

A POSTCARD COLLECTION
OF BOOKHAM

By

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Album 4
(Pages 1 - 20)

The Bookhams

Eastwick Park Estate - The Anchor Public House

The Anchor Public House, which dates from the 17th century was part of the Eastwick Park Estate. The pub was formerly known as the Red Lion until the end of the 18th century. Census returns from 1841 record a beer retailer in Eastwick, and an inn called The Anchor was licensed in 1881. Why the change of name? One theory is that the Crown and Anchor was a popular *dice game at the time and that maybe it changed its name to complement the Crown Inn at the village crossroads.

At the early part of the 20th century it was sold by William Keswick to the Swan Brewery Company, Leatherhead when it had a public bar, tap room and a parlour. Percy Burnham was landlord of The Anchor for 31 years, retiring in 1990 and ending his days little more than a hundred yards from the pub in a cottage in Eastwick Road. During the 1960s Christine Keeler stayed at The Anchor during the Profumo trial.



A Canon series used postcard dated 1907.

**Crown and anchor was a dice gambling game of English origin, dating back to the early 18th century and popular among British sailors and to some extent among Australian and American servicemen. Three six-sided dice—each having the symbols crown, anchor, spade, heart, diamond, and club - are used along with a layout (a board or a cloth) containing those symbols. The players place their bets on the layout symbols, after which the banker throws the dice from a cup. The payoffs are usually 1 to 1 on singles, 2 to 1 on pairs, and 3 to 1 on triples.*



Eastwick Park Estate - Woodcote

On the opposite corner of Eastwick Road to the Anchor is the 16th/17th century farmhouse, half-timber and brick that was Woodcote, one of two farms on the Eastwick Estate. In the early 1900s the Poulter family lived at Woodcote for many years, and had a horse and cart transport business that operated from Woodcote to and from London twice a week. A recent occupant of part of Woodcote was Major General L C Dunsterville, the original Stalky of Kipling's *Stalky & Co* fame, but who achieved greater fame as leader of Dunsterforce in Persia from November 1917. The house is now divided in to two properties. Adjoining is a barn where the Eastwick farm bull was kept.

Next to the Woodcote in Eastwick Road are Albert Cottages where two branches of the Stemp family lived. James Stemp lived at no 1 as a boy and much later had the saddlery next to the Royal Oak in the High Street. Turville Kille and his newly wed wife, Annie (nee Stemp), lived in two rooms at no 2 when they were first married.



A local postcard from W G Jones dated c1921 showing Woodcote and the Anchor Inn to the left.

Stalky & Co. is a book published in 1899 (following serialisation in the *Windsor Magazine*) by Rudyard Kipling, about adolescent boys at a British boarding school. It is a collection of linked short stories in format, with some information about the charismatic Stalky character in later life. The character Beetle, one of the main trio, is partly based on Kipling himself. Stalky is based on Lionel Dunsterville, M'Turk is based on George Charles Beresford, Mr King is based on William Carr Crofts and the school is based on the United Services College

General **Lionel Charles Dunsterville** CB, CSI (09 November, 1865 – 1946) was a British general, who led the so-called Dunsterforce across present-day Iraq and Iran towards Caucasus and oil-rich Baku. Lionel Charles Dunsterville went to college with Rudyard Kipling at The United Services College, an educational institution designed to prepare British young men for careers in Her Majesty's Army. He served as the inspiration for the character "Stalky" in Kipling's novel *Stalky & Co.*

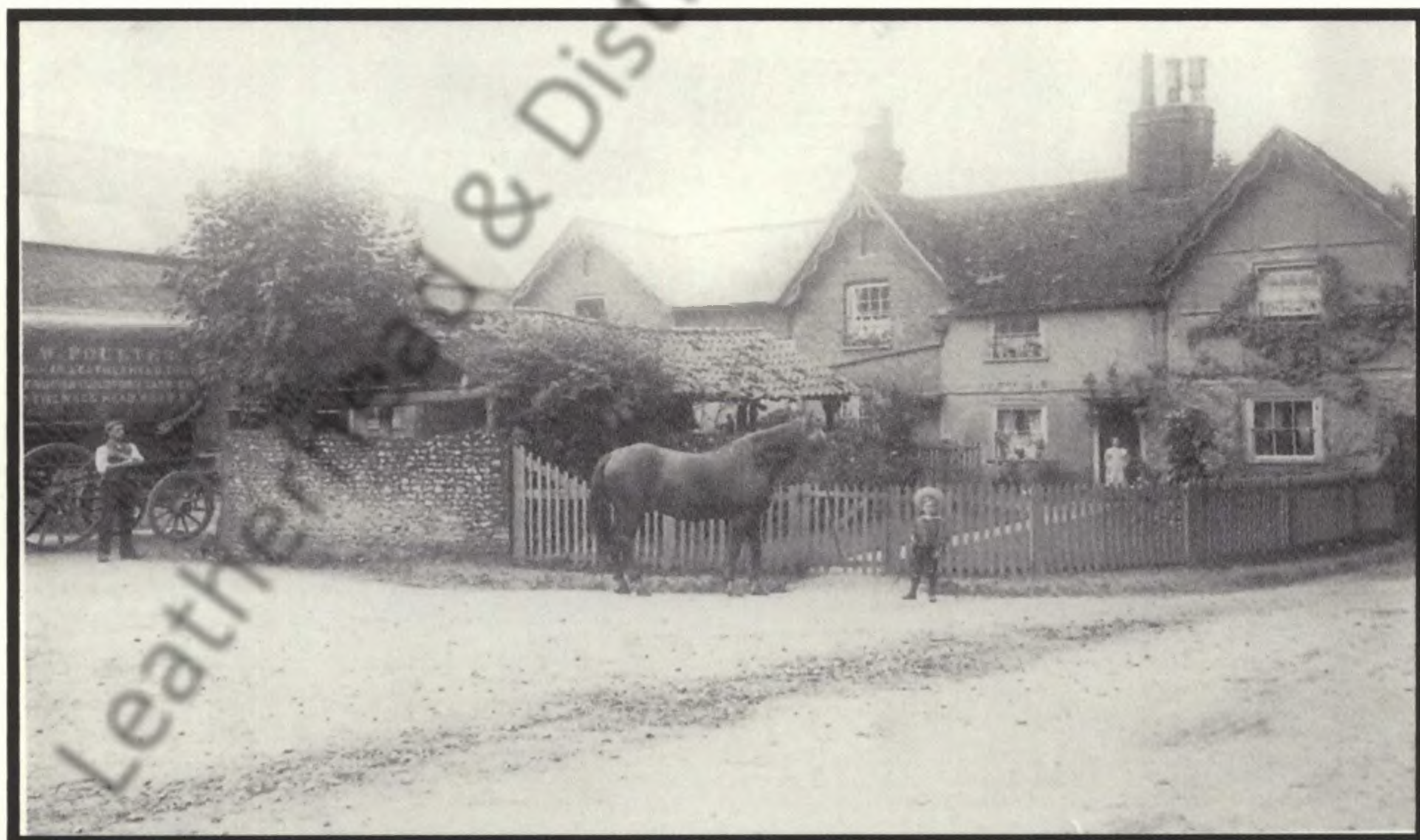


He was commissioned into the British Army infantry in 1884. Later he transferred to the colonial Indian Army and served on the North-West Frontier, in Waziristan and in China.

In the First World War he was initially posted to India. At the end of 1917 he was appointed to lead an Allied force of under 1,000 Australian, British, Canadian and New Zealand elite troops, drawn from the Mesopotamian and Western Fronts, accompanied by armoured cars, from Hamadan some 350 km across Qajar Persia. His mission was to gather information, train and command local forces, and prevent the spread of German propaganda. On his way to Enzeli, he also fought Mirza Kuchik Khan and his Jangali forces in Manjil. Dunsterville was subsequently assigned to occupy the key oil field and port of Baku, held by the Centro Caspian Dictatorship. However, Baku had to be abandoned on 14 September 1918 in the face of an onslaught by 14,000 Turkish troops, who took the city the next day. Baku was regained by the Allies within two months as a result of the Turkish armistice.

Eastwick Park Estate - Woodcote

The Frith repro postcard was taken in 1921 showing Woodcote with the Anchor Pub on the left. The picture is of Mr Poulter standing alongside his cart with W. Poulter clearly written on the side. His two children are also in the picture which was taken early 1900s.



Eastwick Park Estate - St. Nicholas Avenue

On the other side to the Anchor is St Nicholas Avenue; the houses here were built by Keswick to accommodate the higher-grade employees. The style and sizes of these semi-detached houses vary suggesting that allocation of these houses depended on the level or rank of the occupier and or size of his family. This is a road that has changed very little over the past hundred years or so.

A sewage system was constructed at the bottom of the *marlpit at the southern end of St Nicholas Avenue. This pit was used as a firing range during WWII by the Home Guard and has since been filled in. On the edge of the old pit stands the Girls Guide Headquarters. In the south east corner of the Marl Pit there was a pit, probably a **dene hole, where chalk was extracted for manuring the land.



An unused local postcard from J F Stevens dated 1911 of St Nicholas Avenue formerly known as New Road

***Marlpit.** A pit from which marl, a mixture of clay and carbonate of lime, is excavated. Marl is used as a fertilizer, among other things. Marl is a rock containing clay minerals and calcite, commonly mixed with other components such as silt. Generations ago, farmers valued marl as a fertilizer for lime-deficient soils and as a soil conditioner for sandy soils. The lime in marl cements sand grains together, so the soil can better retain heat and water. When added to clay soils, marl had the opposite effect: soil particles became less cohesive, allowing more air, heat, water and plant roots to penetrate.

****A Denehole** (alternatively **Dene hole** or **Dene-hole**) is an underground structure consisting of a number of small chalk caves entered by a vertical shaft. The name is given to certain caves or excavations in England, which have been popularly supposed to be due to the Danes or some other of the early northern invaders of the country. The common spelling **Dane hole** is adduced as evidence of this, and individual names, such as Vortigerns Caves at Margate, and Canutes Gold Mine near Bexley, naturally follow the same theory. The word, however, is probably derived from the Anglo Saxon *den*, a hole or valley. The lack of evidence found in them has led to long arguments as to their function.

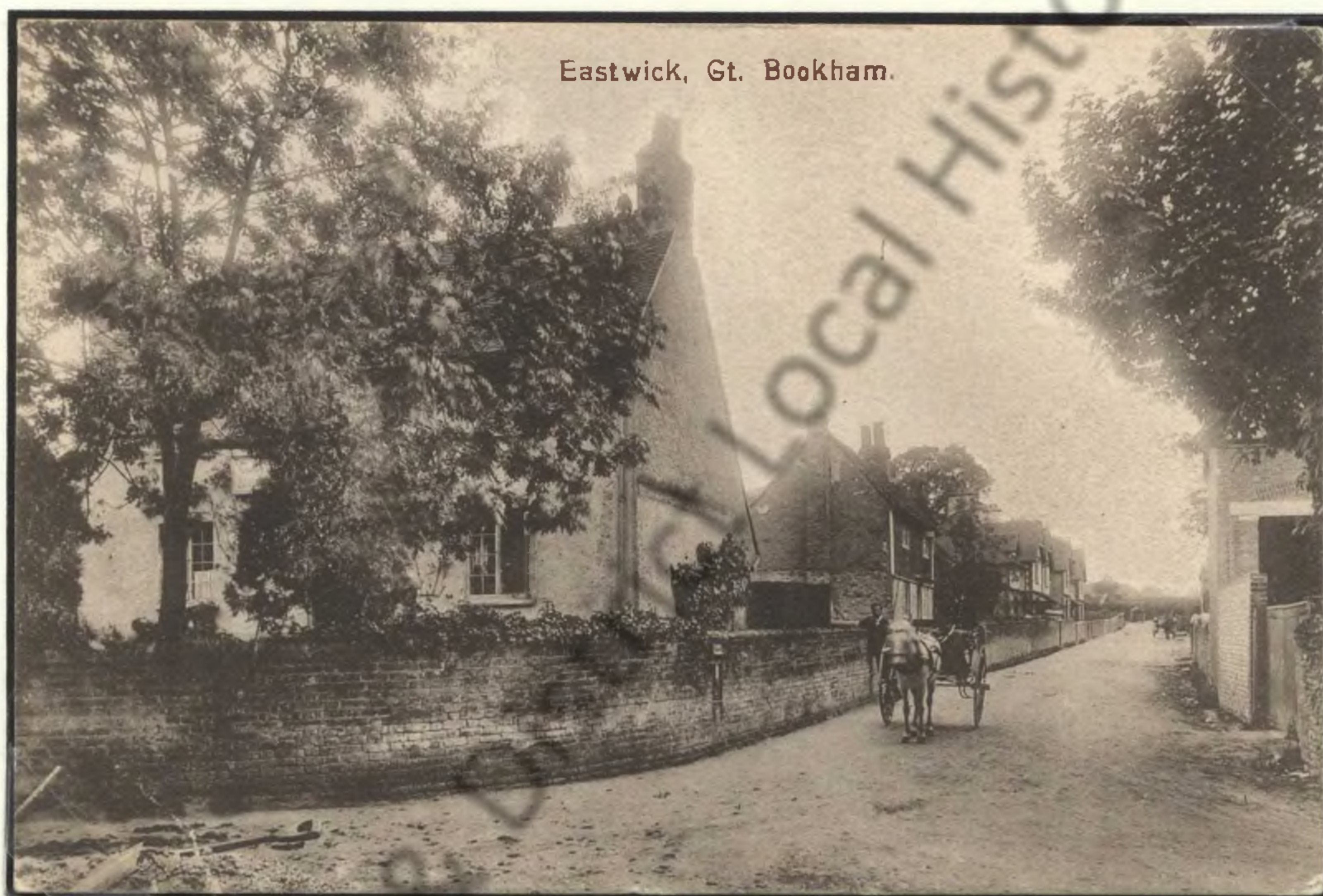
The Bookhams

Eastwick Park Estate - Eastwick Road

At the beginning of the century William Keswick built thirteen houses on the east side of the road, south of the Anchor, for his farm and estate workers. These were part of a self-contained unit, which included a school, a laundry and nurses' home. The school was not introduced by Keswick since a plot of land on the west side of Eastwick Road, known as Chilman's Field, was sold in 1830 and a National School was built on the site and enlarged in 1882. By 1907 the school had become in such a poor condition and was so overcrowded that it was sold by the trustees in 1910 and was incorporated into the new part off St James School. Mrs Hewitt continued to run the Eastwick School privately until at least 1916 when, on marrying a worker on the Eastwick Estate, she closed the school. The school buildings all survive and the two houses, which front on to Eastwick Road are named The Old School House and Chilman's Lea. The small two-storey building at the back was the music room. Eastwick Road was formerly known as Eastwick Street.

Turville Kille was born at the house called The Homestead in 1898 when his father worked at the Eastwick Farm. In 1911 the Kille family moved into what had been the school building, and later moved to Ralph's Cottage at the junction of Crabtree Lane and Leatherhead Road.

A used postcard dated 1905 showing Eastwick Road from Lower Road. The Anchor Pub stands behind the tree on the left and the shed for the cart is just visible on the right. This formerly belonged to Woodcote Farm but is now part of Coach House Cottages. This aspect of the road has not changed much over the years and even the brick walls have survived.



Below left is a picture of a class at Eastwick School in 1895. This class was known as 'Mixed Infants.' The school was built in 1830 and enlarged in 1882. The average daily attendance was recorded as fifty-eight and census returns show that there were two teachers there in 1871. The teacher on the right is believed to be Mrs Hewitt.

On the right a picture of Great Bookham National School c1900. William Vellender on the left was the master. It was a time when the number of pupils was increasing, but the building deteriorating. An inspection report in 1904 commented 'The middle closets are very poor indeed and smelt very badly... the ventilation in the common classroom is very bad' However, although the building left a lot to be desired, the school itself was doing well. Mr Vellender complained frequently about the boys' absenteeism for truancy and agricultural work.



The Bookhams

Eastwick Park Estate - Eastwick Road/Walter Finch

George White who was born at the Homstead in 1916 but his family moved to Victoria Hall when the house was taken over by Walter Finch. In 1915 Mr Walter Finch moved with his family from Sussex to Hill House Farm on Bookham Common. By 1924 he bought The Homstead and the farm buildings on the west side of Eastwick Park Estate. It was here where he started a cartage business, commencing with the transportation of building materials from the station to the various building sites that were opening up in Bookham. Finch was the main contractor in the construction of the Church Road telephone exchange in 1932 and he was able to provide storage for materials and accommodation for the workers on his property. He also carried coal supplies from the station to the village. After the Second World War the firm began to concentrate on transporting heavy machinery, particularly dry cleaning machines. The business has continued to change and expand through four generations of the family. Walter died in 1963, his son 'Snowy' continued with the business until his death in 1981 and two further generations, Richard and Andrew, continue to successfully run the Finch business.

A local W G Jones postcard looking up Eastwick Road from the Lower Road end with the W Finch business located just after the white house on the right, you can just make out their sign. The picture of Finch's Yard taken in 1925. The cart and horses were used to transport building materials, farming equipment and stones from Bookham station to roads that were being built in the area. Pictured in front of the horses is Bill Clements who was known as 'Algie.'



The following is from the W Finch & Co website:

W Finch was founded in 1924. Walter Finch moved to the small farming village of Bookham and operated horse drawn tip carts in a round the village distributing aggregate from the local train station to assist building the roadways and infrastructure which we now operate from. As the business developed into the motorized vehicle period, W. Finch picked up contracts from coal and log rounds, to local domestic moves. After supporting the war effort Walter's son, Snowy was approached by a local engineer to relocate the 1st commercial dry cleaning machine. This was the turning point for the company – the company had no experience in this field but with work at a premium in the early 1950's Snowy decided to diversify. This contract was to launch the company as it is today. Over the years we have grown in experience and confidence to handle any machine move.

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Eastwick Park Estate - United Reformed Church/Allotments

Further down Eastwick Road with the junction of Keswick Road is The Bookham United Reformed Church that opened in 1929; this was formerly the corrugated iron Congregational Church on the corner of Sole Farm Road and Church Road. Also at this junction are the allotments, which have been here since the late 1800s. At Keswick's death the allotment ground was put up for sale and the area was sold, but fortunately the actual allotments were not. It would seem that Turville Kille was partly instrumental in persuading Epsom Council to buy the land and so saved the allotments.

Hops and wheat had been grown on the land to the west of Eastwick Road. The bungalows were built in the early 1920s but the rest of the land remained as Eastwick Nursery, which remained a nursery until the 1950s. The roads in the first development here are Proctor Gardens and Candy Croft, both named after previous doctors in the village. In 1977/8 the rest of the land was developed and Turville Court is named after one of Bookham's best-known characters.



This repro Frith's series postcard dated 1924 shows Eastwick Road from the south looking towards Lower Road.

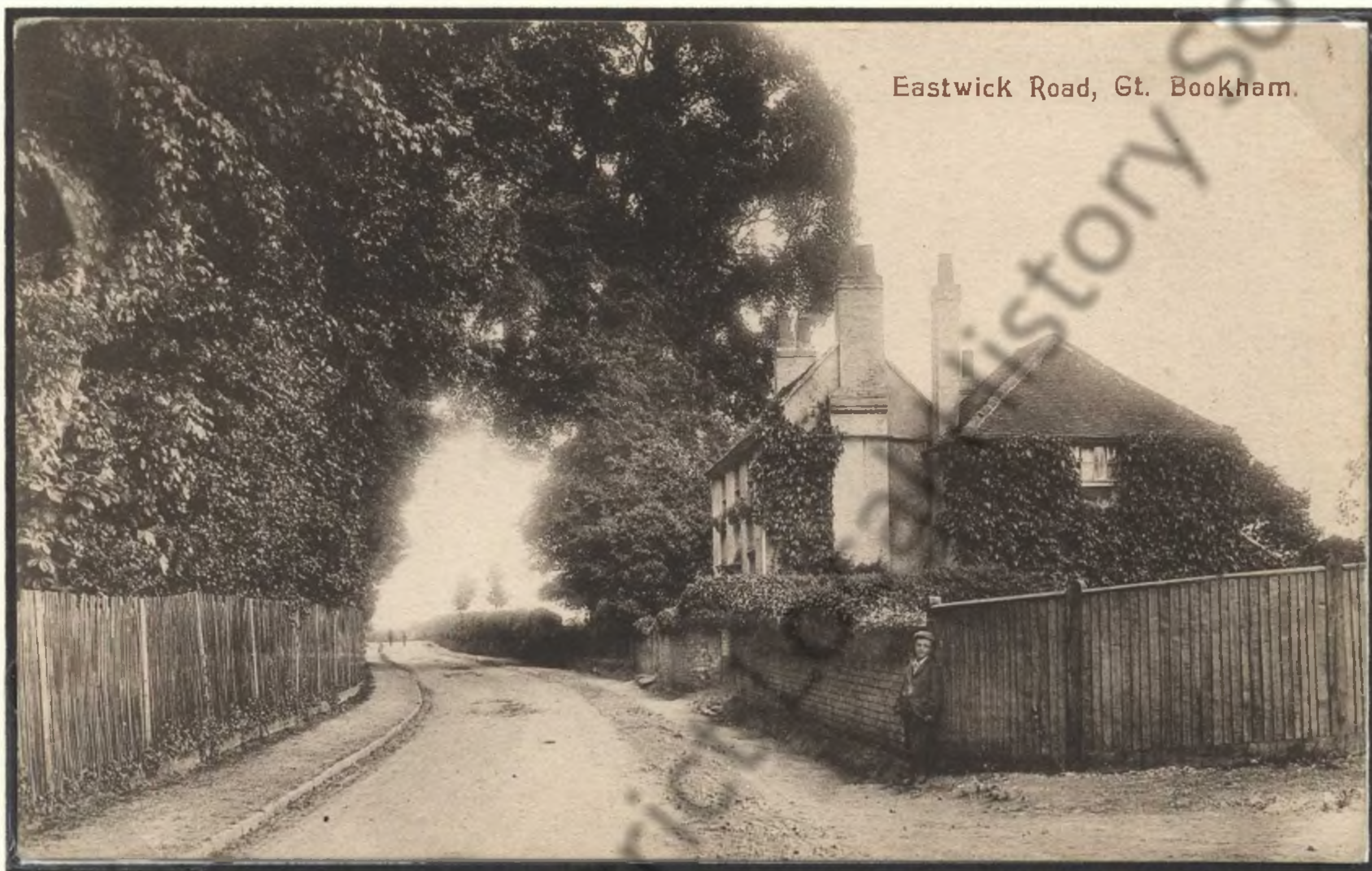
The picture on the left is the opening of the Congregational Church, Eastwick in 1929. In 1922 discussions on the need for a new and larger site for a new church building to replace the Mission Hall on the corner of Church Road and Sole Farm Road was found in 1928 when a site was acquired in Eastwick Road. Church members are seen here at the opening ceremony on 17 July 1929. The church had a seating for 120 people as well as a vestry, church parlour, kitchen and toilets. On the right is today's church now called the Bookham United Reformed Church.



The Bookhams

Eastwick Park Estate - Home Farm/Eastwick House

The estate had two farms Woodcote and Home Farm. Until the 1920s the only house in Lower Road between here and the Ridgeway was Eastwick House, on the corner of what is now Lower Road and Eastwick Drive. It was the second farm that belonged to Eastwick Park and was previously known as Home Farm and before that Eastwick Park Farm. The house is virtually unchanged and some of the original stables that back on to Lower Road remain, used as garages, but other farm buildings were destroyed in a fire in 1930. Under the farm yard were six large cisterns for water and liquid manure for the field, where now stand dwelling houses. Originally there was a farm gate across what is now Eastwick Drive at its junction with Lower Road and a track led to the service entrance of the Eastwick Estate, which was roughly where the school entrance is today. The cart track continued northwards and reduced to a footpath, which went over the level crossing (until it was closed in 1924) and across Bookham Common to Stoke D'Abernon. This track became Eastwick Drive and it began to be developed from the 1920s



This Frith's postcard dated 1912 is looking from the junction of Lower Road with St Nicholas Avenue towards Fetcham. The fence and trees on the left formed the boundary of Eastwick Park and the house on the right (now no. 159) had a front door onto the road. A little further down the road on the left with the junction of Eastwick Drive is Eastwick House. The picture was taken in 1925.



The Bookhams

Eastwick Park Estate - Home Farm/Eastwick House

The top picture is the cottage of the Bailiff who lived at the Home Farm and the middle picture is of the Carpenter's shop, which was also at Home Farm and was taken c1890.

Almost opposite Eastwick House are the remains of the dairy buildings of Eastwick Park - two hexagonal shaped brick buildings built around 1810, one of which was a dairy and, the other a scalding house were joined by an enclosed corridor; they were originally thatched but they are now roofed with decorative tiles. The dairy (bottom picture) that has survived from the Eastwick Estate is sited in a small dell on the opposite side of Eastwick Drive to Eastwick House.



Eastwick Park Estate - Home Farm/Eastwick House

A derelict dairy in Bookham is set to be dismantled and reconstructed at a major museum an article written by Guy Martin on April 8th 2011.

Grade II listed Eastwick Park Dairy is currently a crumbling ruin in the front garden of a bungalow, but under new plans it will be taken down and resurrected at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. Built in the early 19th century and formerly part of the Eastwick Park estate, the former dairy buildings comprise of two octagonal single storey rooms. Their condition is described as derelict. The roof over the scalding house has almost completely collapsed and the one over the other building, described as an ornamental dairy, will follow suit if not salvaged soon.

An application has been put in to Mole Valley District Council, seeking permission to dismantle the buildings and reconstruct them using as much salvaged material from the originals as possible.

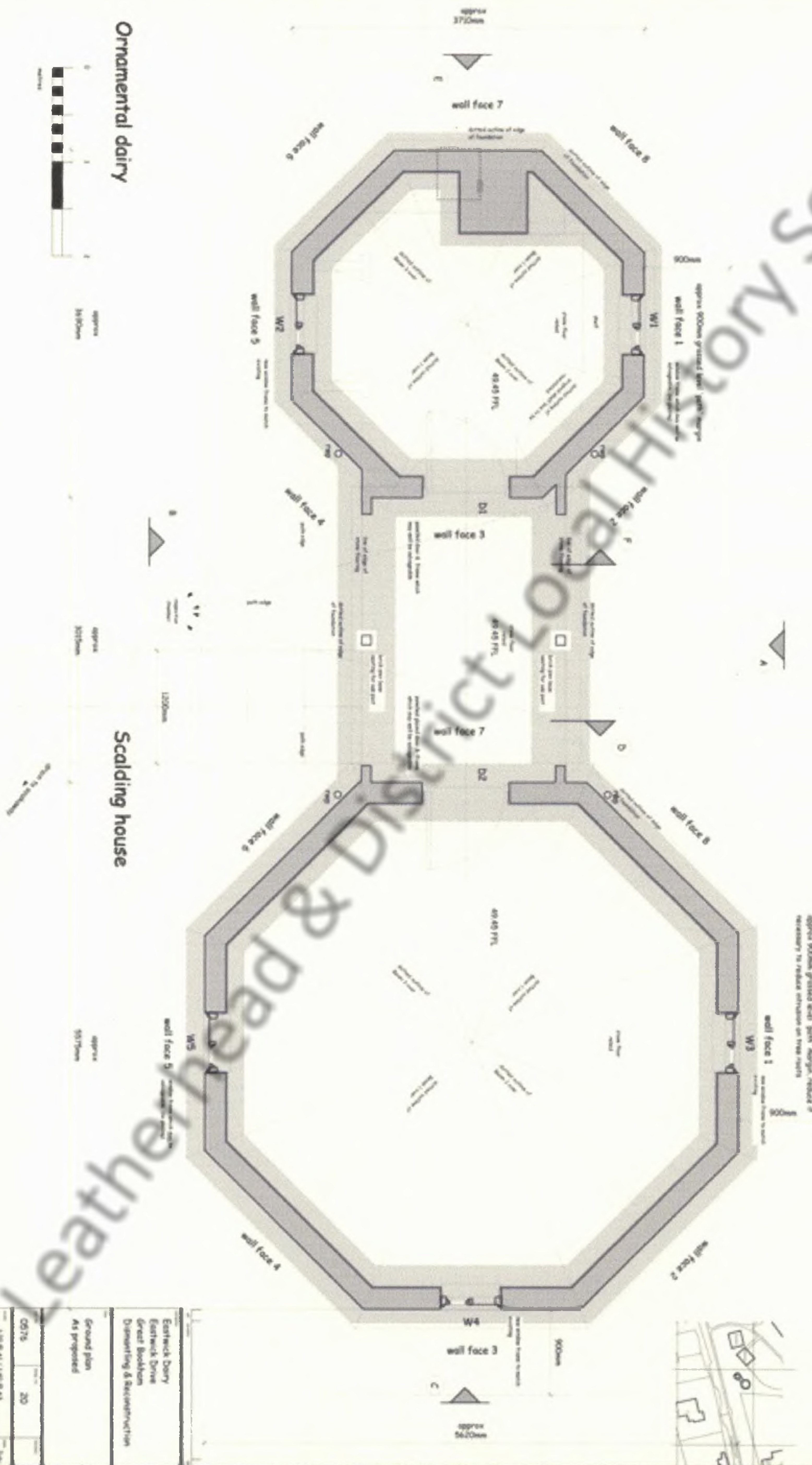
The Singleton site is the leading museum of historic buildings in England. It has been designated by the government for its nationally important collections. It is promised this option is the only viable one left to allow the buildings to be saved and accessible for all, although if earlier plans materialised, they could have remained closer to their current home by Eastwick Drive. Permission was granted for them to be reconstructed at nearby Eastwick Junior School. Leatherhead and District Countryside Protection Society hoped to make this happen but a lack of funds held the project up.

Fred Webb has lived in the bungalow for two decades and is pleased a solution may finally have been found for the buildings in his garden. "It's been going on for 20 years," he said. "I welcome the fact they are going to be restored. If they weren't they would have to be pulled down. "They have got quite a history to them. I think the museum will do them proud."



Eastwick Park Estate - Home Farm/Eastwick House

A plan of the dairy and the scalding house which were joined by an enclosed corridor; they were originally thatched but they are now roofed with decorative tiles. Unfortunately only the dairy part survives.



Notes
 1. The plan is a ground plan of the buildings shown. It is not a section or elevation.
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Eastwick Dairy	
Eastwick Dairy	
Eastwick Drive	
Eastwick Bookham	
Dispersing & Reconstruction	
Ground plan	
As proposed	
05/16	20
12/08 at 11:00 AM	July
Nye Saunders Ltd	
Consulting Architects	
1 Church Street, Goddington, Surrey, GU10 1AA	
Tel: 01483 810000 Fax: 01483 810001	
Email: info@nyesaunders.co.uk	

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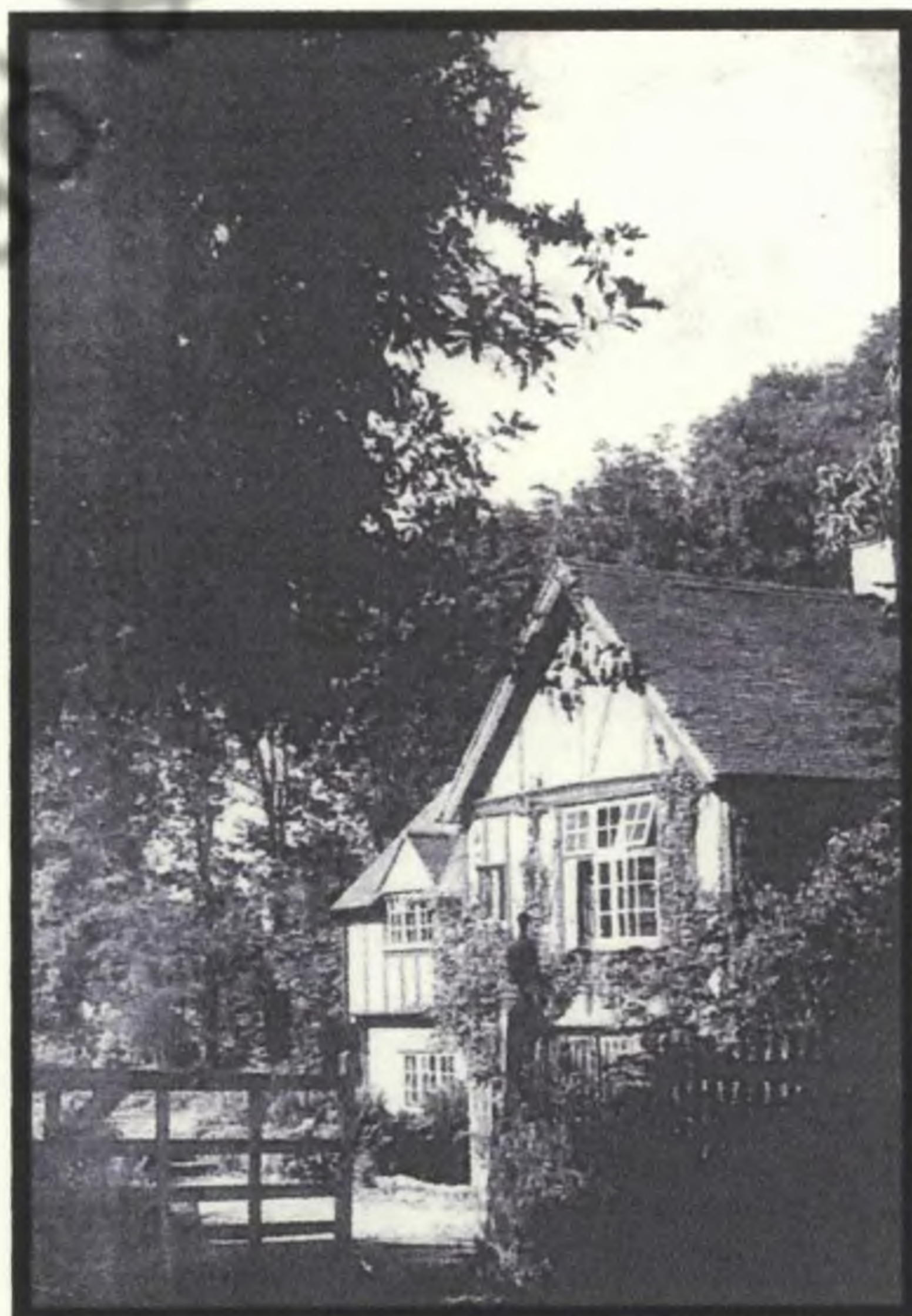
Eastwick Park Estate - The Spinney School

Just a few yards further on is a cul-de-sac called The Spinney, the site of The Spinney Preparatory School, which was here from 1930 until 1967. When the Estate was broken up and sold in the 1920s a two acre site with three large barns (formerly cow sheds) was bought by Mrs Dorothy Joce, her sister, Eleanor, and mother in 1930. They converted all three of the barns, one into a two-storey house. These became the Spinney School, which was named after a nearby chestnut spinney. As the school became very popular with local people wishing their children have a private education.

In 1950 Miss Lindlay, the senior mistress, took over the school and Miss Joce retired. She went to live at Foxmead, a very large house in Maddox Lane. The Spinney ceased to be a boarding school and Miss Joce arranged for the few children that could not return home each day to be boarded at Foxmead. In 1967 The Spinney School moved to Merrylands Farm, Church Road and the ground at Eastwick Drive was sold enabling the present cul-de-sac to be built. In 1980 the Spinney school was absorbed into Manor House School in Little Bookham.



The Spinney School was a private school in Eastwick Drive for boys from three to eight years old and on to twelve years for girls. The property had originally belonged to Eastwick Park (by this time Southey Hall School) and many of the boys went on to Southey Hall and the girls to Manor House.



The Bookhams

Eastwick Park Estate - Richmond Way/Eastwick Park Avenue

On the east side of Eastwick Drive three of the five bungalows that were built in the late 1920s retain the original park railings along their frontage, as have other properties on this side of the road. Further on, where Richmond Way is there was a horticultural nursery run by Mr Hendriksen until the early 1960s when he was bought out in preparation for housing development. He then moved and operated nurseries near Hatchford Park and on the Isle of Wright.

Turning into Eastwick Park Avenue, adjacent to the footpath to Park View, are Bookham's passenger-carrying *trolley buses. These are in the garden of Peter Lepine-Smith (pictured below). The vehicles, which were occasionally driven around the garden, were one-third scale models built on chassis from Job's Dairy milk floats fed from overhead conductors. There were three trolleybuses based on Reading Corporation vehicles kept in the depot with its workshop and substation. Below right is a picture of the real Reading double-deck trolleybus in 1966.

The house by the Ponds, on the corner of Long Copse, near Eastwick Drive, was a gamekeeper's cottage for the Estate - picture below left.



**A trolleybus (also known as trolley bus, trolley coach, trackless trolley, trackless tram or trolley) is an electric bus that draws its electricity from overhead wires (generally suspended from roadside posts) using spring-loaded trolley poles. Two wires and poles are required to complete the electrical circuit. This differs from a tram or streetcar, which normally uses the track as the return part of the electrical path and therefore needs only one wire and one pole (or pantograph). They also are distinct from other kinds of electric buses, which often rely on batteries, though some recent types (such as the gyrobus) do not.*

The Bookhams

Eastwick Park Estate - Spring Grove/Meadow Way/The Copse/Eastwick Drive/Commonside/Amey Drive

Roads like Spring Grove, Richmond Way and others were built in the very long gardens which were with the houses in Kenel Lane. A little further on the left hand side is the house known as Commons End where Mr & Mrs Harrison lived who did so much for the BCA (Bookham Community Association.)

The crossroads with Meadowside on the left and Meadow Way on the right were originally part of a path that led to the station. Until the early 1970s Meadow Way was linked to The Copse by a short footpath as a result of development taking place from two different directions, but although not everyone wanted it the two roads were eventually joined.

A little further on the left hand side of The Copse there was, up until the mid 1970s, a pig farm at the rear of the bungalow where the road curves rather sharply known as Sunnymead Farm. At the last property on the right in Eastwick Drive, Coverhithe, Mr Riley ran a poultry farm from here between 1925 and 1950.

The level crossing here was closed in 1924; in the road on the other side of the railway line, Commonside, the first property was Parslow's Hamster Farm, which operated here for many years until the 1980s. Beyond this is Keeper's Cottage, another house left from the Eastwick Park Estate.

On the corner of Lower Road and Amey Drive (named after Mrs Emily Amey of Victoria Cottage in the High Street) is a house called Durleston. This was the home of Sir George Edwards in the 1960s and 70s. He joined Vickers at Weybridge in 1935 and retired in 1975 as Chairman of British Aircraft Corporation.



Eastwick Drive c1930. This has been taken from a point opposite the house just north of the ponds. These houses, nos 49-61, on the left, were built on farmland which was part of the Eastwick Park Estate, sold for building development in the 1920s. Number 61 was the home for many years of Mrs Elizabeth Harrison, who helped to establish the Bookham Community Association (BCA)

The Bookhams

Eastwick Park Estate - Kennel Lane/Surrey Union Hunt

Continuing eastwards along Lower Road on the left hand side is Kennel Lane named after the home of the Surrey Union Hunt Kennels around the beginning of the last century. The kennels were about where Sayers Close is now. The hounds were bred and trained here for a number of years until the kennels were moved to the site now occupied by the Riding Stables in the Dorking Road. In the 1930s there was a plan for an orbital road to run from Givons Grove close to the Bookham, Fetcham boundary to Stoke D'Abernon. Land was reserved for this until the 1970s and it was not released for development until the M25 had been constructed in 1986.

In the nineteenth century Surrey had three hunts – the Surrey, the Surrey Union, and the Hambledon. The Surrey Union, which had about forty-eight pairs of hounds, hunted over the centre of the county from Kingston to Reigate, and meets were held in both Bookham and Fetcham.



The first Frith postcard above is of The Surrey Hunt Kennels taken in 1905 in Bookham.

The second postcard was taken c1915 at The Bell Inn, Fetcham. The Bell Inn was a popular place to hold a meet. The old building was situated sufficiently far back from Bell Lane to accommodate the Surrey Union Hunt which, by the early 1900s was based in Bookham. The cottage in the background was variously known as Chain Cottage, Huntsman's Cottage or Coachman's Cottage.

Eastwick Park Estate - Ice Houses

It has been possible to trace seven ice houses in Great and Little Bookham although no structures are now visible - at Denbies on Ranmore, Bookham Grove, Eastwick Park, Little Bookham Manor House, Polesden Lacey, Bookham Lodge and Millfield.

In the particulars of sale of the Bookham Grove property in 1773 by the Executors of Sir Alexander Grant, no reference is made of an ice house, but following the death of Viscountess Downe in 1812 an inventory of the property was made and amongst the 'outer offices,' variously described as Gardeners' House, Malting House and Carpenter's Shop and therefore amongst a group of buildings distant from the main house is, listed 'ice house with double door-locks and keys to door.' The remains of a building which could meet the requirements of an ice house are on the western verge of the Dorking Road where there are buried brick works the shape of an ice pit.

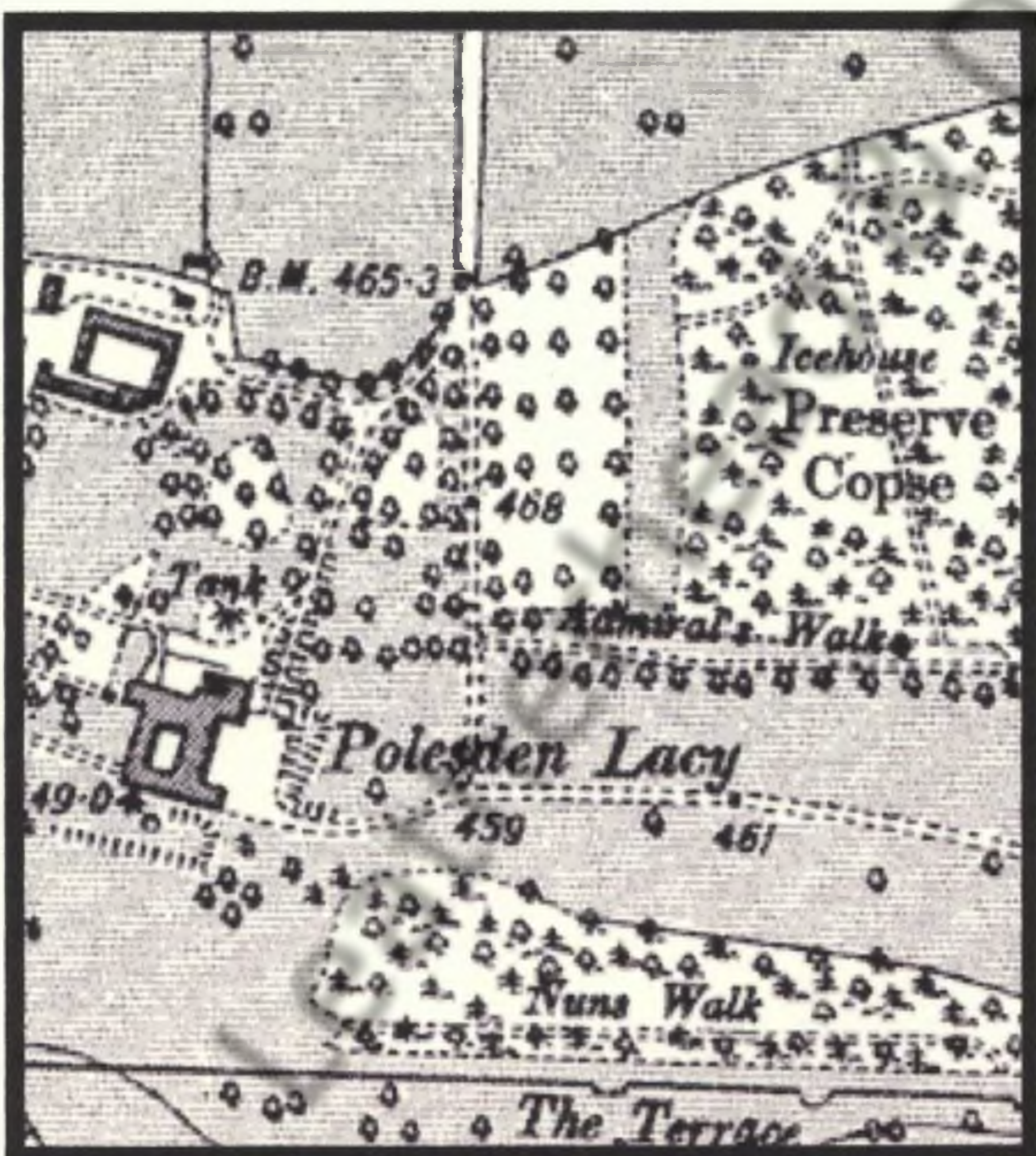
Particulars of sale by auction of Eastwick Park about 1829 include a reference to an ice house. The 25 inch Estate Map of 1829 shows the location of the building and of neighbouring service buildings.

In the old Ordnance Survey Map of Polesden Lacey in the picture below marks an ice house some distance from the house in the woods known as Preserve Copse and next to what is now the crab apple tree field and previously the old car park. There is no sign of any structure in this position now but it is present on the maps of both 1897 and 1919. There is however a totally redundant five bar gate standing alone and leading into the wood near this point and it is highly likely that this marks the track (shown on the map) along which the supplies of ice were bought. In the same copse are the remains of a pond below ground level, lined with brick and rendered, specially constructed as a water source for game. There were several similar ponds about the Polesden Estate. A building is still known as the 'ice house' at Polesden Lacey but it is simply a storage area at the side of the house near the old kitchens.

The ice house at Little Bookham Manor House was built on the slope of the marling pit to the south of the house and again, no trace can be found at the site.

The ice house at Denbies which Thomas Cubitt built on Ranmore, was in a shrubbery by the front door, and access was had to it from a room called the Larder. It was a round pit some 15 feet in diameter and twenty feet from floor to the roof, which was on a level with the floor of the Larder. The ice to supply this house was taken from Fox Pond, outside the former Fox Public House on the Ranmore Road and from the House Pond by the road from Chapel Lane to Ranmore on the higher side of the hairpin end.

The ice houses at Bookham Lodge and Millfield can only be traced by reference to rough estate maps, both were in existence in 1864 and that at Millfield is still marked on a map of 1926, though no doubt long disused.



The arrow points to the Ice House at Eastwick Park House.



Eastwick Park Estate - Ice Houses

Ice houses were first introduced to England about 1650 but it was not until 1750 and for 150 years thereafter that every house had to have its ice-house. Before ice could be manufactured, the ice house was evolved as a means of storing ice formed during the winter months. Ice so stored would last two or three years depending on the amount removed, and the skill with which it was packed in the ice house, before the stock had to be replenished.

The principle of construction of all ice houses was the same and the structure only varied in detail and embellishment. A pit was dug in the soil as much as 20 feet deep, to benefit from the low and steady temperatures, and lined with brick. The bottom of the floor of the pit was usually covered with a wooden or iron grating beneath which melted water was collected in a sump and was drained away by a pipe. The ice house was built on the side of a slope to allow the melted water to escape by gravity through the drainage pipe and prevent mustiness. It was built near a pond for the ice supply and trees were planted to overhang and so maintain the equable temperature. At ground level the roof of the pit was domed and covered with soil and at one side at the top of the pit a short passage gave access to the pit either on ground level or with two or three steps down. The passage had a door at either side thereby creating an air lock. A typical design of an ice house recently rediscovered is the one near Ashted House, Farm Lane, probably built about 1840-50 which would appear to be of basic type and probably a standard builders' design. The Ashted ice house has now been listed as a Grade II listed building for preservation.

Ponds were an essential part of the economy of a Country House, and were therefore regularly maintained and kept clean and free from weeds and debris. They were essential for the watering of cattle and to act as balancing tanks to control excess water from flooding the lower lying parts and allow it to disperse without accumulation. Hence the water when frozen was usable for domestic purposes. Local estate workers relate that when the ice had formed to a depth of two or three inches it was gathered and broken unto lumps the size of a cricket ball, and carted to the ice house. A thick layer of straw was then spread over the bottom of the ice pit and round the sides and ice packed in the middle. Sometimes it was interspersed with more straw. When the pit was full a further thick layer of straw was put over the top and, if not to be used for some time, in the air lock in the access passage.

The ice house appears to have been used for long term (i.e. several months) preservation of food, for the making of ice cream and sorbets, and for the cooling of a room in the heat of the summer, especially at times of illness when the patient was feverish. Some typical ice houses are depicted below.

Ice houses ceased to be used when ice could be produced by commercial refrigeration machinery about 1910 and the domestic refrigerators in the 1950s in this country - USA c1930s. It was not an uncommon sight to see an ice cart (picture below left) distributing ice covered in sacking, to the fishmonger and the large private house up to the 1950/60s



Eastwick Park Estate

The owners of Eastwick Park House:

The Howard family held the estate until 1801. Richard Howard, Earl of Effingham, then sold it to James Laurell.

1806-James Laurell further enhanced the appearance of Eastwick Park house by covering the red brickwork with stucco.

1809-Sold to Mr. Louis Bazelgette and then passed through the hands of George Sumner and also John Loveridge

1833-1882 Mr. David Barclay MP for Sunderland

1882-1912 Mr. William Keswick MP for Epsom

1912-1918 Mr. Henry Keswick MP.

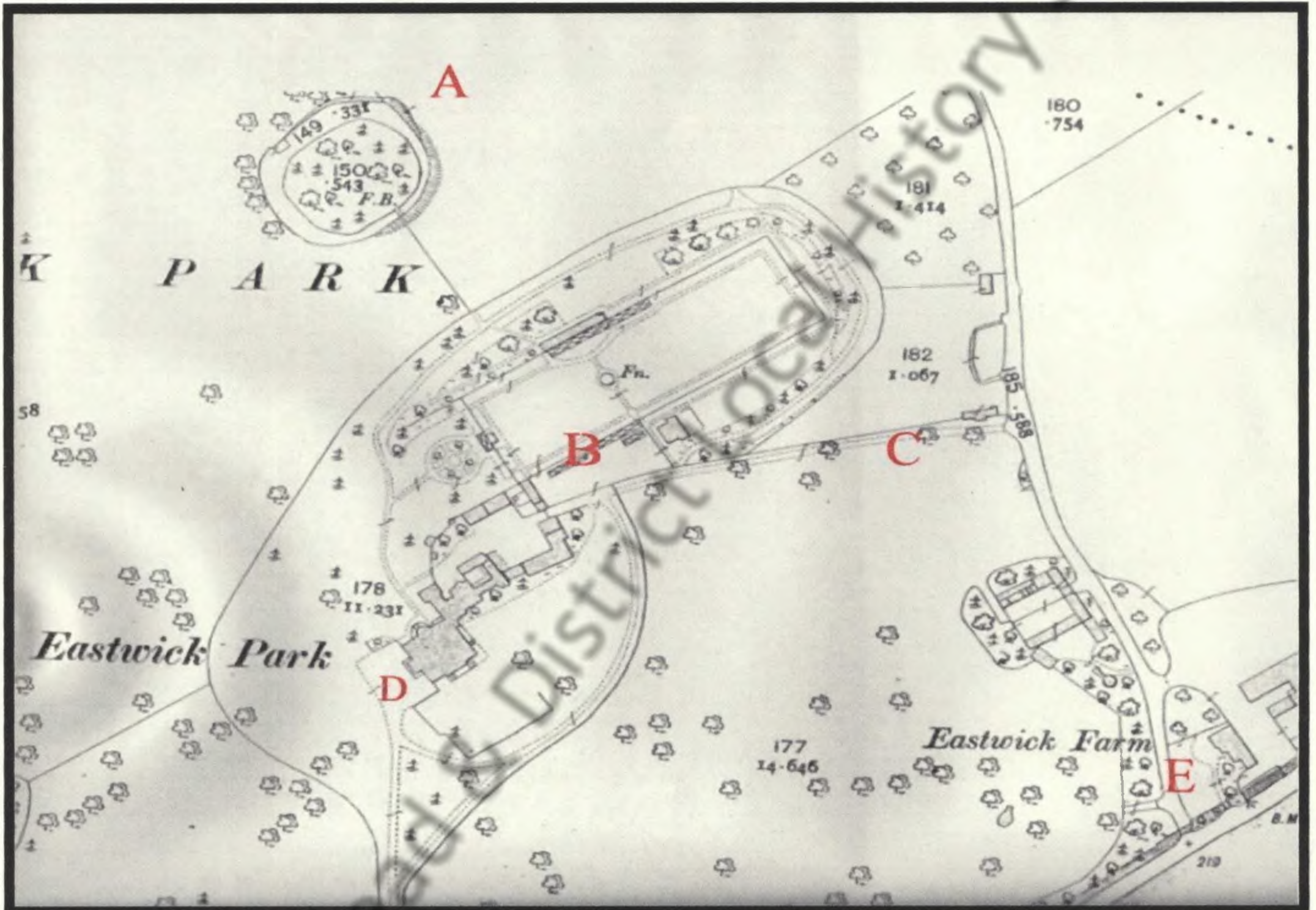
1918-1922 Mr. Hipplyte Louis Wiehe du Coudray Souchon (retired Sugar Planter)

1922-1924 Mr. Percy Portway Harvey Property Developer and Estate Agent. (Land sold off in plots for house building).

1924-1954 Mr. H. Fussell. Southey Hall Preparatory School - (purchased house, outbuildings and kitchen garden)

1955-1958 House Empty

1958/59 House demolished - Eastwick County Primary School built.



An early 1900's map showing Eastwick Park and the some of the grounds.

The island/moat (A) is now on Eastwick Park Avenue and the Stable Block (B) is now part of Eastwick Infant School. As with all Grand Houses the 'Service Entrance' to the house was via the back driveway (C) where they also located the building housing the generator for the electrical supply to the house. This is now the main entrance to the school. The original Front Drive to the house met Lower Road at what we now know as No 182. The driveway gates, complete with pedestrian access side gates, are still in position there.

Like all large houses of that time they had a Kitchen Garden (B) and a Home Farm (E) to provide them with fresh produce 365 days a year. The estate at its height had a radius of 10 miles.

The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road - Cyssandi/Mandara/Gilmais

On the south side of Leatherhead Road there was, until around the end of the 20th century, a shop housing The Victory Press. Fred Barford operated the printing works when he took over an existing shop early in the 1930s. Fred died in 1951 and the printing works closed in the 1970s. Roughly opposite the press in a house called Cyssandi there was a preparatory school during the 1930s. Nearby, in the 1920s, a dwelling called Mandara, was occupied by Wing Commander Mead who ran a poultry farm at the rear of his property that reached as far as Keswick Road. A little further on, H R Richmond had a coach business as Dagshai before moving to their Epsom depot.

On the south side of the road is Tiger Timber. It was formerly P M Clack & Sons. Mr Clack came from Beddington to Bookham in the early 1920s and set up his builder's merchants and timber business here. The firm has passed to son and then grandson and operated in the same yard. It is currently Tiger Timber but is merging with Chandlers Building Supplies.

Directly opposite Tiger Timber merchants is the close named Gilmais. From the early 1930s Gilmais House and grounds contained a popular social club with an open-air swimming pool and tennis courts. It was opened and owned by Gilbert and Maisie White, hence Gil Mais. He was a test pilot who tragically crashed and was killed just after the outbreak of war in 1939. The pool and courts remained open until around 1961 when it was sold and the road now called Gilmais was built. The White's house still stands in Gilmais, between its newer neighbours. The picture below of the Gilmais swimming pool was taken in the 1930s, along with the unknown postcard.



The Bookhams

Leatherhead Road - Beckley Cottages/Henry Griffiths

Beckley Cottages until the 1920s stood on their own except for Ralph's Cottage and the buildings in Flint Close. From 1920 until the outbreak of WWII Mr and Mrs Pelling and their family lived in Beckley Cottage, the double fronted cottage at the end of the row. Mrs Pelling was the daughter of Andrew West, the local builder.

Henry Griffiths, who had been the blind organist and choirmaster at St Nicolas Church and also musical director at the Leatherhead School for the Blind for many years, lived at no. 7 Beckley Cottages. In the early 1930s Henry was offered a BBC job on the radio but he refused because he thought that 'radio was not going to last!' Henry's son Geoff tells of life here in the 1920s and 1930s when the well behind the cottages was superseded by one tap for all the cottages and when two spinsters in one of the cottages refused a gas supply and preferred oil lamps as they were safer.



A picture of Beckley Cottages taken c1915 and the photo taken below at roughly the same angle, and another taken front on.

