

A POSTCARD COLLECTION
OF BOOKHAM

By

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Album 1
(Pages 61 - 75)

The Bookhams

The Crossroads - The Crown Inn

Opposite the Church we find The Crown Inn recorded in a survey in the 18th century. It was a picturesque old inn with decorated bargeboards and a board on the front advertising 'Good Beds, Luncheons and Dinners Provided.' It was owned at the beginning of the 20th century by Arthur Clapshaw who converted it to a hotel. The old building was in typical Bookham tradition with ornamental barge boarding round the eaves, of which little remains in Bookham, except on some of the older Eastwick Estate houses. The original building with its entrance opposite to the lych gate of the Church was square to the corner.

A horse cab service and a timber business was operated from the inn yard by a member of the Ranger family. The present Old Crown public house was built on the site in 1932 by Hodgsons of Kingston. The new public house had an off-licence which became the Grocery Store in 1970, then a florist, in 2000 a hairdressing salon, and now a nail shop for ladies.

The first postcard locally published by L W Harris shows the Crown Inn as it was c1910

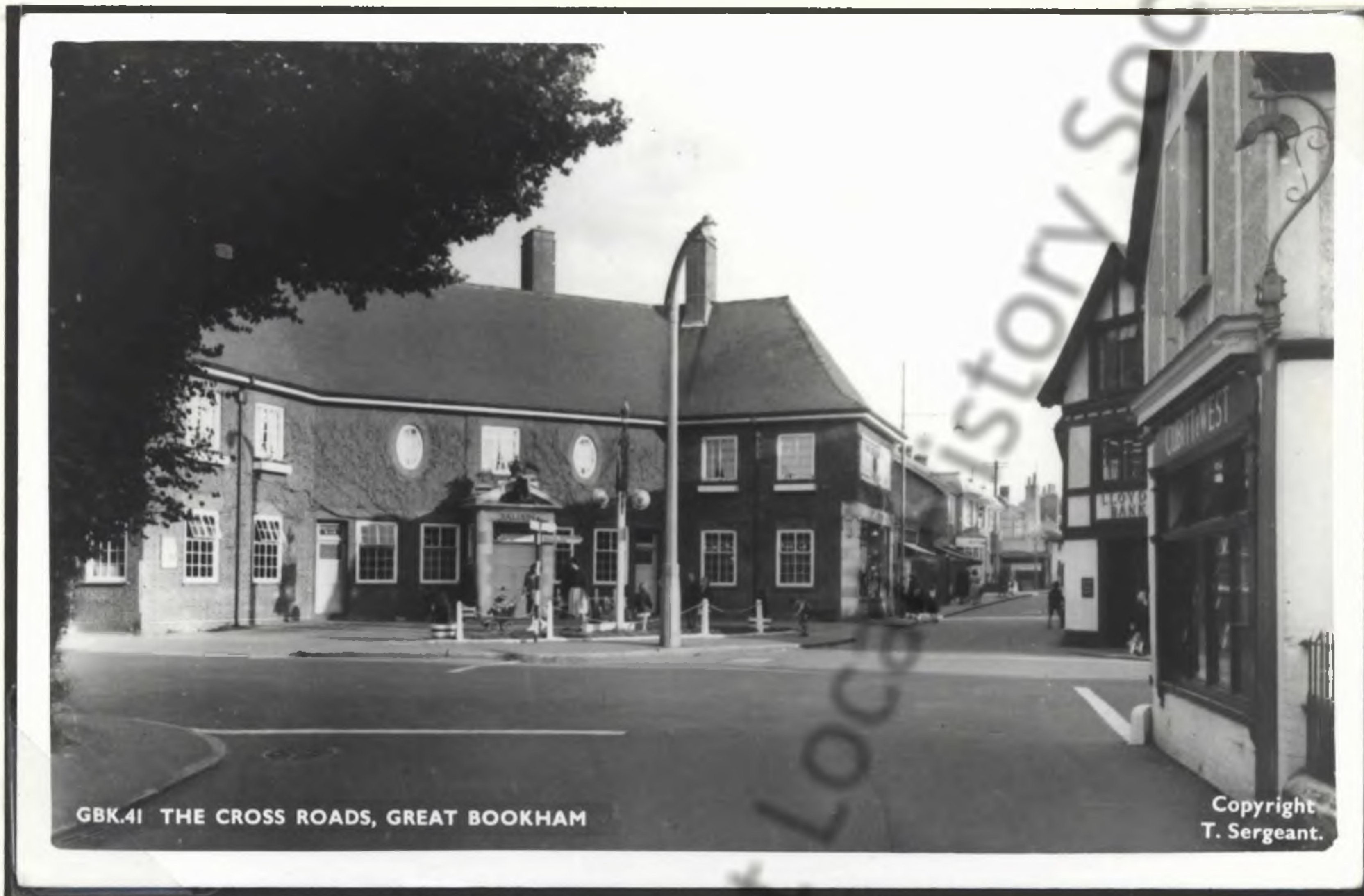
The second postcard is a Frith's dated early 1940s and shows the newly built Crown - the off-licence is to the right of the building.



The Bookhams

The Crossroads - The Crown Inn

A Frith's postcard of The Crown Inn c1960s with the Off Licence on the right hand side which closed in 1970 when it became a grocery store. It is now a ladies nail shop - picture below.



The Bookhams

The Crossroads - The Crown Inn

The ale houses and the inn played a very important part in village life by supplying an alternative to well water, by being the village club and providing refreshment for the weary traveller. When fixed pews were installed in the parish church the nave could not then be used for village activities and so the local inn became the centre of local festivities.

The number of ale houses in Great and Little Bookham shows their importance:

In Great Bookham, there was, The Saracen and Ring (formerly the White Hart), The Royal Oak, The Crown, The Anchor, The Kings Head and The Halfway House.

Little Bookham had the Half Moon Cottage, The Castle (now the Windsor Castle), The Fox, a beer house and Five Halls an ale house on Little Bookham Common.



This postcard depicts the Crown Inn c1900s, and the picture was taken c1900.

The Crown was recorded in a survey in 1777 and there are several further references to it in directories and census returns throughout the nineteenth century. Arthur Clapshaw, the proprietor during the first decade of the twentieth century, changed its image from an inn to a 'Family and Commercial Hotel.' The name Clapshaw can be seen written on the building.



The Bookhams

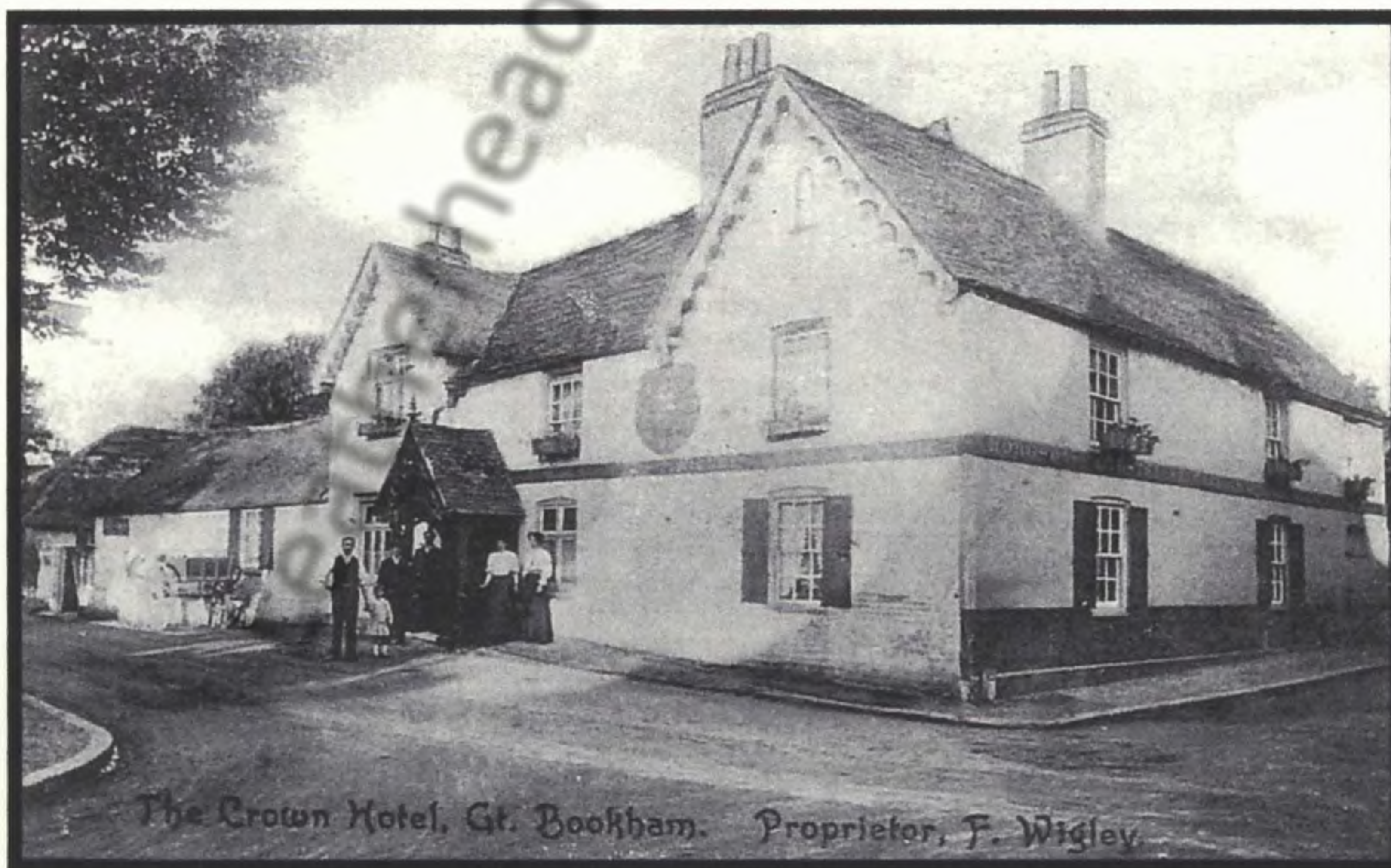
The Crossroads - The Crown Inn

In 1877 Louis Jennings, the author visited Great Bookham and reported:

'There is an Inn called The Crown - here with some difficulty I succeeded in getting the homely refreshment of bread, cheese and ale, while deriving what comfort and support I could from the uninviting fare worse than the pie and cakes of the American depot,' I munched my dry bread and speedily found my way into the street again where the fresh air soon drove away the remembrance of a gloomy meal. The days are gone when the wayfarer could always be sure of good fare and a welcome at a country inn.'



This unknown postcard is dated c1920s. The picture was taken c1909. Frank Wigley took over as proprietor and the hotel continued to provide luncheons, dinners, teas, good beds and beer from the Hodgson Kingston Brewery. Sadly, this picturesque vernacular old building with its attractive barge-boarding was demolished in 1932 and (ironically) replaced by the 'Old Crown' public house. Frank Wigley and family are seen outside the pub.



The Bookhams

5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 & 17a High Street, east side

The right hand side of the site known as Brackenbury's had been Wyatt's smithy, a lean-to building with a cobbled floor and corrugated iron roof which had stood since at least 1873 (you can make out Wyatt's on the extreme right of the postcard, the name is written above the building.) The blacksmith lived in the adjacent cottage; the remainder of the site was a builder's yard with a small barn at the back. Charlie Pearce, a builder, decorator and undertaker, used the yard and the barn from the beginning of the 1900s whilst living at number 15. In the early 1900s George Balchin, who owned several properties on this side of the High Street, lived there whilst Miss Emily Balchin continued to occupy it from 1909 to the 1920s. In 1924 Annetts, builders and decorators, were occupants until at least 1938. Annetts were also the village undertakers who made and stored coffins in the barn at the back. Funerals were carried out using a hand-drawn bier.

The builder's yard from number 17 extended round to the back of these terraced houses, which were built in 1894.

In the 1920s and 30s Barclay's Bank had a part-time sub-branch in one of the front rooms of no 15, which closed in 1939. Mr Brackenbury senior was a builder who was next to use the yard while he and his family lived in number 15. Brackenbury's sold hardware in a lean-to adjacent to their house before the present shop was built on the site of the builder's yard and forge. The barn is still used for storage. Mrs Brackenbury, the widow of Mr Brackenbury junior, continued to run the business until 1998.

At no 13 Mr Davis had a hairdresser's on the ground floor for about twenty years from the mid-1930s. In 1959 the front gardens and decorative railing and brick walls of numbers 13 and 15 were removed and the ground floors converted into shops. No. 15 was first a shoe shop, Valli, then Charrington's coal office before becoming an estate agency.

National Westminster Bank opened a branch at no 13 and they later extended their premises to include no. 11. Latterly the bank became a sub-branch before closing completely in 1997. In 1999 Norman & Huggins moved from across the road and opened an estate agency here.

Just beyond the terraced houses in this Frith's postcard c1890, you can just make out the roof of a cottage. There were three small houses named Walnut Tree Cottages, which at that time were further back from the road than the present shops. In 1938 the first two were demolished and replaced with shops. The third cottage was demolished and replaced by a shop in 1950. The two pictures show similar views as it is today.



The Bookhams

19 High Street, east side

Number 19 once had two shops, one of which was an estate agency until 1998 and next door Cascade, were until the 1950s, a double fronted cottage, known as the Old Forge Cottage. The Wyatt family owned the property from the 1880s until 1930 during which time George Wyatt, the blacksmith married Catherine, the daughter of Richard Ragge the saddler who lived on the opposite side of the road in a cottage situated at the side of The Royal Oak, which is now a car park for the pub.

Since the late 16th century there had been a smithy in this part of the village. It occupies numbers 21 and 23 and had outbuildings stretching to East Street. Among these buildings was an Inn called the Old Tavern.

In the early 1930s Mrs Allen served teas at the cottage, The Jarret family who had lived at the Paddocks Cottage in Dorking Road lived in the Old Forge Cottage from 1940 until 1950.

Mr Brackenbury senior was a builder who used the yard at the back of the cottages from 1939 while he and his family lived at number 15. Brackenbury's sold hardware in a lean-to adjacent to their house before the present shop was built on the site of the builder's yard forge. Mrs Brackenbury, the widow of Mr Brackenbury junior, continued to run the business until 1998.

The Old Forge Cottage was completely gutted and converted into two shops; R J Clatworthy, radio and television dealers initially occupied it, until the 1980s. The other shop was an estate agency until Cascade moved in and eventually took over both shops.



The left hand side of this postcard is a double fronted cottage, known as the Old Forge Cottage. At the back of No. 19 there was a yard and this cottage.

There were several other smithies in the Bookhams - a whitesmith further up the High Street, a Forge at Slinford Cottage, Lower Road, and another at Preston Cross, and much later at Bookham railway station.*

**A whitesmith is a person who works with "white" or light-coloured metals such as tin and pewter. While blacksmiths work mostly with hot metal, whitesmiths do the majority of their work on cold metal (although they might use a forge to shape their raw materials). The term is also applied to metalworkers who do only finishing work - such as filing or polishing - on iron and other "black" metals. Whitesmiths make things such as tin or pewter cups, water pitchers, forks, spoons, and candle holders.*

The Bookhams

21, 23 & 25 High Street, east side

Where Bookham Carpets (no.25) projects on to the pavement a previous generation of the Rollinson family lived and where George Rollinson had a sweet shop until about 1909 when it was taken over by Mrs Mary Ann Rollinson who ran it until 1913 when Mrs Durrant took the shop over. When Mr Absalom senior and his family moved into the district he traded here from 1925 until 1927 before he had the three shops built further up the High Street. In the early 1950s Mrs Tanner had a delightful tearoom and cafe at the shop but in the late 1950s it became the Bookham Fisheries. In all of that time the shop front remained the same with three awkward steps at the entrance. In 1961 Mrs Perry ran her business from here until the 1980s. It must have been at that time when the shop front was altered and the steps removed.

The shop that is now Il Gusto (no. 23) was where Mr Lewer, the village chimney sweep and his family lived from 1910 until the 1960s. Jackson's Bookham Granary then had the property until 1980 when it became Togs, a young children's clothing shop, it then became Pat-a-cake teashop.

Next door is Cachet (no. 21.) From the early 1900s until the late 1930s this was the architects and insurance office of Mr Richard Lee that he rented from Mrs Chrystie until 1905, when he bought the former blacksmith's premises and used the ground floor as an office. It was here that he had drawn plans for the conversion of the 250-year-old agricultural barn known as The Barn Hall in 1905. Later H. Allman, an estate agent, owned the building before it was bought by Mr Jackson in 1946. Bookham Granaries, corn and seed merchants were here from the 1930s until 1980, incorporating Mr Lewer's house next door into a double-fronted shop in 1960. At one time, as well as the usual corn chandlers' products, they stocked fresh Tillingbourne trout, which was kept in a large fish tank. It was also a sports shop, known as Gran Sports, before it became Cachet.

On the left hand side of the shop is a narrow alley known as Stent's Alley, as it used to lead to Alexander Stent's barbershop, which was here from the early part of the 1900s until sometime during the WWII. As well as having one's hair cut it was possible to place bets with Mr Stent.



This Frith repro postcard c1960 shows the east side of the High Street with Absalom's store on the right which moved from no 25. Nos. 21 and 23 show the use of tile hanging with hand made clay tiles, an attractive and locally distinctive building tradition. The timber frame of the sixteenth century Nos. 21-23 is behind the tile hanging presently seen today



The Bookhams

27, 29, & 33 High Street, east side

Where Bookham Brunch is (no.33), there used to be a butcher's called Robert's, which had been a butcher's at least since the early 1900s when the Worrall family owned it until the early 1960s. The old slaughterhouse buildings behind the shop are now used as garages. The Worralls also grew herbs and vegetables on a piece of land in East Street. Before the 1950s most cattle were locally reared and it would have been a common site to see cattle or sheep being driven along Church Road from the farms in Bookham. The shop Cachet occupies the site where the Worrall family lived until the 1960s. Over the years it has changed from a greengrocer, ladies outfitters called M A Perry. As with the neighbouring properties, there had been a small front garden surrounded by decorative iron railings.

Where Elio's the barbers is (no. 29, previously the Business Centre) between the delicatessen and Cachet, there was a wooden building that projected on to the pavement, similar to the Bookham Brunch shop. Hewlins and Hughes occupied this before they moved shop. Then Ma Perry (as she was known) had her first shop there in 1930. In 1960 she moved further down the High Street. The projecting building was demolished and a card and gift shop, Eves, operated there until the 1980s, when there followed an assortment of tenants.

The present delicatessen (no. 27) was a house occupied by the Rollinson family from about the mid 1920s until 1953, then by a married daughter May Miller until 1961 when the three houses were converted to shops and their front gardens with their iron railings were removed. The shop where the Rollinson's house was became Reynold's furnishings, with a connection at the rear to the Victoria Hall where upholstery work was carried out until 1970 when Ambrose Furnishings took over the business until the 1980s. From the opposite side of the road the original construction of the building can be seen.



An unknown postcard looking down the High Street from the south c1930/40s, with the wooden building prominent. Fairfield is on the left. The picture below was taken in the 1950s - the wooden building that projects onto the pavement was Ma Perry's shop, which was next door to Bookham Fisheries.



The Bookhams

35, 37, 39, 43, 45 & 47 High Street, east side

Next are Christianes the jewellers (no. 47), Beverley's florist shop (no. 45) and HSBC Bank (no. 43). Here, in the early part of the century there were two semi-detached houses with small front gardens and four stone steps leading up to the front doors. The steps were removed and the houses converted and extended into four terraced houses with small front gardens around the early 1930s. The third house became a butcher's shop of Albert Lutman when he moved from Uncle Tom's Cabin. He remained there until at least the 1940s; around 1944 C J Fox took the shop over and remained there until about 1970. In the 1970s the houses were extended and the present shop fronts fitted, the front gardens had reached roughly where the line of cream bricks is on the pavement.

Similarly the next three shops (39, 37 & 35) the dry cleaners, the sweet shop and a charity shop were originally a terrace of houses, each with a front garden and stone steps up to the front doors. In 1927 Mr Absalom had the front gardens and steps removed and the terrace converted to shops by Andrew West. The first shop was a grocer's run by Alma Absalom, the son of the owner, until 1966, since when it has been a dry cleaners. The middle shop was run by Mr H Absalom, and then his son Ernest, until the 1960s, but although there have been many owners it remains a sweet shop.

The third shop was Hewlins and Hughes, the chemist, who had moved from lower down the road. They remained there until 1960, part of the time Bernard Donner, the optician, used some of the premises. After Hewlins, Crabtree the chemist took over followed by a launderette in the 1970s, then Robert's freezer shop, Quality Seconds in the 1980s, C.A.T.S., television retailers and now it is a charity shop.

This postcard taken in the 1950s shows the butcher C.J. Fox with two houses yet to be converted, and then there is Absalom's with the awning. The pictures shows numbers 35-39 High Street as they were c1890, and as they are now.



High Street, east side - Vine Cottage

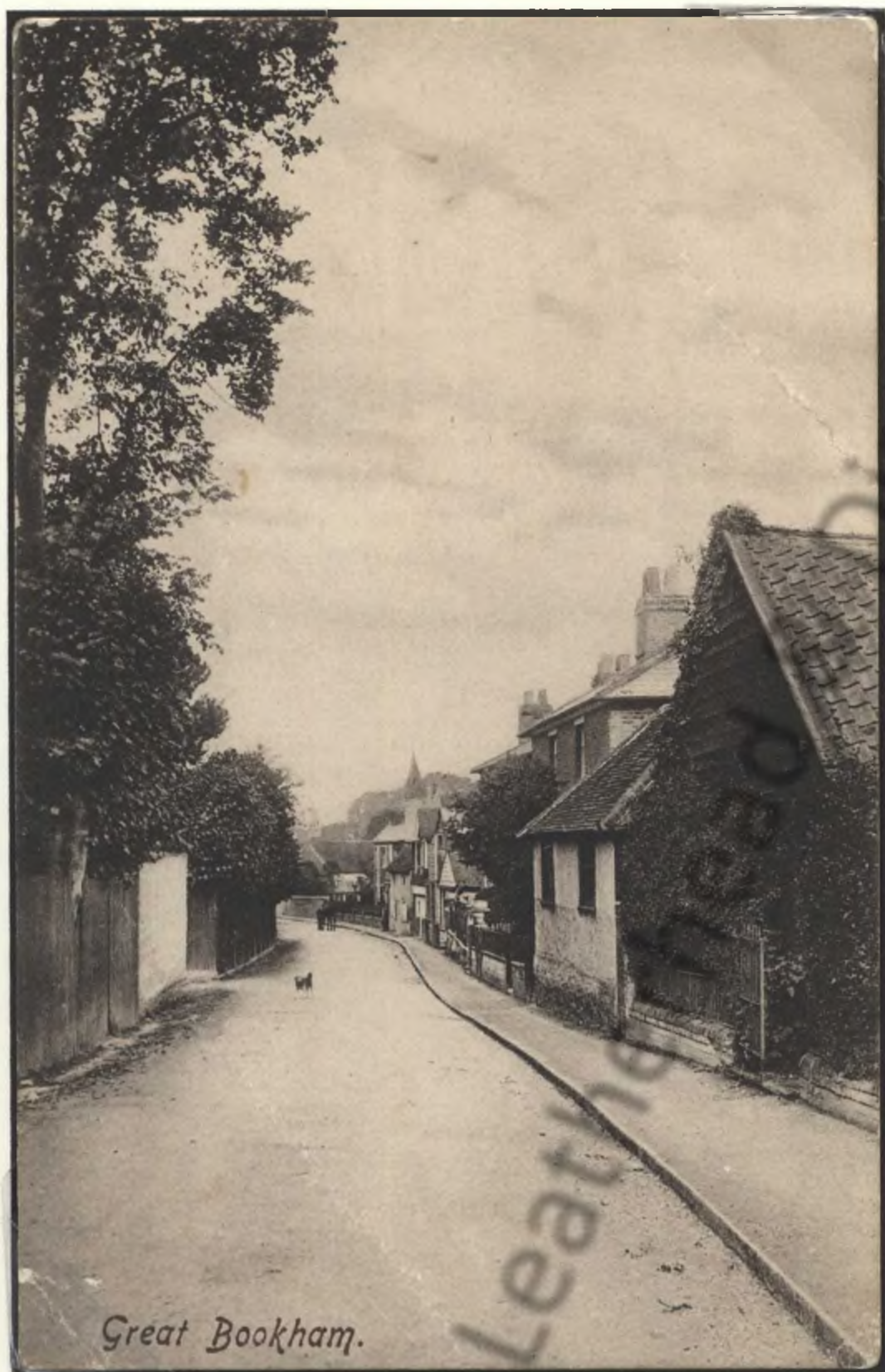
Back to the top of the High Street on the east side where the Co-Op mini supermarket now stands along with Laytons the greengrocer's (no. 55) and the butcher's Rawlings & Kensett (no. 51), there used to be a rendered building c1800 or earlier of no great importance, but made a contribution to the quaintness of the street. The double fronted house was called Vine Cottage, it stood back from the High Street in a large plot extending to East Street.

Probably its most distinguished owner was Miss Selina Jane Chrystie, a little old lady less than 4 ft 6 ins tall, the sister-in-law of Mrs Chrystie of Fife Lodge, Church Road. She lived in Vine Cottage from the 1909 until she died in 1926. Like her sister she was a staunch temperance supporter who has been described as a kindly woman who carried food beneath her cape when she took to the needy.

The last family to live at Vine cottage was the Waters who had four daughters, the youngest of whom was Elizabeth. In 1950 she walked in her bridal gown, arm in arm with her father, down the High Street to the Church to be married whilst the villagers lined both sides of the road, clapping and cheering.

In the grounds at the front to the left of Vine Cottage stood a small tiled wooden black barn until at least the mid-1950s. Next to the barn there was a single storey building (bungalow) complete with chimneys, known as Uncle Tom's Cabin. It was occupied by George Horley, a jobbing smithy, around the end of the last century. He was a vestry clerk who lived in Back Lane (East Street).

The poor structural condition of Vine Cottage in 1970 caused it to be demolished and replaced by the present shops and car park called Vine Court.



This Frith's postcard was taken from the south end of the High Street in the early 1930s. The entrance to Vine Cottage is on the extreme right with the bungalow known as Uncle Tom's Cabin next to it. The two sets of houses were later converted to shops. The picture of Vine Cottage on the right was taken in 1970.

The Bookhams

Church Road

Two postcards with views of Church Road. The view for the first postcard is taken from the crossroads looking south with the Church on the right c1930/40s. The second postcard is taken from the north looking towards the crossroads with Aberdeen House on the right c1950s.

Church Road was previously known as Church Street and before that Lower Street.



The Bookhams

Church Road - Wyvern House

Wyvern House is an 18th century property and was residential until Tuck & Mann, solicitors, occupied part of it from 1960. On the top of the roof at the front there is a figure of a *Wyvern.

*A wyvern or wivern is a legendary winged reptilian creature with a dragon's head, the hindquarters of a snake or lizard with two legs or none, and a barbed tail. The wyvern was often found in mediaeval heraldry. The word is derived from Middle English *wyvere*, from Old North French *wivre* "viper." Wyverns are mentioned in Dante's *Inferno* (Canto XVII) as the body for one of his creatures in hell.



The above postcard dated c1950s shows Wyvern House on the left with a good view down Church Road, and below as it is today



The Bookhams

Church Road - Duke & Duchess of York

This postcard is a view looking down Church Road from the crossroads. The picture was taken in 1923 at the top of Church Road near the crossroads when the Duke and Duchess of York visited Great Bookham on 26th April. Tyrrells is on the left

George, Duke of York (the future King George VI) and Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon were married and went to Polesden Lacey for part of their honeymoon. In the late afternoon, the Duke and Duchess were driven from the station along Church Road to St Nicolas Church where the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. D.W. McFarlane, presented a loyal address. Scouts, Guides, and boys from Dr Barnardo's Home at Epsom lined the road outside the church.



The Bookhams

Church Road - Tyrells House

Next to Wyvern House in Church Road is the Tyrells, named after a former owner Francis Tyrrell. It is a 17th century house that has had many alterations and additions, which originally stood in 3 acres of land, that included a malthouse, barn stable and outhouses. The earliest record is a lease dated 20th April 1573 when Ralph Gardener (Yeoman) let the property to Edward Gardener (Weaver). George Peters on 4th January 1888 was admitted tenant and later in the same year acquired the enfranchise. Peters was a butcher and also owned the adjoining property, Aberdeen House.

It became a doctor's surgery in 1970/71 when Dr Easton, who had lived in Lower Road since the 1930s practised there until his death in 1991. The single storey addition on the right was the waiting room.



The postcard is postally used and is dated 1917 depicting Church Street as it was previously known. The Tyrells is on the extreme left hand side, and below the Duke & Duchess of York's progress up Church Road in 1923.



The Bookhams

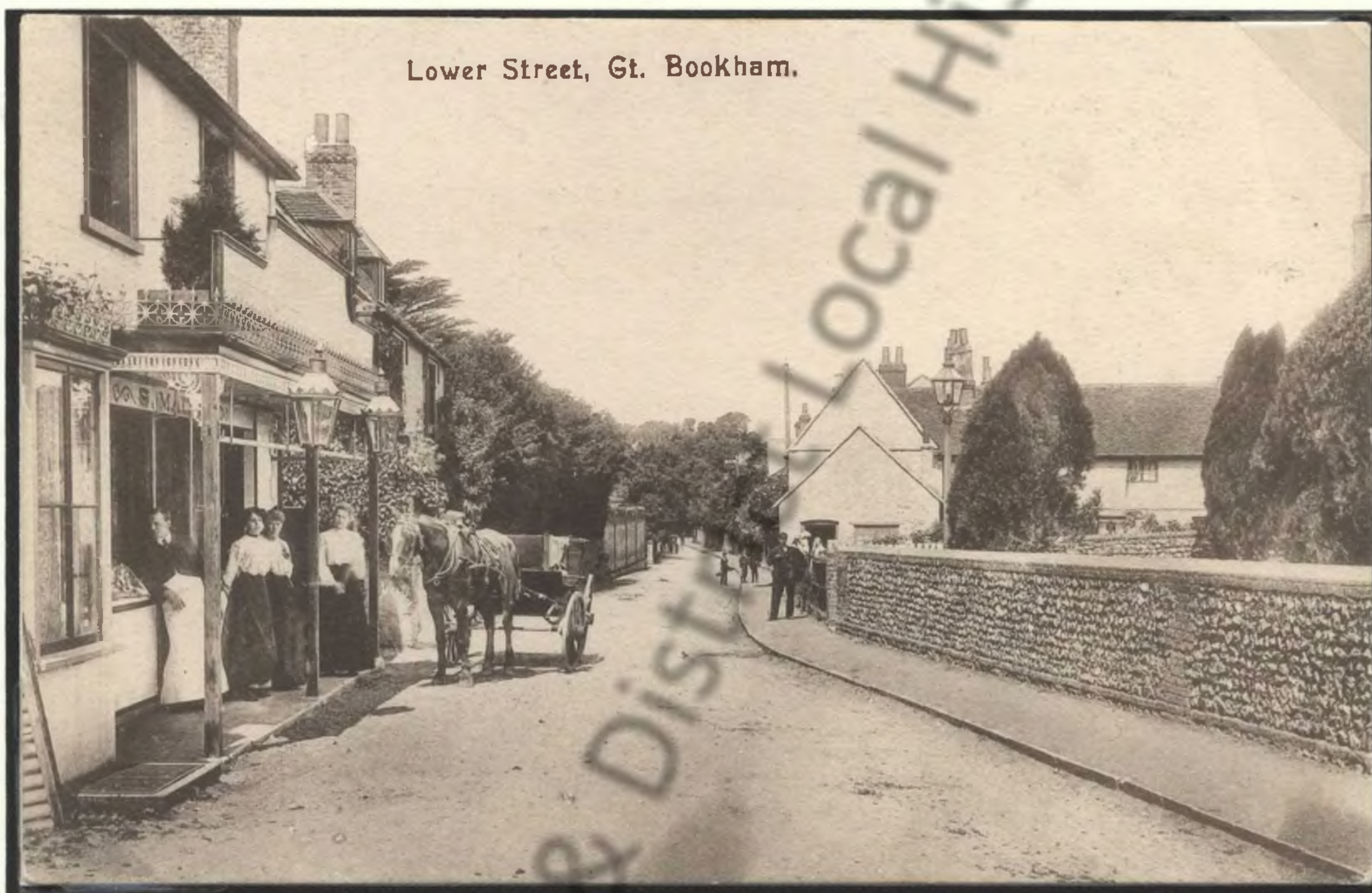
Church Road - Aberdeen House

Aberdeen House had been a butcher's shop and living accommodation since 1888 run by George Peters and there was a slaughter yard behind the shop which replaced the Old Shamyard when Church Cottages were built across the road. The slaughter yard remained there until about 1955.

After Peters, Sidney Madge was the butcher from the early 1900s until the early 1950s. He was a long-standing churchwarden at St Nicolas and can be seen in a photograph with the Duke and Duchess of York when they returned from their honeymoon at Polesden Lacey in 1923. He was also responsible to a small extent for the Gigantic Bookham Fair in 1922.

Whilst Mr Madge was serving in WWI Mr Lutman, a naturalised German, ran the shop for him. In December 1954 Mr Tottman took over the shop and at this time sheep could still be seen being driven around the back of the shop to be slaughtered.

At the front of the shop was an attractive veranda with ornamental wrought iron work supported by wooden uprights. When the butcher's closed in the 1960s the ornamental ironwork was removed and the building sub-divided into two shops, first the Walnut Tree Café and a drug store, then a bakers and electrical store. It is now a florist and a shop for The Grange in Little Bookham. The slaughter house and other outbuildings are still at the rear of the shops but are occupied by various users. The adjoining shop used by David Fuller was built around 1970



A Frith postcard showing Sidney Madge standing in front of his butcher's shop opposite the Churchyard in Church Road, then it was called Lower Street in the early 1900s. The picture is of their Christmas Display taken in 1906, Sidney Madge is standing on the right. Notice the display at the front stating Bred and Fed - Eastwick Park.



The Bookhams

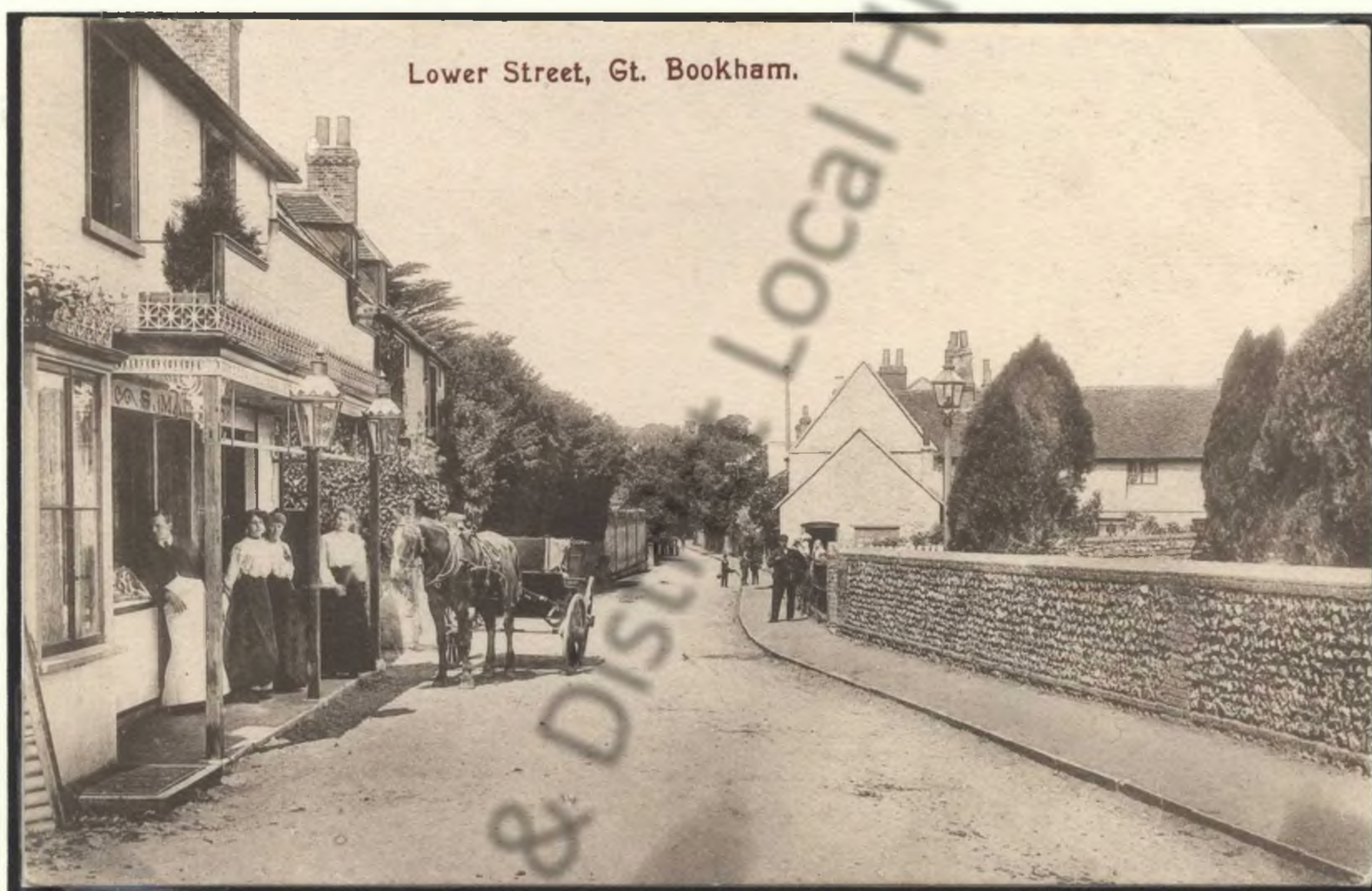
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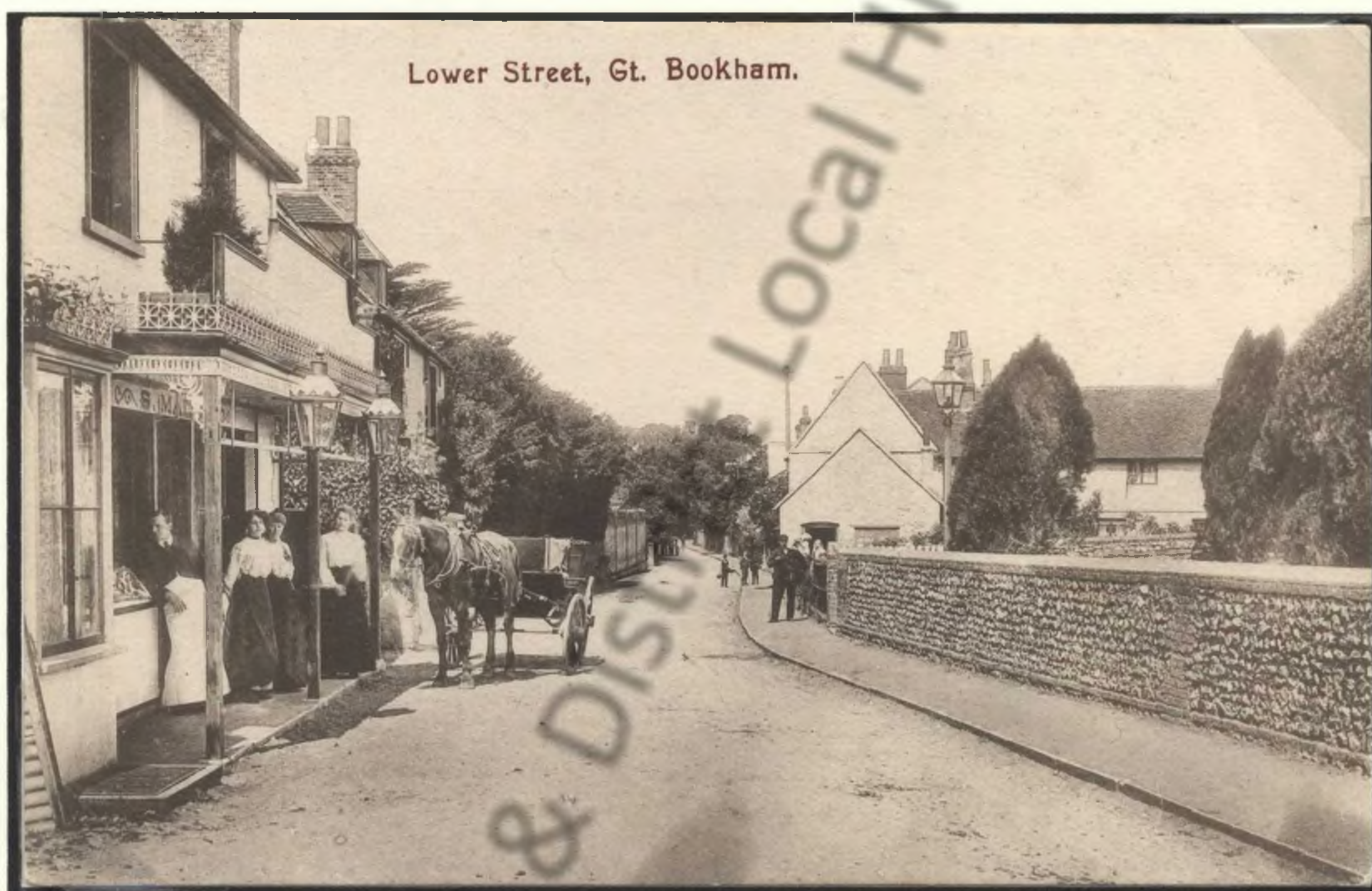
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