

# KELLY'S DIRECTORY OF 1882

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BROOMHALL,

WOKING.

*Wishing you a very happy  
Xmas + New Year -  
from the Broomhall Trio.*

One of my most enjoyable pastimes is studying old maps for clues about the past, but a close second is looking at old directories. I am fortunate to have a large collection of both in my archive, and this week (as we have reached 1882 in our chronological history), I have been delving into the pages of my Kelly's Directory for that year.

As always the entry for each place starts with a short description of the area, with notes on the local churches, schools, institutions and other features of the district such as the principal landowners and the types of crops grown. The interesting thing is comparing one directory with another and seeing what has changed in the intervening years.

There are four years between my Kelly's and the Post Office Directory I have from 1878, and it is amazing how much changed in Woking in that short space of time. Most of the physical changes I have covered over the past month, but it is the personal changes that stand out more for me – the extra number of residents that are listed in the area in those four years, the increase in shop-keepers and trades over that time and the changes of personnel at places such as local public houses, post offices and other institutions.

Having said that, however, the changes in the outlying parts of our area are relatively small. At Pyrford for instance there were just fourteen

residents and traders listed in 1878 and actually one less in 1882 – the overall population of the village actually falling by nearly 4% between 1871 and 1881.

Of course not all the 341 people listed in the census of 1881 are recorded in the directory, with many poorer households going completely un-noted, but it is significant that whilst everywhere else was gaining merchants, Pyrford was losing some of hers, with Henry Bailey (a builder) and Charles Hill (coal-merchant), leaving the village by 1882. The only major change in the village (apart from Mrs Hannah Choat taking over The Anchor from her husband, John), is the introduction of Mrs Harriet Mortlake's 'ladies school' to the village by 1882.

Broomhall was the home of Joseph Pearson Fitzgerald in 1878, but by 1882 he had moved to the newly built Graylands.

Whilst Pyrford was diminishing, Horsell was expanding, with extra cottages and houses being noted in 1882 such as Spring Cottage, York Cottage, Claremont House and Graylands, the latter the home of Joseph Pearson Fitzgerald (a timber merchant who imported timber to a leased wharf on the Thames at Lambeth, and owned the 'Steam Saw Mills' at Woking Station). In 1878 he had been listed at Broom Hall in the village, but by 1881 he had moved to Graylands, and indeed later deeds for part of the Graylands Estate, show that he bought the land in September 1875 for £420 (plus £38.10s for the timber growing on the site).

Baltic Wharf, where Dukes Court is today, is thought to be the site of Joseph Pearson Fitzgerald's 'Steam Saw Mills'.



The Red Lion Posting House and Rosery Gardens changed hands from Andrew Gill in 1878 to Mrs Dorcas Johnson in 1882.

Horsell Village, Woking



Other changes in Horsell over those four years were the usual ones of shopkeeper and pub landlords, such as William Bedser at The Crown being replaced by George Christmas, William Shears at the Bleak House succeeded by Daniel Hawkins, and The Barley Mow (now a private house on the Chobham Road at Knaphill) changing from Mrs Emma Lilley in 1878 to James Foice in 1882. The Red Lion, listed as the 'Posting House and Rosery Gardens', also changed from Andrew Gill as landlord to Mrs Dorcas Johnson as landlady during this time.

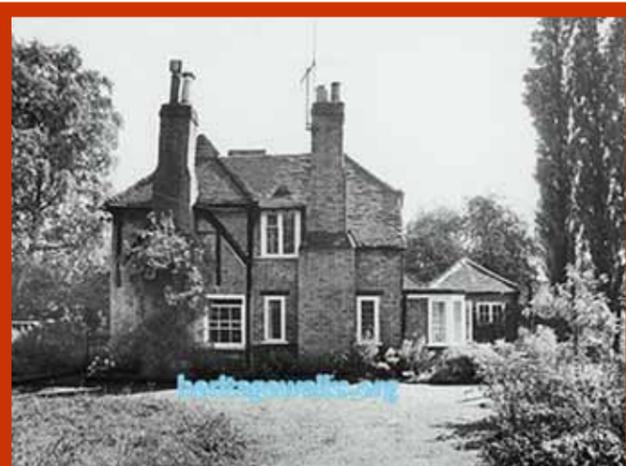
In Byfleet, too, publicans were changing with Joseph Bates being replaced at the Blue Anchor by Charles Chart, whilst at the Queen's Head, Henry Sheppard had gone to be replaced by Esan Woodyer. The local butcher, William

Morris, appears to have handed over his business to another member of his family as in 1882 Francis Morris is listed, and there were evidently family changes also at several local farms with John Howard succeeding George Howard at Park Bridge Farm and Robert Skeet no longer listed as a farmer alongside his brother William by 1882.

Charles Edward Smith was no longer recorded at Sheppards Farm, although an Isaac Smith was listed in 1882 at French's Farm, home in 1878 of John White; and George Howard who in 1878 was listed at Bridge Farm had by 1882 transferred to Vanners Farm, an old farmhouse that until the early 1960's stood where Budgens Supermarket is today. Another farm that had changed hands by 1882 was

Wintersells Farm (where Wintersells Road is today), which in 1878 was farmed by George Luker, who appears to have been replaced by George Glaspher, listed in 1882 as the farm bailiff for P.J. Locke King esq.

Many tradesmen remained the same in the intervening four years, but notable additions in 1882 include Mrs Eliza Parker (a laundress), Gilbert Jones (inland revenue officer), Henry Watts (coal merchant at Bridge Farm) and Sparkes Cornelius Knight, who having successfully set up shop in Woking's High Street in 1870, was now expanding with a drapers and outfitters store here – possibly taking over from Mrs Louisa Smith who was no longer listed as a shopkeeper in 1882.



Between 1878 and 1882 George Howard moved from Bridge Farm to Vanners Farm (on the left before it was demolished in the early 1960's) – the site now occupied by Budgens in Vanners Parade

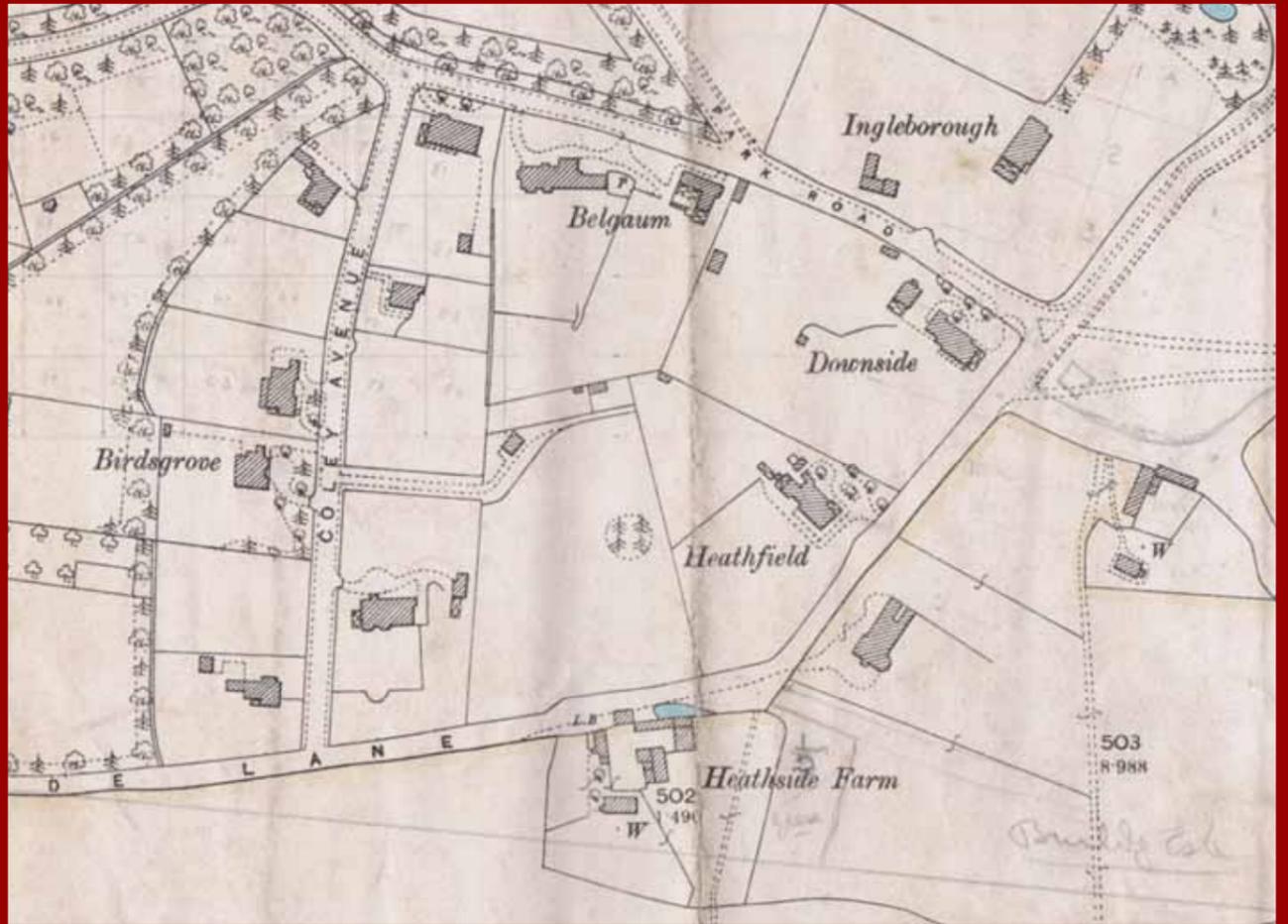


## HEATHSIDE FARM SALE OF 1882

The year 1882 was an important one in the development of Woking not just because of the Water Company (mentioned last week), but because of the sale of sixteen acres of Heathside Farm. Up until now whenever local farms have been sold the trend has seemed to be for wealthy local businessmen to buy them to farm almost as a hobby (or to create some new country estate). Heathside Farm was the first to be sold in lots for building, adding to the land already ripe for development offered by the Necropolis Company.

Unfortunately I have no pictures of Heathside Farm – it being demolished presumably shortly after the sale – but the map of 1870 shows it more or less where Heathfield Road now joins Heathside Road, on the corner where Pembroke Road begins.

Before long large houses would be built on the plots of land to the south and west of the farm site with Ashwood Road, Heathfield Road and Heathside Park Road laid out on the fields.



## THE BARON OF BYFLEET



Have you ever heard of the 'Baron of Byfleet'? It is a title that didn't last long. It was awarded to Sir John Whitticker Ellis in 1882 (and became extinct thirty years later when he died). Sir John was an Alderman in London, Sheriff of London & Middlesex in 1874-5 and Lord Mayor of London in 1881-2, before becoming a Conservative MP.

He was born in Richmond, but moved to Byfleet in about 1859 renaming Breaches Farm 'Petersham Farm' (after the area he was born) and eventually building Petersham House on the site. The house is still there (now converted into Lloyds Bank), with the date 1879 above the door.

A fire at the old farmhouse in 1877 prompted Ellis to organise his own 'fire brigade'; in truth just an ancient manual pump mounted on wheels and three lengths of hose that was housed in his potting shed and manned by three of his gardeners! That was the beginning of Byfleet's Fire Brigade as with no more fires on his own premises his men, supplemented by others from the village and supported by the local Parish Council, gradually became available to serve the rest of the village.

