

**SHAMLEY GREEN HISTORY SOCIETY NOTES NO.1 – THE DUCK POND AND MAY TREE COTTAGES,
Michael Harding**

Alan Pavia has also been digging, through some old postcards. The one below shows the Duck Pond.



Michael Harding correctly estimated the date as the early 1900s, it is in fact 1906. The house in the centre background is now The Court House; but for most of its life since 1570 was three cottages and most recently known as May Tree Cottages. However there is no confirmation on when this name was adopted. Trefusis is to the right. It would appear that this is a hand coloured photograph, an artist would surely have avoided the washing on the clothes line in the garden (hand colouring of black and white originals was a widely used skill by 1900, MH.) Photographer**

Michael Harding remembers from the 1930s. The photo shows a number of old pollarded elms which had been removed earlier. In 1935 one of their replacements was the Beech Tree commemorating King George V's Silver Jubilee, which still flourishes. The Uffolds were still busy at the Forge, to the left of May Tree Cottages. Mr Stevens (senior), who ran a building firm, was in the left gable end of May Tree Cottages from 1930s to 1948. The may tree is obscured by the washing on the line! From the full washing line we know that the photograph was not taken on a Sunday, the probability of it being a Monday is highest; but with a large family, it could be any good drying weather. Not a soul about so early or late in the day, no stragglers so maybe early. Unfortunately no shadows. Tree foliage suggests Spring. There is a very sensible porch over the front door of the middle section of May Tree Cottages, presumably removed when the properties were combined with a rear entrance, less exposed to the elements.