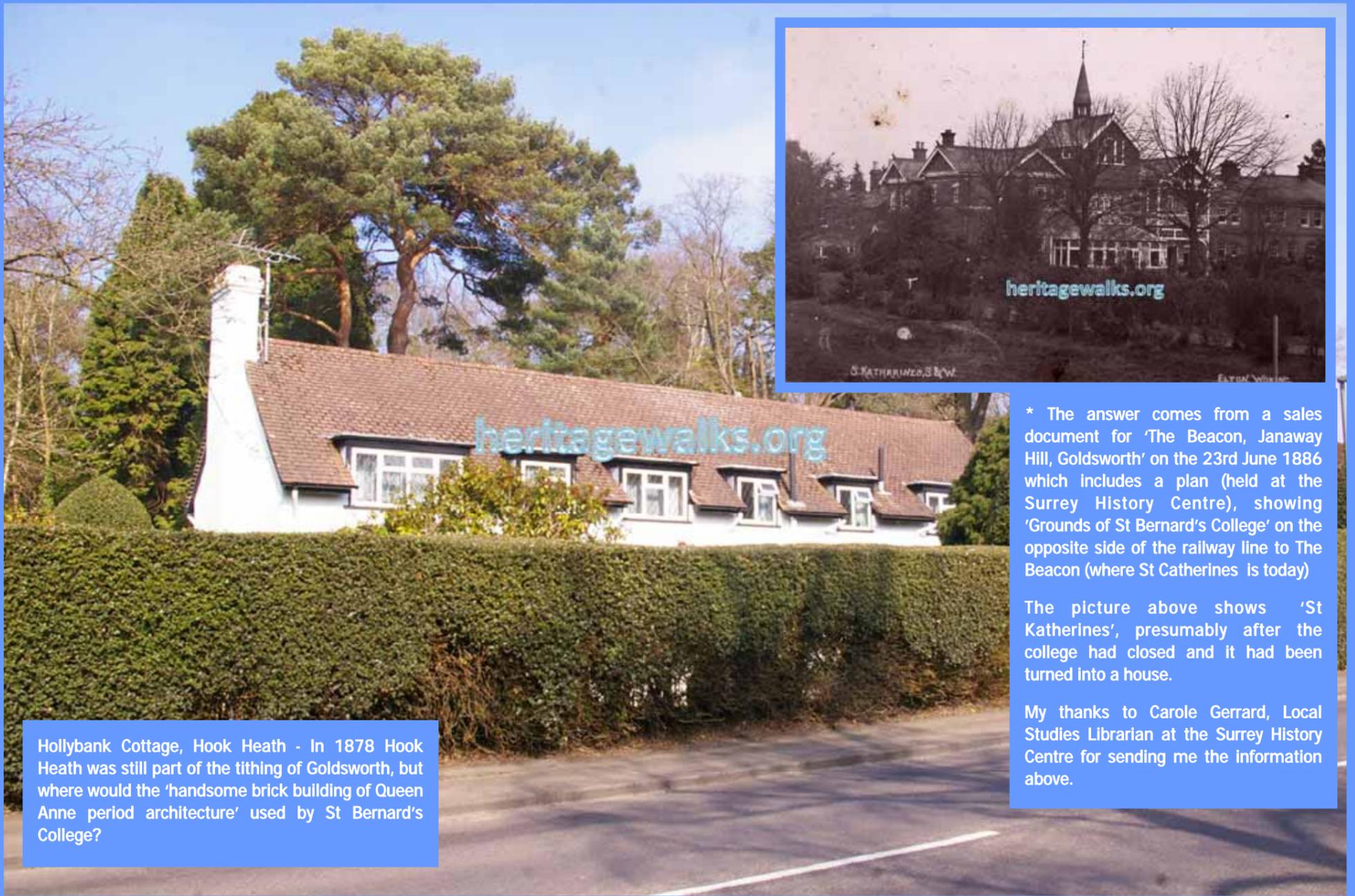


# POST OFFICE DIRECTORY - CREATES MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

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Hollybank Cottage, Hook Heath - In 1878 Hook Heath was still part of the tithing of Goldsworth, but where would the 'handsome brick building of Queen Anne period architecture' used by St Bernard's College?

\* The answer comes from a sales document for 'The Beacon, Janaway Hill, Goldsworth' on the 23rd June 1886 which includes a plan (held at the Surrey History Centre), showing 'Grounds of St Bernard's College' on the opposite side of the railway line to The Beacon (where St Catherines is today)

The picture above shows 'St Katherines', presumably after the college had closed and it had been turned into a house.

My thanks to Carole Gerrard, Local Studies Librarian at the Surrey History Centre for sending me the information above.

I have in my archive a copy of the 1878 Post Office Directory for Surrey that makes interesting reading.

In the introduction to Woking it mentions 'St Bernard's College, a handsome brick building of Queen Anne period architecture, pleasantly situated on the high road to Weybridge and Chertsey, overlooking the valley of the Wey, is a public school for the sons of gentlemen and professional men, under twelve years of age, preparatory to their entering the Mission College school, Southwark, or other Church of England public schools' – all very interesting, but where exactly was it?

The residential section of the directory might give us a clue when it notes the Rev A.B. Goulden at 'St Bernard's College, Goldsworth', but I cannot think of any 'Queen Anne' style property in the Goldsworth area. Subsequent directories record the Rev Alfred Benjamin Goulden (incumbent at St Alphege, and principal of the Missionary College, Southwark) as living at Holly Bank Cottage, Goldsworth, but the Holly Bank Cottage I know doesn't exactly fit the description for the college, so if anybody has any idea of where this missing 'Queen Anne period' building is, I would be delighted to know (\* see above).

The 1878 directory contains some other mysteries too. Immediately after the note on St

66 COUNTY ADVERTISEMENTS. [1878.]

## St. Bernard's College,

GOLDWORTH,  
Near WOKING STATION, SURREY.

IS intended for the Sons of Gentlemen and Professional Men, under twelve years of age, preparatory to their entering Public Schools.

The College is situated in one of the most lovely spots in the county of Surrey, and on a high and commanding situation overlooking the valley of the Wey, near to Guildford, on the high road to Weybridge and Chertsey, within a mile and a half of a first-class railway station, twenty-four miles from London.

The Buildings consist of large Schoolroom, Dining Hall, Dormitories, and Chapel, the Warden's Lodge, the Lady Superintendent's and Mistresses' Rooms, Lavatories and Bath Rooms, together with the usual offices and Servants' Department; adjoining the College is the cricket field, and large gravelled Playground and a Gymnasium, the whole being surrounded by its own grounds of several acres.

The Warden conducts the religious instruction and general discipline of the School. The Classics are taught by Graduates. Modern Languages and English subjects by efficient and experienced ladies.

The School Fees (Board, Tuition, and Washing) are 45 Guineas per annum.

Parents living in India, or elsewhere abroad, can leave the entire charge of their sons with the Warden for any lengthened period, by making a special arrangement for that purpose.

Parents desiring further information should apply to the Rev. A. B. GOULDEN, Warden of St. Bernard's College, Goldworth, Woking Station, Surrey.

Bernard's it mentions the 'sapoline manufactory of J.C. Sowerbutts & Co'. It simply notes that it was 'situated near the station' and was 'transferred from Breaston, Derbyshire, at which place it was carried on for many years by Messrs. Gard & Co.'

I have tried to find out more about Gard & Co in Derbyshire (without any luck) and all I have been able to discover about the Woking operation is from some old newspaper cuttings which suggest that the 'factory' was off Station Approach, more or less where Lynton House is today.

The directory section does list 'Mr James Charles Oliver Sowerbutts' (what a wonderful name, although perhaps not the best to put on a bottle of liquid soap) as living at 'Aberdeen Lodge, Wich Street Hill' – which I assume must have been somewhere in the area where the shops of Wych Hill are now (Aberdeen House being built in 1908), but that is all, so if anybody has any more information about the factory or 'J.C.', I would love to hear from them.

Also of interest are John Brake and Mrs Cane, who are listed at numbers '1 and 2 Wandle Road'. I have never heard of Wandle Road before, but I assume it must have something to do with 'Wandle Cottage' the home in 1878 of John Thomas Jumpsen – more answers please on a postcard!

Another person of intrigue is James Willgoos who is listed as the proprietor of *'The British Workman'*. The British Workman was a four-page monthly illustrated newspaper (cost 1d) founded in January 1855 by Thomas Bywater Smithies, a Methodist reformer and prominent member of the temperance movement. It was supposed to be aimed, as the name suggests, at the 'working and industrial classes' and was one of a number of 'improving' magazines published at that time. It was published by Samuel William Partridge of Paternoster Row, London and was apparently edited until his death in 1883 by Smithies, with no mention in any of the records that I have seen of Willgoos, so if anyone out there can help enlighten me on his role in the publication I would be most grateful.

Incidentally, the 1882 Kellys Directory lists a Mrs Willgoos as living at No 2 Wandle Road (taking over from Mrs Cane, above) – was she



Was the Queens Head, in the Shackleford tithing of Woking, the beer house of Mrs Brickwood or William Gande (and where was Shackleford's other beer house)?

James' wife, or mother or no relation at all?

If Mr Willgoos shared the views of Smithies then he would no doubt have been appalled at the number of 'beer retailers' (eleven) listed in the 1878 directory, let alone the twenty-one licensed houses, which are recorded by name. Unfortunately the beer houses are only identified by location (if at all), and whilst I have been able to identify some from other sources, there are a number that have alluded me.

Mrs Caroline Brickwood (a beer retailer and grocer) was probably in the Shackleford area of Old Woking. She is listed in the 1871 census in that area, together with her husband (a master grocer) – although at that time the retailing of beer is not mentioned. Another person in the 1878 directory is William Gande. He too is in the 1871 census at Shackleford (beer house keeper and farm bailiff), so my question is where in Shackleford were these two establishments in 1878? One was probably the

Queen's Head, but what was the other?

William Bragg is listed as a 'baker and beer retailer' in Kingfield, but as the Kingfield Arms is not recorded in the directory it is assumed that that is where Mr Bragg was.

The same applies to the Mayford Arms that was probably the beer house of Mrs Halls; the Bold Robin Hood at Sutton Green (Henry Wyne); and the College Arms at Maybury (William Pearson). All are known to have been operating at that time, but are not listed by name, but with James Brooks recorded in the 1878 directory as the landlord of the Goldsworth Arms, where was the beer house of Thomas Moore, or for that matter Alfred Christmas, John Gunton and Edward Hillman who are also listed as beer-house keepers with no indication of where they may be?

Researching history, local or otherwise, often throws up more questions than answers.

James Brookes was the landlord of the Goldsworth Arms in 1878, but where in the Goldsworth was Thomas Moore's beer house?



## NEW ORGAN & WINDOW AT ST PETER'S CHURCH IN 1878



Last week I mentioned the construction of a new church by Woking Station – the original 'tin tabernacle' of Christ Church – but in 1877-8 work was also taking place on the original parish church of the area, St Peter's at Old Woking.

For some time the music at the church had come from an old barrel organ, but with just three cylinders, each capable of just eleven hymns and basic chants, it was decided in 1877 that a proper 'four-stop Walker organ'

should be installed at the east end of the south aisle. Unfortunately this soon proved to be the wrong position from an acoustic point of view, so in 1878 the organ was moved to the chancel, where a lancet window in the north wall (depicting St Matthew) had to be removed. Fortunately, according to Dr Morton in his guide book to the church, the old window 'was subsequently rediscovered approximately thirty years later and is now in the lower vestry window minus its caption'.

Dr Morton also notes that the stained glass in the large east window of the Chancel 'depicting Jesus ascending into heaven, was the gift of Edward Ryde in 1877 – a powerful local landowner who had acquired his wealth and reputation through a successful London practice as a land surveyor and valuer'.

We have a lot to thank Mr Ryde and his like-minded church restorers (and builders) of the Victorian era for – without them our local churches would not be quite so colourful.

## WOKING'S WHITE CHRISTMAS OF 1878

This wintery scene of the canal at Monument Bridge (or Bunkers Bridge as it was then more commonly known), may have been taken in the winter of 1878 when heavy snow fell right across the county on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The snow remained with a 'seventeen degree frost' (-8.33 Celsius) giving the people of Woking a White Christmas, and skating on the canal and local ponds was possible thanks to one of the coldest recorded winters in over two-hundred years.

The frozen canal would have made navigation impossible, not that there were many barges operating on the waterway at this time. The canal, bought out of liquidation only four years earlier (for £12,000), was again in liquidation and would remain so for another twelve years.

The picture is taken looking from the Sheerwater side of the old bridge, with the wooden bridge, and 'water gardens' on the right, where the office block of Britannia Wharf is today.

