A POSTCARD COLLECTION OF BOOKHAM

Ву

Barry Feltham

Album 1 (Pages 1 - 20)

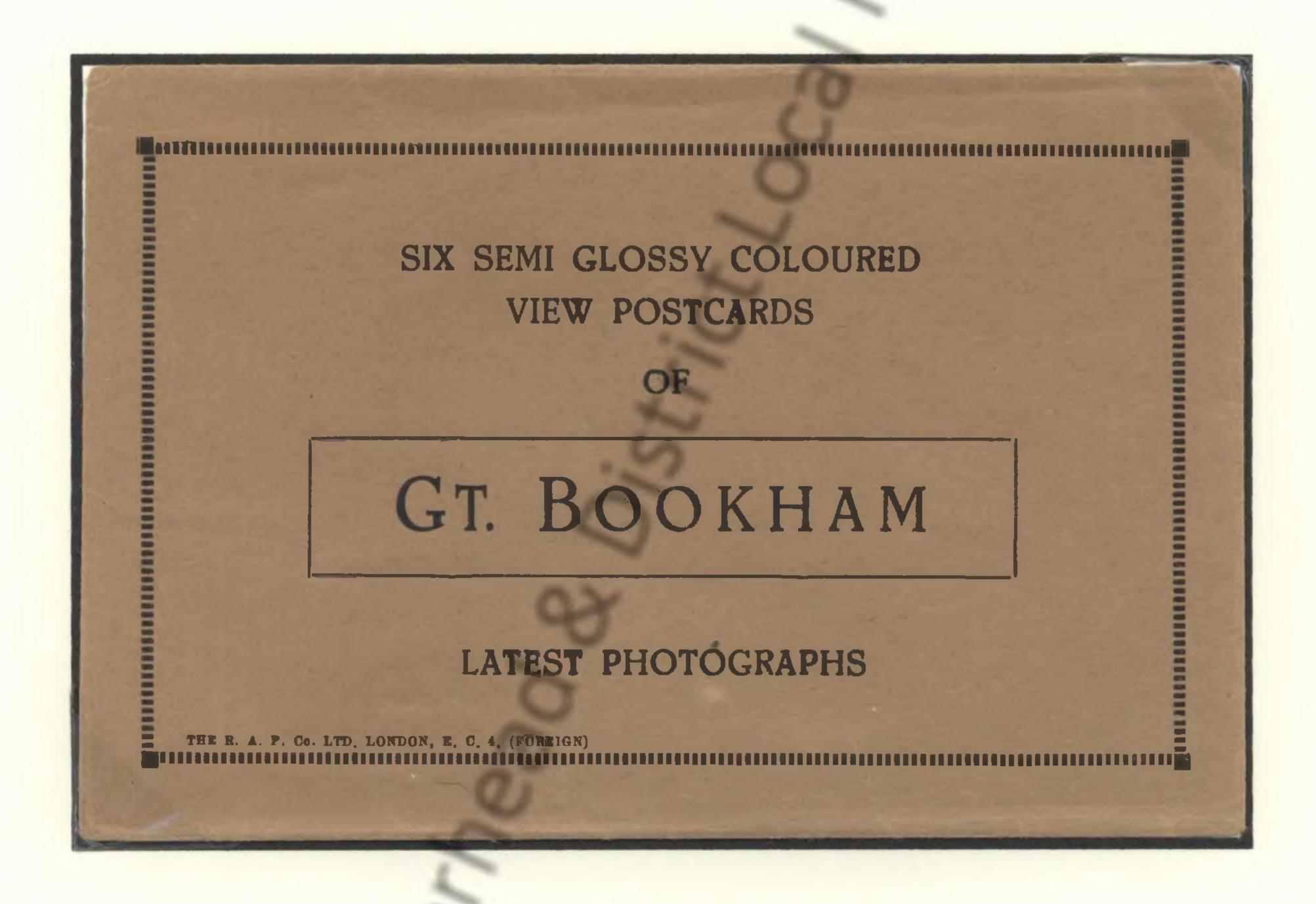
Introduction

This display is the history of The Bookhams - Great and Little Bookham by postcards, but with the added help of photos, where they are relevant, and where postcards are either not available, or are very rare, especially in the North End.

There are several books and articles that have been written on The Bookhams, and rather than me trying to rewrite the Bookham story I have tried to pull together all the information from these books and articles to produce, hopefully, the complete story in one volume.

Without the following information it would have been impossible to put together, so I am indebted to Bill Culley, who sadly died in June 2009, and Stephen Fortescue for their detailed histories of the Bookhams from which I have taken most of my text, with Bill's wife, Ena, and Stephen Fortescue's permission. I would also like to thank the Editor of the current Bookhams Bulletin, Martin Warwick, for his wonderfully informative articles on the Bookhams.

To follow a logical path around Bookham, I have used the same layout as in Bill Culley's book - Bookham in the Twentieth Century, and besides other useful information listed under acknowledgements, I have mainly used Stephen Fortescue's books to complete the story with additional information from the Bookhams Bulletin.



The Bookhams

The villages are situated on the A246 which is the main route for traffic travelling between the Surrey towns of Leatherhead and Guildford. Whilst once two distinct villages, the Bookhams have long been interconnected with residential roads that give most newcomers the impression that it is in fact one large village. Bookham's population according to the census of 2001 is about 11,000 or 4620 households and has some light industry, small offices and several dozen shops. Many residents commute to London or work within about a thirty mile radius of the village. The Bookhams come under the Mole Valley District Council.

The population growth in the Bookhams taken by census:

1801/1811 - 120 families.

1871 - 1,286

1911 - 1,990.

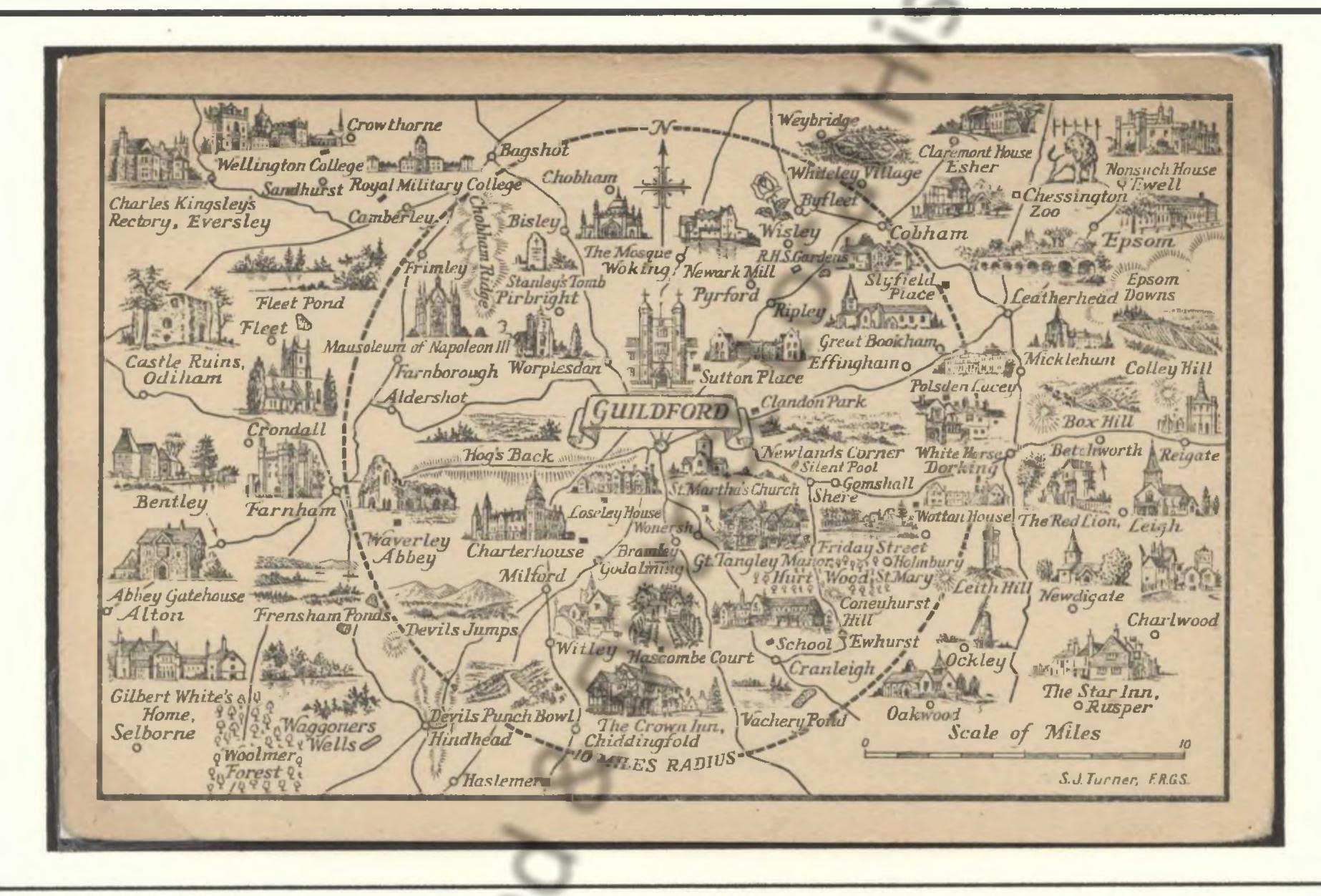
1951 - 4,300.

1981 - 10,300

2001 - 10,320 with 4,350 households.

The next census - March 2011.

Below is Centre Series postcard with Guildford at the centre and extending to a 10 miles radius showing St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham, Slyfield Place and Polesden Lacey.



The Bookhams are extremely fortunate to have the BCA (Bookham Community Association) and the BRA (Bookham Residents' Association.)

The BCA was established in 1947 and aims to advance education and provide facilities for the leisure time of the communities of Great and Little Bookham and the immediate neighbourhood. This is achieved by encouraging organisations with various interests, managing the Old Barn Hall, publishing the Bookhams Bulletin four times a year and organising the annual Village Day and Village Week.

The BRA was founded in 1926 to preserve the amenities and natural beauty of both Great and Little Bookham, together with the surrounding areas, through an active executive committee and membership, They take responsibility for and keep a keen watch on many matters concerning village life. These include:

- the preservation of trees, buildings and open spaces
- A watching brief of building and development
- Road safety and traffic matters
- Footpaths and rights of way
- Schools in the area & educational issues
- The Christmas lights
- hanging baskets
- Law & order
- Recreational facilities
- public transport

Introduction

Acknowledgements:

All the information for this display/book comes from many sources, which has helped me to complete the Bookham story. I am indebted to the Bookhams Bulletin that has supplied a wealth of material, which is precisely one of its aims - to help local historians.

Thank you to David Bravery for allowing me to copy his old maps of Bookham, other relevant material, and his help.

I would also like to thank Terry Staff for helping me identify certain places and pointing me in the right direction, and in addition for his proof reading.

If there are any sources that I may have inadvertently missed out, I apologise.

Other sources:

Libby Matts - St. Nicholas Church history.

St Nicolas Church website.

Mrs Rice-Oxley - Map.

The Leatherhead Advertiser.

The National Trust.

Australian Postal History Society.

Bookham Heritage Trail leaflet produced by Mole Valley Council in association with the Leatherhead & District Local History Society.

Images of Bookham and Fetcham complied by Linda Heath.

The Inns and Public Houses of Leatherhead and District by Goff Powell.

Articles from the Bookham Bulletin published by the Bookham Community Association, especially several articles written by Martin Warwick - the current editor.

Golden Jubilee of the BCA by Christine Leonard.

Google Maps

1800 - Great Bookham at the time of Jane Austen/Fanny Burney and R.B. Sheridan by Elizabeth Matts/Nigel Fenner/Derek Renn and William Whitman.

A Personal Memoire of Southey Hall Preparatory School by Charles R Butt.

Look Local for their article on Grove Cottages.

Green Line by A. McCall

www.francisfrith.com

Wikipedia

Bookham in the Twentieth Century by Bill Culley.

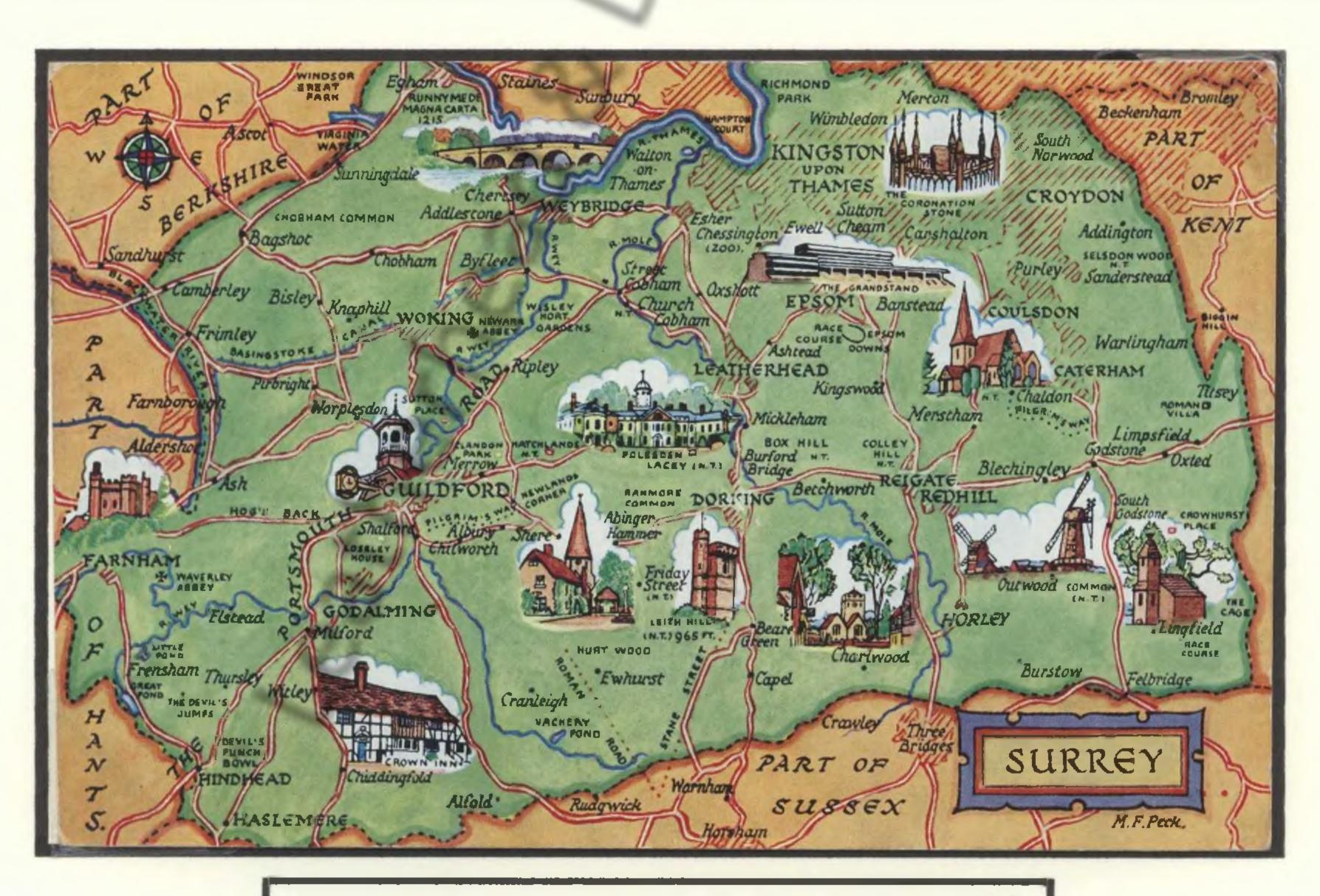
The following books by S E D Fortescue.

The story of two Villages Great & Little Bookham.

People & Places.

Great & Little Bookham The North End.

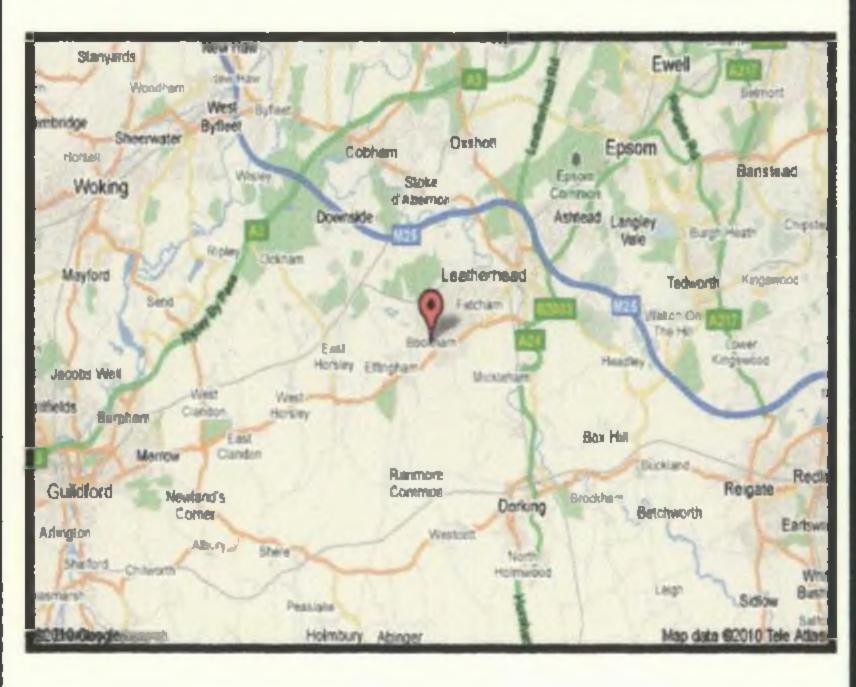
The Howard Vault St Nicolas Church by S E D Fortescue & E A Crossland.

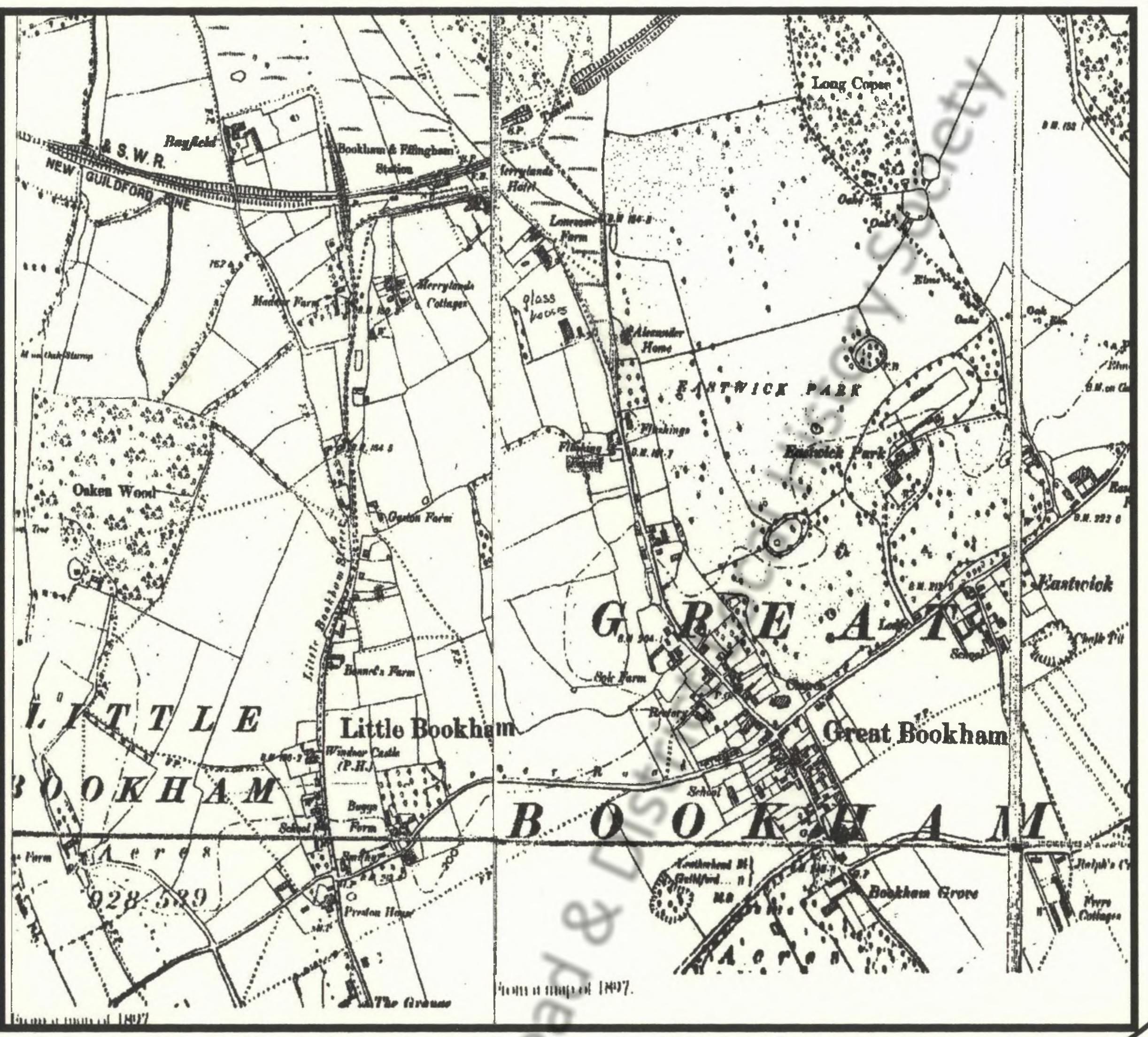


A Salmon series postcard of Surrey postally used dated 1960

History

Centuries before the Norman Conquest, much of Bookham, Bocham, "the village by the beeches," or, "the settlement at the beech trees," had been given to Chertsey Abbey by a Saxon ruler of Surrey. Both Great and Little Bookham, like many other villages on this side of the North Downs, are sited along the narrow band of fertile sandy gravel soils between open chalk grassland (once colonised by beech woods, then largely cleared by grazing animals) and the heavy oakwood clays (good for timber for fuel and houses.) Here clean water was easily available from periodic springs or shallow wells. Although, the ridgeway would have been the drier route, it was exposed in bad weather. The Bookhams are surrounded by common land.





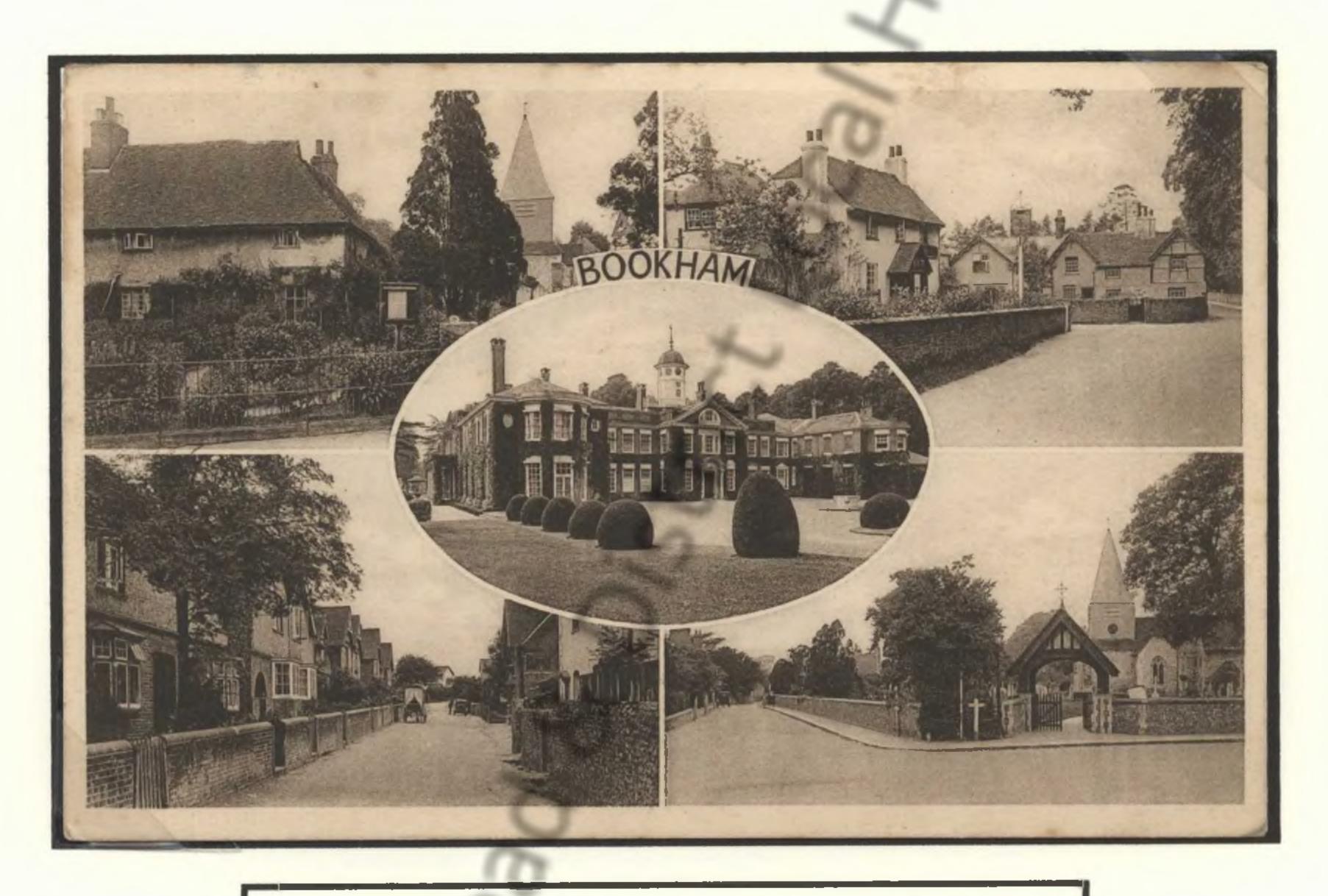
1897 map of the Bookhams

History

According to a charter c.675, the original of which is lost but which exists in a later form, there was granted to the Abbey "twenty dwellings at Bocham cum Effingham." This was confirmed by four Saxon kings; "King Offa of Mercia and of the nations roundabout" in 787; King Athelstan who was "King and ruler of the whole island of Britain" in 933 confirmed the privileges to the monastery; King Edgar, "Emperor of all Britain" in 967 confirmed "twelve mansiones" in Bocham, and King Edward the Confessor, "King of the English" in 1062 confirmed twenty mansae at Bocham cum Effingham, Driteham and Pechingeorde. Great Bookham lay within the Anglo-Saxon administrative district of Effingham half hundred.

What is this - Bookham part of Effingham? And what is a 'Hundred'? There always has had to be a way of collecting taxes, of ruling and maintaining law and a 'Hundred' was part of one of the systems. England for many centuries has been divided up into shires or counties and then subdivided further into smaller administration areas. Today we have the counties and councils. With 'Hundreds' we are going back to a scheme introduced first in Saxon times, AD 600 to 1000 and still meaningful until just some 140 years ago.

A 'Hundred' in Saxon times was the division of land, independent of parish boundaries, under a 'Hundreds' Man' or 'Hundred Eolder' and defined to be enough land to sustain approximately one hundred families. Above the 'Hundreds' was the shire (in many cases which coincided with county) under a shire-reeve or sheriff.



Greetings from Great Bookham - W G Jones postcard early 1920s

History

What is now Surrey had fourteen such divisions one of which was the Effingham 'Hundred' was actually a 'Half Hundred' as it was only judged to be able to sustain 50 families. The Effingham 'Hundred' consisted of Effingham itself together with Great and Little Bookham. Later, not long after the Doomsday Book, the 'Hundred' was stated to include two places named as 'Driteham' and 'Pechingeorde' neither of which can now be identified. Driteham is thought to have been a settlement to the north of Effingham (near Pickett's Hole on the North Downs?) but Pechingeorde remains a mystery. There is a Dirtham Lane in Effingham but there appears to be no close connection.

Hundreds' themselves were divided into 'tithings' which contained ten households each with a 'Hide'. This unit of land enough to sustain one family varied between say 15 to 30 acres (6 to 12 hectares) depending whether it was good or bad agricultural land.

Another expectation from this overall system was its ability to raise an army to defend the country. Each 'Hundred' was expected to be able to raise twenty good soldiers.

One of the principal functions of the 'Hundred' became the administration of law and the keeping of the peace and a 'Hundred' court by the twelfth century was held regularly, initially twelve times a year and later every two or three weeks. One of the main duties of the 'Hundred' court was maintaining of a system whereby units of ten households (tithings) were bound together to be responsible for conduct within the tithing. The system was known as 'frankpledge'. A 'tithing-man' was responsible for crime in their tithe and for nominating the criminal to the court.



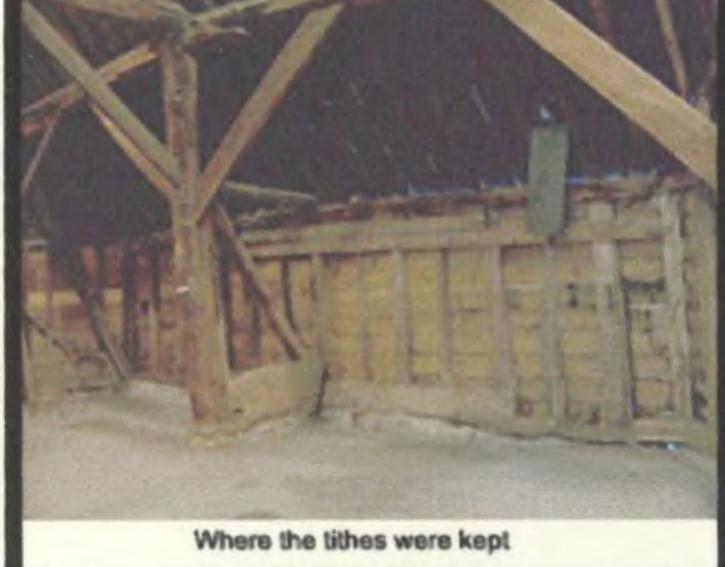
Greetings from Great Bookham - A used Frith postcard dated January 1929

History

Tithes or one tenth of whatever was produced had to be paid by each household and these were collected in a 'tithe barn' one of which stands to this day in Manor Farm in Manor House Lane. We are fortunate to have in Bookham one of the finest examples of a tithe barn and it may well be one of the largest in existence today. It covers 4,500 sq ft - a vast building. It has been maintained in first class condition with its beautiful oak beam structure. It is open to view at Heritages weeks and it is well worth a visit. The tithe stalls can be seen inside the barn where the tithe goods were stacked and stored. It is very impressive. Until the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII the tithes of our area were paid to the Abbott of Chertsey who was allocated this whole area of North West Surrey. Only remains are to be found now of the Abbey.

In the period of the middle 1800s groupings of 'Hundreds' were used to define parliamentary constituencies. Although 'Hundreds' had no administrative or legal role now, they have never been formally abolished.





The Tithe Barn







History

The Domesday Book 1086, which was a survey for taxation purposes, makes the first known distinction between the parishes of Great and Little Bookham, if it is assumed that there was no separate parish at the time of the charter of Edward the Confessor in 1062. Driteham and Pechingeorde are both referred to in the Domesday Book and appear to have been absorbed into the manors of Effingham and Effingham East Court. Great Bookham appears in Domesday Book as "Bocheham". It was held by St Peter's Abbey, Chertsey. Its Domesday Assets were: 13 hides; 1 church, 1 mill worth 10s, 20 ploughs, convert 6 acre m2 of meadow, woodland and herbage worth 110 hogs. It rendered (in total): £15.

The abbot of Chertsey reorganised Great Bookham into a single-street village with houses occupying the whole width of each plot, gardens reached from a back lane. The village was separated from the agricultural land and manorial waste by gates or hatches across the roads leading into the High Street, to prevent cattle from straying into the 'urban' area, until such time as the agricultural fields were enclosed by an Award made on the 19th March 1822, pursuant to an enabling act of 1821.

One end of the village was widened into a market place; King Henry III granted Bookham a charter for a weekly market on Tuesdays and an annual two day fair on the Eve and Day of Michaelmas (28th and 29th September) in 1243. The fair survived until the late 18th century.



A Frith postcard mid - 1950s

History

No church is mentioned in Domesday for Little Bookham but the present church has much, which can be dated to the 12th century. Curiously, its dedication is unknown having, presumably been forgotten at some point in the last 900 years. It now has the dedication - All Saints, a modern dedication.

Little Bookham, 'Parva Bokham' in 1255, was sold in 1324 to Hugh le Dispenser, a supporter of Edward II. Unfortunately for Hugh he had backed the wrong man - his king was deposed and later murdered. Hugh was executed in 1326. By 1480 Little Bookham was held by Richard, Duke of York who, together with his older brother, Edward V, aged twelve, was imprisoned in the Tower and murdered there in 1483. It then passed to their uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, who became king as Richard III.

Great Bookham was recorded as 'Magna Bocham' in 1270 and remained the property of Chertsey Abbey until Henry VIII dissolved the abbey in 1537. The next year, panelling for Henry's remarkable Nonsuch Palace near Ewell was made from timber felled on Bookham Common.

In 1550 the manor of Great Bookham was granted to Lord William Howard, son of the Duke of Norfolk, and it remained the property of several generations of Howards until it was sold in 1801; many Howards were buried in Great Bookham churchyard between 1633 and 1857.

Little Bookham (seven households in 1086) was held by the Hansard family during much of the Middle Ages but was in the hands of the Howards from 1498 to 1635. A number of half-timbered Tudor cottages survive in Bookham.



A Valentine & Sons postcard c1950s

History

In the early 17th century three large brick houses were built in widely separated parts of the manor. Part of Slyfield survives, but Eastwick has gone entirely and there is little trace of the 1631 Polesden. A century later Bookham Grove was built across the "White Way," a droveway which had continued the line of the High Street over the downs to Dorking. An act permitting a turnpike (toll) road between Leatherhead and Guildford was passed in 1758. When a detailed map of the manor was made in 1787, many of the individual medieval field-strips had already been absorbed into the new Eastwick Park, and enclosure of all the common fields was complete by 1822. In 1860 the southern end of the parish was cut off to form a new parish (Ranmore) attached to Thomas Cubitt's newly built house at Denbies, on the hill above the present vineyard. In 1885, the railway arrived, a branch line linking Leatherhead to the Guildford 'New Line' at Effingham Junction. Before then, the only 'public transport' was an occasional horse-drawn coach travelling along the turnpike, and a cart which went to London twice a week.

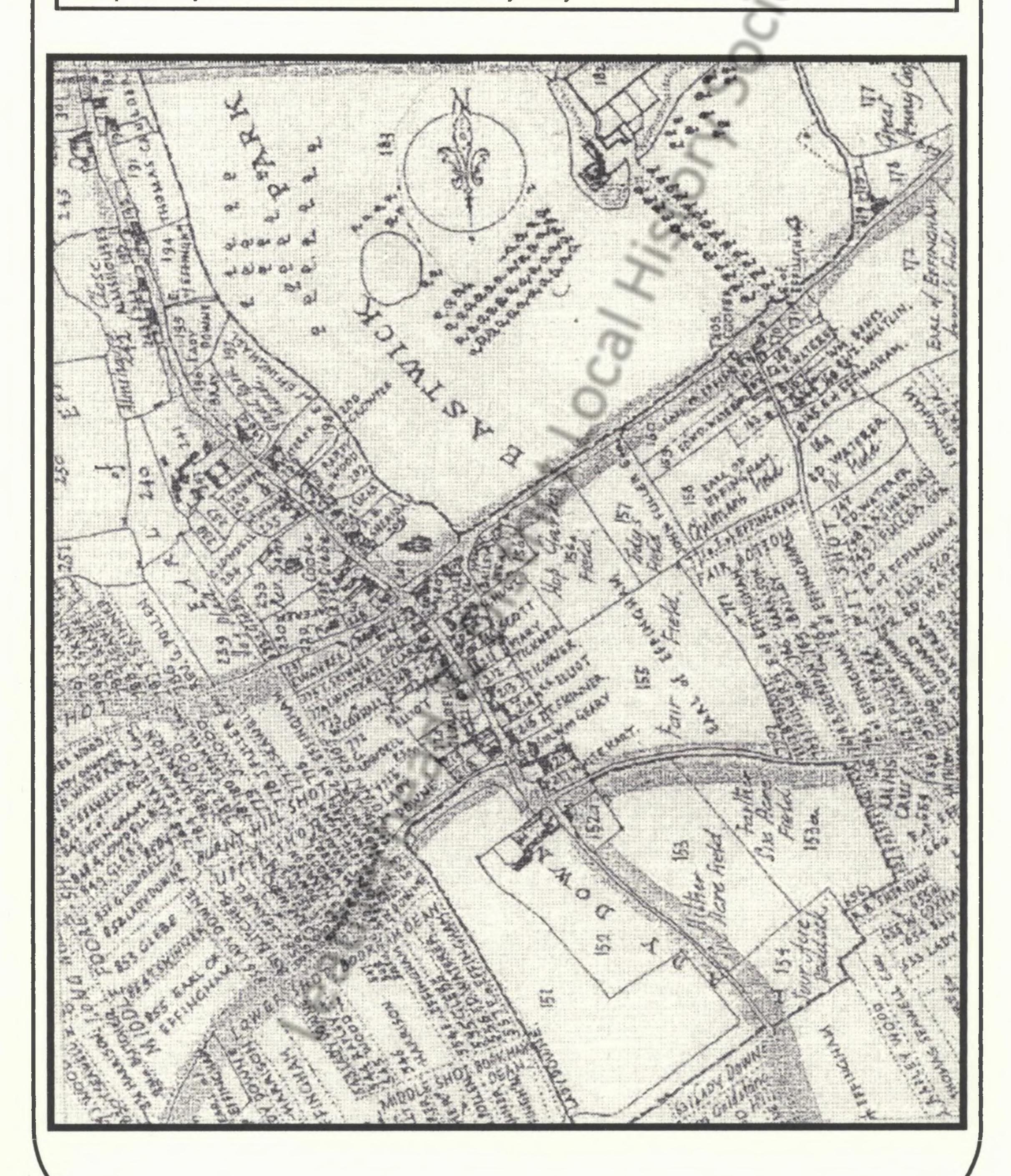
In 1876 Queen Victoria is declared Empress of India, Custer makes his last stand but is killed by North American Indians and Bell invents the telephone. Meanwhile, in Bookham... the population is about eleven hundred, made up of a Vicar and a curate, one member of the medical profession, a surgeon, about twelve families of the gentry and about nine farmers. The twenty-six tradesmen include four shoemakers, three grocers, two builders, two painters, two harness-makers, a butcher, a draper, a carrier, a confectioner, two bakers, two blacksmiths, one publican, three beer-sellers, a bricklayer, a stationer and a miller.



A Tuck's postcard early 1960s

History

A detailed map of the Parish giving the owner of each patch of land was made 1797-98. The medieval system was breaking up, although Bookham and Ranmore Commons were practically unchanged, the area of open arable in 463 separate strips were mainly sub-let to farmers rather than worked individually. Ninety percent of the 'uncommoned' land was owned by ten proprietors. The two largest landowners, The Earl of Effingham and R. B. Sheridan had about one quarter each. The map is courtesy of the Leatherhead & District Local History Society.



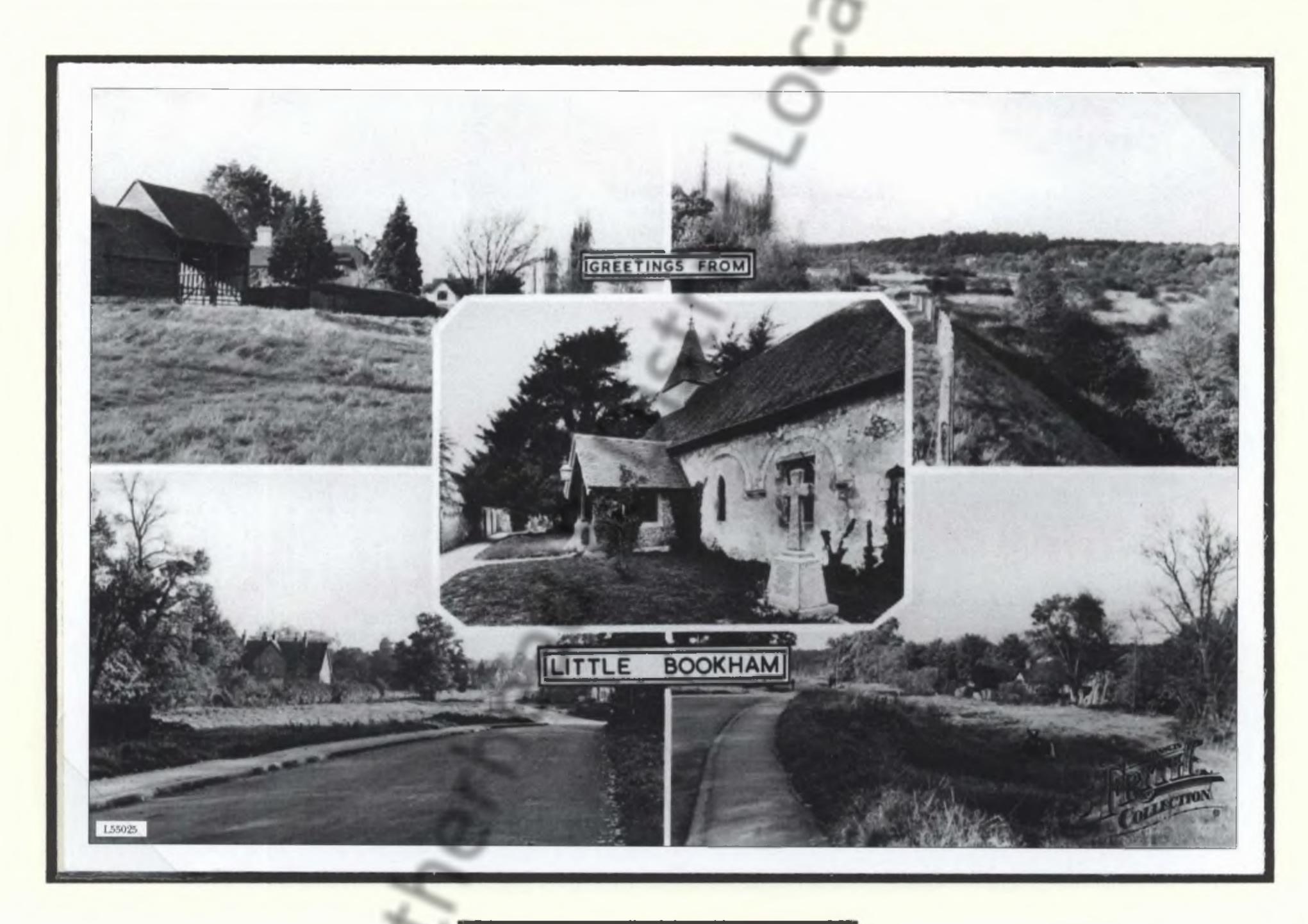
History

The Vicar in 1876 is Revd William Heberden, M.A. (rural Dean). His father presented him with the living, which included land, purchased at a cost of £10750, while William was at Oxford, so his brother-in-law, the Revd Andrewes, was persuaded to nurse the Parish until William was ordained in 1821.

William is the son and grandson of two very important men in medical science: both were doctors in Ordinary to George III. The Herberdens were wealthy and soon William replaced the Vicarage with a very fine Rectory. His wife, Elvina, died but their children, Maria, Catherine and Francis, are still living with him. There are five staff - a housekeeper/cook, a lady's maid, a housemaid, a kitchen maid and a man servant. William's will was witnessed by Mary Ann Smith, the children's nanny and by William Ragge, the Parish Clerk. His wealth enables him to spend three months each year in the South of France, which means leaving the Parish duties to his son (the curate) John. John lives at the Laurels, Church Place (which had become part of the High Street by the 21st century.) His wife Elizabeth and three children live there also – but no servants. Due to his haughty manner, Revd Heberden senior is known as 'The Pope.'

In this year, 1876, a man named Newton Arrow is walking around Bookham and recording what he sees. We will follow in his footsteps and turn right at the church down Church Road. We pass two Villas and the butchers shop. As we go further along the road we reach the Post Office, which is a money order office and Post Office Savings Bank. Opposite is the Vicarage where the Revd William Heberden lives, and then the house where the Doctor lives, Doctor Arthur Stedman, M.R.C.S.

The next building we meet is the Mill, four storey's high, then the four Almshouses, Flushings Farm and pretty Flushings Cottage. The farm belongs to William Leach (who is a minor) and is the last building we see on the road leading to the Isle of Wight Ponds. We now retrace our steps back to the Church



A repro Frith postcard dated 1955.

History

There is no distinction between the two parishes, (except in the Domesday Book of 1086, which was for taxation purposes) of Great and Little Bookham; as recently as 1824, lay documents relate to land transactions, in which land was described as being "in Great Bookham in the parish of Bookham."

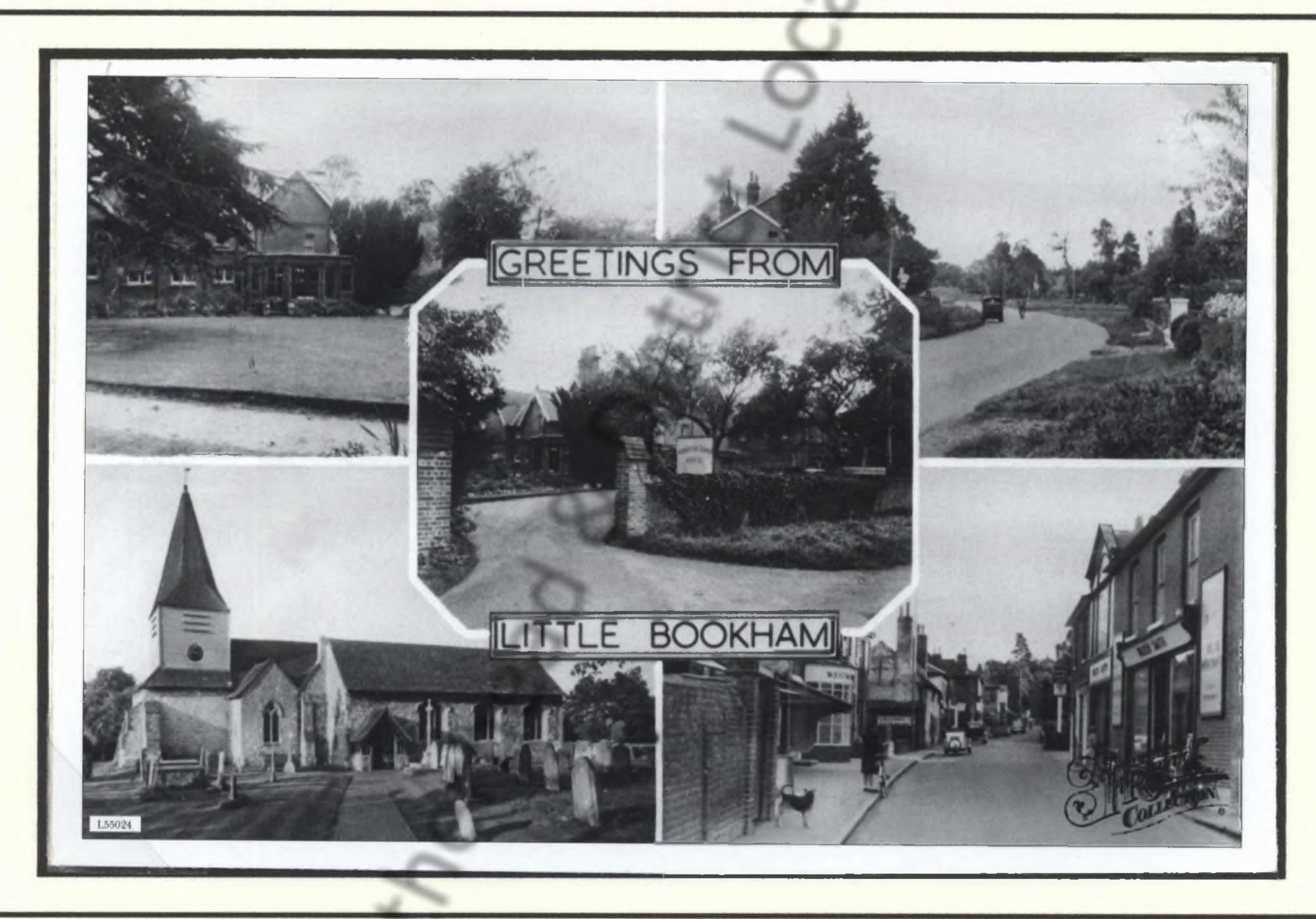
Bookham remained essentially an agricultural community and changed very little for about 1000 years and on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1873, prior to the construction of the railway, Great Bookham is still divided into four distinct areas, the village, Eastwick, Preston and Northend.

Bookham has been inhabited by people, whether great landowners or the humble peasant who tilled the soil, who were original thinkers and innovators. In 1339 a deputation went from Bookham to petition Chertsey Abbey to change the local system of inheritance from Borough English (system of inheritance whereby the youngest son inherited instead of the first born) to that of primogeniture (the custom of land inheritance whereby the entire estate passes to the eldest son. The custom spread from Normandy to Britain with the arrival of William the Conqueror in 1066. As part of the feudal system, primogeniture maintained the political and social status of the Norman barons.)

The common field were becoming progressively enclosed, it being more convenient form of agricultural to live surrounded by one's own farmland rather than in the centre of the hamlet with strips of land in diverse places. 1100 acres had been enclosed between 1794 and 1809 that is some time before the *Enclosure Award of 1822.

Jane Austen is said to have spent time in Bookham whilst writing several of her novels in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Its location is consistent with the geographical details in "Emma."

A reproduction Frith postcard from 1955.



*Traditional agriculture involved peasants (owner-occupiers) and tenants farming small areas of land (known as 'strips') which were intermixed with those of others in large open fields and cultivated according to communal agreement. The village might also have uncultivated common land, known as commons, used for rough grazing, fuel-gathering and timber.

Enclosure was the process by which the various strips of each owner were reorganised and consolidated into separate holdings, fenced off from the land of their neighbours. Where there were commons, this land too could be divided up between those who had rights to use it. The process made agriculture more efficient and it also exerted a major impact upon the communities affected.

History

At the beginning of the twentieth century life in Bookham was similar to that on other rural areas. Many were employed in farmland activities, with the land held by wealthy landowners. In the same way as the domestic offices of a household related to the requirements of the day, so did the specialised traders and every village had its blacksmith, saddler and harness maker and wheelwright, apart from numerous ale houses wherein the often polluted water was purified by the brewing process.

The two leading figures in the village around 1900 were Arthur Bird, the last lord of the manor of Great Bookham, who began buying up and 'developing' Bookham and Mrs Mary Chrystie, who bought and closed many public houses. Great Bookham Common was bought by the local people in 1923 and given to the National Trust to prevent its developement, and the owners of Banks and Little Bookham Commons did the same.

The Railway came to Boookham in 1885 and from that time people began to become attracted to the district to commute to and from their place of work. An indication of this trend was the introduction of the large Andrew West (local architect) houses in Church Road and Little Bookham. These started to be built in 1905 following the sale of what had been farm land. Additionally, the railway enabled people to escape from the unhealthy atmosphere of London for a trip to the pleasant country-side of Bookham.

By the turn of the 1900s there was a slight increase in population and an increase in the range of services in the village that now included a bank, insurance agency, music teacher, architect, veterinary surgeon, a second doctor, a telephone company, draper and a district nurse.



An unknown postcard dated c1940/50s.

History

Up until about the time of WW1 one of the few occasions when villages were able to 'let their hair down' was on Guy Fawkes night. Torches were made using ginger beer bottles containing paraffin with a rag wick stuffed in the neck of the bottles. With the torches lit, the guy was carried up the High Street to the Fairfield when the fire was lit and the guy placed on the bonfire. A collection for Guildford Hospital was organised by the Lewer family during the festivities.

The main effect of WWI on the two villages was extremely sad with the loss of 37 men. The secondary effect was the shortage of food that encouraged a large increase in the growing of fruit and vegetables by everyone in the village, including the children.

The Eastwick Estate, owner by the Keswick family, which had occupied a large part of the village (150 acres in 1914) was sold and became divided in the early 1920s. House building in the Bookhams, though piecemeal in the 1920s and 1930s was substantially increased following WWII with many housing estates being built after 1950. Most of the roads south of Leatherhead Road were built in the 1930s.

There were two engineering works, one in Little Bookham Street from the early 1900s and the other opposite the station built during WW1; these provided employment for many for a number of years.



A used Frith's postcard dated 1968. The picture is of a group of youngsters who did their bit to help Bookham Village with food shortages during the First World War. They have their spades and hoes, getting ready to dig for victory. Victory gardens, also called war gardens or food gardens for defence, were vegetable, fruit and herb gardens planted at private residences and public parks in United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Germany during World War I and World War II to reduce the pressure on the public food supply brought on by the war effort. In addition to indirectly aiding the war effort these gardens were also considered a civil "morale booster" - in that gardeners could feel empowered by their contribution of labour and rewarded by the produce grown. This made victory gardens become a part of daily life on the home front. The 'Dig for Victory' phrase was instigated in WWII.



History

Before 1900 the Leatherhead Gas and Lighting Company had laid gas pipes to some parts of Bookham but gas was available to the whole area by 1907. A large amount of interest and strong feeling had been expressed both for and against street lighting. In a referendum, a good majority was in favour of street lighting but then there was the controversy over whether gas or electricity should be used but the majority voted in favour of electricity. Some side streets had been lit by gas in the mid 1930s but by around 1950 all the streets were electric.

Water supplied by the Leatherhead and District Waterworks Company, was available by 1911 and the Leatherhead and District Electricity Company obtained an order to supply the Bookhams in 1913.

Telephones were installed from 1908 by the National Telephone Company.

Main sewerage was introduced in 1930.

Just after World War II there were less than ten shops in Bookham.

Voluntary social service in Bookham was carried out by the Bookham Social Services Bureau which was formed in the 1930s. They published the Bookhams Bulletin (still going today) from 1933 and this is still produced by the Bookham Community Association, the successor to the social service bureau.



A watercolour by Martin Goode from his book 'Pictures of Great Bookham & Ireland.'

History

During World War II there was an influx of several hundred school children evacuees from London and the departure of many local men and women to serve in one or the other services. Later a large number of Canadian troops were to be stationed in the area.

Compared with some of the surrounding areas Bookham received little bomb damage, most occurring in 1940-41. One of the two worst incidents occurred on the 18th September 1940, when a stick of 19 bombs was dropped, the first of them landing on a shop in Beckley Parade, the remainder dropping in a line towards Polesden Lacey. The second incident was on 19th October when 12 bombs were dropped in line from Southey Hall to the Leatherhead by-pass causing considerable damage. On a number of other occasions both high-explosive and incendiary bombs fell on Bookham but the majority fell on open ground to the south. In 1944 two VIs landed near the railway, one near Bayfield (now Bookham Grange) and the other near Maddox Park.

The first prisoners of war to arrive in Bookham were a few Italians who worked at the Mill preparing timber. Following the successful North African campaign many German POWs were to be seen working on the land. Other incomers on the local farms were members of the Women's Land Army with their bright green sweaters and buff coloured jodhpurs who were based at Epsom.

The King and Queen of Yugoslavia were evacuated to a house in Bookham during WWII. Pink Floyd bass player and singer, Roger Waters, was born in Great Bookham during the war in 1943. Bookham, in common with most other places, had its share of street parties, at the end of the WWII.

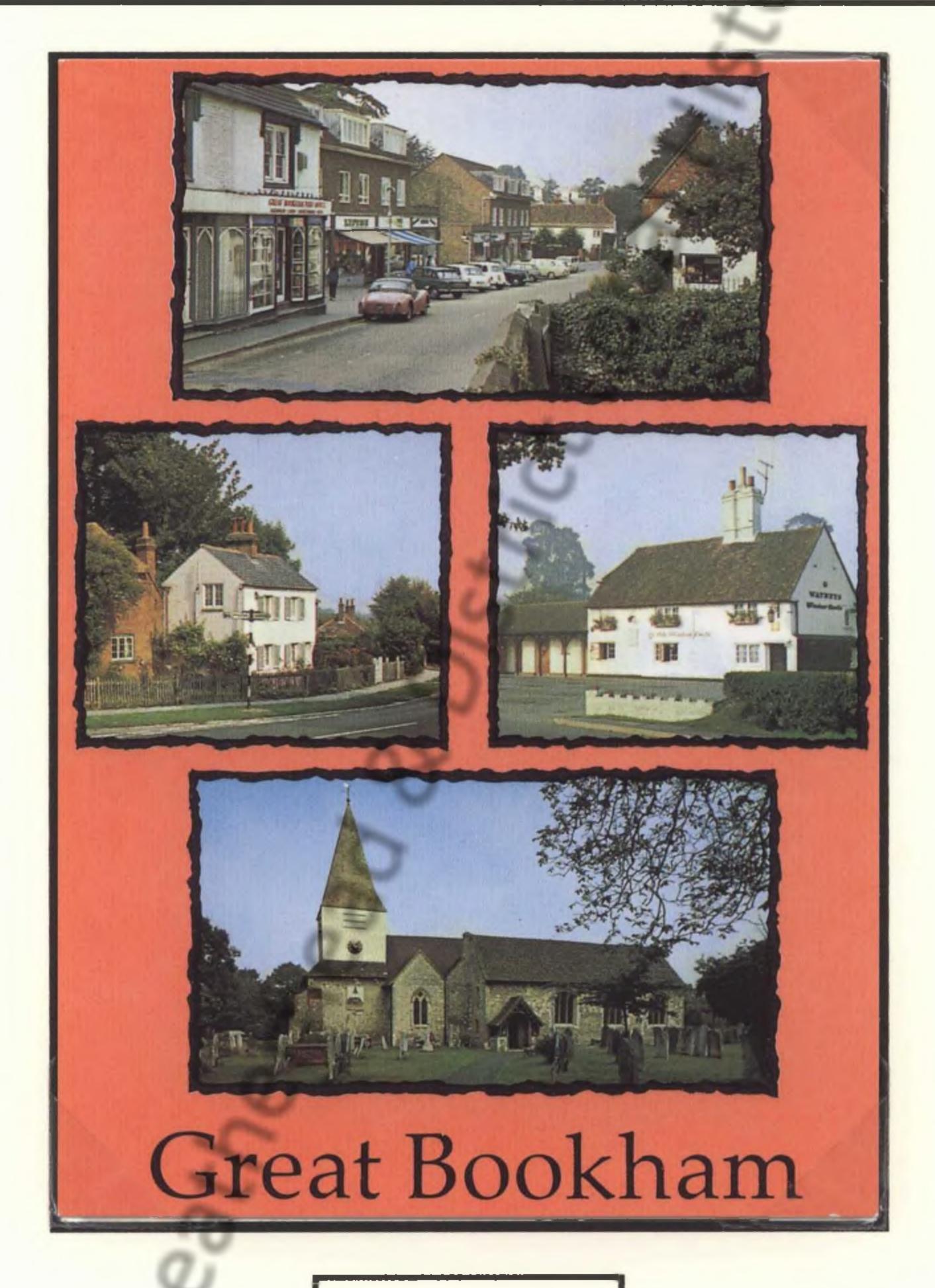


A postally used Judges postcard dated 1986

Today

Nearly half of the area of Great Bookham parish is public open space owned by the National Trust: Polesden Lacey and Ranmore Common to the south within the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the three Bookham Commons to the north. The High Street is the core of the old village but the busy commercial heart extends into Church Road, Lower Road and Lower Shott. In the village there are two of nearly everything: banks, butchers, cafes, chemists, greengrocers, hairdressers, newsagents, restaurants and small supermarkets; specialist shops include a saddlery and a bakery which has baked on the premises for over 100 years. Little Bookham adds two hotels, two restaurants and a village shop 'open all hours.' Four pubs are situated in the village, The Anchor, Royal Oak, Old Crown and Ye Olde Windsor Castle.

The Old Barn Hall is the main community center, regularly used for staging amateur dramatics productions and hosting parties and receptions. It is run by The Bookham Community Association (BCA), which is a registered charity and is an association of some 100 local societies and clubs, an astonishing number for a village the size of Bookham. A principal responsibility is the management of the Old Barn Hall in Great Bookham. The Old Barn Hall has three halls to cater for the many local events. Every quarter it produces a magazine, the Bookhams Bulletin which is distributed to every household in Great and Little Bookham and reports on all the local activities together with articles of general interest and local history. To help raise funds for the Old Barn Hall, the BCA organises a themed Village Day/Week every year in June.



A 1980s Judges postcard

History

An 1846 1d red stamp Great Bookham lettersheet with Epsom & Leatherhead cancels. The content is an account for various services to the Overseers of Great Bookham.



History

The details of the lettersheet from the Overseers of Great Bookham to Everesh White & Co.

The Overseers of Great Bookham;
To Everest, White +6:
1846
Och: 5 Allowance of Emphy House List
Information against Sames Hurt for nonpayment
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Copy thereof
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Letters Postaged to.
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