

Houses of Hyde

by Richard Davis, February 2026

Hyde House Cottage

Believed to be a 17th century weaver's cottage. In 1781 it was probably owned by Samuel Whitmore of Hyde Court, together with the field on the left called "Medlicotts" where there was a spring for the cottage's use. By 1830 it was occupied by Mary Beard, a spinner, and in 1841 by an agricultural labourer, Samuel Hitchings and his family.

It later became part of the Hyde House estate. When it was sold separately in 1962, the field to the right known as "Home Close" (where the arboretum and horse enclosure are) became part of the cottage.

The Walled Garden

In his will of 1719 Daniel Clutterbuck left to his son Daniel "all my physick books all my other Books and the rest of my plate my Watch stone ring Gun pistols swords and canes". This suggests that he grew medicinal plants as well as fruit and vegetables in his walled garden. The substantial wall could date from his time. Plans show a hot house against the north wall (facing south). Previous owners found a brick air duct for heating the wall in this location. In 1820 the garden was "planted with the most choice selection of Fruit Trees". In 1873, it had "strawberry and asparagus beds, vineyards heated by stoves also a brick-built Melon Pit". The property was separated from Hyde House in 1964.

Hyde House

Owned for 150 years by the Clutterbuck family. Built by Daniel Clutterbuck, a London attorney, between 1709 and 1715. His will of 1719 refers to "my new dwelling house". He left it to his son Edmund, also an attorney, who married into the Sheppard family. On his death in 1778 it passed to his brother Thomas who let it. The freehold passed down the family to captain Daniel Hugh Clutterbuck who was injured in the Charge of the Light Brigade. He sold it in 1869 to Joseph Bowstead, a brilliant mathematician who became a senior inspector of schools. In the Edwardian era the house was leased to the Legh family: Alice Legh won the national ladies' archery championship 23 times. The house itself was subdivided in 1958.



Thomas Clutterbuck
(Hornby Castle, Yorkshire)

*Snowdrops at Hyde 2026 in
aid of Horsfall House*

Ivy Cottage

Probably a mid-17th century cottage. It was purchased by Miles Beale of Hyde Court from the executors of John Faux, a maltster, in 1798. The deed records that it had a separate malt-house, as well as gardens and a stable. The malting business continued in the 19th century: it was let to a Joseph Weare in 1839, and a Charles Gobey from Bisley in 1864, both of whom were maltsters. The cottage was probably owned by Charles Wood "of Lower Hide, yeoman" whose probate inventory of 1699 mentions a malt-house. He could well be a descendant of the Charles Woods who was granted a copyhold in 1638 of "one messuage & yard of land att Hyde" for his life.

Hyde Court

A "Hyde Courte" on this site was conveyed by a deed of 1567 by a blacksmith, Philip Chamber, to his son. In 1658 the freehold was acquired by John Gearing one time Master of the Grocers' Company, who bequeathed it to his nephew Richard Pinfold, whose monument is in Minchinhampton church. His son Richard built the present house in about 1675 but ran out of money and sold it to John Deane, a physician. It was bought in 1748 by Samuel Whitmore, a clothier who owned Wimberley Mill at the bottom of Knapp Lane, who in turn left it to his great-nephew Miles Beale, an ancestor of Gladys Beale. It was let as a boarding school for young ladies from the 1830s until 1869 when the Beales returned. The watercolour above was probably painted in the early 1870s (from a Beale family album). Substantial renovations in about 1885 united the original range to the building on the right (now Hyde End).

Dorothea Beale, principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College for nearly 50 years, spent her holidays here, and was often seen riding her tricycle. Her brother Henry, an engraver and advocate for the deaf, was the last of the family to live in the house, moving to The Yews at Blue Boys in 1919. The house was subdivided in 1948.



Watercolour of Hyde Court c. 1870s

Hyde End

Hyde End may well be the site of the original Hyde Court. It was built in about 1790 by Miles Beale as a wool and yarn loft. These were stored on one floor; the other was probably used as a workshop for shearing and pressing the cloth. He also owned a cottage for picking and sorting the wool. On his death in 1814, the wool loft was converted into stables, with stalls for two horses, a loose box, and a harness room. The stalls were still there in 1946 when the house was surveyed after being occupied during the war by the Air Ministry. There was also a coach-house in the courtyard. In the Edwardian period the coachman Job Sollars doubled as gardener and grew all the fruit and veg for the family. The upper floor was used for billiards and servants' rooms.

Snowdrops at Hyde 2026 in aid of Horsfall House