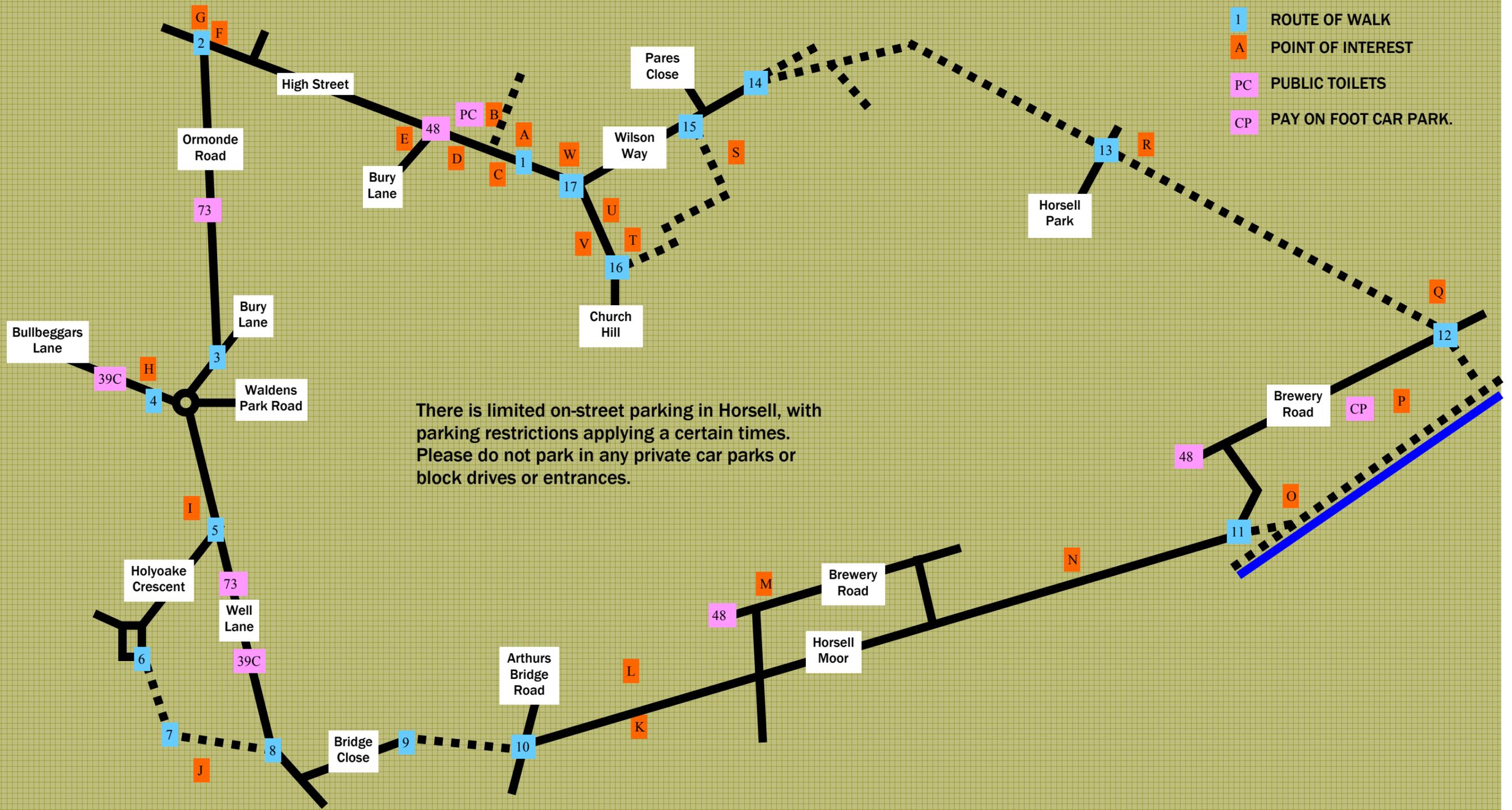


# AN OUT & ABOUT HERITAGE WALK AROUND HISTORIC HORSELL



- 1 ROUTE OF WALK
- A POINT OF INTEREST
- PC PUBLIC TOILETS
- CP PAY ON FOOT CAR PARK.

- 73 BUS ROUTE - 73 WOKING TO CHOBHAM - Stops in Well Lane and Ormonde Road (Mon-Sat only)
- 48 BUS ROUTE - 48 WOKING TO BROOKWOOD - Stops in Brewery Lane and The Crown (3 buses each way Mon-Fri only)
- 39C BUS ROUTE - 39C WOKING TO CLAYDON WALK - Stops in Well Lane and Bullbeggars Lane (1 bus each way on Tue & Thur only)

This year, as part of the celebrations marking the centenary of the ending of the First World War, I have teamed up with the Woking Magazine to produce three 'Out & About' Heritage Walk routes all starting at local War Memorials.

The route of this first walk around Horsell takes in three conservation areas and a number of historic features.

**Start/finish:**

Although the walk begins at the War Memorial in the High Street, it is of course possible to start and finish at any point on the route.

Indeed there is limited on-street parking in the vicinity of the War Memorial, although bus stops for route 48 are nearby.

**Distance:**

Approximately 3.5 kilometres (about 2.2 miles).

**Time:**

Allow 2 hours – more if you are planning to stop at one of the hostelrys along the way

**Type of Walk:**

Easy and generally flat with some narrow pathways, that should nevertheless be accessible to pushchairs and wheelchairs (although the steps at St Mary's Church may necessitate a return to Wilson Way to reach the end of the walk)

Please ensure you follow the Country Code and respect the privacy of local residents.

**Guided Walk:**

Sunday 10th June, 2pm. Iain Wakeford will be leading a slightly shortened version of this walk with more information on the history of features of interest.

**The Route:**

1. From the War Memorial head West along the High Street (towards the shops), keeping on the northern side of the road until the entrance to Oakwood House (No 71-73).
2. Carefully cross the road and head back so that you can turn right into Ormonde Road.
3. At the end of the road, turn right onto Bury Lane and the roundabout, into Bullbeggars Lane to the entrance of Well Farm.
4. Cross Bullbeggars Lane and turn left, going around the corner into Well Lane.
5. Turn right into Holyoake Crescent
6. At the end of Holyoake Crescent (opposite the green), take the footpath (114) to Black Patch.
7. Turn left onto the path to Well Lane.
8. Carefully cross Well Lane and turn into Bridge Close.
9. At the end of the close, take the footpath beside the Old People's flats to Arthurs Bridge Road.
10. Carefully cross Arthurs Bridge Road and continue along Horsell Moor until the road turns to the left and the footpath continues onto the Basingstoke Canal towpath.
11. Continue on the towpath to the entrance to the WWF Living Planet Centre
12. Turn off the towpath and cross the entrance to the car park to the pedestrian crossing over Brewery Road, and then take the footpath (19) towards Horsell Park Road.
13. Cross Horsell Park Road and continue on the footpath (19b).
14. At the end of the path, turn left onto Wilson Way.

15. Turn left off of Wilson Way into the Churchyard of St Mary's Church, following the path around the south side of the church to the Church Hill entrance.
16. Carefully cross the road and turn right to go down the hill past the school to the pelican crossing opposite the Red Lion public house.
17. Cross the road and turn left to return to the start of the walk at the War Memorial.

**Features:**

- A. War Memorial and Village Institute. The Portland Stone Memorial was unveiled in 1920 in front of the Village Institute, a building donated to the village in 1897 by Mrs Eliza Back.
- B. Horsell Village Hall, opened in 1907.
- C. The Crown. There has been a public house on this site since at least the 18th century.
- D. Shops - dating from the late 18th/early 19th century.
- E. Benstead Cottage - at one time a drapers and post office, but later Archie Benstead's cycle shop and garage.
- F. Esgairs - possibly one of the oldest domestic buildings in the village.
- G. Oakwood House (71-73 High Street) - possibly one of the best mid 1960's buildings in the village.
- H. Well Farm - another 15th century former farmhouse, although with many modern additions.
- I. Holyoake Crescent and the Woking Garden Suburb built in 1912 by the Woking, Horsell & District Co-operative Society.

- J. Black Patch - a possible ancient settlement site!
- K. Brewster's Log - at the time of its import in the early 1960's the largest piece of sawn timber in the country.
- L. Horsell Sports Ground - founded in 1921 for the recreation of the villagers of Horsell, by the villagers of Horsell.
- M. Horsell's Brewery - run until the outbreak of the First World War by the Stedman Family of Old Malt Farm.
- N. Horsell Moor - the road is the ancient boundary between Horsell and Woking, with the houses actually on the Woking side.
- O. Horsell Wharf - where in the late 18th and 19th centuries coal was unloaded by the Cobbett family.
- P. WWF Living Planet Centre - opened in November 2013 by Sir David Attenborough.
- Q. Alwyne House and the British School and Baptist Chapel that was once on this site in the early 19th century
- R. Graylands - once the site of a large Victorian House redeveloped in the 1960's.
- S. The Site of Horsell's Medieval Archery Butts, and now part of St Mary's Churchyard. Burials were first recorded in the churchyard in the 15th century.
- T. St Mary's Church - dating back to at least the mid 12th century.
- U. The Old Vicarage - a fine Victorian House.
- V. Horsell School - built in 1851 and extended many times since.
- W. The Red Lion - possibly one of the longest established public houses in the village

# AN OUT & ABOUT HERITAGE WALK AROUND HISTORIC HORSELL

Notes & Illustrations based on the Heritage Walk around the village on the 10th June, 2018, (starting at the War Memorial at 2pm).  
(c) Iain Wakeford, 2018



## A: WAR MEMORIAL & INSTITUTE

Made out of Portland Stone, the Horsell War Memorial, was unveiled on the 3rd September 1920 at a ceremony attended by Colonel Churchill and the Bishop of Guildford.

It is said to have cost £800 and was designed by Arthur Stratton an architect and lecturer at King's College, London, who published several books on English Architecture

The stone contains the names of fifty-eight local men who lost their lives during the First World

War and forty-three from the Second World War. The Imperial War Museums website has details of all the First World War men listed at <http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/names/listing/23554>



The house behind the War Memorial is the Parish Institute, presented in 1897 by Mrs Eliza Back, sister-in-law of the Rev John Back, as a library and reading room for the Men's Club. There was also rooms where meetings could

take place such as the 'Horsell Cottage Gardeners' Club' and the 'Horsell Women's Co-operative Guild'.

## B: PARISH HALL

In 1904 the Rev. Norman Pares (after whom Pares Close is named) purchased the lease of the land for the building of a parish hall and started fundraising for the estimated £1,400 required to complete the designs submitted to the building committee by Messrs Drower & Shorto.

Work started in May 1906 (once £620 had been raised by public subscription), but unfortunately due to problems with the original builders the hall cost a lot more to construct and in April 1907 a loan had to be taken out to complete the work.

The hall was finally opened on the 2nd November 1907 by the Bishop of Dorking, with various fundraising events continuing in the village to help meet the final cost of £2,084.18.8d, which included fittings and furniture.

In August 1908 it is recorded that members of the 'Men's Society' (who had use of the meeting room below the hall) provided the labour to make up the carriage drive.



The Rev Norman Pares outside the Village Hall



#### C: CROWN

It appears the Crown was first established in the 18th century, although the present building is Victorian (with obvious modern additions)

The freehold message known 'by the sign of the Crown' is recorded in the will of Henry Street (of Bisley) in 1802 when he left it and another property to his grand-daughter, Ann Street Withall.

On the 19th March 1840 the Crown was sold to Thomas Newman of the Brewery in Old Woking. Soon after that date Newman sold the brewery to Samuel Strong, who is recorded as the owner at the time of the tithe survey in 1854, when William Cox is recorded as the landlord.

#### D: SHOPS

Once three shops, the oldest part dates from the late 18th/early 19th century and is a locally listed building. Like the Crown they were at one time owned by Henry Street and then his grand-daughter before being sold in March 1840 when they were bought by George Reading, a grocer from Woking.

Whether Reading actually ran the shop is not known as a later sale document (26th April 1862) records the property as 'formerly in the occupation of William Spooner, late of William Harris'. George Reading was then described as 'formerly of Woking, grocer and now of Ripley, gent', selling the property to Ambrose Brooker of



Horsell and Thomas Russell of Guildford for £380.

The 1871 census records Ambrose Brooker as a seventy-year old 'Master Grocer' with his son, Thomas (41) listed as a 'shopman' and his daughter Ann (37) as housekeeper.

The Street Directory for Horsell in 1916 lists 'J Brownjohn' as a 'grocer, pork butcher, glass and earthenware dealer', but by the 1930's he was also the village's postmaster (hence the post box in the wall), with Brown's boot & shoe repairers in the central building and E Waggett's fish and chip shop next to the Crown.

#### E: BENSTEADS

Another locally listed building is Benstead Cottage, thought to have been built about 1831 (the date being inscribed on one of the bricks).

It too was once the village post office, run in the late 19th century by Miss Sarah Spooner. The house dates from the early 19th century and is a locally listed building.

At the time of the 1841 census it was the home of William Spooner, a shoemaker (aged 40) and his wife Sarah (20) whom he had married earlier that year.

The 1871 census records William as a bootmaker and draper, with four children still living at the property - Fanny Margaret (26) whose occupation is listed as 'accountant', Sarah Elizabeth (22) a 'drapers assistant' and two boys,



Eli Godfrey (15) and Arthur Frederick (8), plus a 16 year old servant.

It was Sarah Elizabeth who over the family business and expanded it to include the post office, but by the 1920's it had become a cycle shop and garage, run by Archie Benstead at one time a mechanic for John Cobb at Brooklands when he broke the world land-speed record.

#### F: ESGAIRS

Often said to be the oldest house in the village, Esgairs (or EastGuise Farm as it was once known) was built in the late 15th or early 16th century when it was probably a two-bay open hall house - the oldest part being at the back of the property. In the 16th central the central 'smoke



Esgairs - one of the oldest houses in the village



bay' was added, with the chimney probably inserted in the 17th century.

In the 18th century the brick built front was added and many of the wattle and daub panels between the timber-framing were probably replaced with brick as they became cheaper to produce.

Indeed by the late 18th and early 19th century it was more fashionable to own a brick built property, so many old timber-framed houses were encased in brick, which possibly explains why an auction notice from 1841 describes the property as a 'substantial brick-built dwelling', with 'six convenient bedrooms, large kitchen and two parlours, with wash-house - dairy and cellar'.

#### G: OAKWOOD HOUSE

With Esgairs on one side, and The Plat, a charming Victorian cottage on the other, many people look at Oakwood House (No 71-73 High Street) and believe it is possibly as old, if not older than its neighbours, but in reality it was actually built in 1965 by Mr T D Lock (who went on to live in one of the two properties).

It is possibly one of the best 1960's buildings in the area!

Oakwood House - built in 1965

Well Farm as it looked in the 1960's.



#### H: WELL FARM

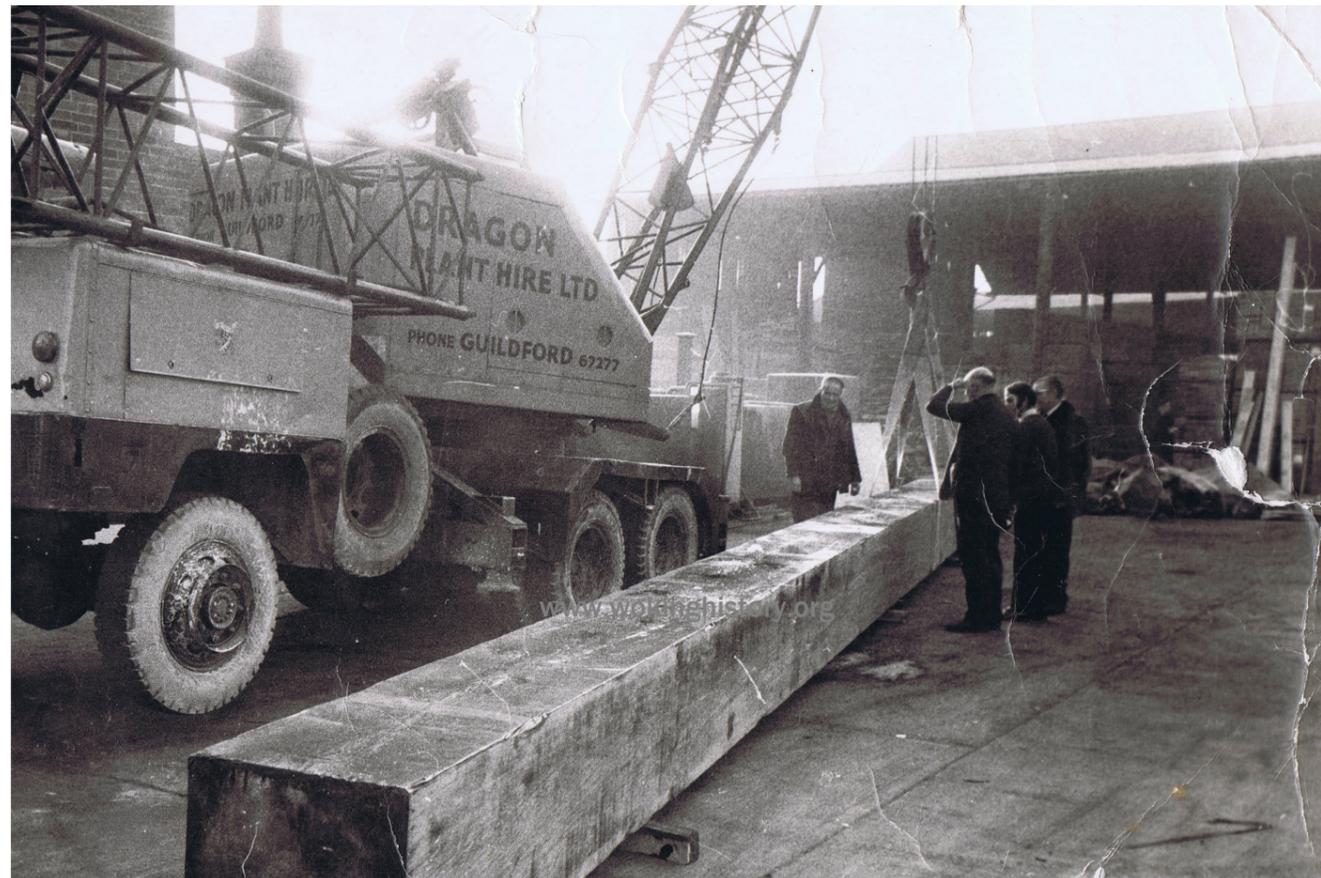
When Well Farm was up for sale in early 2001 the estate agent's 'blurb' proudly described it as 'A charming Grade II listed former farmhouse, believed to date from the 14th century'. The official listing is that it is 15th century, with 20th century additions, and unfortunately most of those are to the front of the property, so that there is little to see of the old farmhouse from the road.

#### I: HOLYOAKE CRESCENT

Holyoake Crescent is one of Horsell's many 'Conservation Areas', having been built in 1912 as the 'Woking Garden Suburb' (see the Well Lane side of No. 2).



2 Holyoake Crescent



Delivering the log to in the 1960's was quite a tricky feat.

Beckton in East London. At 71ft 5in long (and over 2ft square) it was the largest piece of sawn timber ever to be imported into this country. Unfortunately for one reason or another the order was cancelled, but by then the wood was already on the ship from Canada, and Spanton's (who had just merged with another timber yard at Horsell Moor called Brewster's), decided to put it on display outside their new warehouse in Arthurs Bridge Road.

When the supports became unsafe, and the old site was sold by Magnet Southern (the successors to Brewster's and predecessors of Jewson's) sold the site to L A Fitness (PureGym) the log was removed and 'stored' beside their building further along Horsell Moor. There is stays, rotting away, overgrown by bushes and neglected.

Apparently in the 1980's a competition was held to try to guess how many matches could be made out of the timber, with 58 million being the answer.

The estate was developed by the Woking Co-operative Society on part of the fields bought from James Fenn in 1908 (and added to the following year). At first the fields were used by the Society's delivery horses, although part was fenced off as allotments and the fields were occasionally used for Society fairs and fetes, but in 1912 it was decided to help alleviate the housing crisis and the architect of the Co-operative Garden Committee, Mr H Clapham Lander, was asked to draw up plans for a scheme.

Direct Labour was employed under the foreman, Mr C A Cook, and the Building Committee, with financial support from the Co-operative Wholesale Society, started work on the first thirty houses and the new branch store facing Well Lane.

The official opening was carried out the following July, when the Director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Mr W Lander, gave the opening address, in front of a crowd of local dignitaries and members of the Society (Lander Cottages facing Black Patch apparently being

named after the gentleman that opened them, rather than the one that designed them)!

The original scheme was completed in June 1914 at a cost of over £9,000.

The branch store in Well Lane has the initials 'WH&D' on the side, although there is some doubt whether the society ever officially changed its name to the Woking, Horsell & District Co-operative Society

#### J: BLACK PATH

Old place-names with the word 'Black' in them quite often turn out to have interesting archaeological features - years of previous occupation or burning turning the soil dark, leading to past farmers giving the distinctive name. Black Patch, on the border of Horsell and Woking, has never been properly investigated by archaeologists.

#### K: BREWSTER'S LOG

In the early 1960's a local timber merchants called Spanton's (whose yard was by Chertsey Road Bridge), received an order from the North Thames Gas Board to import a huge log of timber for their gas-fired power station at



### L: HORSELL SPORTS GROUND

Since the mid 1860's part of Horsell Common, opposite the Wheatsheaf, had been used as an informal recreation ground with athletic meetings apparently attracting up to 1,200 people. A cricket pitch was soon also laid out and later Woking Football Club played some of their first games on the ground (even though at that time Horsell was not formally part of Woking), but whilst the Wheatsheaf Recreation Ground was obviously quite popular with the people of Woking, in Horsell in the early 1920's there was pressure to provide a sports ground a little closer to the village centre.

In 1921 over one hundred Horsell residents helped to form the 'Horsell Sports Ground Association' - each subscribing at least £10 to be issued with a 'Founder's Certificate and Rules'.

The object of the Association was 'for the purpose of acquiring suitable ground in Horsell and of providing thereon facilities for sports and games and the erection of a social club'. On the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1921 James Horace Stedman (formerly of The Shrubberies, then of The Croft, Church Hill) conveyed land at Horsell Moor to the trustees of the Association for £1,400. It had once been part of Old Malt Farm and before the war had grown hops for Stedman's Brewery (some of the plants still surviving in the hedgerow).

Amongst the original trustees of the Association were Alfred Brown, who lived at Horsell Grange, James Leslie Sweet (of Woodham Grange) and George Frederick Cotton, who lived in Waldens Park Road. The founder members included local organisations such as Horsell Cricket Club, who were then playing their matches on the field behind the Red Lion, but also clubs that would not directly benefit from the new sport ground, like the Horsell Cottage Gardeners Association and the Horsell Horticultural Society.

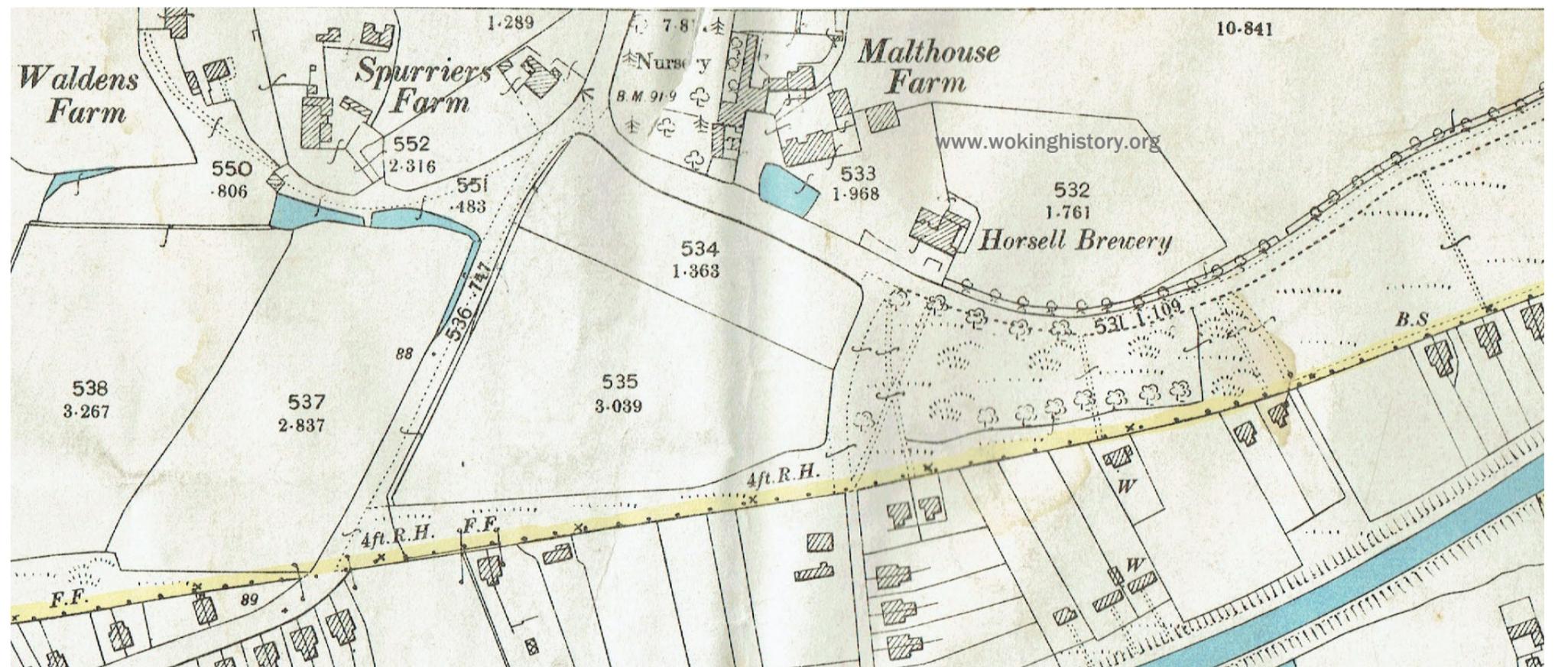
The Cricket Club (formed in 1905), and the village's Football Club, were each granted three year tenancies of the ground - the footballers paying £16 per annum, whilst the cricket team paid just £10. Later a pavilion was built (with a club house and bar added in 1952 - the £90 for the building being part of the 'Victory Memorial Fund'), and in 1924 tennis courts added, with a putting green also being created by 1928.



Brewery Road (not Lane) in the early part of the 20th century. The Brewery buildings (right) have changed a lot since the Ordnance Survey produced the map (below) in 1896.

### M: HORSELL BREWERY

The Brewery that gave the Brewery Road its name was run by the Stedman family from their home at Malt House Farm in what is now Old Malt Way. When it started is not known but a mortgage dated 1822 for a property in Bisley records a 'James Stedman of Horsell, Maltster' almost certainly the same James Stedman (or his son) who is recorded in a directory of 1855 as 'brewer and farmer' at Malthouse Farm. James Stedman's son, John, is recorded as brewer in 1867 and when he died in 1906 (aged 78) he



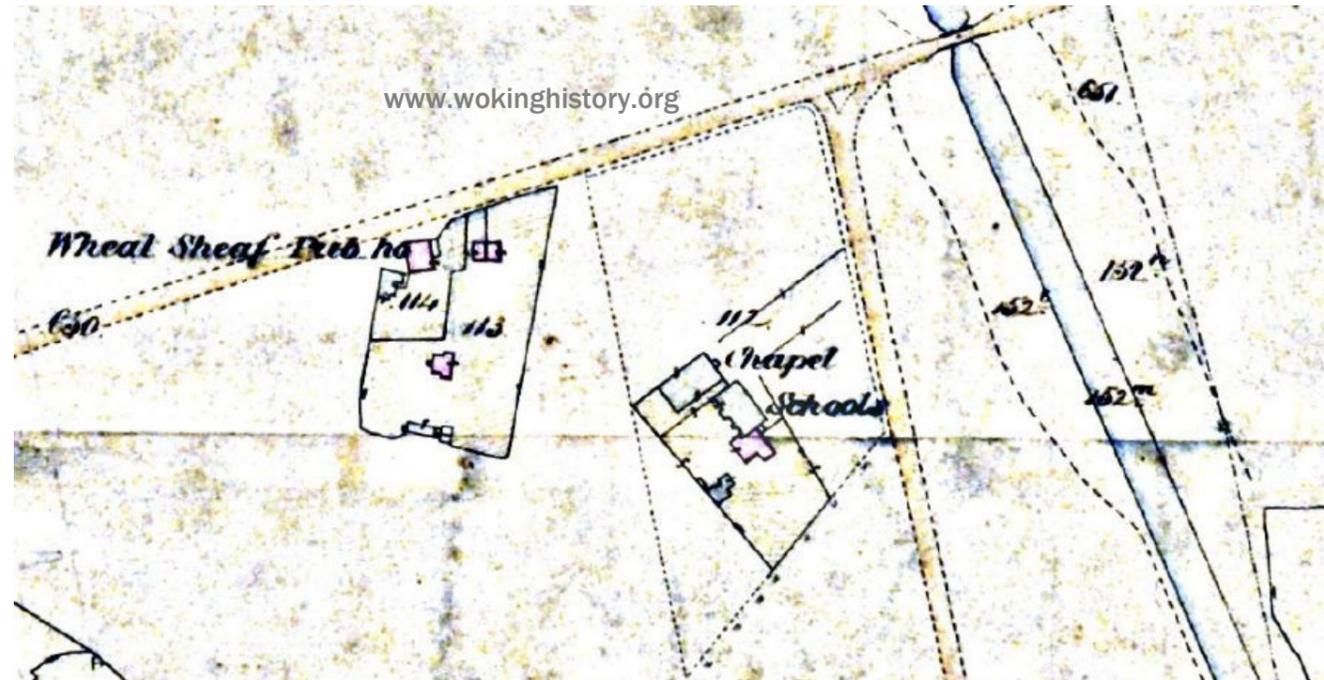
apparently left property worth over £18,000. His son, another John, run the brewery from 1890 until its closure at the start of the First World War, when presumably the workers went off to fight). The buildings below are thought to have been part of the brewery complex, although other outbuildings to Old Malt Farm (off Old Malt Way), may also have been used. The gabled building to the right was once an off-licence, run by Tyler & Company after the First World War, may have had some connection with Stedman's Brewery.

**N: HORSELL MOOR**

Although the common land of the Moor is in Horsell the houses of the road were in fact on the Woking side of the boundary (that used to run along the centre of the road). As you walk along the road notice Grove Villa's and the house at the end of the terrace to their right, which was once a grocers shop run by Mrs Childs.

**O: COBBETT'S WHARF**

The Basingstoke Canal was begun in 1788 (at New Haw on the Wey Navigation) and by 1791 was open as far as Horsell, with Pirbright being reached in 1792 and Basingstoke in 1794. When it first opened tolls on goods to Horsell from London were four shillings and four pence per ton - although in its first year just 28 tons of goods were carried. The wharf at Horsell appears to have been where the group of houses are now at the end of Horsell Moor, before the WWF building, By the 1820's it seems that the Cobbett family, who were rose growers and nurserymen in Horsell, also had a coal business here. From 1831-1856 large amounts of coal were sold to Robert Donald of Goldsworth Nursery, and to William Jackman 1874-1878 (presumably to heat their glasshouses), and in the late 1830's they supplied the London & South Western Railway (even after Woking Station was opened and coal could be brought here by train)! The wharf appears to have closed in the early 1890's and in 1896-7 the canal company is thought to have demolished the sheds, before the Cobbett's lands were put up for auction in 1899.



Edward Ryde's map of Horsell from 1851.

The house survived until the early 1960's, however, becoming the site of the Trinity Methodist Church in 1962, the foundation stones being laid in May that year, with the site being dedicated and opened just over three years later

**R: GRAYLANDS**

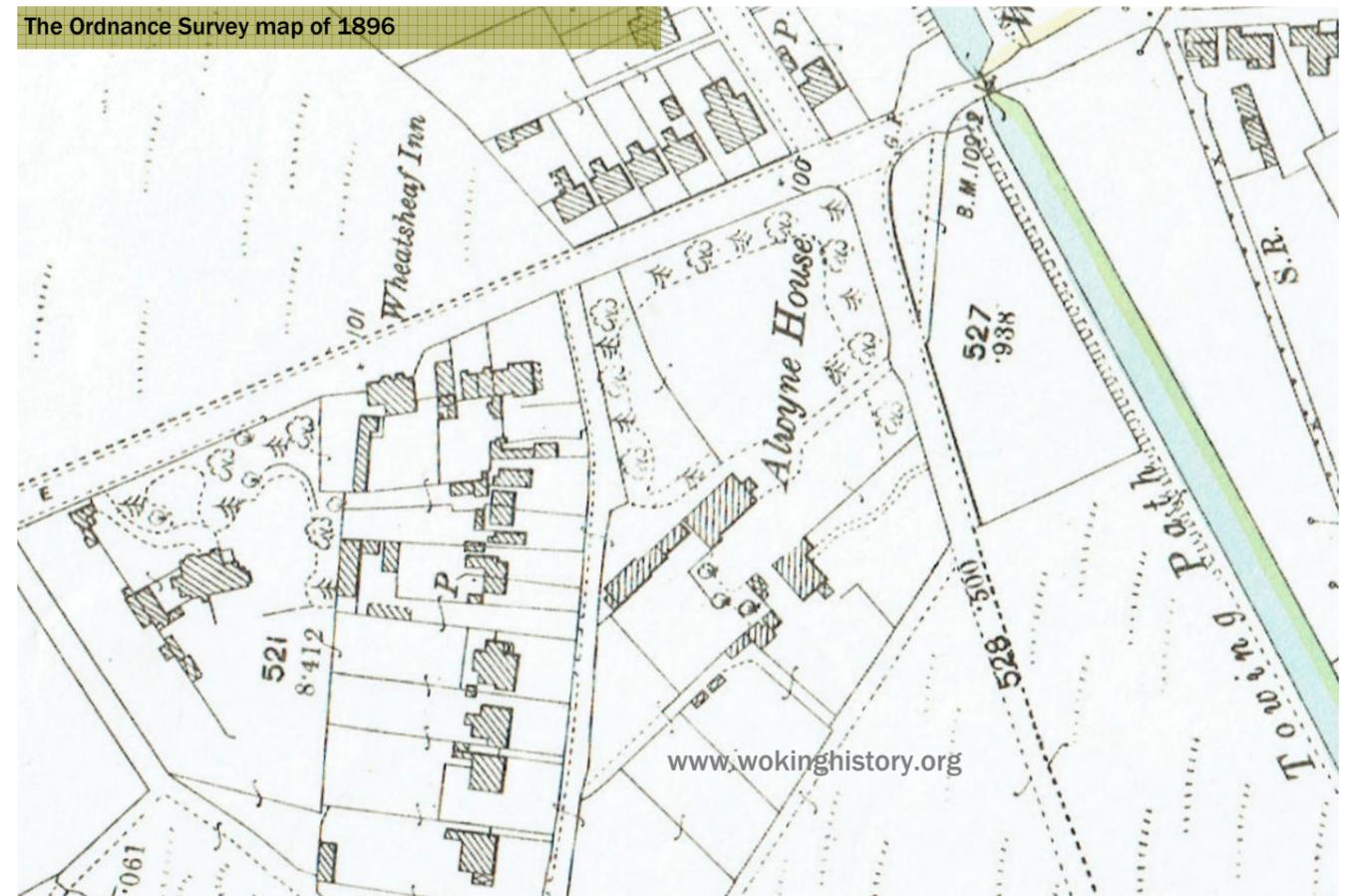
Graylands (or Graysend House as it was recorded in the 1881 census) was built in the late 1870's after Joseph Pearson Fitzgerald bought 'Broomstyles Field' at public auction in 1875 for £420.00 (plus £38.10s for the timber growing on the estate). In 1871 he was recorded as living with his widowed mother at Broom Hall, in Chobham Road, but by 1881 he is at his new house with his wife Catherine and four daughters. By 1891 they had moved and Graylands was now the home of William Roebuck, a civil engineer, and his wife (Eliza) and five servants (with five children belonging to two of the servants' families). The present estate that bears the name was built in the early 1960's.

**P: WWF LIVING PLANET CENTRE**

In 2006 the WWF were offered by the Rufford Foundation, £5 million on condition that it was used to construct environmentally friendly offices and 'an interactive and educational experience' of the charity's work, to replace the not so 'green' premises they previously rented in Godalming. With support from Woking Council, who own the car park over which it is built, the Living Planet Centre was designed by Hopkins Architects and officially opened by Sir David Attenborough in November 2013. For more information visit the website [assets.wwf.org.uk/custom/stories/lpc/](http://assets.wwf.org.uk/custom/stories/lpc/)

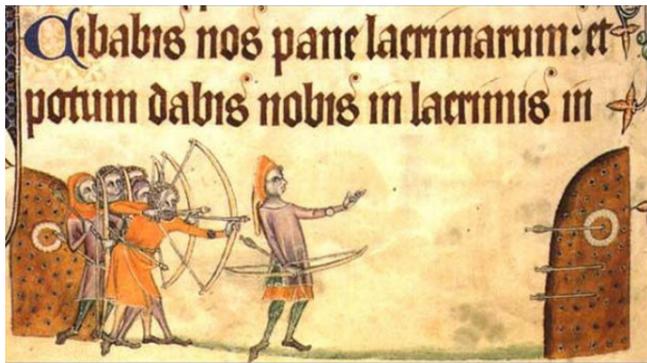
When he died in 1882 his estate was apparently valued at £15,000 and after his wife, Alicia, died in 1901 the property appears to have passed to their two daughters Alicia (who died in 1922) and Anne (who died in 1927).

The Ordnance Survey map of 1896



**Q: BAPTIST CHAPEL & SCHOOL**

Where the Trinity Methodist Church was built in the 1960's was previously a property called 'Alwyne House', and before that a Baptist Chapel and School, established in 1829. It lasted until the 1850's (and can clearly be seen on Edward Ryde's map of Horsell in 1851) when it was run by a James Furner and his wife and cousin who were all listed as 'British Teachers' in the 1851 census. By 1861, the property had either been converted or replaced by 'Alwyne House', the home of a gentleman called Spencer Compton, who is described as a 'Senior Officer in the Bombay Civil Service' in 1862 and an 'East India Merchant' in his 1871 census entry.

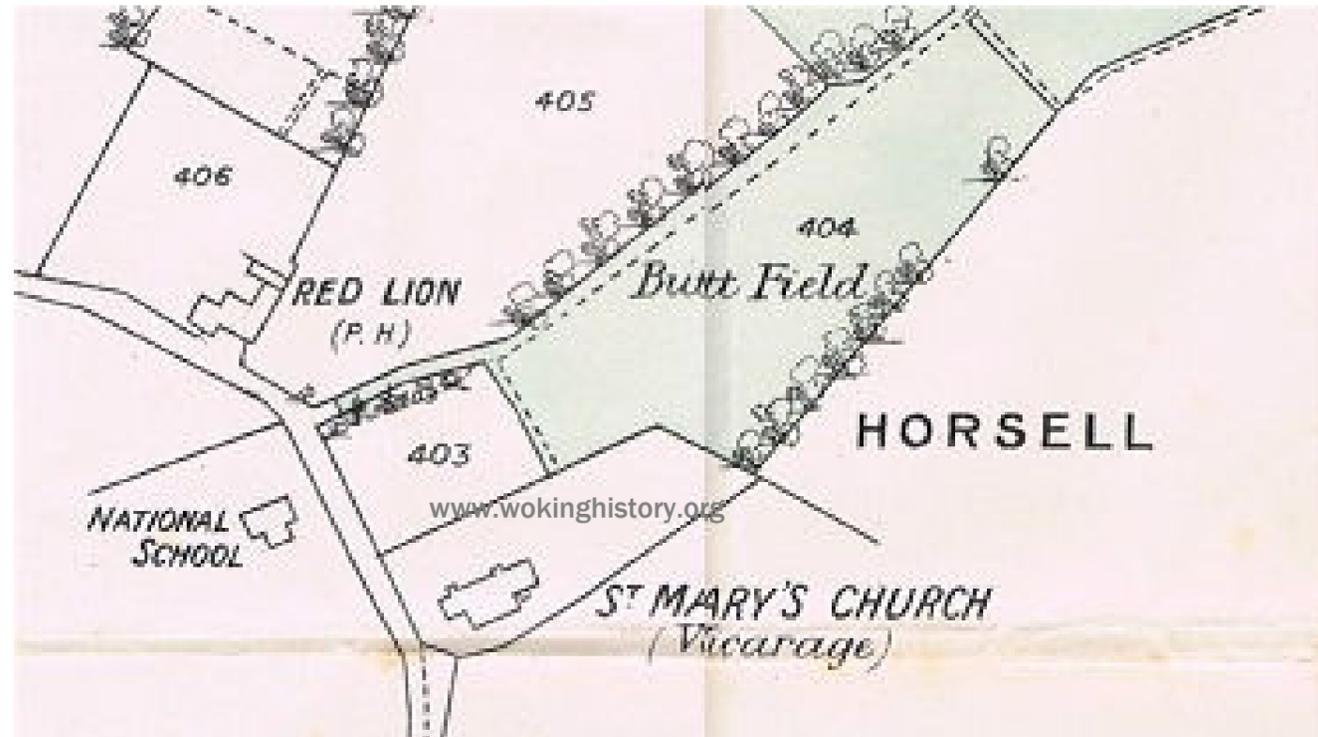


**S: THE BUTTS**

In medieval times every male between the age of 15 and 60 were required by law to equip themselves with bows and to practice archery on Sundays and holidays.

Henry I proclaimed that an archer would be absolved of murder if he killed a man during archery practice. An Act passed in 1542 established the minimum target distance for anyone over the age of 24 as 220 yards, so that the practice ground (which needed to be flat) had to be at least that long.

Mounds of earth up to 3m high were known as Butts, with Horsell's evidently being in the field that is now part of the extension to the graveyard).



Butt Field as depicted on an estate map of 1880.

**T: ST MARY'S CHURCH & TOMBS**

The first reference to Horsell comes from the 13th century when Westminster Abbey, as lords of the Manor of Pyrford (which included Horsell), presumably provided the first chapel on this site.

Little now remains from that period as the church was heavily 'restored' in Victorian times, but there are some interesting brasses and monuments inside, and in the graveyard can be found several tombs, two of which (to members

of the Roake family) are separately listed 'buildings'!

The earliest part of St Mary's Church—a few small parts of masonry at the western end of the Nave—dates from the mid 12th century. In about 1340 major alterations were made when the tower was added, but by the mid 15th century the chapel was described as ruinous and in need of repair. The place was rebuilt and in the late 15th century the South Aisle was added. The chapel remained almost unaltered for the next 350 years until in Victorian times the church was 'restored' by W F Unsworth (who lived at Woodhambury in Woodham Lane). The early 20th century saw the addition of the North Aisle and Vestry in 1909 and the Trinity Chapel in 1910.

The earliest recorded burials in the churchyard date from 1485 - one of which was of Thomas Rooke (which shows the longevity of the family in the area). As if to prove the point, one of the oldest surviving graves in the church yard is the tomb of Henry Roake, dated 1758. It is a Grade II listed building, one of two in the churchyard, (the other dating from 1789 to Ann Roake).



The Roake tomb by the South Aisle.





The Old Vicarage,

**U: THE OLD VICARAGE**

The Old Vicarage dates from Victorian times, although there is some evidence that the Victorian facade hides an earlier building

**V: HORSELL SCHOOL**

The 'National School' opened on this site in 1851 (see date on the left hand gable), but it was not long before it had to be enlarged with the right hand gable being added in 1882 (when the school could cater for 240 children).

This school was built in 1851 by the National Society, with places for just 81 pupils, but it was not long before development in the village meant an increase in the accommodation at the school, and in 1882 the school was enlarged to cater for 240. The following year an area of land was given to the school by the Vicar of Horsell, the Rev Back, for use as a playground. Further enlargement took place in 1899 with the infant school being added in 1912 at a cost of £1,200, and two years later another £2,000 was expended on more buildings. By 1916 there were 107 infants and 248 in the mixed school.



**W: RED LION**

The earliest part of the present building is possibly 18th century, but there has apparently been an inn on this site since at least the 16th century.

The 1854 tithe map and apportionment records the owner of the site as Edmund Elkin, whose brewery was in North Street, Guildford (almost opposite the Library). The landlord was then Stephen Moore, whose death is recorded in the diary of Edward Ryde (of Poundfield House, Old Woking) - where on the 17th December 1886 he notes "death of Moore, delivery agent and fly proprietor for 50 years, who kept the Red Lion at Horsell".

Although the present public house dates only from the 18th century (at the earliest), there has supposedly been a pub on this site since at least the mid-16th century. On the 17th September 1566, Edward Roke applied for a licence to open an ale house here. In later years the pub apparently sold rose bushes grown in the nearby Cobbett's Nursery.

