

🌀 Foreword 🌀

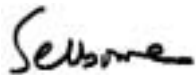
Finmere's association with Selborne in Hampshire began with Roundell Palmer, my great-great-grandfather. He was son of William Jocelyn Palmer, a kindly Rector who dominated village life in Finmere and Mixbury during the first half of the nineteenth century. Writing anonymously in the History of Mixbury by James Charles Blomfield, Roundell described his father as:

A wise, patient and loving pastor among his people. There was not one of the young or old, whom he did not personally know well, or whose conduct of character he did not study... He kept his eye on everybody; and, when any went wrong, he watched for his opportunities to do them good; seldom, if ever, giving up even the worst... He was a good neighbour and a fast friend, and by nature sociable... [and] lived plainly and simply.

After Oxford, Roundell practised law and was elected to Parliament. He was appointed Lord Chancellor and took the title Lord Selborne after his Hampshire estate in 1872 and The Earl of Selborne ten years later. As well as many good works at Blackmoor, near Selborne, Roundell maintained his links with Finmere, contributing to its charities and the church.

Roundell recognised the importance of local history, and wrote a section on Roman remains for an edition of Gilbert White's Natural History of Selborne. Blomfield quoted from this famous work in his History of Finmere, maintaining the association between Selborne and Finmere.

Local history makes an important contribution to rural life, where today new commuters rub shoulders with the established agricultural community. I am pleased to continue the link established between our parishes by my great-great grandfather by contributing this foreword.



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