

A POSTCARD COLLECTION
OF BOOKHAM

By

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Album 1
(Pages 41 - 60)

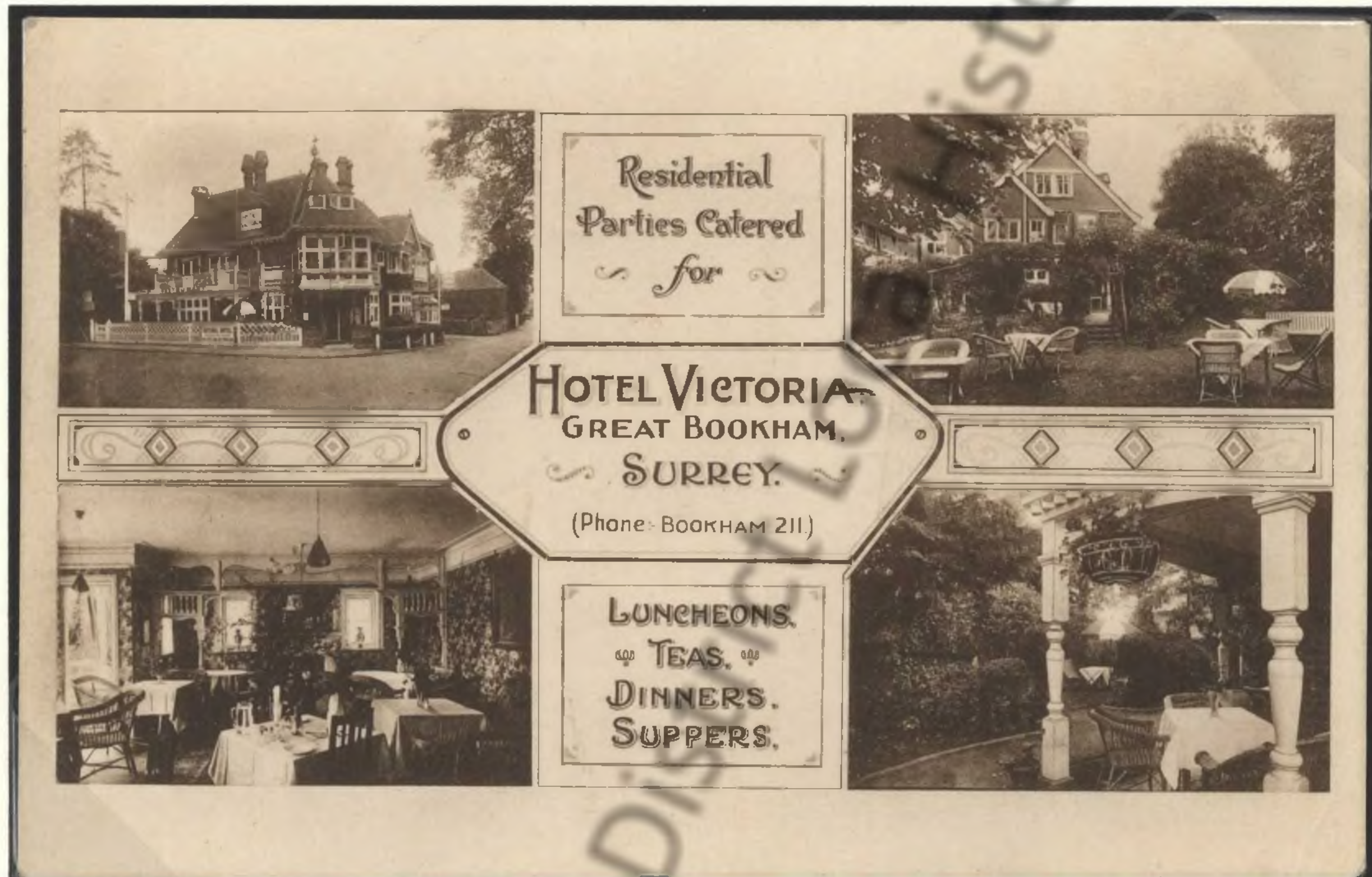
The Bookhams

High Street, west side - Victoria Hotel now Rayleigh House

The building on the corner of Guildford Road and the High Street is Rayleigh House, previously the Victoria Hotel. Built in 1896 as a temperance hotel for Mrs Chrystie. The hotel was built by Andrew West who, in common with Mrs Chrystie, was a native of Fife in Scotland.

Following the death of Mrs Chrystie in 1911, the Victoria Hotel was bought by Victor Hayward of the Grove who continued to own it through the 1920s. During the 1920s and 30s there were leisure facilities for the young at the hotel, including a youth club in the basement. The building behind the hotel had a billiard room on the first floor with a cycle store beneath.

A unknown but wonderful postcard showing different aspects of the Victoria Hotel c1920



The High Street, the main street set out by the Saxons, had regular plots on either side having a similar depth. At the time, of course, the farmers did not live on their land but had their homes grouped together. Under the Manorial system they lived a community life having plots in many different parts of the agricultural land of the manor and sharing the manorial waste. Many of the houses now standing are second generation buildings, that is they replaced the wooden buildings which fronted the High Street until the 16th century.

The Bookhams

High Street, west side - Victoria Hotel now Rayleigh House

From the early 1900s until the Second World War, Bookham was a known beauty spot and designated so on one of S P B Mais' Walks. People in their hundreds came by train or bicycle for walks or cycling tours to visit Bookham Common, Ranmore and other beauty spots.



The top postcard is from Canon and below is a card from B.S.W & Co.



The Bookhams

High Street, west side - Victoria Hotel now Rayleigh House

It continued as a hotel until the mid 1950s, with the exception of 1939-1945 when it was used as a Home Guard headquarters, a British Restaurant and an ARP centre.

In 1943, the threat of invasion was reduced and the Home Guard and the ARP moved out of Victoria Hotel and the British Restaurant was transferred to the Barn Hall. Then the Victoria Hotel became one of the many places in the area to house Canadian troops where they remained until the end of the war.



The first postcard is a Friths dated 1905. The street was then called Upper Street. You can just make out the coach and horses on the right hand side of the hotel making a beer delivery. The two little girls on the right are posing for the photo. The second postcard is late 1800s/early 1900s.



The Bookhams

High Street, west side - Victoria Hotel now Rayleigh House

In the 1930s Mr Macdonald had a hairdressing salon at the front of the hotel but after his war service with the RAF as a barber he moved to Leatherhead Road. Since the mid 1950s the building has been used as commercial offices with a car park where the hotel outbuildings had been.



Above is an early 1900s Frith's postcard and below an unknown card c1920.



The Bookhams

High Street, west side - Victoria Hotel now Rayleigh House

In the top postcard from Photocrome dated 1905, the former Victoria Hotel is seen straight ahead on the corner of the High Street and the Guildford Road. As can be seen, the Guildford Road did not cut this area off as it does now, but did an S bend at this point. On the left of the fence marks the boundary of Bookham Grove, and on the right, Grove Cottages, which were formerly an inn known originally as The White Hart.

The bottom postcard from Frith's c1920/30s shows a closer picture of the Victoria Hotel without Grove Cottages, but they are on the right behind the fencing.

When Viscount Downe acquired the Bookham Grove estate in 1775 the inn became the Saracen and Ring to commemorate an ancestor of his who fought in the Crusades. He slew a Saracen and also a lion and presented its paw to the King. In return the King gave him a ring and granted him the right to have a crest bearing a Saracen with a ring and a lion's paw. However, in 1895, that ardent temperance worker Mrs Chrystie, bought the premises and resold them as private dwellings.



The Bookhams

High Street, west side - Victoria Hotel now Rayleigh House

The present name, Rayleigh House, came from the amalgamation of the name of the firm that first occupied it (Ray Heating) and the owner's name (Mr Lee) thus the name Raylee or Rayleigh was formed. It eventually was occupied by a number of firms.



The above is a Real Photo postcard postally used dated c1911. Below is an unknown postcard dated late 1900s.



The Bookhams

High Street, west side - England's and Victoria Cottage

Nest door to Rayleigh House are two picturesque semi-detached timber framed cottages at numbers 30 and 28, High Street, known as England's and Victoria Cottage. Originally they were part of the Grove Estate and were standing in 1548 when Dame Elizabeth Durden occupied them with about two acres of land. On the death of Rt Hon Laura, Dowager Viscountess Downe in 1812, the property was described as 'England's Hame, together with malt house barn, stable, outhouses, old garden and orchard.'

In the 17th century the south wall was added complete with fireplace, bressemer, brick oven and the staircase alongside, that exist today. The house originally would have had a hole in the roof through which the smoke from the fire escaped. The northern part now Victoria Cottage, has been a separate house since the late 18th century. Some of the leaded lights of the first floor windows in diamond panes, have probably survived from the mid 16th century.

No 30 continued to be residential until 1965. Mr and Mrs Atkins lived there at the beginning of the century; Mr Atkins was a gardener at Eastwick Park while Mrs Atkins made boiled sweets at home. She went around the village selling the sweets and at weekends Mr Atkins sold them in the public houses, 12 sweets for a penny, additional sales being made at the front door of no.30.

The Atkins later moved to Thorncroft in Leatherhead, where he became a gardener. Afterwards, Albert Scott, the Bookham voluntary fire chief, parish clerk and gardener, occupied no 30 from about 1917 until at least 1939. The cottage was completely refurbished before it was privately occupied from 1960 until 1965 after which it was used as commercial offices. In 1992 it became England's House dental practice and one can see some of the interior of the cottage as the waiting room.



A local Frank R Walker postcard date unknown of England's (on the left) and Victoria Cottages.

The Bookhams

High Street, west side - England's and Victoria Cottage

After living in the front part of the Royal Oak, then in Flint Cottage (near where Flint Close is today) William and Emily Amey, whose family can be traced back to the 1700s in Bookham, moved to the top of the High Street in the early 1900s next to what is now England's House Dental Practice, and this became the home of the Amey family for the next 90 years. It used to be called Victoria Cottages. Sadly, her husband and first-born son died of 'galloping consumption,' leaving her with three young girls - Florrie, Alice and Ethel Kate but she chose not to remarry, saying, 'How'd I know what any other man would be like to my children?'



A Frith's postcard c1950s of the High Street. England's and Victoria Cottage would be on the left hand side of the postcard.



The Bookhams

High Street, west side - England's and Victoria Cottage



Mrs Emily Amey (pictured left) was engaged in 1906 as the Barn Hall's caretaker/cleaner and worked there until she was 85, starting at a wage of 4/6d, and ending at 7/- a week. In 1911 Lloyd George brought in National Insurance and she lost 3d weekly - a real hardship. She looked after the interests of those hiring the hall and maintained the two fires in the main hall and the one in the annexe and kept the whole place beautifully clean and tidy. Right up to her retirement she could be seen on her hands and knees, scrubbing the floor and trudging up and down the road on winter nights, making sure that the Hall was locked up. As if all that was not enough work she was caretaker for St Nicolas Church as well. She cleaned the church and changed the altar frontal and she would stagger up the High Street clutching piles of choir robes. Washing them involved hauling water from the well in her garden and ironing without the aid of electricity. Mrs Amey also managed to find time to assist the doctor to deliver babies although she was not qualified

Later the over 60s Club appreciated her - both as their eldest member and for her cheerful disposition and genuine enjoyment of their meetings and outings. As a mark of respect she was made the first Hon. Vice President of the BCA (Bookham Community Association) and Amey Drive is named after her. She died in April 1959, aged 95.

Her youngest daughter, Miss Ethel Kate Amey, who had been head girl at Bookham School, found a job in a Bookham draper's store. Later she travelled to India as a children's 'nurse' (child-minder) to a Scottish missionary family, the Rev Scott and his wife. She returned with them to Edinburgh and then lived in Kensington and Guildford until the war, when she began cooking meals for the evacuees in the Old Barn Hall. She ran the school meal service at the Barn Hall until 1957. Her sister, Mrs Griffiths worked as assistant cook with her for over 16 years.

Miss Amey would speak her mind forcefully about village matters until well past her 80th year. She never married but was active in St Nicolas Church and later in the Over 60's Club until she retired in 1964, Miss Amey said it had always been her endeavour to do her Duty, with a large D, and her reward had been the well-being of the children. She died in 1992 and Victoria Cottage continues to be residential.



The picture is of the Victoria Cottage well and possibly Mrs Amey and one of her daughters.

The Bookhams

High Street, west side - Fairfield

The modern flats well back from the High Street were built in the grounds of Fairfield, where there had been a number of out-houses including a barn, which in recent years had housed a squash court.

Fairfield is basically an eighteenth century house built in Queen Anne style with a mansard roof. The name Fairfield was adopted in 1914 when the house known as the Hermitage in Lower Road, at the time called Eastwick Lane, assumed that name in place of its former of Fairfield, being nearby to a field known as Fair Plot, and further to the south east Fair Field and Fair Field Bottom all of which lay between the Upper and Lower Roads on the east side then called Fair Lane.

Fairfield was probably one of the first substantial houses of brick in the High Street and, would have been largely self supporting with its 6 acres of land. On the north side of the house there is a window with bars, sealed on the inside, which ventilated what was a brew house. Ale brewed and drunk in preference to the water from the well that had been polluted.

The Arnetts, a wealthy business family with five unmarried daughters, lived at Fairfield from the beginning of the last century until the early 1920s. It is said that Mary Jane Arnett, the youngest daughter; introduced the Boy Scout movement to Bookham, she held weekly scout meetings at Fairfield and took the boys to annual summer camp at Worthing. In St. Nicolas' Churchyard one of the two gravestones for the Arnett family has the name Mary Jane Arnett, died 1921.

Rear Admiral Pudsey Dawson was the owner of Fairfield after the Arnetts until his death in 1936, when his son, Mounsey Dawson continued to live there until it was sold in 1937.

The last private owner of Fairfield was Lord Tucker, a Lord of Appeal. Soon after the war he presided at the trial for the treason of William Joyce, known as 'Lord Haw Haw,' because of the anti British propaganda which he broadcast from Germany during the war. He was subsequently executed at the Tower of London. Lord Tucker was very kind to the young folk of the village and allowed them to use his squash court. He also allowed a local law student to use his library. He died in 1975

Fairfield, which still remains was bought by Hyde the builder and developer and used as offices. The beautiful gardens at the rear were converted to a car park but the views of the house from the road have been opened up with the development.

The postcard has been postally used and is dated Nov 7th 1913.



The description of the house discloses a very different way of life a hundred and fifty years ago. There were wine, ale and beer cellars and a brew house of which the remains of an unglazed window still exists. Above the scullery a large reservoir for safe water held about ten pipes (a little over 100 gallons) there were two 2-stall stables, a coach house with lofts over, wood and coal houses, a well of fine spring water and although the immediate grounds only consisted of six acres there was a small farm-yard with a timber built barn, lean-to-shed, poultry house and piggery.

18 & 20 High Street, west side

Just on the left of the Royal Oak public house in this Tucks postcard c1950s are two cottages, which originally was thought to be three attached cottages. Numbers 18 & 20 are residential and the third is now a shop.

Until 1965 where the solicitors office is (22a) used to be an open space with access to the rear of the cottages so that carts could drive through to load and unload at the back of the shop.

The office was built on to number 22 in 1965 at the same time as part of the land behind the cottages was sold to make a car park for the Royal Oak.

The site of the Beauty Salon (number 22) was occupied from about 1909 until at least 1919 by Albert Farrow who had a dairy or, as locals remember it, a creamery. It became a fish shop in the mid-1920s, then a series of grocer's, Frosts in the late 1920s, Page Bros until 1939 and Drakes through the war years and until the 1960s. Then Suffolks introduced the mini market shop and were there until 1970 when they transferred to the top of the High Street, to what is now the Co-op, formerly Rusts. It then became a Do It Yourself shop until 1995 when the Beauty Shop from Church Road moved in.

At cottage number 18, there used to be the telephone exchange for the National Telephone Company until 1932. Mrs Harris, a widow of WW1 lived here with her young family of five children and operated the switchboard.

The exchange in Church Road was opened in the early 1930s, replacing the one at number 18, but Mrs Harris continued at the new building at least until 1940. Downstairs it is still possible to see where the telephone equipment had been and upstairs the plaster and timber framing indicates that this may be one of the oldest buildings in the High Street. The outer brickwork of the three cottages disguises a timber-framed house possibly c1400, with a Georgian façade added in the early 18th century.



A Tuck's postally used postcard dated 1961 shows nos.18 & 20 High Street on the left hand side of the card, next door to the Royal Oak. The photo shows a similar views as it is today.

The Bookhams

High Stree, west side - The Royal Oak Public House

The Royal Oak was owned by the Swan Brewery of Leatherhead until 1922. The timber and plaster centre of the building is the original 16th century part and the extensions on both sides are probably Victorian. At the rear of the premises were two cottages which have been incorporated into the public house. It was a beer house, probably owned by a farm belonging to Eastwick Park to brew and provide beer for the workers. In 1628 the Royal Oak paid a rental to the Manor of Eastwick on the feast day of St John the Baptist of 'a red rose and a quart of Lamphreys.' It remained a beer house until the mid-1950s when it received a spirit licence transferred from a Dorking pub.

One of the landlords of the Royal Oak was Sydney Stevenson who managed the public house for 38 years from 1913 until 1951 ably assisted by his wife, particularly while he was serving in France from 1914 until 1917, when he was wounded and brought home. He died, aged 69 in 1951.

The Royal Oak name comes from the oak in which Charles II concealed himself at Boscobel after his defeat at Worcester in 1651. To the side of the Royal Oak was a saddlery, then a boot and shoe business.



A Frith series postcard taken looking from the north end with the Royal Oak on the right hand side The picture is of the Royal Oak from the side which is also the car park where the Saddlery business used to be.



The Bookhams

High Stree, west side - The Royal Oak Public House /Ragge Family

Robert Ragge (1755-1802) seems to have been the first member of the family to have had a definite association with Great Bookham rather than with Leatherhead. He had two sons Robert and James, who married two sisters Jane and Mary Russell who came from Nutfield. Jane married when she was 22 years old at Nutfield Parish Church, the marriage certificate states that Robert was 'of Eastwick.' They are reputed to have had 22 children and the baptism of many of them is recorded in the Parish Registers - she also adopted two more as 'they would not notice' in her large family. He died aged 71 having served the Parish as its Clerk for 28 years. She spent her declining years as pew-opener in St Nicolas Church and died in 1873.

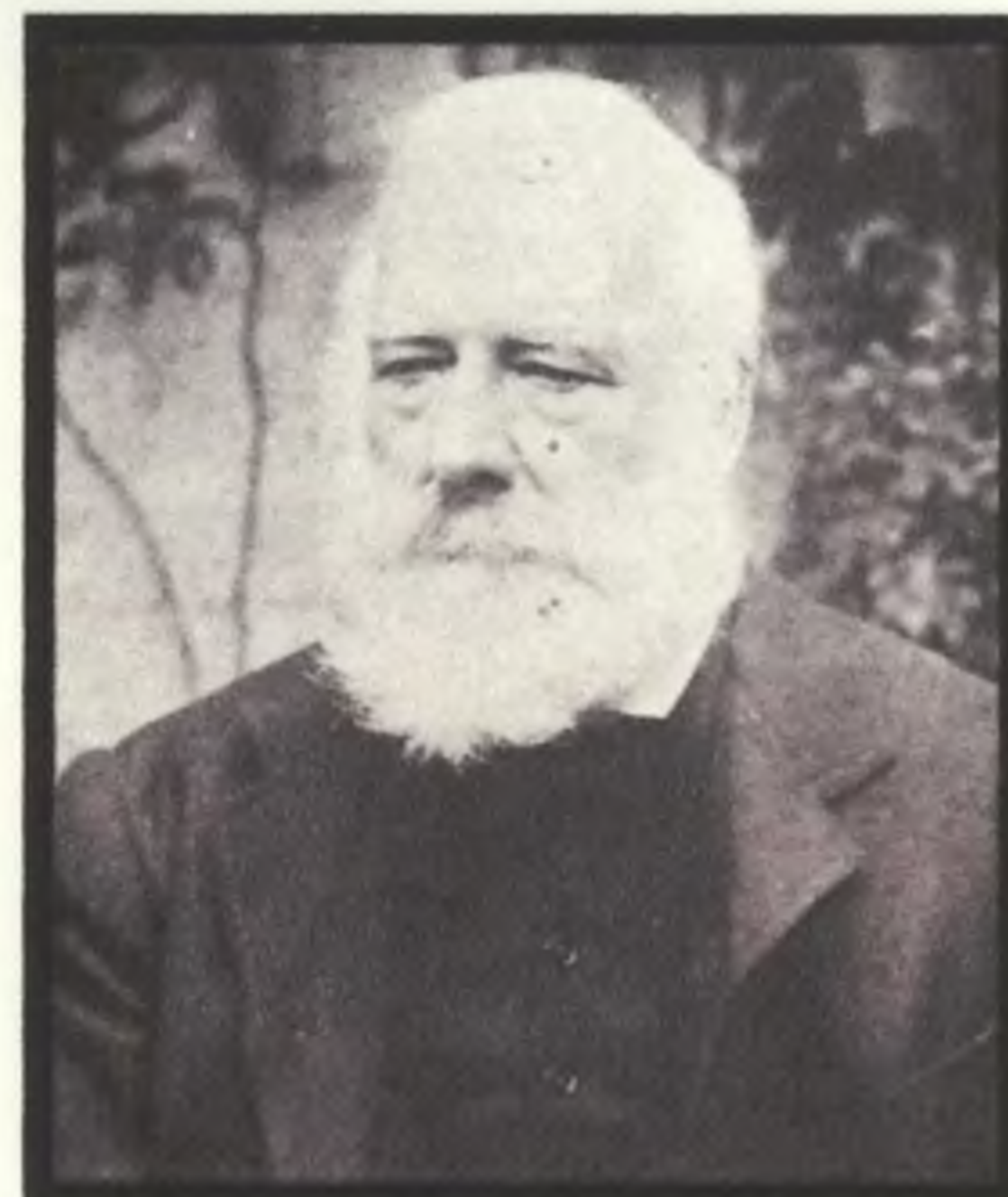
Their son, Richard, born in 1831, continued the saddlery business and was verger and the parish Clerk for 55 years - a period of 83 years service to the Parish by Father and Son. Richard then aged 90 and the oldest parishioner was born in the Reign of King William IV. He was presented at the Gigantic Fair at Great Bookham in 1922 to HRH Duke of York (later George VI) who he reminded was the Great, Great Nephew of William IV. Richard died in the same year.

Richard's daughter Catherine married George Charles Wyatt, the blacksmith at the Forge across the road at no. 19 High Street and their eldest daughter Winifred Ann Wyatt was a teacher of the piano, violin and organ, and continued the family tradition of service to the community by being organist at Little Bookham Church and later at the Congregational Church and with her death the family association with Great Bookham came to an end.

James Stemp (or 'Shiner') who had been an apprentice to Ragge, took over the business around 1918. The single storey workshop lay to the rear of the cottage but the trade changed from saddlery to boot and shoe repairs and the Stemp family continued to run the business until the cottage and the workshop were demolished in the late 1960s in order to make way for the public car park.



A Frith repro postcard taken in 1955 looking from the north end with the sign of the Royal Oak Pub on the right. The picture is of Richard Ragge taken in 1922.



The Bookhams

High Street, west side

This Valentines postcard taken from the north end shows a shop called Walker-Smith on the right, which is where the Co-op is. There has been a grocery shop here since the early 1900s when it was Underwoods, a general village store which sold almost everything including millinery. In 1909 Walker-Smith, a licensed grocer, took over the shop and provided a superior service and quality. Mr Walker-Smith was killed in WW1 but his wife continued to run the shop with Mr Daley as manager until the 1920s.

Mr Everitt took over the management until he set up on his own in a shop in Church Road. Mrs Walker-Smith was very popular and also prominent in various village and church activities.

The building had large wooden doors on the left through which goods were delivered with a large plate glass window on the first floor. At the rear there was a bracket on which the hoses of the *Bookham Fire Brigade were hung to dry. The manual fire engine used to be kept here until it was moved to Annett's yard opposite. Over the shop doorway was a bell, which was used to call the fire brigade, this was rung every Saturday by a member of the **Lewer family as a test.

The shop was purchased by International Stores in the 1960s when the shop front was changed. Later it became Gateway and then Somerfields and now the Co-op.



**The fire engine was hand-drawn with a manual pump and manned by local families. Harold Bostock of Fife Lodge was the last Captain. The tank on the engine normally kept filled with water but one weekend some of the crew had prepared the engine for a very smart turn-out, the brass was polished until it glittered in the sun – the paintwork touched up. The following day there was a fire at Bookham Railway Station, the bell was rung, and the crew left their jobs and ran to the engine. They raced down to the station, laid out the hoses, only to find that the tank had not been refilled with water. None was immediately available! This was the smartest turnout but led to the demise of the local voluntary fire brigade.*

***Near the turn of the 20th century 'Captain' Lewer of a local village family, a simple country loving person, was given the task of trimming the wayward boughs of one of the walnut trees in the Churchyard. He sat on a branch cutting it with his saw - unfortunately he was sawing between himself and the trunk of the tree. Local legend tells that his ensuing fall was the cause of his being a 'simple' man.*

The Bookhams

High Street, west side - Burpham House

Next to the Co-op is Burpham House, formerly Franton built in the early 19th century. It is unique to Bookham being the only building of true Regency style. Rumour has it that the cellars were used for police cells.

The shop has been a baker's since 1900. Mr Grantham was the baker until 1915 after which Edward Moss ran the bakery until Mr and Mrs Hanson took over the business in 1930. Mrs Hanson ran the shop on her own after her husband's death until the 1960s when the Pearces took over. Until that time Burpham House had been lived in by the baker's family but then the right hand side became an estate agent's office, before being used by Atwood, an insurance broker.

The postcard is dated c1921 showing Burpham House on the extreme right - there was no real danger of traffic in those days!



HIGH STREET, BOOKHAM.

The Bookhams

The Crossroads

The crossroads are formed by the track along the belt of Thanet Sand, linking the villages and intersecting the Saxon High Street and the road crossing Bookham Common to Chertsey Abbey. Thanet Sand is the narrow strip of land which lies between the damp clay lands to the north and the chalk hills to the south, this being the driest site for a track.

Westwards, at intervals along the outcrop of the Thanet Sand, were ancient valleys silted up with gravel, a relic of the moraine, which is material transported by a glacier and then deposited, left by the ice ages. There are such beds at Little Bookham and Great Bookham, lying between the Thanet Sand and Harroway, an ancient trackway in the south of England. The gravel provided a well-drained area on which to live and Great Bookham High Street was a well thought out planning scheme; a site being reserved for a place of worship at the Northern End with the street running south. Being gregarious, and for safety, the wooden dwellings were built together along both sides of the High Street.



Both postcards are from Frith's and are dated in the 1960s. The postcard below has been postally used, dated 1962. They show the four sides of the crossroads - above Lloyds Banks on the west side and opposite the building that butts onto Wyvern House, which houses an estate agents. Below adjacent to Lloyd Bank is the Crown Inn on the east side and opposite is St Nicolas Church.



The Bookhams

The Crossroads

On the opposite corner to Lloyds Bank at the crossroads is the estate agents Patrick Gardner. The building butts onto an 18th century property called Wyvern House in Church Road. The west part of the building that houses Patrick Gardner had been the King's Arms public house, built in the 16th century of brick and flint. The two parts of the building that extend to the corner are extensions made in the latter part of the 19th century. Until 1905 Harry Edser had a baker's shop here and part of the building that had been the King's Arms became the bakehouse on the ground floor with stores on the first floor, the access to which was by a surviving outside staircase.

From 1905 until the early 1920s what had been Edser's corner shop was occupied by Arthur Sayer as a general store and refreshment rooms which were popular with cyclists and walkers coming from the station on their way to Ranmore and Polesden Lacey. From the early 1920s until the mid-1930s this corner shop was an ironmongers run by Mr Cordingley who had moved from a shop opposite Lower Road. Then the Bookham Paint and Ironmongery Supply occupied the shop until about 1940. Between 1940 and 1945 the WRVS ran a forces canteen here which was mainly patronised by the Canadian soldiers stationed in the village. In the early 1950s Mrs Hind had a teashop where she also sold antiques but since then it has been used for a variety of purposes including offices, a flat and a play school.



This unknown postcard dated c1910 shows the Bookham Stores - The Cyclists Rest run by Arthur Sayer, with Wyvern House to the right. Below is another unknown postcard of the crossroads but notice the Cyclists Rest is now H.H. Cordingley's, dated early 1930s.



The Bookhams

The Crossroads

A Frith's postcard postally used dated 1968. It shows the Old Crown Inn and Lloyds Bank with the High Street in between.

The infamous "Square-about." The road sign before you reach this feature says "Give Way." There are no formal rules about who gets precedence when there is traffic from different directions.



The Bookhams

The Crossroads - Cordingly's/Stevens now Lloyds Bank

Diagonally across from the church on the corner of the High Street and Lower Road is Lloyds Bank.

This site was occupied by William Cordingly who came to Bookham to work as a plumber for George Baker in the 1870s. By the 1890s William Cordingly was running the firm which by then was known as Cordingly & Sons, a hardware and plumbers shop.



The postcard c1890 shows the shop in relation to the High Street and the Crown opposite, which was not set back from the crossroads as the present building is. The picture below of William Cordingly in front of his shop with his three daughters - Matilda, Annie and Bessie - and the men on the right are his two sons - Henry, also a plumber, and William, a house painter.



The Bookhams

The Crossroads - Cordingly's/Stevens now Lloyds Bank

In 1912 Cordingly's became Stevens, a newsagent, stationer and sweet shop, who remained until the building was extended and altered in 1932 for Lloyds Bank. Above the bank there was a dental surgery, Hyde and Wright, from the 1930s until the 1960s.



The above local Stevens postcard has been postally used dated Sept 1923. Stevens took a lot of photographs to make local postcards. Below is a Real Photo postcard from published by Stevens Photo Services. To the side of the shop is William Cordingly's sons business - H.H. Cordingly - Plumbers & Sanitary Engineers and Builder & Decorator.

