

A POSTCARD COLLECTION
OF BOOKHAM

By

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Album 4
(Pages 21 - 40)

The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road - Hylands & Beckley Garages/New Parade

Little or no development took place south of Leatherhead Road before the early 1920s when the number of plots of land being bought began to increase and properties were built, many of which were small inexpensive bungalows. Better quality houses began to appear after a few years and most of these survive. According to Turville Kille, in some cases squatter's rights were used to obtain some of these plots of ground. Unlike the Scarlett bungalows elsewhere in the village most properties here were individually built, there were no estates until the 1950s.

The two garages came here in the 1920s, Gau and Lawes was where Hylands Garage is and Brookes Garage where Beckley garage is today. Where Merit Tyres and Alan Greenwood & Sons are there used to be the Guildford and District Co-operative store, also built in the 1920s. It was a single storey building until the 1950s when the first floor was added; between the co-op shop and the garage was the Co-operative Hall, which was used for social functions. The shops in New Parade were built in the 1930s and are now occupied by an off-licence and a fish shop. Over the years there have been chemists, grocers, an electrical shop, barber, a laundrette, an angling store, and Bookham Ironmongers among the occupants of these shops.

During the last war the Auxiliary Fire Service, later the National Fire Service, had a sub-station at the Gau and Lawes garage and Turville Kille was made section leader and put in charge of the Bookham sub-section of the Leatherhead Brigade. After a bomb had fallen on what is now Michaels fish shop a prefabricated hut was erected on the site for the firemen.



A repro Frith postcard dated c1955 looking at Beckley Parade from Crabtree Lane.

The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road - Beckley Parade

The increase in house construction in south Bookham brought shops to the area, among the earliest in the Beckley parade were the Bungalow Stores, Blackmore's haberdashery and ironmongery shop and the newsagents.

Mrs Wooton started the Beckley Rabbitry in 1941 at no. 1 Beckley Parade which she shared with the off-licence. It was an attempt to encourage families to keep rabbits to help with the meat ration, this enterprise continued throughout the war. Turville Kille lived with his wife Annie at Downsvew, the house next door to the fish shop, from 1925 until her death in 1982. After his wife's death he continued to live there for another 12 years before moving to Southey Court.



A Frith's Series postcard c1950s looking at Beckley Parade with the start of Beckley Cottages top left. The bungalow on the left hand side is a newsagents/stores, next door is Roxley Models, then Bookham Costume Galleries, newsagents and finally Suzuki motorbikes with Beckley Garage behind.

The Bookhams

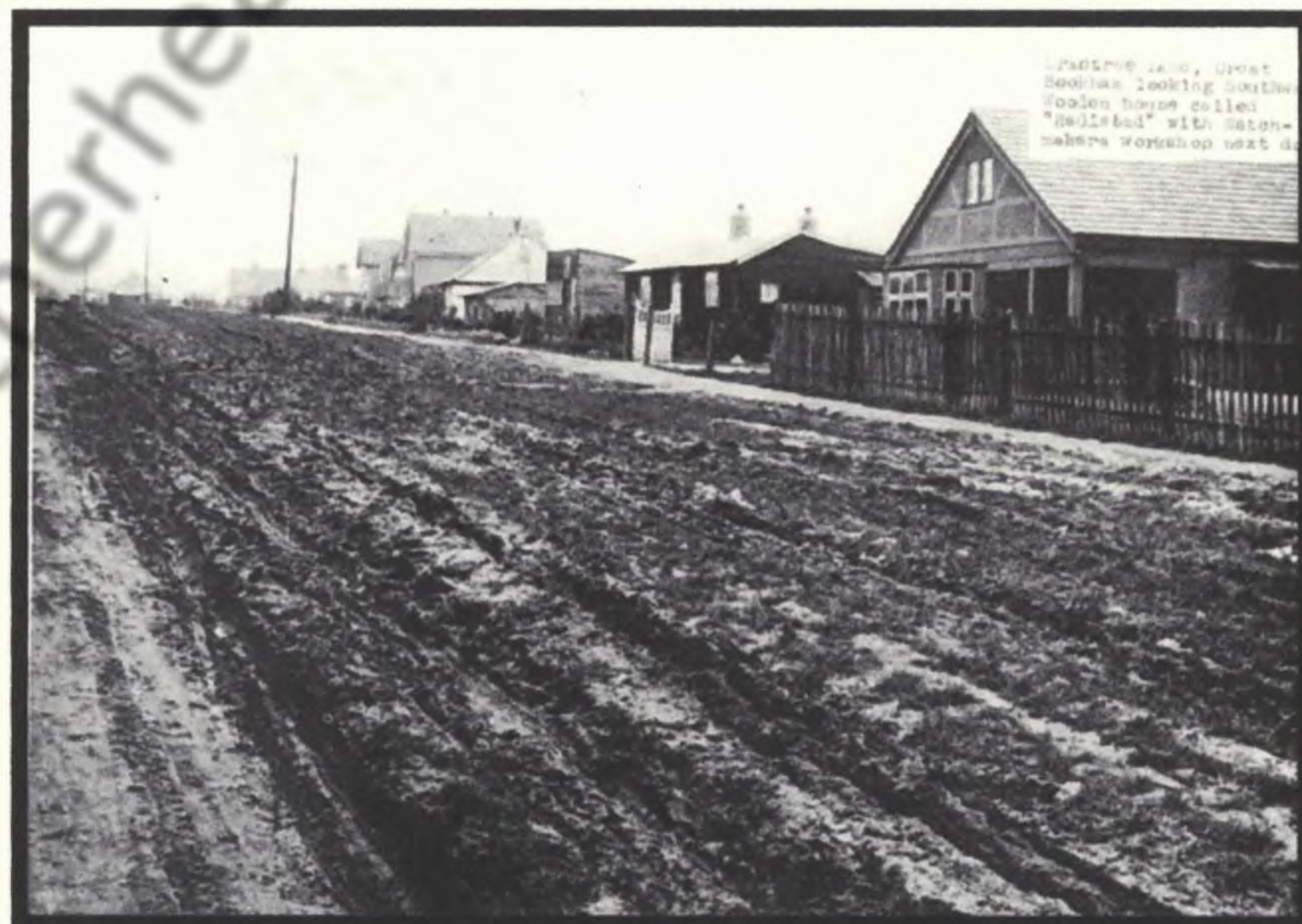
Leatherhead Road - Crabtree Lane/Downsway/Dawnay Road

Downsway and Crabtree Lane had previously been footpaths and as development took place the roads were left unmade. In wet weather this resulted in the roads becoming a quagmire and there are stories told of delivery vehicles being up to their axles in mud. Hard surfaces were not laid until the mid 1930s, the road making being carried out by unemployed Welshmen imported to the district.

At the beginning of the 20th century an unfortunate tragedy occurred in a field at the south end of Crabtree Lane. A balloon that had travelled from Crystal Palace came down and several local men held the balloon down by its ropes while more gas was pumped into it. When sufficient gas had been supplied the order to let go of the ropes was given but 'Ticky' Tickner, who lived in one of the Flint Cottages, failed to hear the order and was dragged up with the balloon as it rose and he fell to his death.

On the southeast corner of Downsway is the house where Mr and Mrs Macdonald had their hairdressers' business, after they moved from the Victoria Hotel, until they retired in the 1990s. On the other corner of Downsway was the attractive Corner House Restaurant that was open from the 1930s to the 1950s.

Below is a Frith repro postcard c1955 of Dawnay Road looking from Crabtree Lane. The picture is of Crabtree Lane in 1930.



The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road - Ralph's Cottages/Black Huts/Flint Cottages

On the southwest corner of Crabtree Lane is the three-storey high Ralph's cottages. Designed in 1864-6 by William Butterfield the architect of the village school, they take their name from Ralph Sutherland hanged here in the early eighteenth century for sheep rustling from Polesden Lacey. In the early part of the eighteenth century, the legend recalls that the body of Sutherland was taken from the gallows, and buried at the North western corner of the road junction. When water mains were laid just before WW1 a coffin was dug up containing a skeleton possibly that of Sutherland. Turville Kille lived at Ralph's Cottages as a very young man after his family moved from The School House in Eastwick Road. His mother ran a successful laundry at Ralph's Cottages employing a number of laundry workers during and after the First world War.

Next to Ralph Cottages in Crabtree Lane is a narrow long established footpath that leads to the south end of Flint Close and on to Dorking Road. Between Flint Close and South End there were several single-storey residences known locally as Black Huts because they were timber with bitumen covering to make them waterproof. Alongside the Black Huts there were Flint Cottages that had bare earth floors. One of these cottages consisted of two semi-detached houses that shared a single staircase and it was one of these that Emily and William Amey lived for a while before they moved to 28 High Street. Surprisingly both Flint Cottages and Black Huts survived and were occupied until 1960, when the council replaced them with the present houses.



The Frith's postcard is postally used dated 1909. The nearer cottages in the postcard, partly hidden by the trees, have now been replaced by more housing and the children on the right were outside the grounds of Bookham Cottage (pictured below c1935) also no longer there.



The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road - Flint Close/Frere House Cottages

At the end of Flint Close there are a number of houses, some of which were built in the late 19th century. The Rt. Hon Sir Bartle Frere had been a leading colonial administrator and Governor of Bombay and on his staff was Surgeon Major Frederic Savignac Stedman who had lived at Fairfield in Lower Road. In the late 1880s Stedman bought land to the south of Leatherhead Road where Flint Close is, and built a block of four almshouses, each having two rooms up and two rooms down. He later built an extension of two more houses and named them Frere Cottages in memory of his patron. A plaque on the front of the house records:

Frere House Cottages were built and endowed in 1896 for the benefit of aged women by Surgeon Major Stedman of the Bombay Army and of Fairfield, Great Bookham. In memory of the late Right Honourable Sir Bartle Frere, Governor of Bombay.

In the 1960s a further block of four almshouses was built, named Hughes House, after a Bookham Rector. They were placed on trust to accommodate 'ladies in need' who had lived in Great Bookham for two years. With the consent of the Charities Commission this has been extended to include ladies from Mole Valley or elsewhere. The almshouses were not endowed but three other charities benefit Great Bookham and their donations have been used to support the almshouses. In 1936 the Charities Commission produced a scheme that unified the administration of the four charities, hence the name Bookham United Charities. The Trusts are administered by the Frere Trustees: the Rector of Great Bookham as ex-officio chairman, two nominated by the Mole Valley Council, one nominated by the Stedman family and three co-opted for their expertise.



A Tuck's postcard of Leatherhead Road c1950s. The view I think was taken from the junction with South End and is looking towards the village.

The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road - Fairfield

On the northwest corner of Eastwick Road and Leatherhead Road there was a bungalow (now new housing) where once lived a ninety plus year old gentleman, Mr Charles Bowles. He had lived there for 27 plus years. Mr Bowles, a demobbed soldier, after WWI was offered the use of an ex-army hut, that had been brought from London, plus a plot of land on which to run a poultry farm as part of an aid scheme, but unfortunately it failed financially. A builder bought the plot and the hut and extended and developed the hut to what it is today. One can see at the front of the house the outline of the original hut. The two gentlemen who were living at the bungalow in 1939 had an air raid shelter built in the back garden that contained three bunk beds, an air filter, mains electricity and an escape hatch. The shelter apparently still survives. When Mr Bowles moved here in 1970 he found that the shelter was almost full of wine bottles, some of which still had wine in them, as the previous owner used the shelter as a wine cellar.

A little further west there was the Woodman Nursery, which since the 1970s has been occupied by the two bungalows Woodman and Breage. Even further west there is what used to be police houses and a police office until the 1970s.

The Fairfield was an area of about 3 acres where fairs were held annually. One fair was described by Richard Flecknop in his diary held on the 29th September in 1656 - 'Where fair was kept of great renown.'

Like most country fairs it was principally for the sale of cattle, foodstuffs, household goods and clothing. He also records a bowling green which once belonged to Sir Robert Cook and which appears to have been on the east side of the High Street.

This is the first record of any sporting activity, which can be traced in Great Bookham although the ancient game of stoolball had a revival in the district at the end of the 19th century when Mrs Willock Pollen, the lady of the Manor of Little Bookham, fostered the game. Among the gentry, the game croquet was the fashion, there being greens at Bookham Grove, Eastwick Park, Fairfield House and the Grange.

Fairfield was originally part of the Eastwick Estate and the houses built by Epsom Council in the 1920s (Fairfield Cottages in East Street) are on part of it and Stephen Worrel, the High Street butcher, owned the rest. In 1956 the 'S' bend was removed from the main road so that it now goes right in front of Fairfield Cottages in a straight line with Guildford Road. On the south side of the road there is an estate of bungalows in Leatherhead Road and Allen Road This is the Bookham Manor Estate which was built in 1957 on the site of Bookham Cottage, a chalet bungalow built in 1914, the last occupant of which was Herbert Allen, another butcher, who had ten children, five boys and five girls.



UPPER LEATHERHEAD ROAD, BOOKHAM

A local W.G. Jones postcard taken on the way from Bookham to Hawks Hill at the roundabout with Young Street.

Leatherhead Road/Fairfield - Gigantic Fete, Bazaar and Country Fair

In February 1922 there appeared in many prominent places throughout the village a small poster advertising the fact that there was to be a meeting to discuss the holding of a Gigantic Fete, Bazaar and County Fair from which money would be raised to finance a number of urgently needed projects in the parish church. The heating system and the organ both needed replacing and there was a need of a choir vestry. The total cost was estimated to be £1,000 and the village set about raising the large sum. The rector at the time, the Rev G S Bird, was made president of the fete, Stanley Russell was elected chairman, C W Todd was Treasurer and Mrs Russell and Harold Bostock were joint secretaries. A number of well-known people in the district accepted an invitation to become patrons.



An executive panel of under 30 people and a large general committee of about 80 were formed which enabled preparation for the mighty event to begin including advertising using posters, the local papers and the parish magazine. A number of functions were organised to pay for the fete expenses including a jumble sale, whist and bridge drives, tennis tournaments and concerts by schoolchildren. During the spring the committees met regularly and, as he would be staying at Polesden Lacey at the time, Stanley Russell asked whether the Duke of York would graciously consent to attend the fete and to everyone's delight he agreed to do so which must have contributed immensely towards the success of the event.

There were to be 12 stalls, each directed by prominent members of the village, among who were Mrs Stanley Russell, Mrs Sidney Madge, Mrs P Everitt, Mr and Mrs Griffin, Mr H P Roe and Mr and Mrs Stevens. The East Surrey Regimental Band was booked to play throughout the three days and there was the County Fair consisting of steam-driven roundabouts, swings, coconut shies, hooplas, etc. Perhaps most surprising was the offer of a neighbouring meadow, owned by Mr A Val Reid, as a car park to accommodate up to 1000 cars.

On Monday 19th June the weather was perfect and Lord and Lady Ashcombe arrived at midday to open the Fete. At 12.30 the Duke of York arrived with his hostess, Mrs Greville and toured the various stalls and rode on one of the roundabouts. Just before the Duke left, Richard Ragge, 90 years of age and the oldest parishioner, who had run the harness and leather shop in the High Street for the greater part of his life, was presented to him.

The crowd continued to pour into the fete and the takings at the end of the first day were £370, the second day, £220 and the third day yielded £320 and so the total sum for the three days exceeded the £1000 target. As a mark of appreciation for his efforts Stanley Russell was presented with an illuminated address signed by all members of the executive committee and the rector.

The following year the Duke and Duchess of York spent part of their honeymoon at Polesden Lacey during which they attended Sunday morning service at St Nicolas much to the delight of the villages.



A local W.G. Jones postcard of Leatherhead Road but in colour.

The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road/Lower Shott - The Paddocks, Croftlands, Cherry Tree Cottage & Riding Stables

The footpath on the recreation ground was between Bookham Cottage and The Paddocks, a large detached house, which stood in large grounds. In 1897 Mrs Chrystie bought the Paddocks and gave a part of the grounds to the village as a recreation ground, which the Parish Council later extended to its present size. In 1933, helped by some unemployed men of the village, a bowling green was laid out by Mr Longhurst, the gardener from Church Road. This work was organised by the Bookham Social Services Bureau financed by local people and traders. Adolph Schloesser and his family lived in the Paddocks from the beginning of the 1900s until about 1917 during which time his two daughters ran a penny library for the village. The Paddocks had been used in its latter years as an apartment house, but it was demolished in 1971 and the present Paddocks estate built.

Opposite The Paddocks, on the triangular green under the trees, there is a considerable rise in the ground. This is where the local council buried a WWII air raid shelter and planted trees around it. Between the triangular green and Croftlands Cottage is the part of East Street that was isolated when Leatherhead Road was straightened. Croftlands Cottage and Cherry Tree Cottage were built in the first years of the 20th century for the estate workers of Bookham Grove. Although of simple two up two down construction these cottages were built with cavity walls. The wall around these houses is part of the original wall of the Saracen and Ring Inn.

A few yards along Dorking Road on the left hand side there is a gateway in the flint wall leading to a recently built house. Until the spring of 1998, a bungalow, built in 1920-30, called Paddocks Cottage stood on this site. In the 1930s Mr Brackenbury senior lived there with his family until 1939 when they moved to the High Street. Paddock Cottage was occupied by Mr and Mrs Marks from the late 1960s until his death in 1998 and his widow went to live in Keswick House. Shortly after, the house being in a poor state was sold and demolished and its place now stands a modern house.

Further on, on the left are riding stables. Until the early 1920s the Surrey Union Hounds, who hunted on Tuesdays and Saturdays, were kennelled here after they moved from Kennel Lane.



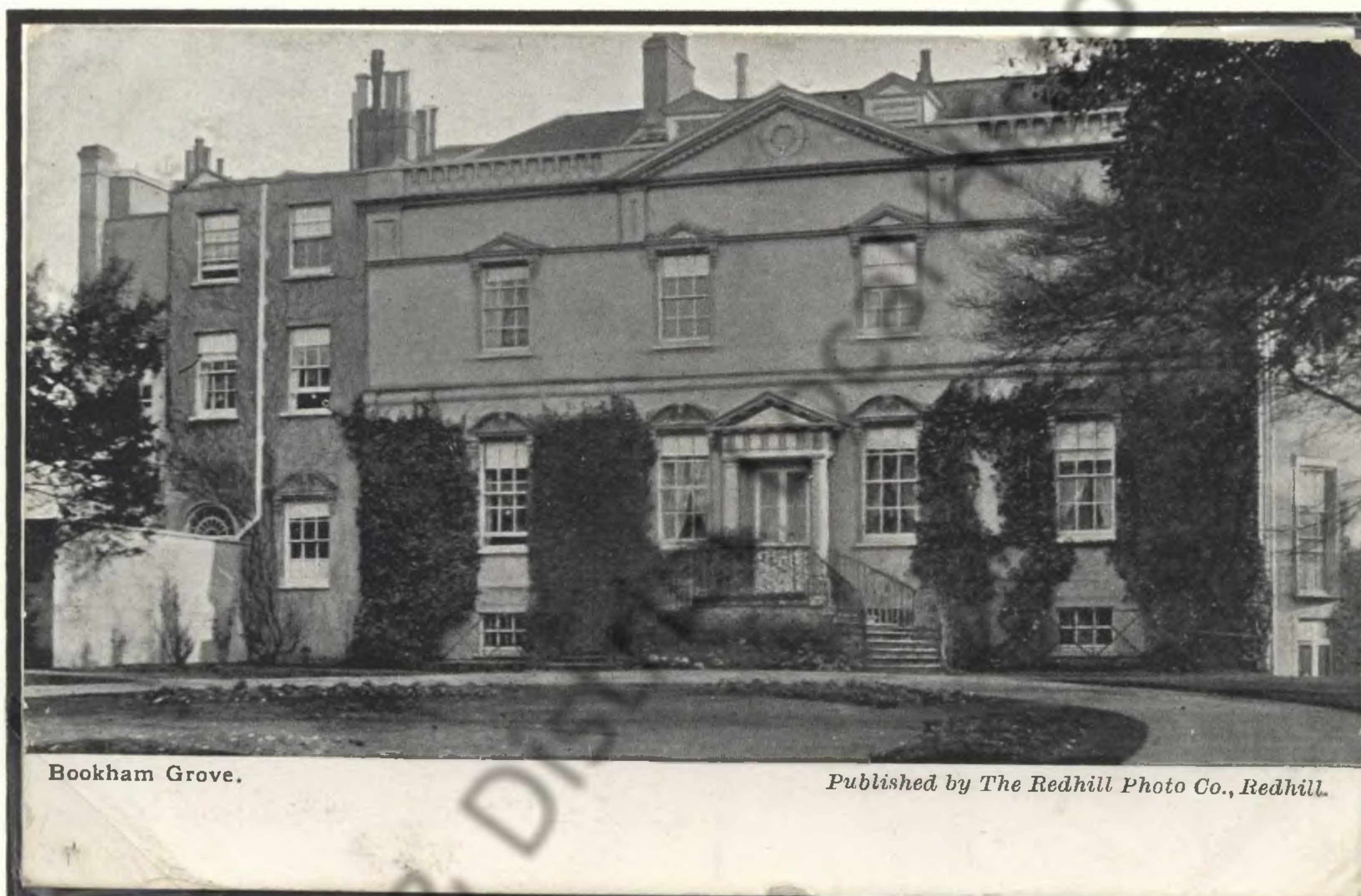
A Frith's Series postcard postally used dated 1903 of the Chrystie Recreation Ground.

The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road/Lower Shott - Bookham Grove

At the corner of Dorking Road and *Lower Shott is one of the great houses of Great Bookham - Bookham Grove, previously known as Grove House. George Howard and his son Thomas owned the original site in 1680, which was once the site of four cottages. After many changes, Thomas Howard's son, Sir George Howard acquired two more adjoining cottages and when he sold the property to **Vice Admiral Thomas Brodrick on 21st June 1765, he only sold a building site which was described as 'the site of the property of George Howard since pulled down' (this relates to the first two properties) 'the site of Beales afterwards called Sheppards since pulled down and the site of a house called Arnolds since pulled down and formerly belonging to John Wood,' included in the sale was the White Hart Inn (formerly the Saracen and Ring Inn - In 1895 Mrs Chrystie bought the Inn, closed it and resold it as a dwelling house with the name Grove Cottage), the site of the Parsonage Barn (roughly where the Hotel Victoria now stands), a cottage called Ingrams, another house formerly owned by John and Henry Lee and numerous parcels of land lying on both sides of the Dorking Road and some small pieces on the North side of the Guildford Road - in all there were 72 acres.

An unknown used postcard dated 1901



*'Shott' means a bundle of strips of land all running in the same direction.

**Brodrick had a distinguished and adventurous career in the Navy, which he entered in 1723. In 1739 he commanded the landing party, which stormed the Castillo Fierro at Porto Bello, served in the expedition to Cartagena, and the expedition to Cuba. He was sent to the Leeward Islands in 1744 and in May 1756 he was in command of reinforcements for Admiral Byng at Gibraltar. He sailed on the Prince George, which had 90 guns that went off Ushant and caught fire, and of the compliment of 800 only 250 survived. After swimming in the water for an hour he was picked up, stark naked, by a merchant ship's boat. In 1759 he was promoted to Vice Admiral and shortly afterwards was superseded by Admiral Boscawen of Hatchlands.

The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road/Lower Shott - Bookham Grove

Brodrick set about building a new house. He died on 1st January 1769 and his son Edward Brodrick mortgaged the house. On the 18th October of the same year Edward Brodrick sold the house to Sir Alexander Grant. Sir Alexander did not enjoy the property for long, as he died in the early part of 1773 and on 15th May the property was sold by auction to Charles Dalbiac. In the sale particulars the house and gardens were delightfully described 'the lawn gradually ascending to a described height cap'd by an Object Tower, the plantations...forming odiferous groves whose impervious shades enveloping rural bowers and where circuitous walks and mazy windings pleasingly entangle.' The Kitchen garden 'is dressed for the produce of vegetables of every kind which shoot spontaneous.' The sale particulars also reveal the extent of the facilities required by a great house. The staff quarters included a housekeeper's room and Store room adjoining, Butler's Pantry and commodious Servants' Hall, wine and beer cellars, a cool larder and dairy, four dry cellars two with vaulted roofs, and separated by a small yard, a lofty paved kitchen and the scullery properly contiguous and a bake house. In the paved courtyard adjoining the house was a brew house, laundry and wash house, a mill for forcing water from a well to every part of the premises, a coach house for four carriages, stabling for twelve horses, dove cote and granary, a rick yard and large tiled barn, sundry cart and cow houses, cow crib, poultry houses, sties, and in the garden a gardener's room. The Dove cote is described as a 'sexagonal brick building with dome top slated and hips leaded, 3 small windows 8 iron bars to each, door and pair of steps with lock and key, wood door hung for the underpart.'



A used Tuck's postcard dated 1965. The picture is of the back of Bookham Grove.



The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road/Lower Shott - Bookham Grove

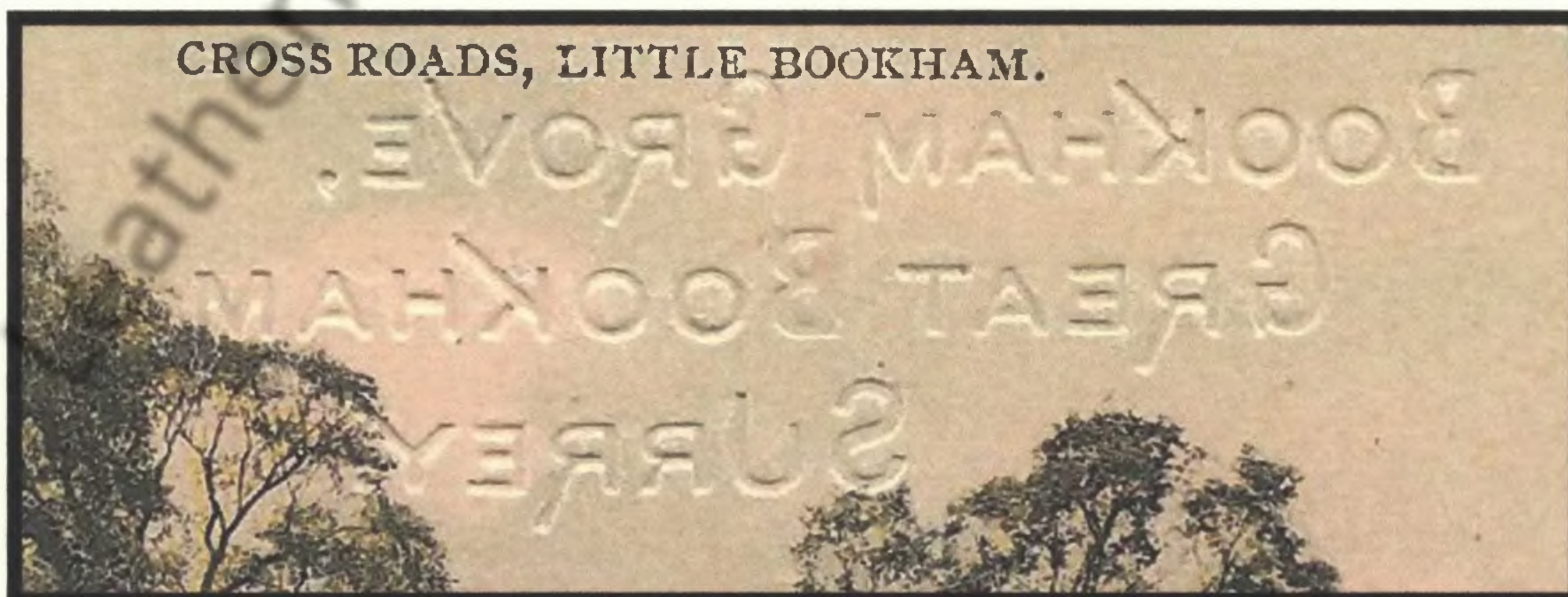
The house had changed four times within the space of ten years but it could rest when the house was sold by Dalbiac to John Dawnay the fourth Viscount Downe of Ireland and the Dawnay family lived there until 1903. Viscount Downe died in 1780 but his widow continued to live there until her death in 1812. Their son Sir John Christopher Burton Dawnay was created an English Peer by the title Lord Dawnay in 1796. At that time an inventory was taken that showed the property had been substantially enlarged.

On 1st September 1812 the property was let to Anthony Horne for a short time. On 21st January 1897 all the land on the east side of Dorking Road was sold and the remainder together with the Advowson was sold in 1903. The Dawnay Family Seat is now at Wykeham Abbey, Scarborough, where a copy of the ring given to Sir William Dawnay, an ancestor of the family, shortly after the battle of Acon is exhibited with the following inscription 'This ring was given by Richard I King of England to Sir William Downe his General in the Holy Land as a reward for gaining a signal victory over the Saracens and taking a great prince their general; prisoner in the 4th year of his reign 1193 and Richard ordered 'in perpetuum rei memoriam' that his crest should be a demisaracen with this ring in one hand and the paw of a lion in the other' which is the family cognisance. Sir William had also distinguished himself by slaying a lion and had presented a paw to the king.

The Dawnay Family is also remembered by the gift of the National School, then known as St James Church School, and the residence for the Headmaster built in 1856 by Viscount Downe for £2000. There was also an infant's school built in 1830 and enlarged in 1882.



An S & W Series postcard of the Cross Roads at Preston Cross postally used dated 1911 The card has been impressed with the words - Bookham Grove, Great Bookham, Surrey. Below is the front side of the card.



The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road/Lower Shott - Bookham Grove

The Guildford-Leatherhead road was diverted to improve the entrance to the house and this remained until 1956. The grounds at the front of the house then extended to Guildford Road over the present car park. The brick-built, single storey building to the left of the entrance to Bookham Grove was where the stables were. Part of the building was the public library from 1958 until they moved the old school building in 1988.

The Dawnay family had held the title deeds of Bookham Grove until 1909 when Mrs Augusta Mary Silverberg purchased the property for £9,000 (c£500,000 in today's money.) During WWI she and her husband changed their name to Hayward when people with German sounding names were treated with suspicion. An ancient green parrot was Mrs Hayward's constant companion and on visits to Mrs Hayward conversation was punctuated by asides to the parrot or by its squawks. Mrs Hayward was a court dressmaker, trading under the name Madame Hayward. She lived in the house until 1947.



A Tuck's postally used postcard dated 1965. The picture is of the former stabling to Bookham Grove now fronting onto Lower Shott Road



The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road/Lower Shott - Bookham Grove

When the Leatherhead Urban District Council took over the estate in 1947, they divided the house in to flats allowing the beautiful spiral Regency staircase in the very attractive entrance hall to remain. The Grove Estate was built in the surrounding grounds. Unfortunately the Council did not save two probably unique buildings to the district, a columbarium or pigeon house and a well house that were probably built about 1690 by the 5th Baron. The columbarium was a hexagonal building with nesting lodges lining the internal walls. The building had fallen into decay and of course neglected during the war years. The Council took no steps to preserve the columbarium and it was demolished in 1951. This relic of feudal times was a great loss, particularly for its social significance, as only the Lord of the Manor was allowed to keep pigeons, which fed on the crops of the villains and tenants.

In the well house was a great horizontal well wheel driven by a beam pushed round by a horse to raise water. This was demolished at the same time as the Council re-developed. There are few horse driven wells existing, probably the most notable being at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle-of-Wright, where the pump is still operated by Donkey power. At the Carisbrooke Castle well the donkey walks inside the wheel, like a mouse in an exercise wheel. Later the house was sold to a developer who built some houses alongside the mansion.



A Frith's repro postcard dated 1955 of Lower Shott. Below - attractive and striking use of tile hanging to projecting bays to houses within the grounds of Bookham Grove



The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road/Lower Shott - Grove Cottages

The two semi-detached cottages, now known as 1 and 2 Grove Cottages, had previously been a coaching inn, The Saracen and Ring. Coachmen from Leatherhead would sometimes come to Bookham along Lower Road to avoid Hawks Hill and would sound their post horn as they approached the inn along the High Street.

The house was built in the late 16th century as a farm workers cottage to the nearby Bookham Grove Estate. The owner of the property at this time is not known but it is thought to be a Mr John Gardner who owned a great deal of land in the area.

Like many of the smaller houses built at this time, it was constructed around a massive timber frame in which the material of the day - wattle and daub, mud, stone or brick - was used to finish off the walls. Heating came from fires that were lit initially in the centre of the house; the smoke escaping from holes in the roof. The concept of separate chimneys at Grove Cottage were not developed until years later. The windows were usually small - if they existed at all - and over the years appeared and disappeared according to the whim of the owner. Even doors were moved around.

This flexibility of design extended to the inside of the house too, where walls could be easily erected, moved or taken down to create rooms where needed. In its early days, when privacy was less of a concern than today, it is likely that several families lived together in the cottage when not toiling in the fields.

The building continued to house workers until it was converted into an inn, presumably to take advantage of the passing trade on the road from Guildford to London, at some stage in the 17th century. It was named the White Hart and it is thought obtained its ale either from its own brewery or later from the brewery at Bookham Grove, where its great copper vats supplied the area with ale. The barley and hops needed for production were all grown locally.

In the late 18th century the mansion was bought by Lord Downe and the inn changed its name to the Saracen and Ring, its new name coming from a family story concerning the slaying of a Saracen and a lion at the time of the crusades. The story involved an ancestor of Lord Downe, Sir William Dawnay, after despatching the Saracen and lion, he presented King Richard with the lions paw and was promptly presented with the King's ring. Both the ring and the Saracen even made it onto the family crest and the ring is still in the possession of the family today.



A postally used Frith's postcard dated 1906 of Grove Cottages, formerly The Saracen and Ring

The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road/Lower Shott - Grove Cottages

The new inn continued to serve weary travellers after the slog up Hawks Hill on the way to Guildford. The open fire, on the north side of the property must have been a welcoming site on a miserable day. During this period an extension was added at the rear and a considerable cellar was dug.

In 1895 the inn was bought by Mrs Chrystie and converted into dwellings. Her fight against the evils of drink extended to a number of other inns in the area and was described by one local historian as "that ardent temperance worker."

Since then Grove Cottage has lost its connection with the High Street, now occupying a small road between the Guildford Road and Dorking Road, and has been joined by newer houses all round. Apart from a small addition to one side of the house, which is now divided into two, there are no significant changes from the days when it was an inn. Its inbuilt quirki-ness remains, however, extending to a strange 'flying freehold,' where the two houses that make up the current property overlap each other and around the rooms. The original flags can still be seen today as can the 500 year old timbers that were erected by workers all those years ago. It seems this wonderful piece of medieval Bookham will be around for some time to come.

A local W.G. Jones postcard that has been postally used dated 1943 - the top of Hawks Hill.



The writer Tye Turner in his 'Saunter thro' Surrey' in 1857 relates his stay at the Saracen and Ring:

'Mine host James Ottaway an early and excellent dinner accompanied by some wonderfully strong ale which ought to be drunk from wine glasses!' On retiring to bed, 'imagine my amazement and indignation on the discovery that over the mattress which felt uncommonly like a plaster of Paris model of some remarkably hilly country, was simply spread a sheet of threadbare texture no blanket or anything between them. The next morning on stretching myself out I found the hilly country abruptly terminated in a deep valley, in other words that my mattress was afflicted with a weakness in the extremities, in consequence of which my feet were touching the ground. Suddenly in my rage and confusion I imbibed the idea, just or not, that the sheets were damp. I felt the counterpane - there was no doubt it was as moist as could be.' But in spite of an uncomfortable night the following morning he 'composed himself to the study of Saturday's Times, the Great Bookham people, having an enlightened contempt for your pitiful gossips who indulge in news much older than their ale, to their undying honour subscribe for a daily Times which some village statesman reads aloud of an evening.'

The Bookhams

Dorking Road

The first postcard is looking from the Dorking/Polesden Lacey end towards Lower Shott. The houses on the right are still there but the huts are not. They were demolished making room for Dawnay Road in the late 1930s early 1940s.

The other postcard is looking in the opposite direction towards Polesden Lacey/Dorking and is on the corner with Dowlans Road. The bungalow and houses are still there, but the wooden fence has been replaced with a house.



The Bookhams

Guildford Road - The Elwyn Stores/Wayside Tea House

The postcard is of The Elwyn Stores, which was also the Guildford Road Post Office. This picture was taken c1930. Mr A.J. Waits ran this grocery, off-licence and post office, well set back from the Guildford Road about 100 yards east of Woodlands Road. It was still a grocery, off-licence and post office in the 1960s. Since then it has been various restaurants and is currently an Indian restaurant called Taz.

The picture taken in 1934 is of The Wayside Tea House in Little Bookham. The bungalow still called Wayside is on the Guildford Road next door to what was then Elwyn Stores. Tea houses such as these were enormously popular in the 1930s, both with the many cyclists and also new owners of cars who would 'go for a spin' and stop somewhere like this for tea. The Wayside tea rooms were run by John and Lilian Earley in 1934, but had closed by 1937.



The Bookhams

Woodlands Road/F. Longman & Sons

The postcard has been postally used and is of Woodlands Road from the top end looking down to Guildford Road, taken in 1951.

The picture is of Mr Longman and his cart in 1935. F. Longman & Sons of Woodlands Road were smallholders and cartage contractors from around 1930. Mr Longman is seen here with his granddaughter, Celia and his cart, pulled by Daisy, at the junction by the church long before the need for a 'squareabout' and 'traffic calming!'



The Bookhams

Guildford Road - Cliff Tea House

The postcard is a view of Guildford Road c1900s.

The picture is of an advertisement for The Cliff Tea House in c1935. The house was built in 1922 just west of Chalkpit Lane with access from Guildford Road, where 'Twin Gates' is now. William Wheeler owned the house, Whitecliff, in the early 1930s and his tea rooms continued under the next owner, Cyril Short, until the end of the decade.



THE CLIFF TEA HOUSE,
GUILDFORD ROAD,
BOOKHAM,
NE Leatherhead, SURREY.
Prop: W. J. Wheeler.



Luncheons and Teas, Minerals & Cigarettes.
✦ Parties Catered for ✦
Excellent Parking Accommodation for Cars.
Attractive Grounds.

Bookham Commons consist of ancient wood pasture, mighty oak trees, lush meadows and ponds. The commons are home to a wonderful variety of wildlife and have been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England. In 1941 the London Natural History Society initiated a survey which is still running today, making the commons one of the best recorded and studied areas in the country.

access for all, some routes suitable for dogs are

play, some footpaths that are suitable for many



Cattle grazing to save the flower-rich grassland on Central Plain

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