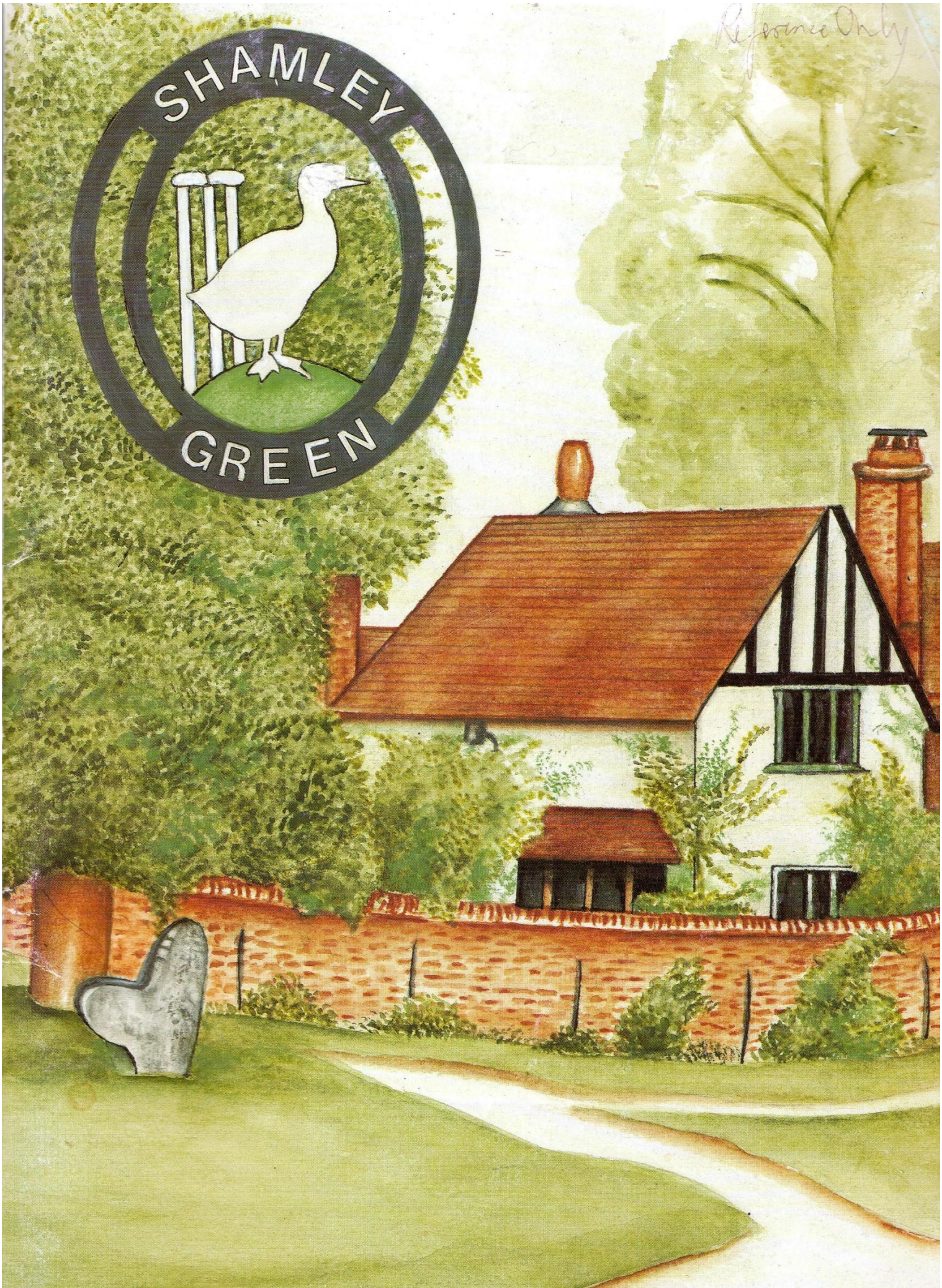
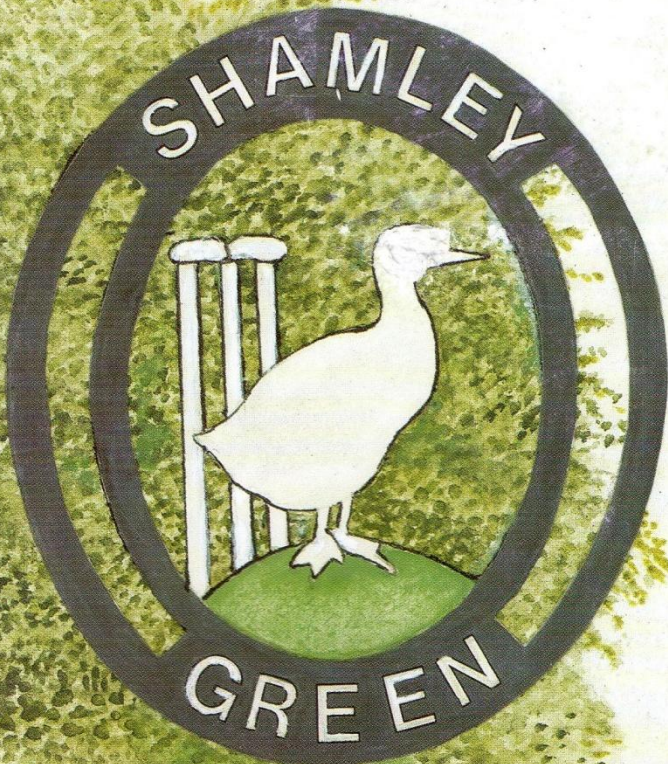


Reference Only



SHAMLEY GREEN

A History of the Village

by

THE SHAMLEY GREEN HISTORY SOCIETY



"A village that does not know its own history may
be likened to a man who has lost his memory".

Anon.

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The original version was published in 1993 and was the work of an editorial team (Rosemary Derby, Susan Hope-Jones, Marion May, Diana Yeats, Betty Laws and Michael Harding). This version remains true to the original apart from some technical corrections. It reflects the world as seen in 1993.

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INTRODUCTION

This is the story of Shamley Green, a beautiful village in the district of Waverley in the county of Surrey. It is situated midway between the County town of Guildford and the large village of Cranleigh. It is bordered in the east by Blackheath and Farley Heath and in the west by the Cranleigh Water branch of the River Wey.

Shamley Green, or Shamele as it was first referred to in a taxation list of 1332, consisted of a collection of small farms and houses forming a hamlet that was part of the Parish of Wonersh, in Blackheath Hundred. It was also known by other names such as Shambles (1544), Shameleigh (1548), Shamley Greene (1604), Shambley (1607), Shamley (1690) and Shemley Green (1729).

To help us understand how the name evolved it is necessary to study its derivation. Differences in spelling were not unusual and according to the English Place - Name Society it is a compound of Old English "Sceamel" and "leah". The meaning of O.E. "Sceamel" is a bench or table. In German "Scheme!" means a ridge, bank or the like. While the name endings of the earliest phase of Anglo-Saxon settlement were "ing", "ton" and "ham", a "ley" or clearing indicated second phase subsidiary settlement. The Lords Hill area of the village in the Place Names of Surrey is Lordeleshill in 1565 and Loddeleshill in 1589. On an old map of 1640 the area is marked Parsons Common, then in 1768 Holy Common, 1793 Lodge Hill Common and in 1816 Lords Hill Common.

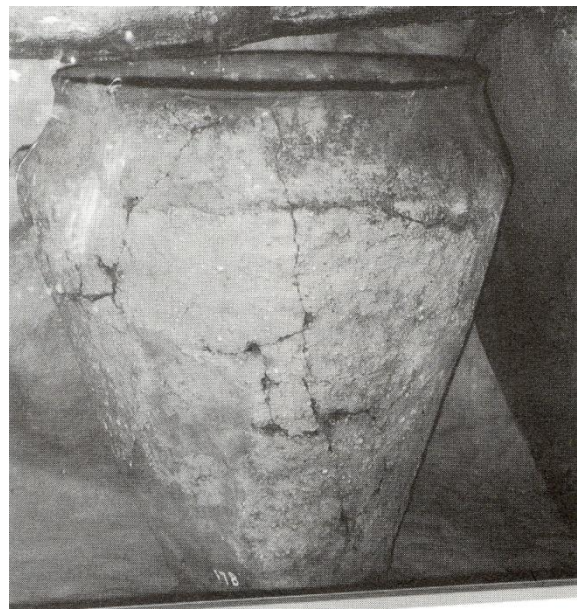
Shamley Green has a wealth of old timbered framed buildings. Most of these houses are now listed buildings and have been recorded by the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey). The names of a few of them can be traced back to the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. For example Haldish Farm was Havelders in 1228 (Calendar Rolls), Reel Hall Farm is La Ryhull in 1272 (Assize Rolls). Some are derived from owners names. For example Hyde Farm, the home of "Robert ate (at) Hide", Longacre of "Hugo de Langenacre", Hulihatch and Hullbrook "William ate Hulle" (1332 Surrey Rolls). Even twentieth century houses have been built and named for different reasons. In 1965 Gerard and Lydia Talbot Smith bought a recently closed

children's home called Oakhurst, formerly a chicken farm, with an overgrown garden in Stroud Lane. On completion of their task they renamed it Stroud Folly. In 1992 a new house built in the grounds of Summerden for the retirement of Sir Douglas and Lady Morpeth has been named Winterden.

In 1851, according to the Census Return of that year, there were six hundred households. By 1891, there were approximately eight hundred people. Today Shamley Green has a population of just over two thousand.

* * * * *

Archaeological finds in the area suggest that there was an occupation in Romano-British times. Many Roman coins were found between 1914 and 1918 opposite Pellgate in the Guildford Road. A second century coin was found at Green Lane (Frere 1946).



A Romano-British Burial Urn

At Holmcroft Nursery in Green Lane a Romano-British burial urn was found and is now in Guildford Museum. In 1954 Mr. Bunting, farm manager at Hullbrook Farm, found a large flaked flint axe in a field there. While field walking since 1977 on land either side of the River Wey near Shamley Green Ian Williams found Romano-British pottery and a Romano-British brooch. In total about one hundred and fifty shards of Roman pottery were found. These were mainly

manufactured at Alice Holt, near Farnham and date from the late 2nd-3rd century A.D. Other fragments derive from Oxfordshire, the New Forest and East Sussex.

The brooch is a "dolphin" type, of copper alloy. The bow tapers to a point, the crossbar survives in part, but the spring, pin and parts of the catchplate are missing. The original hook at the top of the bow had broken off and the brooch had been repaired in antiquity by replacement with a hole drilled through the head of the bow. There is some beaded decoration. The brooch seems to be of an earlier date than the pottery which suggests a possible local settlement site. However, the lack of building material and poor quality and range of the pottery indicates probably no more than a peasant farmstead.

Besides the Romano-British discoveries, the finding locally of many hundreds of prehistoric flint artifacts, dating from the various periods over several thousand years, shows the richness of ancient human occupation in the Shamley Green area.



1871 Silver Bugle

During the Second World War, an evacuee named Dierdrey, who later married Harry Pyle, found a small 1871 bugle in the pond, now dried up, at the bottom of the drive of Cherry Tree Cottage at Lords Hill. It was part of an Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry regimental dinner service. The regiment was stationed briefly in Cranleigh during the First World War. Recently while out walking she found shards of 18th Century pottery which

has been confirmed to have been made in the Ash/Farnborough area.

In 1657, Oliver Cromwell granted a Charter to the village in return for an annual payment of 6s. 8d. to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He granted the charter to Benjamin Weston and William Lewis, Lords of the Manor or Soil of Shamley Green within the Parish of Wonersh. This allowed the villagers the right to hold a fair and market yearly on St. Barnabas Day 11th June and St. Lukes Day 18th October or the following day if either of these dates was a Sunday, for ever. The Charter was confirmed by Charles II in 1660, shortly after the Restoration. St. Luke's Day Fair was for the sale of cows, horses and sheep. This helped farmers to dispose of surplus livestock before the winter fodder shortages.

There was a landowner called Benjamin Weston living at Sutton and Walton-on-Thames and a William Lewis (History & Antiquities of the County of Surrey - Manning and Bray Volume II). There is a plaque and memorial to William Lewis's son in Kingston Church. Perhaps these two gentlemen were the recipients of the Charter.

In the 17th and 18th centuries Shamley Green was still an isolated hamlet. Only tracks joined it to Wonersh; along these, after 1683 children walked to and from school each day. Their fathers walked many miles to work. It was predominantly an agricultural area. William Cobbett in his "Rural Rides" on 8th August, 1823 crossed the Wey and Arun canal at Run Common. He observed that only three things grew well in the Weald of Surrey, namely grass, wheat and oak trees.

It is difficult for us to realize the extremes of poverty which existed right up to the Second World War. Surrey was not a wealthy county in earlier times as it is today. Agricultural labourers received a pittance wage and had large families to feed and clothe. Some relief was available from bequeathed funds such as Smiths Charity. In the early 19th century the punishment for poaching a rabbit or stealing a sheep could be life imprisonment or deportation. It is no wonder that tales of

smuggling activities abounded. With the growth of free trade, excise duties were gradually lowered and as workers wages increased smuggling declined. The reference to smuggling recalls to mind a poem by Rudyard Kipling. In the "Just So Stories" he also mentions Shamley. The first line of the poem reads "There runs a road by Merrow Down" and the fifth verse is as follows:-

*Then beavers built in Broadstonebrook
And made a swamp where Bramley stands;
And bears from Shere would come and look
For Taffimai where Shamley stands.*

VILLAGE LIFE AND EVENTS

Even after a hard day's work village folk could still find time and energy for their favourite form of recreation.

Undoubtedly the sport most associated with the village is cricket, which has been played on the Green since 1840. Even during the 1939/45 war, air-raid warnings permitting, the game still continued, although in one season the team managed to devastate the surrounding area by smashing four windows, a few roof tiles and the window of a stationary bus! Whenever there was a breakage the batsman had to stand a round of drinks for all the players.

Another popular event was the flower show, where at the Cottage Garden Show in 1885 there was friendly rivalry amongst the children in their competition for the prettiest bouquet of wild flowers. However, in the adult section one lady who would have received first prize included a potato flower, so she was



Hospital Saturday Collection Day 5th November, 1898



Cricket Team 1900s



Fete 1989

disqualified! Among the cottagers who won prizes were Mrs. Street, Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Valler; two teapots were donated as prizes by a lady from Wonersh.

As laid down in the Charter of 1657, the highlight of the year was the visit of the annual fair in June. With the passage of time this evolved into a fair with roundabouts, dodgems and swings and continued up until 1990. Once during the 1930s there was a freak snowstorm whereupon a huge snowball was promptly made on the Green. A gentleman with the name of "Tower" Attfield attended the fairs pushing his barrow from Cranleigh laden with winkles and cockles.

All through the 1939-45 War, Jack Holden of the Forrest Stores drove a stake into the ground on Fair Day, 11th June to maintain the right to hold a fair. Since the 1980s, Don Nunneley has organised the village fête on the Green with various organizations taking part.

For the musically minded there was, at the turn of the century, the

Wonersh Fife and Drum Band who collected annually around the villages for the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford; Doug (George) Elliott would dress as a clown and carry the collecting box.

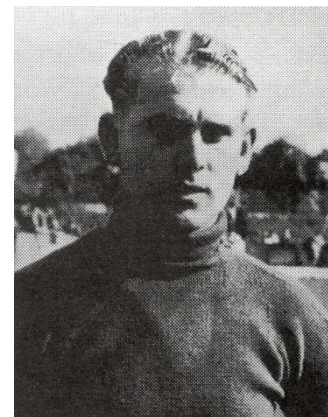


Volunteer Red Cross Nurses
L to R: Mrs. Stent, Miss Sis. Sayers, Mrs Clementson, Mrs Bibby, Miss Jane Valler, Miss Locket, Nurse H. Graham, Mrs A.E. Elliott, Miss Ayling

However life changed considerably for everyone with the onset of the war in 1914, as one hundred and forty four men from the village joined the Forces. Canadian soldiers arrived and were billeted around the Green. Several village ladies joined the Red Cross and helped with the unloading of the wounded at Bramley Station and also nursed at Unstead Park, which was used as a hospital and convalescent home. Soldiers marching to the South Coast stopped on the Green and Locket's



Football Team 1952/3



Sid Stevens



Tug of War Team, "Occy" (Reg) Jarrad (seated left)

Barn (garage) served as a first aid post for the treatment of blisters.

A young boy at that time also remembered seeing a Zeppelin floating over the pine trees in Woodhill Lane. The village children were not forgotten and the Gossage family of Woodlands gave Christmas parties, also trips to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Guildford, followed by tea at Ayers. There was a prisoner of war camp for Germans at the Hallams.

One of the earliest Women's Institutes was started here in 1920. Among their various activities Mrs. Scutt inaugurated a party in the Arbutnot Hall in the 1930s for elderly people from St. Luke's Workhouse in Guildford. More recently annual garden parties have been held in conjunction with Age Concern from Westminster. In 1938 a competition was

held on how to make a dress for 3s. 6d. (17p), which had to include belt, buttons and all trimmings, and then to be modeled by the owner! In August 1980 they won first prize for their handicraft entry entitled "South Pacific" at the annual Cranleigh Show. The W.I. has always welcomed newcomers and their monthly meetings are always enjoyed by members who appreciate the feeling of "belonging" to the village.

For those with strong muscles, the tug of war matches against neighbouring villages were their favourite occupation. "Occy" (Reg) Jarrad, who for over thirty years voluntarily cleared the village of litter, was a keen member of the local team who called

themselves the "Beagles" of Tanyard Farm (Tanyards).

By the late 1920s the football club played on a field just beyond Gristhill Farm. After 1945, they resumed playing on the field opposite Pound Land. Before this transport to away matches was either by bicycle or pony cart until David Hill, one of the first villagers to have motor transport, took the players. The club won the Guildford and District Southern League Cup in 1929, 1930, 1931. Sid Stevens, a goalkeeper, was signed on by Guildford City Football Club, playing from 1953 to 1956.

Any broken ankles or other injuries, would have necessitated a visit to the doctor. Before the village had its resident doctor in 1934, Dr. Graham would take surgery twice a week at the Court House, charging 2s. 6d. (12p) a visit. When Mrs. Cicely Pursey was born, in January 1902, her father had to walk through four feet of snow to Bramley to fetch the doctor. When Dr. Alan McGlashan had his practice at Timbers this greatly benefited the village. Dr. Thomas Yoxall and his wife Dr. Mary then took over the surgery. This finally closed in 1971 and since then patients rely on the group practice based in Wonersh.

For the wealthier residents and holidaymakers, during the 1930s there was a livery stable at Woodhill Farm, rented from the Syms family by Harrison Pyle. Some of their fourteen horses were successful in the Surrey Union Farmer's Hunt Point to Point meetings. The stables closed at the onset of the Second World War but famous clients had included Vic Oliver, Professor C.E.M. Joad and members of Alfred Hitchcock's family.

The "Tumblers" complex nearby has had a chequered history. Shortly before the Second World War there were some farm barns which were converted into the Valley Place Residential Road House with an attractive ballroom, but the enterprise was unsuccessful and only lasted a short time. However during the war when Sid Purkiss was batman to Major R. Fitch Kemp, the Major said that if they were both lucky enough to survive he would take on an hotel and Sid could work for him.

Shortly after the war he contacted Sid to say that he had bought Valley Place and that there was a job and accommodation for Sid and his wife Olive. The hotel was renamed Tumblers after the two tumbler pigeons the Major had purchased which he called Sid and Olive. Among the many visitors in the 1950s were the actor Trevor Howard, the film actress Jean Simmons and other film star friends of Alfred Hitchcock. It was also patronized by pilots from Skyways at Dunsfold Aerodrome. When the Major became more interested in market gardening, he sold the hotel and Sid and his wife later moved to Hullmead.

Diana Loyd, who later married Lord Stonehaven, recalls that in the 1920s when she was a girl at Upper House, the big event in her life was the annual flower show. Don Twine who was a gardener there remembers how much extra work this made for the staff! There were large marquees on the lawn full of fruit and vegetables and homemade wine. Her father would invite various London club friends to do the judging. Once a year the family would invite relatives and friends to stay and play cricket against the local village team.

In the 1930s, the village band was in attendance with "Daisy" Elliott on his "liquorice stick" piccolo, Harold Stevens playing the big drum



Seymour Glew fund raising with Jessie Matthews

and Dixey Batchelor on the mouth organ. The band had many engagements and Seymour

(Sticky) Glew recalled on one occasion when, having played their pieces at Willinghurst and marched a mile down to the gates they realised that they had forgotten to play the "King" so there was nothing for it but to trudge back and produce a rendering, much to the amusements of the residents.



Float, Coronation Day 1937

In 1936 a branch of the British Legion was formed by Colonel Stallard of the Old Vicarage and latterly Shamley House and although an active centre was never established in the village it boasted some eighty members who held their meetings in the Arbuthnot Hall. During the Second World War Tom Greenland, as entertainments officer, promoted dances with "Son" Sayers and his band providing the music, at the Arbuthnot Hall for the Canadians and other troops from Milford. Profit from these dances enabled presents of tobacco to be sent to members serving in the armed forces. Despite five yearly lectures and garden fetes after the war, attendances dwindled. Dane Boustead was Legion Secretary/Chairman for

wet, the villagers celebrated with a procession of floats, including Hullbrook Dairy; Mrs. Gertrude Ellis from the school surrounded by children, as Old Mother Hubbard; the Forrest Stores; and David Hill's motor with the carnival queen and her attendants. An "Old and Young" cricket match was played in period costume.

Little did one realise that in two years time life would change yet again when 135 members of the community served in the armed forces during the 1939-45 War.



Evacuees in front of Chapel
L to R: Miss Storey, Sid Killick, Mr Crosskey

Early in the war evacuees were sent down from London and were billeted with many different households. The main group from Magdalen Road and Garratt Lane L.C.C. School, Earlsfield came with their headmaster Mr. Crosskey and also Miss Storey. They first attended lessons in the Chapel, later moving to the Church Room.

fifteen years. Recently the branch amalgamated with the Cranleigh British Legion.

The Coronation of George VI in May 1937 meant a day off work! Although rather

Twelve of the boys and Miss Storey were billeted with Mr. and Mrs. Rooper at Reel Hall (Reel = rill or stream) while Mr. Crosskey stayed at Radio House.

The Magdalen Road school badge was the letter "M" and the village children poked fun at it and called the evacuees monkeys; this caused quite a few fights. Wednesday afternoon was the time for writing letters to parents, which were checked by the Head before posting.

Deirdre Pyle (nee Lee) recalls that she, her mother, brother and younger sister came to Shamley Green in October, 1940 as her father was a regular soldier stationed at Cranleigh. They were billeted with Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Gordon-Clark, an elderly couple, at Thanescroft.



Mr & Mrs Gordon-Clark

The Lees had just one room in which to live, eat and sleep. The household consisted of a cook, parlour-maid, housemaid, lady's maid, chauffeur and Mr. Bowbrick the gardener who lived in the cottage. The Lee family had to enter the house through the kitchen door, which did not always please the cook. The Gordon-Clarks were kindly people, but having no family of their own, they must have found it strange to have young children around. Every evening they dressed for dinner, and if guests were invited, their retired butler would come to help. Eventually Harry Lee was trained to wait at table, wearing a new suit which they bought him for this purpose. One wonders if they knew how he tried the sherry when they withdrew to the drawing room! The front garden being out of bounds, the children would sneak their friends over the fence and into the shrubbery and ice house which were ideal places to play. They once found a baby cuckoo and were most surprised when it died having fed it liquorice allsorts!

Mrs. Gordon-Clark would play the piano for the children to sing, and also took them to St. Paul's and Westminster Cathedral for an outing. She organized the Girl's Friendly Society at the Church Room producing plays and teaching handicrafts.



Ice House at Thanescroft

The evacuees were fully occupied when not at school. The seasons came and went; they were punctuated with potato picking, gathering rose-hips for syrup, trampling grass in the silo at Reel Hall, picking up walnuts, climbing old elm trees outside the Red Lion and colouring in illustrated texts. These were provided by a Mr. Patching when he visited in the summer with his Tent Mission for children, pitching his tent near the duck pond.

The Magdalen Road School returned to London in 1943 but the Lees transferred to the Village School since they had no home in London, having arrived in London from India at the outbreak of war. They moved to Blackmoor Paddock in 1944. Later, Deirdre married and lived in one of the first houses to be built in Hullmead. Another evacuee, Shirley Vodden, also stayed and married a local boy, Freddy Punter.

Another schoolgirl was Jane Lines (nee Box) who lived at Little Cucknells, Woodhill Lane and she said that due to the lack of help in the garden, her mother borrowed some geese from Mrs. Knight's poultry farm at Hillyfields nearby to keep down the lawn. Jane with Thetis and John Blacker from Pasturewood formed a "spotters club" and learned all about aircraft. Ever eager to find some souvenir, one day at Winterfold they found a "butterfly" bomb, which they recognized from posters - so they surveyed it from afar, threw stones at it and as nothing happened Jane took it down to the local constable in her bicycle basket; what a wiggling she received!

Her mother was part of a fire fighting party and housed the stirrup pump. John Syms at Madgehole²¹ had the ladder and Sid Killick at Reel Hall Cottages had the bucket. A good thing the enemy never invaded Shamley Green! As a Girl Guide she often wondered why the men retreated to Wonersh after their exercises, perhaps the pub was better there?



Reel Hall - Watercolour by Henry Sage

Cucknells Wood, Stroud Lane has been managed for nearly twenty years by the Surrey Wildlife Trust. It was generously donated to the Trust by Jane Lines and her sister Susan Simpson. It includes some twenty five acres of ancient semi-natural woodland with over seventy species of flowering plants.



Irene Batchelor (nee Churcher)
Bonfire Queen 1953

Although glow worms are becoming quite rare they can still be seen in a garden nearby.

Both Jane and Deirdre recall playing in a tumble-down cottage above Tumblers where in the past a whole family died of tuberculosis. It

was known by the children as the "Bogey House", a bit creepy with its rotting floorboards and uncovered well. It finally disintegrated when a bomb fell nearby, but the orchard had lovely sweet yellow apples which were just right for scrumping by the village boys.

The village has been policed since 1851 when Peter Pierce was in charge, and in 1881 P.C. Hackman's wife went by the lovely name of "Comfort". Over the years, there have been several houses for the village constable, one near Tanyard Farm, then at the White Cottage (Shrubbery Cottage) near the garage and in 1937 at No. 2 Sweetwater Lane.

P.C. Quinain in his book "Policeman on the Beat" recalls that during his life here in the last war apart from a "Peeping Tom", at Upper House Farm and a gang of chicken thieves ready to sell their haul on the black market, there was an elderly lady who swore she saw Fifth Columnists dressed as clergymen, sitting on a stile in a field only to find on investigation that they were students from the Seminary near Lostiford swotting for exams! They were always dressed in black with shallow-crowned hats and went around in groups of three.

Two bombs which were intended for the railway line at Run Common fell near Run Farm Cottage completely shaking the foundations so that it was later demolished, the second bomb fell down the well. One bomb fell only two hundred yards from the White House (Pound Land) but no one was hurt. The Village Stores had its windows blown out from the blast of a bomb dropped in Bramley. Fire extinguishers for the whole village were kept at the shop in the war time.

A unit of the R.A.M.C. were billeted at Woodhill Manor directly after Dunkirk. The soldiers set to and scythed the tennis court but the ground was too rough to play so they settled for cricket but spent most of the time looking for cricket balls lost in the undergrowth. They also enjoyed fishing for carp in the lakes. After they left the Canadians moved in and dances were arranged for them up at the Hallams with the Merry Five

accompanying them. These soldiers took part in the Dieppe raid and many never returned. The allies suddenly departed taking some Shamley Green girls as their brides and left the house in a bad state of repair, to the great delight of the village children who had fun exploring the rooms. One day when P.C. Quinain went to wind up the turret clock, which had the still discernible date of 1726, he found that the local youths had unhooked the pendulum which had crashed down onto the stables. So no longer could its chimes be heard in the village. After a short spell as a poultry farm, Woodhill Manor reverted to a private dwelling.

There is an intriguing story recounted by P.C. Quinain, that a newcomer to the Green, complained about the dangerous riding of bicycles on the Village Green, so the Council erected six notice boards stating that vehicles were forbidden. Most of the villagers were up in arms and three boards mysteriously disappeared. When VE day was announced preparations went ahead for a huge bonfire. When "Quinny" pedalled across the Green the next morning the remaining boards had disappeared but the bonfire was still smouldering.

In 1945 the Bonfire Boys Association was founded and this became a popular event. Elaine Woods (nee Rigden) was twice chosen to be Queen. The money collected was sent to the National Association for the Blind and for their splendid efforts in 1949 the Hon. Mrs. Loyd of Upper House presented them with a banner.

The men serving in the Forces gradually returned and Flight Lt. Simon Coker, an ex flying boat captain, having met the Syms family in the services started the Hurtwood Rural Industries, supplying timber, sand and gravel and erecting a new building at the Woodhill sand-pit to house the saw mills and lorries. He

was assisted by Harry Jarrad, an army veteran of both wars.

Rationing and coupons were beginning to be a thing of the past when the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II took place. Does it always rain on royal occasions? Despite this the village celebrated in style with an Elizabethan fair, devised by Sir Philp Gibbs, which included Pam Leadam on horseback as Queen Elizabeth I led by Harry Pyle. Various costumed musicians entertained outside a mock-up of a Tudor building.



Chris Harding, Fancy Dress VE Day

For a time in the 1950s, Molly Welch, Fred Newton and Joyce Jarrad ran a Youth Club. After the refurbishment of the Arbutnot Hall in the 1960s, Peter Nash, Chris Harding and Carol Hedger re-established the Club which ran until 1982. Molly was also the inspiration behind the formation of the Lords Hill Playground.

Since being founded by Reg Higden in the 1950s drama has been much in evidence, with the SHADES (Shamley Green Amateur Dramatic and Entertainment Society) presenting many plays one of which "The Warning" was written especially for them by their president, Sir Philip Gibbs.



SHADES 1960s production of "Where There's a Will"
Vi Stevens centre, Eric Thomson seated right

During the late 1960s the Society was on ice, but was reformed in 1972, when Dennis and Marion May joined, performing both pantomimes and plays. In 1993 they celebrated their twenty first anniversary with the group. In July, 1990 with the help of many friends and parishioners, the Mays presented a Pageant of Shamley Green in the grounds of Longacre School. For six evenings of wonderful weather this was viewed by nearly one thousand people. With a cast of one hundred plus horses and vintage transport, the life of the village was enacted from the time of the Romans and the weaving trade to the modern day. In 1991 and 1992 summer festivals were also held.



Pam Leadam as Queen Elizabeth I with Harry Pyle holding the horse



Dying Cloth with Woad, Shamley Green Pageant 1990

Yes, it was wet again at the celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. Villages which decided to have their jollifications a week earlier certainly had the laugh on us when they had a heat wave. Many people crowded into the old chapel where there was an exhibition of memorabilia. The fancy dress competition, with "royalty" to the fore, paraded around the Green but the Wives Group spirits were rather dampened in more ways than one when they did their country dancing. However in the evening many folk enjoyed dancing to records from the 50s-70s.

During the 1960s Bob Tuffs and others organized the Shamley Association. They arranged regular bingo evenings which were well supported and dispensed accumulated funds to support the football club and other village activities.

For some years a Badminton Club met weekly in the Arbuthnot Hall. Miss W Locket, MBE, founded the Evergreens Club for senior citizens in the 1960s; regular meetings were organized by Ruby Wilson and Jessie Knight.

The "200" Club (two hundred subscribers) was formed in the 1970s to generate funds for repair and maintenance of the Arbuthnot Hall. The club holds a monthly prize draw and an annual lunch party.

DEVELOPMENT

One of the oldest houses in the village is Lee Crouch, on the corner of Northcote Lane and Guildford Road. It is a fine example of a typical mediaeval hall house, the original building dating back to the early 14th century. During the Second World War, Lee Crouch was the home of Algernon and Bea Asprey. Algernon was an artist and a member of the family who founded the Bond Street jewellers and silversmiths. After the Falklands War, when in his mid-70s, he travelled to the Falkland Islands to paint many of the landscapes in watercolours, as a tribute to the men who fought there.



Lee Crouch 1913

From a map dated 1640 we know that there were some fifty dwellings and farms in and around Shamley Green and Lords Hill. Until the introduction of the Tithe Redemption scheme in the 1840s landowners or their tenants were required to contribute a tenth part of the value of all produce each year to pay for the keep of the priest and to maintain the church.

From mid Victorian times to the 1930s, it was common for houses to be rented rather than bought and many people took in lodgers. We know from the Census return of 1851 that Samuel Virgo had as many as eight lodgers six of whom worked at the leather mill at upper Lostiford.

The Tithe Map of 1843 shows that most of the fields were in the hands of large landowners such as Grantley, Street, Wells, Sparkes and Boughton. The Apportionment Book, which contains details of the fields and tithes reveals some unusual and interesting names; for example Further Lemons, Great Bottoms, Snakes Alley, Shepherds Cross and Mill Crawl. Much of the land including the larger farms, such as Willinghurst, Madgehole, Upper House' and Northcote, was rented out.

Upper House, in Upper House Lane, originally a farm, was bought in 1874 by Mrs. Ellinor Guthrie, widow of James Alexander Guthrie. Mrs. Guthrie employed Norman Shaw, an eminent Victorian architect, to re-design and enlarge the property to accommodate her family of nine children. Her decision to buy the property was partly due to the fact that it was near her Guildford cousins and that at the bottom of the garden there grew nine trees, the exact number of her family!



Upper House 1988

During the latter part of the 19th century more substantial houses were built such as Willinghurst, high on the hills beyond Willinghurst Farm. The estate was eventually sold and the house is now divided into two parts.



Willinghurst

In 1889, the Grantley Estate sold off a "parcel of land" at Lords Hill. In May 1898, Sir Charles Crosthwaite bought this land, formerly known as Somerhof, from John Taylor. By July buildings were planned and in 1901 the house called Longacre was completed.

The 1891 Census shows that Shamley Green was still comparatively small but now consisted of one hundred and forty dwellings.

In 1913 Mr. Charman bought land, which is now Stonards Brow cul-de-sac. He sold off plots for building and lived in a house at the bottom end. In the late 1930s Arthur Goff built the houses in Stonards Brow, many of which still bear his name on their drain covers. The road followed the course of an old footpath across Stonards Fields and was left as a rough unmetalled road until after the Second World War.

Sweetwater Lane, originally Stonards Lane, was re-named during the 1920s, perhaps taking its name from two old cottages on the Green which are mentioned in the 1851 Census.

It was only in the early 1920s that development within the village itself began. The first scheme by Hambledon Rural District Council (forerunner of Waverley Borough Council) was Flanders Cottages on the site of Flanders Nurseries adjoining the Guildford Road.

In 1920 W.M. Charman from Cranleigh purchased a derelict piece of land in Stroud Lane upon which he built Oakhurst (Stroud Folly), with the help of his three sons to start a chicken farm. Water drawn from a well was pumped up to the tank by a hand pump outside the back door. Two lengths of string with leaded weights ran down from the tank, through holes to the

kitchen wall. As the tank filled, the weights descended until they reached a line scratched on the kitchen wall so the pumpers would know the tank was full. Michael Harding remembers that this was very hard work indeed!

Hullbrook Lane was also developed in the 1920s. Later in the 60s, when the road was widened, there was a scheme to extend the lane, to join up with the main Guildford to Horsham Road, south of Bramley. As part of this scheme, which never materialized, a layby for a bus stop was created (still in existence) a short way beyond the Hullmead turning.

Also in the 1930s houses were built along the Guildford Road between School Lane and Norley Crossroads, which included three bungalows built for the Valler family.

Just before World War II, Hambledon Rural District Council erected six pairs of houses overlooking the land which later became the playground at Lords Hill. Some families, including the Punters, Balchins and Newmans, were rehoused there from the Malt House on the Green, but the sweep "Daisy" Elliott, preferred to remain. Before long evacuees from London arrived at the Malt House.

The prefabricated houses, erected in Garden Close at the end of the Second World War supposedly as "temporary" accommodation, were still in use up to the late 1970s. After they had been demolished, bungalows and a Community Centre for older residents were built, but many people preferred the "prefabs", which are still fondly remembered.

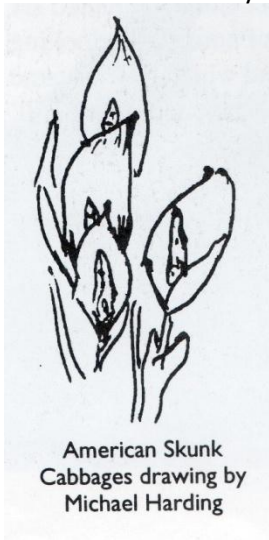


Garden Close prefabs



Hullmead

In 1947 the Hullmead houses were constructed for the Council on the site of Mr. Pyke's poultry farm. The builder was Frank Hewitt of Cranleigh. Hullmead was built in stages - originally there were eighteen houses and two bungalows, leading directly on to the Green. The old people's bungalows followed in 1960 and the flats a few years later.



American Skunk Cabbages drawing by Michael Harding

provide in the Spring when the leaves start to

In the late 1950s, the largest development the village had yet seen took place at Nursery Hill, on a part of Virgo's nurseries. These were partly Council and partly private houses, bungalows and flats; most of the tenants were local people. A small plantation of Balsam Poplars was planted behind the estate and what a lovely scent they

open. Nearby, opposite the houses on the main road, every April the stream abounds with the yellow spathes of the American Skunk Cabbage.

Highcroft, consisting of a few private houses leading off Church Hill, was built in 1963 on land adjoining the Manor House.

The last group development apart from individual "infilling" was completed in 1971. This was Sweetwater Close, built on the old allotments and a small part of the orchard of Orchard Cottage. This necessitated demolition of a pair of semi-detached houses forming part of Southview Cottage row to make an entrance to the Close. George Oliver, who lived in one of the cottages, worked for Mr. Baker at the village shop and it was he who planted the lime trees next to the Arbuthnot Hall in the shape of a "V" to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1897. Sadly these trees suffered badly in the

1987 storm.

Over the years all the houses around the Green have changed hands. Cottages with the minimum of facilities, some with earth floors, housing three or more families were converted into single homes and are now all furnished with the luxuries of modern day living.



Jubilee Trees 1993

Many other properties have been extended so that, in common with villages all over England, first time buyers find that affordable houses are not available.

EMPLOYMENT

Think for a moment of Shamley Green in the 15th century. It was an agricultural hamlet and at dawn the farm labourers walked to work in the fields all of which had names which may be seen on the Tithe Map of 1843. On some farms the first man to arrive earned a drink of ale! There were no newspapers so that news was passed by word of mouth and therefore travelled very slowly. Most villagers would never travel more than ten miles from their homes. Apart from their fires in the short days of winter, light at night was by rushlight; rushes collected in summer, stripped and dipped in fat which when dry and lighted were people's only means of light.

The village water supply came from the "dip" or "dip hole" opposite Lake Cottage which it is claimed was fed from a spring rising near the Bricklayers Arms; mains water did not come to the area until around 1927. Nelly Heather, who lived at Quoin Cottage recalls that as a small child she fell in the "dip" head first and was rescued by her brother Billy a few minutes before she might have drowned. An old lady, Mrs. Hardy, who lived in part of Shamley House would stand outside and rattle a bucket when she

needed water until Nelly, or her sister Esther, heard the noise and went to fill it for her.

Villagers fetched their milk in jugs or wooden containers from one of the dairy farms in the neighbourhood. The biggest farms were Haldish, Franklins, Plonks and Westland.

The Bowbrick family lived in Stonards Hatch Farm (now demolished) when Stonards Brow consisted of cornfields. There was a gate across the lane by the farm which had to be shut for one day once a year. Until the 1980s it was possible to see the gatepost in the bank of April Cottage opposite the demolished farm.

In medieval times, there were many sheep flocks with the resultant wool and weaving industries. The cloth made was mostly dyed blue with woad and was called "Guildford Blue" or "Kersey". Much of it was sent abroad, even as far as Florence. A licence to grow woad was granted in the 16th century. Eventually this trade declined due to competition arriving from the Continent and the cloth here was being illegally stretched to increase its length and shrank as soon as it was washed!



The Valler family lived at The Gables, Lords Hill from the 1840s when Charles and his son were agricultural workers. The photo shows the house in 1896, demolished in 1932 and rebuilt as Spring Cottage

Weaving was a cottage industry and the weavers probably worked from Easteds and the Court House, where there is evidence of marks made by the hooks used for hanging the cloth to dry after dyeing. Yieldhurst near Lords Hill was also connected with this trade.

By Georgian times, a tanning industry had developed, based on the availability of oak bark to provide tannin and hides of cattle and sheep from local farms, as, for example, at Tanyard Farm where the curing of hides continued until the 1880s.

Upper Lostiford Mill was an oil leather factory owned by Edward Twycross from 1845 and



Virgo's Nurseries - now Wistaria Cottage
Oil painting by Francis Virgo

then later by John Pullman, a fellmonger (a dealer in skins). Here they specialized in the production of chamois leather made from the skins of deer, lambs, goats and kids and other leathers made from cattle hides and sheep skins. The mill which stood on the Dowey Farm Estate was sold in 1899 to John Courage, a member of the brewing family, who had it demolished when Derryswood was built.

In the 1850s Richard Sweet Britton, who owned Surrey House, had his own timber yard and hoop-making business, employing twenty five men. The manufacture of wooden hoops was an important industry in West Surrey and apart from supplying to coopers for banding the beer barrels, the hoops were in great demand for containers for flour and dry goods such as gunpowder produced at mills such as Chilworth.

Hurdles for folding sheep were another necessity. George Lee, born at Shere in 1855, made



Maintenance Man's House for Upper Lostiford Mill
(Demolished 1920s)

these as well as working with the animals from the 1890s. As a farm labourer, he used to sleep in the stable at Haldish Farm. Folk were tough in those days!

Osiers used in basket making were grown at Barnett Farm in Norley Lane, which had special permission by Deed to run this business. Otter hunts used to take place along the river here.

Market gardens also played a prominent part in employment of the village, the largest being the Wonersh Nurseries of over twenty acres owned by the Virgo family from the 1840s. It extended from the village school to Stonards Brow, and became famous abroad as well as in this country especially for soft fruit for which the soil was particularly suitable. Four generations worked here.



George Lee in front of Haldish Farm

William Virgo lived at what is now Wistaria Cottage and his workers were accommodated in a large hut on the other side of the lane; he used to ring a bell outside his office annex to

summon them to work (the bell has only recently been removed). In 1861 William re-built a nearby family property, calling it Rose House (Pellgate).

The next two generations carried on the family business and in 1892 William (junior) had Elmhurst (now Dene House) built to the same design as Rose House. Incidentally, he gave and planted the holly hedge surrounding the churchyard. His wife, Flora, could often be seen dashing through the village in her carriage attended by her



William Virgo Senior, 1890s

Ernest Virgo 1940

dalmatian dogs. In 1911, Ernest Virgo (who wore a scarlet waistcoat and gold watch and chain) took over and in the 1914-18 war, Land Girls and Belgian refugees worked for him and the nurseries became known as Flanders Nurseries after the carnage at Flanders in Belgium.

After the war the nurseries were sold and Flanders cottages were built on part, being the first scheme of subsidised Council housing in the village. This accommodation was for war veterans, under the Addison act of 1919, the Lloyd George government policy of providing "homes for heroes".

Another nurseryman, Mr. Billy Baker, who lived in Lake Cottages trained with Mr. Virgo. He owned a nursery in Norley Lane, growing mostly flowers, until the Second World War. After quenching his thirst, he used to walk home with his employee Mr. George

Tanner in the middle of the Guildford Road! Fortunately for them, it was then little more than a lane, with only light traffic. In 1927 and 1928 Mrs. Lock of Norley Farm gave a holiday to ten boys or girls, aged between nine and twelve, from the Camberwell Fresh Air Fund. They went home looking better for their stay and with sixpence and a large bunch of flowers each, donated by Mr. Baker.

Peter Elliott, a most knowledgeable gardener, helped his father plan and care for the Derry's Wood Estate for John Courage. Later he worked at the Manor House nursery for Harold Vezey Strong whose daughter, Phyllida is still much in demand as a local lady gardener. Peter continued to care for a number of local gardens until his death in 1989. He lived at Cranfield, Hullbrook Lane and the dahlias and lilies in his front garden always evoked admiration and added to the colour of Harvest Festival decorations.

There is a record of landgirls in 1917 heaving sheaves of corn at Northcote Farm and spending the evenings trying to extract the thistle thorns from their fingers! Landgirls were also much in evidence during the 1939-1945 War.

Spare a thought when taking a walk on the sandy heaths in this area, for the charcoal burners or colliers who plied their ancient trade in the woods. Theirs was a nomadic life and no trace of their abodes exists, for they built small huts with turf and sacking over a pole frame which could be in use for several years. When the family moved

VIRGO AND SON,
FLORISTS & SEEDSMEN,
NURSERY—WONERSH, NEAR GUILDFORD,

Gratefully acknowledge the liberal support bestowed on them during the last eight years, and would assure their Friends and the Public that it shall be their constant care by a selection of the best varieties of Plants, Seeds, &c., at LOW PRICES, to merit a continuous and increased patronage.

NEW AND CHOICE GARDEN SEEDS TRUE TO NAME.
Five Geraniums of Nancy and other kinds,
FOUR SHILLINGS PER DOZEN AND UPWARDS.

Bedding-Out Plants in May of new and approved varieties, from 3s. to 4s. per dozen.
A LARGE STOCK OF SHRUBS, FRUIT, AND FOREST TREES.
A SPLENDID COLLECTION OF ROSES AND OTHER CHOICE PLANTS.

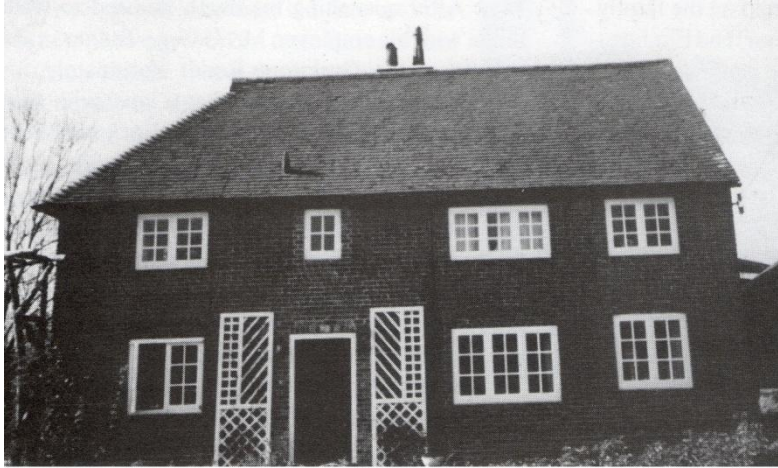
Long Red Surrey and White Belgium Carrots, Mangold Wursel, Turnips, Swedes, and all Agricultural Seeds, warranted Own Growth.
CHESNUTS FOR PLANTING. GARDEN MATS.

* * Orders received at the Red Lion, *Guildford*, on Saturday; Wheataheaf, *Dorking*, on Thursday; and Coffee House, *Farnham*, on Thursday,—or at the Nursery, *Wonersh*.

Virgo's Advertisement - Andrew's Almanac 1856

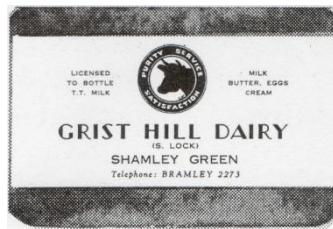
on to another district, the huts were abandoned.

Alder was the preferred wood to make charcoal, but hazel, birch and beech were also used. Charcoal was used in the iron industry and also in the gunpowder mills at Chilworth. Frank



Upper House Farm 1990

Huntley, who was born and brought up in the village, writes in his memoirs that charcoal burners worked in the heathland beyond the sand-pit in Woodhill, hence the name of the house Kilnhanger, which was built in the late 1920s. He remembers the smoking kilns when out for walks with his mother. Only recently have metal kilns been introduced and the industry has largely declined.



Grist Hill Farm Trade Card 1940s

In all probability, the charcoal burners heard smugglers moving their contraband by ponies during the night. It must then have been a dangerous place, but supposedly the odd bottle of brandy ensured silence! The Tithe Map of 1843 also shows that there were lime kilns near Green Lane and Hullbrook Farms in fields, both called Kiln Field. In these kilns, chalk would have been burned with charcoal and/or coke to make quicklime. After the addition of water to hydrate it, the lime was used to dress fields in order to sweeten the soil.

Recent work at Upper House Farm suggests that it vies with Lee Crouch for title as the oldest continuously occupied property in the village. Various owners by Guthries, Loyds, Brabournes and Flemings, it was occupied from 1874 to 1987 by nine different families.

The longest tenancy was held by William Harfield Edgington from 1905-38 when he sold the crops and stock for £400 and moved to a newly built bungalow called Hurstleigh in Hullbrook Lane. Albert Latham married William's daughter May in 1922; another daughter Winifred married Norman Booker. Albert who was born in 1899, described the farm in the autobiography completed in his centenary year of 1989. From 1938-66 the farm tenant was J "Pop" Renmant, who continued to live in the farmhouse until 1988. The house was then renovated by Glyn and Vanessa Ford-Robbins.

Kitty Renmant (nee Lock) remembers the time she spent living in Norley Farm from 1922 when her parents took over the tenancies of Norley and Barnett Farms. The landlord was Mr. Haslam of Wonersh Park. "Every morning my father, brother Stanley then sixteen years and brother Milborn fourteen years, walked through the fields from Norley Farm to Barnett to milk the cows by hand. Stanley would get the pony and float ready for the milk delivery round, mostly in Wonersh.

The milk was strained and put into twelve or seventeen gallon churns, the churn was then lifted into the float, which also carried the half



George Lock, grand-daughter Heather,
Grist Hill Farm

pint, one pint and quart measures. Busy times were haying, harvesting, some ground was worked for potato growing, also peas which

always had a good market in those days, all the family helped with pea picking."

In 1928 Kitty and her family moved to Grist Hill Farm which, like many other farms in the area, was owned by the Cubitt family of Birtley House, on the southern outskirts of Bramley. Kitty remembers-"there used to be a large well near the top of Grist Hill and when very hot the butter and cream were put down this well, until the ice boxes came in. We had our first refrigerator in the 1940s."

SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

Until a few years ago - in common with other villages - Shamley Green was well provided with shops. However increasing competition from supermarkets in towns has led to a sad decline of the corner stores and now half the villages in Britain have no shops of any kind. Let us take a nostalgic look at some of the shops that existed from Victorian times onwards, when one had a choice.

In Pound Land (The White House) at Norley crossroads there was a butchers which functioned until the First World War, while a little further along the road opposite School Lane is "Dod' s", originally a tied-cottage, from where Mr. Dodman ran a small bakery and sweetshop.

Another bakery was run by "Tinny" William Harris with his brother and sister, from Lake Cottages (Hilary Cottage) on the main road, selling everything that a sweet tooth could desire, from a whole bag full of hundreds and thousands for a halfpenny, liquorice pokes with sherbet, gob-stoppers, clove balls, acid drops to bright yellow lemonade powder. Tinny's sister could fold a flat sheet of paper into a poke with a secure twist to the tail as quickly as one could ask for a penn'orth of allsorts.

The loaves were baked in tins, "Tinny" delivered the bread by tricycle with an extraordinary trailer at the back which some of the young boys would unhitch and push up the road when his back was turned. How the

poor man suffered; the boys thought he was fair game and hung on to the trailer until he could no longer pedal against the combined weight. His elder brother was a baker who mixed dough in a back kitchen and had several candles lit and stuck all around the edge of the dough bin (it was rumoured that mice sat by candle light watching). Sadly the shop closed in the late 1920s after serving the community for over fifty years.

Iris Earle remembers her grandfather saying that Mr. Harris charged him 6s. 9d. (34p) a week rent for their cottage nearby and he always carried a little wash-leather bag full of 3d. pieces (1p) for change as most people gave him 7s. (35p).



Dods c.1920s

In the Edwardian era the Red Lion had a small shop selling a few groceries.

During the summer months in the 1920s and 30s, when hiking was all the rage, one could relax near the village Green, with a lovely homemade tea in the front of Tewsley's Cottage (next to The Court House, now called Trefusis) which was run by Mrs. Tack. Hilda Bushell (nee Jarrad) remembers that on one occasion when she was a school girl and helping with teas, receiving an advance order from a party of ramblers only to find nowhere near enough egg cups, so she was



The Forge with Tea Shop sign to right in The Court House garden

sent around the village to borrow some.

In the 1930s John Sheppard who lived near the Green was very enterprising, travelling around the village and selling cakes from a green box attached to his bicycle.

At the bottom of Sweetwater Lane stood a shed where Walter Sayers mended cycles, repaired shoes, sold sweets and tobacco. In his spare time he was the local photographer. Many of his photographs appear in this book. In 1926 he moved to Brookside (opposite Nursery Hill) and erected a wooden workshop in front of it. His grand-daughter, Thelma Hedger, vividly remembers seeing him weighing out snuff on his special brass scales while the old men of the village, sat on upturned Tizer crates



W. Sayers at Brookside

cottage and consolidated the business when they took over the Post Office. Their son Leslie and his wife took over and ran the newsagents until they retired in the 1980s.

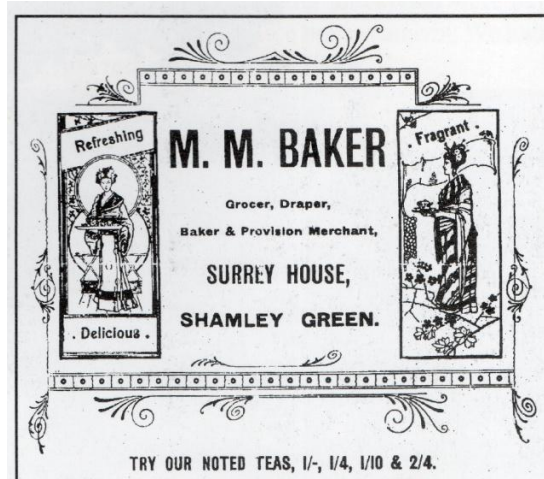


Newsagents in 1980 at Easteds

On the opposite side of the Green is the main Village Stores, which has always been a focal point for local news. The original shop was in a room of Surrey House. In Richard Britton's will of 1869 he left the premises to his nephew, William Tewsley with an annuity of £2 10s 0d. (£2.50) per quarter to the family servant Mary Risbridger who ran the haberdashery.

From 1880 Charles Burgess, a grocer from Godalming, was in charge, selling the premises

and smoked their pipes. Walter was one of the first people here to have a crystal set, an early type of wireless. His son, Herbert, had a radio repair shop in a garage at Brookside and in 1938 a combined shop/house was built for him by Mr. Goff and called Radio House. On the Green, two large hollow elm trees stood in front of Easteds which housed the newsagents owned, since the First World War, by the Avenell family. On sunny weekends Mrs. W. Avenell would provide teas for the cricketers on her back lawn. The house was originally two cottages, the Avenells living in the right hand one and running the shop from there. At a later date they bought the other



Tea Advertisement

to Maurice Baker in 1884. This gentleman owned an area of land, extending from

Timbers up Sweetwater Lane to Old Stonnards. He built a new shop adjoining Surrey House. He was a very philanthropic person and at Christmas always sent presents to all his customers.

In latter years he was regularly seen in the village on rent collecting day in his trap pulled by a white pony, travelling over from his Chilworth home. Families would take their joints and pies on a Sunday morning to be baked in the shop's large ovens, Sunday lunch would then be ready, fragrant and steaming, for collection after church.

From 1906 Joseph Forrest took over, with Mr. Stent, under the heading of Surrey Trading, later changing to Forrest Stores. When Bill Neal was a boy, he helped in the store and Locket's garage was the stable for the horse and cart. Pig sties were at the rear of the shop and animals were slaughtered once a week. In his younger days Sid Wood helped with local deliveries and pushed a handcart to the four corners of Shamley Green.



Village Stores



Mrs Wilson, Stroud Common, E.H. Shepard 1961

changed its name to Fine Fare then to the Village Stores when Peter Nash took over in 1980, bringing the Post Office with him. Vijay Patel is now in charge (1992).

Opposite the Bricklayers Arms is Pond Cottage where Thomas and Charlotte Street baked bread. They also sold meat and groceries during the period from 1905-1920. Their grand-daughter, Marjorie Butler remembers the horses "Tom" and "Polly" pulling the delivery cart and having rides in her grandfather's trap.



Lords Hill Stores - late 1920s

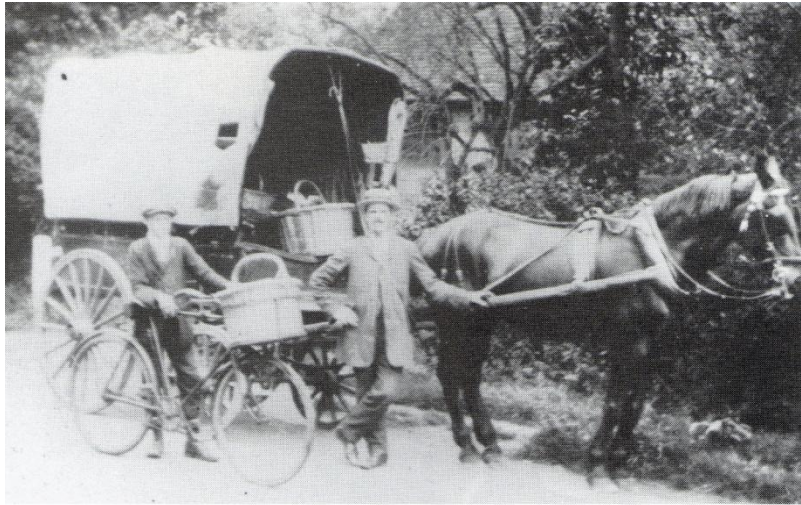
In the 1960s Surrey House again became a private residence. Once again the shop

At Stroud Common, in the Edwardian era, there was a small general shop (Cherry Tree Cottage) opposite Upper House Lane and there is an interesting anecdote concerning Ernest H. Shepard, the illustrator. When trying to find a cottage for his wife and himself he cycled from Guildford and asked directions to Upper House from a little old lady, clad in a pinny and a black straw hat, who served behind the shop counter. She was the wife of "Tug" Wilson and her directions, plus a packet of cigarettes, cost him the princely sum of 4d. (2p).

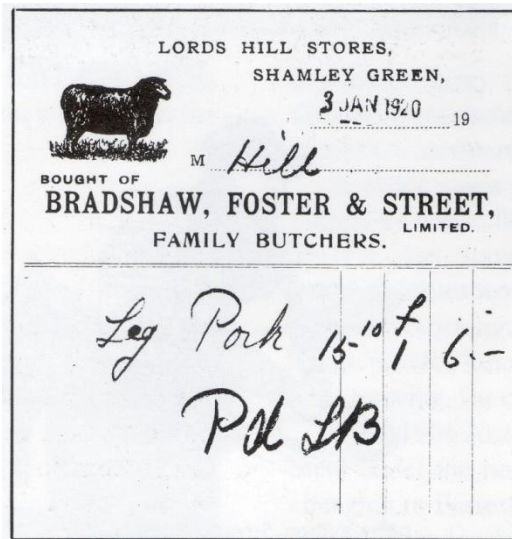
Mr. and Mrs. John Monk were the last owners of the shop but due to difficulties in obtaining supplies during the First World War they were forced to close down.

Milk was sold and delivered from various farms including Lock's dairy at Grist Hill. Another dairy was carried on by William Slaughter at Run Common Farm (Slaughters). In the 1930s there was also a bottling and distribution dairy based at Appletrees on the Guildford Road adjacent to Tilings.

The other main store, grandly known as an Emporium, was at Lords Hill Common. It was established by the Cokelers in the 1870s (see The Sect in Chapter 8). They purchased Lords Hill House and used the adjoining properties as a bakery (Victoria Cottage) and a butchers (Partridge and Pear Tree Cottages). The brethren sold drapery, ironmongery,



Fred Kelsey and Assistant delivering bread



Sales Receipt 1920

haberdashery and groceries. "Gayware" china was made for their Warnham shop (Lindfield, Luff and Company) and also sold at Lords Hill. One could buy anything from shoes to stamps and from paint to pins. Even with three large counters inside there was still plenty of room for customers.

Fred Kelsey was the bakery roundsman. He had a horse who was always more ready to go home than Fred who decided one day that he would master this animal. He put a chain on the wheel whereupon the horse dragged the whole lot home and wore the iron wheel so badly that Fred had to pay for a new one! What a relief when the store bought a motor van. This van was very useful and on one occasion in 1924 it was driven by Leslie Street, one of the owners of the shop, to take ten children to see the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, .



"Outside The Forge" painting by Thomas J. Purchas 1890s

Edith Bradshaw was one of the owners in 1911 and her sister, Gwen was in charge of the accounts. Lorraine Gillard remembers her school blouses being made in the shop, and without their lovely lardy rolls, Saturday tea time was never the same.

In 1935 the shop was leased to Smith and Croucher and in 1961 Mr. Partridge bought the premises, closing it a few years later. Mr. Cox took over the butchery business, then a few years later the stores was sold and converted into four dwellings. The shop was badly missed by the householders in the area who had to go the stores on the Green, but when one posts a letter in the Victorian post box nearby it evokes memories of a more tranquil age, as does the old style telephone kiosk.

As well as the muffin and crumpet man who toured the villages on a Sunday there were some enterprising local people. Opposite the Lords Hill stores lived George Attfield at Happidais (Old Cottage) who smoked fish in his barn and delivered it round the village as well as selling greengrocery on a Sunday! Jinny



Jessie Uffold's Wedding c.1902, Forge Cottage
L to R: standing: Unknown, Charlie, George. Seated: Unknown, Mr Hughes, Jessie, Kate.

The village had to be largely self-sufficient so local tradesmen supplied most needs. The first record we have of a blacksmith's forge is in 1845 when it was worked by William Hill. He was followed in about 1876 by Charles Uffold from Shere who lived with his wife and family next door in Forge Cottage.

Charles' sons, George and Charlie, carried on the family tradition and George recollected that in his younger days it was nothing to shoe four horses in one morning and the yard being full of waggons and farm implements.

In 1905 he married Edith Totterdell from Lymington, who taught at the village school; her three piece wedding outfit, complete with hat and shoes, can still be seen.

Living nearby to the Uffolds was William Tewsley, the wheelwright and on the left between the forge and pound was an area for tiring wooden wheels - it is still possible to see the iron circle embedded in the ground. The pound was for straying animals and the owners had to pay a fine to retrieve their property. There was another pound at Pound Land by the Norley cross roads for straying sheep from the sheep fairs on Norley Common.



Uffold Trade Card

Punter who lived at Bisney Cottage made and sold fresh lemonade to the members of the Witley and District Motor Cycle Club when they passed by on their annual trials.

During the First World War, the Uffold brothers shod army horses and re-tyred gun carriage wheels. When the annual fair arrived they were kept busy repairing the gypsies' pots and pans. On one occasion in the 1920s the local policeman packed thirteen of their horses into the pound. In 1925 George bought the forge from the Woodhill Estate; by the 1930s the popularity of the motor car resulted in a decline in trade. Charlie found employment with Mr. Marchant, the builder, whilst George carried on alone, finally retiring in the 1950s. Leslie Gamblin, a blacksmith from Bramley took over in the 1960s for a short time until the forge finally closed down.



Malthouse - "Daisy" Elliott lived in the extension to the right.

Photo c.1947. The pond disappeared when main drainage was laid

Another dirty job was dealt with by our local road sweepers, Messrs. Allgrove, Elliott, Punter, Tanner and Killick for many years - how we wish we had them now to keep the village tidy.

However the grimeiest trade was that of chimney sweep. In 1990 there were only six chimney-sweeps within the Guildford area whereas most villages in the past had their own. This was an annual spring event which housewives and maid-servants certainly did not relish. From the 1870s Thomas Hill and his son at Stroud Common plied their trade. Another Mr. Hill, who was appropriately nicknamed "Sooty", lived at The Shrubbery. He was a survivor of the forced march that Lord Roberts made from Kabul to Kandahar during the second Afghan War in August 1880.

Our most colourful sweep was Albert Elliott, who as a lad was sent up chimneys. Known as "Daisy", he wore a starched white dicky front and a bow tie. He and diminutive wife Tryphosa (Flo) lived in a tiny single storey dwelling attached to the Malthouse.

Daisy had a wooden leg, rode a rickety old bike with only one pedal, always wore a bowler hat and smoked an old clay pipe. As he had no telephone one had to call and make an

appointment. He was often to be found resting on his bed, dicky front hanging on the bedpost, and artificial leg propped up against the wall. He sat with this bowler on and only removed it when he went to sleep.



"Daisy" Elliott

In his spare time he cut hair. Customers sat in the back yard under an ancient vine which yielded tiny sweet white grapes from which

he made wine. His niece, Muriel Foubister, recalls that her uncle would fill a sugar box

clubs' Annual Tea for fifty members, the food cost the princely sum of £1. 7s. 9d. (£1.39).



Ted Thumwood and Charlie Hillsley in front of Arthurs'
Collecting plants for the Flower Show

Towards the end of the 19th century, although one could buy some clothing and dress material in the local stores, the village dress-maker was much in demand by the families in the large houses, especially when they were launching their daughters into Society. One could call upon Nelly Lampard from Norley Cottage (who was still working well into the 1920s) or one of the many needlewomen, who would work very long hours often

with these delicious grapes and bring it over to the Forrest Stores where she and her sister worked.

In the winter in his one room, thick with black shag smoke and lit by a little oil lamp, he would dispense little cheroots to his customers; his wife talking to caged magpies which she had taught to speak. On high days and holidays Daisy would wear a white suit and play tunes on his piccolo.



Mrs Hill and her horse and cart c.1920s

On the subject of barbers, mention must be made of our "famous" villager Allen Batchelor. In 1834, at the age of thirteen, he "emigrated" to Guildford and opened a hairdressers and barbers. He claimed to have shaved most of the crowned heads of Europe! At eighty six, he was oldest tradesman and oldest working barber in England - quite a feat!

In the 1851 census William Batchelor and his nephew Henry are described as cordwainers (bootmakers). For many years, at their Arthurs Cottage workshop, they kept the villagers' feet warmly shod. One could pay into clubs for children's shoes, clothing and coal. In 1898 the

in very poor light for a pittance.

What with the profusion of cotton dresses and underwear, the various laundresses in the village in the 1880s were certainly fully employed. At Stroud Common from 1927-1936 there was a laundry owned by Joseph Powell (a Cokeler) and people can still recall Mrs. Boughton, who took in washing at Orchard Cottage in Sweetwater Lane, to be followed by Mrs. Harry Punter.

Fuel for the coppers could be obtained from Edward Thumwood, who originated from Mitcham early in this century and started a coal merchant's business based at Oriel Cottage on Long Common. Two of Edward's sons were involved in family firm until the mid-

1950s. During the 1970s one of these sons, Ted, from Hullmead, still sang lustily on Sundays in the church choir.

Plenty of timber could be obtained from George and David Hill who from the 1920s to the 1950s had a wood and faggots business which supplied the bakeries and laundries. They operated from The Shrubbery⁷⁴ where they also made brooms and rakes. This was a dangerous business with no safety guards on the saws and resulted in the loss of fingers for David Hill. David was the last Commoner to actively exercise his rights to tether livestock to graze on the Village Green

Other local enterprises have sold their goods further afield. At Easteds Cottage, Eve Branson, during the mid 1950s, made and decorated trays, boxes and lampshades from a shed in the garden and sold these to Fortnum and Mason.

Established in 1958, the name of Gill and Punter is synonymous with National Hunt Racing, supplying the race courses with fences and hurdles. Birch and ash are the two main woods used in the construction of these jumps. Chris Gill and Vic Punter still work from the sand-pit in Woodhill Lane.

Another local enterprise which lasted from 1964-67 was Ashcroft Farm (brand name) jam factory. The jam was made in buildings at Woodhill Manor. Mrs. Jeffcock and her two sons who lived there employed local women to make marmalade, strawberry, raspberry and blackcurrant jam. Lemon curd was made on Sundays, when the local men assisted. Robert Jeffcock was in charge of the office whilst Michael ran the factory. Olive McEntee remembered Rackliffes (Guildford) Ltd., the haulage contractors, collecting the plastic pots of jam, which were laid on wooden pallets for loading into the lorry. Fruit came in large wooden barrels, which when empty were bought by a local resident, cut in two and sold as plant containers.

In the late 1970s Elaine Freed of Hullbrook House grew herbs which were bottled in vinegar and she employed a few ladies to make herbal sachets, cushions and toys filled with pot pourri. Audrey Bird, who was in charge of

the out workers, mentioned that these products were sent to John Lewis and that one large order went direct to Japan.

In the 1980s the Forge was converted to Farmers Fare, a useful addition to the village, but closed in 1990 and is now a wine shop. The adjacent building, which had served as a Post Office is now a hairdressers and beauty parlour.

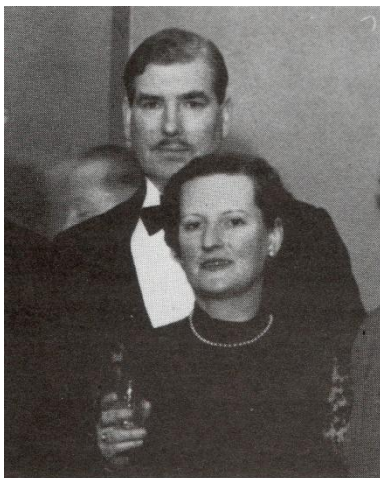
PUBLIC HOUSES

Shamley Green has, for many decades, been well supplied with public houses, two of which still remain.

Early records reveal that in 1855 the village had only one actual public house which was the Bricklayers Arms, the publican being Thomas Southon, a carpenter by trade. The Red Lion and the Railway Arms were beer houses. Due to the lack of village halls until the 20th century, pubs provided a place for various activities and clubs to meet.

BRICKLAYERS ARMS

On a fine Monday morning in July, 1885 the local branch of the Loyal and Independent Order of Foresters held their anniversary fete. The Shalford Brass Band preceded the members who marched to the premises of principal subscribers and afterwards ninety people repaired to the Bricklayers for a substantial lunch. Mr. Tewsley, the wheelwright, and Mr. M. Baker from "Surrey Trading" were present but Mr. W. Henning, squire of the parish and secretary, was unable to attend. After various toasts and musical numbers the members went on to the Green and enjoyed the afternoon fete.



Major and Mrs Arbuckle



Mr & Mrs Trussler by Tony Hart

Bill Monk, after two years of running the County Garage, became the landlord in 1938 and his brother, Jack, took over the garage. P.C. Quinain recalls a story told by a police colleague. During an air raid in World War Two a bomb fell near Cranleigh School and the Welcome Home Fund collection box, which had just been started and was intended for local men and women when they returned from the forces, disappeared. Bill Monk saw one of the Catering Corps boys slip it into the blouse of his battle dress. Our story teller apprehended the culprit leaving the pub, but he escaped. He was caught later by the Military Police near the manure heap in front of Plonk's Farm. Next day at an identification parade our narrator interrogated another soldier with similar features, but the soldier vehemently



Bricklayers Arms

denied taking the box although he had briefly visited the pub for cigarettes. The landlord was then called; he picked out the real culprit who confessed he had done it as a bet after he had consumed too many beers. The box contained 4s. 3d. (21p) and the poor policeman went off with a very red face!

After the war Major Bob Arbuckle, late of the Gordon Highlanders, took over the management; his wife was a racing motorist by the name of Houldsworth. He equipped the bar with "antique" coach lamps and souvenirs acquired through his war service. The pub is still called the "Top House", by the locals'.

The next tenants were Leslie and Sylvia Trussler, who expanded the catering facilities and ran a very successful inn until a few years ago.

RED LION

Overlooking the Green, this public house is attractively situated. An early document in the hands of Ind Coope Friary Meux shows that in 1863 a survey was carried out on a beer-house and barn, with five cottages, belonging to George Hughes, and the total value given as £850, for which the surveyor's fee amounted to 1 guinea.

In 1896 the Red Lion was purchased by Friary Holroyd and Healy when it was already in the hands of James and Mary Hook, James being a game-keeper whilst his wife ran the beer-house. Their trade was never as good as the Bricklayers as they only sold beer.

Henry Jarrad then took over as licensee and bought all the property. He had sixteen children, fourteen of whom were born in the Red Lion Cottages and the others at Chestnut Cottage (next to Marshalls Mowers).

Micky Killick always had to cut the tops of his boots as he had bad toes. He worked with Henry Jarrad at the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills and in the 20s he made fireworks for bonfire night. It was reported that there were



James, Mary and Bill Hook with pet sheep
and Reg Wrixen (small boy) 1900s

loud bangs emanating from his home at Lake Cottages and even louder explosions in the village on 5th November. His rockets were long range and lethal when they zoomed across the Green. Looking back, a former next door neighbour wonders at the hazards of using gunpowder indoors with lighted candles around.

In later life Micky became a lengthsman, one who would sweep a certain length of the village street.

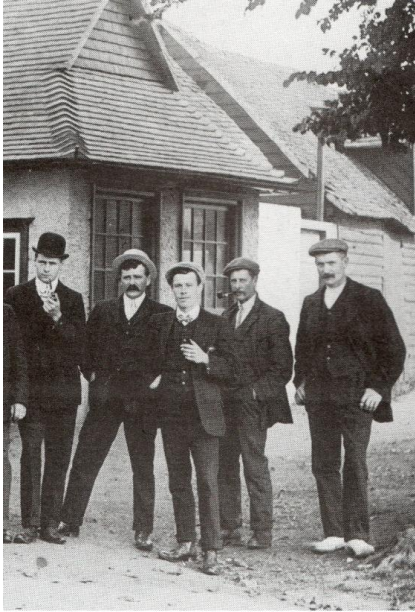
The "Pals" club was started after World War One and continued through to the Second. It was a slate club, payments being made to Joe Elliott at the Red Lion. The money contributed went to members in need. The club and its Cranleigh counterpart held an



"Red Lion", painting by Thomas J. Purchas 1890s

annual fete in Hullbrook Meadows.

Dorothy Young, daughter of the licensee in the late 20s, married Russell Dickens, a slightly eccentric gentleman farmer from Gristhill Farm, who piloted a plane in the First World War and sometimes drove his car backwards up Gristhill!



Micky Killick & patrons 1910

After having spent twenty one years in the 5th Royal Inniskillen Dragoon Guards, Jim Rigden took over as landlord in 1933. During the Second World War blitz some people from a pub in Kingston spent several nights at the Red Lion,



42lb Conger Eel caught by Jim Rigden

returning home each day to work. As beer was rationed at that time, Jim had to find other employment when the pub was shut, one of these was to provide a taxi service. His hobbies included deep sea angling and organising his customers into a cricket team. His daughter, Elaine, remembers there always being fish in the kitchen.

During the Second World War Harry Rowntree, the cartoonist, lived a short while in the village and drew crayon caricatures of some of locals which adorned the pub walls for many years until a refurbishment

Tom and Elsie Ingham then took over during the 50s-60s, before moving to Shalford.

One elderly lady customer was fond of a drop of stout and she could be seen leaving her house looking quite slim wearing a long green cloak. She would return shortly after, quite a bit "stouter" and clanking slightly, her supplies being stored in pockets inside the cloak!

Many people will remember Doris and "Johnny" Johns who came here in the 60s and stayed until the 80s. During May 1971 an unusual sight greeted the eye when two bands from the regiment of the brigade of Gurkhas played on the Green. This was arranged by Major Christopher Thorne of April Cottage, who was chairman of the Gurkha Welfare Appeal. Later that month the band played at the Surrey County Show.



Gurkhas at Red Lion 1971

THE RAILWAY ARMS

The third hostelry and possibly the oldest was the beer house situated on Run Common now called White House. In the early 1800s the beerhouse was built on to a 17th century dwelling known as The Cottage and further extensions were added during the 19th century. Beer was sold to the bargees on the Wey and Arun Canal, which had opened in 1816. This beer house was known locally by a variety of names:- The Barge Inn; Bargees Rest; Waterman's Rest; Waterman's Arms; Canal Arms.



Entrance to Railway Arms 1920s

In 1851 it is believed that some of the employees of James Tickner's vinegar works subscribed 5s. (25p) each to buy the licence for the beer house. The vinegar works were nearby at Rushett Farm, where remains of the buildings can still be seen. James, whose ancestors lived in Lostiford House in the 17th century lived in Rushett Farm House. Due to the boundary, which follows the line of the stream,

furnace, situated across the road near Run Common Wharf, where two thousand tons of cordwood was burnt annually to manufacture naphtha and acetic acid, and some five hundred tons of charcoal was taken by initially by barge, and later by train, to Littlehampton.

While the Guildford to Horsham Railway was being constructed, the navvies (navigators) provided temporary trade until the line was opened in 1865. From the Abstract of Title dated 1879, the beer house was then known as the Railway Arms. Mrs. Ellinor Arbuthnot, who owned the premises, sold it to Lascelles Tickner of the Castle Brewery, Guildford (later coming under the management of Friary, Holyroyd and Healy) for £1,000 to include stabling, piggery and garden, plus a nearby tenement - since demolished and replaced by Run Common Cottage. Here a private garage was erected on the course of the disused canal. The Wey and Arun Canal Society, having cleared a good stretch to date, still have further problems to overcome.



The Railway Arms

the house is in the Parish of Bramley and the farm is in our Parish. Custom would have come from Richard Medland's workmen at his charcoal

In 1919 Mrs. Ellen Cannon came to live in the Cottage and assisted Albert Moore, then Matthew Frost, the landlords. She continued working there after she married William Squelch, who was employed by Marchants, the builders in Shamley Green in the early 30s.



"Navvies Hole" 1930s

Between the wars the pub was a hive of activity - families would come from Smithwood Common and the surrounding area - the men to play quoits, indoor skittles and cricket. Many quoits have been found in Navvies Hole across the road. This pond, in which young children loved to swim, was formed when clay was dug out to build the canal. Each summer William Brownlow Loyd of Upper House would invite his friends and relatives to play a match against the Run Common Cricket Team.

In 1933 Walter Newman took over as landlord, moving his family from the Malt House in Shamley Green. The Railway Arms was supposed to have sold the best (illegally home-brewed) cider in the area and on one occasion word was sent to the pub that the police were on their way and the entire stock was poured down the drain in the nick of time! When large groups were at the pub, the beer was poured into a large tin bath from which the tankards were filled. It saved time - one didn't have to go tramping up and down to the cellar.

Life was more leisurely then; Walter's son George was engaged for twenty five years before finally taking the plunge. On one occasion a pig

had been slaughtered by the landlord, wrapped in a white sheet and hung in a tree. This was seen in the moonlight by a cyclist nearing the railway bridge, who reported to the local constable that he had seen a body hanging!

After the Second World War, trade declined and when 75-year old Mr. Newman applied for a renewal of the licence in March 1954 a surveyor reported that the property was deemed structurally unsuitable. There were no sinks and drains for washing, water came from a pump in the scullery and

there was no proper water closet although gas had been laid on in the 1940s. He also felt that when one man was serving he could not supervise the bars because all the liquor was stored in the cellar. Business was quiet during the week but at weekends Mr. Newman served up to eighty cricket teas and although the Slate Club numbered around sixty, some members came from outside the area.

A representative of the police then said that there had been no trouble since Mr. Newman had been the licensee except when he had had to



The Newman Family

Back row: Les, Den, Charlie, Molly, George. Front: Alan, Helen, Walter

summon the police for help concerning some gypsies. They were drunk before they arrived, so he refused to serve them. The premises were difficult to supervise and as the owners were not prepared to spend money on the property, in the interest of the public a licence was not desirable.

After Mr. Newman' s death in 1956 the property went up for auction in April 1957. Mrs. Squelch remained as tenant of the new owners but she moved a few years later, when the whole property was converted into one house and renamed The White House.

SCHOOLS

WONERSH AND SHAMLEY GREEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

There was schooling in Wonersh as early as 1683 for the children of Wonersh and Shamley Green, according to Brian Leighton in his book "A History of Parochial Schooling in Wonersh and Shamley Green 1683-1977". Samuel Wickens B.A., Clerk in Holy Orders was appointed master with £4 being available annually from the estate of Henry Chennell to teach six boys. Richard Gwynne, another benefactor provided in his will for four more boys. These annuities continued until the early 20th century when parochial charities were amalgamated.

By the end of the 1830s there were forty boys, fourteen girls and six infants in Wonersh School which was situated in the North Chapel of the church. The population in the area was expanding so a new large school was built on waste ground at Norley Common, Shamley Green given by the Earl of Onslow. When it opened in 1843 Mr. William Simmonds was headmaster on an annual salary of £34 8s. 0d. (£34.40), and Mrs. Booker, with a salary of £25 10s. 0d. (£25.50), to teach the girls.

Conditions were cramped, with children forbidden to drink the poor water, the heating was dependent on the headmaster providing faggots



School Children 1898

and sanitary arrangements were very basic. Needless to say illness and outbreaks of diphtheria led to temporary closures of the school.



Arthur Dunford

Headmaster 1916-24, one of the first motor cyclists in the village.

As the population continued to increase, additional accommodation was added, including a classroom designed by the well known Guildford architect Henry Peake in 1871. There was provision for 298 places in school by the end of the 19th century.

The arrival of compulsory schooling in 1890 and the Education Act of 1902 gave financial aid to the school. It is interesting to note that each child paid one penny a week, but if

payments were two weeks in arrears, the child was sent home. Applications to join the school were made to the Vicar who made regular calls



The School 1928

to the schools to check that the rules were being kept and that the church catechisms were learnt. Parents were held responsible for making sure that their children went to Sunday school and had their Bibles. In those early days the managers were regular visitors to the school, as they still are.

Around 1903 five and a half acres of ground were acquired for recreational activities. In 1913 a swimming pool was made by damming a stream for the children to bathe in. Jack Renmant still has his certificate for swimming twenty five yards dated 3rd October 1929 signed by the Head Teacher, E. Pengelly of Ellens Green School.

Frank Huntley's booklet "Shamley Green School in the 1920s", our Society's publication no. 3, gives a graphic account of the school at this time. He remembers the education was fairly basic but learnt to enjoy nature, the countryside and a love of books all his life. He also remembers that not all visitors to the school were welcome. The County Council nurse, known as the "nit-woman" who inspected hands, teeth and heads, was detested. The school rules asked for clean, neat children with short, well-combed hair and no curl paper or finery.

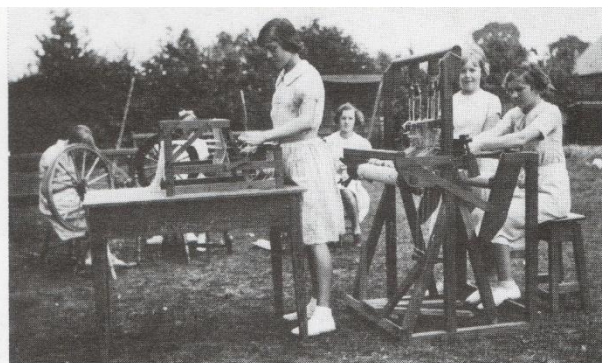
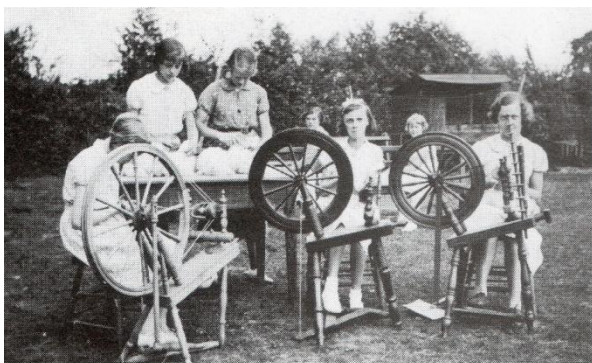
In the 1930s Mr. John Ellis, the Head Teacher, was known as "Bristles" and ran a farming club. As well as growing and making hay from the school field there were sheep, rabbits, geese and bees. After making hay in 1935 the rick



School Children 1920s

was sold for £7 10s. 0d. (£7.50). They bred angora rabbits especially for the wool which the children spun for knitting bonnets, socks and booties as well as for weaving on pedal looms to make garments such as ties.

The children had small gardens of their own. These fell into decay, but recently they have been reconstructed, through the generosity of the Argyll family before they left for Canada. After a visit to the school in October 1930 Sir Arthur Glyn, a member of the Surrey Education Committee, took three boys to London to visit Westminster Abbey and to a performance of Shakespeare's "The Tempest". The football team were invited as the guests of Sir Arthur to play another school team at Ewell and to partake of dinner with him after the match. In order that the girls would not be left out, the school was invited to take a mixed country dance team to Glyn House, Ewell the next summer.



Brushing, Combing, Spinning and Weaving

May Day was celebrated each year. Mrs. Margaret Berry, the present school secretary, recalls that when she started at the school thirty years ago, the May Queen was chosen from the older girls and two smaller girls were chosen to be her attendants. She was crowned and led the other children in maypole dancing. These were danced to the music of the violin played by Mr. Sells one of the teachers. Don Twine remembers giving 6d. (2 1/2p) a week towards violins for class instruction.



May Day 1937

Leslie Punter - King, Connie Wrixen - Queen

This May Day tradition lapsed during Mr. Walker's time as Head Teacher but was resumed soon after the next Head Teacher, Mrs. M. Croysdill, took over. This was continued by the subsequent Head Teacher, Miss Hollow. Each Spring there is a May Fair. The maypole dancing is now to the accompaniment of a tape recorder! At this fair there is a fancy dress parade with a different theme each year so that all the pupils can join in the fun.



School Staff 1948

Back:: Visitor, Mrs. Margaret Hill, Mrs Booker, Rev. B. Alexander, Thelma Sayers, Mrs. Edith Sayers
Front: Mr Arthur Sells, Miss Davis, Mr. Ellis, Mrs Joyce Ross, Mr Jack Overton

Throughout the 20th century the numbers of children decreased and the school buildings were condemned. The managers, led by the Vicar of Womersley, the Reverend Hugh Anthony, saved the school with Mr. David Nye, the diocesan architect, who re-planned the school. The new building was dedicated by the Bishop of Guildford in 1958. In the same year the school became a Primary school for children up to eleven years and then in 1973 a First school for children up to eight years as it is today. The Vicar remains the chairman of the Board of School Governors.



Anniversary Celebrations 1993

Under the present Head Teacher, Mrs. Anne Teideman, there are sixty six children in school and the numbers are again increasing. The children are taught the 3 R's as well as art, cookery, music and science. They learn to use a computer and play games in and out of doors. Lessons are learnt and friends are made in a brightly lit, colourful and happy environment. They still look neat and tidy but "finery" is still not welcome in school! The school colours have been red and grey for some years.



Aerial View of Longacre School

The school celebrated its One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary with an Open Morning and exhibition of memorabilia on 26th May, 1993. On 9th June, a service of Thanksgiving led by the Bishop of Dorking was followed by a special luncheon for all the children. Wonersh Parish Council funded the luncheon which was prepared by two governors with an Anniversary Cake for the party.

LONGACRE SCHOOL

"A Happy Heart Goes All the Way", the motto of Longacre School, says as much about the founder of Longacre as it does of the school. Miss Ursula Fairfax- Cholmeley or "Chum" as she was known to everyone, brought her nursery school down from Chelsea to the cottage in the grounds of Dibdene, Shamley Green at the invitation of Sir

The cottage is now known as the Coach House. Thus Dibdene Cottage Nursery School was started in May 1940 with six pupils. It is believed that Chum required six pupils before she could open her school. As she only had five, Michael Craig-Cooper, a family friend, was sent over from Ireland to make up the numbers. Michael remembers that Sir Philip used to give wonderful parties for them. He always had an annual Christmas party in the Arbuthnot Hall near the Forrest Stores where the children used to collect their bottles of Perishers orange juice, according to Christopher Noble, another of Chum's original pupils. Sir Philip is also remembered for telling the children stories in his air raid shelter where they gathered during "alerts". When the "all clear" was heard he would not let them go until the story was finished!



Miss Fairfax-Cholmeley and Pupils

Philip Gibbs in 1940, when the bombing of London became too severe.

By September 1940 there were ten pupils. Chum's helpers in those early days included Louie Glew, Sticky Glew's sister, who was the cook. The children called her "Miss Sukie" after the nursery rhyme "Polly put the kettle on ...". Mrs. Margaret Hills helped at Dibdene before moving to the Church School. Leaving there after twenty seven years, she transferred to Longacre where she still works. Miss Bice Bellairs, a friend of

Chums, arranged the dances for a revue in 1941, which was put on to benefit the Shamley Green Nursing Association, at the Arbuthnot Hall. She supported their many theatrical

Rice, won the choir's section at the Bramley Music Festival seven times in the last ten years. They were also highly commended in the McDonald's Child of Achievement Music in the Community Competition in 1991.



Choir 1980s

productions for many years. Richard Maylam, Christopher Noble and others remember the plays and concerts especially "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" during these years at Dibdene.

Chum married Robert FitzGerald in 1943 when he was serving with the 1st Battalion Canadian Scottish Regiment. He came home after the war to find that in 1945 she had bought Longacre, a twenty roomed house with a large garden and some fields, to expand her school.



Sonia Chapman & Emily Urry
before tea with the Queen Mother 1993

In January 1946, thirty pupils moved into Longacre, with staff. In September, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper moved into the cottage in the grounds to look after the gardens and the FitzGeralds. Mrs. Cooper did all the needlework and costumes for the school. In 1953 she made some of the costumes for the village Fair to celebrate the Coronation.

According to a fire service report dated 30th December, 1947 there were forty children of whom twenty one were boarders and eight staff. Additional classrooms were built as well as an Assembly Hall with a stage, as numbers increased. The musical and cultural life continued to flourish and the school choir, aged nine to eleven years, have, under Mrs. Lynda

The Kindergarten was taught by Mrs. Peggy Fairbain for thirty two years and she is much remembered by many former pupils, even by one pupil for wearing nail varnish and lipstick to match her shoes! One day Mr. Weller saw a thunder bolt hit the school. Lightning struck a tree, the lights went out, the toilet was hit and some bricks flew out. Mrs. Fairbain was hit and bruised all over from the bolt.

Mrs. Ivy Durrant also taught needlework and was at Longacre for twenty two years. A teacher at the school introduced the children to supporting Queen Mary's Clothing Guild. The children knitted squares for blankets and little garments. These would be sent up to St. James' s Palace for the viewing day when groups of ladies from all over the country and a small group from Longacre were invited. Then two girls and a member of staff, who took it in turns, attended the Annual General Meeting when they were presented to the Queen Mother who is now patron and took tea with her. This still happens annually.

Ulick Palmer, early in his time at Longacre when confined to the "San", remembers his daily porridge which was not entirely free of lumps. As he disliked lumps in his compulsory porridge he came upon the idea of hiding it in his bedside locker, which in those immediate post war days was an empty orange box. "Pompey" the cat who belonged to "Mins", Miss Milnes the matron for many years, ate the porridge for some days, until one night she gave birth to the kittens in his locker! Only recently has this secret been disclosed by Ulick, who was amused to discover as a Longacre parent that a fork with his name on was still being used at the school nearly thirty years later. In the early days the boarders were required to have their own fork, knife and

spoon. He now has the engraved fork and spoon at home.

John Tottenham, another boy in the early days, vividly recollects on one occasion Chum cycling down a hill in a severe hat and Sunday best to church with a child riding pillion! Others remember waiting in the corridor outside her room for the slipper or being put on "the naughty table" in the dining room. Chum, always in her apron, served up lunches.

Jane Martens recalls in October 1965 the thrill of watching a number of children from Longacre taking part in the filming of Ken Russell's "Isadora Duncan". When filming was done locally, the girls taking part wore coloured chiffon clothing.

Other snippets from Anthony O' Brien and Hugh Wace concern getting into mischief climbing forbidden trees with Richard Branson, who grew up in the village and is now the world famous business man and entrepreneur. Longacre has a special tree that the children called the "Battleship". The boys were taught woodwork on Saturday mornings by Uncle Robert. This made some girls jealous!

In 1990 some pupils gave a charming dancing display to celebrate the school's fiftieth Anniversary at the village pageant. Chum would have approved. She died in 1984. She and her husband dedicated over forty years of their lives to the many children who went through the school. Chum was The School to them all and Uncle Robert recalls that many former pupils brought their prospective partners for approval by her.

The school is now a charitable trust with one hundred and sixty one day pupils. Uncle Robert is a current Governor and benefactor to the school. Mrs. Heather Clarke who came to teach the top form and English at Longacre in 1974 is the present headmistress. She is maintaining, along with other members of staff and Governors, Chum's fine traditions.

CHURCH, CHAPEL AND SECT

CHRIST CHURCH

Most of our parish boundaries follow very ancient hedgerows and landscape features. The custom of beating the bounds reflects their earlier significance when each parish had to be a largely self sustaining economic unit. This situation had substantially changed by 1881 when a more modern boundary was created separating the parish of Shamley Green from Wonersh.

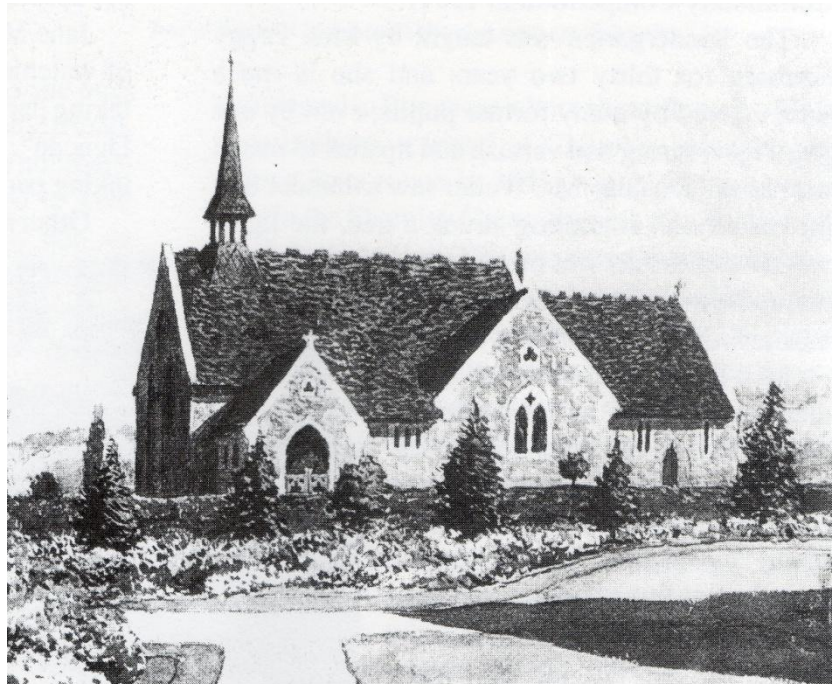
We know that in 1564 Bridgham Farm then in one of the outlying parts of Shamley Green was conveyed to the Vicar of Wonersh on the understanding that the rent be used for church upkeep. Evidently this condition was respected for in 1793 the tenant was granted a peppercorn rent for fourteen years in consideration of the considerable sum of £300 which he had advanced for essential repairs to the roof of Wonersh Church.

Until 1864 there was no church building in Shamley Green but a curate sometimes conducted a service at one of the larger houses. After 1842 the Church School, at that time no more than a single large classroom, was available and by 1860 services were being conducted at the school on Sunday afternoons with psalms and hymns being sung to the accompaniment of violins.

Though many refer to the hill on which the church stands as Church Hill the name of the farm on its northern flank and Ordnance Survey maps designate it as Plonks Hill. The choice of this site, centrally located within the parish was fortuitous. The church was not huddled by the older properties bordering the village Green since Shamley Green was for many years only a hamlet in Wonersh parish. Until 1863 those wishing to attend divine worship had to travel to St. John the Baptist at Wonersh.

In 1861 Wonersh Church Yard was closed by Order in Council. The Reverend E. Body, Vicar of Wonersh at that time, negotiated with H. Street for the purchase of a plot of land now known as the Old Grave Yard which was used as a burial place for the whole of the parish of Wonersh until 1900.

In 1863, the Reverend E. Body again negotiated with H. Street for another plot adjacent to the graveyard which was given to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the purpose of erecting a Chapel of Ease. On 2nd July, 1863 The Right Reverend Charles Sumner, Bishop of



Christ Church 1885

Winchester, laid the foundation stone and a building was subsequently erected at a cost of £1500 to provide seating for three hundred persons of which two hundred were to be free. It was not until 1st May, 1929 that our parish became part of the newly created diocese of Guildford.

From 1846 until 1881, services were usually conducted by one of the Wonersh curates. The first of these the Reverend Hamer was followed by the Reverend Jephson Gardner. The third curate, the Reverend E. Bowring, became the first Vicar of Shamley Green serving from 1881 to 1891. As nephew of Lord Ashcombe he had useful connections with the Cubitt family whose fortune had been made in the building trade. By

an indenture of 27th June, 1883 a plot of land was sold to the Vicar for £100 and a further £2900 was spent on the erection of the building now called the Old Vicarage. Until it was ready for occupation clergy lived at Alleyne later known as Corner Cottage (Orchard Gap).

The gift of the living, initially held by the Squire, W. Henning, and later by Lord Ashcombe, subsequently passed to the Bishop of Guildford. In 1900 Lord Ashcombe, with the willing consent of the tenant, W. Henning, who also happened to be church warden at that time, presented the land known as New Church Yard. It was consecrated by the Bishop of Southampton in June of that year.

In his book "Companion into Surrey", a former resident, Doctor Collison-Morley, mentions the tradition of placing a penny on the gate post of the church yard when a corpse was taken for burial, to prevent the establishment of a right of way. A Parish Magazine from 1898 reported that a wheel bier had been purchased and could be hired for 1s. Od. (5p) on application to the vicarage; this was to help avoid unnecessary expense as it required only two bearers.

Though Squire Henning took his turn to serve as church warden, his offer to read the lessons was resisted by the Vicar. He preferred to approach Mr. Arbuthnot who declined the invitation. Mr. Arbuthnot had already upset the Squire by having the temerity to precede him down the aisle when the service ended. With something less than generosity of spirit the Squire wrote to Mr. Arbuthnot requesting that in future he should not "infringe the long admitted if unwritten rule of good manners in this parish" whereby he, as Squire had been "in the habit of leaving my pew before other members of the congregation stirred from theirs in acknowledgement of my position as a leading personality in the community." As a result of an earlier

altercation with the Vicar the Squire had retained his customary seat in the Chancel after the relocation of seating for other prominent members of the community from the Chancel stalls so the choir could sit there following the removal of the organ loft which they had previously occupied.

In 1877 Louisa Dacres of Thanescroft carved an oak Reredos designed by her sister Mary. They donated it jointly and in 1892 the mural on the East wall of the Chancel was painted at a cost £150.

To commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria the Nave was extended at a cost of £655 to provide additional seating for seventy eight people. This was dedicated in January 1898 together with a large brass lectern presented by the Reverend A.W. Leach who was Vicar from 1891 to 1902. He was a keen horticulturist and had been known, when in a forgetful mood, to christen a baby by naming it after some exotic flower listed in one of his seed catalogues, much to the astonishment of the parents.

In 1901 Lord Ashcombe donated an additional quarter acre plot, and at a cost of £382 the Church Room was built as a memorial to Eleanor Dacres and Frances Leach. In 1921 the Church Room was enlarged by the addition of an entrance lobby, toilets and kitchen at the expense of the Reverend C. Eagles. He served from 1902 to 1931 and older residents still re-call how "Pecker", as he was nicknamed, officiated at family ceremonies as well as carrying out his other duties as priest and chairman of School Governors. His successor, the Reverend A. Hughes, was the last of our Vicars to reside in the Old Vicarage from 1931 to 1934.



Rev. R.H.C. Mertens

Subsequently the Reverend R. Mertens did not find the Old Vicarage to his taste. He was a bachelor who shared his home with three formidable maiden sisters of strangely differing

stature. Initially the Mertens family took up residence in Greenways, which in those days had a long garden extending from Sweetwater Lane at its rear to an imposing front entrance in Hullbrook Lane.

In January 1935, with the consent of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, the Old Vicarage was sold to Colonel Stallard. The proceeds were used to purchase part of the strawberry field on the opposite side of the road from the Cubitt estate at a cost of £100 and to erect a new Vicarage of more modest proportions. Relentless pursuit of the bachelor Vicar by a local Mademoiselle was all to no avail, he was still single when he took up his next appointment. His replacement the Reverend B. Alexander arrived in 1941.

He came together with his wife, sisters in law and war time paying guests. During the First World War he had been badly affected by gas but he patiently persisted with his duties including the preaching of sermons though the latter were sometimes curtailed or interrupted by his fits of coughing as well as the air raid siren. It was during his ministry in 1964 that the Church celebrated its centenary.

The Reverend L. Tanner served as Vicar from 1964 to 1971. Towards the end of this period he was appointed a Canon of Guildford Cathedral and subsequently moved to the Cathedral where he became Sub Dean. The Reverend C. Scott, arrived with the unlikely credentials of having been a Captain in the Royal Navy. Serving as Vicar from 1972 to 1983 he was responsible for organizing "Holiday Hash" activities at the Church Room to keep children occupied and entertained during the Easter Holidays. On several occasions the Palm Sunday procession was led by a donkey. He also revived a pre-war feature, the Vicarage Garden Party. On one such occasion he arranged for an hot air balloon ascent from an adjacent field.

More recently during the ministries of the Reverends A. Lockhart 1984-1987 and M. Hughes, revised forms of liturgy have been introduced plus innovations such as Family, Pram and Grave Yard services.

On Remembrance Sunday a special service is held after the parade of British Legion Veterans, Girl Guides and Cubs to observe the two minutes silence in front of the War Memorial. The names of fifteen men who died in the 1914-18 war and eleven who died during the 1939-45 War are inscribed on the memorial. The Hodgson family who lived at the Hallams lost two of their sons during the 1914-18 War. The battlefield wooden cross originally erected over the temporary grave of one of them is now attached to the church wall just beneath the most impressive of the stained glass windows which was given in their memory.



"The Pied Piper" 1979

At the Vicarage Garden Party. Dennis May, Don Nunneley, Alan Pavia, Jack Derry (back)

The other windows, mainly of the late Victorian period were given in memory of former prominent residents. The most recent being the windows on the North side of the nave given in 1936 in memory of three members of the Messenger family who lived at Longacre. During the 1920s a ladies' sewing guild embroidered and presented a set of altar frontals made in appropriate colours for each season of the Christian year.

Other gifts of note included eight replacement tubular bells given in 1953 by N. Gossage of Woodlands and Mrs. Bushman (nee Lampson) formerly of Willinghurst in memory of their parents; an oak Litany Desk presented by J.R. and Mrs. Rooper in memory of their two sons one of whom was killed whilst serving on HMS Ark Royal in 1941, the other when on MTBs in the Channel in 1944; embroidered kneelers depicting local houses were worked by many residents during the 1970s; a beautiful carving of a Madonna and child by Douglas Stephens, which is housed in the Lady Chapel;

a striking batik designed and created by Thetis Blacker to depict a phoenix, presented by the Finn family in memory of their daughter Elizabeth.



The Choir 1960s

Back: Ted Thumwood, Nanette Stone, Jack Payne, Norman Booker. Front: Ross Edmonds, Catherine Wood, Denise Hampshire, Peta Edmonds, Frances Dunford

The oak exterior entrance doors were erected in the porch in 1956, the cost being defrayed from a legacy left by John Grantley Norton, a former Treasurer and Secretary of the Parochial Church Council. He was a descendant of the first Lord Grantley.

The church has been involved with drama and music throughout its history. In March 1898 a Concert of Sacred Music was performed at the School. Admission was free but children under ten years of age were not to be admitted as it was wished to keep proceedings as quiet as possible! In 1953 a Coronation Concert was recorded in the Church and for the 1977 Silver Jubilee celebrations, Laurie Lister of Smarkham Orchard, who was well known for producing reviews for Joyce Grenfell, directed a nativity play with many parishioners participating. In 1979 Edward Stowell produced a very moving dramatisation of Noah. During the 1980s there were various Flower Festivals and a Talents weekend. For several years members of the church organized Guy Fawkes Bonfire Parties and continue to arrange Shrove Tuesday Pancake Parties to welcome newcomers as well as the Christmas Concerts and Carol Services.

The choir was originally accompanied on a harmonium by Louisa Robinson of Northcote Farm. The first organ was given by Mrs. Guthrie. She subsequently presented a larger and better instrument after she had remarried and became Mrs. Arbuthnot. In 1895 the Reverend C. Eagles recorded the installation of a new organ at a cost of £150. This survived until 1910 when the present instrument was given by Mr. and Mrs. Gossage of Woodlands. Neil Gossage also paid for the fitting of electric lights in 1929. It was not until 1949 that an electric motor was installed to operate the organ pump, giving long overdue relief to Marie Hillsley who had pumped the bellows by hand at every service for thirty two years. The electric pump was given by Harold Vezey Strong in memory of his wife Mary.

Frances Dunford took over as temporary organist and choir master from Edwin Goodwin in 1916 as war time stand in; she continued in this post for over fifty years. During this period she trained numerous young choristers to a very high standard with musical activities ranging from sacred to secular. Hubert Foss and other BBC staff visited on several occasions to record Evensong hymns and in 1950 the choir recorded carols which were broadcast on Christmas Eve in the BBC Music Magazine.

After the Second World War Frances Dunford worked in Diocesan House for Major Fairbanks Smith of Haldish Farm. He was secretary and fund raising organiser for the



Sunday School Outing c.1925

Bishop's Challenge, the principal objective of which was to raise money for Guildford Cathedral. The fund also allowed parishes to earmark donations for specific projects in their own churches. Our project involved closing off part of the South Aisle to form a new choir vestry at a cost of £800. On 17th May, 1961 the Queen visited Guildford for the consecration of an almost completed cathedral, representatives of Shamley Green were among those present. The Major's successor, Colonel Blackburne Kane organized the event and was given the honour of acting as her Majesty's Gold Stick in Waiting; as a licenced diocesan lay reader, he preached regularly at our church.

Shamley Green Church Choir's traditions have been well maintained under the capable direction of Daphne Hamilton. Many parishioners will recall the spirited rendering of "Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat" by the children's choir in the 1991 Village Summer Festival.

The Sunday School, held in the Church Room, flourished in the first half of this century, the highlights being summer outings to the seaside and Christmas parties.

One cannot mention the Sunday School without recalling its long serving superintendent Emma Hallett. She briefed her young assistant Sunday School teachers carefully; always providing a varied programme of interesting activities for the young. She was also involved in supply teaching visiting the sick and acting as sacristan. Following her Rodney Broomfield and Tom Cornwell kept the Sunday School group for some years.

After an interval without a Sunday School, Joyce Hughes, wife of the present incumbent, has succeeded in re-establishing a small children's group. The Church Room is also used by a play-

group.

Two other lay stalwarts of whom many will have fond memories are Norman Booker and Jack Payne. Norman was one of the longest serving vergers and sextants. He sang for many years in or with the choir and was an expert at ringing the tubular bells. Jack Payne was a great character who derived joy from simple pleasures. He showed an overflowing generosity of spirit in providing entertainment for others and often played his violin at weddings and parties.

Among those buried in the church yard is Thomas Jameson who was killed by lightning as he walked in a field nearby in 1897. More violent storms of 1987 and 1990 radically altered the appearance of the church yard and it will take years for the replacement trees to reach maturity.

Thanks to earlier generations we are fortunate to have an unpretentious, attractive church building of sound construction which has been lovingly maintained. Funding limitations, at the time when it was built, restrained the Victorians and helped to create an appropriate atmosphere for worship.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH (Formerly CONGREGATIONAL)

In 1662 when the Act of Uniformity came into force (after the restoration of Charles II), the Puri-



Congregational Chapel 1891

tan, or non-conformist, element was very strong in Guildford. Many dissenters were persecuted; but two of the great landowning families, the Onslows and the Stoughtons, doubtless exercised some protection.



Edwardian Congregation

One such dissenter, John Horsnaille, a dyer, built a small wooden chapel in Black Horse Lane (Chapel Street), Guildford in 1690. After a century of fluctuating congregations the chapel was revived again in 1802 by a young student named Stephen Percy and increased congregations resulted in the enlargement of the premises. Through the Surrey Mission, Stephen Percy evangelized in the surrounding villages and in 1824 Shamley Green chapel was founded in a building adjoining Quoin Cottage.

However, the cost of sustaining the building became too heavy a burden for such a small community and the chapel passed into the hands of the Strict Baptists. In 1861 when the Reverend John Hart became minister of the Guildford church, village work revived and interest was again taken in Shamley Green. When it was found that the Congregationalists held the title deeds dated 1836, the two denominations shared the chapel with the Baptists holding morning services and the Congregationalists afternoon and evening worship.

The building was repaired and re-seated and later handed back to the Congregational church. The pulpit was very small and high and preachers had to exercise care in ascending the narrow steps, so there was not much room for action! The high pews had narrow seats and straight backs - to prevent worshippers from

falling asleep during the long sermons. However, this was not the case when the evangelist, Henry Bell, preached there; as many as three hundred people listened to him and the chapel was full to overflowing.

Two stalwarts of the chapel were Isaac and Sarah Wakefield who lived in Plonk's Cottage. Isaac looked very biblical with his long white beard and a serene countenance.

Many lay preachers and deacons have worked tirelessly over the years, one such being May Colebrook, son of the founder of Tanglely (Wonersh) chapel who was superintendent for twenty years.

Another lay preacher, William Bateman from Guildford recalls a most dangerous journey one Sunday evening in the winter of 1882 when the roads were like sheets of ice and he had to run and slide all the way - ten miles there and back. The worst bit was coming up the steep hill at Lostiford! In latter years Mr. Edward Colebrook, a Guildford butcher, took visiting preachers from Guildford in the "gospel car" as it was nicknamed.



Converted Chapel 1988

By 1889 the chapel was in such a dilapidated state that a new building was needed. Maurice Baker, who owned the village shop, offered a site on the edge of the Green and a new chapel was built at a cost of £700 and dedicated in 1901.

The regular congregation increased in number and in 1925 the chapel celebrated its

centenary with the Moderator preaching at this auspicious event. The former chapel building was then used by Charlie Chapman, the wheelwright and undertaker, until its demolition in the 1920s.

The front door was normally open but was shut and locked on the odd occasions when a coffin was being made since the building doubled as the local mortuary. Mr. Chapman then moved his business to a shed at the bottom of his garden at Highway Cottage.

On three occasions the Sunday School won the South Surrey Challenge Shield for scripture exams.



Scripture Examination Shield 1933

L to R: Unknown, Mrs Scutt, Vera Scutt, Unknown, Joyce Neal, Peggy Allgrove.

Various activities included Women's meetings, Sales of Work and the chapel anniversaries – when representatives from chapels in the Guildford area met together and partook of lovely teas. An Egg Service was held on Easter Sunday 1933 when one hundred and seventy five eggs were sent to the Royal Surrey County Hospital.

Apart from the usual Sunday School outings, the highlight of the year was a week's stay in Edward Colebrook's large bungalow at Paghams when the Wondersh Scouts would join them, but under canvas.

For many years the Scutt family, from Stroud Common, devoted much of their time to the chapel, and services continued to the end of the

1960s when Playden rented the building. In 1978, the building was sold and converted into a private dwelling. Whilst alterations were taking place documents were discovered behind the foundation stone. These are still accessible in the History Society Archives; new documents have been inserted in their place in a time capsule.

So ended an era, after nearly one hundred and fifty years of the oldest denomination in Shamley Green.

THE SOCIETY OF DEPENDANTS - COKELERS

The Society of Dependants congregated for over one hundred years in their chapel at Lords Hill .

This religious sect was founded by John Sirgood, a boot maker, born 1821 in Avening, Gloucestershire. In his twenties he moved to South London where he married Harriet, a Godalming born girl. He joined the "Plumstead Peculiars" (peculiar = set apart) whose members believed that their Christian faith was more effective than medicine. Sirgood left the Peculiars and preached on Clapham Common but in 1850 he decided to find more receptive folk who would respond to his teachings.

Thus with all their belongings on a hand-cart he and Harriet travelled to Loxwood, Sussex where they found hospitality with John Overington and his wife. John Sirgood started to preach in cottage gardens and gathered quite a following. In 1861 he received a threatening letter from a solicitor representing some landowners and the local vicar, to the effect that if he continued conducting services he would be fined £20 on each occasion. He replied to this at great length with many quotations from the Bible, and even had a booklet printed entitled "Religious Intolerance in the Rural Districts of Sussex".

Certain villagers were hostile to the Brethren and forced entry into meetings and broke windows and crockery where John Sirgood lived. Also, because of the group's increased following among the poorer inhabitants, some

local landowners evicted their agricultural



Nelly Franks (centre), Friend & Niece 1925

workers from their tied cottages, but the Dependants found accommodation with local farmers who sympathised with his doctrines.

The Body (or Society) of Dependants was a plain living group of people, the Bible being their only literature and passages were learnt by heart. They did not advocate marriage and thought celibacy a desirable state rather than a doctrine, their belief resting on St. Paul's injunction to remain single and so be free to serve the Lord. As they had no marriage service, a non-conformist chapel was used by the few members who did marry.

They did not consider the Lord's Prayer applicable preferring to read the whole of the seventeenth chapter of John. Neither was there any communion service and hymns were sung unaccompanied. Their first chapel was built in 1861 in Spy Lane, Loxwood.

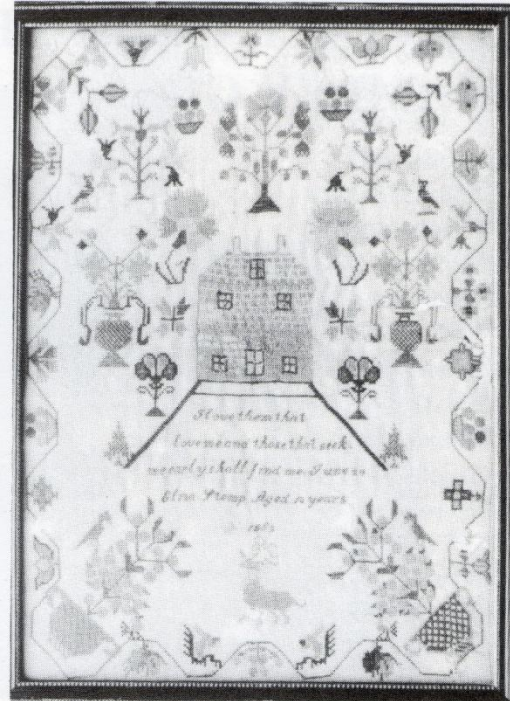
On Sundays there were three services and more during the week when the Leader, plus three firm believers, led the congregation from a raised platform. Hymns and prayers were committed to memory and the remainder of the service consisted of testimonies. However in 1958 a book of over four hundred and fifty hymns, mainly written by John Sirgood, was published.

The Dependants were total abstainers and strong pacifists and two of their members were imprisoned in the First World War for their beliefs. They thought little about their apparel and patched and mended their unfashionable clothes, the women wearing long, dark coloured jackets and ankle-length skirts, all crowned with a small black straw bonnet on top of their plaited buns. In later years some of the ladies wore plainly tailored clothes and hats and some of the Sisters were excellent seamstresses.

The ladies wore black woollen shawls in the winter and used them, folded, as a cushion to pad the pew backs on Sundays, while the men wore black suits and hats.

The nickname "Cokeler" could have derived from a piece of land in Loxwood called "Cokke's Field" upon which in 1870 they built their first shop, with living accommodation for staff.

By the mid-1850s another small band of followers met for services at Gatestreet Farm, Bramley, travelling from Selhurst, Rushett



Sampler worked by Eliza Stemp 1862

Common and Lords Hill. Their chapel was built in the 1860s at Lords Hill, close to their general stores (see chapter on shops). Some of the Dependants' cottages built nearby had

names like Avening, Sherston and Dursley (villages near John Sirgood's original home) and these names still remain. Other communities were established in Northchapel, Warnham, Chichester, Hove, Plaistow and South Norwood.

One of the first brethren at Lords Hill, Caroline Cumber, born in 1850, recalled that as a child and out on a Sunday walk with her brothers they heard singing, whereupon one brother said "It's the Ranters on Rushett Common, let's go." By the time they had run there the singing was finished but Thomas Overington was preaching and Caroline told her parents about it.

Three generations of Cumber family lived all together in one cottage at Lords Hill and her grandmother was the first Dependant to be buried in Shamley Green churchyard. How Caroline enjoyed the Bank Holiday weekend services at Loxwood when the Brethren came from miles around and the chapel was so full that many stood outside and listened through the windows.

Another Dependant, Eliza Stemp, who worked as a laundress, upon hearing that a friend of hers at Cuttmill, Puttenham was very ill, set off to visit her, making a round trip of twenty miles to administer to her friend.

The Brethren did not have their own burial ground at Lords Hill and so some of them were buried in Christ Church graveyard. They would first have a service at their own chapel then a short one at the graveside. These were happy occasions as the dear departed had normally left no encumbrances behind. There were no markers on most of their graves as "everyone was the same in the eyes of the Lord."

John Sirgood was a regular visitor and a prolific writer to his flock; he also delivered goods to all their shops. In 1885, when he died at Lords Hill, he had a following of over two thousand people. He was buried in their own cemetery at Loxwood.

One of the Elders, in the early 1900s, was Jacob Earle who, until the First World War, ran a dairy first at Wonersh Mill and later at Tanyard Farm. Some of the local boys were encouraged to kill rooks, which ate the farmer's corn seed - and to take them to Jacob who would pay the lads, throw the birds in a heap in the yard and as soon as his back was turned the boys would retrieve them and take their birds back the next day and get paid again! In the 1920s he built

a house near the village school on land which had been his market garden. His house, called Peaceful Place, was constructed of corrugated sheeting of a First World War Army hut from the old gunpowder mill at Chilworth. It was demolished in 1993. Mrs Ellis at School House was woken every morning at 5.30 to the sound of Jacob loudly singing hymns to his chickens.

Another elder was Stephen Franks who lived in Lower Lostiford Flour Mill. He ground the local farmers' corn and delivered it to the bakery at Lords Hill. One of his daughters Eleanor (Nelly) was housekeeper to Jacob

until he died in 1948; subsequently she looked after widower Fred Kelsey at Pond Close, Hullbrook Lane. She was known locally as the "Angel of Shamley Green" having served both as a mid-wife and as a layer-out of the dead.

In 1935 a national newspaper printed a story about the Dependants which was read by a similar sect in Germany who wrote to the Brethren and after the war they exchanged visits, Nelly being one of the members to travel to Schobdach in Bavaria.



William Hamshire - Elder
sitting near shop with butchers and bakery on the
right-hand side and chapel beyond

After the Second World War, membership of the sect had dwindled to two hundred and by the 1970s the numbers had shrunk to a mere handful. The only building still in use today is the Loxwood chapel which has been taken over by the Emmanuel Evangelical Church. In 1967 Fred and Nelly held their last service at Lords Hill Chapel. Nelly died four

months later at the age of 93 and Fred moved to Loxwood to live with the remaining Brethren. The chapel was demolished in the 1970s to make way for a modern house. Many Dependants will be remembered for their kindness; they would respond to anyone in need.

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE HOUSE IN SHAMLEY GREEN

Although Shamley Green cannot boast of any "great" houses, it does present a microcosm of a small Surrey village that has evolved from a scattering of modest, mostly yeoman farmers' cottages into the attractive village of mixed dwellings that it now is. The story of the development of these houses is not difficult to follow.

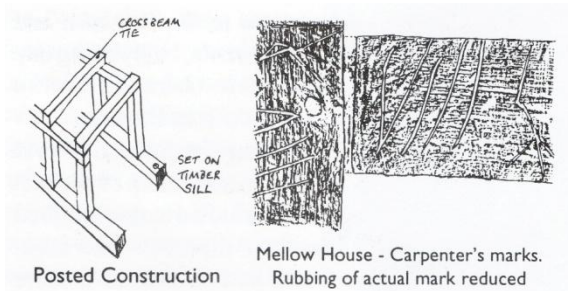
Apart from Bargate, this part of Surrey lacks much building stone, so the earliest dwellings were generally of timber, readily available when the woodlands were cleared for agriculture. In some areas simple curved timbers, used in pairs in a "wishbone" shape, gave way to angled timbers, known as crucks, which stayed in use until the end of the 17th century. There is, however, no evidence to suggest that cruck construction was used in South East



Northcote Farm

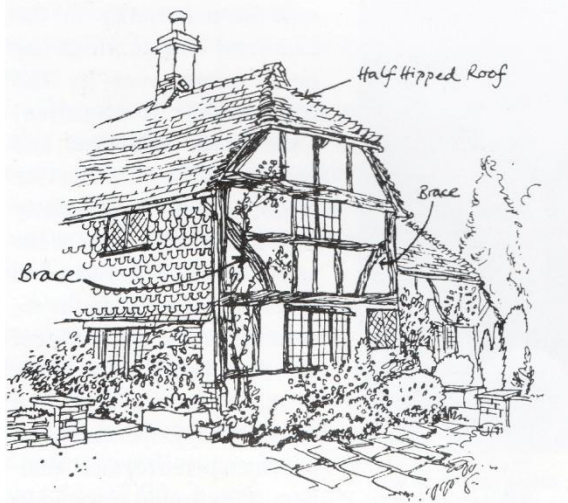
England, including Shamley Green, where timber framed houses are all of posted construction.

The need for more headroom led to the separation of the upper and lower parts of the crucks, into roof and wall timbers i.e. rafters and vertical posts or "studs".



Posted Construction
Mellow House - Carpenter's marks. Rubbing of actual mark reduced

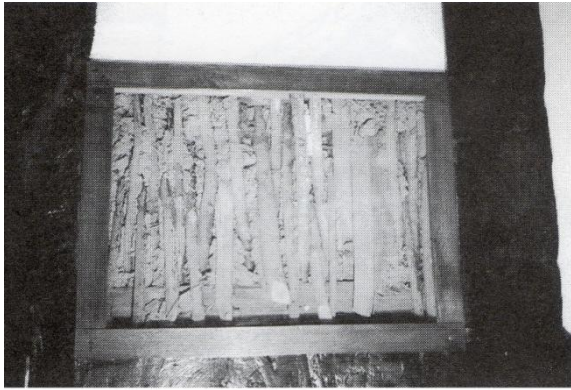
The half-timbered houses were built up with screens of these studs, tied top and bottom into heads and sills and fixed between the main posts, which were cut from the great forest oaks. The feet of the studs were set on a continuous balk of timber to stop them rotting in the earth and this, in turn, was sometimes set on a stone sill, as at Oak House.



Yieldhurst - Half-hipped roof and panelled wall with braces

The houses were built in units called bays storey by storey with a heavy beam to carry the upper floor joists. The area between the resultant strong framework was filled with screens of studs set close together, as can be seen over the entrance bay at Northcote Farm.

The timbers were sawn and the whole framework was set up at the carpenter's yard, knocked apart, then reassembled on site. Many houses in Shamley Green have carpenters' marks to show which parts of the framework should be joined. Whole



Old Well Cottage - Wattle and daub panel

series of marks have been recorded at Mellow House, which also has two fragments of a 17th century wall painting. The remains of one exists also at Oak House.

In the late 16th century, timber was needed for warships and a more economical method of walling was needed. Instead of the close-studding, the main posts were joined by a framework of lighter timbers, forming larger panels, sometimes using slanting timbers or "braces", to reduce distortion. A good example can be seen at Yieldhurst.

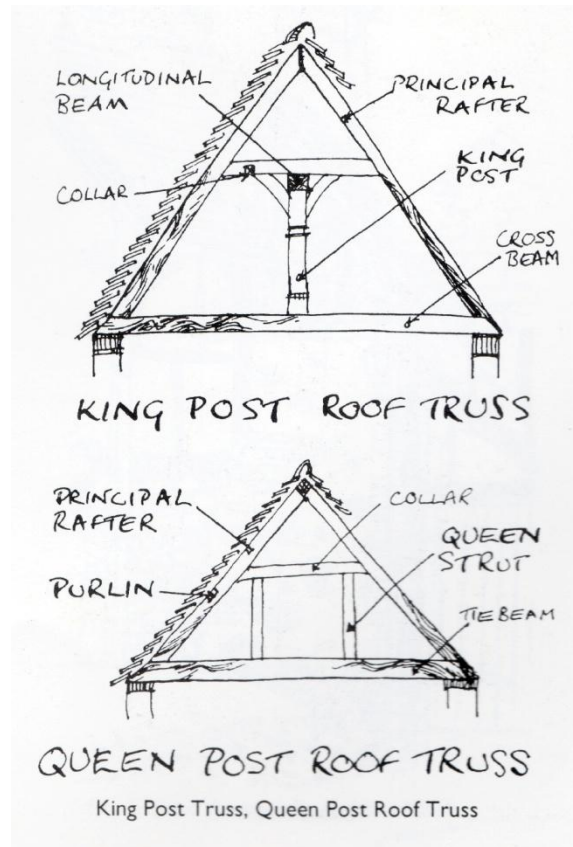
The areas between the roughly square framework were at first filled with wattles and straw and daubed with clay or dung. Broken bricks and stone might be used and later, bonded brickwork filled the spaces. These in-fillings were known as "nogging". Watts Cottage, of the late 16th century, still shows its framed and braced construction with



plastered panels and possibly re-used beams and posts in the west wall. At nearby Old Well Cottage, of similar date, some of the original wattle panel has been preserved.

Lee Crouch began life in 1350 as a two-bay hall house and had service and parlour bays added at the end. It was considerably altered in the 17th century and a rare off-centre chimney built. It has some close-studding in a central bay and timber framing with brick nogging to either side. The ground floor was faced with brick in Georgian times. It still has part of its original Horsham stone slab roof.

Upper House Farm also had Horsham slabs but its roof structure has been altered radically since then. There is now evidence to suggest that the house was begun early in the 14th century. However, only the north side shows its timber-framed construction and here is also an area of the Surrey Bargate stone with galletting - small pieces of ironstone - in the mortar joints of the wall.



The first "windows" were simply gaps left between the framing, soon filled with a lattice of crisscrossed laths. When glass was introduced, the lead used for glazing bars at first followed the same diamond pattern, still there at Lee Crouch and at Potters. The latter still has two small gabled windows, a method of lighting the upper floor when it became more habitable.

In the second half of the 16th century, open hall hearths were replaced by small bays called smoke bays which confined the smoke and allowed the rest of the house to be floored over. By the early seventeenth century brick chimneys replaced smoke bays, and are still with us. The plan of Potters shows how it developed from a four bay hall house of the early fifteenth century, to the present day.

More height was now needed to allow for the construction of the upper floor and the 1600s saw new wings being built at right angles to the early houses. The great king post roof trusses of early mediaeval times, such as that at Plonks Farmhouse and Barn Cottage gave way to the lighter queen post trusses, enabling a half-hipped roof to be built to give more internal height.

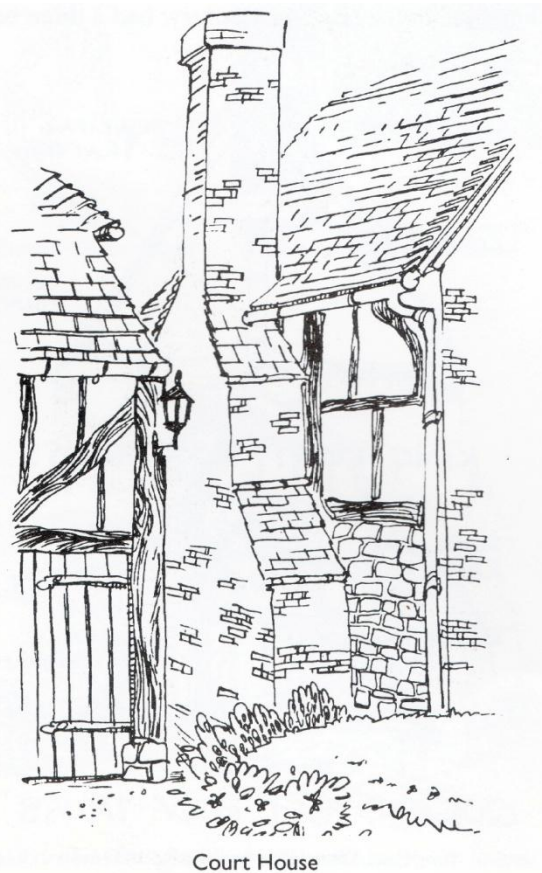
Yieldhurst, built as a two bay open hall house sometime in the late 14th century, had a three bay parlour wing built at right angles to it in about 1500, which has these features. Of similar development is Hullhatch dating from the

early 15th century, with a cross-wing built probably just before 1600.

When upper floors were built in timber-framed houses, the first floor beams were often jettied out for stability to the structure. Oak House, which was built in the 17th century, as a parlour wing to the earlier hall house, Old Hall, clearly shows this construction.

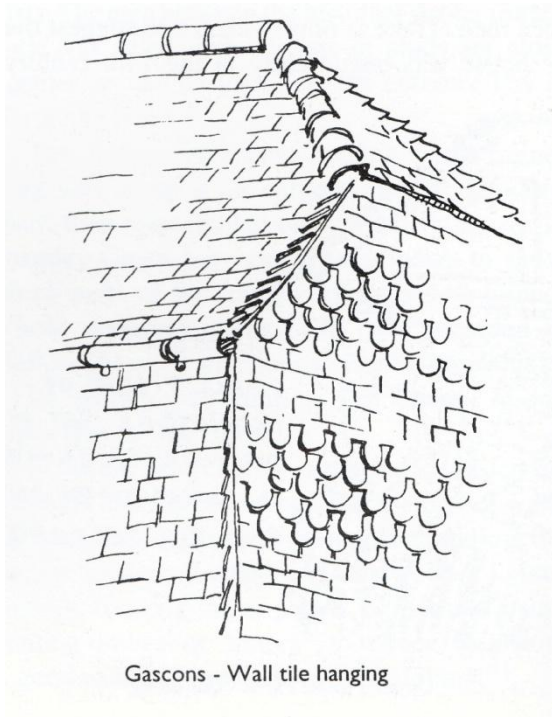
With the coming of bricks, many jetties disappeared when the ground floor was built up underneath, as at Malt House. Oak House and Malt House are fine examples of timber-framed houses with rendered infilling and both having finely carved barge-boards to their gables.

Just behind Malt House, built around 1600, is Mellow House of the same period, but in the 18th century, a brick wall was built right across the front of the timber-framed house, of which the corner posts are still visible. There is another example of Georgian "improvement" at Court House. Here it is possible to see the junction of the brick-facing with the earlier stone and timber-framed



wall clearly defined. The chimney stack on the right (east) side was probably built at the same time and has "1737" carved on it.

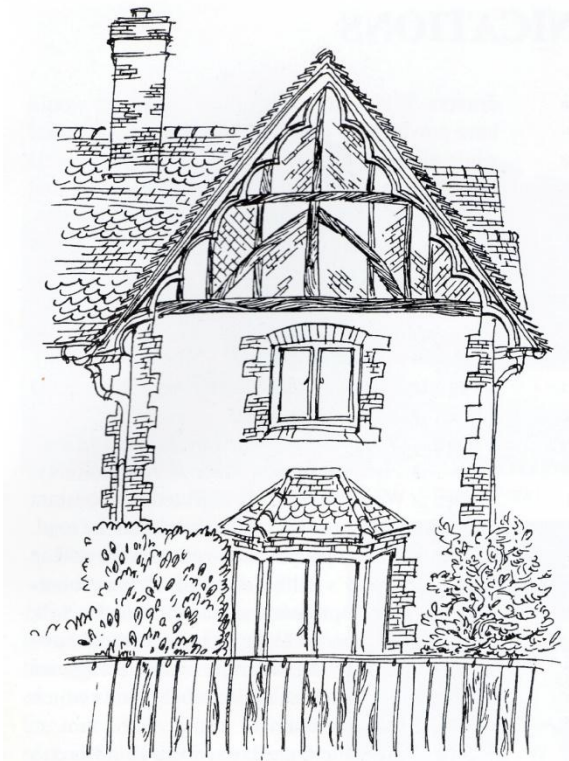
A wall-covering to the upper floors, frequently used in Surrey, was tile-hanging. There are numerous examples in Shamley Green, including Old Well and Watts Cottages facing the road and Gascons built probably at the latter end of the 16th century, where there is a rich variety of patterns of tiling on the taller, early 18th century brick parlour bay on the east end.



Regency times saw little change in the village. Slate was then more readily available, making it possible to build roofs with a lower pitch. Lockets, built about 1750, is a good example of the classical revival with the symmetry and vertical pattern of sash windows, each with twelve small panes. Surrey House close by, has a Regency addition to the right to the earlier Georgian house, discernible by the different window heights. The rendering conceals the junction of the two builds, with a shallow-pitched slate roof covering the whole.

Towards the end of the 18th century there were not many new houses built. Woodhill Manor, probably of that era, was built around the core

of an earlier house. Woodlands, built in 1840,



Orchard Gap - Inset showing quoins

replaced an earlier house, as did Pellgate in 1861. These houses all share similar features - dignified rendered facades, still with the vertical window pattern but larger panes - lacking the ornamentation that was to follow in later Victorian times.

Generally, the shallow-pitched roof was replaced by a steep, tiled one, as at Summerden, with bay windows under "half-timbered" gables jettied out from the wall. Two charming examples of small, early Victorian dwellings face the Green - Forge Cottage built in 1847 and Orchard Gap. They both have typical barge-boards to their gables and elaborate quoins and window surrounds.

The end of the 19th century saw the emergence of a new style of architecture in the country house. The severity of the "Renaissance" adaption of the Victorians, as typified at Willinghurst, designed by Philip Webb in 1889 with a vertical pattern of windows and minimal decorative features, gave way to the more picturesque.

Norman Shaw was responsible for alterations to Upper House and twenty years later he designed

the Hallams. This fine house on the edge of the village has a striking timbered entrance and magnificent two-storey bay window to the reception hall, with its gallery and grand staircase.

Dene House, built in 1892 with mock timbering and bay windows, was much altered by the removal of those features when Sir Philip Gibbs, the author, moved there in the 1930s. By contrast, Madgehole was built in the 30s with mock timber-framing and jettied upper floor. It makes an interesting comparison with the early-16th century Madgehole Farmhouse.

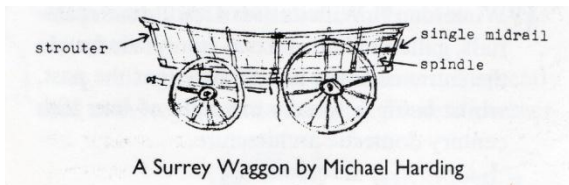
In 1989, the then owners of Dene House built a house in its grounds in the "Surrey style" of brick with tile-hanging under a steep tiled roof and called it Dibdene. This was the name that Sir Philip Gibbs had used for the original dwelling now called Dene House. Across the road, in the grounds of Summerden is the latest 1990 infill



called Winterden. With its use of traditional materials, galleried hall and two storey window to the entrance front, it acknowledges the past, whilst being a worthy example of late 20th century domestic architecture.

COMMUNICATIONS

Horse drawn waggons were the most common vehicles seen in Shamley Green until 1900. Normally used for agricultural purposes they could be adapted, by fitting demountable seat boards plus canopy when occasion required, to transport people; on unmade roads the ride would have been uncomfortable. Commonly painted in blue or brown, Surrey Waggon, which have been well documented by George Sturt, had distinctively shaped strouters, a single midrail and spindle sides. Normally there were seven strouters providing the support needed to strengthen each side of the waggon and these were usually elegantly shaped with the aid of a spokeshave. Waggon, wheelwright's and blacksmith's shops can be seen at Horsham Museum. You could take advantage of the Horsham bus service which recently had its route adjusted to pass through Shamley Green so that a sixteen mile journey which could have taken up to ten hours in earlier times, as it involved crossing the notorious bottomless Weald Clay quagmire, can now be accomplished in comfort within an hour.



Due to the bad state of roads, plus the lack of most of the food preservation techniques available to us, it was normal to drive livestock "on the hoof" over long distances to markets such as those in Dorking, Leatherhead, London or Guildford. In order to maintain the condition of the cattle, sheep and even poultry they had to be allowed to graze and be watered as they moved. This helps to explain the existence of the wide commonland verges such as those of Long Common and names like Green Lane and the Sheepwalk across Sandhurst Hill. Each has dips, ponds, or streams nearby at convenient intervals and

probably served as part of the old network of routes used by the drovers. Wider expanses of common land would have provided suitable locations for overnight rests while also creating potential conflicts of interest between the rough living nomadic drovers and local residents who had commoners grazing rights.

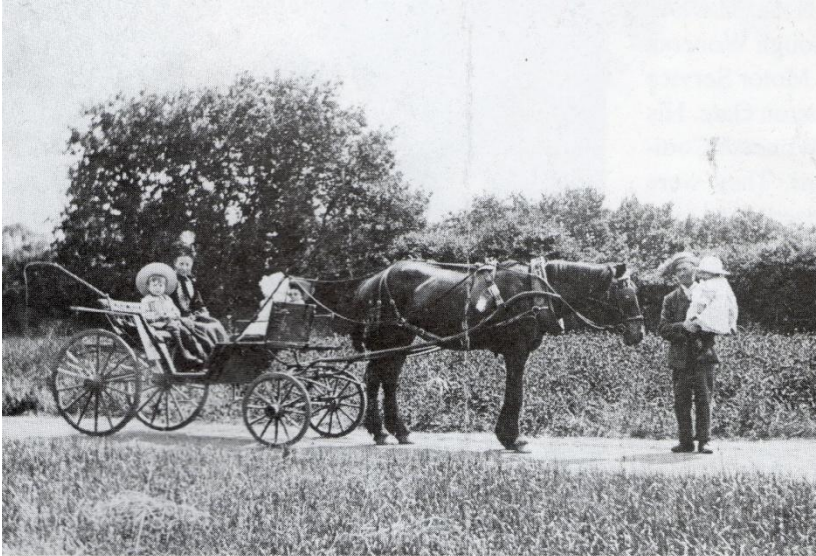
Until the 18th century, despite the appalling surfaces on the roads, the easiest route from Guildford to Shamley Green was from behind Wonersh Church, across the open space of

Wonersh Park, past Lower Lostiford Flour Mill to Lords Hill, along Long Common passing Bisney Cottage and out onto the Cranleigh Road.

In the 1750s the Speaker of the House of Commons Sir Fletcher Norton, later Baron Grantley, resided at Wonersh Park. He objected to a constant flow of traffic across his land so he closed the road, which meant that people had to climb a very steep gradient at Derry's Hill (Mellersh Hill) but eventually an easier approach was cut though this hill. Doubtless the pond at Long Common would have been welcomed by the carters, driving the waggons into the water to tighten up the wheel joints which loosened in dry weather.



James Marshall's Wagonette 1871



Henry Bowbrick and Family

The 18th century coach road from Guildford to the south coast went via Bramley and Run Common to Gaston Gate turnpike, to avoid the steep hill at Wonersh Park. Even in a cyclist touring guide of about 1900, the contours of both the roads are shown and they recommend the Bramley route to Cranleigh.



Edward Avenell

The local carrier's horse would have welcomed a drink from one of the many ponds around the Green, after plodding through neighbouring villages, en route from Guildford. From the mid 1850s James Marshall picked up and delivered goods daily, leaving the village at 9 a.m. and returning from the Star Inn, Quarry Street, Guildford at 3 p.m. and one could always hitch a lift on market day.

At the beginning of the First World War there were two carriers plying their trade. William Butler, who lived in Red Lion Cottages, ran a service until 1924 then handed it over to Harvey Dibley from Hullbrook Lane, whilst Shamley House garage was used to house the transport.

When Edward Avenell and his wife first came to the village they lodged at Arthurs, and the

horse was stabled where Carolina Cottage now stands. The Avenells moved to Easteds and built a large garage at the bottom of Sweetwater Lane and a motorised carrier business continued until the end of the Second World War.

William (Growler) Neal was our last local carrier. At first he lived at Ivy Cottage, Stroud Common. After the Second World War he settled in Bramley and for five years was the carrier for the surrounding villages. In the 70s, he moved back to Sweetwater Close from where he ran a taxi service, before finally moving to Godalming in 1982.



The first bus service through the village late 1920s

Another form of transport was Henry Bowbrick's horse and carriage, based at Lords Hill. This was available for hire to take people to Sunday services, weddings and other functions. When Henry Huntley caught scarlet fever Mr. Bowbrick transported him to the fever hospital at Farnham.

Even after the railway opened in 1865 people still had to walk long distances. On a Saturday night there would be more than one hundred people waiting at Bramley Station to spend an evening in Guildford. During the Depression in the 20s mothers would push prams or hand-carts to Guildford as they could not afford the train fare, while their husbands would go as far as Woking looking for work. The drinking fountain at Shalford Common was regarded as halfway house when they drank ice-cold water out of a little metal cup. Delicious!

What a joy it was when the first motor bus came through the village in 1922 - the Aldershot and District Bus Company (known as the "Have-a-shot and risk it"), the route being through Wonersh and Bramley. In 1928 the Gastonia Motor Service was started by George Weller of Gaston Gate. His buses turned off and went through Wonersh Common, via Rice's Corner to Shalford. They were known



Rupert and Fred Darby



Outside Bricklayers Garage
Curly Mortimer, Derick Churcher, Jack Monk

as "Gassy" because the fuel used was a kind of paraffin. One can still recall the pungent odour inside those little brown buses.

During the 1980s Alder Valley Country Buses operated the service; now it is Guildford and West Surrey Bus Services. In 1965, just when the population of Cranleigh began to expand rapidly, the Guildford to Horsham railway was unfortunately closed. Commuters found it difficult to get to Guildford and special early morning and evening double decker buses were then introduced, running directly to the station.

By the late 20s, with the popularity of the motor cycle and motor car, a garage opened next to the Bricklayers Arms. Bill Monk, then his brother Jack, took over the management for fifteen years; later Warn's from Shalford took over with David Keane in charge, but the garage closed in the 1980s and Marshalls Mowers took over the site.

In Warn's early days they had great difficulty in stopping water from a nearby spring filtering

into the petrol tanks. They installed a pump but had complaints about the noise so had to use some very quick setting concrete to seal the tanks.

Two other people in the 30s, Jimmy Welch and "Chubb" Tanner, both from Flanders Cottages, used to reconstruct and repair motor cycles, speeding around the village, minus silencers and with an old treacle tin for a petrol cap!

One wonders what the Noise Abatement Society would think of this today; the Edwardian version was a Mr. Simmonds, Inspector of Nuisances, who could be called from Wonersh to come and investigate.

THE POST OFFICE

The earliest recorded site of a Post Office was at Surrey House in 1845 when it was kept by William Tewsley, who is also listed in a local



Barn Cottage

directory of that year as being a grocer.



Horace and Jane Humphrey
and grand-daughter Isabel

Letters arrived from London at "half past eight" and the mail cart left at "a quarter before five". On his retirement from the grocery business, he and his daughter Harriet moved across the Green to live with his son, William, a wheelwright at the Forge, next door in the Court House. By an arrangement with the postal authorities the Post Office was transferred there.

In the November 1938 Parish Magazine there was an appreciation of Harriet who lived to the great age of ninety five.

We know from the Census Return of 1891 that the Post Office had by then moved to Barn Cottage, near the beginning of Woodhill Lane, and the postmistress was Mrs. Mary Smith, who was assisted by her daughter, Edith aged fifteen.

During the 1890s the Post Office was taken over by Horace Humphrey. Horace married Jane Street, a local girl, and in 1897 they both became members of the strictly puritanical Plymouth Brethren. They used to travel to Cranleigh



The purpose-built Post Office - Sir Philip Gibbs



Edward (Punch) and Mrs Hill with goose Sarah

every Sunday morning to attend service at the Meeting Room in Victoria Road, lunch locally, stay on for the afternoon prayer meeting (men only) and the Gospel meeting in the evening. In later years, Horace on his bicycle would tow her in a wicker bath chair!

They ran the Post Office until 1923, when they moved over the Green to take over the Surrey Trading Stores -now the Village Store and Post Office.

Their daughters, May and Isabel (who was by then married to Alfred Dean of Thorn' s Flush, Cranleigh) remained at Barn Cottage to run the Post Office. Isabel used to tell of her early memory in 1902 of her father taking down the news of the end of the Boer war on the telegraph system and passing it round the village.

Up until the Second World War not many people had a telephone and telegrams played a vital role in quick communication. Isabel and May used to be in despair when, no sooner had they cycled to some outlying house, to deliver one telegram than another arrived.

Hett Sayers, who lived on the other side of the Green, also helped. Horace had the sensible idea of flying a flag in the front garden of

Barn Cottage to summon her when a telegram awaited delivery.

In 1930 the Post Office moved over the Green to Easteds and was in the care of Mrs. Edward Avenell, wife of one of the village's carriers. For the next fifty years the Avenell family kept a shop and were the local newsagents.

In 1942, Arthur Goff helped his daughter, Edna Thomson, to run the Post Office in the former dairy on the Guildford Road (the house now known as Appletrees), transferring later to the garage at the next door house Tilings. A large shed at the back was used as a sorting office.

In 1946, a small purpose-built Post Office erected beside the Forge was run by Thomas Hill who was married to Hilda Uffold, daughter of George, the blacksmith.

Thomas, who was invalided out of the RAF, was the eldest son of Edward "Punch" Hill who lived for some fifty years in the same house at Lords Hill. "Punch" worked for thirty six years at the Chilworth Gunpowder Factory. He and his wife had a pet goose, Sarah, which followed them around everywhere!



Ian Stevens, Ron Cooper and Bob Tuffs

Thomas lived only a few more years and by 1952 his widow, Hilda, had taken over as Postmistress, and was later helped by their daughter Mary, who sadly died very suddenly while still young.

In 1969, Peter Nash became postmaster, moving in 1980 to the former Forrest Stores, now the Village Stores, assisted at the Post Office counter by Dawn Stevens. Peter, through ill-health, retired in 1987 and Charles Goggin acquired the Post Office. He remained for only a short time and for five months there was no Post Office - much inconvenience. Vijay Patel took over in 1989.

The village is lucky in having three postmen with many years service between them. Ian Stevens, recently retired, is a grandson of William and Rose who came to Shamley Green in 1888 and had sixteen children - no wonder there are still a lot of Stevens about! Bob Tuffs, whose father came from Norfolk in the 1930s to be a gardener for Professor James Lawn at Longacre before it became a school. Ron Cooper came to the village in 1957 as a gardener at Reel Hall and became a postman in 1972.

Former postmen include Bob Anderson, Henry (Pie) Heather, Seymour (Sticky) and Joe Glew; also Leonard Elliott and Basil Hills, whose families still live in the village.

PEOPLE

There is a fair sprinkling of people living in the village today whose forebears first came to Shamley Green in the 19th century. The names of Valler, Stevens, Jarrad, Bowbrick, Batchelor, Elliott and Punter can be traced back for over one hundred years. In fact, Punter and Batchelor are named in the Surrey Musters (roll-call of men available for the army) of 1596. Many other families are mentioned by name throughout this book.



The Stevens Family

Front: William with grandson, Michael. Back: George, Colin, Hubert, Bob, Sid, Joe, Ron, Harold, Charlie.



Rose (Granny) Trussler



Emily Starsmore

Rose (Granny) Trussler was a formidable character reaching six foot in height. She enjoyed donning fancy dress for coronation celebrations and various other village activities and would invariably be sitting near her cottage gate (Long Common Cottage) ready to chat to any passer-by.

One of our centenarians Emily Starsmore (nee Tickner) was born at Ewhurst in 1885. Upon leaving school she went into service and at the age of 43 she married Harry Starsmore. This was bitterly opposed by her family who thought she should remain at home to help her mother. They had a happy but short marriage as Harry died only two years later. In 1930 Emily moved to Shamley Green, living in Corner Cottage. She became cook/house-keeper to Sir Philip Gibbs at Dibdene, then for the Aspreys at Lee Crouch and eventually

for the Hornett family at Queen's Lace (Sceamel Mere). She moved to a bungalow at Hullmead and in her spare time helped her many nephews and nieces. She died at the age of 102 in a nursing home at Cranleigh.

The families who lived in the large houses took great interest in the village. At Willinghurst the Ramsdens employed as many as forty staff to minister to their needs. Many gardeners tended the splendid orchid houses. Despite the long working hours, the employees were always guaranteed good food from the servant's hall and a head parlour-maid could earn as much as £25 a year.

Captain Ramsden sold in 1922 to Curtis Walter Lampson. One of his daughters married a guards officer in Shamley Green Church in the early 1930s and the Guard of Honour was



Delaunay-Belleville, Willinghurst c.1910

provided by the groom's regiment and the Shamley Green Girl Guides, one of whom was Vera Scutt. Even during the 1920-30s the size of the staff at this house was large, from outdoor employees to the all important butler, Mr. Anderson. There are still many people in Shamley Green whose grandparents worked at Willinghurst. Each Spring there was an Open Day for the whole village. Quite a trek as the drive is a mile long and uphill all the way. The estate was eventually sold, the house being divided in two.

Mrs. Ellinor Guthrie was born in 1838, the third daughter of Admiral Sir James Stirling, founder and first Governor of Western Australia, and his wife, Ellen, daughter of James Mangles, M.P. for Guildford and chairman of the Wey and Arun Junction Canal Company of Woodbridge Manor, Stoke-next-Guildford.

She was friendly with some of the Pre-Raphaelite artists and in 1865 her portrait was painted by Frederic, Lord Leighton. It now hangs in the Yale Centre for British Art, Connecticut, U.S.A., but was on loan to the Tate Gallery in 1992/3 for their "Swagger" Portrait exhibition. She also modelled for various paintings which can be seen in Leighton House, Kensington.

In 1879 she married a distant relative of her late husband, Forster Fitzgerald Arbuthnot, a retired Indian Civil Servant, whose interests



Mrs Arbuthnot with her children c.1895

included the budding Socialist movement, the Fabian Society and translating Oriental Classics into English. The Arbuthnots entertained lavishly, one of their guests being H.M. Stanley, the explorer.

Mrs. Arbuthnot's two youngest daughters, the Misses Liliias and Violet Guthrie bought the laundry cottage of Upper House by Run Common Bridge and converted it into a

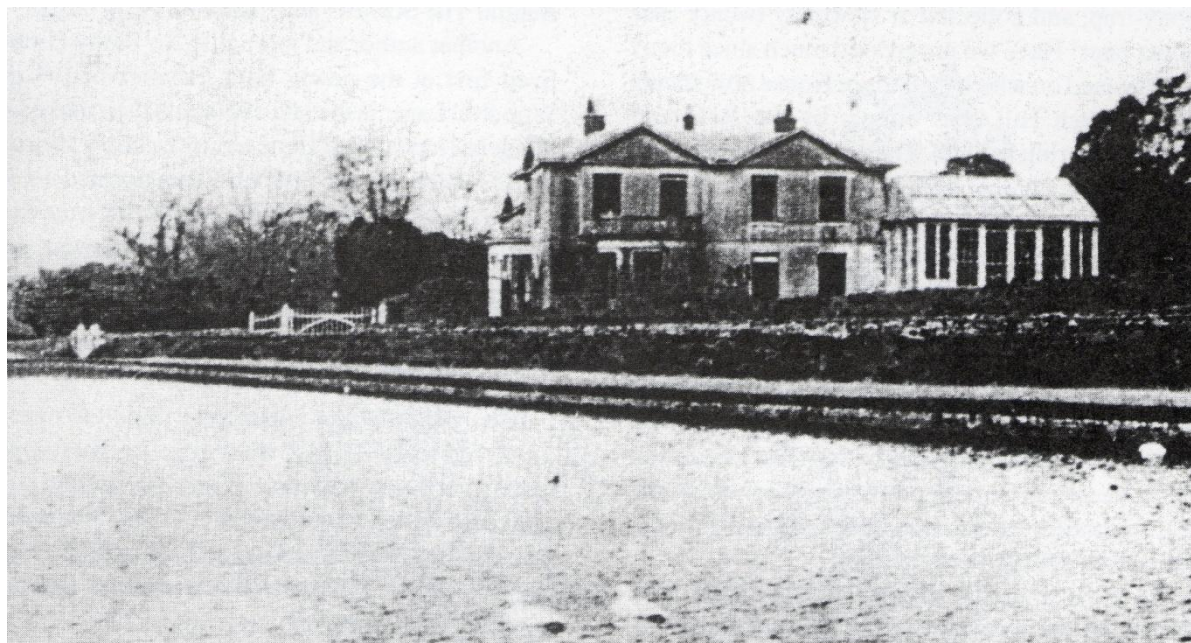


Arbuthnot Hall c.1930s

holiday home for working girls sent down by an elder married sister working among the poorer people in the East End of London. The Hon. Mrs. Lavinia Fleming (great granddaughter of Ellinor) and her husband now reside in this house which was given the name of Ardath, the Hebrew word for a field of flowers.

Thanescroft. She for some reason came to an untimely end. It is believed that she was chained either in the attic or in a cupboard in one of the rooms overlooking Nursery Hill, and the poor lady's ghost is still supposed to be around.

Woodhill Manor, which was built in the 18th century, could have replaced an earlier



Woodhill Manor 1900s

When Forster Arbuthnot died in 1901, his wife arranged for the Reading Room, which was her property, to be demolished and on the site the new Arbuthnot Hall was built in memory of her husband. She was a great benefactor in the village.

After the death of Ellinor in 1911 the house was bought by the Cubitt family. Lady Brabourne lived there in the First World War, followed by her daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Bettine Loyd and family.

During the 1939-45 War the Preliminary Training School for nurses of St. Thomas' Hospital London were evacuated to Upper House and Muriel Hargreaves from Shrubbery Cottage was one of the trainees. During the 1950s the house was divided into three dwellings and the stables were converted into other cottages.

Rumour has it that when Napoleon III was living in England one of his retinue kept a mistress at

building as the name appears as "Woodhyll" in the Surrey Records in 1544. John Sparkes owned the property from 1805 to 1855, bequeathing it to his relative William Henning, who lived there until his death in 1903.

Admiral Robert Copland Sparkes and his very tall wife Alice were the next owners and were active in the village during the 1920s.



Gossage Advertisement

Woodhill Manor had on one side of it a large conservatory, in which they grew camellias, streptocarpus and the lovely highly scented hoyu with pale pink wax type flowers. Across the road, which was set at a lower level, were two ornamental ponds divided by a causeway, banked with enormous clumps of rhododendrons. From the house the whole effect was exactly like a ha-ha.

The house then passed to Charles Strologo; in 1935 to mark the Silver Jubilee of George V, he very kindly donated bus shelters throughout Surrey, including our village; ours was the only one to have electric light! He also installed a stone "lighthouse" by his upper gate which had a revolving light - a great help to residents in the lane walking home at night.

Further up Woodhill Lane is a house called Woodlands, formerly owned by Neil Gossage. His grandfather, William, founded the well known soap firm in Widnes in 1850 and the name of Goss ages Dry Soap was advertised on London buses. Quite a few members of the family married into the Tate family (later Tate and Lyle). One of his many contributions to the village was the founding of a Scout Troop.

During the 1920s Frank Huntley recalls that his father, who was gardener at Woodlands, looked after the house while the family were on holiday in Cornwall and that every week two wicker hampers would be packed full of garden produce and taken to Guildford Station very early in the morning, by pony-trap, and collected at Newquay twenty four hours later! Have we progressed much since then?

The land on which the house called the Manor House now stands near Church Hill, was bought by the Reverend Godfrey Thring in 1893. There were originally two cottages and derelict farm buildings on twenty five acres. His architect was T.G. Jackson who had designed buildings at Corpus Christi College, Oxford and Shrewsbury School. The house was completed in 1895 and shrubs were transported from his former rectory garden in Somerset, where he still had strong connections. Chickens were also sent up at 5s. 6d. (28p) a brace plus 71/2d. (3p) postage which

was cheaper than the 9s. Od. (45p) charged on "the Green". One minor problem was caused by the station-master at Bramley, who, being teetotal, refused to deliver cases of wine!

In 1904 after the death of her husband Mrs. Thring let the house on a long term lease to W.F. Rawnsley, formerly Second Master at Uppingham School. He was the owner of one of the first motor cars in Shamley Green, his chauffeur being Leonard Dorrington, whose two daughters, Milly Hayhoe and Gladys Gawley still live in the village.

Before the 1914-1918 war Sir Charles Crosthwaite lived at Longacre and the father of Sid Wood was sent, as a lad, to become his coachman. There he met his future wife, a parlour maid, whose parents lived in nearby Yieldhurst, now a handsome half-timbered house set in lovely gardens but then two simple cottages, originating in the late 14th and 16th centuries. At nineteen years the young coachman left to become an apprentice builder, but work was so scarce he had to bicycle as far as Winchester and Kingston. After their marriage they lived in part of Arthurs, also originally two cottages, part built in the late 16th century, overlooking the Green. Both the Crosthwaites are buried in Shamley Green churchyard, their tombs being attractively decorated with passion flowers in relief.

The Services have been well represented. During the 1950's Admiral Sir Guy Russell, the Second Sea Lord, and family lived at the Old Vicarage and were active in village life. Col. H. Duncombe, of the Queens Regiment, lived at Mistley Cottage, Sweetwater Lane, before being appointed as a Military Knight of Windsor,.

In 1892 at the age of 86 retired Brigadier F, Veasey, DSO died. He is buried in Christ Church graveyard. He and his wife, Iris, had lived in the house attached to Woodhill Farmhouse for some years. He served in the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment with distinction during WWI and WWII. He was noted for his military bearing, smart appearance and crisp manner of speech.



Caricatures by Tony Hart of leading personalities in village life, and used as front covers of the Shamley Green Parish Magazine.

Top row: Dennis May, Richard Greening.
Middle: Leslie Avenell, PC Michael Beckett, Archie Cooke.
Bottom: Reg Jarrad, Len Tuffs, Michael Hockley.

Their home was one of the last to have a narrow "squeeze" rather than a gateway as the entrance through the retaining sandstone into the front garden from Woodhill Lane. A "squeeze" is formed of two upright blocks of stone; but set in the form of a V, very narrow at the bottom - preventing the ingress of large livestock such as cattle; but permitting the passage of a person.

The village has had its share of well known personalities. During the Victorian period secular books were not considered suitable reading for some children on Sundays, but Mrs. O.F. Walton, who lived in Woodhill Lane wrote suitable books, albeit often sad, but of a high moral tone. Many Free Church people still nostalgically remember "Peep Behind The Scenes" and "Christy's Old Organ".

Another author and journalist, Sir Philip Gibbs, lived first at the newly built Pasturewood⁶⁹ off Woodhill Lane, in the late 1920s and then moved to Dibdene (later called Dene House) a late Victorian house which he and his wife transformed to its present state. Sir Philip had a wonderful way with children who followed him wherever he went, just like the Pied Piper. He kept open house for the young and old alike and everyone joined in acting charades in the winter and "madders", his own version of croquet, in the summer.

One Christmas he organized a children's party in the Arbuthnot Hall, intending to have some twenty to thirty children. Word got around and more and more children asked to come; in the end some ninety children gloried in the Punch and Judy show. The next year there was a conjuror and one hundred and twenty children came. One year he took part in a children's play, in the role of a poet, wearing a very floppy tie; the announcer was four year old Jane Casson, granddaughter of Lewis Casson and Sybil Thorndike who lived intermittently in Shamley Green for some years.

From authors to illustrators - in the early Edwardian era Ernest H. Shepard and

his wife in the first years of their marriage lived in Arden Cottage (Rose Cottage⁷³), Upper House Lane. This was rented from Mrs. Arbuthnot and consisted of a decrepit old building with an overgrown garden; water had to be drawn from Mrs. Wilson's well across the road, and the "privy" was in an outside shed. However they lived there for five years and then moved to Red Cottage (Hullbrook Cottage') in Hullbrook Lane, and his garden studio remains. Here he drew illustrations of "Winnie the Pooh" and Christopher Robin for A.A. Milne's books; also for the "Wind in the Willows" by Kenneth Grahame. He sometimes produced drawings for the Parish magazine. The Marchant children often posed as models for the artist as did Nelly Heather's grandmother (wearing her best black bonnet) and for her pains she received a hot lunch. When he moved to Longdown, Guildford his children took a conker from Red Cottage and the horse-chestnut tree that sprouted still remains to be seen. Later in life, one of the Marchant children, Leslie, became an artist in his own right and provided illustrations for "Punch".

For a time during the Second World War, the poet T.S. Eliot lived at Shamley Wood. He commuted to London, where he was also a director of the publishers Faber & Faber, but could also often be seen walking the local lanes and paths, lost in thought.

Another resident was W.O. Bentley, the



W.O. Bentley 1968

founder of the car firm of that name. He had been interested in motor cycling and motor racing from an early age and used to compete at Brooklands. In 1945 he and his second wife came to Lake Cottage, a 17th century timber-framed house, on the Guildford Road. In the late 60s they moved to Little Garden Cottage, which was specially built for them.

In 1957 he gave a large party for the Bentley Club and some seventy to eighty Bentleys were parked on the Green. It was an awe inspiring sight! He himself in later years drove Morris Minors, for which he had a great regard. He died in 1971 and his indomitable widow died aged ninety four in 1989. Each year she used to attend Bentley Club reunions in London as an honoured guest.

The famous film director, Alfred Hitchcock, purchased Winter's Grace⁴⁸ in Stroud Lane in 1928. It was then a modest four bay, half-timbered cottage built in the 16th century. A large wing, with an inglenook fireplace was added using fine old materials including, it is said, carved stone from the Houses of Parliament, which was at that time being restored. He came from a family of fishmongers whose business flourished and became MacFisheries. He and his wife went to America in 1939, but his mother and one of his brothers still lived here until the end of the war.

Peter Hart, the songwriter, lived here for a while. He wrote the children's song "Nellie the Elephant", sung by Mandy Miller, which was a great favourite on a B.B.C. children's radio programme on Saturday mornings.

Bernard Hollowood, who lived at Blackmoor Paddock, Green Lane, was for many years the editor of "Punch" magazine.

Two other people of television and radio fame come to mind, Sir Harry Secombe who had a home on the hills between Shamley Green and Cranleigh. Tony Hart also lives on the outskirts of the village and has delighted millions of children with his T.V. programme "Take Hart" showing

his inimitable rapid drawings. Every month during the 1970s he provided a cover for the Parish Magazine depicting the village personalities.

NOW AND TOMORROW

The Shamley Green History Society came into being at an inaugural meeting held in February, 1983. From then until the present day, members have accumulated a wealth of information through research which is stored in the archives and which is available on request. There is also a small "library" of local books.

Three exhibitions have been held in the Arbuthnot Hall, the first produced by Marion May, was held in 1984 and used costumes to depict the village history; the second and largest exhibition, "Shamley Green through the Ages", was organized by Betty Laws in October, 1988, and Rosemary Derby staged an Art Exhibition in October, 1992 to raise funds for the production of this book.

Ron and Flo Oliphant together with Betty Laws produced two videos and there are three booklets on local subjects and a walk leaflet. Visits have been arranged to period houses, sometimes with Joan Harding, through the Domestic Buildings Research Group (Surrey) to explain ancient building techniques and to answer our innumerable questions.

There were coach outings; planned walks led by John Powell-Jones and many illustrated talks in the Arbuthnot Hall, not to mention the delicious refreshments produced by very able cooks.

This village is not only one of the most beautiful in Surrey, but is known for its caring attitude. Margaret Cawsey and her band of



Best Kept Village 1991

helpers set up Village Care, which can be called upon in time of need, and Wendy Williams and her team established the 4 Villages Day Centre, at Blunden Court, Bramley, where elderly people can enjoy a day together.

The Shamley Green Village Society, subsequently merged with the Village Association, was formed in 1990 with Athar Shareef as Chairman. Foremost aims included protecting the amenities of the village together with vetting the planning and development proposals. In September 1991, hundreds of villagers, accompanied by the local Member of Parliament, David Howell, marched in protest against plans to dump rubbish in Woodhill Sandpit by Hales Waste Control Ltd.

Development of more housing has been severely restricted for



Shamley Green History Society Exhibition 1988

many years. One recent proposal to build twelve "starter" homes alongside Hyde Farm was turned down. It surely behoves all of us who are privileged to live in the village to guard the environment and charm for future generations.

In 1979 the village green was enhanced by the erection of the Village Sign, designed by Richard Greening and made by him and his father, Reg.

We are pleased to record that in 1991 Shamley Green was placed first in the Best New Entry category of the Best Kept Village Competition organized by the Surrey Voluntary Service Council. A trophy sponsored by Calor gas was presented in the autumn.
