

HORSELL

1952-2012



A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE
OVER THE PAST SIXTY YEARS

By Iain Wakeford

When I was initially asked if I could contribute some illustrations to the Horsell Diamond Jubilee celebrations, I didn't think there was much I could provide.

Although I grew up in the village I didn't take that much interest in its development until I left school - and even then my interest was in the 'old' buildings of the area not any new ones that were being developed.

But the more I thought about it, and looked through my archive of pictures and documents, the more I realised that I could illustrate some of the village's development, and so this little booklet was produced.

I hope you will find it as interesting to read as I found it to research and write.

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May 2012

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Bringing good value close to home

We're refitting your local Co-op food store to give you even better choice and value.

There will be a much wider choice of fresh foods, groceries, and frozen foods - at prices that makes shopping closer to your home even more attractive.

But to complete these improvements we'll have to close on Monday, 1st October.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

We invite you to call in on re-opening day, Tuesday, 2nd October to see for yourself that your new Co-op Saver Store brings good value close to home.

111 HIGH STREET, HORSELL





How much has Horsell changed in sixty years?

Horsell was a very different place in 1952 to what it is now, but then so was Woking (and for that matter the world). The houses of Whapshott Avenue; the flats in Kingswood Court; the maisonettes of Pares

Close; had not been built. The Co-op and the shops opposite; the schools in Meadway Drive and Morton Road; and the Six Crossroads roundabout (or any roundabout in the village for that matter) had not been built; but has Horsell really changed that much - below the surface?

Opposite top, a leaflet for the new look Co-op store in October 1984. Below, the High Street before many of the shops were built.

This Page, top, looking across the canal from Boundary Lane to Horsell Moor and Brewery Road. Below the Six Crossroads roundabout.





In 1897, to celebrate the last Diamond Jubilee, the people of Horsell and Woking got together and

decided to build a hospital for the area. The Victoria Cottage Hospital was actually built in Horsell –

The 'Woking' Victoria Cottage Hospital was built in Horsell in 1897 to celebrate the last Diamond Jubilee. That, sadly, did not prevent it from being knocked down in the 1980s

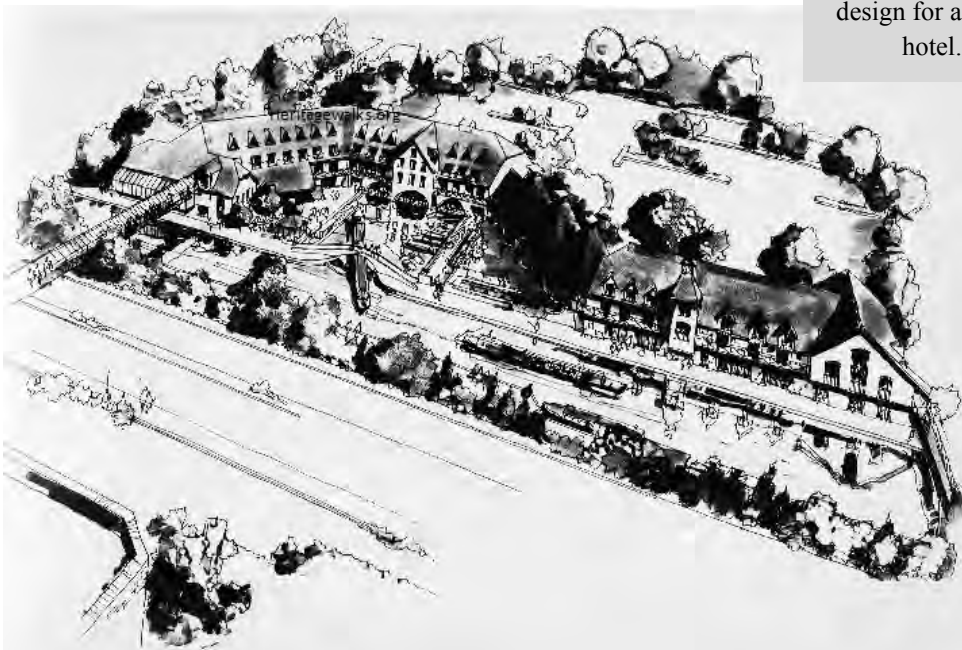


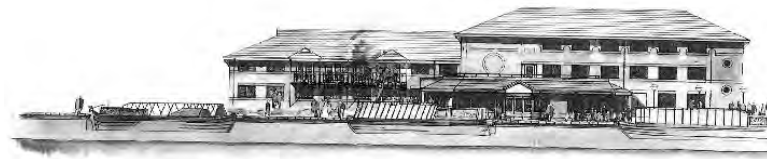


Boundary Lane (now replaced by Victoria Way) marking the limit of the town - and although Horsell became part of

Woking some ten years later (from a council point of view), the village remained fiercely independent.

There have been many attempts to build on the Brewery Road Car Park - including this mid 1980's design for a hotel.

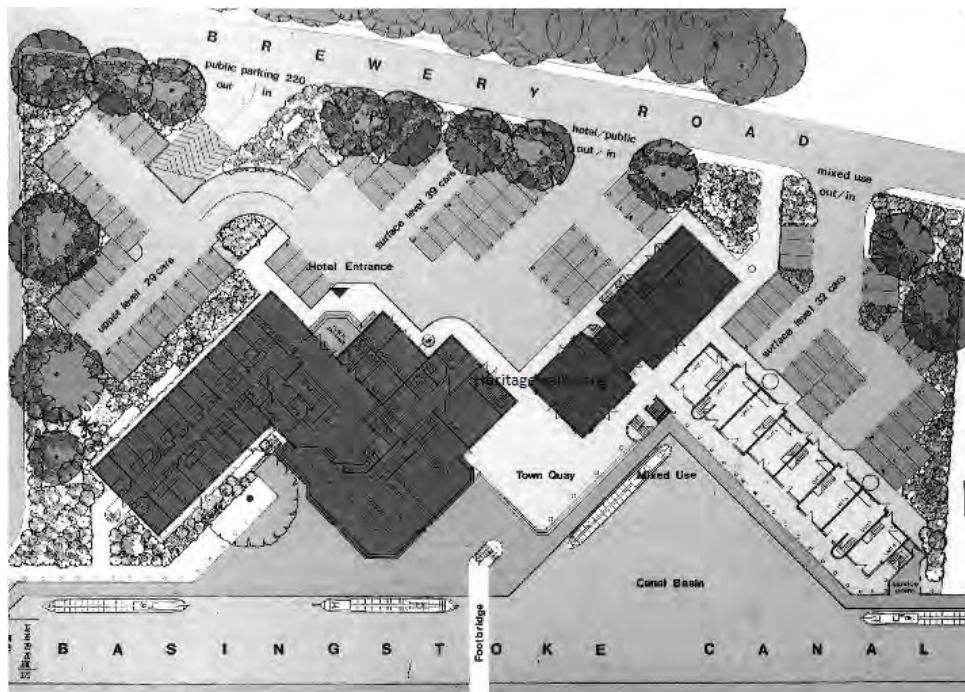




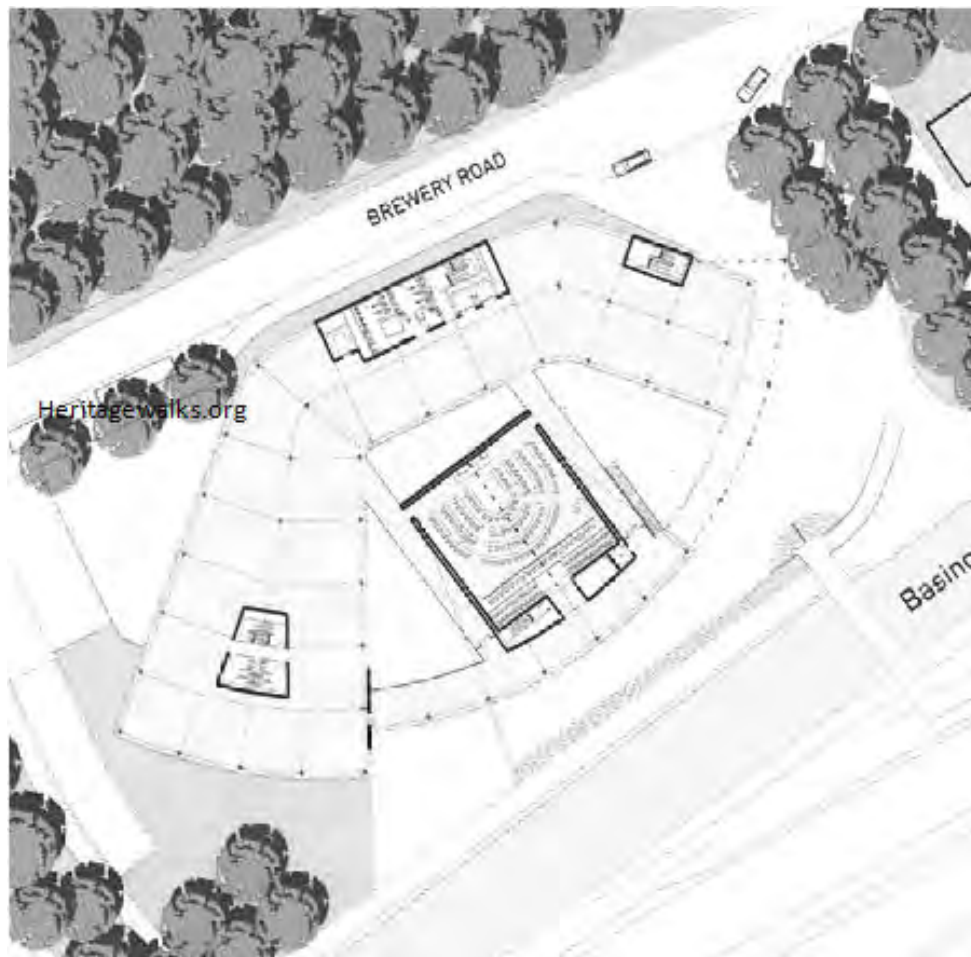
Plans to expand Woking Town Centre across the canal into the village (especially Brewery Road Car Park) were strongly resisted (although not ultimately successfully).

The 'tentacles' of Woking (like those of one of H.G.Wells' Martians), were trying to 'invade' the village. But the residents of Horsell (if not the Resident Association,

The late 1980's saw the 'Ibis Hotel' bid, whilst in the early part of this century Surrey County Council were looking to move County Hall to the site



which wasn't formed until 1965) tried to defend 'their' village against all odds. And some could say that they succeeded, as many (if not all) of the new residents saw themselves not as residents of 'Woking' – but proudly as residents of 'Horsell'.



In 1971 when the council decided to demolish the houses in Cherry Street, Goldsworth, where my family lived, they were offered a new council

house on the Bullbeggars Estate. Now it is called 'Lakeview' and part of Goldsworth Park, but when we moved there it was still very much part of



Horsell (despite what some residents at the time might have liked) and from my point of view, from then on, I was a 'Horsellite'.

There were changes in the landscape of the village in my childhood, but the changes seemed quite gradual and not as dramatic as some of the changes that were happening elsewhere in the district. To be honest, I mostly missed them.

When I did start taking photographs of the area it was mainly of the old buildings – most of which (thankfully) have survived. The old barn next to Whapshott Farm in Bullbeggars Lane (where the new Whapshott Farmhouse now stands) was one regretful loss.

Left: The 'Lakeview' Estate was still under construction when I moved there in 1971 and (below) the barn at Whapshot Farm was still standing, but sadly not for long.





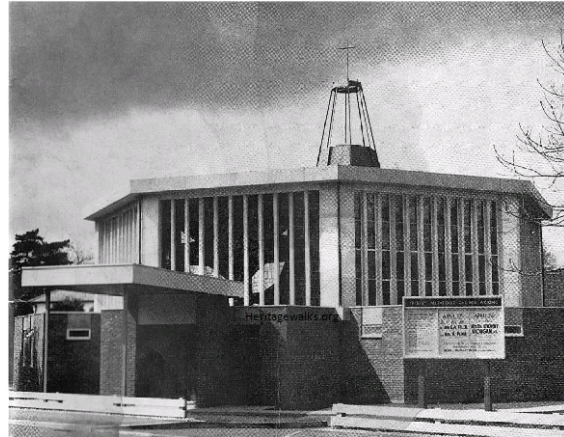
The Baptist Chapel at Anthony's was converted into a house in the mid 1980's.

The chapels at Anthony's Cheapside, Viggory and Manor Road were all sadly demolished or altered, but as well as the 'losses' there have been a few



St .Andrew's at Viggory lasted until it was sold to provide money for the construction of its namesake on Goldsworth Park.



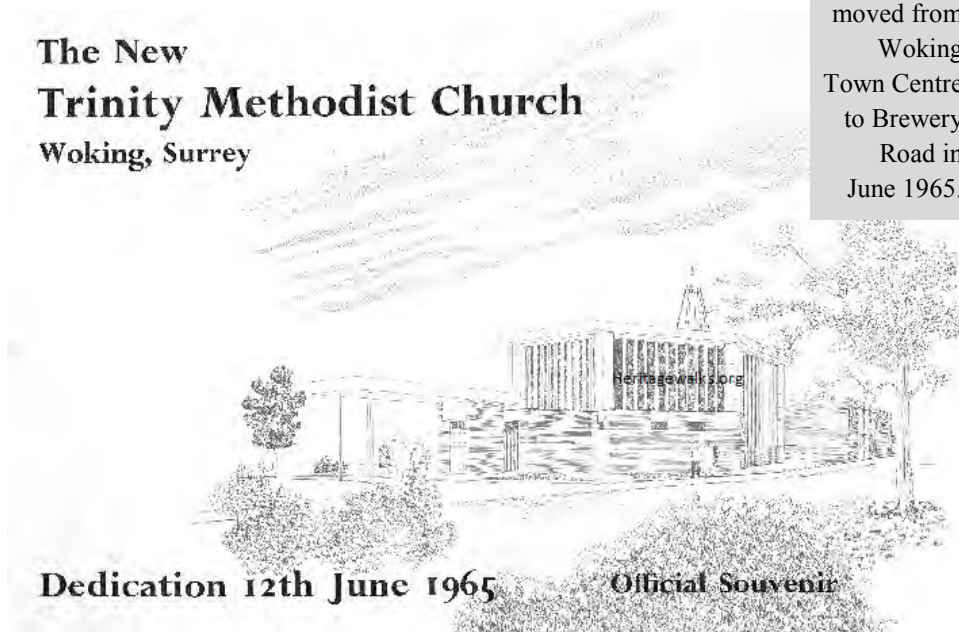


‘gains’. The Evangelical Church was not the only new place of worship in the area, as the Trinity Methodist Church (formerly in Commercial Road - where Boots is

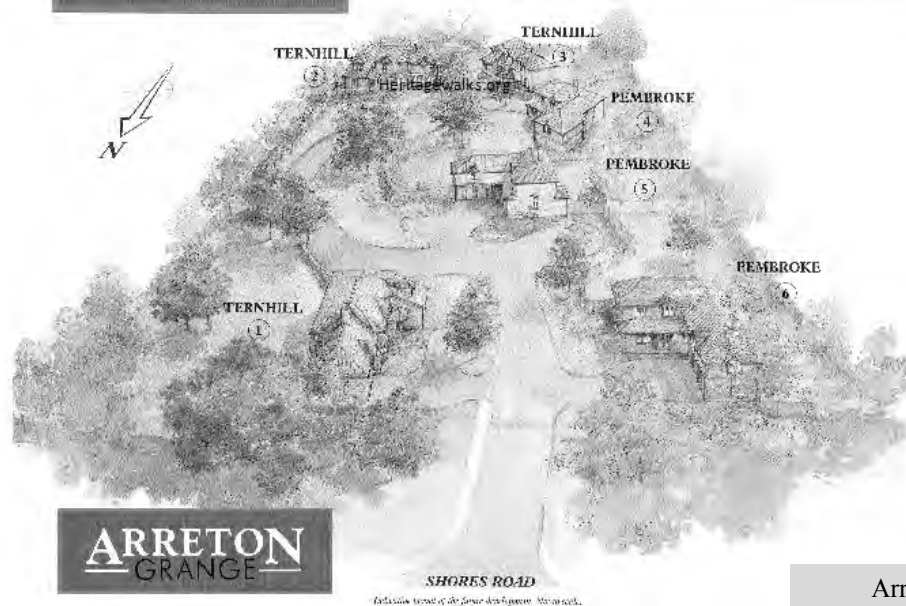
now), moved to Brewery Road in 1965, and even the ‘original’ church in the village – St Mary’s – has seen changes with the addition of the Parish Room.

The old tin Evangelical Church in Manor Road was replaced and the new Trinity Methodist Church moved from Woking Town Centre to Brewery Road in June 1965.

The New Trinity Methodist Church Woking, Surrey



SITE PLAN



There have been many new 'Closes', 'Parks' & 'Drives' – not always being built on green-field sites or at the expense of older houses, as a lot of 'infill' has taken place over the years.

The Wheatsheaf and Kettlewell areas in particular have seen major changes due to their proximity to the town, but 'progress' has visited all areas of Horsell over the years, and the designation of several 'Conservation Areas' in the village,

whilst being welcomed, do not seem to have stemmed the tide.

I wish I had taken more views of the village as it

Arreton Grange (above) and Channings on Kettlewell Hill - two developments of the 1990s



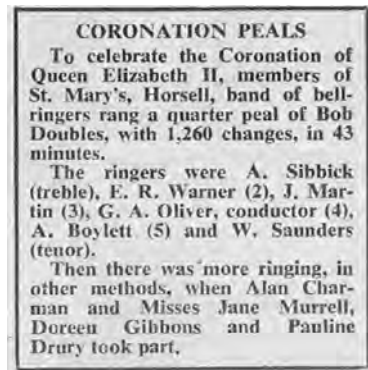


changed, and possibly taken more notice of what was being lost, but what has not been lost (I am glad to say) is the most important part of the village as far as I am

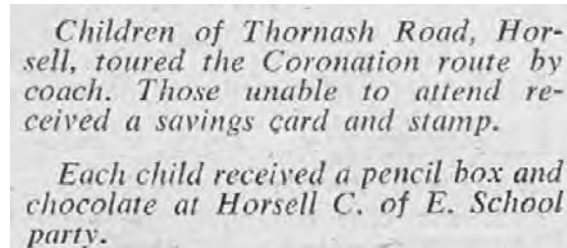
concerned – its ‘community’, which is as thriving today as it was when I was young – as thriving (I imagine) as the day Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne.

The Bowling Green and Bury Lane has not altered all that much, but has High Street has seen major changes over the years





I haven't been able to find out much about how Horsell celebrated 60 years ago (if celebrate is the right word given the circumstances of 1952), but the following year



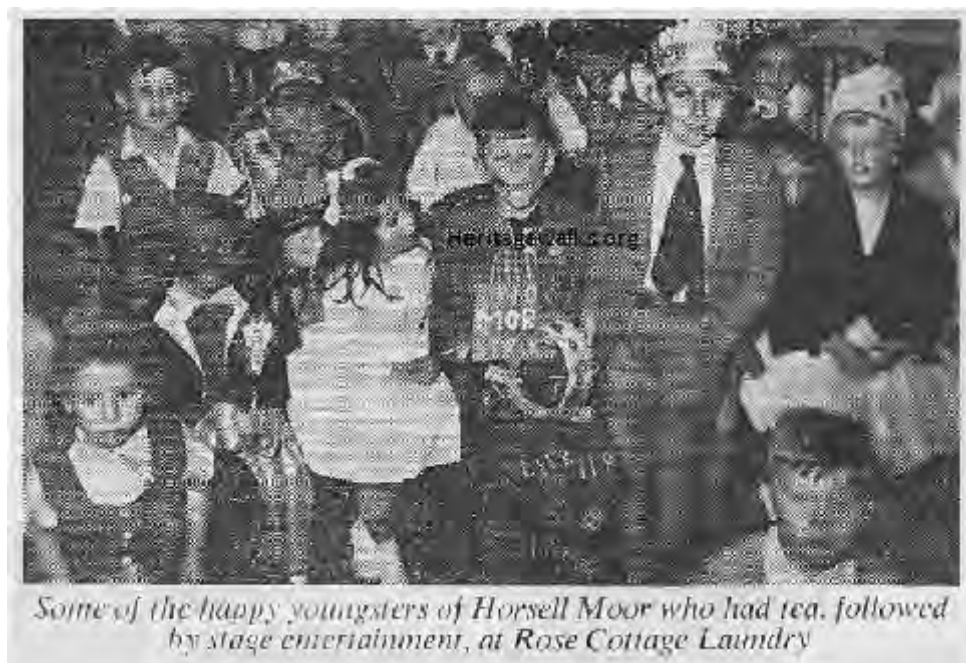
some parts of the village did manage to organise parties and other events. The extracts illustrated here come from the Woking Opinion's special Coronation Supplement.

I wonder whether any of the youngsters from

This page & opposite - items on Horsell's Coronation Celebrations in 1953.

Below is the Grove Barrs Estate in the mid 1950s.





Horsell Moor can remember their party at Ashley Cook's laundry or whether the children of Thornash Road who couldn't visit London still have their 'savings card and stamp'. This year the council plan to give every school child a mug to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, but whilst some Coronation pencil cases from Horsell Church may still exist, I don't hold out much hope for the chocolates!





The Canal by
Brewery
Road (top
left), with the
construction
of Lockfield
Drive and the
canal from
Arthurs
Bridge
(below left
and right)



Horsell has undoubtedly
changed in the past sixty years,
but despite the many changes
that have taken place, the most
important aspect of the village -
its community spirit - still
survives.



Step Bridge
in 1965