

THE MERGING OF MAYBURY INTO PYRFORD

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Whilst in the late 1950's and early 60's developers were busy filling in the gaps to the west of Woking (between Knaphill and St Johns and on to Goldsworth), to the east of the town the Maybury area was also gradually merging with Pyrford and then on to the outskirts of West Byfleet.

Earlier the London County Council's Sheerwater Estate had linked up Woking and West Byfleet to the north of the railway, but to the south the West Byfleet Golf Course and the woodlands off Old Woking Road had managed to remain largely unspoiled (despite attempts by Woking and Wimbledon Council's to acquire the Golf Course for housing in the early 1950's).

The Maybury Estate (which was given a Civic Trust award in 1960) did partially encroach on the woodlands of Pyrford in the mid 1950's, but it was the development of the land at Norfolk Farm and the Pyrford Woods Estate (built by E & L Berg and Osterley Tudor Estates Ltd) that led to an almost continuous belt of housing on both sides of the Old Woking Road – albeit with a fair amount of mature trees remaining to disguise the developments.

Osterley Estates were also busy building houses on the 'Wildwood Estate' off Hacketts Lane, as well as building some of the numerous little developments around the Norfolk Farm area, where once again the workmen of Mr Walter Deakin & Co could also be found.



Pyrford Woods (below), developed in the late 1950's and early 60's into the Pyrford Woods Estate

Indeed it seems from reading the minutes of the council's planning committee that the land on either side of the Old Woking Road, from Norfolk Farm Road all the way into West Byfleet, must have been one vast building site about this time, with Blackdown Properties Ltd

building the Blackdown Hill Estate, and W & E Simmons Ltd (of Walton) working on the Pyrford House Estate further up the road. Letts Brothers was another firm involved in the development of Pinetree Hill Road, with Geoffrey Bishop Ltd and H B Kingston Ltd



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mentioned in the minutes in connection with developments off Boltons Lane.

There, another local company that we have come across before, Davis Estates, were clashing with the council over provision for recreational facilities and land for the new school. They were also constantly amending their plans with in one instance (in August 1957) permission being given to replace 'aluminium tiles' with Redland 'Stonewold' tiles – probably to the lasting benefit of the area!

Also of lasting benefit in Boltons Lane was the retention of Bluegate Cottage – an old 16th century listed building that somehow managed to survive being destroyed whilst all the new houses were being built around it.

The new Davis Estate also brought to light more of Pyrford's history when a hoard of Roman coins was discovered on the part of the site that the council imaginatively decided to name 'Romans Way' – the other roads taking the name of the nearby Peatmore (Close and Avenue), an old Pyrford name for the area where no doubt in the past locals were able to take fuel for their fires!

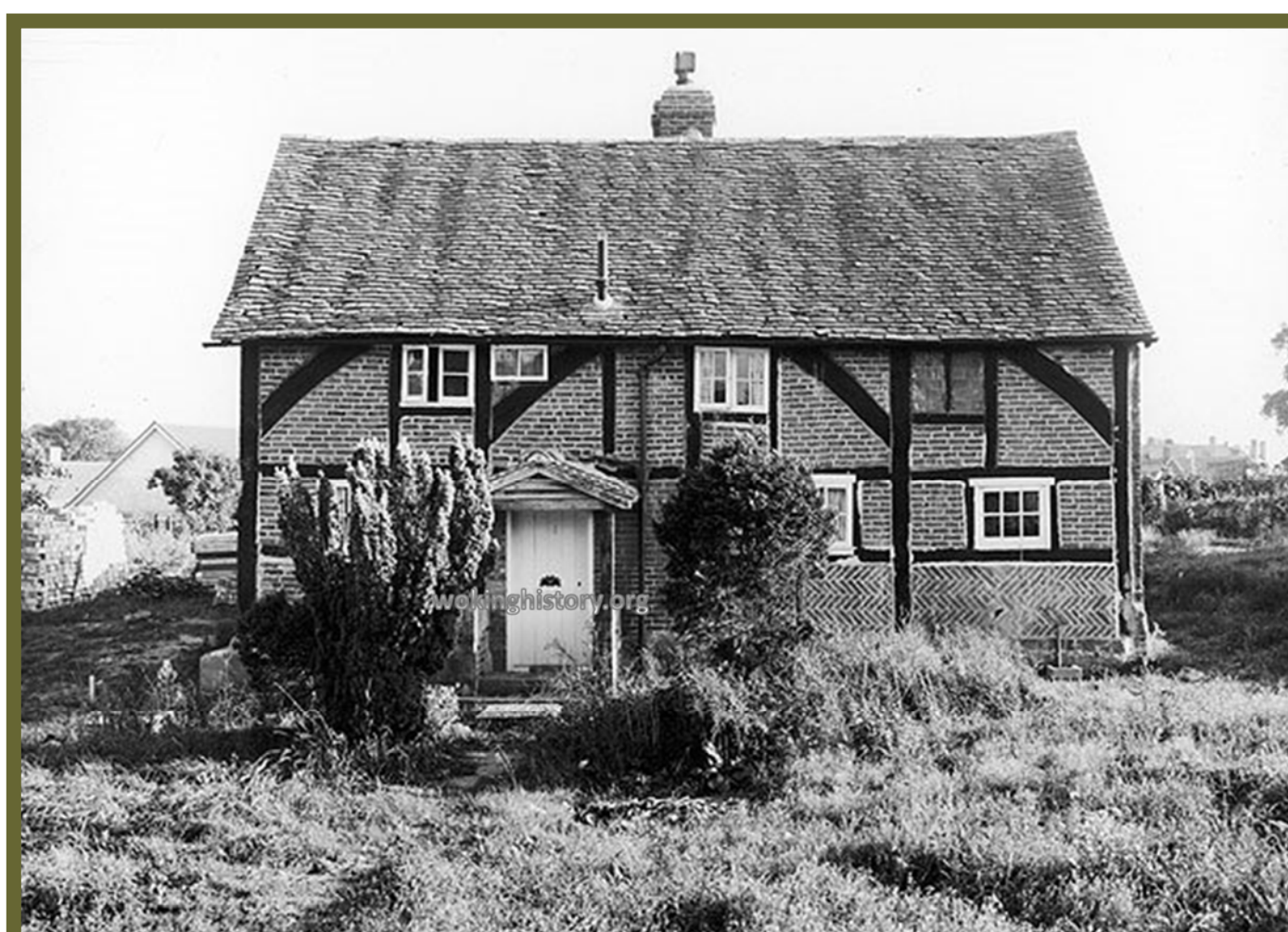
Moving back towards Maybury, the boundary between Woking and Pyrford was historically what we now know as Sandy Lane (and Oak Lane on the other side of East Hill), so that the influence of the Necropolis Company's land sales a century earlier were restricted to the College Road side of the hill. Nevertheless two large Victorian houses had been built on the Pyrford side – Mayhurst (which during the Second World War had been requisitioned to be used as the N.A.A.F.I. Training School) and Westerfolds.

By the late 1950's the grounds of both were ripe for redevelopment, with Mayhurst Crescent (and later still Mayhurst Avenue and Close) occupying the former, and A & J Simmons Ltd's 'Westerfold Estate' being built on the latter.

The old boundaries were becoming blurred as 'progress' once more marched on.



Somehow the 16th century Bluegate Cottage remained as building work went on around it.



The old farmhouse at Norfolk Farm survived, even if the former fields did not.