

SHAMLEY GREEN MATTERS
Michael Harding's Meander – Guildford Road, The Green to Norley Lane

These are Michael's personal notes and reflections. If you own any of the properties mentioned and would like to add, delete or amend any information, please advise Valerie Esplen. With thanks to (Valerie Esplen & Jan Cooper), who undertook the original recording of what Michael said.

MICHAEL'S MEANDER 14 AUGUST 2018 – GUILDFORD ROAD THE GREEN TO NORLEY LANE

Geology

Dropping off the Green's outwash delta and some river terrace remnants onto an area of springs and rises at the base of the Lower Greensand scarp facing is the narrow alluvial valley and swamp through which the Woodill stream flows parallel to the roadside footway. Its course may have been diverted to run behind Orchard Cottage, the Red Lion and Shamley House and on to Brookside where it changes direction via a culvert under the main road to Tilings and into School Wood, where there are signs of a leat into which its flow could have been diverted, to take water across Norley Common and into the storage pond to supplement the waterpower needed to work Wonerish Flour Mill circa 1860-1900. About 30 years ago another diversion took the main flow through the water garden of Hyde Farm. In the swamp non indigenous American Skunk Cabbage plants grow and more recently introduced Gunnera are already well established.

Shamley House* was originally two Cottages and a drayman's wagon shed. In the 1830s John Batchelor was the carrier. (Old legal documents). By 1930 the carrier was Mr Dibley. In the 1890s Mrs Falkener lived there and used to bang on a tin so her Heather grandsons from over the road would fill containers with water for her from the nearby dip hole spring. Other residents included Colonel Stallard, a World War 1 military engineer, Mr Bowstead (MC and bar WWII hero), he was a Wimbledon tennis player, tea planter and Bowstead Company Director (Times Obituary). There was a major fire shortly after Peter and Elizabeth Dzwig moved in, rebuilt tastefully.

Quoin Cottage* extended with five builds, oldest part to be seen is chimney, smaller Flemish bonded bricks. Former house residents included Viscount Hanworth (diplomat and Liberal Peer) and Lady Hanworth (distinguished archaeologist). It is now home of ex Waverley Mayor Pieter Betlem and his wife Doreen.

Timbers* 16th Century open hall with 17th Century chimney. Main residence part of Arthurs smallholding. Dr M Yoxell, a local GP used the wing behind the garage as her surgery. Colin and Sheila Jobson live there now. In their front garden once stood the **Old Chapel**, formerly a smithy then, Non Conformist Chapel and subsequently a carpentry and undertakers workshop, demolished 1920. Legal ownership of its site will take 20 years to reconsolidate

Hilary Cottage. An old barn on what had been part of the Arthurs piggery smallholding and sties, which had supplied M.M. Baker at the village shop Pork butchery 1880-1900 era was demolished in 1930 and replaced by this pre-war infill. It was much extended with garage and rooms above when the Stanley family took up residence

Esna Cottages North and South (subsequently updated) In the 1930-40s era George Bushby who previously ran the Village shop in Wonersh lived in the North Side with his daughter Cis, a children's Nanny to the Blacker family of Pasture Wood. Dr Blacker was a respected Harley Street psychologist awarded a George Cross for live saving work during the London Blitz. At Esna South the extension created an early example of a car port.

Opposite. the **Dip Hole** spring was the main drinking water supply and WW2 Emergency water holding tank, now well hidden by vegetation.

Map section 1 (Little Cottage since replaced by two separate residences.)



Hyde Farm* A fine 18th Century farm house and older barn. Three generations of the Swayne family were tenants of Lord Grantley. Mrs and Miss Shadbolt pre and post war. Mrs Talbot Willcox (sen) mother in law of Jennie (Little Tew). The Newtons suggested an inappropriate development plan for many houses, affordable but wanted a private development of equal size, so not taken up. Its barn was used as a squash court, now

accommodation. Recent owners the Dickensons kept themselves to themselves. The most unique feature is a brick lined outdoor threshing floor.

Lake Cottage* 15th Century cottage with early extensions, chamfered joists, lamb tongue stops, carpenters marks. The oldest part can only be seen from the rear, and its curtilage has been much diminished by creating other plots over the years. Previous residents included W.O. Bentley and his wife who lived there from 1946 and subsequently in a small chalet to its rear until his death, a great aero and motor engineer. The Nesbitt twins were involved in a shipping line that went to New Zealand; they married twin girls. The family moved to Fittleworth. Current owner Nic and his late wife Hazel Russell-Davis. One of their dogs won its class at Crufts.

Edwardian semi detached brick cottages called 1 and 2 Lake Cottages Dennis and Winifred (Win) Manfield live in one of the pairs.

Garden Close, a farm gate originally provided access to Hughes' fields. Mr Hughes had been Lord Grantley's bailiff. In 1947 pre-fabricated one storey homes were erected here as we will see later.

Shamley Lodge, Ken Scott and his wife Maise née Punter lived there. He was at Dunkirk, landing on D Day in Normandy and served in the 8th Army in the Queens 1939-1946. Ken built the floral wall which is still maintained by his daughter Elaine Lock.

Pippins, George Wood, a WWI verteran married Mr Hughes daughter, grandmother of John Wood. He built his bungalow in 1920 calling it Ramrath after a Rhineland village where he had served in the Post WWI allied occupation. After he moved to his son's home in Sweetwater Lane in 1950 he took the Ramrath name with him. The new owners changed the name to **Pippins**. It was demolished 10 years ago and two houses built on the land, one still called Pippins (Michael and Cherry Le Grey) and the other Well Cottage as the original well was within its curtilage.

Stowe is still a bungalow where Mr and Mrs Mann let rooms for consulting to Dr Bell-Nicoll the Wonersh GP. She was a sister of 100 year old Mrs Starsmore late of Hullmead. Extended by Michael Grant who set up CW Radios, TV aerial makers in Cranleigh.

See Map section 2

Brookside and Radio House Walter (Wally) Sayers had son also called Wally. Righthand house was Radio House – people would take their acid batteries to be charged and topped up. Left one Brookside had cobblers workshop in front of it. Two sons and two daughters, one of which was Hetty Sayers dressmaker and WW1 Nurse. One son took over father's cycle and tobacco shop. The other son branched out into the electrical business. It had an Art Deco shop front. The father of Thelma Hedger née Sayers ran the electrical shop, she still lives there as a private residence. The Woodhill stream flows in front of these properties before being culverted under the main road.

Opposite is the main entrance to the Nursery Hill Estate with a bus shelter on the verge in front of mature oaks marking the old field boundary.

In the 1790s Lord Grantley re-routed the main road to avoid the public road going through his Park and Mill. He also straightened its new route in front of the old cottages on the right of which the first is **Quill Cottage*** a timber framed building, now brick faced and tile hung. Opposite is **Tilings**, a Goff built house and next to which is **Appletrees**. Initially this was a dairy bottling distribution centre run by the Lock farming family. It then became a post office before that moved to a purpose built location by the Forge. It was then converted into a private residence. Edna Thompson 1st Chairman, who initiated our History Society in 1980, lived here to a great age. Recently much extended.

Map section 2



Highway Cottage 1980 replacement of The Bungalow. Note the Tulip tree. Mr Smith was a librarian, Mrs Smith was a kleptomaniac (took things). Queenie Green lived there, followed by the current resident Sylvia Lane.

Flanders Cottages Post WW1 Homes for Heroes – but so called because of many Belgian nursery workers. No 1 George Thompson HMS Belfast WW2 wife Muriel, father and mother of Denis from Dods.

Back on the righthand side of the main road **Watts Cottage*** 1590s Hung tiles two colours early photo shows only one colour are bullnosed tiles, fossilized hiproof, hidden by extensions. Timber framed building.

Lavender Cottage* and **Old Well Cottage***, originally one house, now two, both timber framed buildings. 1590 large workroom for wool industry, the chimney was intruded later. Original road ran in a sweeping curve close to the front of cottages.

1 and 2 Rose Cottages* built post 1790 consequent to road straightening. Window features early sash, bottom fixed, only top opens; Charlie Brooking says they are unique. No 1 was recently extended but in keeping. Long time occupants the Elliott family and Lynn Lawton. Hyde sandstone with brick quoining

Wistaria Cottage*(note odd spelling) had a beer house in garden. Former Headquarters of Virgo's nursery business, Victorian plantsman. Flemish workers slept in bothy attic above large potting shed. Virgo descendant now live in Canada. Sandstone with brick quoining with stabling. An example of a brewhouse. Many workers were in part remunerated in kind with beer or ale. Well water can become contaminated and it was considered safer to drink boiled water or ale.

Dods Cottage* – Timber framed with brick infill and extensions. Originally Derrys wood estate game keeper's home of that name who had two children in early 1900 who attended the village school. Now the home of Denis and Janet Thompson, who welcomed us into their grounds to view the fish ponds and stables/garages and get a close up view of some remains of the wattle and daub which would have originally filled the gaps between the timber framework. Much has subsequently been filled in with more durable brickwork.

Corner Cottage first left in School Lane. House built and owned by Community Trust in 1930s to house District Nurses. Trustees included Miss Wedgewood and Ann the wife of Murray Campbell (Bramley). Rent income used for maintenance, maybe the Trust still involved.

Holly House (first right in School Lane) built 15 years ago to replace **Peaceful Place** (1920-1988) which was an old world war green painted munitions hut, relocated from Chilworth Powder Mill. Jacob Earl lived there and threw apples over fence for children to catch and eat. He was leader of Cokelers. Later Norman Booker, wife Wyn and adopted daughter Phillis lived in Peaceful Place, when they died the daughter sold up. It was pulled down and Holly House built circa 1980.

Further down on the right **Little Orchard** was built as a substantial infill early in the 1930s. It has a much older barn to the rear of its curtilage.

Pellgate 1890s built for Virgos Victorian gardeners, nurserymen. (Dene House was built for the other Virgo brother and was identical) One recent owner, Miss Wedgewood held a large amount of legal documents about it. Next door is a set back 1980s infill called **Mercury Lodge**.

Lea Crouch* Once the home of the Tamworths, Manager of the leather mill on Northbrook (Derryswood). Two bay open hall late 14th Century, later the home of the Asprey family. Oldest continuously owned residential buildings in Surrey. Many good timber framed features and Horsham stone roofing.

On the left beyond Holly House are a line of 1920s detached houses and former bungalows, plus one recent 2020s infill under construction. These end at the older timber framed **Bay Tree***, former home of Pam Leadham, horse rider in the 1947 pageant on Norley Common. She also owned the field bordering Norley Common which was donated to the Donkey Sanctuary charity. They sold it as an equestrian holding, In the 1930s it has been a nursery growing flowers and vegetables.

Norley Common was the site of an October Charter Fair for lamb sales 1600-1800s now much wooded and swampy.

On the wide verge adjacent to Bay Tree, close to the post box, there used to be a wooden framed pound for stray animals. At the cross roads is the large white stuccoed **Poundlands**, close to which in Norley Lane is **Poundlands Lodge Farm**, which now also has a Farm Shop.

Norley Farm was the home of Mr Grayburn in the 1930-40s era, who issued gas masks to residents and fire fighting equipment to wardens (sand buckets and styrup pumps).

Wonersh and Shamley C of E School built 1840 on land owned by Lord Onslow, probably for a peppercorn rent, adjacent to Common land. Former Headmaster Mr Ellis used the field to teach farming skills using rabbits, goats, lambs and chickens. Oldest part of building has had its old Gothic windows replaced by modern rectangular ones. Modern extensions include a big modern eight classroom block and school hall which had to be built on stilts with a concrete platform base on top of multiple layers of peat (nine feet deep) developed over hundreds of years. On its land Castle Nursery and School House stands and these provide very useful supplementary income. In years gone by the stream running through the wood was dammed and used as a swimming pool. After being an infant 5-9 school it now takes children up to 11 years of age. Originally an all age school where leaving ages rose from 12 to 15 over the years.

Attached to the 1840s school building was the Headmaster's **School House**; but post war staff did not like living in tied accommodation so it was let by school trustees. A public footpath abuts the school playground, behind **Flanders Cottages**, the six 1920 "homes for heroes".

We crossed the stream into **Nursery Hill** where five affordable homes have been built. The main estate of bungalows and various houses built 1947-56 on post war blackcurrant fields. Now many privately owned, some still council owned.

Garden Close originally provided access to Hughes' fields (*see above*). In 1947 Hambledon Rural District Council acquired the field to erect an estate of Canadian manufactured pre-fabricated houses in an attempt to overcome the post war housing shortage. In 1976 the prefabs were demolished, originally intended as homes for 10 years, they lasted 30 years. They were replaced by bungalows and small terraced homes for the elderly with a Community Room.

The pathway to Sweetwater Lane passing **Farley** has a wall of recycled breeze block, originally used for a large garage where Mr Avenell kept his van. He lived on the opposite side of Sweetwater Lane at Easteds. His son Lesley had a pigeon loft in back garden of Farley. The adjoining semi was originally the village policeman's house. Both have been extended.

Sweetwater Cottage Built as infill in 1980's for Mr and Mrs Vivian Brown on land that was kitchen garden of Arthurs. To create a driveway the listed workshop, previously used by W. Sayers (see Brookside, mentioned earlier), had to be relocated to form part of Arthurs boundary wall. Its garden contains a well from which water was drawn to irrigate the original kitchen garden of Arthurs.

Arthurs Cottage* was originally a timber framed store converted to residential use for local domestic staff, subsequently sold off separately to the late Mr Simon Cummings of Radio fame.

The Waverley Cottage, originally called Sweetwater Cottage, was much extended by Mr Burgess known for disputes with the cricket club in the 2005-10 era.

Note* denotes a listed building

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