

AT WESTFIELD

Iain Wakeford 2016

In February 1934 Courage, the brewers, gained planning permission to build a new Cricketers Public House at Westfield to the side of the original public house of that name facing Westfield Common.

The old property had been built in the 16th century and extended in the 17th with one report claiming that when the roof was repaired in 1911 the words 'built 1649' was found inscribed on one of the rafters. By the late 18th century the front of the timber-framed property had been encased in brick, making it unlikely that the windows on the upper floors were blocked up in 1696 when the window tax was first introduced. If the windows were blocked for tax reasons it seems more likely to have been in or soon after 1782 when the tax was increased (and certainly before 1852 when it was abolished).

It is thought the building served as the village workhouse, with Thomas Saunders (or Sanders) buying the property for £65 from the Parish Vestry for use as an 'isolation hospital' in 1830.

It appears that on the upper of the three floors there were four rooms, each about twenty-one foot square with communicating doors 'like miniature hospital wards' – possibly a remnant of the workhouse days.

Thomas Saunders is marked as the occupier of a 'cottage and garden' on the site at the time of the Tithe Award in 1846, with the earlier census in 1841 recording Sanders as a builder, living in the area with his wife, Sarah and children Hannah (17), Thomas (13) John (6) and William (3).

When it first became a beer-house is unknown, but it was certainly in existence as such by 1869.

A couple of years later the census records Cornelius Stocker as the 'wheelwright and beer-house keeper', with William Trussler (a drayman and brewer) recorded in 1881.

The 1892 licensed premises list for Surrey records David Cheeseman as the licensee of the premises that was owned then by Lascelles Brewery, the clientele being described in the list as 'labourers and the general public'. But Cheeseman was evidently not the landlord for

long as later that year Thomas Budd took over with his wife Emma – the 1901 census also recording their two daughters, Laura (aged 18) and Lillian (11).

Many years later (in 1949) Laura Bracey (nee Budd) recorded in a scrapbook compiled for the Kingfield & Westfield Women's Institute her recollections of the old building. Apparently before it became a pub it was used for a while as a school.

The building dates from the 16th or early 17th century and is now a Grade II listed building.



The new Cricketers Inn is now a restaurant.



53780. Westfield Rd. & Cricketer's Inn, Westfield, Woking.

"As a small girl I often listened to the old customers relate how they had attended there as schoolboys and of how they had been shut in the still existing cupboard as a punishment for some misdeed. My mother died there in 1909.

Then my husband (Mr Bracey) and I took over the business. Mr Bracey died there in 1926. I gave up the business in 1933".

After the brewery built the new Cricketers, part of the old one was used as a village store. Now the Grade II listed building has been turned back into a residence with the 'new' public house being converted into a restaurant.

From the 1930's for about fifty years part of the building was used as a village store



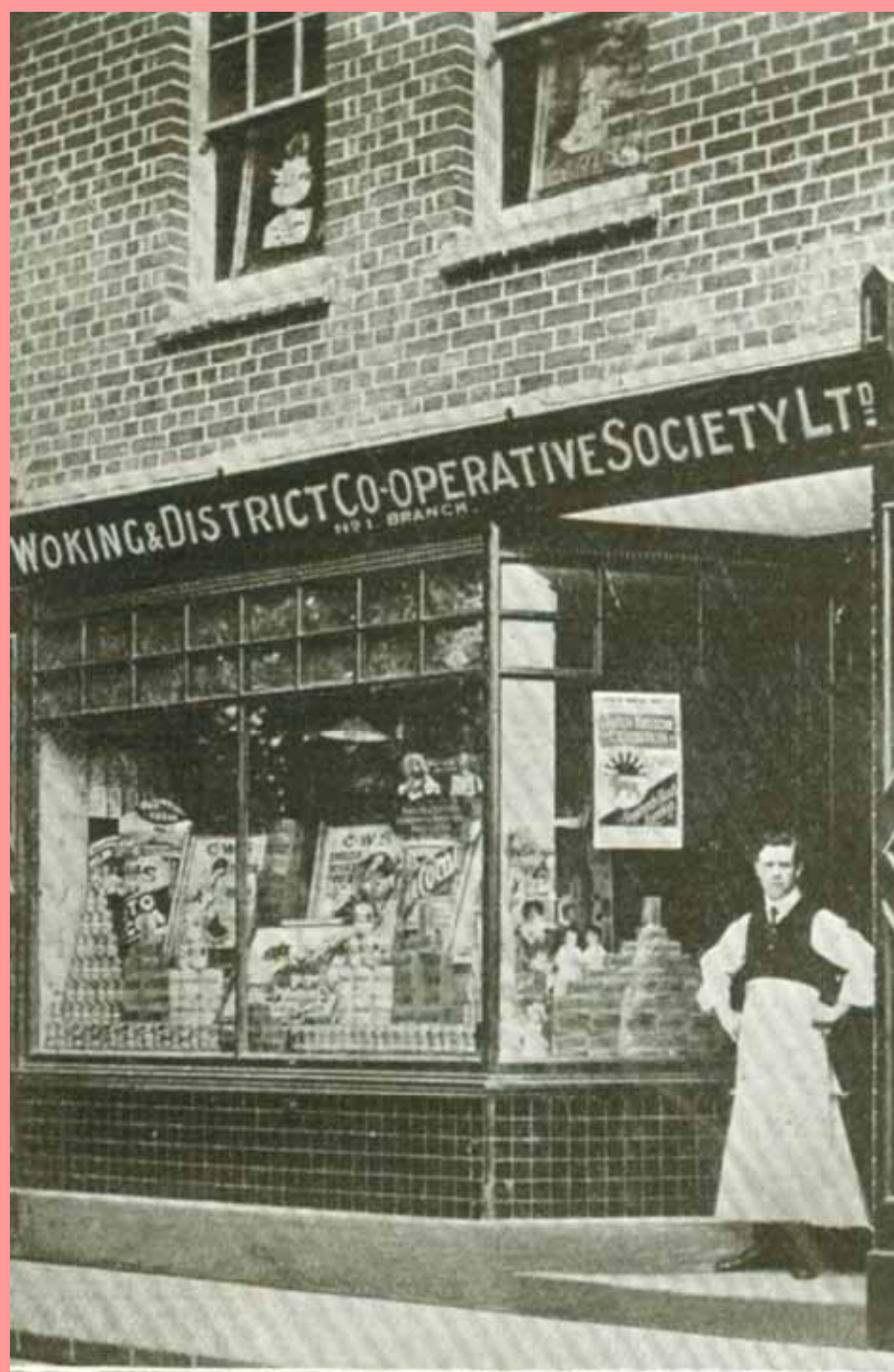
Westfield Common with the old Cricketers Inn 'hiding' behind a tree (slightly to the right of centre) and the original village school (now St Mark's Church) in the distance on the left. The roofline of the newer Westfield School (now Moorcroft Day Centre) can be seen between the two, behind the hedge where the new Cricketer's was built in the mid 1930's.



THE KINGFIELD CO-OP

Another planning application submitted by the Friary, Holroyd & Healy Brewery was rejected in May 1934 for 'alterations and additions to premises next to the Kingfield Arms'. This was obviously the little shop that in April 1910 became the first village branch of the Woking Co-operative Society – where later the car park of the pub would be created.

It appears that the Highways Committee were at that stage trying to widen Kingfield Road at that point, and in June 1934 started negotiations with W Slocock Ltd concerning compensation for land on the opposite side of the road at Red Lodge (where Ashcombe Parade is today).



BRANCH 1, KINGFIELD.

THE NEW ANCHOR AT PYRFORD LOCK



The original 'lock-keepers cottage' at Pyrford

The Cricketers was not the only local public house to be rebuilt at this time. In recent weeks we have already seen reference to the erection of the new 'Red House' (now O'Neills) on the corner of Commercial Road and Chobham Road, but in 1934 Friary Holroyd and Healy Breweries were also seeking approval to alter the Wheatsheaf Hotel in Horsell and add to the Kings Head in Byfleet.

At Pyrford, Hodgson's Brewery of Kingston, submitted plans approved in April 1934 for the old Anchor Public House to be completely rebuilt. The old inn had started out life in the parlour of the lock-keepers cottage, with stabling for the bargees horses to the front - where the patio area is today.

The new pub on the Wey Navigation was not the only change at this time in the Wey valley as the mid 1930's saw major alterations with the construction of the 'New Cut' across the Broadmeads between Old Woking and Send as part of a huge flood protection scheme that included about fourteen new weirs on the waterway between Godalming and the Thames at Weybridge.

