

190 YEARS AGO

Extract from a document found in the Bodleian Library  
by a resident of Shipton

An intended Association for the Protection  
of the Parishes of Shipton and Ascott

At a Meeting

of the Vicar and principal Inhabitants of Shipton and the  
chief of it's Hamlets, together with the Parish of Ascott  
annexed (holden on the ninth Day of May 1790 - at the  
Crown Inn - at Shipton) it was unanimously resolved -

That We - the loyal and dutiful subjects of His  
Majesty King George, and true Friends of our happy  
Constitution both in Church and State - think it our Duty  
in this Time of a threatened Invasion by our ancient -  
implacable - and unprincipled Enemy - the French - to  
guard against all internal Disturbances within our  
granted Reach - which may be raised or encouraged by the  
perfidious and plundering Promoters thereof.

That in our opinion - the properest and most effect-  
tual Way of doing this - is to associate ourselves (at  
our own Expence, if we can only be provided in Part with  
Arms) in a military Corps - to keep the Foes of our  
Constitution (if any should discover themselves to us)  
in becoming Awe, in case of such actual Invasion, and  
indeed whilst we continue to be threatened therewith,  
and of course - to defend our own and our neighbours  
Property and Persons - from every kind of Rapine and  
Injury - the projected and expected Consequences of  
such alarming and such criminal Confusion.

That we therefore most chearfully undertake the  
Defence of all the above places, and if necessary - any  
adjoining Parishes; but we beg Leave to promise or  
engage no further - though in the extremity of things -  
we might be dutifully induced to extend our Aid - in  
order (as far as in Us lieth) to enable all the united  
& regular Forces in the Kingdom (without any possible  
call elsewhere) to meet the daring Enemy upon their  
first landing.

(There follow 70 names from Shipton, Milton, Ascott,  
Leafield and Langley).