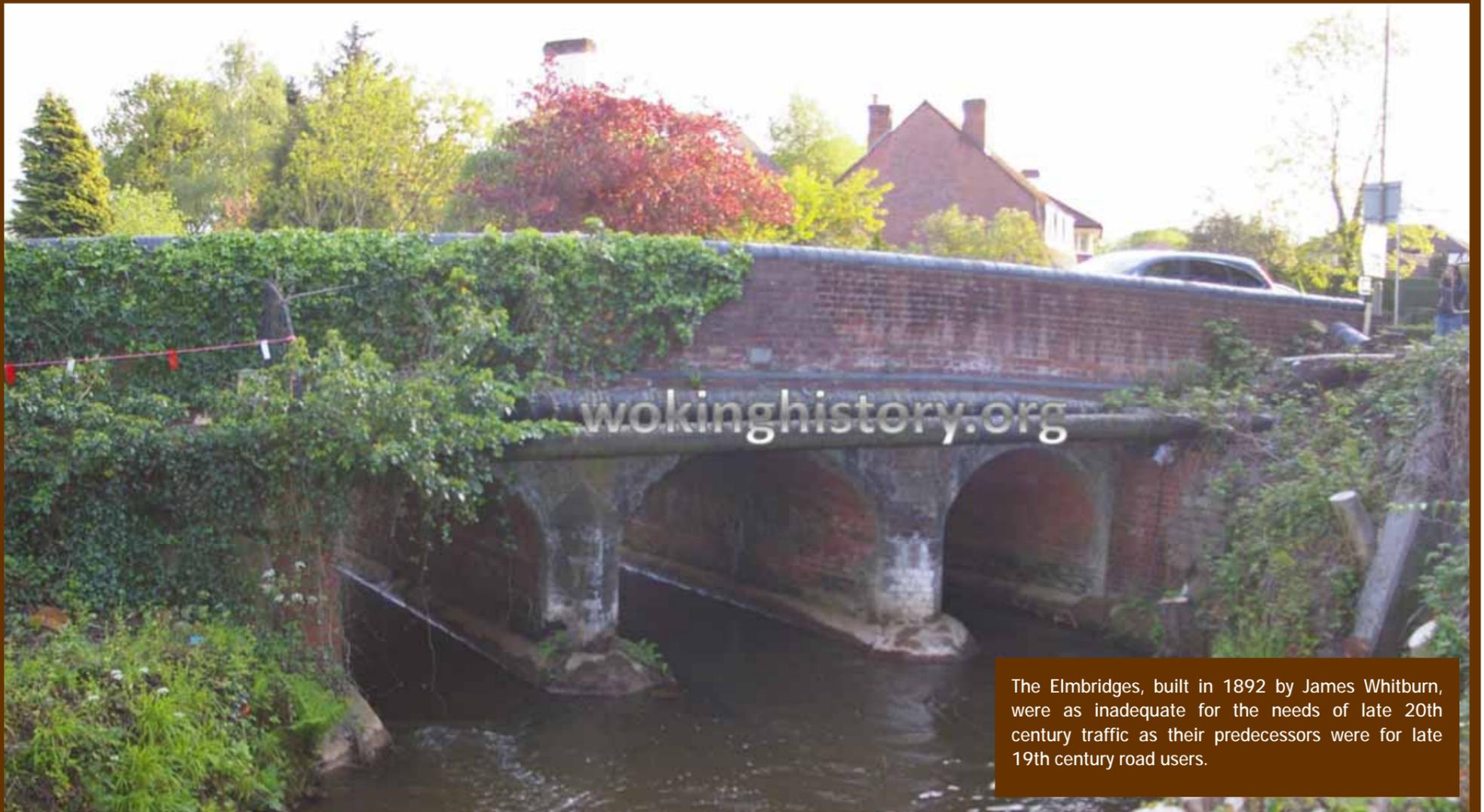


# DEATH & DEVELOPMENT IN 1892

Iain Wakeford 2015



The Elmbridges, built in 1892 by James Whitburn, were as inadequate for the needs of late 20th century traffic as their predecessors were for late 19th century road users.

In 1891/92 the Guildford Rural Highways Board paid James Whitburn, a local builder from Old Woking, £670 to build new brick-arch bridges over the Hoe Stream at Kingfield. Until then the 'Elmbridges' were simple wooden structures, twelve feet wide and about as inadequate to the traffic needs of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as Whitburn's thirty-foot wide replacements were a century later!

Woking was developing fast with new roads and buildings being constructed practically

every year. Development was not just confined to the former common land owned by the Necropolis Company at Woking, however, as in Horsell too former farmland was being laid out for new houses. Abbey Road was begun in 1892, constructed on some of the fields of Abbey Farm.

In Woking, Henry Gloster (the corn merchant) who had developed some of the shops of Chertsey Road (on the garden of the original Albion Hotel – down to the junction with

Chobham Road), was building a new warehouse in Commercial Road.

Meanwhile in Chertsey Road itself the land of the 'Woking Station Estate' was put up for sale with a covenant that apparently prohibited the establishment on the site of a 'tavern, beer-house or shop selling intoxicating liqueurs'. I don't know what happened to that covenant, but I suspect some clever lawyer found a way around it, because the 'estate' is the area between Duke Street and Addison Road - where



The first part of Abbey Road was laid out in 1892

A covenant on these properties in 1892 prohibited the sale of alcohol.

wokinghistory.org

ADDISON

STA

SOLE WOK

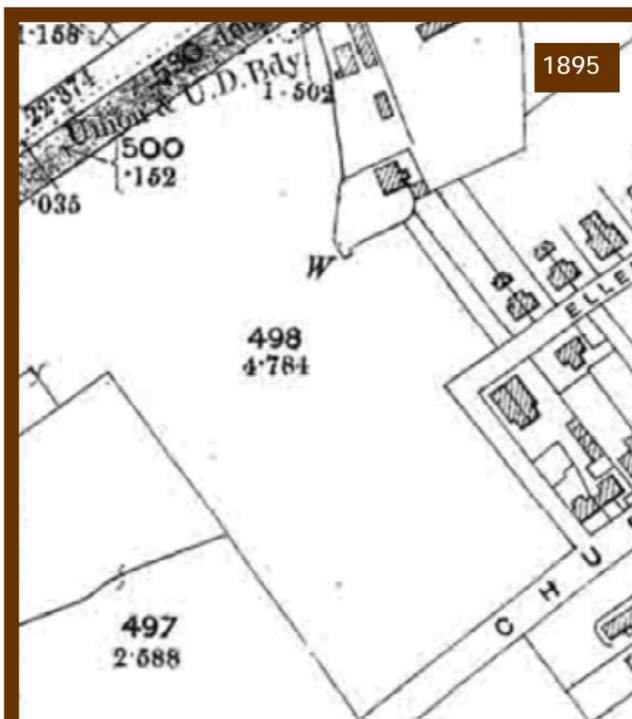
CHERTSEY ROAD

WOKING

apart from the newsagents on the corner, practically every unit now sells everything prohibited in 1892!

Addison Road was named after the original occupant of the newsagents – a gentleman called George Addison - whilst according to Alan Crosby in his book *'A History of Woking'* (Phillimore, 1981) Clarence Avenue (where The Peacocks is now) 'was named after Prince Albert Edward, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, who died in 1892'. That may be true, but the road didn't appear on the maps until after 1895 and even by the First World War there were only eight or nine houses there.

To the south of the railway, Coley Avenue was constructed in 1892, as Edward Ryde noted in his diary. On the 16<sup>th</sup> June he drove down the



The first Gasometer in Boundary Road was erected in 1892.

avenue so that he could be familiar with it for a forthcoming enquiry into urban powers for Woking. Unfortunately Ryde would not get to see the town gain urban status as on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1892 he died, followed not long after by another prominent local landowner and businessman, George Smallpiece who had been connected with the establishment of Woking's gas works, which had just opened in Boundary Road.

The death of George Smallpiece and Edward Ryde released for sale large areas of land in Old Woking, including Ryde's farm where just three months earlier (on the 28<sup>th</sup> June) a fire in one of his hay ricks lasted for several hours before the volunteer fire engine arrived from Guildford to put it out. It may have been this event that prompted the local 'Torchlight Society' to consider forming their own volunteer brigade in Woking – but that is a story for another week.

# THE FOUNDATION OF WOKING GOLF CLUB IN 1893



In 1893 a group of Barristers, members of the Inner and Middle Temple in London, were looking for somewhere to set up a golf club. Many 'links' were being established at the time on the coast, but with cheap sandy soil available from the Necropolis Company at Woking, they decided

instead to build their 'inland links' at Hook Heath – thought to be the oldest heathland course in Surrey.

It was a clever move by the Necropolis Company who leased the land to the club and allowed them to now advertise the site to city

golfers looking for somewhere in the country with an easy commute into town. What had once been the poorest part of the district, with squatters and gypsies living in tents on the heath, was fast becoming the site of Woking's most fashionable residences.

