new roads: Alexandra, Oatlands, Harley and Riverside. Kingerlee had initially suggested the name 'Queen Alexandra Road' as a tribute to Edward VII's consort but the Council was not convinced that two rows of modest terraced houses were sufficient accolade, and made him drop the 'Queen'.



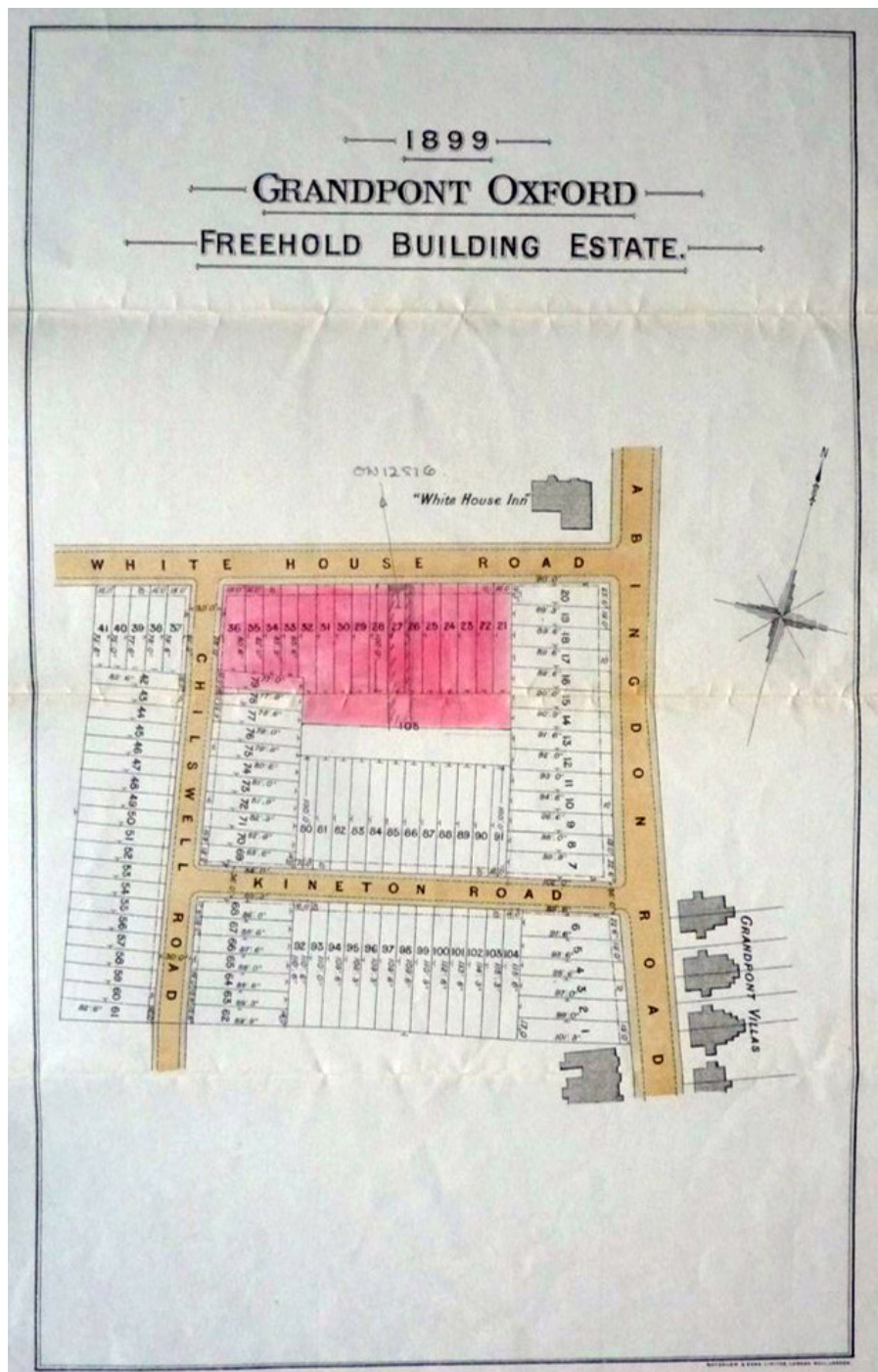
In September 1902 Kingerlee bought 55 acres north of the Botley Road from Corpus Christi College and initiated the development of another estate which offered 158 lots on the main road, in Binsey Lane and in two new streets, Helen Road and Henry Road, which were named after Kingerlee's two eldest children.

*Reproduced by permission of
Oxfordshire County Council -
Oxfordshire History Centre, City
Engineers Deposited Estate Plan
no. 30*

The firm built most of the houses on this estate itself, and on the Oatlands estate to the south, reflecting contemporary trends in the building industry towards standardisation, homogeneity and economies of scale. Kingerlee's dominance of the development of West Oxford resulted in a uniformity of housing here which is markedly different from that in the suburbs to the north, south and east of the city, where streets tended to be developed in a much more piecemeal fashion by smaller builders.



*Identical houses, built by TH Kingerlee in 1905-6, line Helen Road off the Botley Road
Photograph by Ryan Cowan*



In 1900 Kingerlee bought land in Grandpont, to the west of the Abingdon Road in south Oxford, from the boat builder John Henry Salter. Salter was a fellow City Councillor, Justice of the Peace, Non-conformist and teetotaler, and had himself bought the estate – a meadow called ‘Roundabout Close’ – from Brasenose College the year before. Kingerlee built houses to the south of Whitehouse Road, fronting Abingdon Road, and either side of two new streets, Chilswell and Kinton Roads. The latter was named after Kinton in Warwickshire, the village which Kingerlee’s father and forebears came from. In the late 1920s and the 1930s Kingerlee built 150 more houses further south, on the far side of Hinksey Park, on the Abingdon Road and on Wytham Street and on new streets between them called Lincoln, Monmouth, Northampton and Oswestry.

By the turn of the century Thomas Henry Kingerlee was the biggest house builder and landlord in Oxford, and he wielded considerable power on the City Council. In March 1901 the Council appointed a committee to consider adoption of the 1890 Housing of the Working Classes Act which provided for the building of workmen’s dwellings by local authorities. Two of the committee’s fourteen members - the chairman Alderman Gray and the vice-chairman Councillor Zacharias - were major landlords; another two - Councillors Hutchins and Kingerlee - were major landlords and substantial house-builders. After considerable delay the committee reported against adoption of the Act in April 1903, deprecating the idea of building municipal dwellings at ratepayers’ expense and preferring to rely upon private enterprise. The question of municipal housing in Oxford was therefore effectively stifled and it was not until after the Second World War that council housing began to be built in the city, by which time Kingerlee was concentrating on one-off contracts rather than on large scale house building.

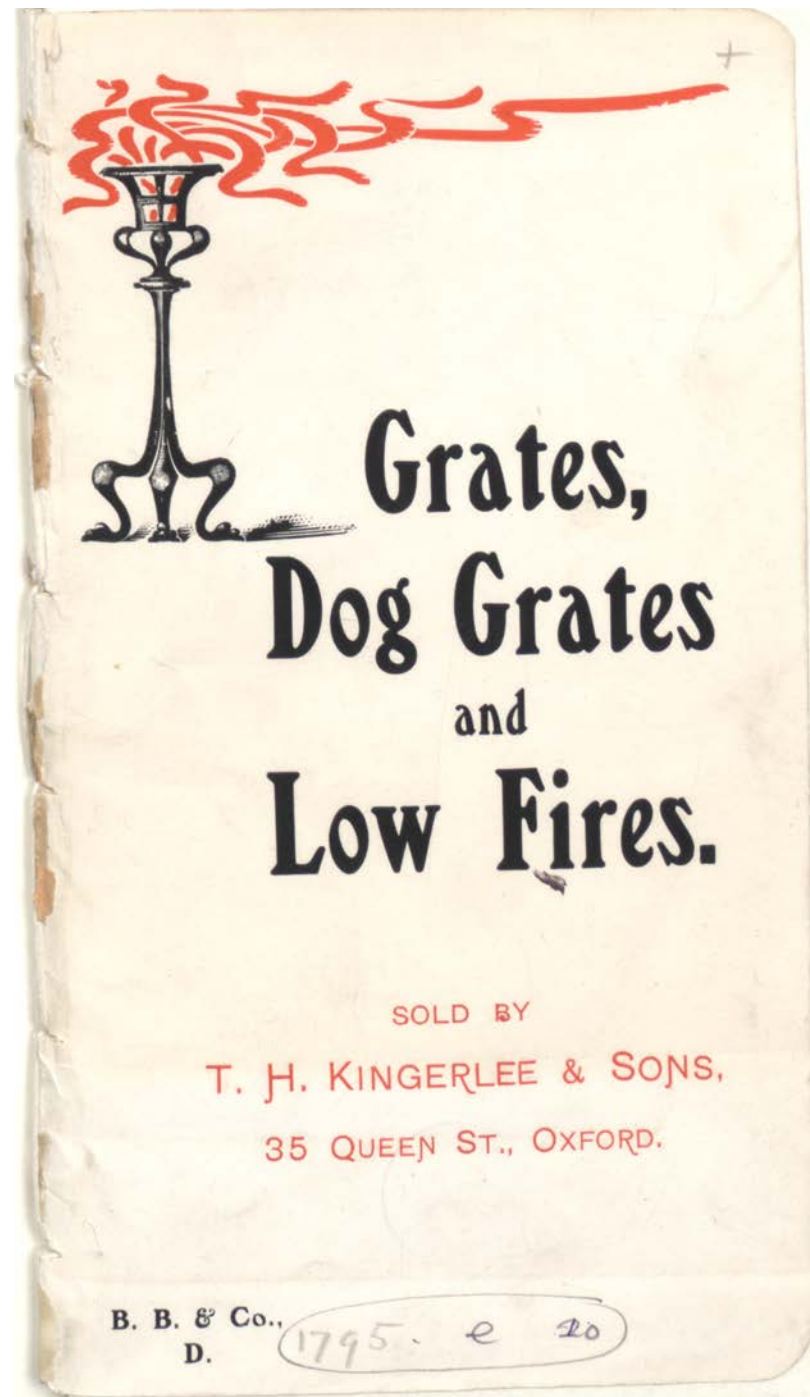
Reproduced by kind permission of Emma Hill



Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: D210145a

Whilst Kingerlee were building hundreds of artisan terraced houses they were also erecting prominent buildings such as this new purpose-built factory on Park End Street for Frank Cooper's expanding marmalade-making business, which opened in 1903. A highly distinctive building, with oranges carved into the stonework of the façade, it is now listed.

Jim Tyler and his family came to Oxford when his father had been made manager of Kingerlee's Abbey Road workshops in 1904. When Jim joined the firm in 1915 as a 14-year-old apprentice, his first job was in the saw mill, making wooden packing cases for Frank Cooper's (like those on the horse-drawn cart in the photograph above).



Advertisements
from 1904
suggesting the
wide range of
goods supplied
by Kingerlee's
builder's
merchants on
Queen Street.

*Reproduced by
permission of The
Bodleian Library,
University
of Oxford,
John Johnson
collection, (left)
Oxford Trade
Pamphlets 190,
ref: johnson51-
slg-0001-0; (right)
Oxford Trade
Pamphlets 83,
ref: johnson51-
nql-0001-0*



Miss Olive Raymond (left), playing Princess Nekaya, and Mrs C Kingerlee, playing Princess Kalyba, daughters of the King of Utopia, a South Pacific island. Oxford Journal Illustrated, 22 April 1914, p8

In 1907 Thomas and Helen's younger son Charles married Edleweiss Buol (pictured together below), whose family was originally from Switzerland and whose father ran a well-known restaurant and hotel at 21 Cornmarket Street in Oxford. The couple lived initially at Bridge House on the Botley Road, Charles's childhood home, and their first child Henry John was born there in 1908. They later moved to 118 Banbury Road and Marguerite was born in 1912 followed by Felice (named after her Swiss grandmother) in 1923.



By kind permission of Sue Groos

Edelweiss was an active member of the Oxford Operatic Society and is seen here (far left) playing Princess Kalyba in a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's satirical comedy 'Utopia Limited' at the New Theatre on George Street. The theatre was remodelled by Kingerlee & Sons in 1908 and completely rebuilt in its current form (below) by the firm in 1932-34, to designs by the well-known theatre architects W & TR Milburn of Sunderland.



Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: D252162a



Photograph by Ryan Cowan

In 1911 Kingerlee built the Oxford Picture Palace on Jeune Street off the Cowley Road in east Oxford. The architect was JR Wilkins, an old friend of Thomas Henry Kingerlee's. The building is now the Ultimate Picture Palace, Oxford's oldest surviving cinema.

By this time Kingerlee had built all the buildings on Jeune Street, including 32 terraced houses and the Wesley Hall Methodist church and schoolroom.

Kingerlee built not only in Oxford but in London too, particularly under Ernest Horsman, who joined the firm in around 1884 as an apprentice bricklayer. He later became a foreman and eventually Joint Managing Director and was with the firm until his retirement in 1961. Business expanded such that by the First World War Kingerlee had premises in London: a depot on the Uxbridge Road in Shepherd's Bush and an office at 139 Oxford Street. They built many buildings in the capital including the Kilburn Empire, the Imperial Buildings on Kingsway, the Putney Ropeworks, the Ilford Hippodrome, Hendon Town Hall, several banks and a significant number of private houses. Kingerlee also supplied and installed joinery in the capital, including carving, assembling and installing the oak panelling in the Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand.

The company ceased working in London during the 1930s. One of the last building projects there was the St John the Baptist Church in Tottenham, completed in 1939, pictured right in an advert used in Oxford, and below, the outside as it is today.



By kind permission of St John the Baptist Church, Tottenham

T. H. KINGERLEE & SONS Ltd.
BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS
OXFORD
 PHONE 2545 and 2049

A black and white photograph of the interior of St John the Baptist Church in Tottenham. The view is from the back of the church looking towards the altar. The nave is characterized by a series of high, arched vaults supported by pillars. The altar is at the far end, flanked by windows. The pews are visible on either side of the central aisle.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, TOTTENHAM.
 Architects: The Hon. J. Seely & P. Paget, Esq.

Offices:
 35A QUEEN STREET

Joinery Works:
 ABBEY ROAD

Depot:
 LAMARSH ROAD, BOTLEY ROAD

Reading Palace Theatre of Varieties, 51 Market Place.

1919

May	15	28 sqrs 1 1/4" X 4 1/2" tongued & grooved flooring		96	12		
		Carriage to Reading		1	15	5	
		Carriage from station		2	5		
June	3	1 1/2 cwt 2 1/2" floor brads		3	3		
			£	103	15	5	
		Paid by cheque 24 th June 1919	243				103 15
July	3	1. 18 X 18 angle lavatory basin		cost			
				10			
May	14	1. 2 stall urinal complete		16	11	3	
July	14	2 Princess radiators		3	13	9	
	15	2. 1" to 3/4" sockets			1	6	
		12 ft 1/2" lead pipe 24 lbs			12		
		6. 1/2" pipe hooks				2	
		12. 3/4" nipples			3	9	
		6. 3/4" tees			8		
		8. 3/4" gas connections					

Kingerlee carried out projects not only in Oxford and London, but also further afield, as shown in this ledger from the early 1900s. It details projects (mainly maintenance contracts, but some new buildings), in Reading, Basingstoke, Bristol, Bournemouth and Chichester. It is not clear what led the firm to work in these areas, and there are only a few records documenting what was actually built at that time. Since the 1930s Kingerlee's work has been more closely focused around Oxford and the surrounding counties.

In 1911 Thomas Henry Kingerlee was elected as Mayor of Oxford for the second time (below); he was already a Justice of the Peace and Alderman of the city. In July 1912 he hosted the Mayor's garden party at New College (right). The gentleman in the top hat (top right) was Oxford's MP, Lord Valentia, who had defeated Kingerlee in the general election of 1895.



Oxford Journal Illustrated, 15 November 1911, p9



Oxford Journal Illustrated, 17 July 1912, p9

HONORARY DEGREE CEREMONY.



On Thursday last Honorary Degrees of M.A. were conferred on the Mayor (Councillor T. H. Kinglerlee) and the Town Clerk (Mr. Roger Bacon). The photo was taken upon their leaving the Sheldonian Theatre, and shows: (Left to right) Dr. Shadwell (Provost of Oriel College), the Mayor, Dr. Galpin, the Town Clerk, and Alderman Hugh Hall.—(O.J.I. photo.)

*Oxford Journal
Illustrated, 17
July 1912, p24*

a sovereign.

THE MODUS OPERANDI.

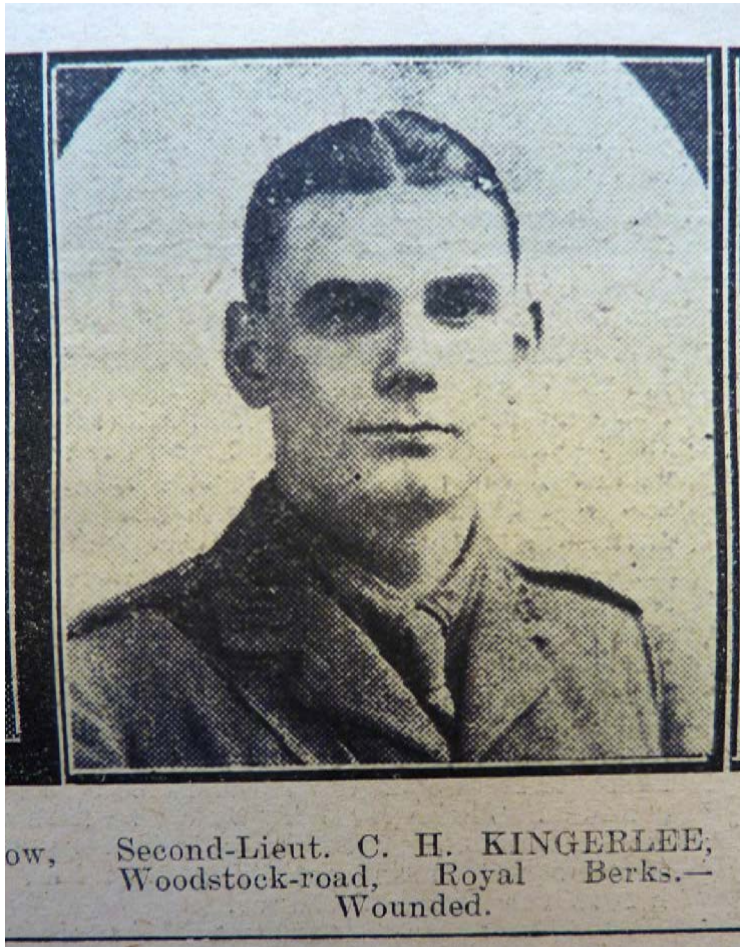
The idea of having a Belgian Day was suggested to the Mayor by Mrs. H. Kingerlee, who secured the help of Mr. Russell Brain, of New College, who had recently organised a similar day in Reading, where as many as 100,000 favours were sold and £550 raised, to act with her as organising secretary. There could not have been a happier selection, and the success of the day was largely due to their efforts. They were well backed up by numerous workers. The result is all the more astonishing when it is known that they only had a week to make the preparations. The Mayor called the preliminary meeting on Friday, October 31st, and ladies representative of the churches, chapels and political associations were invited. Mr. Russell Brain explained how Belgian Day was organised at Reading, and the ladies present readily agreed with the suggestion that the day in Oxford should be carried out.

In November 1914 a fundraising day was hastily organised by Thomas Henry's daughter-in-law Louie Kingerlee, raising £1,863 for Belgian refugees who had recently arrived in Oxford following Germany's invasion of their country. By February the following year there were 460 Belgian refugees in the city.

Oxford Journal Illustrated, 11
November 1914, pp5-7

BELGIAN DAY: HOW OXFORD HONoured THE BRAVE.





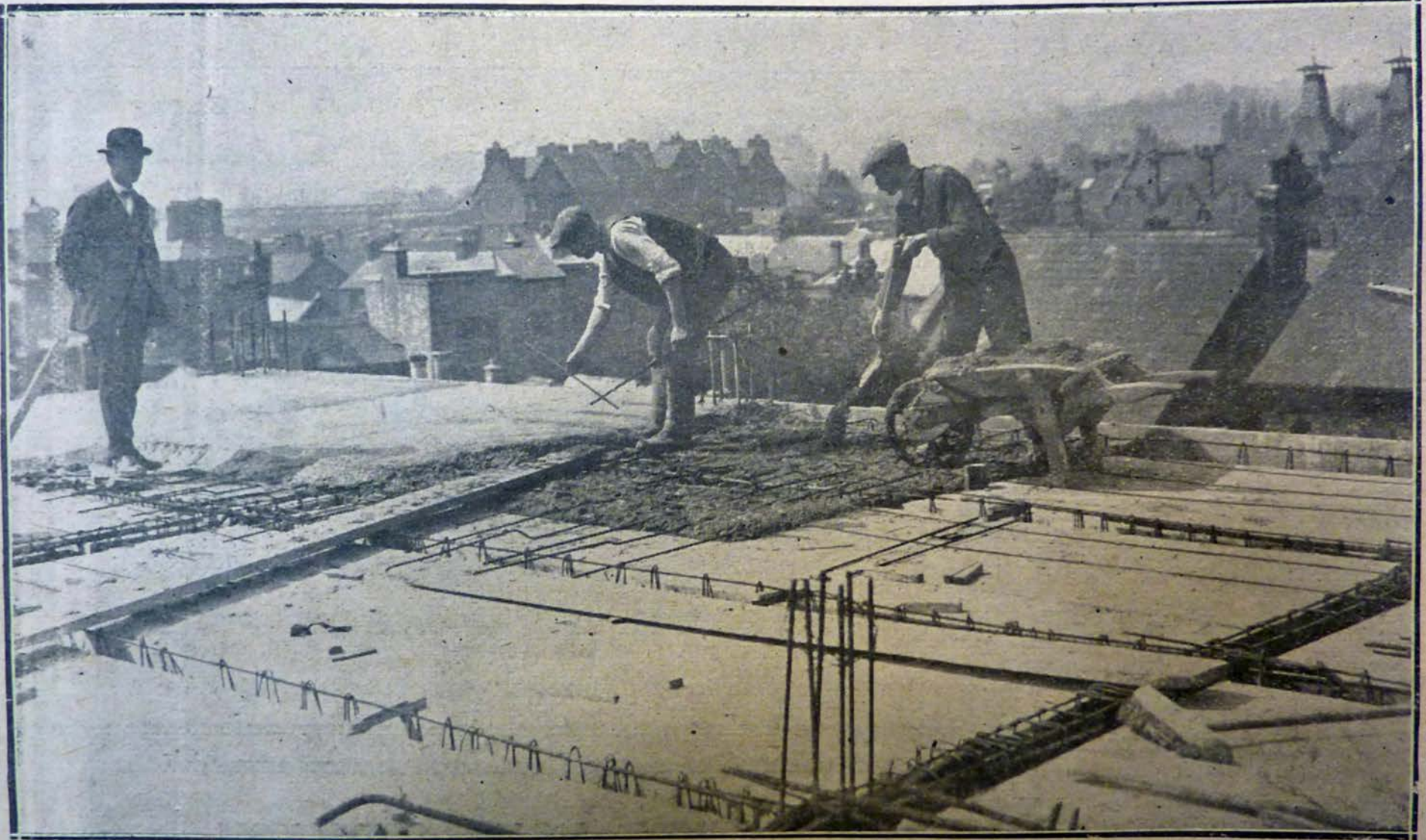
Henry Stephen's first son Cyril Henry (left), born in 1895, did not join the family building firm but instead moved to London and became a film printer. During the First World War he fought with the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and then with the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was wounded in May 1916, probably at the Battle of Albert, part of the Battle of the Somme. Later in the war he was Acting Captain with the Army Infantry School and Transport Sergeant Major with the Royal Artillery. Cyril's younger brother Jack (right, born 1898) also fought; he was a Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps.

Oxford Journal Illustrated, 10 May 1916, p6

Cyril and Jack's uncle Charles, Henry Stephen's brother, joined the RAF in the last month of the war, aged 44. His military records describe him as being 5' 8" tall, with a chest circumference of 31", grey hair and eyes and a sallow complexion.



OXFORD'S FIRST REINFORCED CONCRETE BUILDING.



Laying the concrete of the third floor at Messrs. Archer Cowley's new warehouse, which is being erected by Messrs. Kingerlee and Son, from the designs of Mr. Gilbert T. Gardner, L.R.I.B.A., in conjunction with the Trussed Concrete Steel Co., of London.—(O.J.I. photo).

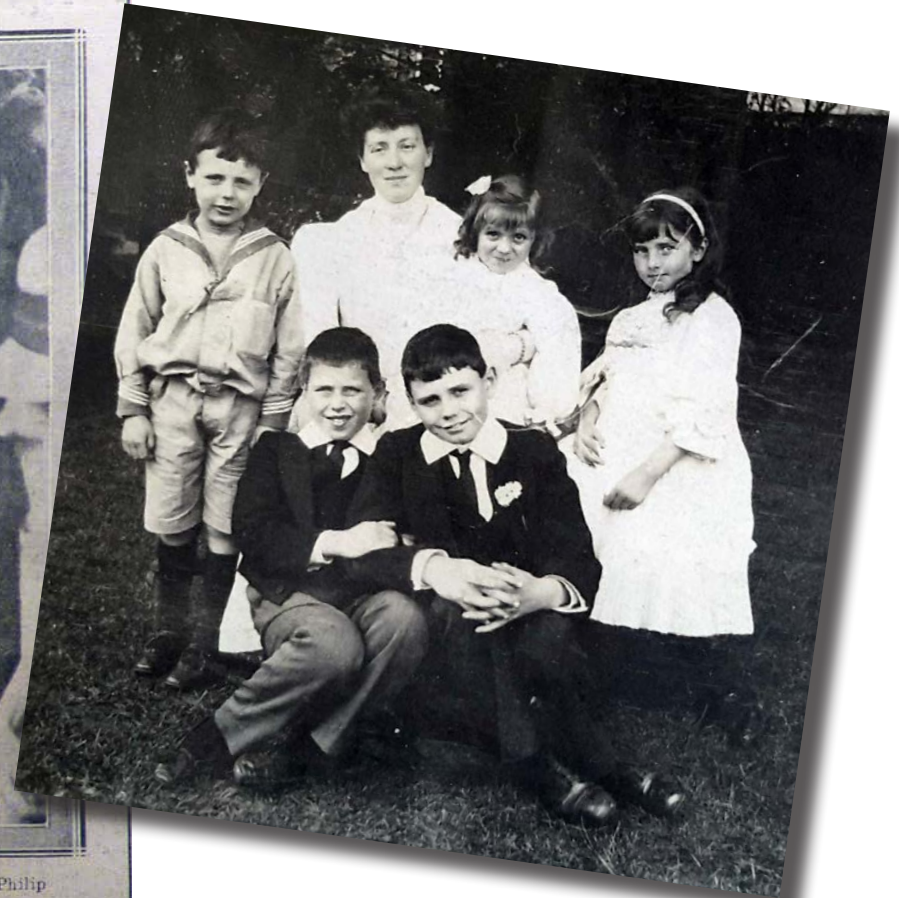
MARRIAGE OF MISS HELEN KINGERLEE.



Miss Helen Kingerlee, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Kingerlee, Denver Lodge, Woodstock-road, was married at SS. Philip and James on Tuesday to Mr. George Hawkins, M.C. The church was crowded for the ceremony.—(O.J.I. photo).

Oxford Journal Illustrated, 31 August 1921, p12

In August 1921, when she was nineteen, Henry Stephen and Louie's daughter Helen Dorcas Kingerlee (above right) married George Hawkins at the church of St Philip & St James in North Oxford. George had been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during the First World War. It was to be the first of three marriages for both of them.



Helen Dorcas Kingerlee (born 1902, upper row, third from left) with her mother Louie (upper row, second from left), her brother Charles (known as Carl, born 1901, upper row, far left) and her half-brothers Stanley John (known as Jack, born 1898, lower row, left) and Cyril Henry (born 1895, lower row, right). The girl on the right of the upper row was probably a cousin from Helen's mother's side of the family (the Tompsons). Photo courtesy of Sue Groos (granddaughter of Helen Dorcas Kingerlee)

Telephone
2545

Telegrams
"KINGERLEE, OXFORD."

T. H. KINGERLEE & SONS

Builders, Contractors and Decorators.

"Glow-Worm"
Boilers



For
Hot Water
Work.

LARGEST SHOWROOMS IN THE CITY FOR

Tile Stoves,
Chimney Pieces
and
Tile Hearths.



Paperhangings,
Baths,
Lavatory Basins.

COOKING AND HOT WATER BY "SERVALL"

**35 Queen Street,
OXFORD.**

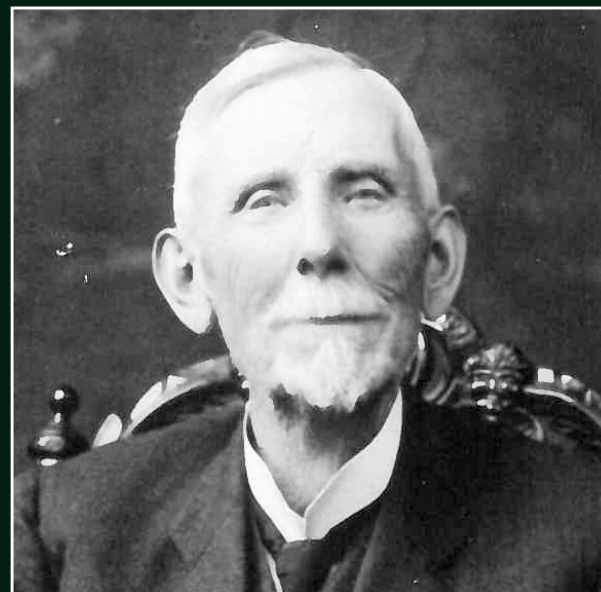
Kelly's Directory of Berks, Ox & Bucks, 1923

In 1915 Thomas Henry and his wife Jane had left Oxford and retired to Bath.

He wrote to his son Henry Stephen (Harry), on 1 October 1928:

"You will be pleased to know I am improving slowly and, I trust, surely. Since our visit to Bournemouth I have been able to walk upstairs for which I am truly thankful, I feel more than ever the loving help of the great Father of us all, who has sustained me, and led me, all through my long life to this day, and extended my earthly days for some purpose unknown to me, but I pray constantly that the way to fulfil His will, will be made clear and that I may yet do a little more to help those about me on the way to everlasting peace for which there never was a time when I was more desired, for today there is little peace and rest in this life, and if this were all, I feel this earthly life is not worth the hard work, anxiety and strife, but I feel sure one day if we do our duty to our Heavenly Father and those about us the reward is certain and sure."

Thomas Henry died less than three months later, on 22 December 1928.





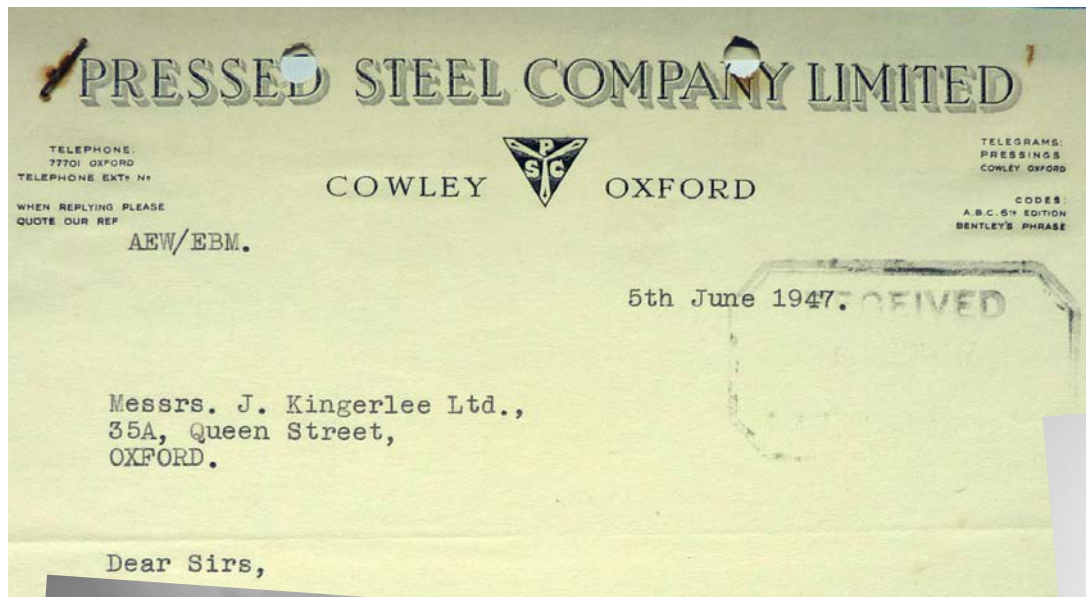
Photographs by Liz Woolley

Thomas Henry left an estate worth over £34,000 (about £1.2million in today's money). He bequeathed his property (which included more than twenty buildings in Oxford and elsewhere), shares and money to his wife Jane, his children Henry, Charles and Helen, and his grandchildren. He also made provision for his staff: he left to each of his indoor staff at his home in Bath £10 for every year of their service, and decreed that Henry and Charles should set up a pension fund for Kingerlee employees.

Thomas Henry's funeral was at Oxford's City Church, All Saints on the High Street (now the library of Lincoln College). It was attended by the mayor, nineteen aldermen and councillors and a large number of other dignitaries, family, friends, employees, and members of the public. Thomas was buried at Botley Cemetery with his infant son Thomas Edward, and when his wife Jane died in 1948 she was buried with them.



I wish the said Henry Stephen Kingerlee and Charles Kingerlee to use some part of the moneys coming to them under this my Will for the purpose of founding a fund either alone or in connection with my late firm of J. H. Kingerlee & Sons of the City of Oxford to provide help to old employees of the said firm upon retiring from active duty through old age infirmity or any other cause to add to their comfort and peace of mind during the evening of life.



In 1928 Kingerlee began to work at Pressed Steel in Cowley, the American-owned factory which provided body parts to the adjacent Morris car works. The project was to last more than 55 years, with Kingerlee erecting most of the buildings at the expanding factory including, in 1960, the apprentice school and the paint shop (below).



DEPOT FOR
BLUE BRICKS, PIPES, SLATES, CEMENT,
TILES, STONE & C.
MILL STREET, OXNEY
BRICK WORKS
WOLVERCOTE.

35, Queen Street,
OXFORD,

TIMBER YARD AND JOINERY WORKS
KINGERLEE BUILDERS' MERCHANT
ABBAY ROAD

166/1 December 1928.

The Executors of the late J. H. Kinglerlee,
Esq. House.

Estate

Bought of **T. H. KINGERLEE & SONS**
BUILDERS' MERCHANTS

H. S. KINGERLEE.
C. KINGERLEE.

SPECIALITIES:

Kitchen Ranges	Rain Water Goods	Timber & Slates, Tiles, &c.	Paper Hangings	Axles and Springs
Tile Stoves	Nails, all kinds	York Stone, Fire Squares	Picture Frame Mouldings	Spokes and Hubs
Mantles & Shams	Hinges, Sash Weights	Blue Bricks and Squares	Brushes, all kinds	Bolts, Rivets, and Washers
Chimney Pieces	Locks, Rim & Mortice	Cement and Plaster	Glass Lead, Oils & Colours	Bar Iron, Hoops, Sheets
Fenders, Kerbs, &c.	Cabinet Brassfoundry	Laths, Chimney Tops, &c.	Plumbers' Brassfoundry	Corrugated Sheets, &c., &c.

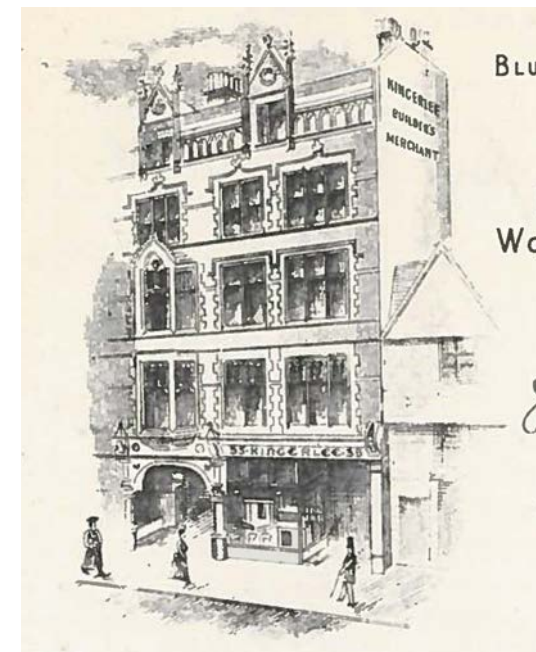
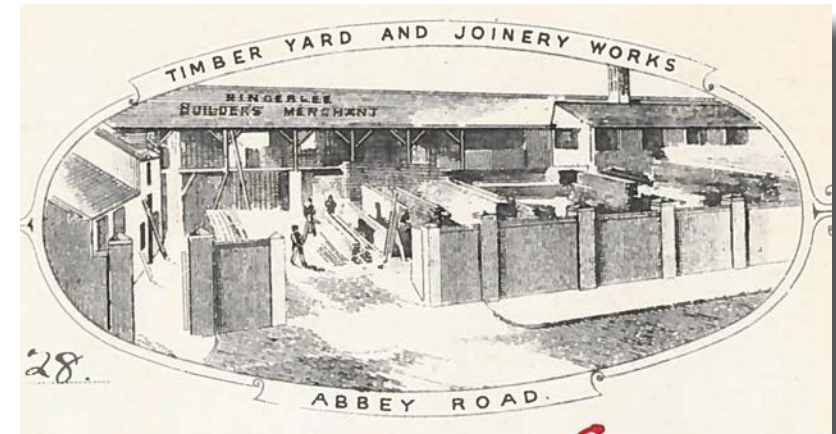
1929.

May 26	To man's time taking down small			
1928.	Engine at Overdale Foxcombe Hill	1	6	5
Nov. 9.	1. Heavy Lock		1	6
	1 Do 4" Brass Butts & screws		4	
2.	1 Door Frame, 1 Set Linings		10	9
1929.	1 Oak Half glass Door (to Bath)	4	10	
Feb. 13	Carriage on Joinery to Bath		2	3
		<u>£</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14 11</u>

OXFORD. No. 4357.
Received of *J. H. Kinglerlee died.*
the sum of £ 6 : 14 : 11
For **T. H. KINGERLEE & SONS,**
with thank
per

ONE PENNY ONE PENNY

A billhead of 1928/9 which shows not only the enormous range of materials supplied by Kinglerlee's builder's merchants but also drawings of their offices at 35 Queen Street and the timber yard and joinery at Abbey Road. The company's depot at Mill Street and the North Oxford Brickworks at Wolvercote are also mentioned.



The Oxford Ice Rink on the Botley Road was one of the largest single-span buildings in the country when it was built in 1930. Kingerlee foreman Jack Coppock and his team stayed up until 11pm at night to get the building finished in time for its grand opening on 7 November, when the mayor of Oxford, Captain GT Button, skated across the ice to cut the ribbon. The rink hosted ice dance shows and Varsity ice hockey matches; Tom Kingerlee remembered that you could skate for 1s and spectate for 6d. Jack Coppock's daughter was a good skater and won many prizes, often presented by Mrs Morris, later Lady Nuffield.



Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: POX0097472

The rink was hugely popular but could not compete financially with the talkies and after only four years the building was converted into the Majestic Cinema, the largest picture house in the South Midlands, which could comfortably seat 2,500. In 1940 the building was used as a temporary reception centre for evacuees from the London Blitz and after the war it became home to Frank Cooper's marmalade factory. It was demolished in 1986 and a branch of Waitrose now occupies the site.



In the early 1930s Kingerlee built the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital, which was opened in 1933 by the Prince of Wales. The aerial photograph below shows the hospital on completion; the girl in school uniform in the construction photograph (left) is thought to be Felice Kingerlee (born 1923), daughter of Charles Kingerlee.





The company did a good deal of work at Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, the home of the Duke of Marlborough. In 1936 Kingerlee carried out extensive repairs to the Column of Victory (above left), which was built in 1730. Here (above centre) Henry Stephen's son Jack Kingerlee relaxes at the top of the monument, over 120 feet above the ground. In the 1970s Kingerlee still had a team of about twelve painters and plumbers permanently on site at Blenheim, and a project to stabilise the South West Tower was carried out in 1977. Kingerlee continued to work at Blenheim right up to the 1980s; one plumber was employed by Kingerlee for fifty years, all of them working at Blenheim. Pictured above right in the Long Library is a team of Kingerlee painters: top row, left to right, Tony Clack and Len Warman; middle row, Bill Hunt, Spencer Mould and Pete Fiddler; and bottom row, 'Snowy' Berry, Richard Ray, Ted Norton and Phil Willis.

Images by kind permission of Spencer Mould

Harold L. Rogers, F.R.I.B.A.
Registered & Chartered Architect.

TEL. OXFORD 2872.

88, S. Aldate's,
Oxford.

18th March, 1937.

St Luke's Church, Cowley.

My dear Beauchamp,

You know the result of the Tendering, Kingerlee's price (£33,987), was the lowest received, and I recommend it for consideration - in other words for acceptance, subject to various reductions to bring it below a certain figure.

I have seen Mr. Kingerlee this morning, and he is to see Mr. Babbs this afternoon about the adjustments, so you may be sure no time is being lost.

I am writing to the two Organ Builders to-day in the terms agreed by ourselves, with Dr. Armstrong and Mr. Whye yesterday afternoon.

Yours sincerely,

H. L. Rogers

Rev. M.H. Beauchamp,
Cowley Vicarage,
Oxford.

5553

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, COWLEY.

BENFIELD & LOXLEY, LTD.
106, Bullingdon Road.

£35,555

HUTCHINS & SONS, LTD.
1A, Southmoor Road.

£34,883 -

Willis

✓ KINGERLEE & SONS, LTD. T.H.
Queen Street.

£33,987 -

£30,000

1500

1500



KNOWLES & SON (OXFORD) LTD.
36, HOLYWELL.

£36,666 -

SYMM & CO. LTD.
Little Clarendon Street.

£34,347 -

WOOLDRIDGE & SIMPSON, LTD.
Frenchay Road.

£34,354 -

3100

2640

33640

In 1937 the car manufacturer William Morris decided to build a church called St Luke's for his Cowley workers, and Kingerlee won the contract having submitted an estimate lower than those of rival building companies. Five of these six Oxford firms are still trading today.



Photograph by Ryan Cowan

When St Luke's opened in 1938 it was praised for its fine brickwork. It was one of a number of prominent churches built in Oxford by Kingerlee, including Summertown Congregational (now United Reformed) Church (1894); St John the Evangelist, New Hinksey (1900); Wesley Hall, Cowley Road (1904); St Michael and All Angels, Jack Straws Lane (1956); St Mary's, Barton (1958); and Headington Baptist Church (2006). Kingerlee also built St Andrew's Church in Bournemouth (1891), the largest Congregational church in the country, with the capacity to seat 1,200 people.

St Luke's was deconsecrated in 1994 and the building now houses the Oxfordshire History Centre.

Kingerlee worked with a large number of suppliers and subcontractors, purchasing concrete, steel and other materials, hiring labour and tradesmen, arranging transport of aggregate to and from sites, and sourcing many more supplies. Archive ledgers show suppliers from all over the country in Sheffield, London, Cardiff and even Scotland. Some of the suppliers such as FG Alden are still working with Kingerlee to this day.

Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: POX0070291



Henry and Louie pictured above
on holiday in Madeira c. 1930

By kind permission of Sue Groos

Reproduced by permission of
North Hinksey Parish Council
and Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxfordshire History Centre, ref:
PC3514C-1

Henry Stephen's second wife Louie Emma died in 1937, aged 68. In 1939 Henry bought fifteen acres of land on Yarnell's Hill, west of the city, and gave it to North Hinksey Parish Council for the laying out of playing fields to be named the Louie Memorial Park in memory of his wife.

The letter below from Henry Kingerlee to the chairman of North Hinksey Parish Council, 10 June 1939, concerns the proposed Louie Memorial Playing Field, which was to provide space for "cricket, football, tennis, hockey or other games and recreations" as well as a sailing pool.

TEL.
5565.

DENVER LODGE,
OXFORD.

June 10/39.

L & Madam Sir
Sutton Courtenay
Oxfordshire

Dear Sir

I thank you very much
for your letter.

Will you kindly convey
to the Council my delight
& appreciation of the
arrangements made to
develop the playing field.

I can visualise the
lay out & am sure
with all varieties of
games provided, it will

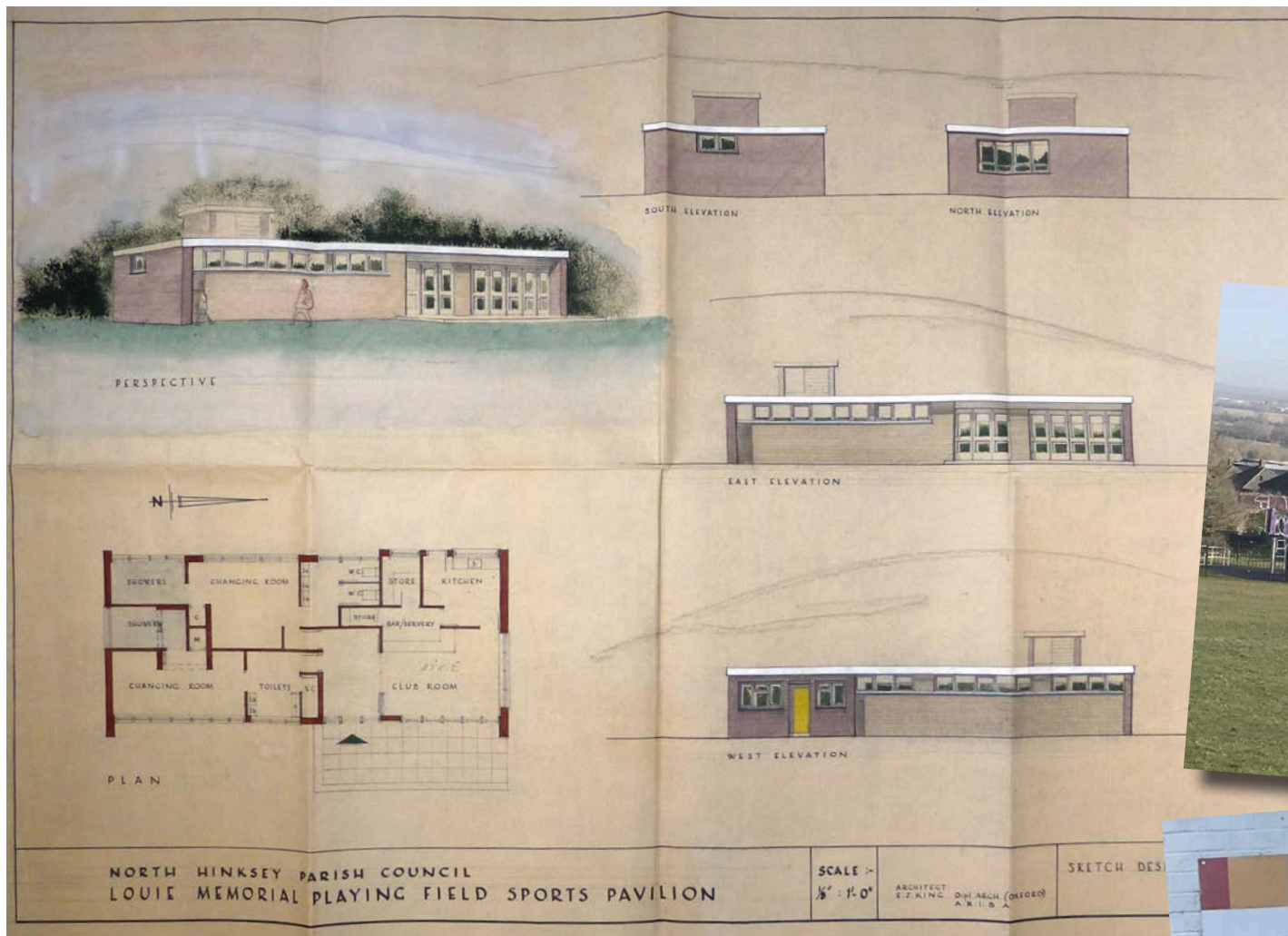
be most useful & much
appreciated.

Particularly my thanks,
are due to the way
the notes of the meeting
were published, entirely
in accordance with
my wish.

May it give rest,
pleasure & the benefit
we all hope & desire.

Yours very sincerely
H. Kingerlee

P.S. If permitted I should
like to provide the
sailing pool. H.K.



Reproduced by permission of North Hinksey Parish Council and Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: PC3514C-1

Henry Stephen married his third wife Marjorie Ballard in 1939, when he was 70 and she was 51. She already had at least four children from a previous marriage.

The Louie Memorial Park is in two sections, either side of Arnold's Way, from which there are impressive views over Oxford (below). In 1963 Kingerlee Ltd built a sports pavilion on the upper playing field (left).



Photographs by Keith Shackleton

T.H.KINGERLEE & SONS, LTD.

BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS.

MANAGING
DIRECTOR

H. S. KINGERLEE.

DIRECTORS

C. KINGERLEE.
S. J. KINGERLEE.
H. J. KINGERLEE.
E. F. HORSMAN.



EFH/MOB

35, QUEEN STREET,
OXFORD,

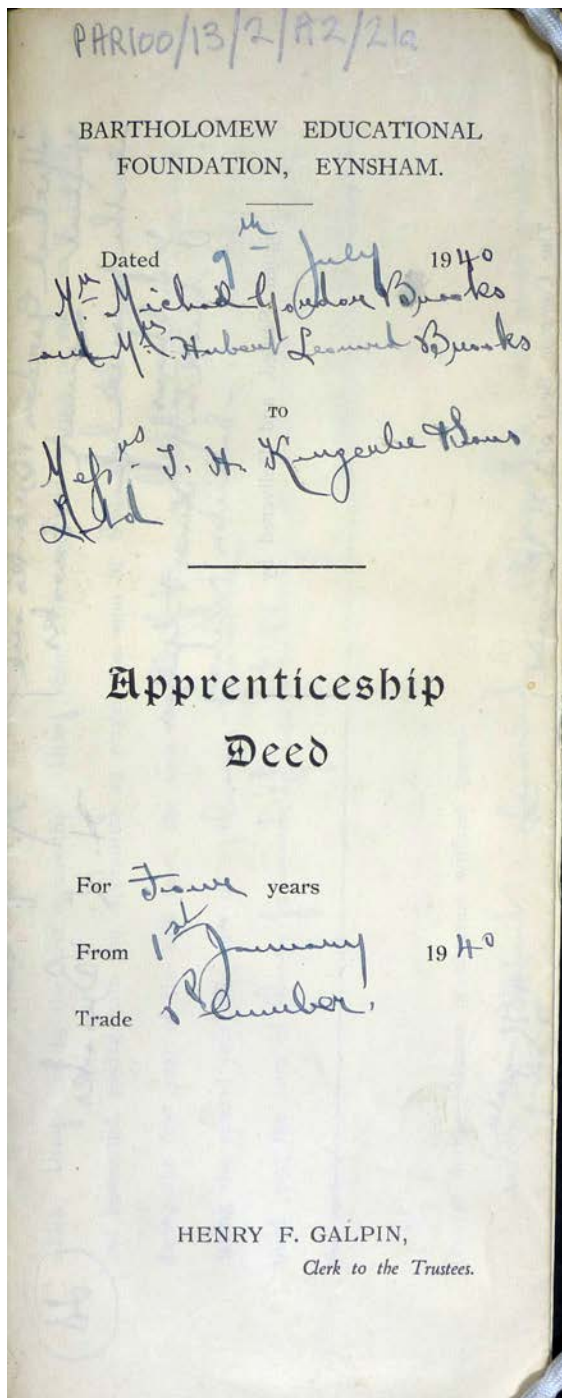
July 21st. 1938

TELEPHONE 2545.

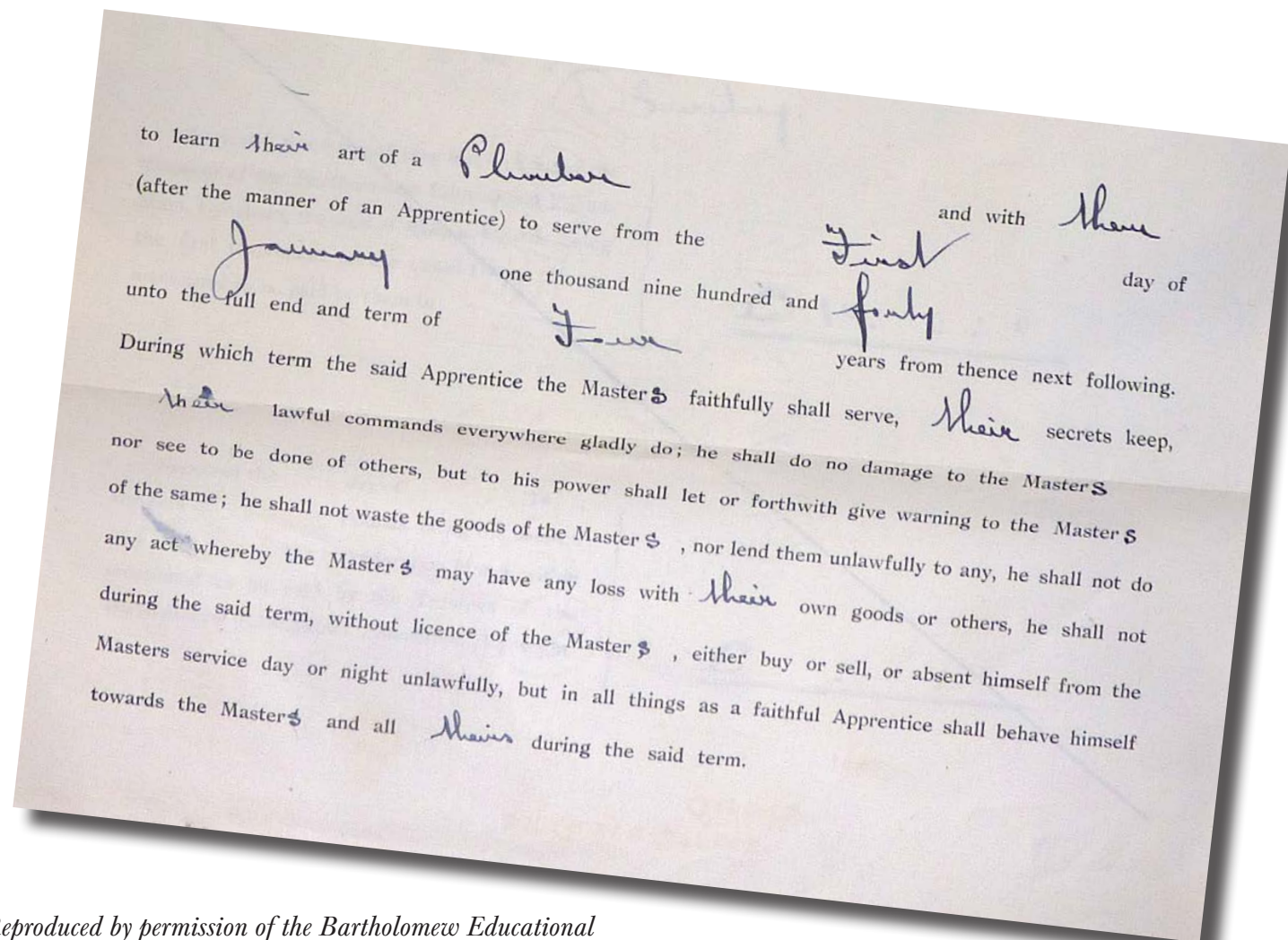
Kingerlee participated in the National Scheme for Disabled Men which had originally been established in September 1919. Firms were strongly encouraged by the Ministry of Labour to reserve one place in twenty for a disabled former soldier or sailor, and employers doing so were permitted to use the special logo (shown above) on their business notepaper.

At the time this letter was written - July 1938 - Kingerlee's managing director was Henry Stephen Kingerlee (right) and the directors were his brother Charles, his son Stanley John (Jack), Charles's son Henry John, and long-standing employee Eric Horsman.





Kingerlee have a long tradition of training apprentices. This is part of the apprenticeship indenture of Michael Brooks, who was taken on in 1940 for a period of five years to train as a plumber, on a starting salary of 10s a week. His apprenticeship was supported by the Bartholomew Educational Foundation which still gives grants to people under 25 living in the parish of Eynsham, five miles north-west of Oxford.



Reproduced by permission of the Bartholomew Educational Foundation and Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: PAR100-13-2-A2-21

Kingerlee have over the years trained many apprentices. Pictured below left is apprentice painter Spencer Mould at the Beckett Street Post Office in Oxford, during his first week with Kingerlee in 1954. Spencer went on to work for Kingerlee until he retired in 2000. The three Kingerlee painters behind Spencer are Phil Willis, Pete Osmond and Archie (surname unknown).

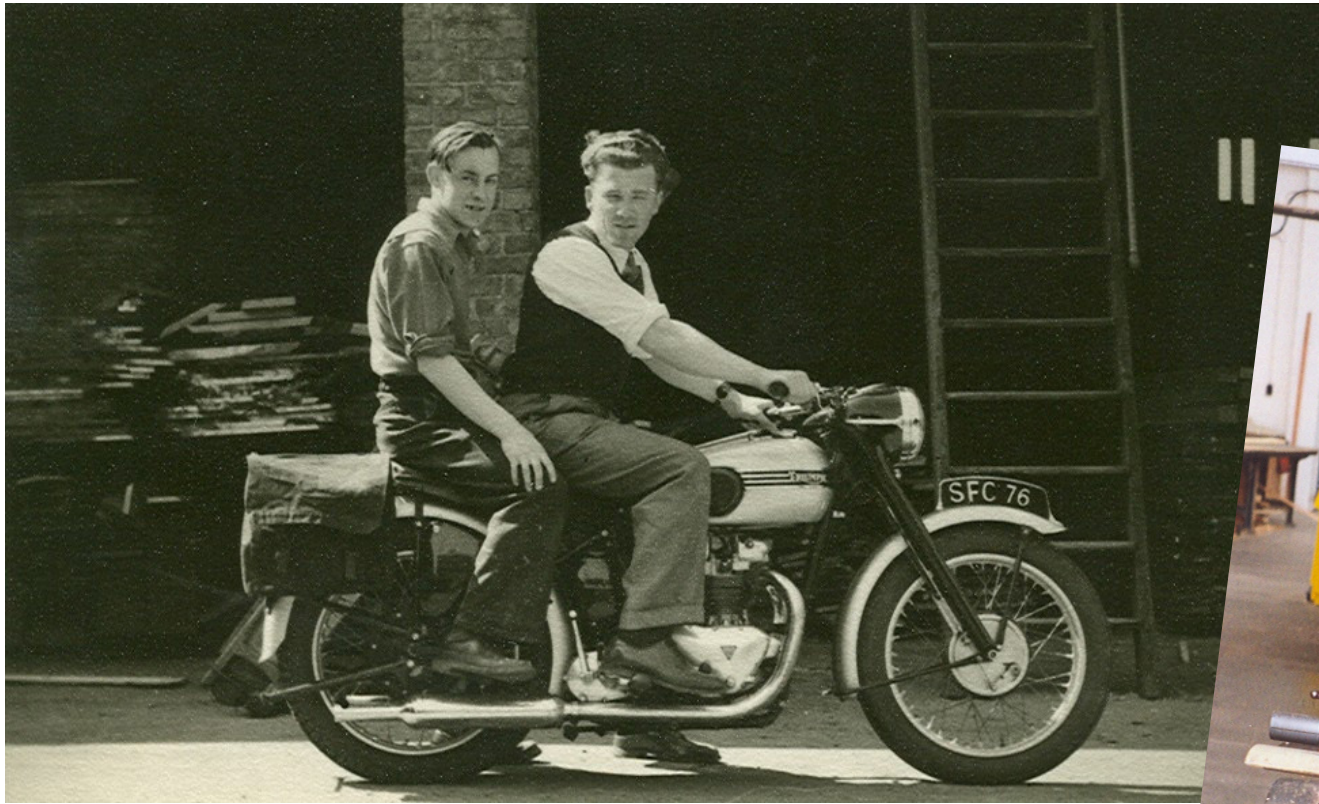
Kingerlee still employ and train apprentices in the joinery workshop today. Below right are Kingerlee joiners Jack Robson and Jack Brandon during their apprenticeships in 2014.



Photograph by kind permission of Spencer Mould



Photograph by Ryan Cowan

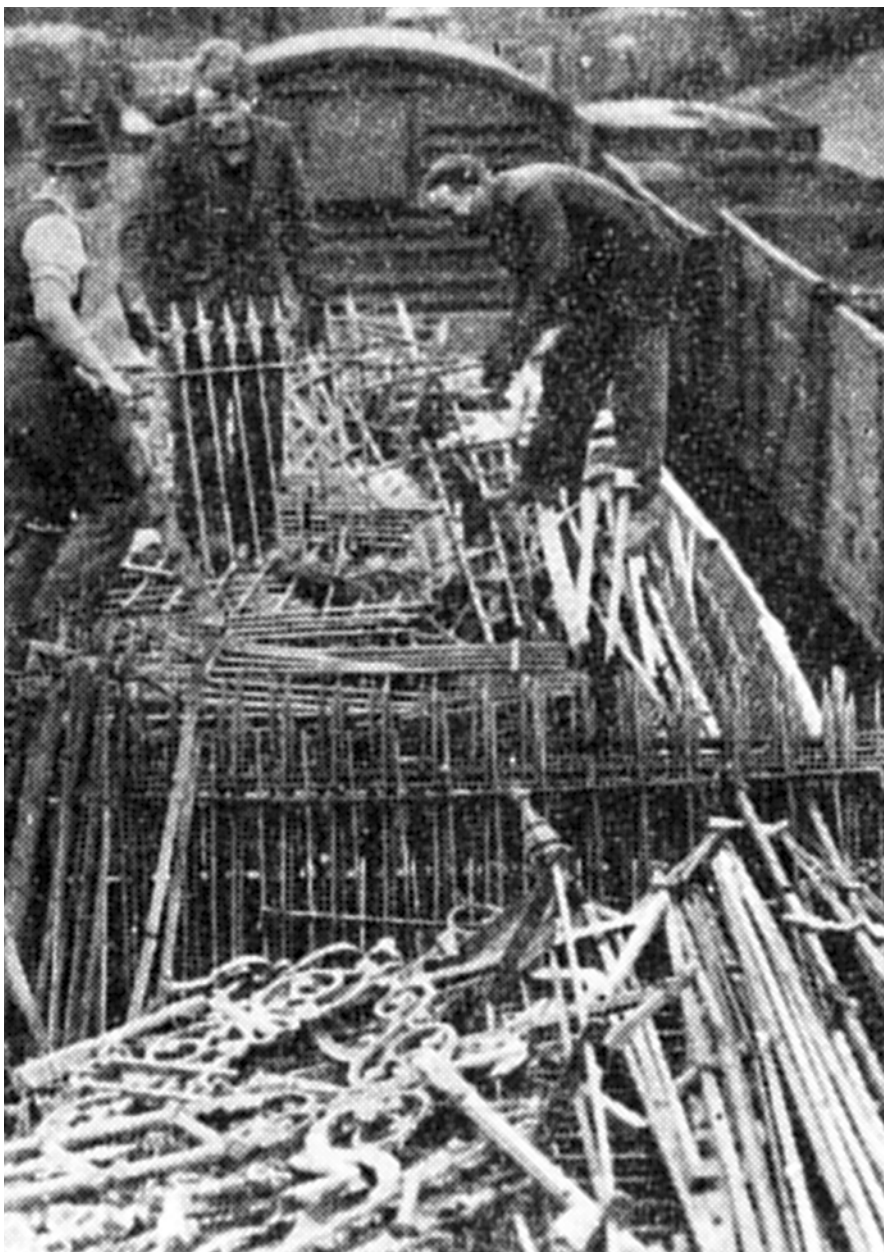


(Above) Francis Harris (right) and Max Scraggs on Francis's Triumph motorbike at Kingerlee's Abbey Road works in the 1950s, where about twenty staff were employed in the saw mill, the joinery shop and the blacksmith's shop, each earning about £9 a week. Francis worked for Kingerlee as a joiner for fifty years between 1941 and 1991, leaving only briefly to serve in the navy during the war. He began his apprenticeship at Abbey Road making padded boxes for Spitfire radiators which were being produced by Osberton Radiators, part of Morris Motors.

(Right) Francis Harris on the day he retired in 1991.

Images by kind permission of Martin Harris





Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: D253110a

During the Second World War Kingerlee built a large depot at Steventon for the Ministry of Defence and constructed buildings for the RAF at Bicester, Upper Heyford and Abingdon, where they built runways and dispersal units. They also continued to produce joinery and like many building firms they were involved in the removal of railings from outside private houses and public buildings (left), with the idea of melting these down in order to reuse the metal for military purposes.

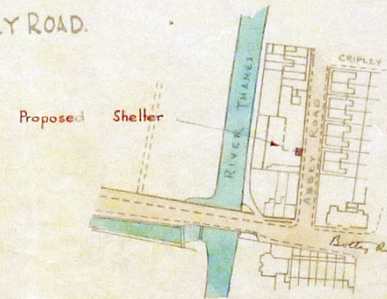
Kingerlee also carried out extensive work at the Pavlova Leather Factory in Abingdon as it expanded to cope with demand created by the war. Below is the second floor of the 'Kingerlee Building', filled with skins hung up to dry.



Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: D014142a

CITY OF OXFORD. AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS. RESCUE & DEMOLITION SERVICES.
PROPOSED SHELTER FOR PERSONNEL AT MESSRS. KINGERLEE'S YARD, ABBEY ROAD.

Note: Corporation will supply all Steelwork required, but Contractor to include for all bending and fixing Contractor to allow the P.C. Sum of $\frac{3}{8}$ yd for Gas Blanket.



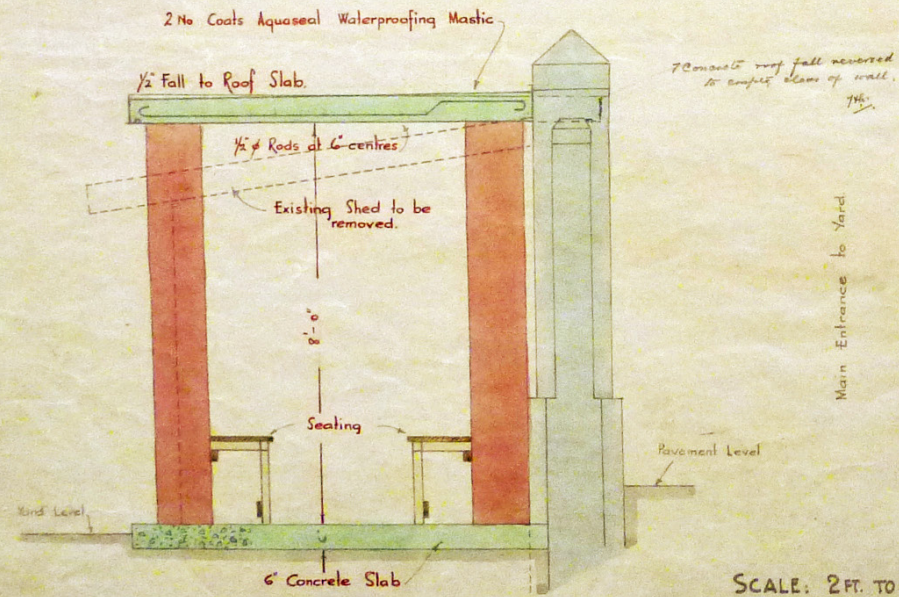
Head Warden
West Oxford
Abbey Road.

OFFICE COPY
22256. Regional 5. Nov. 1940.

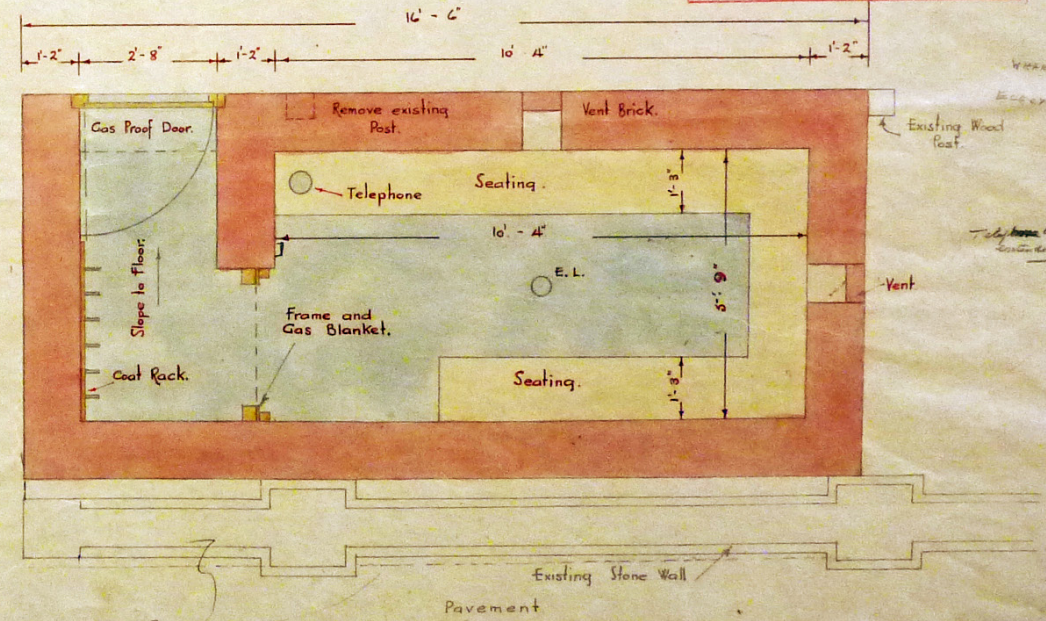
2327
CITY ENGINEER'S DEPT
OXFORD.
6 NOV 1940
Registered No. 22257.
Prepared. H. H. C. Kd.

SCALE: 1/2500

CITY OF OXFORD.
CITY ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.
Submitted to...
Committee on... 6. 1940



SCALE: 2 FT. TO AN INCH.



ANDREW CARSTAIRS AM INST. CE
CITY ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR
OXFORD.

Reproduced by kind permission of Oxford City Council (City Archives, Oxford Town Hall), ref: OCA3/1/Y36/2/2

Like all employers Kingerlee had to make provision for the safety of their staff during war-time air raids, and in 1940 these shelters were constructed at the company's Abbey Road yard in Oxford.

There was not much war damage in the Oxford area, so the post-war years saw Kingerlee focus on housing, with projects in Wantage, Abingdon and Bibury as well as Oxford. Kingerlee carried out a considerable amount of work at Daylesford House in Gloucestershire which was seconded by the army during the war and needed extensive refurbishment. The picture below left shows a Kingerlee employee sitting on a rooftop at Daylesford.

Kingerlee also built Bayswater School in Headington (now Bayards Hill Primary School) and carried out a lot of work at other Oxford schools and for the university during this time.

Kingerlee did a good deal of work at Wolvercote Paper Mill, three miles north of Oxford, throughout the early and mid-twentieth century. The mill had supplied Oxford University Press with paper for books, pamphlets and bibles since the late 1600s. The Victorian mill buildings were demolished and replaced in 1953-5, and by 1957 the mill was producing 240 tons (or six hundred miles) of paper per week. The photographs below centre and right show Kingerlee employees at work on the mill site in the mid-1950s.



Please quote Ministry Reference in reply.

Telegrams:

Telephone:

Your Reference DT/MJD

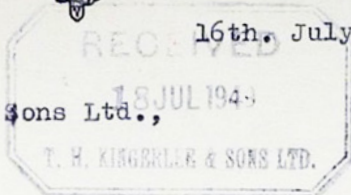
M.O.F. Reference TS/FH



MINISTRY OF FOOD

ABINGDON FOOD OFFICE,
30 East St. Helens St.
ABINGDON. Berks.

16th. July 1949.



Messrs. T. H. Kingerlee & Sons Ltd.,
35a, Queen Street,
Oxford.

Dear Sirs,

Supplementary Cheese Ration.

Thank you for your letter of 15th. July. I much regret that I have no authority to vary the conditions under which the special allowance of cheese is granted to rural building workers. As you probably know, to qualify for the additional allowance, the employer must be able to certify that a particular employee will be working in a rural area, more than two miles from any catering facilities, for not less than six months consecutively.

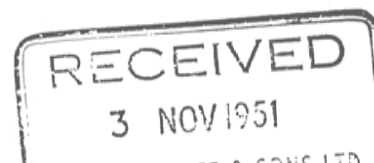
In the case of your men working at Roysse's School, there are a number of cafes, including two transport cafes, within a very short distance. As an alternative, it occurs to me that it might be possible for arrangements to be made for your men to obtain a mid-day meal at the canteen set up by the Abingdon Borough Council to feed their employees on the Council Housing Estate which is quite close to Roysse's School.

I would suggest that you make enquiries into this possibility, and if it became necessary to extend the scope of the Licence granted for this canteen to include your men, this could be done. The canteen is in charge of Mrs. Washington.

Yours faithfully,

I. Strachan

Food Executive Officer.



"Danum,"
Priory Road,
Bicester,
Oxon.

1st November, 1951.

Messrs. T. H. Kingerlee & Sons Ltd.,
35 Queen Street,
Oxford.

Dear Sirs,

My son has now been employed by you for some weeks working under your General Foreman, Mr. Gregory.

He has not yet received his extra cheese ration. Will you kindly look into this as quickly as possible, and oblige.

Yours faithfully,

Ch. Linnell

Reproduced by kind permission of Spencer Mould

Food rationing continued long after the war ended.

Henry Stephen Kingerlee died in 1945, aged 76, and his son Jack (right), who had been working for the firm since the 1920s, took over as head of Kingerlee Ltd. Henry's brother and business partner Charles died in 1950, also at the age of 76.

Jack and his wife Nora married in 1921 (below right) and lived in Headington. They had two children, Thomas (known as Tom), born in 1922, and Rachel, born in 1924.



(Above) Rachel Kingerlee's wedding to Geoffrey Wilsdon in 1949 (West Lodge, Old Headington). The bride's parents Jack and Nora are to her left, and next to Nora is Rachel's brother Tom. Rachel and Geoffrey had two children, Richard and Sarah. Richard is the current Purchasing Director of Kingerlee Ltd.

Reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: POX0138878



Tom Kingerlee (below left with his sister Rachel) was born in 1922 and joined his father Jack in the family firm on leaving school. To gain experience he was articled to a quantity surveyor in London for a time, but his asthma was severely aggravated by life in the capital and, after a stay with his great uncle Charles in Looe in Cornwall, he returned to Oxford and rejoined Kingerlee Ltd. Tom married Janice Hester on 15th June 1957 (below right) and they had four children – Philip (born 1958), Jonathan (1960), David (1961) and Helen (1964).





The joinery workshop moved to Lamarsh Road (off the Botley Road) in 1958 and by 1962 Kingerlee had concentrated all its activities on this one site, which it had leased as a builder's yard and depot since the 1940s. The facility (left) housed the head office as well as the joinery, a blacksmith's, the paint department, the plumbing department with 25 plumbers, storage for fuel and a plant workshop.

The firm moved outside the city, to Kidlington, in 1999, and redeveloped the Lamarsh Road site to create a retail park (below).



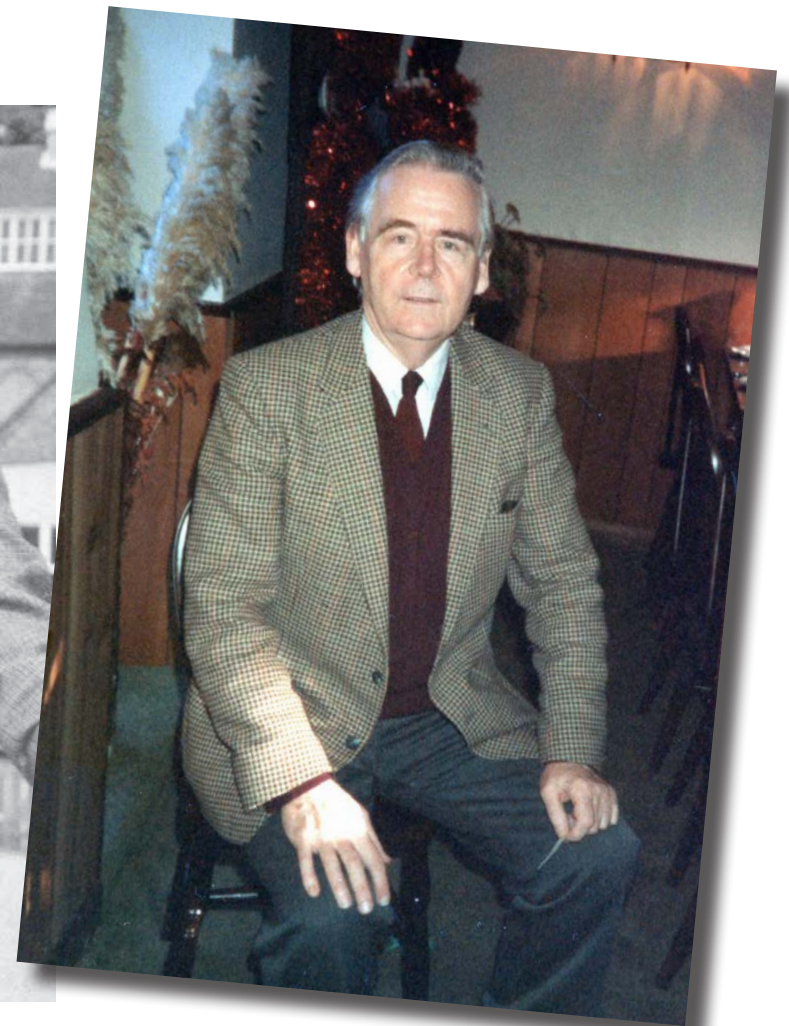
Photograph by Chris Honeywell

Jack Kingerlee's wife Nora (below right, with Jack) died in September 1962 at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford and Jack (below left) died less than four months later, in the Acland Nursing Home. She was 63 and he was 64. Their son Tom was now the head of the family firm, the fourth generation of Kingerlees to be in charge.



Thomas Ashmore and David Tolson were now running the firm with Tom Kingerlee. David Wilfred Tolson joined Kingerlee in 1947 after serving in the army as a gunner in Normandy. He worked as an assistant to Doug Phillips who was overseeing the smaller projects. David went on to become a contract manager and in 1961 was made a director. He is pictured in the photograph below (centre), on site at a Kingerlee project at the Dragon School, with Deputy Head David Parnwell to his right, and Bursar Frank Brown to his left.

Thomas Henry Ashmore (below right) joined Kingerlee in 1940, aged fourteen, as a timekeeping clerk at the RAF Abingdon site. He left in 1943 to join the war effort and was stationed in Palestine. He returned to Kingerlee in 1947 where he assisted with estimating and worked with David Tolson running contracts. He also became a director in 1961 alongside David.



By kind permission of John Tolson

Through the 1950s, 60s and 70s Kingerlee continued with work at the Pressed Steel plant in Cowley, as well as carrying out work at the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Midland Bank (now HSBC) in central Oxford.

In the late 1950s the building at the top of the High Street, next to Lloyds Bank, was demolished by Kingerlee, the buildings either side propped (as shown below and right), and a new building for supermarket International Stores built.

Kingerlee also built new premises for Coopers Plumbing Merchants; staff recall that the project was halted during the very hard winter of 1963-64 when there was snow on the ground from December to April, making it impossible to make any progress on site.



Personal aide to The Guv'nor dies

MR CARL Kingerlee, the man who knew all the secrets of the late Lord Nuffield's business and benefactions, and was a close friend of "The Guv'nor," died yesterday in an Oxford nursing home. He was 76.

For 18 years from 1947, he was Lord Nuffield's private secretary. He lived at Staddle Stones, Frilford Heath.

When Lord Nuffield died in

1963, some surprise was expressed that people like Mr Kingerlee, who were within the "inner circle" of Lord Nuffield's confidantes, had not been mentioned in his will.

Mr Kingerlee broke his usual bond of silence about his employer's affairs.

Lord Nuffield, he revealed, did much for him. He made Mr Kingerlee a trustee of the Nuffield Foundation, to whom he left the

business of Morris Garages. Mr Kingerlee became its managing director.

In addition, he made Mr Kingerlee a trustee of the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, the Oxford University Medical School, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Trust, and after Lady Nuffield's death, a director of the Elizabeth Nuffield Home in Oxford.

Mr Kingerlee had also served as

a member of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

During the 1939-45 war, Mr Kingerlee was civilian superintendent of 50 Maintenance Unit, based at Morris Motors, which throughout the war worked to salvage crashed aircraft — among them the one in which Rudolf Hess defected to Britain.

He leaves a widow, a son and three daughters.



MR KINGERLEE

Oxford Mail, 23 April 1977

Carl Kingerlee (1901-1977), Henry Stephen's third son, worked for William Morris (Lord Nuffield), the Cowley car manufacturer, for many years and was his private secretary until Nuffield's death in 1963. Between the wars Morris Motors were manufacturing two fifths of all the cars being produced in Britain. Carl described Nuffield as a wonderful man to work for because he was very straightforward and trusted him to get on with the job. The two became close personal friends.



Kingerlee re-started the residential development business, abandoned during the war years, in the 1970s, building a number of prominent apartment blocks in North Oxford and creating more than 200 new homes in all. Among these developments were blocks of flats at Cutteslowe Park (right), Hartley Court, Murray Court, Norham End and Gosford Hill.

The company also completed extensive work at Lloyds Bank on Carfax (below) in central Oxford, where the external façade of the building was propped up while the structure behind was demolished and rebuilt. A similar project was carried out at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Newbury, retaining the façade of the building. One night a shopkeeper came to deposit his takings for the day in the nightsafe. He climbed through the hoarding and onto the site, and posted his takings into what he thought was the nightsafe, through the hole in the wall into the building site behind. The site team arrived the next day to find a bag containing a considerable amount of cash, which they returned to the shopkeeper in question.

Extensive internal works were carried out at the well known department store Elliston & Cavell, now Debenhams, in Oxford. Kingerlee also installed many of the early cash machines in the city, and went on to install cash machines in other parts of the country too.



Photograph by Ryan Cowan



Several projects were carried out in the 1970s for St Luke's Nursing Home and Hospital in Headington, as well a large number of school projects and extensions, including a library, music and science facilities, and a new swimming pool, for Gosford Hill School. During this time Kingerlee also built the swimming pools at Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre and at Brackley.

Tony Woodward (pictured below) joined the firm in 1976 after university, as a contract manager. He knew the company as his father was a plasterer who had worked for Kingerlee, and Tony had assisted him as a boy during the school holidays. Tony oversaw many prominent projects including St Luke's Nursing Home, work at Radley College, and many other school extension and refurbishment jobs. He was appointed as a director in 1977.





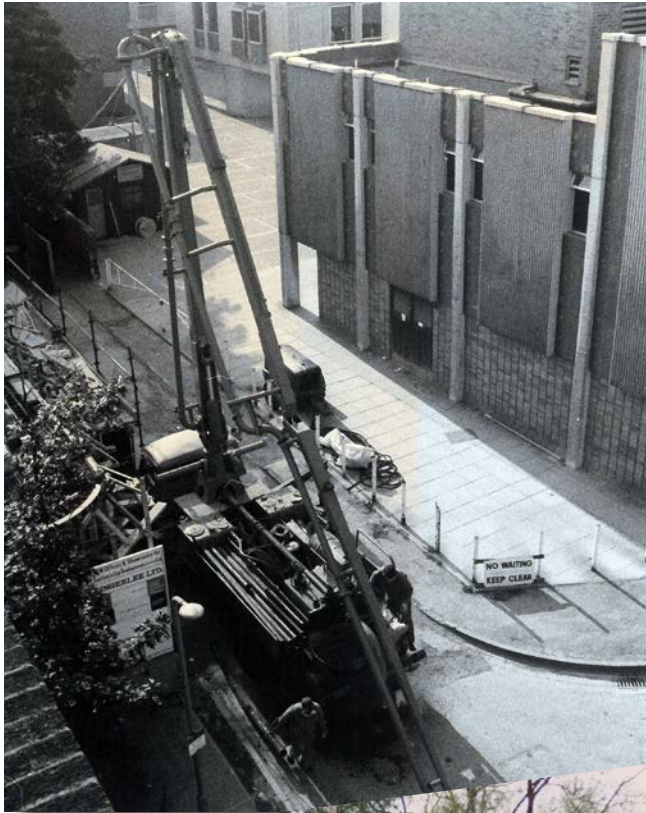
Tom Kingerlee's sons Philip, David and Jonathan (left to right above, with their sister Helen) were all educated at the Dragon School, and then later at St Edward's School in Oxford, where their father Tom had also been a pupil. Kingerlee had done a great deal of building work for both schools over the years.

Helen went to school in Abingdon, at another school that Kingerlee had worked on extensively, and joined the business when she left school in 1981. Helen was key in the introduction of computers to the firm and worked for Kingerlee until her health deteriorated in 1995. Sadly she died in 1996.

Philip studied engineering at Bath University, and pursued an engineering career rather than being involved in the family firm.

Jonathan went to London to study marine engineering but didn't complete his course. He returned to Oxford and went to work for Grant Thornton to study business accounting and then joined Kingerlee, initially as a van driver, later becoming a trainee quantity surveyor.

David started work at Kingerlee as a labourer on leaving school, and later studied quantity surveying at what was then the Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University), with his brother Jonathan.




In 1981 Kingerlee built an office block at Cambridge Terrace (left) on St Ebbe's in Oxford. Unfortunately the drain survey was inaccurate which caused the team to accidentally pile into the Trill Mill Stream, a historic underground waterway running beneath the city. However, they were able to repair the damage and the waterway still exists today. The Cambridge Terrace project later went on to win awards for brickwork excellence.

In 1987 Kingerlee built the St Anne's College boathouse, the last boathouse on what is known as 'boathouse island' on the eastern bank of the River Thames in Oxford. A temporary bridge was built to get machinery, materials and labour to the project, and other supplies were brought in by barge. Pictured below and below left are Neale Harrison, labourer, and John Fathers, project foreman, unloading a barge carrying roof timbers.




A series of projects for the Dragon School was carried out during the 1980s, as well as further work for St Luke's Nursing Home where Kingerlee built a block of flats. There was also work for Headington School (below), flats at Marston Ferry and 21 houses at Bannister Close off the Iffley Road, as well as a great many smaller projects. A large factory for Unicol was built on the Oxford ring road in the late 1980s under director and contract manager George Goldsmith, who had joined the firm in the 1970s as part of the Pressed Steel team.

Up goes school block



Canon Macdonald Ramm lays the foundation stone, helped by Mr Tom Ashmore, left, Kingerlee builders' director, and Mr Ken Beal, site agent



Together at the ceremony are, left to right: Tara Brooks, deputy head pupil; Canon Macdonald Ramm; Miss Elizabeth Tucker, headmistress; Mr Beal and Mr Ashmore

THE new £1m extension at Headington School is on its way up.

Canon Norwyn Macdonald Ramm, chairman of the governors, yesterday laid the foundation stone of the library and resources block, which should be ready next September.

He performed the task with the silver trowel which was used to launch the main school building about 60 years ago.

The independent London Road school won approval for the three-storey block in April. It will match a £750,000 science wing opened last year.

Doubled

The size of the present library is being doubled to cater for the needs of the school's 600 pupils, and the resources centre is expected greatly to improve facilities for GCSE project work.

There will also be new music rooms, sports changing rooms and facilities and, by moving sixth-formers into the extension, more space will be left in the old building to develop other studies.

● Story: SUE WOOD
● Pictures: TERRY LEE

The Oxford Mail, 12 October 1988

Kingerlee have won many awards for excellence. In November 1981 the firm was given a commendation certificate at the Carpenters' Awards in London for the exceptionally high standard of joinery work on the library extensions, junior common room and bursary at Keble College. Director Tom Ashmore received the award from Princess Margaret at Goldsmith's Hall.

Kingerlee were active members during this period of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, with Tom Ashmore and Tony Woodward each being president of the Federation's local association.



Since then Kingerlee have won a huge number of awards for both construction and joinery. Most recently and notably in 2015, the Flinthouse (above), built on the Waddesdon Estate for Lord Rothschild, won the RIBA Grand Designs House of the Year.

The Kingerlee business is all about people and the company has been fortunate to employ many loyal and long serving individuals over the years. The picture right shows Tony White, Bill Freeman and Norman Wright cheering the receipt of long service awards in December 1989. Tony had worked for the firm for 50 years, Bill for 49 and Norman for 43.

Below right is Mick Jordon who has worked in the joinery workshop for 48 years.

Many employees have followed family members into the business: construction manager Tim Horn (below left) has worked for Kingerlee for 35 years, having followed his grandfather Ron and father Roy into the company. Tim's stepson Tom Heasley also works for Kingerlee as a quantity surveyor.

Other long-serving current employees include:

Stephen Parsons – site labourer – 43 years

Graham Baker – joinery machinist – 38 years

Michael Pearce – site manager – 37 years

Darren Williams – multi skilled operative – 33 years

Mick Wells – site manager – 23 years

Chris Smith – site manager – 23 years

Darren Friend – labourer – 20 years

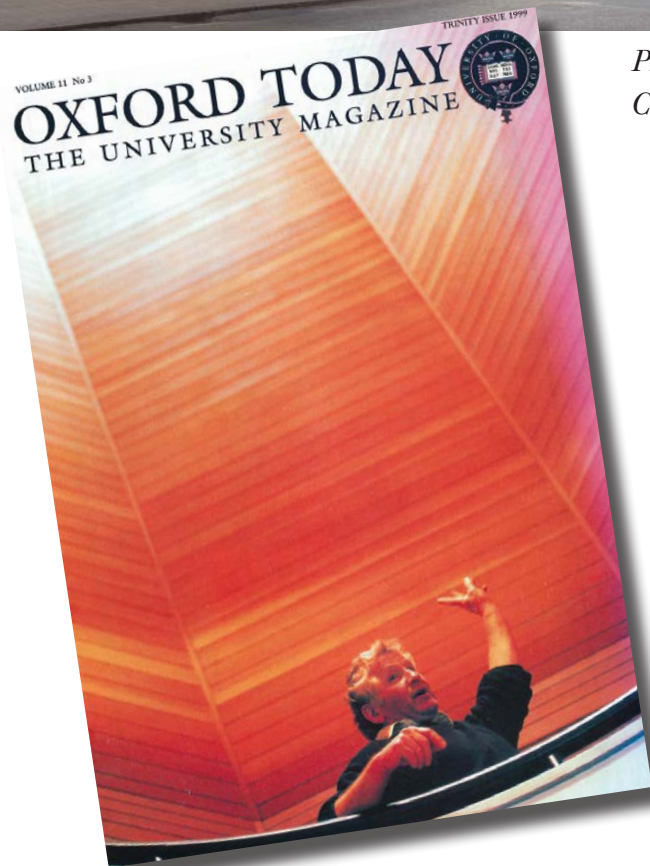




In 1988 Kingerlee built the BBC Radio Oxford studios in Summertown (left). The interior required a very high standard of acoustic finish, which was carried out so successfully that it led to more work for the BBC at Radio Reading. Kingerlee still has an interest in the BBC Radio Oxford building as it is now owned by Highcroft Investments PLC, part of Kingerlee Holdings.

The early 1990s saw Kingerlee take on an unusual project at Rose Hill in south Oxford, a large city housing scheme called Single Tree, of a type not carried out by the company for many years. The project was complicated and supply chain difficulties cost the company significantly, but much was learned.

In 1995 Kingerlee built the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building for St Hilda's College in Oxford (below). The building was tested for acoustic performance and achieved exceptionally high standards, the first time newly-introduced acoustic testing had been carried out on a Kingerlee project. A large amount of joinery was produced and the picture below left shows joinery manager, Dennis Hedges, on the front cover of the University Magazine talking about the joinery element of this impressive building.



Photograph by Ryan Cowan



By kind permission of St Hilda's College

Chairman Tom Kingerlee and directors David Tolson and Tom Ashmore (left to right, below left) all retired in 1991. David Tolson died at the Beaumont Nursing Home at Boars Hill on 20 October 2013 aged 91. Tom Kingerlee (below right, with his wife Janice) died in hospital less than two weeks later, also aged 91.





Tom's second son Jonathan took over the running of Kinglerlee Ltd following his father's retirement in 1991. Jonathan was a founder member of the Good Homes Alliance, a trade association for property developers and housing associations committed to improving the standard of new-build homes. He was also a passionate sailor and a keen glider pilot. He led the family firm for over twenty years until his unexpected death in 2015 at the age of 55. His younger brother David, and cousin Richard Wilsdon, now head up the company.

In 1999 Kingerlee moved to new purpose-built premises at Langford Locks in Kidlington which now house the head office, joinery division and plant workshop.



Since the move to Kidlington the profile of the business has grown, leading to a number of major projects. These include office and residential developments at the former Morrell's Brewery site and the Stream Edge site in St Thomas's in Oxford (below right), Barcote Park in Buckland, Lechlade Manor (above right), and Shaftesbury Hall, Cheltenham (below).



In 2001 Michael Puttick (below centre) joined Kingerlee and became Joint Managing Director alongside Tony Woodward (below right), with Jonathan Kingerlee (below left) as Chairman.

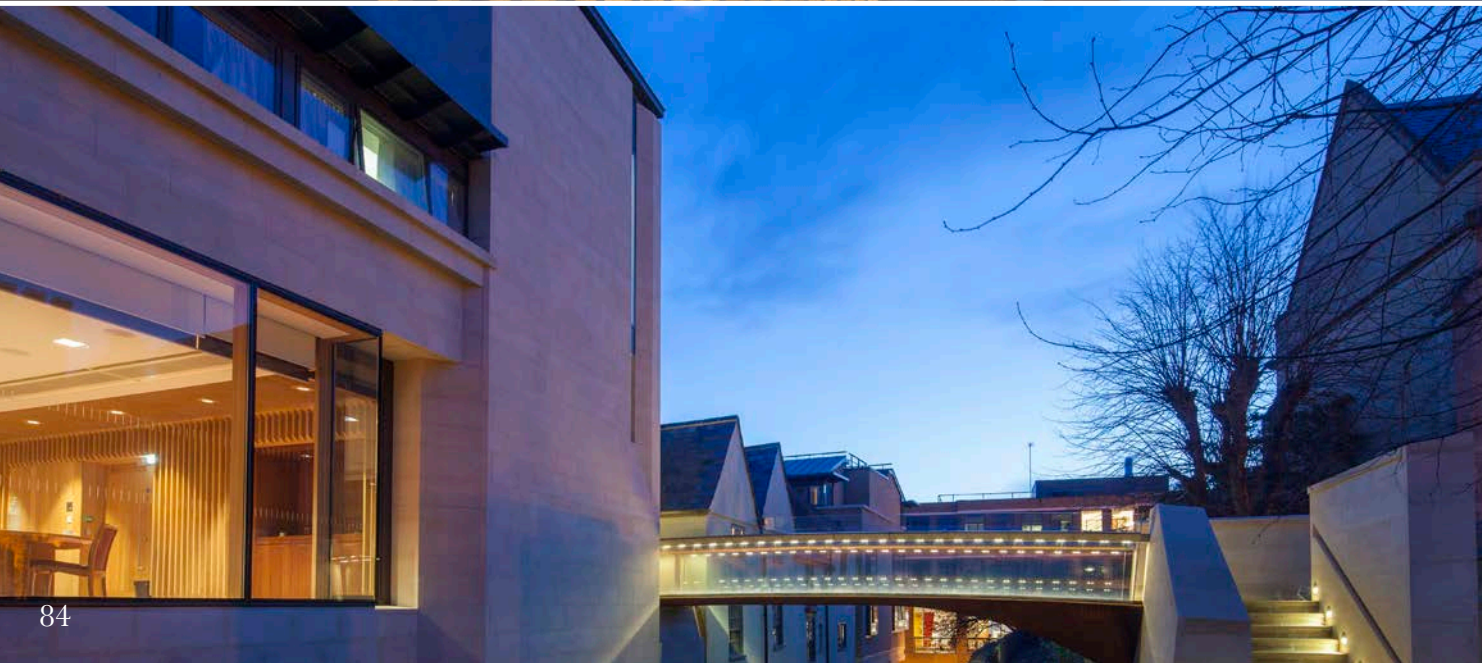




Clive Wiggins (in the centre of the back row above) joined Kingerlee in 1978 as a quantity surveyor, before taking on the estimating role. He was made a director in 1988 and has now been heading up the estimating department for thirty years whilst still maintaining a quantity surveying function. He is now Deputy Managing Director of Kingerlee Ltd and Director of Kingerlee Homes. Also pictured above in 2001 are Tony Woodward (left, director), Michael Puttick (right, managing director) and Jonathan Kingerlee (centre front, chairman).

Major residential and mixed developments in Oxford were the catalyst for the growth of the construction business portfolio, which led to larger projects from 2001 onwards, including those for the Rothschild Foundation (top left), St John's College (right), Pembroke College (bottom left) and a number of significant school projects and bespoke private houses.

Photographs - bottom left by Quintin Lake, and top left and right by Chris Honeywell



The Park End Street development in Oxford, 2004, (below right) was the beginning of Kingerlee's move to more sustainable construction methods and environmentally-friendly materials. Kingerlee are founder members of the Good Homes Alliance, an organisation which has been instrumental in raising the standards of post-completion testing of new buildings for energy use and environmental impact.

The Lincoln Grove development at Bladon (below centre) was a pioneering project in terms of sustainability and energy use which led to Kingerlee's involvement in the Prince's Foundation Natural House (below left) at the Building Research Establishment's Innovation Park at Watford.

Photographs left and right by Chris Honeywell



Over recent years Kingerlee Homes have progressed from their 'eco' development agenda to a sustainable, but proven performance-led workload, guided by post-completion testing. Development interests have also covered a larger area with sites in Yorkshire, Birmingham, Droitwich and Bristol, in addition to local projects in Banbury, Sutton Courtenay, Northleach and Brightwell cum Sotwell.



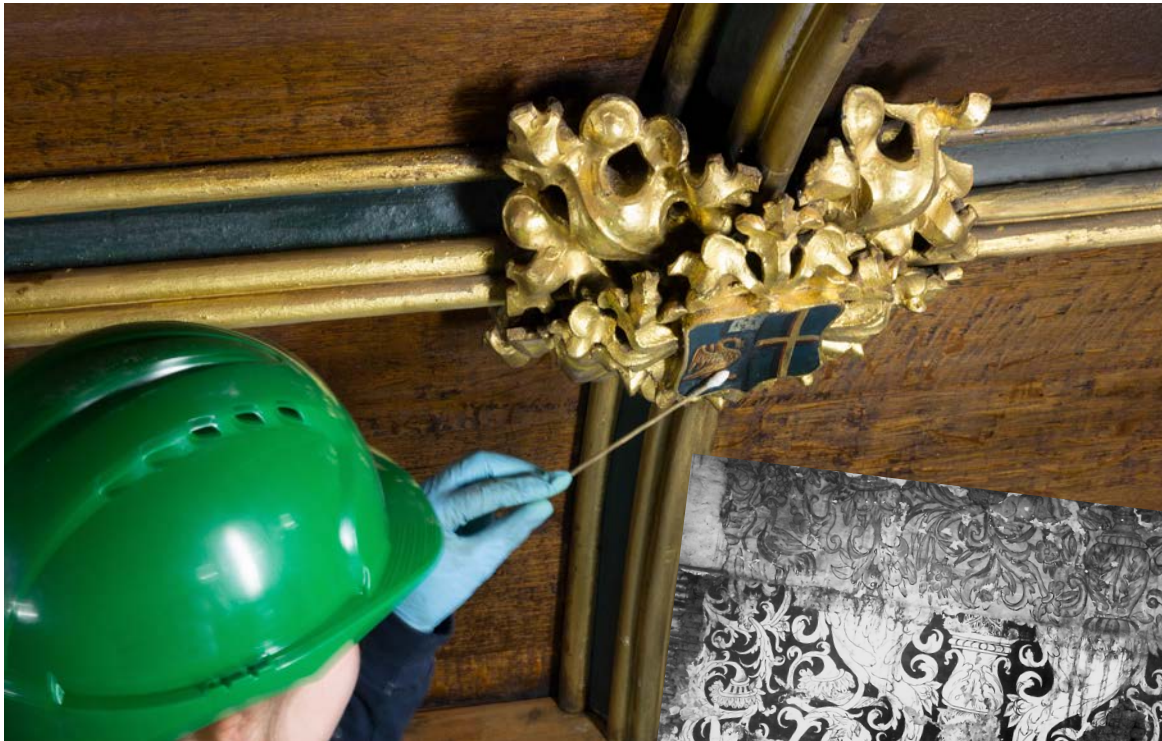
The Kingerlee Homes directors, left to right, Nick Twist, Tony Woodward and David Coates

Photography by Ryan Cowan



150 years is a short time in the history of Oxford but Kingerlee have made conserving the city's heritage a speciality. Kingerlee have carried out a large amount of sensitive restoration and conservation work on many buildings in the Oxford area and the surrounding counties.

In the late 1940s these extraordinary mid-sixteenth-century wall paintings (below centre) were uncovered whilst Kingerlee were working on the Golden Cross Hotel in Oxford. The building now houses Pizza Express and the wall paintings are on public display. Also shown (below left) is the restoration project carried out recently on the chapel at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and (below right) a barn restoration project in Oxfordshire.



Photographs left and right by Chris Honeywell





Kingerlee has a large portfolio of recent work in the education sector, with projects both large and small for schools, colleges and universities.

The relationship between Kingerlee and the University of Oxford and its colleges is well established and ties with the University have further strengthened in the last two decades. Kingerlee have carried out a significant number of high profile projects including those shown here for Lincoln College (top left), The Queen's College (bottom left), St John's College (bottom right), St Anne's College (top right) and Pembroke College (centre).

Photographs - top left by Ryan Cowan, bottom left and bottom right by Chris Honeywell, top right by kind permission of Oxford Architects, centre and facing page by Quintin Lake





Since 2000 Kingerlee's private client residential portfolio and reputation for outstanding quality has grown dramatically, leading to a significant number of bespoke and cutting-edge domestic dwellings.

Images - this page: top left courtesy of Richard Parr Associates, top right by Chris Honeywell, bottom left and right, and facing page by Ryan Cowan





A great many of the projects featured in this book have been strongly supported by Kingerlee's joinery division which has been producing bespoke high quality joinery items for most of the company's 150 year history.

The exact date that Kingerlee began to produce and supply joinery is unknown, but ledgers in our archive show significant amounts of joinery being supplied from the late nineteenth century onwards. Kingerlee still has a thriving joinery workshop which is home to a highly skilled team of craftsmen, many of whom began their careers as apprentices with the firm. The workshop has been overseen by joinery director John Lee since 2008, and specialises in producing high quality, bespoke joinery items which are supplied to clients across the UK. *Photographs by Ryan Cowan*





Since acquiring its earliest vehicles, Kingerlee has had facilities to repair and maintain the company fleet and is still supported by a small team of skilled mechanics and drivers. The team now manages and operates a large fleet of vehicles and plant from workshops based at the Kidlington head office. The workshop team pictured left includes (left to right) Richard Poulter - driver, Mark Pearce - mechanic, Paul Rolston - garage manager, who has worked for Kingerlee for 29 years, Steve Phipps - driver and Ali Browne - mechanic. *Photograph left by Ryan Cowan*





Kingerlee has undertaken some unusual commissions over the years.

Shown below centre is a mausoleum built in 1899 at Finstock Holy Trinity Church. Below right is site manager Terry Rainbow (now retired), putting the finishing touches to an artificial badger sett built during the Lamarsh Road retail park development. (Also shown is one of the badgers which took up residence in the sett.)

(Left) Staff Terry Hart, Jon Halliwell, Keith Shackleton, Paul Rolston and Sam Brown prepare to install an Anthony Gormley statue on the roof of Blackwell's music shop on Broad Street, Oxford, on 15 February 2009, for Exeter College.



Photographs far left by Chris Honeyweell, centre top by kind permission of Amanda Peters, below centre courtesy of Andrew Harrington, below right by Keith Shackleton

Kingerlee have a long history of charitable giving, going back to the founder of the firm Thomas Henry Kingerlee who was a strong supporter of charities including the 'Committee for securing in Oxford out-relief for the deserving and aged poor in suitable cases'.

Since 2015 Kingerlee have nominated a charity of the year and held numerous events to raise funds. We donated a portakabin to 2015 charity of the year StyleAcre to create much needed additional office space (below right).

In 2017 Kingerlee raised funds for Maggie's Centre, an Oxford charity which supports people with cancer and their families. Staff bought Easter eggs, held raffles and sweepstakes, sold cakes and donned Christmas jumpers. Other employees took part in sponsored walks, runs, cycle rides and even a fire walk!

In 2018 Kingerlee are supporting the Oxford Children's Hospital.







Whilst our ties with the Oxford area are strong, we now operate within a 75 mile radius from our head office, with joinery work being carried out even further afield.

2018 sees us looking back but also looking forward with the appointment of a new Managing Director, Darren Arekion (above right), who has over 30 years of experience in the industry. Darren will be taking over from Michael Puttick (Managing Director Kingerlee Limited - above centre) and Tony Woodward (Managing Director Kingerlee Homes Limited - above left), both of whom are retiring, Michael after 17 years with Kingerlee and Tony after 42 years.

We are excited about the future. Having successfully navigated our way through the last century and a half, the ambition of the company has not changed and we will strive to continue to carry forward our reputation for high quality construction without losing sight of our heritage and values.

Photograph above left by Ryan Cowan

Left - the 2018 Kingerlee board of directors. Back row l-r: Clive Wiggins (deputy managing director), Colin Botton (commercial director), Glynn Biggins (construction director), Paul Hardy (construction director), David Warlow (financial director). Front row l-r David Kingerlee (chairman), Michael Puttick (managing director). Photograph by Ryan Cowan



Cover images

Top row, left to right: The Pichette Auditorium at Pembroke College – Quintin Lake; George and Percy at Wolvercote Papermill – from the Kinglerlee archives; Abingdon School Science Centre site – Ryan Cowan; St Aldate’s Tavern, 108 St Aldate’s – Ryan Cowan; St Anne’s College new library – courtesy of Oxford Architects; Wilberforce Temperance Hotel – Ryan Cowan; staircase by Kinglerlee joinery – Ryan Cowan; Pressed Steel – from the Kinglerlee archives; private house – Ryan Cowan; St Luke’s church, Cowley (now the Oxfordshire History Centre) – Ryan Cowan; The Rokos Quad at Pembroke College – Quintin Lake; Electricity Station, Arthur Street, New Osney – Ryan Cowan

Bottom row, left to right: roof trusses by Kinglerlee joinery – Ryan Cowan; Abbey Road houses – Ryan Cowan; private house – Ryan Cowan; Ruskin College, Walton Street (now part of Exeter College) – Ryan Cowan; The Kendrew Quadrangle at St John’s College – Chris Honeywell; Frank Cooper’s Marmalade Factory - reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: D210145a; The Garden Building at Lincoln College – Ryan Cowan; Thomas Henry Kinglerlee as Mayor – from the Kinglerlee archives; Corpus Christi Chapel – Matt Livey; The New Theatre, Oxford - reproduced by permission of Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire History Centre, ref: D252162a; staircase at D’Overbroecks, 333 Banbury Road, Oxford – Chris Honeywell; BBC Radio Oxford in Summertown – Ryan Cowan



Many thanks to all Kingerlee staff and former staff, family and other associates who have contributed and made this book possible.





ISBN 978-1-5272-2378-3



Kingerlee Ltd, Thomas House, Langford Locks, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 1HR
tel 01865 840000 • web www.kingerlee.co.uk

