A POSTCARD COLLECTION OF BOOKHAM

Ву

Barry Feltham

Album 2 Pages 1 - 20

Church Road - Gothic House, The Post Office

The Post Office is situated on the west side of the road and is pictured top left in the postcard printed by Judges of Hastings in the early 1980s. The Post Office had been transferred from the other side of the road to Gothic house in 1910 and was managed by W Cordingley who previously had the plumber's shop at the crossroads.

Gothic House with its Gothic style windows had earlier been the vicarage. Robert Wood became the owner of Gothic House, although he lived at Flushing Farm. He divided Gothic House into two shops, now an opticians and post office. The post office moved to the right hand side of the building where it remains today. It was a much smaller shop then with space at the back for the postmen to sort out the Bookham mail. Later the entrance was moved to the side of the building because of the increase in traffic.

Philip Camp was Bookham's sub-postmaster for 36 years; he retired in 1998. As an RAF officer and bomber pilot he was shot down three times, awarded the D.F.M and twice Mentioned in Despatches. The last time he was shot down he was taken prisoner and spent the rest of the war years in a prisoner-of-war camp. Philip had been deeply involved with charity work and the Scouts.



The left hand side of Goth House was occupied by T H Birch, an electrical engineer, from 1935 until 1950. The village relied upon him for recharging the accumulator batteries that powered their radio sets. Mr Gott became a partner in 1938 when the shop also sold cycles. From 1960 Mrs D Gardiner took over the shop and also sold toys until the 1970s when the opticians of today came.

Church Road - Aberdeen House & Gothic House

Two postcards of Aberdeen House and Gothic House. The first postcard has been postally used and is dated September 1913. The second postcard is c1930/40s. The picture is of the surviving outbuildings behind Aberdeen House that was once the slaughter yard until its closure in 1955.

Adjacent to Gothic House there used to be a drive to the Old Rectory which was situated behind where the parade of modern shops are now.







Church Road - The Old Rectory

During their years at Bookham, the Cookes lived first at Gothic House in Church Road, what is now the Post Office and opticians. Later they moved to a newly built house set back from the road, just north of Gothic House - the Old Rectory, which it became known as.

The Old Rectory was an early 19th century large, three story Georgian mansion where Jane Austen visited her godfather, the Reverend Samuel Cooke, the Rector of Great Bookham. Samuel Cooke was presented as Vicar of St Nicolas Church by Admiral Sir Francis Geary of Polesden Lacey and installed on 13th April 1769. He was the son of George Cook (1709-1795) who was vicar of Clyst St Mary in Devon. After gaining his BA in 1762 and MA in 1764 at Balliol College, Oxford he became Rector at Cottisford, Oxon. In June 1768 he married Cassandra, younger daughter of Thophilus Leigh (1693-1785) who was Master of Balliol from 1726-1785. After becoming Rector in 1769 he lived in Bookham for the rest of his life, although he may have died at Beckley, Oxon where he is buried.

Cassandra Cooke took great pleasure from the presence in the village of the famous author Fanny Burney and she herself published, in 1799, an historical novel, 'Battleridge.'

The Cookes had eleven children of whom only three survived to adulthood. Those were Theophilus Leigh Cooke, 1778-1846; George Leigh Cooke, 1779-1853 and Mary Cooke, 1781-184? Mary is not known to have married. She was a particular friend of Jane Austen. Other children are recorded in the St Nicholas parish registers: Anne, born Feb 1771, Mary, born 1772, buried Feb 1775 and Theophilus, buried Mar 1774.





This postcard is unused but has a message on the back: 'Where I stayed with the Rev Geo & Mrs Bird (Elsie) in 1925.' Unfortunately it is not signed. The Old Rectory was behind the parade of shops and flats (picture left) with the drive adjacent to Gothic House where the Post Office is today.

The Old Rectory was a private house from the early 1930s and after standing empty for a while it was occupied by the Heslop family in the late 1950s who were known for parties starting at eight on Friday evening and finishing with breakfast at six o clock the next day! They were the last occupants of the house, it was demolished in 1961.

The Rectory moved to Flushing Farm in 1926, then to what is now called Bocheham House in Church Road in the early 1930s and finally to its present site in Fife Way.

Church Road - The Old Rectory/Jane Austen



The family bible states, "born 16th December 1775, received into the Church, 5th April 1776, Rev'd Mr Cooke, Rector of Bookham, Surrey, Mrs J Austen of Sevenoaks, Kent, Father's uncle's wife, Mrs Musgrave of Chinnor, Oxon."

Jane was the seventh child, second daughter of the Reverend George Austen, vicar of Steventon and Deane and Cassandra Leigh. Her cousin, Cassandra [the daughter of the Master of Balliol] was married to Jane Austen's godfather, the Reverend Samuel Cooke, Rector of Cotesford in Oxfordshire and Vicar of the parish of St Nicolas, Great Bookham where he lived, and through this connection began Jane's association with Bookham.

The families, Austen and Cooke, were in frequent contact with each other but the first known visit of Jane Austen to Bookham was on May 14 1799

when she stayed until June 2. During this time she must have fully acquainted herself with the area for in 1801 she started to write "The Watsons." It concerns a poor clerical family living in Stanton (West Humble) which is 3 miles away from Dorking and 10 minutes from the noisy turnpike by horse and cart. Stanton has no public road and contains no gentlemen's families. But the Watsons are spread around Croydon and Guildford. Betchworth Castle is nine minutes from the Assembly Rooms and is the only castle in our district. Although this novel is set in our locality, in 1799, Jane wrote to her sister Cassandra, that she dreaded going to Bookham and hoped that something might happen to prevent it. However, she went and made use of the material. This novel, that she never finished due to a move to Bath, followed by her father's death and their unsettled time, was not published until 1871.

An important visit to Bookham occurred in 1814. On 21st January Jane stared to write "Emma" and on 24th June she came to Bookham, "to gain more knowledge of the district and more local colour," for she had set Highbury in Bookham.

"Highury is a large and populous village, compact enough for every resident to know each other and reckoned a particularly healthy spot." Box Hill where the famous picnic takes place is seven miles from Bookham by the old roads. The Old Crown with its two windows looking onto the road, into which Frank Churchill looked, was demolished in 1930 and opposite, above the bank, are two rooms with a very narrow staircase and a step at the crossing. There are other associations with this novel. The road from "Fords" (Lower Road) looked down to Randalls Park but it is the description of Donwell Abbey that is of particular interest, "a broad short avenue of limes, which, stretching beyond the gardens at an equal distance from the river, seemed the finish of the pleasure grounds - it leads to nothing; nothing but a view at the end over a low stone wall with high pillars, seemed intended, in there erection, to give the appearance of an approach to the house, that had never been there." Mrs 'Hecca' Sheridan had recently extended the walk at Polesden Lacey, now known as Queen Mary's Walk, and Sheridan had built a large portico at the end of it.





The house on the left is where Jane Austen spent the last eight years of her life. The 17th century house in Chawton, Alton, Hampshire is now preserved as a museum in her memory. The picture on the right is 'The Cooke Rectory' at Great Bookham, a painting by J Hassell in 1822.

Church Road, west side

Two Firth's postcards of the same scene in Church Road but one is enhanced with colour c1950/60s.

Two sets of modern shops with flats above were built in 1958 in front of the Old Rectory (on the right hand side of the post-cards.) These were occupied at different times by, among, others, Liptons (grocer), Dewhurst (butcher), Coombes (baker), Reeves (greengrocer), Nick Carter (travel agent), Minerva (gifts), Bradbeer (TV and radio), Frost (grocer), Cripps (fishmonger), Mitchell (ironmonger), Davey (butcher), various cafes and Casseldens (shoes). The last of these came here in 1974 although the Casselden family, through three generations, have had a boot and shoe repair business in Crabtree Lane since they moved from Croydon in 1927.

Until the beginning of 1999 these shops were in two parades with a gap through which one could see a cedar of Lebanon tree which survived from the Rectory garden. The tree was damaged during the 1987 gales and it had to be removed. In 1999 further shops were built making one continuous parade. The Rectory building had been demolished in 1961.





Church Road, west side

An undated card from F.W.J.Casselden & Sons (shoe repairers) who have been in Bookham since 1927. Casselden's coined the phrase "NEETANDKWIK" for their shoe repairs, and when this card was issued even had representatives. I'm not sure what a trial would entail, probably if you were not satisfied with the end product you didn't pay! Above the entrance of the Casselden shop in Crabtree Lane the face of the clock as the slogan "NEETANDKWIK" instead of numbers.

PRINTED MATTER

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STAME

PLEASE call at the address below for Repairs:-

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F. W. J. Casselden & Sons

"NEETANDKWIK"
SHOE REPAIR SERVICE,

Crabtree Lane,

Great Bookham.

Th

"Neetandkwik"

Shoe Repair Service

RELIABLE REPAIRS

AT

REASONABLE RATES

All work done under personal supervision by Experienced Workmen with Sound Materials.

OUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL CALL ON YOU REGULARLY AND YOUR ESTEEMED ORDERS WILL RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

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A Trial will ensure satisfaction.

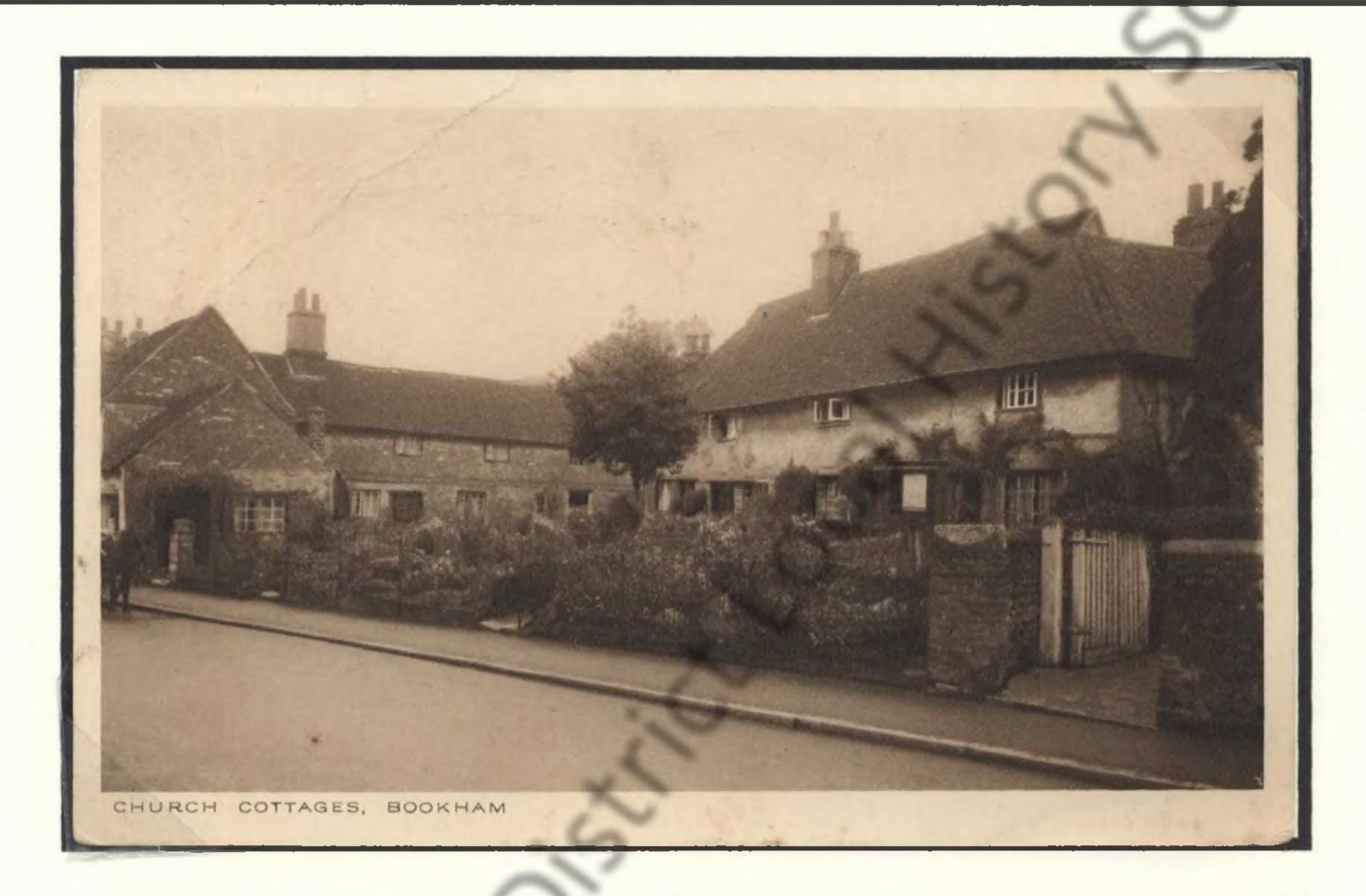
Church Road - Church Cottages

Church Cottages are on the east side of Church Road at the crossroads,.

The external appearance of these cottages has changed very little, though they are now hidden by trees and shrubs. Originally there were four cottages situated just north of the churchyard on the right, they have now been amalgamated into three. They were built in the 17th century on what was called the Shamyard, which had been the local slaughter yard where all animals bred in the Parish were taken for slaughter.

Two members of the Ranger family had each lived in one of them from at least the turn of the century, and for a time ran a newsagency from the house.

Those on the left, lying back at right-angle were built in the early 18th century. They were condemned as being uninhabitable in the 1950s but they were saved and renovated.



The same R A postcards dated c1940s, but one with colour, showing all of the Church Cottages.



Church Road - Church Cottages

A local W G Jones postcard dated c1940s. The bottom S & W Series postcard is dated early 1900s with a good view of Church Street, as it was known then.





Church Road - Church Cottages

Two Firth's series postcards of the same view - one being enhanced with colour taken in 1921.





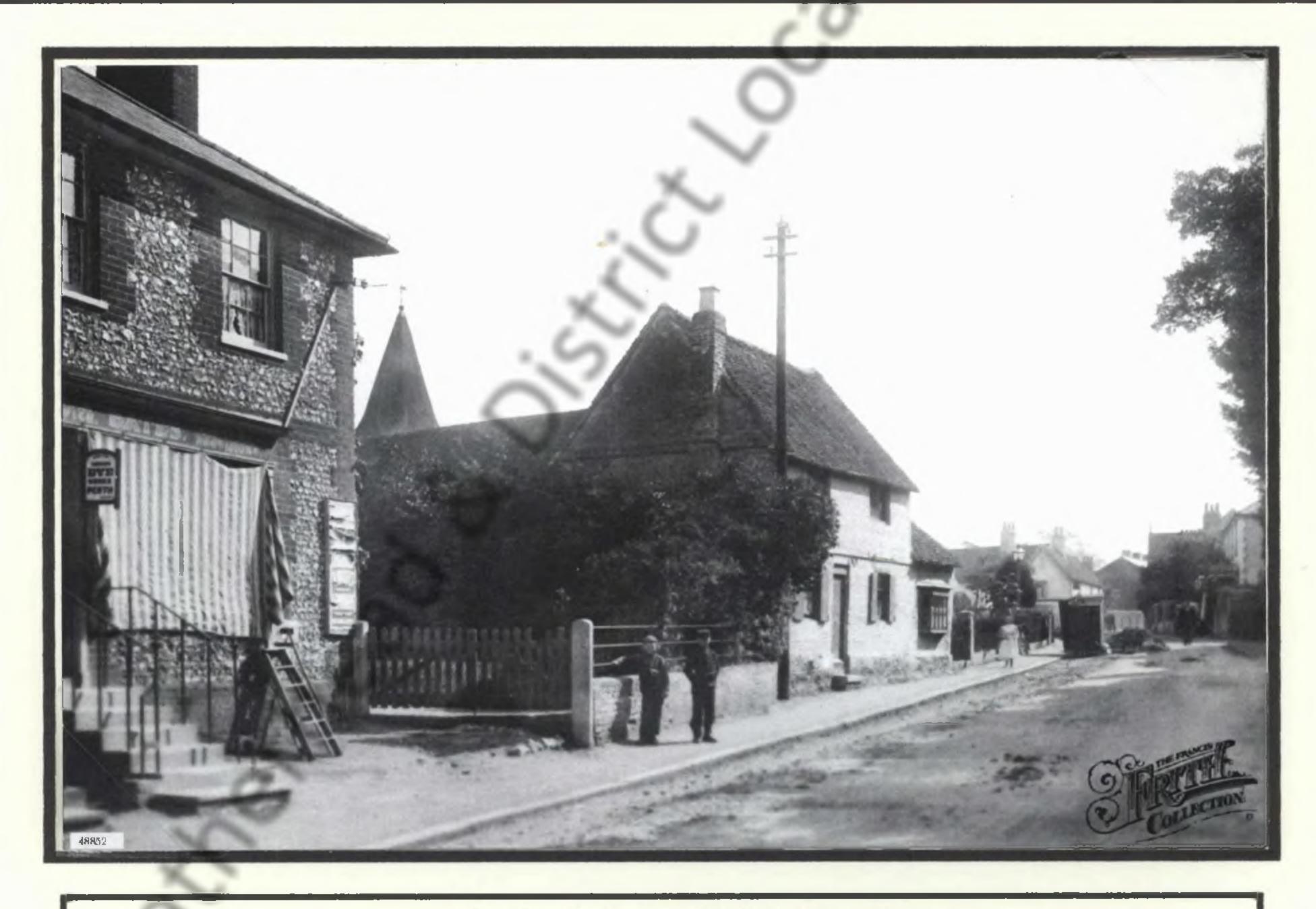
Church Road - The Ranger Family and Badolin House

Next to Church Cottages is what was the Ranger family home; Miss Elsie Ranger being the last family member to live there. It has been an estate agents' office since then, occupied by Bridgers, Hamptons and now John Wadsworth. Until the 1970s the National Provincial Bank had a sub-branch in the right-hand side and the doorway was where the steps and handrail remain.

On the left of the postcard with a sheet of corrugated iron over the window is Badolin House. The numbers 24, 22, and 20 were originally two semi-detached, flint-walled cottages, each with six stone steps with wrought iron handrails jutting out on to the pavement. From the early 1900s each set of steps led to a shop about four feet above ground level. The steps and the handrail are no longer there.

At the beginning of the 1900s Walter Wood, a boot maker, occupied no. 24 until he moved his business in 1905 to an outhouse at Hop Garden Cottage in Lower Road. Oliver Goldsmith, a popular character, lived in the rear part of the house. He had been a rent collector for Mrs Chrystie from the many properties that she owned in Bookham. He also ran a youth club in the Victoria Hall in East Street, and in the 1930s he was president of Bookham Cricket Club. He was also a very good amateur artist; he died in 1936, aged 74.

In 1905 the Capital and Counties Bank Ltd opened a sub-branch at no. 24 and the premises became known as Bank Buildings. Mr Wickham was the manager of the bank which closed in 1914 intending to re-open at the end of the war. However, in the meantime, the Capital and Counties Bank had amalgamated with Lloyds Bank which opened a full time branch there until 1932 when they moved to their present position on the corner of the crossroads. Fords estate agency then took over the shop followed by Legrove who additionally sold books, stationery, sweets and tobacco until the 1950s. The steps were removed and the floor level of this shop lowered when Mrs Capel had a florist's shop there for a few years before it was Sally Ann, which sold babies' and childrens' clothes. After it was a series of off-licences, Bottletops, then Davidsons then Unwins and finally Threshers. In April 2009 Julia's Tea Shop opened but closed in January 2011. In February 2011 it became Mimi's Tea and Gift Shop.



A Frith repro postcard dated 1902 showing the Ranger family cottage along with part of Badolin House.

Church Road - Badolin House/The Old Post Office

At no. 22 Badolin House Edwin Bates, the postmaster, had a grocer's shop, a post office, an agency for Pullar's of Perth Dye Works, sold talking machines (they played 8½ inch double-sided records) and also medicines from the early 1900s until his death in 1910. His wife then took over the shop until the end of WWI. The Post Office was transferred in 1911 to Gothic House on the opposite side of the road and was managed by W Cordingley who previously had the plumber's shop at the crossroads. W Everitt, who had been manager at Walker-Smith's in the High Street, bought the shop at no.22 where he and his wife remained until the late 1930s.

The third shop, no. 20 was built for Everitt in 1932. At the same time the steps were removed from the front of Everitt's grocers shop at no.22 and the front half of the shop lowered to ground level. The two shops were then called Belfast House. In the late 1930s with the death of his wife, Everitt sold the business to John Irwin who took over the grocery shop and the ladies clothing shop, which was managed by Miss Wyatt. They ran the two shops until the 1960s when the name changed from Belfast House to Badolin House.

Their living accommodation above the shop became increasingly used as a store, to such an extent that they built the small bungalow to the rear of the shop to live in. Mr Irwin and Miss Wyatt suddenly closed the business in 1960 and moved from Bookham. The bungalow at the rear of the shop continued to be residential until 1997.

In 1960 Bartholemews Cut Glass took over the left hand shop followed by Quality Seconds, which later moved to the High Street. Then came Gemini, Quins (insurance agents), and shoe repairers Hobnail and Last and is now occupied by Cavendish French, suppliers of fashion accessories

The shop on the right hand side, no 20, became a pet shop in 1965 run by G V Cripps whose brother had the fish shop on the opposite side of the road. The pet shop was taken over by David Southgate as the Bookham Pet Shop and he remained there until 1997. It is now Achillese, a ladies shop for jewellery, shoes, clothing and accessories.



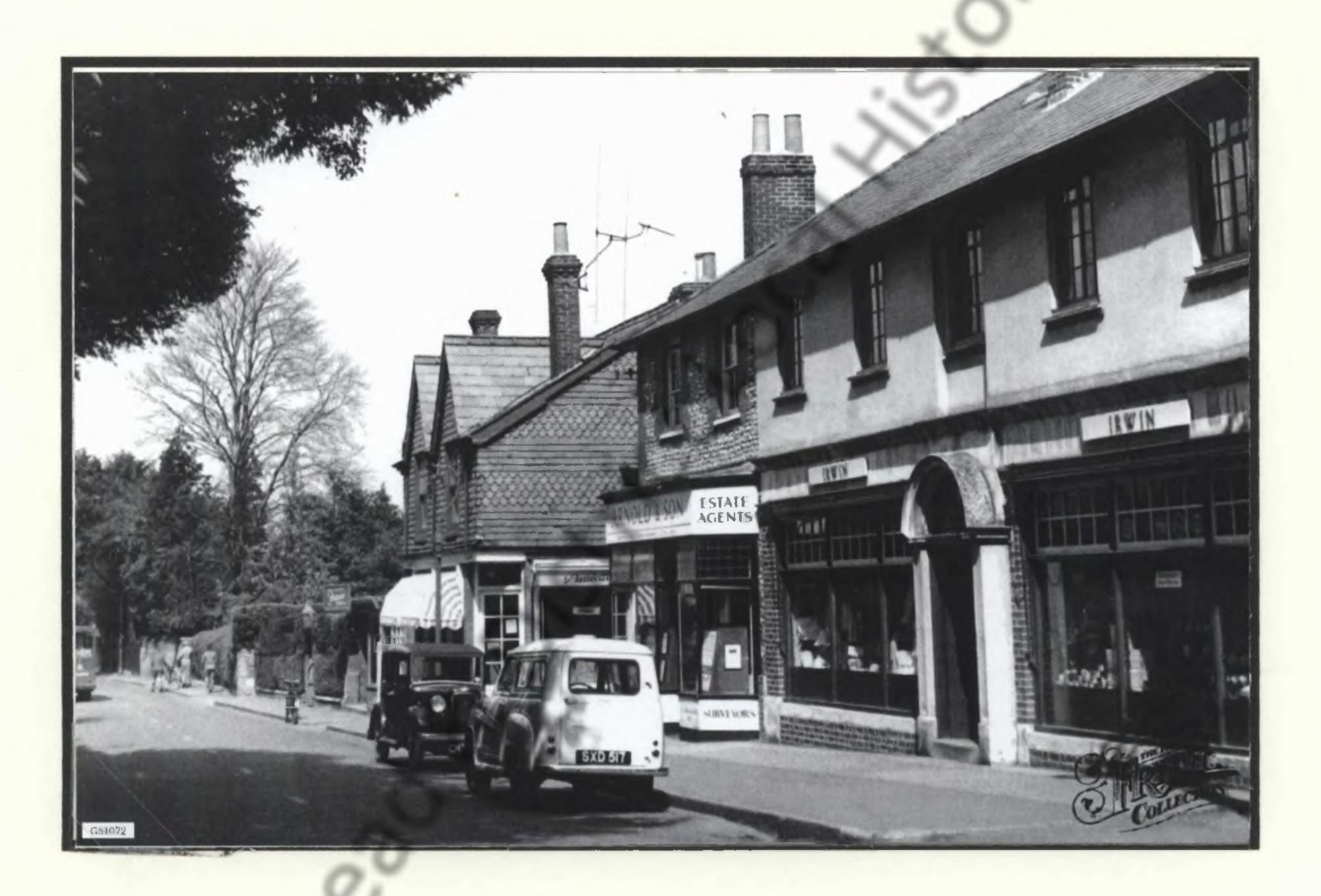
A Frith postcard postally used dated April 1909. On the back the sender writes - 'This is where I mailed your letter & c.' The building with the steps was once the Post Office.

Church Road - Trescaw House & Bank Cottages

Trescaw House (second building from the right depicted on the postcard) was occupied from the early 1900s by James Batten, a newsagent, stationer and toyshop. Later his two daughters ran the shop but after the death of one of them he other, with her husband, Mr Stevens, had the shop from about 1910 until 1912 when they moved their business to where Lloyds Bank is today. Mrs Everitt had a children's clothing shop at Trescaw House from 1920 to the 1930s when as Walter Smith it became a boot and shoe shop, where they also did repairs on the premises, until the 1950s. Elizabeth (ladies wear) opened here in the 1960s and remained until the 1970s. Then it became a video shop in 1985. After the video shop it became a chocolate shop called Soft Centre, and now it is a Barber's shop (no. 26)

Bank cottages next door was residential until the 1950s when Arnold, estate agent, had it for a while before it became a ladies hairdressers, Louis Fraser, in the 1960s and Nouveau in the 1970s. In 1981, Mr Hedger opened his dental surgery at Bank Cottages (no. 26a.) Next door to Andre Hedger is the Bookham Chiropractic Clinic at no. 28.

The small shop further on was the waiting room to the adjacent doctor's surgery in The Croft from the late 1800s until 1971 it was occupied by Frances, a high-class ladies outfitters owned by Mrs and Miss Kleboe who lived at The Croft. An advertisement in the Bookham Bulletin in September 1949 referred to Frances from Madam Dee, late of New Bond Street. The shop subsequently became Image Perfect (office supplies) then a gift shop and later a temporary home for Casseldens in 1999 whilst the new shops were being built opposite. It is now the Patchwork Cabin (no. 30)



A repro Frith postcard dated 1957 of Badolin House on the right, Trescaw House to the left (the front door at an angle) and just discernible are Bank Cottages.

Church Road - The Croft

The Croft, the largest house that lies back from Church Road, was the home of Dr Eustace Stedman who was related to Mr Stedman, a surgeon, living at Fairfield. An air of distinction was given to The Croft by the lamp in the wrought iron archway over the front gate

Doctor Proctor took over the practice in 1894 until he died in 1915, aged 52. He was both a physician and surgeon to the village and Medical Officer of Health for Epsom. Dr Proctor was the first person in the village to own a motor car and he became Chairman of the Parish Council when it was formed in 1894.

It is understood that Mrs Chystie's benevolence extended to her subsidising the doctor's charges to the poorer people of the village when medicine cost one penny per bottle and the charge for a tooth extraction was one shilling.



The postcard is postally used and is dated 1910. The car in the postcard is Dr Proctor's and he is also pictured below outside the Croft with his wife. He was in fact the first car owner in Bookham - the car being a De Dion Bouton. Early De Dion-Boutons are lively, light, and easy to drive. They sold in significant numbers for their day (over 2000 in 1902) and their high survival rate is a tribute to their quality, the engineering talent of Georges Bouton and the foresight of Count De Dion.



Church Road - The Croft

After Dr Proctor's death Mrs Proctor moved to Lower Road but continued to own The Croft which she let to Dr Candy who took over the practice in 1917. Dr Candy continued with his practice at The Croft until 1923 when he transferred the practice to Foulis, no 65 Church Road. The Kleboe family then occupied The Croft from 1924. A son, Wing Commander P A Kleboe, AFC, DFC, DSO, killed in action at Copenhagen in 1945, aged 28, is buried in St Nicolas Churchyard. The family continued to live at The Croft until 1971 when it was divided into flats.

Next door to The Croft is Bocheham House where Mrs Eleanor Dyer, a contemporary of Mrs Chrystie, lived. It was the rectory from the early 1930s until it moved to Fife Way.



The postcard above is a Canon series postcard which has been postally used dated 1907. Below is a repro Frith postcard dated 1924 with a good view of The Croft and the church steeple which can be seen in the background.



Church Road - Bookham Gables

It was previously known as The Gables The double frontage of the house, covered by the double pitched roof, is Georgian. The earlier original 16th century house is attached to the south side whilst the two Bookham Gables Cottages in Post House Lane are also older. It is thought that the cottages were once linked to the house as there used to be a passage that could have connected them.

When the main part was built in 1820-1830 the original house became the kitchen and staff quarters. The cook and the gardener each lived in one of the cottages. The main entrance to the house used to be in the front, where the door may still be seen, but around 1900 it moved to the present position. On entering here there are five steps to the ground floor under which there is a cellar, there are similar steps at the other side of the house.

In the 1930s the two cottages came under separate ownership from Bookham Gables and the footpath which gave access to them has become Post House Lane. The bungalow at the rear of the property was originally a stable block belonging to the Gables.

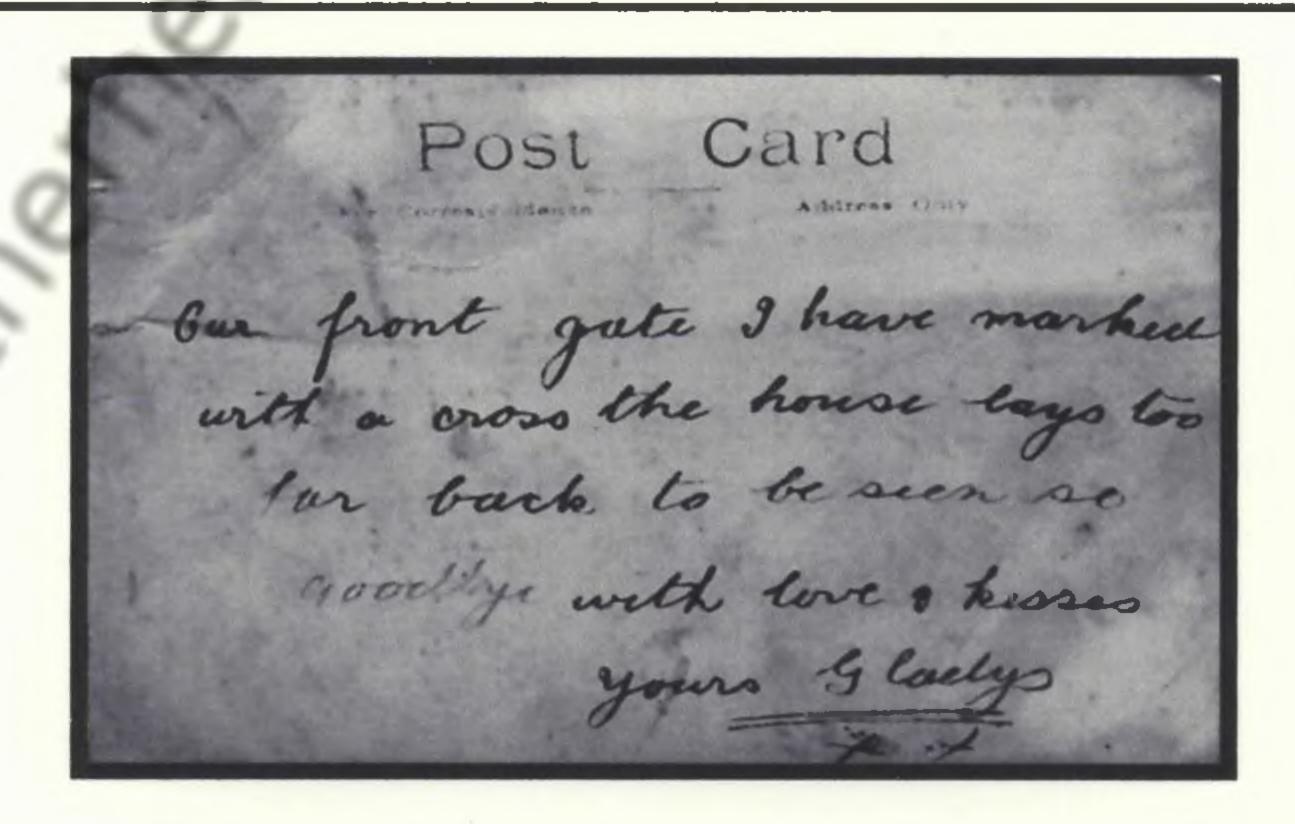


This postcard shows the two Bookham Gables Cottages looking down from the village. The girl is standing where it is now Post House Lane.

On the back of the postcard is written:

'Our font gate I have marked with a cross the house lays too far back to be seen so. goodbye with love & kisses.' yours Gladys.

The cross is on the right hand side of the postcard showing the entrance to The Croft.



Church Road - Bookham Gables

Bookham Gables shows the use of smooth painted stucco render, which reflects the high status and architectural quality of the building.

Where Park Lodge and Park Court now stand there was a horticultural nursery with two semi-detached houses at the front. Mr Longhurst, who worked at the nursery, lived in one of these since the early part of the 20th century. He supplied and laid the original turf for the Bookham Bowling Club's green at the Chrystie Recreation Ground in 1933, financed by the Bookham Social Services Bureau. The nursery closed and Sole Cottages were demolished in the 1960s-1970s and the flats were built.



Above is Bookham Gables and below taken in 1890 is Sole Cottages.



Church Road - Sole Farm House

Continuing along Church Road on the left hand side is Sole Farm House, which was the original farmhouse on the Sole Farm Estate, although it was much smaller then than it is today.

Along from the farm on the north side was a large pond fronting on to Church Road just 80 yards or so from the farmhouse. The pond itself had given the name to the farm, the old Anglo-Saxon word for a muddy pool being 'sol' - hence 'Sol' farm. The pond remained until the mid 1930s, when it was drained.

Sole Farm is mentioned as early as 1337 and grew to be one of the largest farms in the parish - 390 acres in 1797. In the 1880s the estate reduced to 350 acres and probably extended westward to Buggs Farm at Preston Cross and northwards to Sole Farm Road. Arthur Bird purchased the dairy farm in 1896 and sold the farm house as a private residence in 1905 to the Dawnay family.

Just before 1914 the back of the house was considerably extended with eight bedrooms, a conservatory, and a second pitched roof; however, the extension was demolished later and parts of the foundation are still visible. As with many older houses in Bookham the water supply was from a pump and this survives at the back of the house.

The house and the Old Barn Hall are all that remain of a once significant farm.



This unknown postcard shows Sole Farm House from the south east, and the picture below as it is today after a great deal of restoration from the current owners.



Church Road - Sole Farm House

Behind and to the side of the Sole Farm farmhouse was the farmyard - stables, sheds and barns surrounding a yard. One of these buildings was a very large barn mainly used as a granary for corn. Nearer to the road were several other farm buildings including yet another sizeable barn.

Arthur Bird wanted to provide a hall for the use of the villagers. Before this the only meeting places were local inns and he felt that 'the working man had nowhere to go in the evening apart from the public houses'. This was a very philanthropic thought but must be weighed against his acquisition of a vast area of land, the destruction of Sole Farm and breaking up the farm into plots for sale. He undoubtedly foresaw the possibilities of a vast growth of the Bookham population now that the railway served Bookham (from 1885) and gave easy access to the centre of London. It was an entrepreneur's dream!

The large granary barn in the corner of the farmyard seemed to be ideal in size and position for use as a hall but it would need a great deal of conversion to be viable. This conversion would require many of the other surrounding buildings to be cleared to make it accessible from the road and to take it out of its farmyard setting. Between the barn, which was to become the Old Barn Hall, and the road something had to be done to the buildings there including the second sizeable barn.



A postally used Canon series postcard dated 1907



Church Road - Sole Farm House/The Old Barn Hall

It was common during this time for barns used as granaries to be set on 'saddle' or sometimes 'staddle' stones. Some way had to be found to stop rats from getting into the grain and the simple solution was to raise the floor of barns with these stones. The normal saddle stones looked like giant mushrooms and were set under the main uprights of the barn with the floor laid upon them. The left hand picture below shows one such barn, this one at Sherfield-on-Loddon, Hampshire. The efforts of the rats to climb up these supports were thwarted by having nothing to hold on to on the underneath of the mushroom. Poor rats! The other use of saddle stones was for hay or straw stacks. Planks were laid on top and across the stones and on top the stacks were built - again for exactly the same reasons, to keep the rats out of the straw.

Why introduce saddle stones into this description? Today at the entrance to the Old Barn Hall car park set into the curve of the wall are 18 black posts, they were originally saddle stones - picture below right. They don't look like mushrooms as they are made of cast iron but they did serve the same purpose and all originally held one or more building structures up off the ground. They probably had flat stones laid across their tops. We now enter into a slight world of surmise. Nothing is firmly written down or known as to their exact origin or use and unfortunately nobody is now alive to know the answers. The obvious explanation is that they came from the Sole Farm buildings close by where they now stand but they could possibly have come from some other local farm but so little is remembered. Turville Kille, in the book recording his memories, said they may have come from Eastwick Park Farm but it must be remembered that Turville was only a lad of 5 or 6 years of age at the beginning of the 1900's and could well be mistaken.



A postally used postcard dated 1948





Church Road - Sole Farm House

The barn situated nearest to the road was an obstruction to the larger barn behind but it would have been a shame to pull down a splendid barn with plenty of life and still a sturdy structure. The answer was simple - just move it out of the way! How do you pick up a large barn (some 54 feet long) and move it? If it were of normal structure its main vertical timbers and floor would have been set well into the ground - a terrible problem to move as a unit. There are however contemporary pictures showing how simple it was to move whilst keeping its shape and its roofing tiles securely in position - it was lifted up, placed on large beams and rollers and winched, pushed, pulled and turned to a position some 100 yards away.

However, if the barn had originally been set on saddle stones the problem would look simpler to resolve. Beams and rollers could easily have been pushed through the space beneath the floor created by the saddle stones to create a 'float'. By taking away the stones the building would have been left seated on this movable frame and it would have been a straightforward task to roll it along to a new position. This solution is made feasible by the presence of the saddle stones in the wall. A barn of this size would have probably needed 8 or 10 saddle stones to hold its weight (this does not account for 18 which we now have). Although supposition it does offer a simple solution to what otherwise would seem like a major problem, although in America it was not uncommon to move complete buildings of this type.



