

ARTHUR ALTHORP'S DIRECTORY OF 1888

Iain Wakeford 2015



Last week we looked at Arthur Althorp's 1888 Almanac of Woking, detailing his career and some of the pills and potions he sold. This week I want to look at some of the other traders in town, and with the help of other records see what I can discover about their life and work.

Looking through the 'Trade Directory', I was intrigued by the entry for 'John Ashley, saddler, china and musical instrument warehouse'. Searching the 1881 census I found him in Chobham Road (listed immediately after Charles Wright, the landlord of the Red House Hotel). There he is a 'saddler and harness maker' (aged 29), married to Mary Ann one

John Ashley's 'musical instrument warehouse' was in Chobham Road, possibly opposite Arthur Althorp's shop in what later became part of Gammon's store.

year his junior with a three year old son called John Arthur - but where exactly in Chobham Road was his 'warehouse'? I suspect it was on the opposite side of Chobham Road to Arthur Althorp, possibly in part of the building that was later occupied by Gammons of Guildford.

The 1881 census entry shows him immediately after Charles Wright (landlord of the Red House Hotel), which was on the other corner with Commercial Road - diagonally opposite Gammons.

COMMERCIAL.
 Abraham Fredk. William, auctioneer, valuer, house, and estate agent, and nurseryman, Goldsworth road
 Allen Braby, dairyman
ALTHORP, ARTHUR
 Family & Dispensing Chemist, The Woking Drug Stores, Commercial Road, opposite The Red House Hotel
 Ansell Hy. Jas., grocer and beer retailer
 Archer James Greenfield, shopkeeper, St. John's
 Ashby Thomas & Co., banker (branch) head office at Staines (A. R. H. Wright, manager); draw on Williams, Deacon & Co., London, E.C.
 Ashley John, saddler, china, & musical instrument warehouse
 Ashmore Geo., painter, &c., Knaphill
 Attfield Geo., 'Robin Hood,' Knaphill
 Austin Wm., boot maker, Goldsworth rd.
 Awbery Joseph, Woking Village
 Baker Edward, grocer and pork butcher
 Baker William, beer retailer and shopkeeper, Chertsey road
 Barton R. H., Watchmaker, Goldsworth road
 Battrick William, shoe maker
 Baxter Walter, florist, village
 Bayliss Wm. Barnett, plumber, Kingfield
 Bedford James, wheelwright, Knaphill
 Bedford Henry James, whitesmith, Woking village

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the [Page 3]

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Electoral District of	
Woking	Woking		Woking	Woking	Guildford		20	
No. of House	ROAD, STREET, etc. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited or not	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN
7	Chobham Rd.	1	Charles Wright	Head	Mar	45	Hotel Keeper	near Southleigh
			Oliver E. Wright	Son	Mar	18	Domestic	London
			Judith Spencer	Wife	Mar	29	Bookkeeper & Hotel	Burdellbury
			Emily Jane Caswell	Wife	Mar	26	Assistant	Hotel London
			Georgy Seddow	Cousin	Mar	39	Victor	Beon Apple
			Henry Wright	Nephew	Mar	44	Assistant	Hotel London
			George Heard	Serv	Mar	46	Assistant	Orle de Surrey Epsom
8		1	John Ashley	Head	Mar	29	Saddler & Harness Maker	Surrey Camberwell
			Mary Ann Ashley	Wife	Mar	28		Middlesex St. Pancras
			John Arthur Ashley	Son	Mar	3		Surrey Woking
			Joseph David Ashley	Brother	Mar	20	Stationer Assistant	Middlesex Hoxton
			Jack Turner	Serv	Mar	18	General Servant Domestic	Surrey Chobham

The next entry that caught my eye was for Miss Helen Taylor Coulton, 'private school (girls), Commercial Road'. This was evidently Cambridge House, later known as the 'Woking High School' on the corner with Bath Road (roughly where Bills is today), which I believe was run by a Miss Lucy after Miss Coulton retired to Cornwall in about 1910.

The school was one of a number of private schools in the town centre at that time with a Miss King in charge of another private school somewhere in Commercial Road and Henry Jacob Henley running a private boys school in Goldsworth Road (although again, where exactly it was I don't currently know). Unfortunately I can find nothing about 'Miss King' as there are several single-women by that name in the local census records of 1881-91 (mainly listed at either the Asylum or Prison – so presumably not our school-mistress). And Henry Jacob does not appear in either census in



Woking High School at Cambridge House, Commercial Road, was originally run by Miss Helen Taylor Coulton as a private girl's school.

Woking, although mysteriously there is a Henry Jacob Henley in 1881 in Sydenham and at Dulwich in 1891 where he appears to have been involved in selling hops - again not exactly the type of occupation that would be conducive to running a private school in Woking!

Running, or at least teaching at a school, was an acceptable business for a woman at that time, but quite a number of young girls of a lower status would have been employed in service, where presumably Miss Eliza Crawley's 'registry office for servants' at St John's would have come in handy. In 1881 Eliza Crawley enters the records of our area as a visitor in the house of Benjamin Mower in Goldsworth Road where she is listed as a 'Fancy Repository Keeper', but when she established her agency I have not been able to find out.

Another profession for ladies, of course, was dress-making with Mrs Esther Walker, of Church Street being one such business listed by Mr Althorp. I assume that she is the same Esther Walker, a dressmaker, who was living in Byfleet in 1881 and carrying out her business in 'Portugal Street' (sic), Woking, by 1891, although it is clear from the Electoral Registers that she continued to reside in Church Street.

Another interesting entry was that of Charles Heane who was described as 'Mineral Agent to the Midland Railway Company' in Maybury Road. I managed to find him, aged 36, in Stoke-Next-Guildford in 1881 listed as a 'traveller' (born in Loughborough, Leicestershire), but by 1891 he was living in Gladstone Villas, Maybury Road, with his wife and eight children - although his occupation then appears as 'colliery agent'. I assume that is a sort of coal merchant – which probably makes coal the 'mineral' (in the medieval sense) that Charles was selling for the Midland Railway back in 1888.

Finally, keeping with the coal theme there is James Woodham, a chimney sweeper listed at 'Wandle Road' in 1888 (and more precisely Virginia Cott, Wandle Road in the 1881 census).

The identity of Wandle Road has been a mystery to me – but hopefully with the help of James Woodham I can reveal exactly where it was – although you will have to wait until I get to 1891 in my chronological history to find out. Watch this space!

THE "SANITAS" DISINFECTANTS ARE THE BEST.

ALTHORP'S ILLUSTRATED Almanac and Directory FOR WOKING & DISTRICT, FOR 1888.

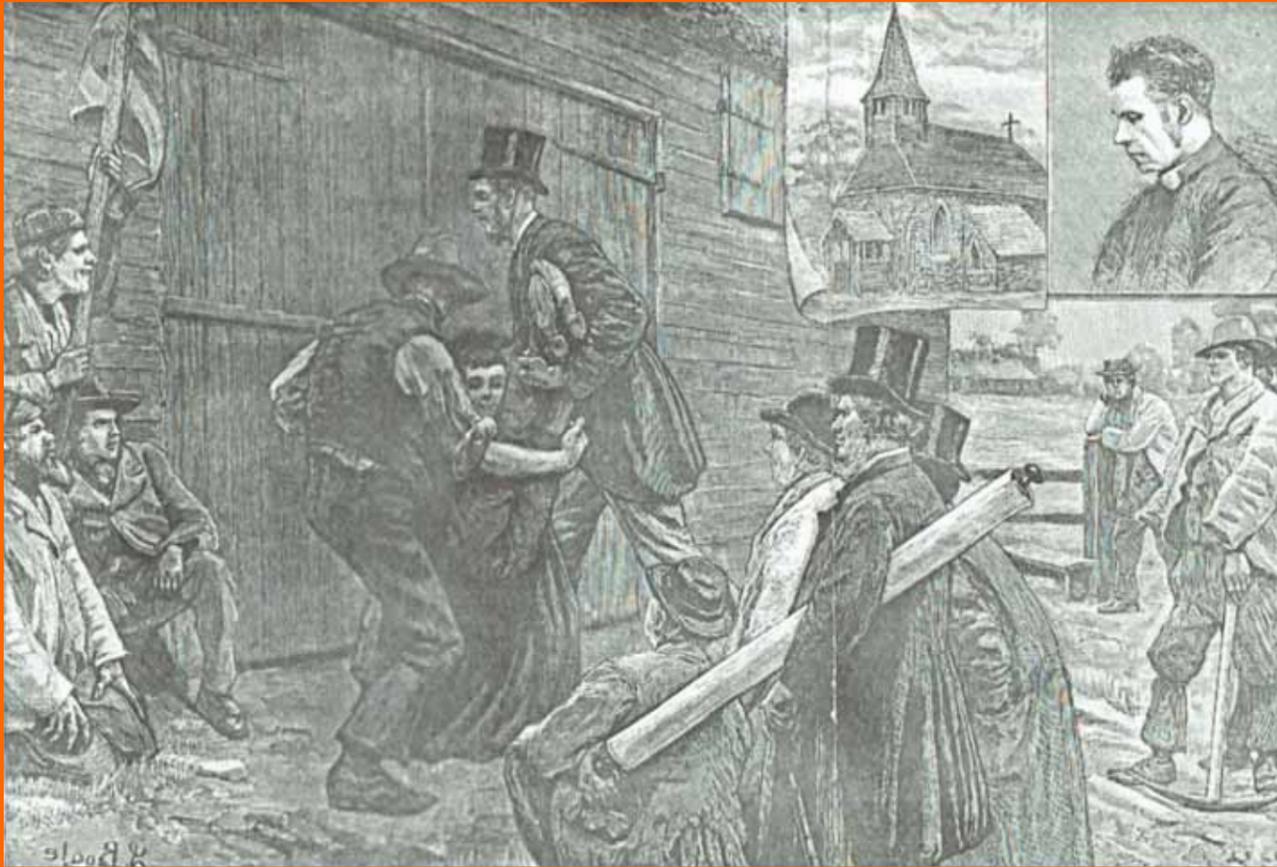
PUBLISHED & PRESENTED BY
ARTHUR ALTHORP,
Dispensing & Family Chemist,
(BY EXAMINATION)
PERFUMER, &c.,
THE WOKING DRUG STORES,
COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

Depôt for Homœopathic and Patent Medicines.

TRADE "SANITAS" MARK DISINFECTANTS.

TRADE "SANITAS" MARK DISINFECTANTS, FLUIDS, POWDER, SOAPS, &c.

BEATING BISLEY'S BOUNDS (& BOYS)



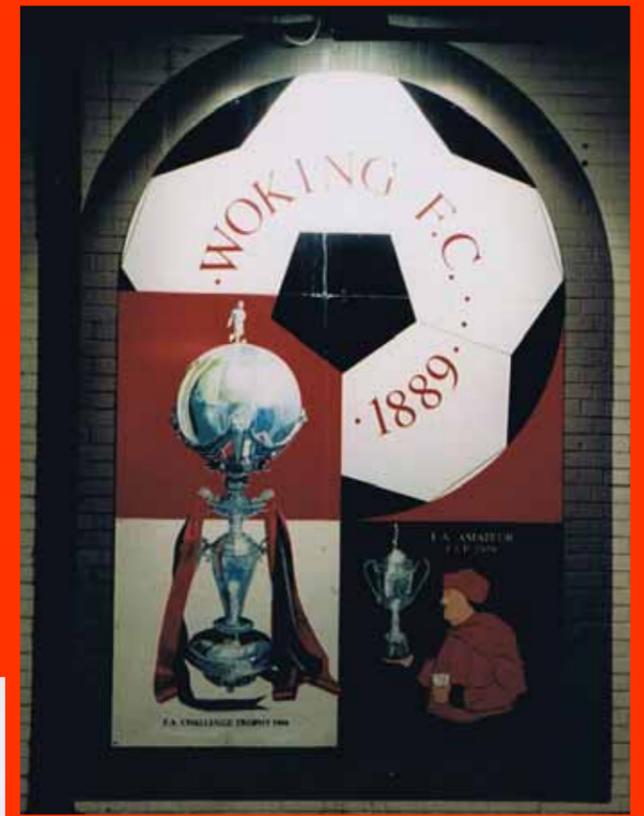
On the 1st December 1888 the villagers of Bisley set off to 'beat the bounds' of their parish. A reporter and artist from 'The Graphic' were evidently in attendance, as the following extract from that newspaper shows.

'Last Ascension Day the ancient custom of walking the parish boundaries was observed at Bisley, near Woking, Surrey. After a short and appropriate service, a procession was formed at the church shortly after 9 a.m. The Rev J Carter, Rector, wearing cap and gown, and carrying the parish map, was followed by two boys with flags, as well as by the Churchwardens, Overseers, and about thirty other persons, some being armed with spades for use when required. Several of the party were successively bumped (according to the traditional idea that this would fix the boundary-line in their memories), and some resisted the ordeal so strongly as to return home minus several buttons. The Rector came in for his share with the rest, but took the matters more philosophically, submitting quietly to being bumped against an old barn door. In the evening the party sat down to an excellent supper at the Fox Inn; short and lively speeches, interspersed with songs, being made by the Rector and others.'

SHOULD IT REALLY BE HORSELL F.C. (FOUNDED 1888) RATHER THAN WOKING F.C. (FOUNDED 1889)?

Woking Football Club may have just dipped out of the play-offs this year, but next season everything will be different (perhaps). Hopefully the score for their first match in August will not be a repeat of one in 1888 when, according to The West Surrey Times the side lost 15-0 to Weybridge - although whether that was an 'official' Woking side I am not certain as the history of the club claims that the side were first formed in 1889.

In those early days the club played on the Wheatsheaf Recreation Ground (and later in a field on what became the Church Hill Estate—off Horsell Rise). It wasn't until the early part of the 20th century that the club started playing at a pitch near the Hockering – so they should probably have been called Horsell FC, rather than Woking – although I suspect that the residents of Horsell Rise, the Wheatsheaf and the Hockering are all glad that the club finally settled on Kingfield! In the 1920's



ACTUALLY IT SHOULD BE WOKING F.C. FOUNDED 1887!



The Railway Hotel - later called The Cardinal and now The Sovereigns - where the meeting to found Woking Football Club was first held, and where practice was originally played on the fields behind.

Subsequent to writing the above article for the Woking Advertiser in June 2015, I discovered an announcement in the Surrey Advertiser & County Times on the 22nd October 1887 recording that 'a general meeting will be held at the Railway Hotel (Mr Squibbs) on Wednesday next (26 October), to elect officers and arrange other matches'.

Practice apparently took place on Wednesdays and Saturdays on 'the field by the Railway Hotel', so although the first matches were in Horsell, the club were very much rooted in the town - the Railway Hotel being subsequently renamed 'The Cardinals' (in honour of the club's nickname) before changing its name to The Sovereigns.

The club have always played in 'Cardinal Red' (originally in vertical stripes) - the reason being that apparently it was whilst Wolsey was staying with Henry VIII at Woking Palace he received the letter from the Pope appointing him a Cardinal.

The officers in October 1887 turned out to be Mr Alfred Wright (President), Mr T Eldridge (Hon. Secretary & Treasurer), Mr A E Mason (Captain), Mr Woodruff (Vice Captain) and Messrs Trimm, Glover, Hicks, Laker, Gloster and Beattie as other members of the committee (if not the team)!

Some matches had evidently already been arranged, the West Surrey Times & County Express on the 29th October 1887 reporting

that 'the club played under Association Rules and is open to accept challenges from clubs in the district. The first match will be played at the home to Chertsey on 5 November, kick-off 3pm.

Having said that, the match appears to have been switched to 'the Wheatsheaf Ground' with Woking winning either 6 - 1 (according to the West Surrey Times) or 6 - 2 (according to the Surrey Advertiser)!

Apparently without a crossbar or net in those days a goal could only be claimed by the scoring side and the task of the 'umpire' (as the referee was then known) must have been quite hard. Another early game against a team called 'Caxton' from Guildford ended with Woking claiming a win 4-3, whilst the Guildford side reported a 3-3 draw. Woking's

Woking's first team against Chertsey in November 1887 appears to have been a 2-3-5 formation!

According to the West Surrey Times the team consisted of 'Goal: A Keys, Backs: T Eldridge, O'Connor and E Laker, Forwards: Railton and Tomlinson (right wing), Mason (Captain) (centre), Beattie and Butt (left wing)'.

Apparently Mr O'Connor, a local teacher who later became headmaster at Goldsworth School, was originally one of the founders of Wolverhampton Wanderers, having previously played for West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa.

officials were apparently so incensed by the 'bad sportsmanship' of their opponents that they refused to play the return fixture.

Unfortunately the Chertsey game was the only one that Woking won that first season - Weybridge Swifts beating Woking 9-0 at Woking (on 19th November) and then winning at least 10-0 at home on the 28th January 1888.

The 'bad state of the ground' appears to have meant that 'good play was impossible' in the first game at Woking, whilst in the second game the Surrey Advertiser reported that 'this being the first season of the Woking club they are far from strong and several players did not turn up'. Woking apparently 'had to play with some men who had never kicked a ball before'!

This was actually the game that the West Surrey Times reported Woking losing 15-0!

In that first season at The Wheatsheaf the 'income' was apparently just twelve shillings, which just about met the expenses for the 'dressing room' at the Wheatsheaf Inn where players were allowed to wash using water drawn from the inn's well (although they had to provide their own soap and towels).

The following season they moved to a meadow on the Church Hill Estate (where Horsell Vales is now) - an offer being made by the Rev J Back at the AGM in September 1888.