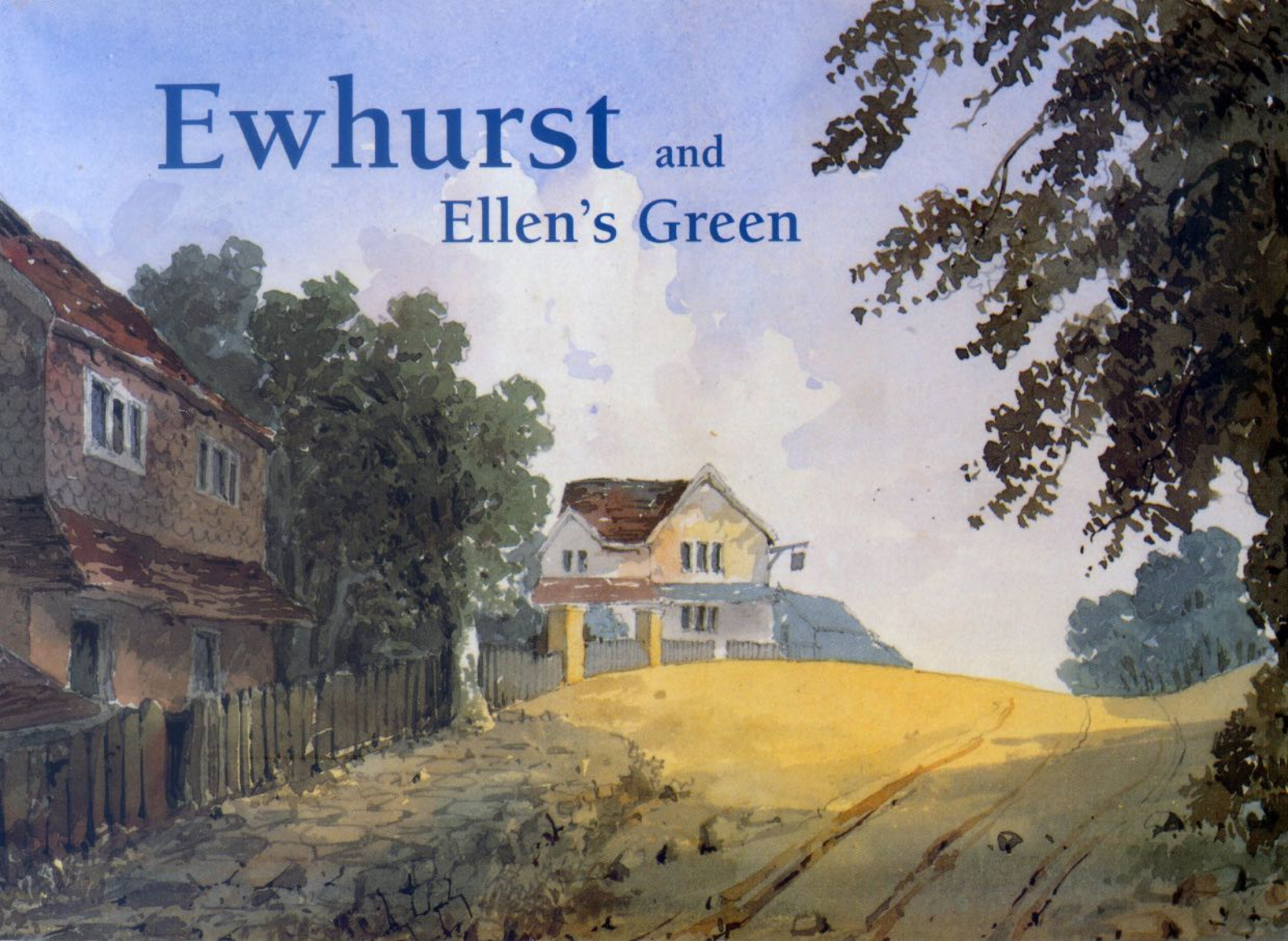


Ewhurst and Ellen's Green



Ewhurst and Ellen's Green
Parish Heritage

published by
Ewhurst History Society

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*Rural Action
in Surrey*



YORK HOUSE
ST. JAMES'S PALACE
LONDON S.W.1

As President of the RAF Benevolent Fund, I have taken a keen interest in the Fund's school in Ewhurst which was named in honour of my late father, George, Duke of Kent.

The school moved to Ewhurst in 1976 and joined an already well established tradition for education in the area. Ewhurst is currently home to two boarding schools; The Duke of Kent School and Hurtwood House. It also has a Rural Studies Centre at Sayers Croft, run by Westminster Education Authority and which is visited by thousands of children each year.

The local school, Ewhurst Church of England (Aided) Infant School, lies in the heart of the village close to the church, with which it enjoys strong ties. Indeed there is evidence to show that there has been a village school here for nearly 300 years. The school has survived the recent reorganisation in education and continues to play an important rôle in the community.

The everyday interests of the local community are championed by the Parish Council and 1994 marked its Centenary: a hundred years during which immense changes have taken place in the lives of ordinary people and which have seen the growth of Ewhurst from a tiny isolated community to the lively and popular village it is today. That Ewhurst has been able to adapt to these changes owes much to its strong sense of identity, reflected in its church and school, its various clubs and societies, as well as the many people who have given of their time and energy over the years.

This book chronicles those changes, recording a way of life gone for ever. In the year we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe, this book is a celebration of a rich heritage that we all hold in trust for future generations. I warmly commend this book by the Ewhurst History Society.

H.R.H. The Duke of Kent
President, the RAF Benevolent Fund

PREFACE

In 1994 Ewhurst Parish Council celebrated its centenary and this inspired some members of Ewhurst History Society to compile this book. Over the last year we have been researching the history of the parish and recording the memories of local people. The area of our study is the parish* of Ewhurst, although we have taken the liberty of including places just outside the boundary where relevant, such as Ockley Brickworks.

We have been thrilled at the wealth of material that has come to light, such as photographs and personal items lent to us by local people, minute books and memorabilia lent by village clubs and societies, and archives in libraries and record offices. The Guildford Muniment Room and Surrey Record Office have large deposits of local material, including parish magazines, school log books and papers relating to the ecclesiastical and civil affairs of the parish. There are also documents relating to individual houses that would prove interesting to anyone who would like more detailed information.

One of our most interesting discoveries has been the large collection of architectural drawings and watercolours, mainly relating to the parish church, held by the London

Borough of Lambeth Archive Department at the Minet Library. These include drawings by John and Edward Hassell showing unique views of the interior of Ewhurst Church before the tower collapse of 1837.

Inevitably we will have made some mistakes and omissions, for which we offer our apologies. One of the most difficult tasks has been deciding what to include and what to leave out. We would like this book to be seen not as an end, but as a beginning - to stimulate an interest in local history and to encourage further research.

Compiling this book has been an enormously rewarding experience and we hope that those who know and love Ewhurst will derive great pleasure in reading it.

Janet & Nigel Balchin, John White, Carol Woodrow, Nigel Farrington and Mary Smith.

May 1995

Additional research by Connie Watson, Sylvia Wright and Ros Newcomen.

Post Office Green, 1905.



** The word 'parish' is used loosely on occasions in the text, but it generally refers to the present civil parish. The civil parish lost its two 'outlyers' at Willinghurst and Holmbury during the late 19th century, but gained from Cranleigh an area on the west side (including Ewhurst Mill, The Windmill Inn, and Rapsley) in the early 1980s. Until these changes, the parish boundary had remained virtually unaltered since the 13th century. In 1994 the ecclesiastical boundary was redrawn to follow its civil equivalent, although Cox Green, which had become part of West Sussex, remained within the ecclesiastical parish.*

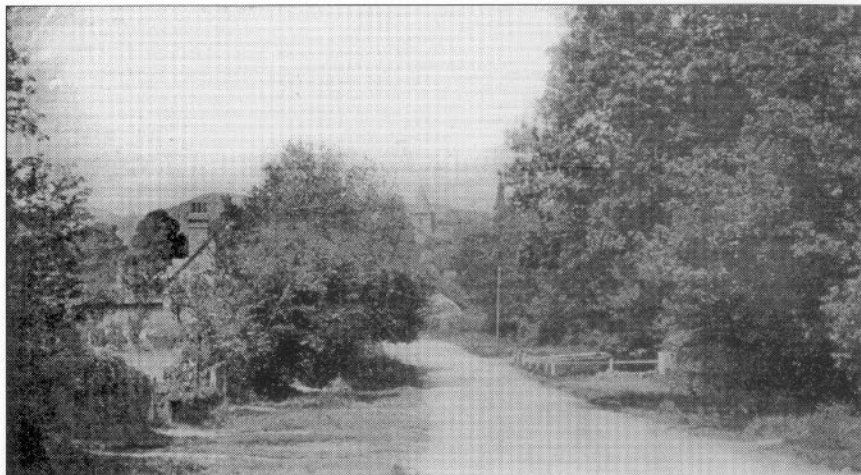
The pictures on these pages were taken by the well known Albury photographer, Percy Lloyd. He travelled throughout the area in an American steam car which caused a sensation when it caught fire in Ewhurst.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Church of England Records Centre, Cranleigh Library, Girl Guide Association, Guildford Muniment Room, Guildford Museum, London Borough of Lambeth Archives Department (Minet Library), Natural History Museum, Queens Museum Clandon Park, Scout Association, Sir Henry Doulton Gallery, SPCK, Surrey Archaeological Society, Surrey Local History Council, Surrey Local Studies Library Guildford, Surrey Records Office Kingston.

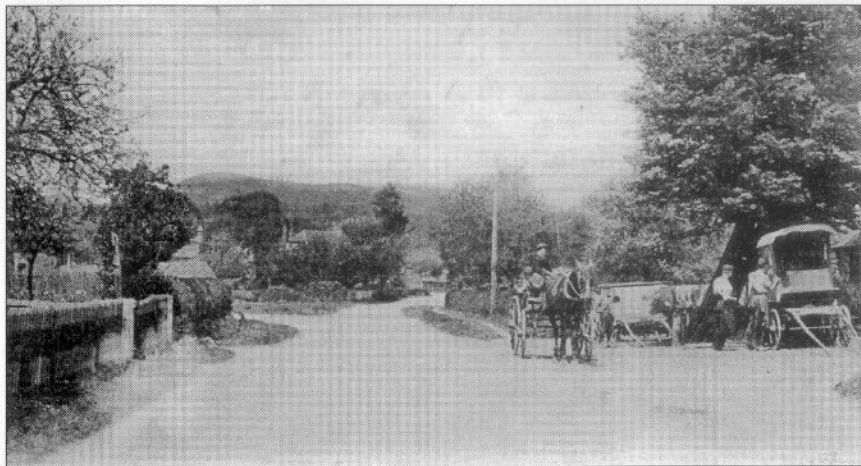
Cornhill Insurance plc, Duke of Kent School, Ellen's Green Memorial Hall, Ewhurst Afternoon WI, Ewhurst Bowls Club, Ewhurst Church of England Infant School, Ewhurst Cricket Club, Ewhurst Evangelical Church, Ewhurst Horticultural Society, Ewhurst Parish Council, Ewhurst Parochial Church Council, Ewhurst Players, Ewhurst Stoolball Club, Ockley Bricks, Sayers Croft Field Centre, The Ewhurst Charity, West Sussex County Times.

Mrs R. Aitkin, Dave & Jan Allen, Mrs B. Barnet, Betty Berry, Thelma Bicknell, Joy Billimore, Mr & Mrs D.M. Bloomfield, Sue Breading, Lorraine Bulbeck, Frank Coles, Mr & Mrs A Couchman, Alan Cross, Cedric de la Nougerede, Terry Disley, Maurice Drake, John Edwards, Mabel Edwards, Jenny Elms, Judie English, Daphne Enticknap, Mrs M. Evershed, Ivy Farley, Derek Fisk, Mrs V. Foster, Geoffrey & Dawn Garland, Harry Gell, Joanne Geoghegan, Stephen Goodchild, John Greenwood, Norman & Joy Hamshere, Allen Hamshire, Rosamond Hanworth, Keith Harding, Barrie & Marion Heathcote, Ray Hewett, Mr A Hill, Susan Hope-Jones, David Hull, Gordon Jennings, Brian Johnson, Jim Lazzell, Julia Leslie, Martin Lockwood, Norman Manning, Peter Mason, Marion May, Cecil Mugeridge, Susie Newcomen, George Nicholson, Mrs Olive Parkes, Joy Parsons, Mrs E. Pinnells, Mr & Mrs Roy Pobgee, Phil Rapley, Mike Reed, Monica Roach, Alan Smith, Stan Smith, Gerald Stacey, Mrs Daisy Stemp, Joan Tate, Frank Tidy, Joyce Tidy, Robert Tidy, Freda Vincent, Bob Warrington, John Weller, Rebecca Woodrow, Mrs V. Worsey, Mrs D. Young.



Hazelbank, looking towards the church, 1905.

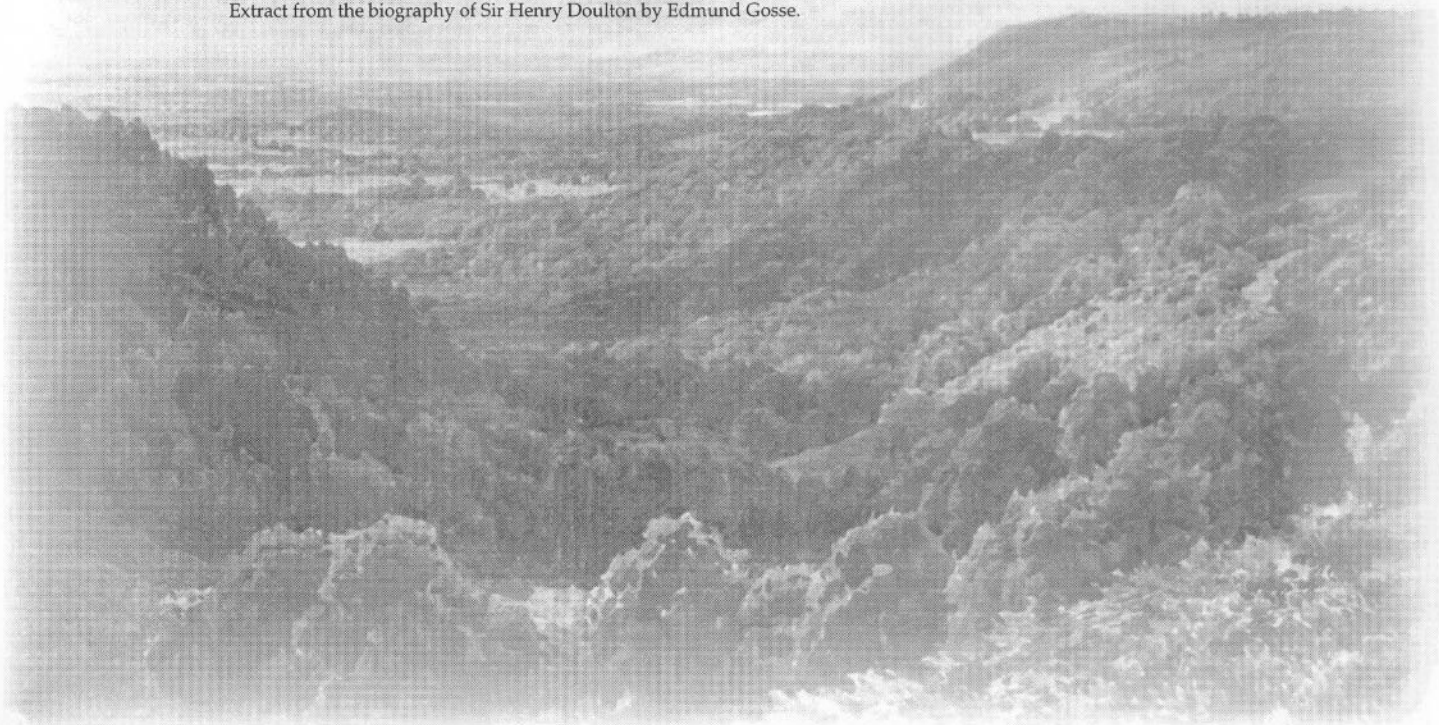
The Forge, with Pitch Hill in the distance, 1905.



Henry Doulton visited Ewhurst for the first time in 1876.

"He announced with a conviction which he maintained to the last, that there was more beauty of scenery in the parish of Ewhurst than was to be found, equally composed and combined, in any other parish in England. When gently reminded that he had not seen all the English parishes, he admitted it, and said that, after seeing Ewhurst, one would not want to see them. Something permanently bewitched him, and he determined, with all his pertinacity of purpose, to get a foot-hold for life under the shadow of Pitch Hill."

Extract from the biography of Sir Henry Doulton by Edmund Gosse.



INTRODUCTION

Ewhurst is a village about 35 miles south west of Central London on the Surrey – Sussex border. Close by is the larger village of Cranleigh; the nearest towns of Guildford, Dorking and Horsham, are each about 10 miles away. Today it is to these towns that many residents look for employment, shopping and leisure, but in the past Ewhurst was quite self-contained with a full range of shops and businesses and a thriving community life. Through the pages of this book we hope to show something of this wealth and variety.

The village takes its name from the Old English 'hyrst', meaning 'wooded-hill' and 'iw' meaning 'yew tree' (the English Place Name Society suggests 'Yew Wood'). In the *Natural History and Antiquities of the County of Surrey* published in 1719 Aubrey notes "the vast quantities of ewe trees that formerly abounded here". The first recorded spelling is "Tuherst" in 1179. A popular interpretation is that the name derived from ewe-sheep as the wool trade was important in medieval times, but this seems unlikely as the name is much older and dates from the Saxon period. The village sign on the green opposite the Bulls Head shows both a ewe-sheep and a yew tree. The wrought-iron sign was designed by Mr Robert Strand, a former master at Horsham School of Art, and made by the Barns Green blacksmith Mr A.J. Killick. The sign, which also incorporates the Royal Insignia and the date 1953, was erected to commemorate the Coronation of Queen

Elizabeth II and officially unveiled on the first anniversary of the Coronation, 2nd June 1954 by "John Bull", alias Mr D.B. McNerny.

The parish of Ewhurst, like many in the southern part of Surrey, is long and thin, stretching some six miles from Pitch Hill in the north to the hamlet of Ellen's Green on the Sussex border in the south, but is less than two miles from east to west. It covers an area of approximately 5,400 acres with a population at present of about 2,500. Above the village Pitch Hill stands out from the Greensand escarpment with commanding views over the Weald to the South Downs. Extending northwards is the Hurtwood, a large area of woodland and commonland forming part of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Much of the parish, however, is on the Weald Clay, which in ancient times was a vast forest and is today, despite the Great Storm of 1987, still one of the most densely wooded areas of Britain.

The unveiling of the village sign, 1954.



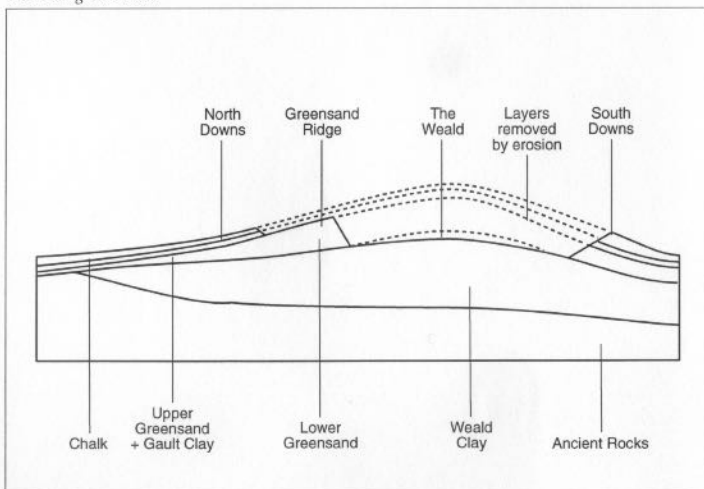
From a watercolour 'Hills above Peaslake' by Harry Sutton Palmer, from "Surrey" by A. R. Hope Moncrieff, 1906 (left).

THE FORMATION OF THE LANDSCAPE

The landscape of this part of England is relatively young in geological terms and dates from the Cretaceous period, 124 million years ago, when Surrey was on the edge of a large floodplain stretching south into France. The area was covered with shallow lakes and marshes inhabited by insects, reptiles and dinosaurs. Sediments from the older hills to the north were washed down into the floodplain to form what is now the Weald Clay. About 115 million years ago the sea broke into the Wealden Lake and, over the next 10 million years, the rocks of the Lower Greensand formation were laid down. The sea then gradually deepened and the Gault and Upper Greensand layers were deposited. Finally, over many millions of years, the chalk was deposited. About 25 million years ago the land folded and rose to form a dome. This eventually weathered and the top of the dome eroded to form the Weald, bordered to the north and south by the chalk downs. The Weald Clay was described by Cobbett as "bottomless" but is actually about 1,500 ft thick. The Weald, with its great forest, influenced early settlement patterns, communications and subsequent boundaries, and played an important part in the local economy.

On the northern edge of the Weald the Greensand Ridge was formed with its prominent south-facing scarp slopes and more gentle, northern dip slopes. The Greensand is so called because it contains the green coloured mineral glauconite, which oxidises

The Geological Strata.



when exposed and turns yellow. The Lower Greensand is divided geologically into four divisions. Pitch Hill is formed from an outcrop of hard sandstone known as the Hythe Beds (the second oldest division). Where the Hythe Beds met the Atherfield Clay (the oldest division) a spring line was formed and it is here that we find the oldest known settlement site in the parish – the Roman Villa. The two remaining divisions occur further to the north and contain ironstone, often used as a decorative feature in stonework (see page 25). It is this underlying geological structure which has given us the varied scenery that makes Ewhurst so popular with both residents and visitors.

Pre-historic Discoveries

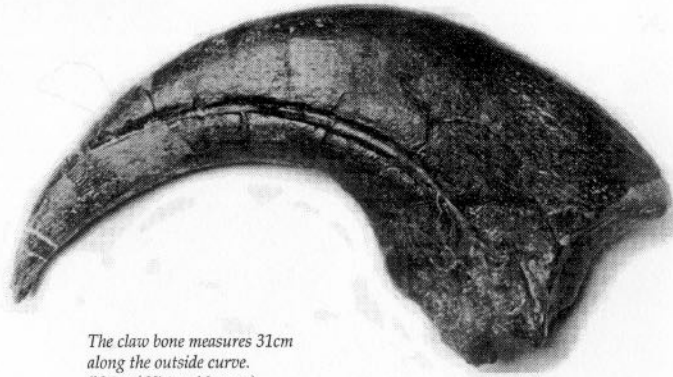
In the early years of this century the remains of a prehistoric fresh-water fish, *Lepidotus mantelli*, were discovered at Swallow's Tile Works on the road to Cranleigh. In the clay there are also beds of fossilised winkle shells, known locally as Sussex Marble and used as a decorative feature in buildings of the neighbourhood.

In January 1983 an exciting discovery was made by an amateur fossil collector, Mr William Walker, in a clay pit at Ockley Brickworks. It proved to be a large claw-bone from a flesh-eating dinosaur. His son-in-law took it to the Natural History Museum

The Greensand Ridge – the view from Pitch Hill looking east towards Leith Hill.

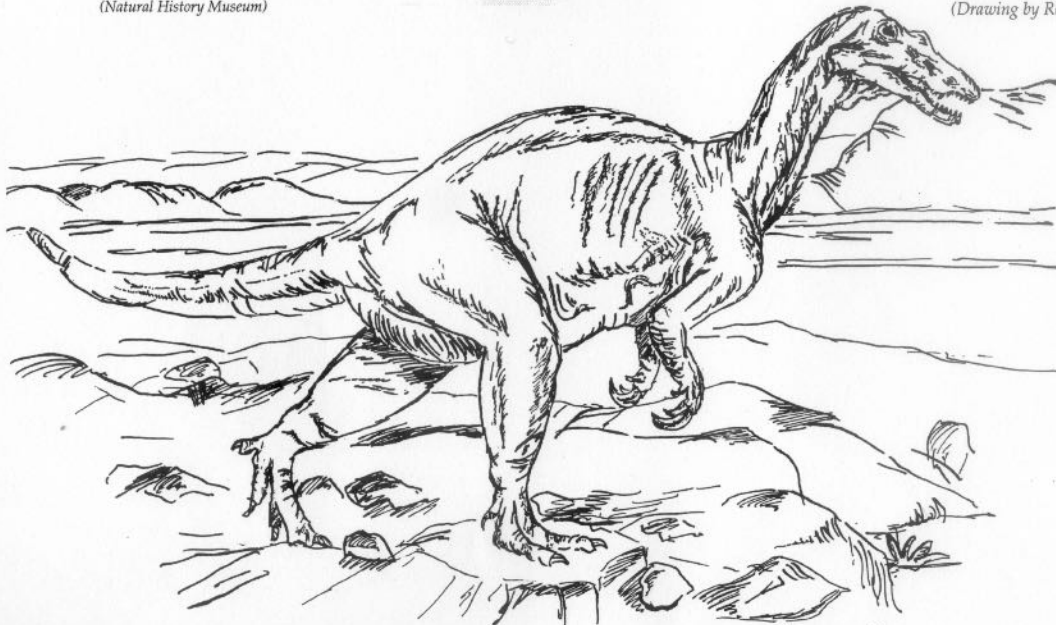


who realised it was extremely unusual. The following month Mr Walker and two of the museum's paleontologists returned to the site where they found more of the skeleton. Later, in the spring, the museum sent a team of eight people to excavate the remains which fortunately had not been damaged by mechanical excavators. In the museum's laboratories the skeleton was painstakingly restored and was found to be of a previously unrecorded species. It was given the name *Baryonyx Walkeri* meaning "heavy claw" and in honour of Mr Walker. It remains the most complete specimen found in this country this century and the only reasonably complete skeleton of a large flesh eating dinosaur from the Early Cretaceous period ever found. Nick-named "Claws" it made headline news around the world.



*The claw bone measures 31cm along the outside curve.
(Natural History Museum)*

*Artist's impression of the dinosaur. It was nearly 10 metres from head to tail.
(Drawing by Rebecca Woodrow)*



Early Man

The first people to traverse this land were nomadic hunter-gatherers in inter-glacial periods up to 500,000 years ago. This area was not covered by glaciers, but the earth would have been permanently frozen with surface run-off from meltwater continuing the process of landscape erosion. The earliest settlements were probably along the line of the Tillingbourne Valley and Mesolithic flints have been found near the Duke of Kent School. By the dawn of the Bronze Age, 5,000 years ago, man was already making his mark upon the landscape. The early clearance of oak scrub from the Greensand hills created the sterile heathland that exists today. The Weald was covered with a dense impenetrable forest and was one of the last areas of Britain to become permanently settled.

HISTORY

The End of the Iron Age and the Arrival of the Romans.

Towards the end of the Iron Age, about 200BC, hill-forts were constructed at Hascombe, Holmbury and Anstiebury (Leith Hill). With their prominent positions they probably served as centres for trade and would also provide a refuge in times of stress. They were abandoned around the time of Caesar's invasions of 55-54BC and the period after this is thought to have been one of unrest and tribal regrouping. When the Romans returned in AD43, they met with little local resistance and some local tribes may even have welcomed them as allies. The Romans organised their administration along existing tribal lines. It is unclear whether Ewhurst was within the territories of the Regni, whose capital was at Chichester, or the Atrebatas, whose capital was Silchester. For their co-operation they enjoyed a high standing of living and considerable autonomy.

Roman Roads

The Romans organised a network of roads: Stane Street, from Chichester to London, passes through Surrey and the modern A29 follows part of its route. From the Cheq-

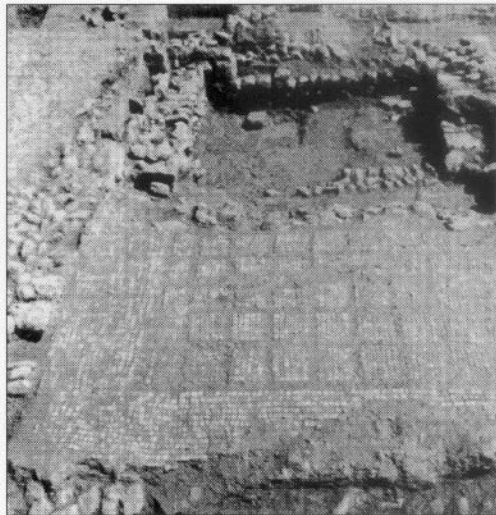
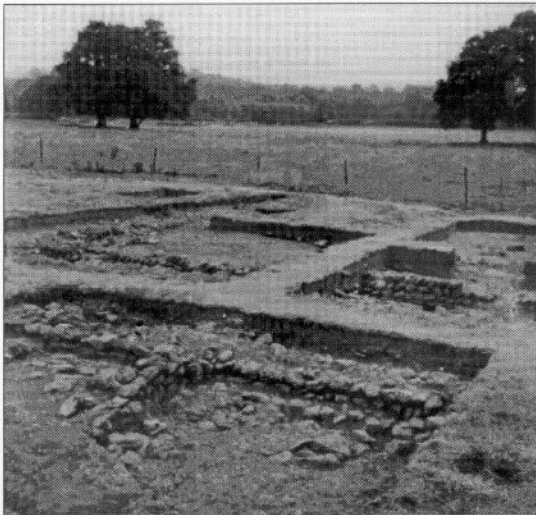
uers Inn at Rowhook a branch road led in a straight line north-west to Winterfold. This road, constructed of chert and ironstone, was about 18 ft wide and traces of it have been found at Somersbury Wood, Coxland's, Sayers Croft and Coneyhurst Gill, after which it leaves its straight course to climb the steep gully of Jelley's Hollow. As it was not necessary to metal it across the dry, sandy heath, the road has not been traced beyond this point. It probably continued to the Romano-British Temple at Farley Heath and may have gone as far as Bracknell to link up with the road from London to Silchester.

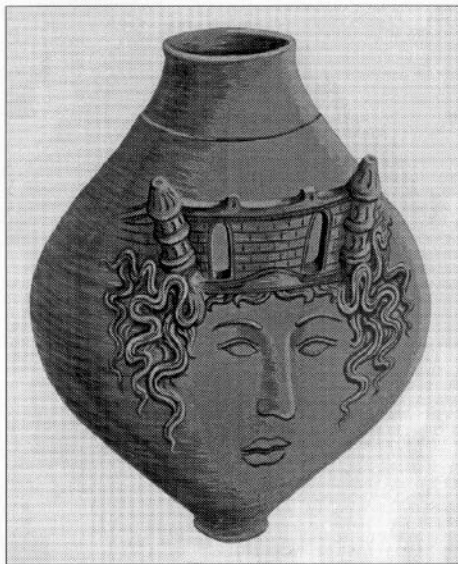
The Tile Kiln

The site of a Roman tile kiln was first located near Coneyhurst Gill by Mr S.E. Winbolt in 1923, after having heard that when the land was ploughed, quantities of red brick were turned up. The site was excavated in 1936 by Cranleigh School Archaeological Society under the leadership of a pupil, R.G. Goodchild, who later became a respected Professor of Archaeology. They discovered a paved brick yard approximately 70 ft by

56 ft which would have been used for drying the tiles before firing. Part of the area had been used as a workshop to make 'tesserae' (cubes used in mosaics), probably from reject tiles. The kiln consisted of a stokehole, combustion chamber and oven with a main flue nearly 18 ft long. The oven, sitting on top of the combustion chamber, was about 9 ft square. The tiles would have been stacked to a height of about 6 ft and surrounded with clay blocks for firing. At the end of its working life the kiln was dismantled and the site levelled. The excavations failed to trace the clay pits which provided the raw materials. These were probably shallow and have long since been obliterated through ploughing. Goodchild was also unable to find any trace of buildings where the workmen might have lived and he surmised that these were probably round wooden huts. At that time the nearby Roman villa had not yet been discovered, though some unusual pear-shaped tiles were found and Goodchild notes that these were probably "intended for a building of some architectural pretensions".

Excavations at Rapsley – a view across the site (left), and a tessellated floor (right). (Surrey Archaeological Society)

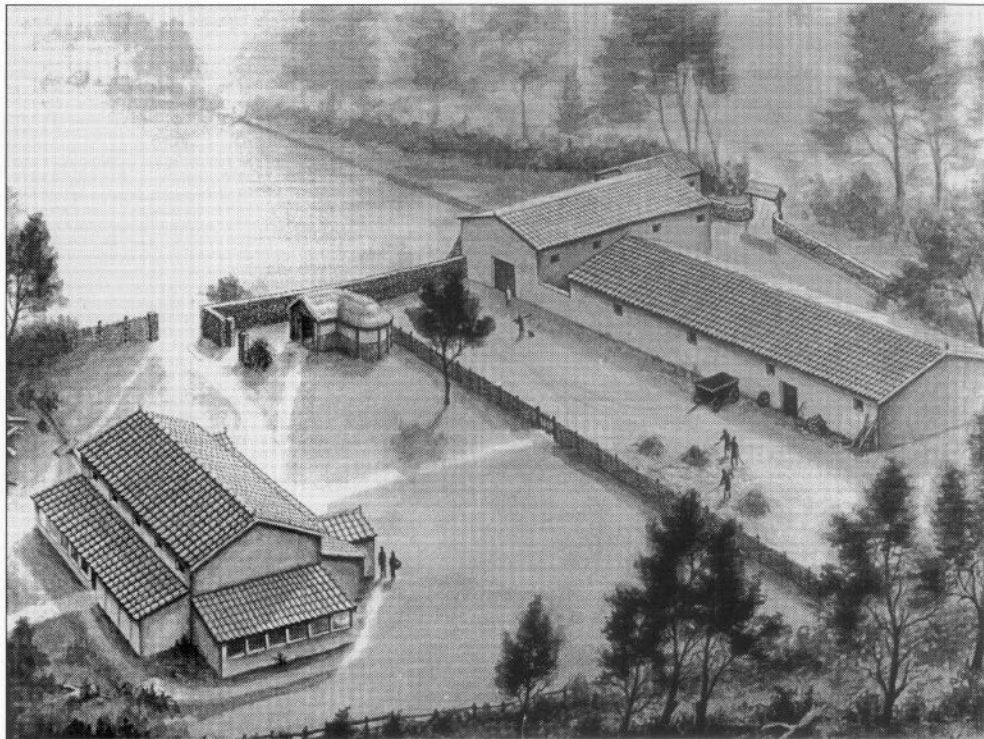




Reconstruction of the 'Mural Crown' vase representing Fortuna, the 'Tutelary' or guardian goddess (above).

Artist's impression of how the villa may have looked. The inhabitants would have been British farmers (right).

(Drawings by Cedric de la Nougerede)



The Roman Villa

When Hareholt Copse was being replanted in 1956, a 12th century pottery kiln was discovered and its walls were found to contain a substantial number of Romano-British flue tiles. This prompted the owner of nearby Rapsley to dig some trial trenches in his garden where he discovered the foundations of a building. The excavation was continued by professional archaeologists and students who uncovered part of a Romano-British villa dating from about AD180, including a bath room, a hot-room and part of a tessellated floor. From 1961 to 1968 the excavations were taken over by Surrey Archaeological Society under the supervision of Rosamond Hanworth of Folly Hill, Ewhurst. Summer digs by volunteers revealed that the site had been occupied

between AD80 and AD330. The earliest villa buildings date from about AD120 and by AD200 the villa had been enlarged, a separate bathhouse added and a shrine constructed near the entrance gate. Over the next 100 years more alterations were carried out, including conversion of the bathhouse to a separate dwelling. In the middle of the 4th century the villa was destroyed by fire, although it appears to have been already abandoned by then. Interesting finds included a pear-shaped tile similar to those found at the kiln; a flue tile with a maker's mark, possibly denoting the end of a batch; fragments of an imported glass goblet with shell decoration and fragments of an unusual vase decorated by a face with a 'Mural Crown'.

The Saxon Period

The departure of the Romans in the 5th century left a political void from which the province of Britannia only slowly emerged. Saxons, along with Jutes and Angles, invaded England following the withdrawal of the Romans, and the Romano-British inhabitants were either pushed westwards or assimilated with the Saxon settlers. It is around this time that the name of Surrey is first recorded and the name of Ewhurst is likely to have been first used. The modern name Surrey derives from the Old English "Sudre Ge" meaning southern region. In a document of AD672, reference is made to an ancient boundary ditch, the Fullingadic, which formed the eastern edge of Sudre Ge. Parts of this ditch have been traced in Byfleet and Walton-on-Thames and, at its southern extremity, its probable line runs between Ewhurst and Forest Green to form the present boundary between East and West Surrey. It is the eastern boundary of both Ewhurst Parish and Waverley Borough and it is significant that the people of Ewhurst still look to the west and north-west to Guildford and Godalming for their social and cultural links whilst those in Forest Green look north-east to Dorking.

During the Saxon era the manorial system of local administration began to evolve. In early Anglo-Saxon times - around the 6th and 7th centuries - the Woccingas and Godhelmingas, respectively the people of the Woking and Godalming territories, occupied Sudre Ge. The area that was to become Ewhurst came under the jurisdiction of the Royal Vill at Godalming and it is interesting to note that the modern Waverley Borough area is broadly similar to the territory of the Godhelmingas. Later, this territory was divided into three estates which correspond with the Hundreds of Farnham, Godalming and Blackheath, the latter comprising the Manors of Shalford, Bramley, Gomshall and part of Chilworth. The Manor of Gomshall included the present Shere and Albury, together with their Wealden tracts to the south which were to become Ewhurst and Cranleigh. These southern tracts would have been useful to the manor for hunting, grazing and timber. The Saxons called the great forest Andredswald and at first probably only visited it in the summer as is suggested by the name Somersbury, meaning summer fortified place. As the area came to be settled all year round, small farmsteads were created in clearings in the forest and these scattered holdings formed the beginnings of the communities.

One thing evident about the shape of manorial lands and subsequent parishes bordering the Weald is that they have a pronounced north-south axis. The geological divisions run east-west and hence a strip of land with a north-south axis had a varied topography to enable a high degree of self-sufficiency. The original Gomshall manor was ten miles north to south and only a third of that in width and Ewhurst parish today is six miles north to south and less than two miles wide. This also influences the pattern of roads. The oldest routes run north to south and were originally more important than the modern B2127. As this road cuts across in an east-west direction it links with parts of these older routes and it is at these junctions that the sharp bends, for which this road is notorious, occur.

The Norman Conquest and After

At the time of the Norman invasion, Gomshall was a royal manor. The first recorded lord was King Harold and it is possible that he was one of a line of royal lords stretching back to the kings of Wessex. By 1066 the manor had already been divided into two. Most of the western part, including Cranleigh, became the Manor of Essira (Shere) which was held in 1066 by Queen Edith, widow of King Edward the Confessor. The remaining portion, including Ewhurst, retained the name Gumselle and remained in royal ownership. It is not known whether any of the inhabitants of Ewhurst joined King Harold's army to do battle against the invader, but it is reasonable to assume that his tenants would owe some duties to their master. Ewhurst is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, presumably being included with Gomshall Manor. In 1086 King William held both Gomshall and Shere Manors. Shere was granted soon after to William de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, but Gomshall continued in royal hands until the time of King Stephen who gave it to his son William de Blois, Earl of Warren. This was revoked when Henry II came to the throne in 1154 and the new king split the manor into three portions; East and West Gomshall were granted to Robert de Wendenale and William de Clare respectively, whilst the third part, Somersbury, was retained by the King. Sub-division of the manorial lands continued until the early years of this century when the remaining manorial rights were extinguished.

Around the year 1140 the Church of St Peter and St Paul was founded by the Augustinian monks of the Priory of Merton,

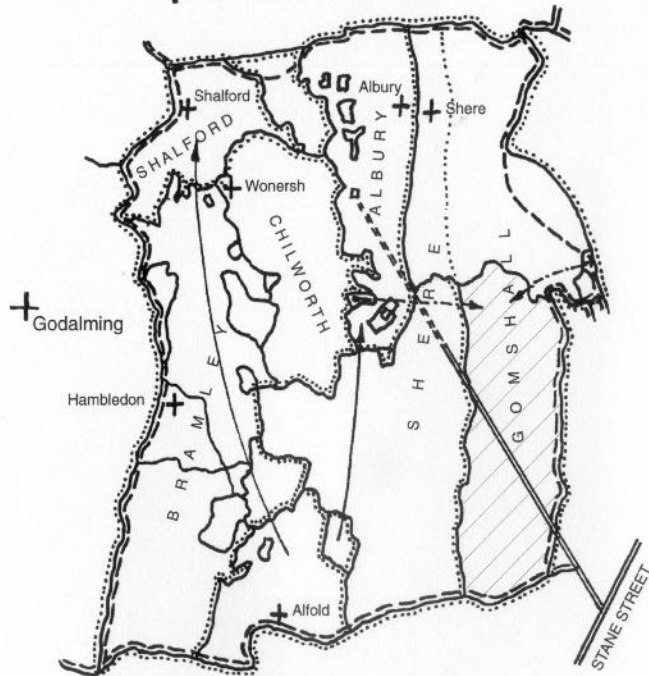
who were known for their missionary work. However life was not all work and prayer for the monks: they were admonished at one stage for spending too much time hunting! The Wealden Forest at that time was rich with wild boar, deer and other game. The Roman Stane Street connected Merton with Dorking, where the ancient trackway along the North Downs would have provided an easy route to Shere and hence to Ewhurst. The church originally existed as a daughter church of Shere, but by 1291 Ewhurst had become a parish in its own right, as recorded in the Testa de Nevil. The Priory held the advowson (the right to appoint the incumbent) until 1538 when, upon dissolution of the monasteries, this passed to the Crown where it still lies.

The restored Norman south doorway of The Parish Church from "The Charm of Old Surrey" by H.M. Alderman.



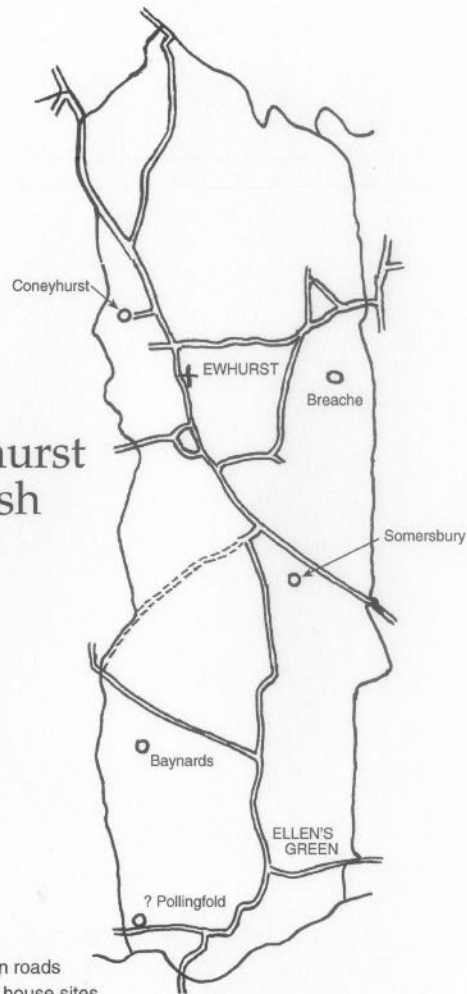
Blackheath Hundred

+ Stoke-by-Guildford



- + Churches recorded in 1086
- - - Hundred boundaries in 1086
- Suggested manorial boundaries in 1086
- Parish boundaries in early 19th century
- == Roman road
- Detached portions of Manors

Ewhurst Parish



- == Modern roads
- o Manor house sites

The Manors of Ewhurst

The division of the Manor of Gomshall by Henry II in 1154 has been mentioned already. All three parts had parcels of the present parish of Ewhurst, but only Somersbury (the portion retained by the King) had its manor house on the Weald. This estate included much of what is now Ewhurst village.

In 1205 **East Gomshall** was in the possession of William de Braose who was later driven into exile by King John. William's son Giles, the Bishop of Hereford, was one of the leaders in the civil war against John, but the family gained restitution of the estate and it remained in their hands until 1281. The manor was then purchased by John Savage, but in 1331 his son Roger illegally sold 250 acres of common land for its timber. For this felony Roger was imprisoned in Newgate and subsequently escaped, whereupon his estate was forfeited. In 1376 Edward III gave the manor to the Abbey of St Mary Graces near the Tower of London, from which time it was known as Gomshall Towerhill. By 1240 **West Gomshall** was in the ownership of Sir Matthias Besille and, in that year, he gave the estate to the Abbey of Netley in Hampshire and it became known as Gomshall Netley. On the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry

Baynards, from an old print.



VIII, Gomshall Netley was granted in 1537 to Sir Edward Bray, while Gomshall Towerhill was granted to Sir Edmund Walsingham who sold it in 1549 to Sir Edward Bray. The Shere part of the original manor had been divided in about 1300. By acquiring Shere Vachery in 1498 and Shere Eborum in 1547, the Bray family had reunited the Shere portion of the old manor and, for the first time in 500 years, most of the original Manor of Gomshall was once again in single ownership. Apart from a period in the 17th and 18th centuries, these four portions remained in the Bray family until legislation abolished the ancient manorial rights earlier this century. The title 'Lord of the Manor' still remains with the Bray family.

The manor of **Pollingfold**, which included Baynards and extended into Cranleigh and Sussex, was created from parts of both Gomshall Towerhill and Gomshall Netley. The present Pollingfold in Somersbury Lane is not the old manor house, which was further west. The first recorded tenant is John of Pollingfold in 1298.

Baynards was never a manor in its own right, although it was often referred to as such. It is said to have obtained its name from William of Baynard to whom this part of the estate had been given by William the Conqueror; its exact status is unclear as it later appears to be part of Pollingfold. In 1447 William Sydney had a licence to impark 800 acres in Ewhurst, Cranleigh and Rudgwick within his 'manor' of Baynards. Sydney's son divided the estate between his two daughters:

Baynards after the fire in 1979.



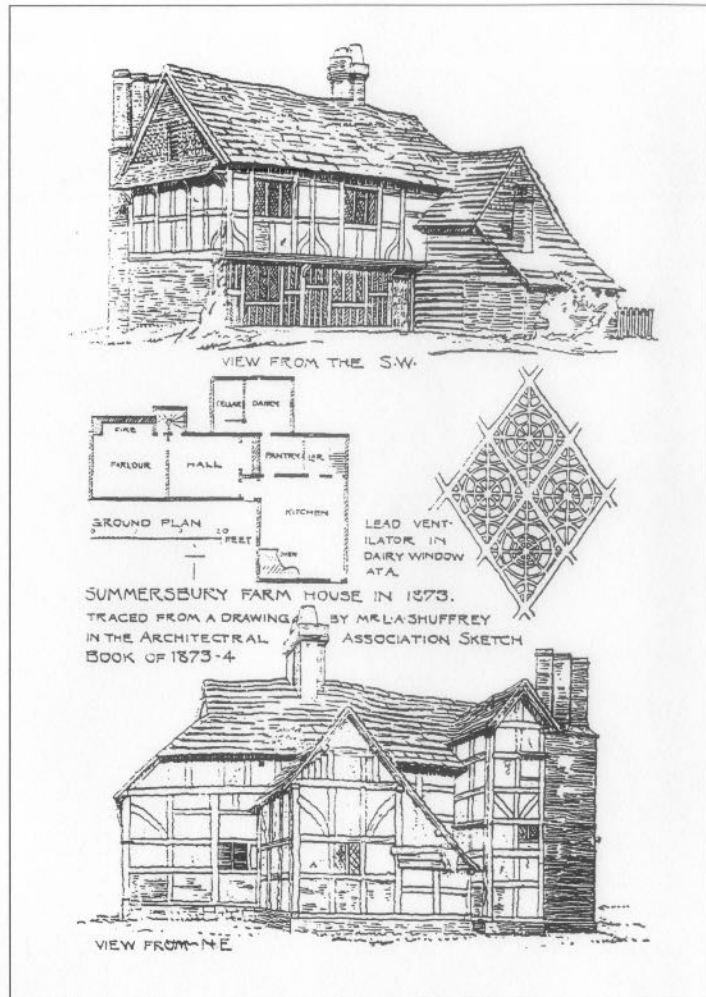
Anne, who later married William Uvedale, had the east portion (including Baynards) situated mainly in Ewhurst and Elizabeth, later the wife of Sir John Hampden, had the west part which was mainly in Cranleigh. Both parts were later sold separately to the Bray family and by 1535 the whole estate was owned by Sir Edward Bray.

Sir Edward's second wife, Elizabeth Roper, was a grand-daughter of Sir Thomas More. Elizabeth's mother, Margaret, is said to have brought Sir Thomas' head to Baynards after his execution in 1535. It was later interred in the family vault at St Dunstan's, Canterbury. After the middle of the 16th century, the Bray's main holdings centred around Gomshall Towerhill; East and West Pollingfold had both been sold by the end of the century. Baynards also was sold in 1588 to George (later Sir George) More of Loseley who, with his wife's money, rebuilt the house with a great hall. In 1595 More also acquired West Pollingfold. The estate passed through several hands including the Evelyn and Onslow families until, in 1832, it was purchased by Reverend Thomas Thurlow. Thurlow extensively rebuilt the manor house, but fittings from the old chapel survive, having been given to the parish church in 1879. Also in 1832, Thurlow bought East Pollingfold, thus reuniting the estate. In the 20th century, the manor house at Baynards fell into decay and was almost derelict when it burnt down in 1979. The shell was later demolished.

Breache was a small manor on the east of the parish, probably held from Gomshall Netley.

Somersbury was the part of Gomshall manor retained by Henry II in 1154. It included the centre of Ewhurst village with the Manor House lying two miles to the south. King John is reputed to have used it as a hunting lodge and the first recorded tenant occurs in 1272. In 1467 the manor was granted with Shere Vachery to John Lord Audley but forfeited by his son James for his part in the Cornish Rebellion against taxation levied by King Henry VII. The rebels were defeated by royalist forces at Blackheath in Kent in 1497. Audley was beheaded and in 1511 Henry VIII granted the manor to Thomas Salter; the Audleys seem to have been restored to the estate before it descended to the Dendy family in 1576. At this date Rumbemyr was occupied by Richard Astret and Mascall by Thomas Edsalle, both probably held from Somersbury. The estate was acquired by Richard Evelyn of Baynards in 1648 with John Dendy in occupation. In 1669 it passed with Baynards to Richard's daughter Ann Montague who then sold Somersbury to William Freeman. Sir Richard Onslow took out a lease in 1700 and had become owner by 1714. His descendants sold in 1863 to William Lord Abinger whose family estate was broken up in 1921.

Coneyhurst was originally part of Somersbury lying about one mile north of the village. In 1553 Ambrose Wolley of Somersbury sold this manor to Sir Edward Bray and it then passed to his son. By 1593 the manor was in the possession of Ralph Dalton followed by his son Richard. In 1676 the whole manor was settled on Richard's daughter Joan and thence to her nephew Henry Bridger who died in 1695. It then descended to Henry's son-in-law, Edward Wood, in whose family the manor remained until the early 20th century.



Somersbury as it appeared in 1873.

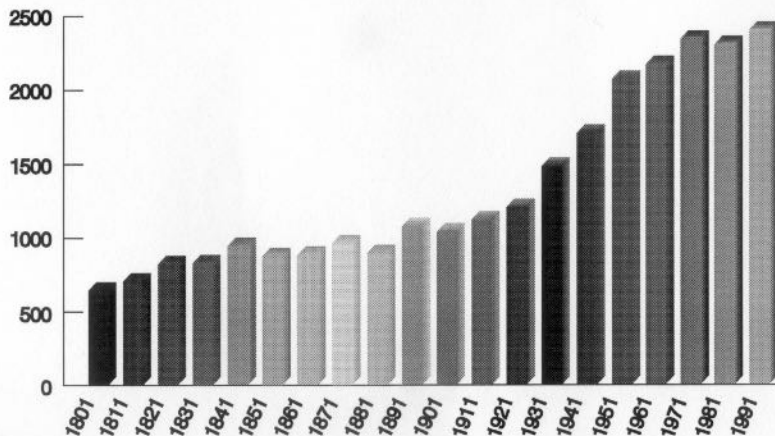
The Wealden Iron and Glass Industries

During late medieval and Tudor times, the Weald was one of the most important areas in the country for industry, owing to the abundance of timber. In the 17th century coal replaced timber as fuel and the industries moved north.

Ironworking has been practised in the Weald since Roman times and the Romano-British Temple at Farley Green was dedicated to the ironworking gods. Until the late medieval period it was a small scale operation but the industry grew with the development of blast furnaces. There are signs of a possible late medieval transitional site at Coneyhurst Gill near Sayers Croft, though this has not been fully researched. Indications of a bay, where the stream may have been dammed, can be seen and small amounts of slag have been found. The Roman Road crosses the site. Blast furnaces were prodigious consumers of charcoal; prices of timber soared, and, with the threat from Spain ever present, concern was expressed that insufficient timber would be left to ensure a supply for naval building. Coppice wood could be used for charcoal production, but Queen Elizabeth issued a proclamation forbidding the felling of mature oak, beech and ash within eleven miles of a navigable river (in the case of Ewhurst this was the Arun at Pulborough). Lady Jane Bray owned a forge at Vachery and a related furnace near Baynards. In 1581 John Lambert, alias Gardner, Lady Bray's ironworker, was accused of leaving 'bosci sine silva' - woodland without trees - at Ewhurst.

The English glassmaking industry started in Chiddingfold around the mid 14th century, and during the 15th and 16th centuries, spread to neighbouring parishes on the Surrey - Sussex border. There are two glasshouse sites in Ewhurst, at Somersbury Wood and Ellen's Green. The site at Somersbury dates from about 1570 and was examined in Victorian times, but there are no records as to what was found. The site was investigated again in the 1930s by S.E. Winbolt and G.H. Kenyon, who found fragments of glass and crucibles (the pots in which the molten glass was made). Thin window glass was made here. The glass was spun into a disc and then cut into diamond shapes, called 'quarries' (from the old French, 'quarrell', meaning square). The central knob became the cheaper 'bull's-eye' pane. The second site, at Wood Hall, Ellen's Green, is not so definite. Fragments of glass and crucible have been found and the site was also excavated in the 1930s by Winbolt, who located the site of the furnace, but unfortunately, it is not now known exactly where it was found. The glassmakers were French Huguenot families from Lorraine and were unpopular with the locals, partly because they were foreigners, but mainly because they used large amounts of valuable timber for fuel. An entry in the Rudgwick Parish Register for 1611 refers to "a stranger from the glasshouse at Ewhurst". The Surrey Musters for Ewhurst in 1583-4 list members of three of the known glassmaking families from Lorraine - Tysack, Hensye and Theatrye. Another reference to the glassmaking is found in the will of Laurence Fryer 'glassefounder' of Ewhurst in 1612. Displays of glassmaking and samples of Ewhurst glass can be seen at Guildford and Haslemere Museums.

How Ewhurst has Grown - Population 1801 - 1991



The Reformation

It seems likely that the parishioners of Ewhurst must have survived Henry VIII's break with the papacy without too much trouble and this was followed by swings from Protestantism to Catholicism and back again. Richard Blachus was Rector during the whole of this period and he was, presumably, able to conform to the power of the day to retain his job and for the benefit of his parishioners.

The Civil War

During the Civil War Surrey was dominated by Parliamentary forces and the predominantly Royalist people of Ewhurst found themselves at variance with their masters. There were forays and excursions in the neighbourhood and local tradition has it that there was a skirmish at Horseblock Hollow. Whilst the records provide no evidence of this, in Victorian times the tradition provided the basis for an annual rowdy replay of the encounter at the Boy and Donkey pub in Cranleigh between the

"Kaffirs" (Cavaliers) of Ewhurst and the "Diamond Tops" (Roundheads) of Cranleigh.

The people of Ewhurst did not take kindly to the imposition of a Presbyterian minister, John Wing, in 1644 and, within three years, were taking matters into their own hands. The parish register for the period contains the comment "1647, 1648, 1649, no parties were married in this parish by me, Mr Wing. Those parties which were nuptiated were joined together by such ministers as opposed the directory". There was also a refusal to pay tithes, about which Mr Wing complained to a parliamentary committee. Four named parishioners were given twelve days to pay and, when they failed to do so, the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Commons was ordered to take them into custody, but it is not known what happened to them. By coincidence Mr Wing died in the year of the restoration of the monarchy.

The 18th & 19th Centuries

Through most of this period, life in Ewhurst was uneventful and the parish became a quiet rural backwater. The heavy clay and poor roads contributed to its isolation and it did not benefit from the improvements in communication that were taking place elsewhere. Farming and woodcrafts formed the basis of the rural economy. As Ewhurst did not have an open field system, it was unaffected by the enclosures, but there was much agricultural poverty; poaching and smuggling were rife.

Eli Hamshire

Eli Hamshire was a remarkable man who, although uneducated, was a great thinker and wrote and published several pamphlets. Deeply religious and a staunch Liberal, he was aware of injustice and peoples' suffering. To him it was wrong that the labourer who cultivated the land should be at the mercy of the landlord and he was critical of the workhouse. He advocated that every man should be entitled to "three acres and a cow". His pamphlet "The Source of England's Greatness and the Source of England's Poverty" lists "36 Reasons why I am a Liberal" and contains articles on "The Four Great Standing Evils - Vaccine, Nicotine, Women Pinching their Waists In and Intermarrying". He corresponded with many MPs and in 1891 met Gladstone when he was staying with Leveson-Gower at Holmbury St Mary.

Eli Hamshire, 1834-1896.



"At Ewhurst", from "Highways and Byways in Surrey" by Eric Parker, 1908.

WAR AND PEACE

The First World War

When war broke out in 1914, many young men of the village were keen to join up, little guessing at what lay ahead. They joined all branches of the services, though many joined the local regiments, the Royal West Surrey and the East Surrey. The cottage opposite the school, later to become Pam's sweetshop, was used as a recruiting office. The school log book for 2nd September 1914 records "The registers were marked this afternoon five minutes earlier, and all classes were taken out by their respective teachers until 1.50 to give a send-off to the local recruits who left the village in a body today". A War Relief Fund was set up to pay 5/- weekly to the families of men away fighting, and Mr E.E. Whitty, the first Ewhurst man to enlist, was awarded a special 'bounty' of £5.

A Red Cross working party was formed to make garments for the troops. The Parish Magazine in October 1914 reports that 56 shirts, 53 pairs of socks, 8 vests and 8 pairs of pants were sent to Capt. C. Bennett (of Westlands Farm) for the men of the 4th East Surrey Regiment. In 1917 their efforts were to reflect a different picture - 149 nightshirts, 32 pairs of pyjamas, 511 abdominal and limb bandages, roller bandages, etc., were sent off to the military hospitals.

Large numbers of Belgian refugees came to England at the beginning of the war and several families were accommodated in Ewhurst. Collecting boxes were placed in village shops to provide them with warm clothes, tobacco and a Christmas lunch. Flour and potatoes were donated by the Canadian Government and the US sent Christmas gifts, mostly clothes, for the Belgian children and the children whose fathers were reported as "missing". In the school log book for 28th October 1914, the Headmaster records "I have today admitted 6 Belgian refugee children."

In 1915 the schoolchildren sent gifts of tobacco to men of the New Zealand Field Artillery at Gallipoli and received 'Thank You' postcards. They did their bit for the war effort by picking blackberries for poor town children. In September 1918, they were able to send 1,023 lbs. of black-

berries in tubs to Gomshall Station. A government official later came to thank them personally. They also collected eggs to send to hospitals for the wounded. Towards the end of the war, Guildford was bombed by Zeppelins and there was a real fear of air-raids. Arrangements were made for places of safety for the children if these occurred, but luckily they were not needed.

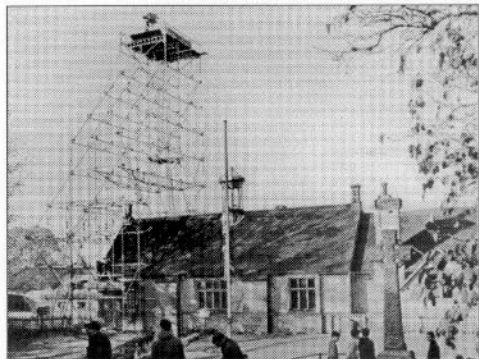
The school log book for 11th November 1918 records "When news was received that an Armistice had been signed, Sir George Johnston hoisted the flag, the children assembled in front of the school and after a few words had been spoken by the Rector, all joined in singing the National Anthem. Three Cheers were given for the King, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and our Allies." A peel of bells was rung in the Church.

First World War veterans outside the Crown Inn.

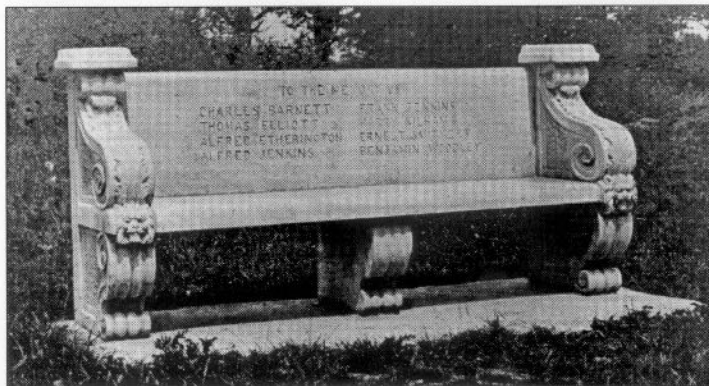


The War Memorial

Ewhurst War Memorial was unveiled on 7th November 1922. In 1965 the BBC decided to include scenes of a village ceremony as part of its traditional broadcast from the Cenotaph, and chose Ewhurst. An anonymous viewer from Rochester in Kent, noticed that the church did not have a Processional Cross and offered to pay for one of the church's own choosing. As a result of this generous offer, the church now has a beautiful modern cross.



*Scaffolding erected by the BBC to film the 1965 Service of Remembrance (top left).
The Service of Remembrance, 1931 (above).*



The Ellen's Green Memorial Seat

In Ellen's Green the War Memorial took the form of an elaborately carved stone seat which stood near the Mission Hall. Unfortunately the seat was damaged in 1961 and the back, on which the names of the fallen were carved, was removed and mounted on the wall in the Mission Hall. When the hall was sold, the plaque was moved to the Memorial Hall opposite, where it can still be seen. Many years later new owners of the Mission Hall discovered the end and middle supports under brambles in their garden. At first they thought they were gravestones, but then a letter in the West Sussex County Times, from someone who had visited Ellen's Green during the Second World War, asked if anyone knew what had happened to the seat, and they realised what they had discovered. They offered the seat back to the village, but sadly no-one was interested and so when they moved again, they took it with them.

The Second World War

By 1938 war seemed inevitable. Air Raid Precaution units were set up and the Ewhurst unit put on a demonstration of stirrup-pumps and gas masks at the Summer Flower Show. By the autumn, forty people had volunteered as wardens and lectures in gas precautions and first aid were organised at the YMCA. The head of Civil Defence was Mr Wetherall.

Evacuees

When war broke out, thousands of children were evacuated from London to the countryside. Ewhurst received 317 evacuees accompanied by their teachers and 58 mothers of children aged under five. The children arrived on the 1st and 2nd of September 1939 at Ewhurst School, where they were examined by a doctor and given tea or lemonade, before being taken to their 'billets'. These were organised by the Chairman of the WVS, Mrs Blair, and local residents who had cars helped to ferry the children to their new homes. However, in the first 6 months, the feared air-raids did not happen and many of the children returned to their families (only to be evacuated again, when the bombing started, but this time further afield to places such as the West Country). There were still a large number in the village at Christmas 1939. A party in the Church Hall organised by the WI was attended by 230 children, including 88 evacuees, but by 1942 there were only 24 evacuees on the roll of Ewhurst school. In the first few months

Catford Central Boys School at Sayers Croft, 1944.



the extra children stretched the resources of the village school. Local children had lessons from 8.30am–12.30pm, and the evacuees from 12.30pm–4.30pm. Later the YMCA was bought into use as a temporary school for the evacuees, who were taught by their own teachers. The WVS ran a club for the mothers with toddlers. A London children's home was evacuated to Folly Hill.

In June 1940, another group of evacuees, 200 boys and their teachers from Catford Central School, arrived at the newly completed Sayers Croft Camp. They had previously been evacuated to Ashford in Kent, but moved because it was in the 'bomb corridor'. They stayed for the duration of the war and led a self-contained existence, growing much of their own food and even learning how to mend their own boots! Their teachers, who had not had any boarding experience, suddenly found themselves totally responsible for their pupils. They organised a wide range of activities and many of these are illustrated on a pair of murals, painted by the boys, which can still be seen in the dining hall. These show scenes of camp and village life, including church parade, cricket and stoolball, football, drill, snowballing, film shows, concert parties and an air raid alert with searchlights criss-crossing the night sky.

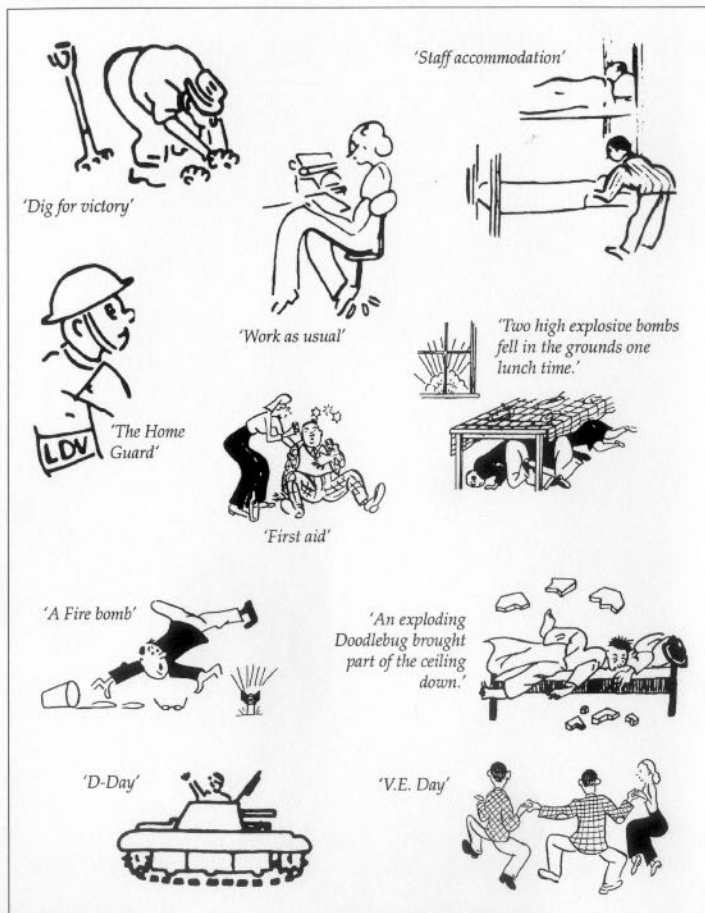
Children were not the only ones to be evacuated. On 29th/30th August 1939 Lloyds Bank evacuated its Executor and Trustee Department to Ewhurst Place. The staff lived in the house and huts were erected in the grounds for offices. They slept in bunk beds and did all their own domestic work, except cooking. Committees were formed to organise entertainments and staff were involved in the Home Guard and fire-watching. Many also joined in with village activities, including the church and the cubs, which was run for many years by Mrs Young. Some staff brought their families down and obtained local accommodation. The company stayed until 1947 and acted as Treasurer for the Welcome Home and War Memorial Funds.

The War Effort

Working parties were set up to make garments and hospital supplies and these were sent off to the Red Cross, and the Daily Sketch War Relief Fund. The WI knitted garments for Polish refugees and the WVS made 'comforts' for the Home Guard. Savings campaigns were well supported and a 'barometer' outside the church recorded targets. In 1942 there was a Warship Week for HMS Hambleton and in 1944 a 'Salute the Soldier' week, with parades in Cranleigh. Schoolchildren collected for the Guildford Spitfire fund. The children also collected waste paper for salvage and by 1944 had collected 8,038 books and magazines - double the target for the parish. In recognition of their efforts they were awarded 'ranks'; 14 children attained the rank of 'Field Marshal' and were presented with certificates at the Regal Cinema. The WI, who had a special sugar permit, set up a Fruit Preservation Centre in the Youth Hostel members' kitchen and they also made meat pies for the Rural Pie Scheme, which were very popular as they were 'off-ration'.

There were Land Army girls on several farms, many of whom came straight from the towns; they lodged with local families and many married locally. They undertook

The cartoons below were taken from a booklet issued by Lloyds Bank in 1948 following their seven year sojourn in Ewhurst.



Mary Freeman, a Land Army girl at Coxland Farm.

all aspects of farmwork in their distinctive uniform of cord breeches and green jumpers. The older boys from Sayers Croft also helped with hay-making and potato picking, and towards the end of the war, POWs worked on farms.

The Home Guard (originally known as the Local Defence Volunteers) was formed in May 1940. The Ewhurst Platoon was part of the 5th Surrey Battalion and met at the Bulls Head. They took part in exercises in The Hurtwood with Peaslake platoon, and on one occasion they had a spigot mortar, for which Louis Keen, in his little van, bravely towed a moving target across Downhurst Meadows!

Air Raids

Although Ewhurst was not an obvious target there were many air raid warnings. These were received over the phone at Highways in Horsham Lane by the wardens, Mrs Street and Miss Maurice, who then pedalled around the village on their bikes blowing their whistles! The siren on Cranleigh Village Hall could be heard in Ewhurst. Black-out was strictly observed and a resident was fined for allowing a light to show. Most bombs were strays and Ewhurst did not suffer much damage. There were delayed explosion bombs in Downhurst Road, Mapledrakes golf links, and at Garlands, where

the sentry and his box were blown back by the blast, but luckily he was unhurt. There were also bombs at Ewhurst Place and Baynards, and numerous incendiaries. The worst incident was a 'doodlebug' that fell on the corner of Gadbridge Lane in 1944. The blast blew the windows out of all the houses in Cranleigh Road and an old lady in Holloway Cottage, who had been standing near the window, was killed. She was the grandmother of an evacuee staying with the family, and ironically had come to Ewhurst to get away from the bombing in London. Ewhurst residents can remember seeing the bombers flying over on raids to London and other cities, and the glow in the sky during the Blitz.

Military Activity

There were searchlights at Shippen Hill, Furzen Lane and another near Lower House. On one occasion some barrage balloons that had broken free, drifted over Ellen's Green from the Kent border. Some Italian prisoners of war, working on a farm, managed to secure one to a tree and it was then shot down by a Spitfire. A Messerschmitt was shot

down in Somersbury Woods and the remains taken away by Military Police. Several planes, both enemy and allied, crashed into the hills and there were many incidents at nearby Dunsfold Aerodrome.

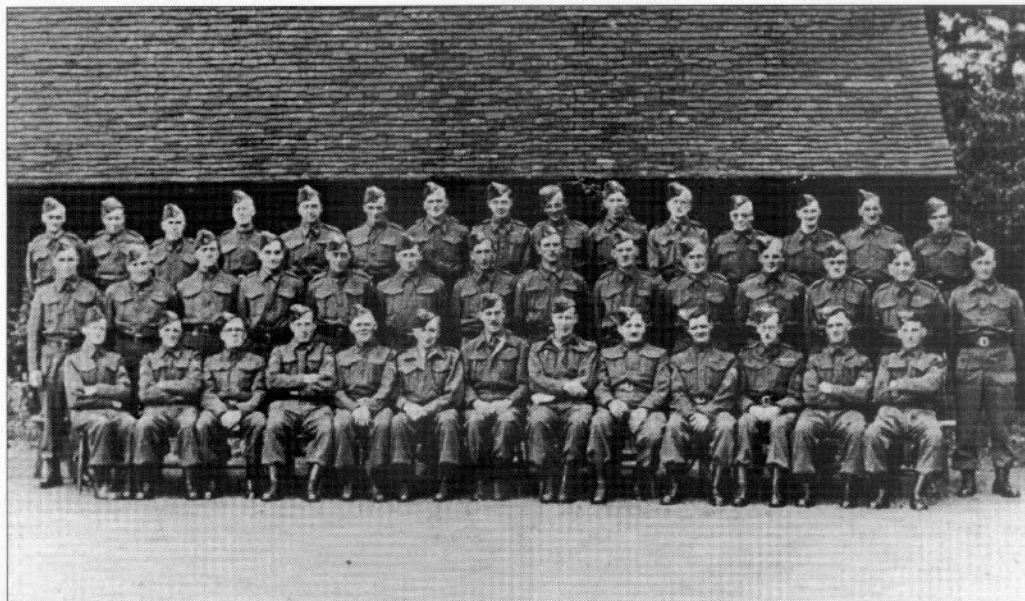
Throughout the war there was a constant movement of troops through the village. After Dunkirk returning troops passed through the area and about 100 men were temporarily billeted in a disused poultry house in Somersbury Lane. Many of the big houses, including Garlands, Summerfold and Woolpits were requisitioned. The Royal Gloucester Hussars, part of the 8th Armoured Division, were stationed here in 1941, before being posted to the Middle East. Their tanks and trucks were parked in Wykehurst Lane under guard and they were known to the locals as the 'Go-Boys' because they had a shoulder patch with the word 'GO' on it.

The Canadians arrived in 1942. The 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Engineers were building Dunsfold Aerodrome using stone from Pitch Hill. The heavy lorries trundled up through the village and back down Barhatch Lane. It was here that a tragedy

occurred when a truck knocked down and killed Ewhurst postwoman, Miss Ada Knight. The Canadians smoked a brand of cigarettes called 'Sweet Corporal' which featured pictures of aircraft, highly prized by small boys. In the build-up to 'D Day' there was an increase in military activity in the area with convoys passing through the village. On 'D Day' planes towing gliders could be seen flying overhead.

There was a distribution centre for troops' rations at the end of Somersbury Lane at Ellen's Green and lorries loaded with bread, potatoes, meat, etc. parked along the road. The WVS ran two canteens for troops. One was at the YMCA and provided hot meals, billiards and darts under the supervision of the Rector's wife, Mrs Dollar, and Mrs Morton. The other at the Crown Inn was run by Mrs Blair and offered tea, a mending service and a piano. Brookhurst Grange, on the slopes of Holmbury Hill, was a convalescent hospital. Some of the patients were Canadian survivors from the ill-fated Dieppe Raid. For their entertainment, a group of retired residents organised a series of lectures and the boys from Sayers Croft gave a carol concert. Children from Ewhurst school gave their Harvest Festival gifts to the patients. Ellens at Ellen's Green also served as a hospital.

The Ewhurst Home Guard.



The Welcome Home Fund and The War Memorial Appeal

On 2nd May 1945, a meeting of the village was summoned by Mr Hillman Attwell, Chairman of the Parish Council, at which it was agreed Ewhurst would commemorate the fallen with a living memorial that would benefit future generations. Two sub-committees were formed: the Welcome Home Committee and the War Memorial Committee. The Welcome Home Committee decided to present each of the returning servicemen and women with a scroll and a £3 War Savings Certificate. They also organised a party for the children on 29th December 1945 at which each was given a book as a "permanent reminder of what the country had suffered and accomplished during the six historic years". The War Memorial Committee decided that the main War Memorial should take the form of a remodelled recreation ground. To achieve this Broomers Field would need to be levelled and drained, at a cost of £6,000. The Committee would apply to the Ministry of Education and the National Playing Fields Association for a grant of £1,000 with the balance to be raised by public subscription.

On 17th May 1946 the Church Hall was packed for a ceremony in which Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Chatfield, presented the Scrolls of Honour. As not everyone could be

present, a second ceremony was held on 20th November 1946 with General Sir George Giffard, Colonel of the Queen's Regiment, as Guest of Honour. At this meeting, the Chairman of the War Memorial Committee, Major-General Piggott, announced that the Ministry of Education had turned down the application for a grant of £1,000; he then went on to surprise everyone by announcing that they had decided instead to give £2,000 as they were so impressed that a small village should undertake such an ambitious project! This was greeted with wild enthusiasm as it meant the target of £6,000 had been reached.

A tablet, bearing the names of the 20 men who gave their lives, was placed in the Parish Church and dedicated at a service on Sunday 8th June 1947. The Book of Remembrance was

illuminated by Miss Daisy Alcock and bound by Mr F.W. Matthew of Guildford School of Art, who also made the Battle of Britain Book in Westminster Abbey. A tablet was also placed in the Congregational Church. On 8th May 1949 the new recreation ground was officially opened by Lord Chatfield. As well as new football pitches, tennis courts and an extension to the bowling green, the Cricket Club also received a donation. A flagpole surrounded by a rose garden was a central feature but a few years ago the flagpole had to be removed as it had become dangerous. A brick plinth now marks the spot with a small plaque in memory of those who died.

A Welcome Home Scroll.



Your Friends in Ewhurst
present you

WITH THIS TOKEN OF THEIR GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICE IN THE WORLD WAR. FOR LONG YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU IN YOUR WANDERINGS REMEMBERING YOU IN THEIR PRAYERS, IN THE DAYS OF STRENUOUS TRAINING, AND IN TIMES OF SEVERE PRIVATIONS, AS WELL AS IN THE HOUR OF BRAVE ADVENTURE. NOW THEY WELCOME YOU BACK TO HOME LIFE, WISHING YOU FULL EMPLOYMENT AND PEACEFUL LIVING.

1939 - 1945



The official opening of the Recreation Ground.

Ellen's Green Memorial Hall

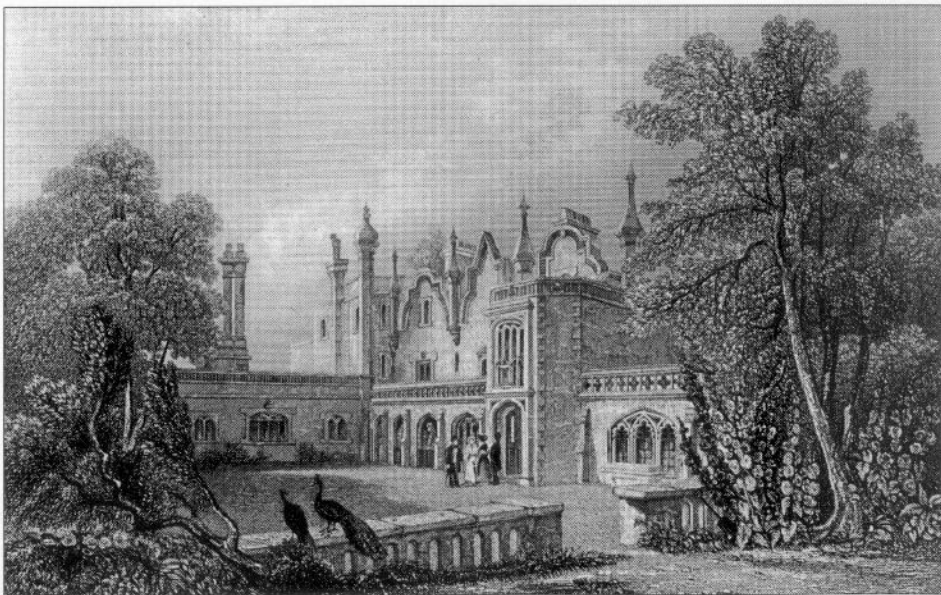
The residents of Ellen's Green decided to organise their own memorial in the form of a new village hall. Building started in 1947 on land given by Mrs Carlos Clarke. Residents of Ellen's Green, who at the time numbered only about 300, raised £3,000, a grant of £2,500 was received from the Carnegie Trust and Mrs Gilson gave £1,500. Volunteers helped with the work as far as possible, including laying the cinder-track to the hall. It was the first village hall in Surrey to be built after the war and was opened in 1951 by Brigadier W.R. Selby. He said the scheme was a "magnificent effort" on the part of all concerned. At a separate ceremony the Memorial Hall was dedicated by Canon C.R. Pattinson-Muir. The names of those who died were read out and Rudgwick choir led the hymns.

ARCHITECTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Growth of the Village

The first settlements in the area were scattered farmsteads. The village of Ewhurst later developed around the church and the small green to the north end of the village. For much of its history the village has been small and fairly isolated and did not really start to grow until the end of the 19th century. Improved road and rail communication and a growing appreciation of the 'wild' Surrey countryside encouraged many wealthy people to move into the area. This led to greater prosperity in the village and opened up employment opportunities. Hazelbank was developed in the 1880s by Cumbers the builders, and included a general store and a bakery. During the Edwardian era various pairs of semi-detached houses were added. At this time the area around Mapledrakes Road was used as a golf course. During the 20s and 30s ribbon development started to creep along the Ockley and Cranleigh Roads. In 1921 Lord

*Ewhurst Rectory in 1838. This 'Strawberry Hill Gothick' building was demolished in the 1870s to make way for the present "Old Rectory".
(Brayley's History of Surrey)*



Abinger's estate was sold. Mr Hamilton bought land in Horsham Lane and Somersbury Lane and having cleared the standing timber resold the land as individual plots. Originally these had old First World War huts on them but most have since been re-developed.

However it was not until after the Second World War that Ewhurst really started to expand. Downhurst Road was built in 1947 and Mapledrakes Road, which had only a few pre-war houses, was gradually developed with individual houses during the 50s and 60s. The Glebe was developed in the 60s on land formerly belonging to the church, and the senior citizens' bungalows and Day Centre were added in 1971. Lilyfields was also built in 1971 and 10 years later Links Close and Bramble Court developments replaced prefabs in Downhurst Road, which had been erected in the 40s as temporary accommodation. There has since been much infilling and the most recent development has been the Larkfield estate in Horsham Lane. Ellen's Green has remained small and undeveloped.

Since the war many large houses have ceased to be family homes owing to high running costs and lack of staff. Some have been split into multi-occupancies and others have been taken over by institutions such as Woolpits, now the Duke of Kent School; Malquoits, now Cornhill Manor owned by Cornhill Insurance and Holmbury House, now Mullard Space and Science Laboratory, part of the University of London.

Prefab in Downhurst Road.





Garlands.

In recent times it has become fashionable to expose the timber frames of old houses. The pictures on the right show Mascalls in the early (top) and late 20th century (bottom).

Local Styles and Materials

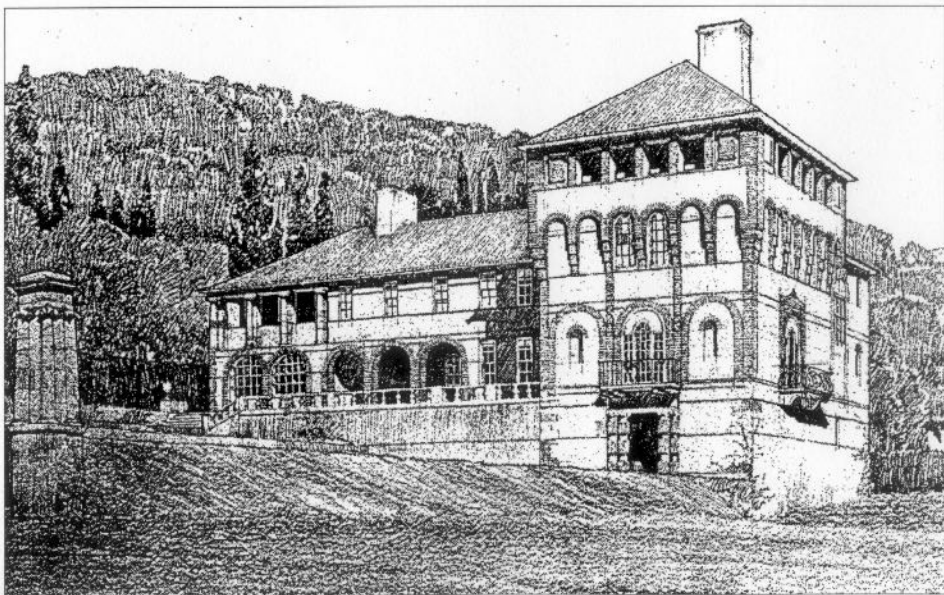
Many of the older houses in the parish are timber framed. Medieval houses were built as open-halls, ie open to the roof with smoke from the simple hearth finding its way out through holes in the roof. From the 16th century partitions called 'smoke bays' were constructed to restrict the smoke to one area and this enabled the upper hall to be floored. Brick chimneys were not used in ordinary houses until the 17th century. In very old houses, the timber frame was infilled with wattle and daub. Later, brick was used, often in decorative patterns such as herringbone. Although the area is well known for brick making, brick was not widely used until the 18th century, but by the 19th century it had become the most common material. Some houses are built of the local sandstone and a feature worth looking for is 'galleting', where small chips of ironstone have been pressed into the mortar. Tile-hanging is traditional in this area; the tiles protect the house walls from the weather and often include rows of decorative 'fish-scale' tiles which give an attractive effect. Most houses have tiled roofs but some older ones use stone, known as 'Horsham slab'. These stone slabs can be up to 4 ft long and, being very heavy, need a strong timber frame to support them.



Barns

Old barns are important buildings built to the same specification as houses. However unlike houses, which have been altered with the insertion of chimneys, upper floors, windows, etc., many barns remain essentially unaltered and provide a valuable record of construction methods. Both old houses and barns were built in units called bays, the width of a bay being wide enough to take a cart. In 1986, the 900th anniversary of Domesday, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings initiated a barn survey. It was the largest survey of old buildings ever undertaken, covering every parish in the country and three members of Ewhurst History Society (John Greenwood, Bob Brown and Cyril McCue) volunteered to cover Ewhurst. Being a rural parish, Ewhurst possesses a large number of old barns: 39 were recorded with many dating from the 16th century. One of the oldest dating from about 1500 is at Old House and has a crown-post roof. Other notable examples can be found at Pollingfold, which has two dating from between 1500 and 1550 and one at Sansomes from 1580. The Grade Two listed Old Rectory Barn measures 52ft by 22ft and stands on 42 stone staddles.

Hurtwood Edge, 1910.



Pitch Hill

The late 19th century and early 20th century was a golden age of English domestic architecture and Surrey based architects were leaders in the field. The south facing slopes of Pitch Hill have many houses commissioned by wealthy businessmen from famous architects of the period. Woolpits was designed by Sir Ernest George and Harold Peto for Sir Henry Doulton. Philip Webb designed Coneyhurst-on-the-Hill in 1886, featuring a garden laid with over 1,400 different shrubs including many varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas. Long Copse, designed in the Arts and Craft style by Alfred Powell in 1897, was described by the artist George Frederick Watts as the best country house in Surrey. It has interior woodwork by Ernest Gimson and was featured in Laurence Weaver's Edwardian classic book "Small Country Houses of Today". Also featured is Arthur Bolton's Hurtwood Edge, built in 1910 in the style of a Tuscan villa with a belvedere tower. One of the most distinctive houses on the hill is the green-roofed Marylands, by Oliver Hill. Built in a Lutyan's style in 1928, it recently featured in a television adaptation of Agatha Christie's "Poirot". Summerfold occupies a prime position at the top of the hill. It was owned by the Duke of Sutherland in the 1930s and it was rumoured that the Duke of Windsor and Mrs Wallis Simpson stayed there. It was derelict after the war and restored in the 1980s. Ewhurst also has two fine houses by Ernest Newton: High Wykehurst and Lukyns, the garden of the latter originally being laid out by Gertrude Jekyll.

Ewhurst Village Conservation Area

The Conservation Area stretches north from the church and school to High Edser in Shere Road. The small green opposite The Bulls Head is surrounded by many interesting cottages. Old Cottage dates from about 1500. Crown House and Little Crown were formerly the Crown Inn and have Horsham slab roofs. The small brick building on the green is reputed to have been the village mortuary although there is no documentary evidence of this. Ivy Cottage dates from the 18th century, but is in fact a very large extension to a tiny 16th century cottage, part of which is still visible at the rear. The front of the house is brick but the side wall is stone with galleting. Windrums, Deblins Green and Old Farm are three separate but tightly grouped houses. Old Farm also has a Horsham slab roof and an unusual outside stone staircase (not visible from the front). Further south, behind the tile shop, is White Hart Hall House. This is probably the oldest house in the village and was built around 1400 as an open hall and is partly roofed with Horsham stone. This important house probably once fronted the village

green, which would have been larger than it is today. The adjoining cottages date from the 16th and 17th centuries. Garlands, with its very decorative frontage, is a substantial early 17th century house with the top storey having been added in the 18th century. Winton House dates from about 1500 and has tile hanging to the first floor. The church, war memorial and 17th century cottages form a picture postcard group opposite the early Victorian school.

Ellen's Green

Ellen's Green has many interesting old houses and little modern development. Corner Cottage was originally a toll cottage for the turnpike road. Pipers Croft is a very attractively set 17th century house with tile hanging and a Horsham slab roof. Oak Cottage, dating from about 1500, is one of the smallest surviving two bay hall houses in Surrey. The original Ellens was a small 16th century farmhouse that was enlarged to about four times its size in 1914 by Morris Webb. The 'extension' was built to traditional methods and finished with a weathered Horsham slab roof, making it very difficult to tell the old from the new.

Lukyns, 1911.



Ellens before and after its 'extension'. The original house is still recognisable on the far right of the picture below.



THE PARISH COUNCIL

Local Affairs before 1894

Prior to 1894 parish affairs were dealt with by the Vestry meeting, so called since meetings were originally held in the Church Vestry, usually under the chairmanship of the local rector. Ewhurst Vestry meetings were often held in the Bulls Head Inn, then next to the church. The meetings were concerned with a wide range of parish matters, as well as the appointment of various officials. These included the Overseers (responsible for raising revenues and maintaining a list of voters), Churchwardens, Waywardens (responsible for reporting the state of the highway to the Highways Board), Guardians (the Parish representatives on the Poor Law Union), Parish Constables, Charity Trustees etc. The impact of legislation during the 18th and 19th centuries led to a reduction in the rôle of the Vestry as responsibility moved away from local level. The Local Government Act of 1888 which established County Councils, and the Local Government Act of 1894 setting up Parish and District Councils, were moves to reverse this trend and put local decisions in the hands of locally elected councillors.

The First Parish Council

At a parish meeting held in the School Room on 4th December 1894 the parishioners of Ewhurst elected their first Parish Council. The meeting was opened by Mr Thomas Cumber (the Overseer) and chaired by Mr Joseph Kincaid. Sixteen nominations were received for the nine vacancies and the following were elected: Edwin Alfred Ede, Walter Webb, Thomas Cumber, Richard Pobgee, Colonel Lemmon, David Tidy, George Johnston, George Burrows and William Weller. At the first meeting of the newly elected council on 21st December 1894 the Reverend Robert Temple was elected Chairman (there was no requirement at that time for the chairman to be an elected member). Mr George Ledger, who had been Assistant Overseer to the Vestry, was appointed Parish Clerk, a position he was to hold until February 1931! Ewhurst formed part of the Hambleton Rural District Council which became Waverley District Council in 1974. Interestingly, one of the last decisions made by the Vestry, in May 1894, was to reject a proposal to transfer from the Hambleton Union to the Guildford Union. We can only guess what impact this might have made on the development of the village.

Thomas Cumber (left), Richard Pobgee (centre) and William Weller (right) – members of the first Parish Council. Their descendants still live in the village.





David Tidy, also a member of the original Parish Council, at Ewhurst Green.

Day-to-Day Business

The Parish Council became the first reference point for a wide range of matters of local day to day interest, some of which it had the power to deal with whilst others had to be referred to the District or County Council. Specific areas of responsibility included footpaths and rights of way, sanitation and water supply, parish charities, lighting, burial grounds and open spaces, including common land, recreation grounds and allotments. From the 1960s the council became involved in considering planning applications.

A study of the council minute books shows how aspects of daily life have changed over 100 years and with it the rôle of the council. In many other ways very little has changed. One continual thread through the years has been the concern over footpaths and rights of way, which require the vigilance of the Parish Council as much today as a century ago. In July 1895, to assist in monitoring footpaths, the council agreed to purchase an Ordnance Survey Map of the parish at a cost of £4. The pace of life was slower then and it was only finally installed on the wall of the School Room some four years later, in April 1899, where it still hangs today, though sadly in need of repair.

Concern over motor traffic through the village is first raised in 1907 and the state of the roads, which were the responsibility of the District Council, is also a continuing theme. Dust was a serious problem before the days of tarmac and the council regularly requested tar spraying to reduce the nuisance. A shortage of suitable stone in 1918 meant repairs had to wait.



Before the arrival of mains water, water was drawn from wells. This picture shows Trixie Hull by the well at Somersbury in 1912.

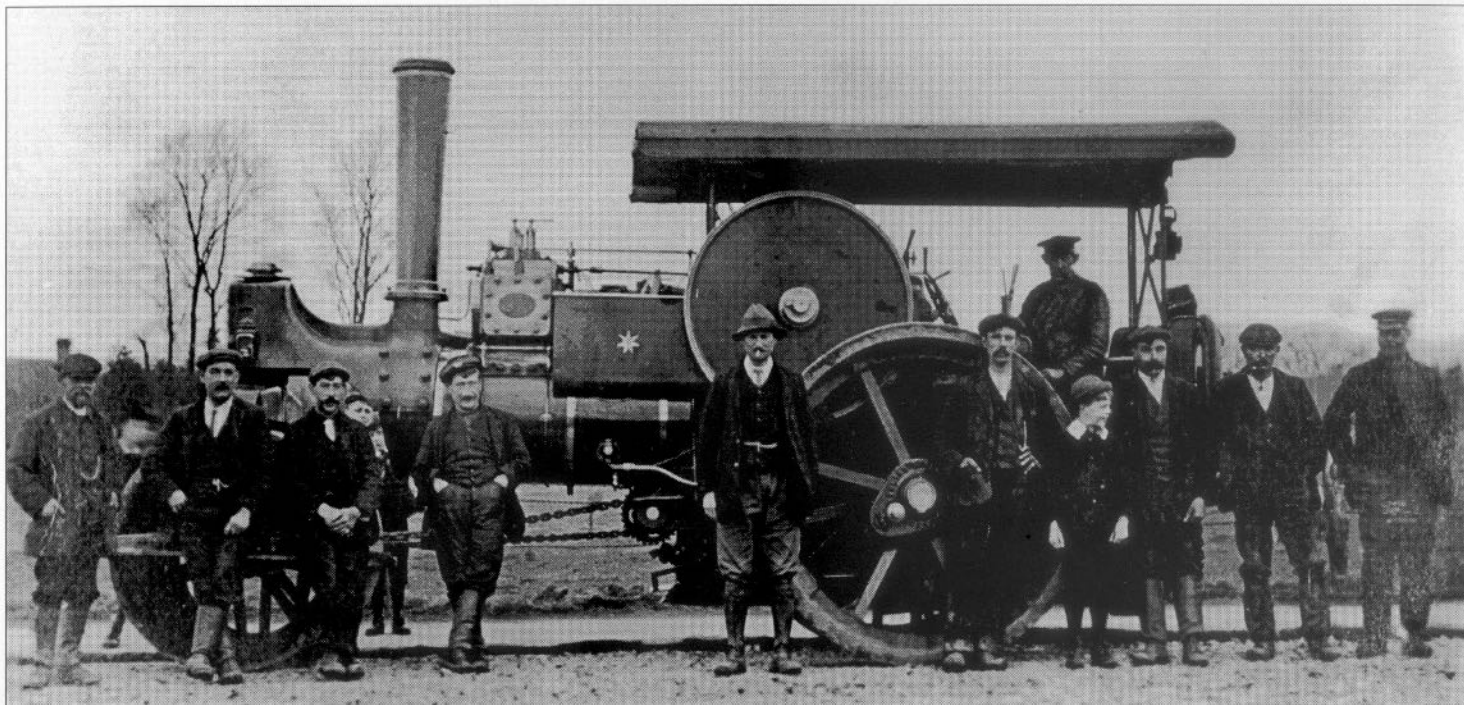
A sanitary committee was set up in 1899 following two deaths due to diphtheria and later, in 1907, concluded that "a general Scheme [of mains drainage] is not necessary providing individuals remedied their own nuisance". The Council subsequently rejected the need for a sewage cart. Mains water supply arrived in 1905 and electricity in the late 20s although the more rural parts of the parish were connected somewhat later. Mains drainage did not arrive in Ewhurst until 1950 and when it did it took several years to install causing great upheaval.

Ewhurst Green was transferred to the control of the council in 1916 under the terms of the Commons Act of 1899. A reference to concern over gypsies in 1906, a reprimand to the Cricket Club for digging turf in 1922 and the planting of lime trees on the green in 1927 are just three examples of the council's stewardship of this heritage feature.

In October 1951 the Parochial Church Council requested that the Parish Council consider the provision of a new burial ground as the existing one was filling up. The plot finally chosen comprised the Rectory kitchen garden, orchard and part of Workhouse Field. At a service on 24th June 1957 the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Luff, presented the petition for Consecration which was then carried out by the Bishop of Guildford. The first interment in the new burial ground took place in September 1962 and additional ground was consecrated in 1987.

In 1974 the Council purchased the old Church Hall from the Parochial Church Council for use as a Village Hall and, while members were clearing out rubbish from under the stage, they found an old oil painting showing a view from Pitch Hill, signed by George Vicat Cole and dated 1874. This had actually been given to the parish in 1950

The District Council Steamroller. The Parish Council minutes for 1908 recorded a discussion on the danger of leaving the steamroller in Coneyhurst Lane without lights.



by Mr L.J.E. Hooper, formerly of Woolpits, and hung in the hall, but in the intervening 24 years had been forgotten about. The Council decided to sell the painting, but as it was in poor condition, it needed to be restored and it was finally sold in 1977 at Sotheby's for £1,200. Increasing use of the hall and the growing number of private cars highlighted the problem of car parking in the village and, after many years of passionate debate, a car park was opened in 1993 on land in front of the burial ground.

Centenary

The centenary of the Parish Council was marked by a reception in the Village Hall on 21st November 1994. Invited guests included the Mayor of Waverley, Mr John Wootton, as well as former Parish Councillors and representatives of various village societies. A link with the past was provided by the attendance of three grandchildren of David Tidy, a member of the first council in 1894. At the reception the Chairman, Mr Nigel Farrington, announced the installation, by donation, of a number of lights throughout the village. Village lighting had been first debated by the council on 4th January 1895, but was rejected, as it was to be on a number of subsequent occasions. To commemorate the first meeting of the Parish Council the church bells were rung on the evening of 21st December 1994.

A Ewhurst road crew.



Ewhurst won the medium sized village class of 'Best Kept Village' competition in 1981, and the winner's class in 1983.

(West Sussex County Times)



The Parish Council Centenary. Left to right, former Chairmen, Mabel Edwards, George Yates and John Worsey; Mayor, John Wootton; current Chairman Nigel Farrington and former clerk Jim Lazzell. (West Sussex County Times)



CHURCHES

The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul

The church was founded around the year 1140, but the original structure has been much altered over the past 850 years and little of the Norman work is now visible. The original building was probably rectangular, comprising the present nave and the area that is now the crossing under the tower. Whether a tower was erected as part of the original structure is unknown but the building was enlarged sometime in the 13th century when the present cruciform shape was laid out. The arch forming the now disused south door of the nave is thought to be of Norman origin, although it has undoubtedly been reformed at some time. A porch once covered this door and from 1839 until the early years of this century, it was the main entrance to the church.

In the 13th century, the two transepts were added, the one to the south remaining substantially unaltered. The window in the south wall is original and the east window and roof are dated to the 15th century. Discoveries in 1931 revealed a recess, known as a *aredos*, with 13th century decoration in the east wall. A stone altar would have stood in front of this window on a stone floor below the present tile level. It is probable that these additions were financed by parish guilds which were common in country parishes before the Reformation. Also in the 13th century, a tower was erected

Ewhurst Parish Church after its restoration in 1838, from an engraving by the architect, Robert Ebbels. (Brayley's History of Surrey)



on the site of the original chancel, with a new chancel being built to the east. However, in 1837 the tower, which had begun to lean, collapsed during underpinning work and a gravestone broken by the falling masonry can still be seen on the north-east side of the church. The north transept and chancel were destroyed and rebuilt in the present style. Although the nave is the oldest part of the church, it too has been much changed. In the late 15th century the present west door and west window were built and in the late 16th century the roof was reconstructed. Inside the church, the most interesting items are the simple 13th or 14th century font, 17th century altar rails and tablets presented in 1879 by Reverend Thomas Thurlow from his chapel at Baynards. The names of all known rectors since 1242 are inscribed on the modern panelling dividing the vestry from the body of the church.

Ellen's Green Mission Hall

In 1887 the Rector of Ewhurst, Reverend John Mount Barlow, purchased a quarter of an acre in Ellen's Green in memory of his brother Francis Barlow, his wife Laura Sarah

*The church showing the original tower. From a lithograph by Thomas Cracklow, 1823.
(Surrey Local History Council)*

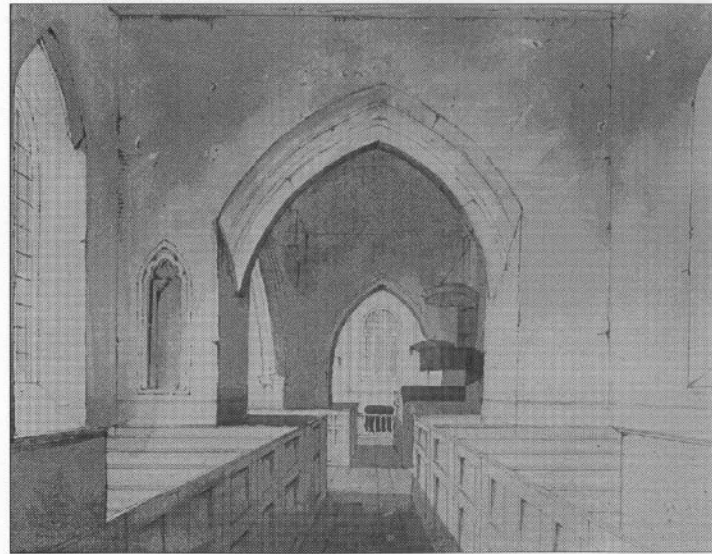


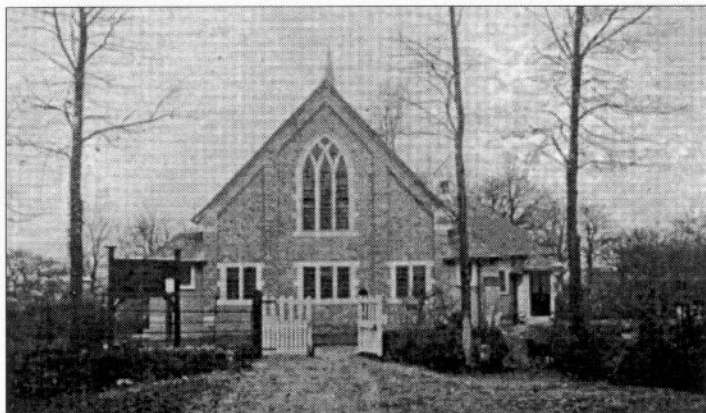
Barlow, and his son Francis Mount Barlow, and built a mission hall and reading room with an adjoining house for a caretaker. Five years later he died and the premises passed to his family with his wish that the hall and reading room would continue to be used for the benefit of the local inhabitants. A licence to hold divine service was granted by the Bishop, although it was always intended that the hall remain unconsecrated so that it could be used for a variety of purposes. In 1932, Charles Mount Barlow, the surviving owner from the 1892 settlement, established a charity known as Ellen's Green Mission Room in which was vested the land and buildings. The Rector, Churchwardens and Chairman of the Parish Council were appointed to be trustees. In 1979 the trustees, with the agreement of the Charity Commissioners, sold the property and invested the proceeds and the income from the trust is now used to help local organisations and individuals within the parish.

The Evangelical Church

The Evangelical Church, built in 1908, was previously known as the Congregational Chapel. Before this an earlier chapel stood a little way up the Shere Road next to Glendower. This is marked on the O. S. Map of 1871 as a "Primitive Methodist Chapel"

*The interior of the church, showing the box pews, from a watercolour by Edward Hassell, 1828.
(London Borough of Lambeth, Archive Department – Minet Library)*





The Evangelical Church.

A commemorative bell ringing card.

EWHURST, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
 (GUILDFORD DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, February 15, 1913, in Two Hours and Fifty-one Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF 808 MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
 Being seven 720's each called differently. Tenor 11 cwt.

†MRS. R. WHITTINGTON ... Treble *ALFRED FRANCIS 2 WILLIAM TIDY 3	*JOHN LUFF... .. 4 ROBERT WHITTINGTON ... 5 †WILLIAM DENYER 7
--	--

Conducted by WILLIAM DENYER.

* First peal. † First peal of Minor. First peal as conductor. It is also the first peal ever rung on the bells by an entirely local band. Rung as a birthday compliment to Miss Ada Denyer, sister of the conductor, on her 15th birthday: also to Master Albert Tidy, son of the ringer of the 3rd.

and still appears on the map of 1915, although it had ceased to be used by then. The Non-Conformists originally held cottage meetings until the Surrey Mission built the first chapel in 1821. The land was donated by John Bailey of Sutton and the building costs were met by friends from London, Dorking, Guildford and Kingston with local people raising £50. The first pastor was Mr Widgey and the congregation soon rose to between 100 and 150. There was a strong link between dissenting religious groups and the Liberal movement. The strength of non-conformity in villages such as Ewhurst was one of the reasons given for the surprise liberal victories in South-West Surrey in the General Election of 1906. Mr Gabriel Woodward was pastor from 1900 until 1924 and during his ministry the present chapel was built. The land was given by Mr Walter Webb, of Malquoits, in exchange for the old site. The foundation stones were laid in 1908 and the chapel opened in 1909. David and Samuel Mann of Cranleigh were known to have preached there. The chapel closed in 1958 and was put up for sale. A Christian businessman from Cranleigh, Mr Leslie Mills, raised the money to buy it and in 1960 it reopened as the Ewhurst Evangelical Church. In 1995 the church entered into a partnership with the Millmead Baptist Church in Guildford and this was marked on 1st February with an inaugural service at the Evangelical Church.

The Rev. Mount Barlow and his family, 1875. (Guildford Muniment Room)



EDUCATION

Ewhurst and Ellen's Green Schools

The earliest village schools were run by churches, initially as Sunday schools. The first reference to a school in Ewhurst is found in the SPCK report for 1709, which describes the unusual method by which funds were raised. "All the poor children whom their parents will send to school are taught to read, and the Church Catechism and prayers, also to cast accmpt and write, at the expense of the minister, to defray part of which charge he gave two palls [for funerals] to the Parish, the one of which is lent at 2/6d and the other at 12d and the monies applied as foresaid". The accounts of Charity Schools in 1724 lists Ewhurst as one of only 27 charity schools in Surrey, which at that time included most of London south of the Thames.

The National Society was formed in 1809 to establish church schools and soon after Ewhurst School became a National School. The schoolroom in Church Gate Cottage is identified in a water colour by John Hassell dated 1822. From 1833 government grants were available through the society towards the cost of school buildings (the costs of running the school to be met by the church).

From 1841 applicants for grants were required to adopt a trust deed, stating the permanent dedication of the site for the purposes of education and the right of government inspection. The Victoria County History gives the date of the building of

Ewhurst School as 1840 and the date of the Trust Deed as 12th February 1846. The new school consisted of two classrooms (now the main hall) and accommodation for a teacher (now the library and headteacher's office). The children paid 1d. per week.

The 1870 Education Act aimed to offer education to all. In areas where there were not already adequate 'voluntary' (ie church) schools, school boards would be set up. Grants to church schools were increased and education was free to those who could not afford to pay. It was decided to open a second church school at Ellen's Green, which was built in 1870 with a trust deed dated 1872.

From the 1890s technical education was provided in the form of 'continuation schools' funded by the new Surrey County Council, for children who had started work. The parish council minute book for July 1899 reported that 17 scholars had attended two evenings per week. Subjects taught were agricultural chemistry, water-colouring and geography (Nansen's exploration of the Arctic) and the Rector had lent his 'magic lantern'. Gardening was an important and useful subject and it was reported that the continuation school garden had been marked third in the county.

The 1902 Education Act brought elementary education under the control of the County Council. The Act recommended that classrooms should be kept at a mini-

Ewhurst School, 1931.



Children at Ewhurst School, early 1900s.



mum temperature of 55F. However, in February 1912 the Headmaster of Ewhurst school recorded "the outside temperature this morning at 9 o'clock was 22F. The temperature in the large classroom was 34F. The ink in the inkwells is solid". The schools were heated by open fires and many poor children did not have warm clothes; one child was sent to school in winter wearing just a thin cotton dress. In 1903/4 Ewhurst School was enlarged by one room. Empire Day was an important day in the school calendar. The children were given a talk on the glory of the Empire and after singing patriotic songs and raising the flag were given a half day holiday.

By 1911, Ellen's Green School needed extensive repairs which the church could not afford, so it was decided to close the church school and sell the building to the Education Authority who would then continue to run it as a council school. The building was duly sold in 1913 for £300 and, in keeping with the terms of the trust deed, the money was invested for educational purposes.

In 1918 the leaving age was raised from 13 to 14. Although beginning to be provided by the County Council, secondary education (11-14+) was not available locally and apart from a few scholarships, it was not free. Children lucky enough to get a place had to walk or cycle to Cranleigh and then catch a train to Guildford. The children were taught in three age groups at Ewhurst and there were just two classes at

Before the First World War, the Headmaster of Ewhurst School, Mr Gerald O'Connor, gave violin lessons after school.



The Ewhurst School garden, early 1900s.

Ellen's Green. Wood work and cookery classes were taught by specialist visiting teachers and gardening was an important part of the curriculum. The boys played football and cricket and Sir Dugald Clerk, who lived at Lukyns, donated sports equipment to Ewhurst School. The school was also visited by Ralph Vaughan-Williams, founder of the Leith Hill Music Festival. Between the wars the children regularly entered the festival and often won banners.

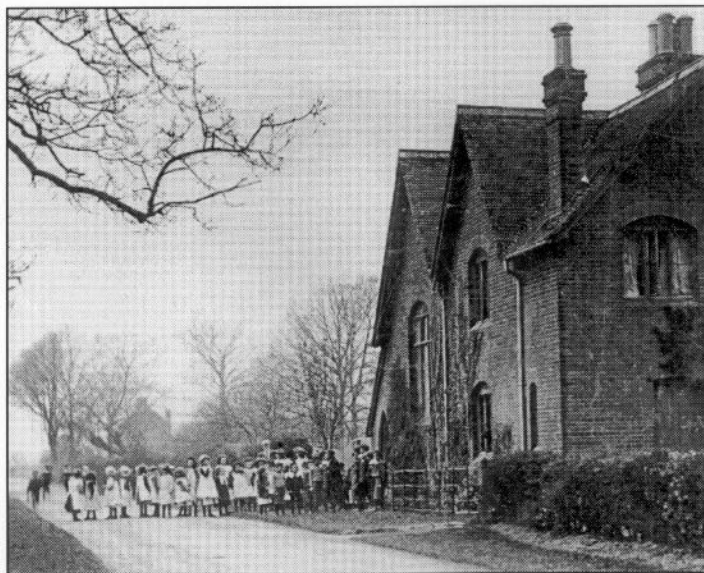
The 1944 Education Act raised the leaving age to 15. Secondary education provision had been increasing, but this area was one of the last parts of Surrey still to have all-age schools and in 1956 Ewhurst School became a primary school. Ellen's Green school closed and was converted into 2 cottages, with senior citizens' bungalows built over part of the old playground. Ewhurst had benefited from an additional hut classroom, donated by Sir Eric Miller, and opened in 1952 by Lord Macmillan who lived at Moon Hall. In 1957/58 there was much rebuilding - the roof was repaired, the gables and chimneys removed, central heating installed and a new extension built. A third classroom was added in 1972. The school has an active PTA who organise fundraising and social events such as the summer fair, the "200 Club", Christmas parties and leavers' parties. The PTA maintains the swimming pool and has helped to establish the conservation area.

In 1973 the school became a middle school (5-8 years) and in 1994, following changes in the age of transfer, it became an infant school for children aged 4+ to 7. The loss of the top year group threatened the viability of the school, but a campaign organised by the governors and supported by the whole community saved the school from the threat of closure. Today Ewhurst School still enjoys close links with the parish church and is proud of its 'aided' status, which denotes that although the school is aided by the County Council, the church is still responsible for maintaining the fabric of the building. The Ewhurst School Foundation was set up in 1994 to safeguard the future of the school.

Ellen's Green schoolchildren by the new bus shelter 1937 (top right).

Ewhurst schoolchildren releasing balloons to mark the school's opening as an Infant School, September 1994 (bottom right). (West Sussex County Times)

Ellen's Green School (bottom left).



Other Schools

Miss Wells ran a small private school in an upstairs room of her cottage in Hazelbank until the 1950s and pupils paid 1/- per week. She was also the church organist for over 50 years. Ewhurst Home School was a church day and boarding school at Ewhurst Place in the 1930s. In the 1950s Mr Claude Claremont ran a Montessori teacher training college at Mapledrakes. After the Second World War Malquoits became Desmoor School, a preparatory boarding school. Later, it amalgamated with Newells School from Horsham and moved to a new site at Handcross Park. The house is now used as a training centre by Cornhill Insurance. Hurtwood House is a private sixth form college; it was built in 1907 for Major General Euston Henry Sartorius who had won a Victoria Cross in the Afgan War in 1881, one of two brothers who both won VCs.

The Duke of Kent School

The School occupies a large country house, formerly called 'Woolpits', built in 1886 for Henry Doulton. The house remained in the Doulton family until the Second World War, when it was requisitioned for troops. After the war it stood empty for a while,



*Sir Henry Doulton,
1820-1897.
(Royal Doulton Ltd.)*

before being converted for St. Thomas' of Canterbury School. The RAF Benevolent Fund was founded in 1921 and it established Vanbrugh Castle School in Blackheath for 50 sons of airmen killed in service. The school moved to Ewhurst in 1976 and amalgamated with Woolpits School, as St. Thomas' was then called. It was renamed the Duke of Kent School after George, Duke of Kent, who was killed on active service in 1942 and was President of the RAF Benevolent Fund. Today the school is a boarding prep school for children aged 7-13. It still has a core group of pupils, known as 'Foundationers', whose fathers have been killed or injured whilst in service with the RAF. Other pupils are children from service families and 'ex-pat' families, with a few local children attending as day pupils.

The Doultons and Woolpits

Henry Doulton inherited his father's small pottery at Lambeth and by 1870 had turned it into the country's largest manufacturer of sanitaryware. At about this time he began to employ talented young artists from the nearby Lambeth College of Art and set up a studio to make the art-pottery which is highly sought after today. The studio epitomised the Victorian ideal of co-operation between art and industry. In 1874, he and the Principal of Lambeth College of Art, John Sparkes, visited a friend's house where both men were very taken with a watercolour painting showing the view from Conehurst Hill. Within a year, John Sparkes had acquired Heathside, now known as Folly Hill, just below the summit of Pitch Hill. The following year, 1876, Henry Doulton visited Heathside, fell in love with the area and resolved to have a home in the district for himself. From 1883 he rented Rapsley and in 1885 bought the Woolpit estate.

Now a very wealthy man he commissioned one of the leading firms of architects of the day, George and Peto to design his new house. Terra-cotta decorations were specially made at the Lambeth Pottery and sent to Cranleigh by rail. The panel above the entrance was made by the company's famous sculptor George Tinworth. Interior decoration was of a very high standard with Doulton tiles on fireplaces and in the bathrooms, and a splendid billiard room decorated in faience by Pearce. The grounds originally included the lake on the other side of the road and Sir Henry had an elaborate system of drains and pumps to supply water to the house. He also laid out trial runs of pipework in the grounds to test drainage systems. He was awarded the Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts in 1885 and in 1887 was knighted by Queen Victoria.

Sir Henry died in 1897 and the house and business passed to his son, Henry Lewis Doulton, who was particularly interested in the development of glazes, such as Rouge Flambe which is still produced today according to a secret formula known only to a handful of people. In 1901 the company was awarded the Royal Warrant of Edward VII and became known as Royal Doulton. Lewis died in 1930 and Woolpits passed to his sister Lily's son, John Eric Hooper. Eric had joined Royal Doulton in 1902 and continued to live in the house until the Second World War. Sir Henry had acquired a factory in Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent in 1877 and from 1884 had started to produce bone china. The Lambeth factory closed in 1955 and since then the company has had its headquarters in Stoke-on-Trent.



Woolpils for Sir Henry Doulton K.C.B.
Ernest George & Peter
Architects

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The Countryside for Leisure and Education

In the 1920s and 30s the healthy lifestyle of fresh-air and exercise was highly regarded. Improved transport gave easy access to the countryside and walking and cycling became very popular. This area features in many ramblers' guides of the time and is still enjoyed by walkers today. Cycling is also enjoying an increase in popularity with organised races for clubs, and mountain bikes have opened up new possibilities for cyclists. There are also many miles of bridle paths for horse riders to follow.

The Hurtwood is a large area of commonland to the north of the village and includes part of the parishes of Ewhurst, Shere, Cranleigh and Albury. The land is privately owned, much of it by the Bray Estates, but by an Act of Parliament in 1926 it was dedicated to the public "for air and exercise". Its 4,000 acres are managed by The Hurtwood Control, a registered charity funded by grants and public subscription, who employ a ranger to patrol the common.

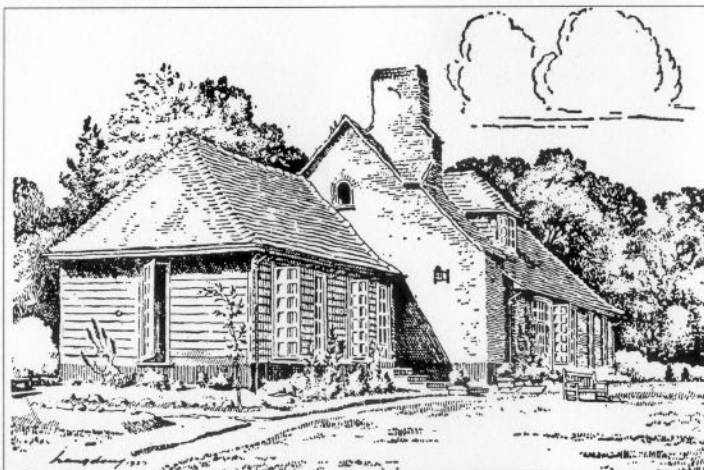
The Greensand Way is a long distance footpath following the line of the greensand hills from Haslemere to Limpsfield Chart passing through the northern tip of the parish at Pitch Hill. The route was officially opened in 1980 to commemorate Footpath Heritage Year. The opening ceremony at Leith Hill was carried out by the Chairman of the Surrey Amenity Council, Sir Michael Creswell, who was also District and County

Councillor for Ewhurst, and Francis Ritchie of the Ramblers Association. The toposcope on Pitch Hill was erected in memory of Alan Blatchford (1936-1980) and Chris Steer (1919-1992), founders of the Long Distance Walkers Association. Each spring the LDWA holds "The Surrey Summits", a 100km overnight event which passes over Pitch Hill.

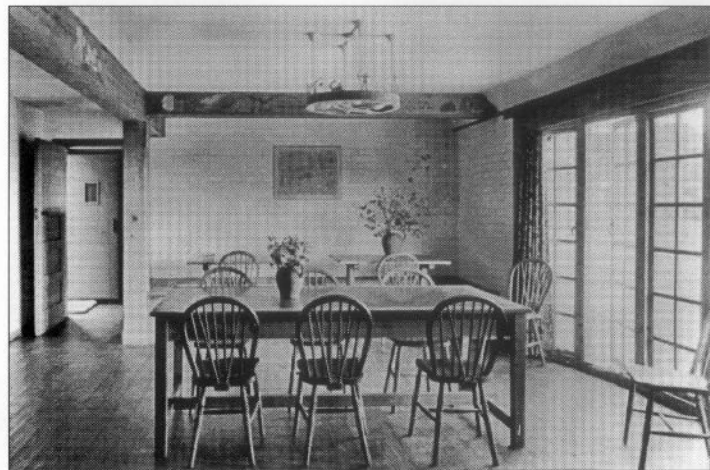
Ewhurst Green Youth Hostel

The Youth Hostel Association was formed in 1930 to cater for the growing number of walkers and cyclists. A few years later the George V Jubilee Trust Fund was launched to provide new hostels and the Ewhurst hostel was the first to be built as a direct result of this appeal. It was opened in May 1936, by the MP for Guildford, Sir John Jarvis. The 5+ acre site had been given by the author and former war-correspondent, Sir Philip Gibbs, who lived at Bildens in Gadbridge Lane. Sir Philip also donated £500 and the remaining £1,000 was raised largely by students and staff of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, of which Lady Gibbs was a member, as well as contributions from local people. The hostel had accommodation for 16 men and 16 women. In the 1980s the YHA slimmed down its operations and many hostels, including Ewhurst, were sold. The building was demolished and a house called 'Chanrossa' built on the site.

The Youth Hostel, 1937.

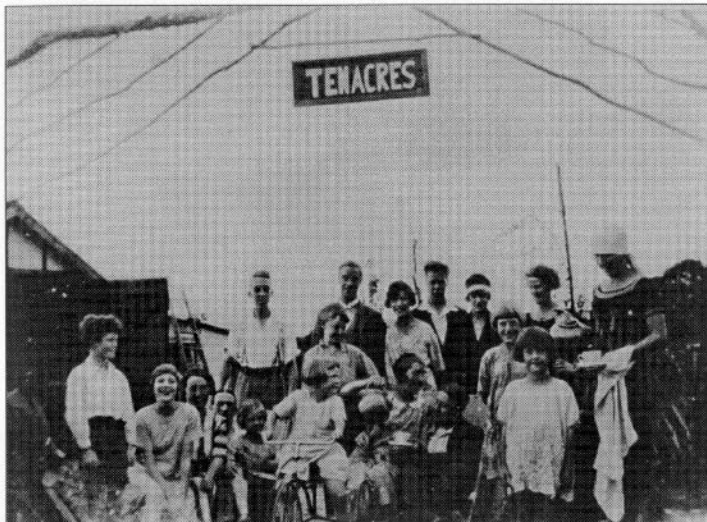


The interior of the Youth Hostel.



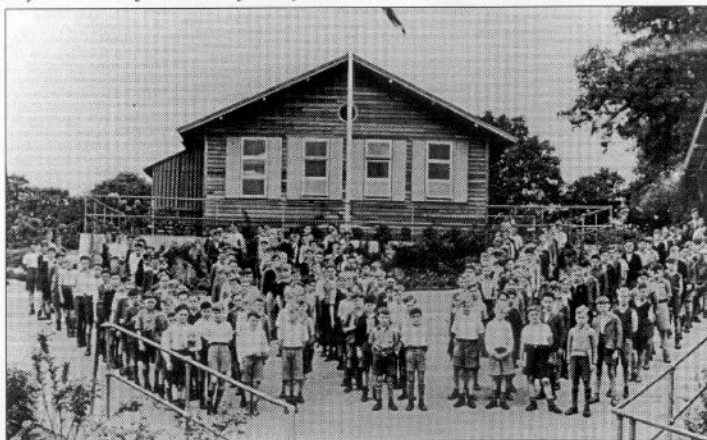


The view looking south from Coneyhurst Hill (Pitch Hill), 1930s.



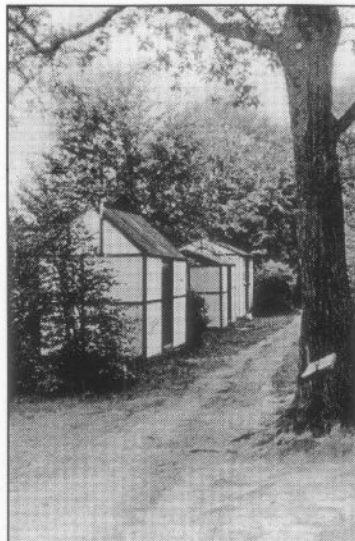
Holidaymakers at Tenacres, 1927.

Catford Central Boys School at Sayers Croft, 1944.



Tenacres

After Lord Abinger's estate was sold Mr Herbert Tate bought ten acres of land in Horsham Lane in 1926 and erected 14 huts as a holiday camp. Accommodation was simple and the huts were lit by candles or hurricane lamps. There was an acetylene plant for lighting in the common room but in very cold weather this would freeze and had to be thawed with a blowlamp. The only water came from a standpipe. The camp provided full board; meals were cooked on primus stoves and Valor paraffin stoves - all for 25/- a week! Lazzells ran a special coach service up to Old Palace Yard, Westminster, to bring the holidaymakers to Ewhurst. From the 1930s Tenacres specialized in school parties, including Stepney Open Air School and The Deaf and Dumb School. Goldsmith's College were also regular visitors for botany, ornithology and geological studies. For these larger groups bell tents provided additional accommodation.



Huts at Tenacres, 1936.

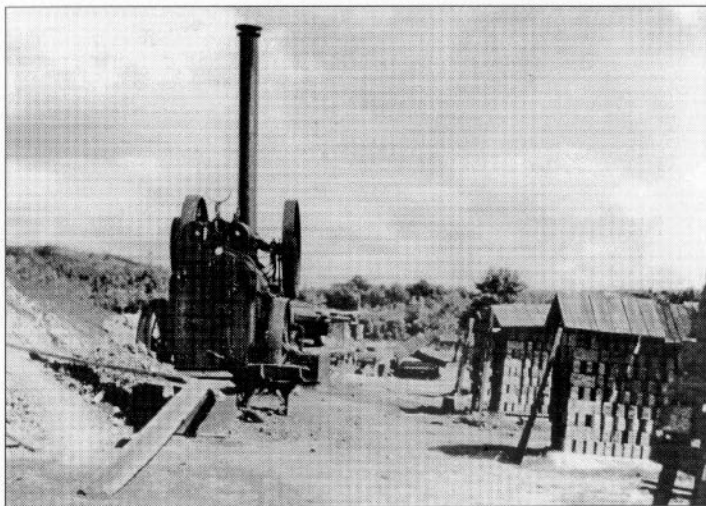
Sayers Croft

Sayers Croft was built as a result of the Camps Act of 1938, which proposed the building of a ring of 50 camps around London so that town children could experience the countryside. However, with the threat of war, only 32 camps were completed and their first use became one of evacuation. There were two others in this district: Marchants Hill, Hindhead, which is still operating and Elmbridge, Cranleigh, now the site of Elmbridge Retirement Village. Sayers Croft was finished in June 1940 and for four years was home to Catford Central Boys School. From October 1945 to June 1946 the camp played host to 300 Dutch schoolchildren from Amsterdam and Rotterdam recuperating from the deprivations they had suffered. A number were suffering from diphtheria and had to be isolated for three months. As a gesture of gratitude the Dutch government later gave the camp many thousands of daffodil bulbs for planting in the grounds. From 1946 the camp was leased from the National Camps Corporation and in 1957 it was bought by London County Council, later the Inner London Education Authority. In 1990 it was transferred to Westminster City Council and provides a wide range of environmental courses and outdoor activities for groups of up to 180 children at a time throughout the year.

THE RURAL ECONOMY

Brickmaking

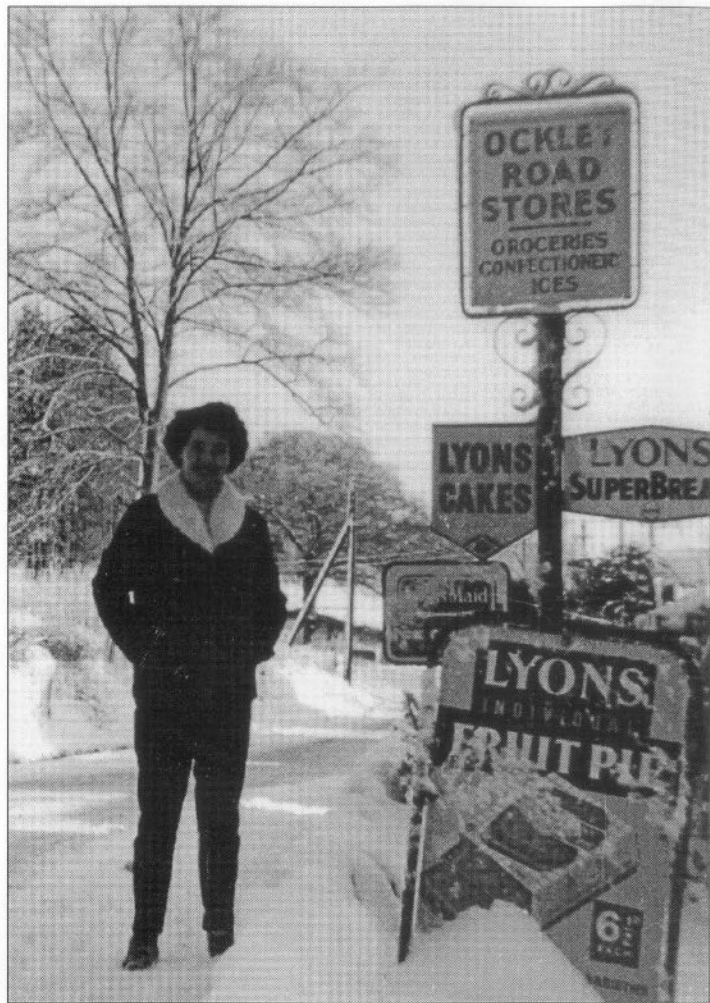
The area has long been known for brick and tile making. Ockley Brick and Swallow's Tiles are still important local employers. Ewhurst Brickworks, now occupied by Norman Marshall, operated from 1934 to 1972. The old drying sheds and kilns are still there along with the original clay pits, now filled with water. There were also many smaller brickyards, such as Nagswood in Somersbury Lane, which operated in the summer months only. The traditional method of firing was in a clamp. Bricks were stacked on a bed of wood fuel, covered with turf, and fired. Many houses in this area were built with bricks made on site by this method. In winter the men would have worked in the woods.



Lyefield Brickyard, 1927.

Shops and Businesses

Primrose Cottage in Shere Road was a small shop run by Mrs Rix. It was also a tea room, one of several in the village catering for visitors including cyclists and ramblers. There was a small "corner" shop in Ockley Road in the 1930s run by Mr Day; later it was run by Mr Nightingale. Vera Worsey took it over in the 60s and Joyce Tidy ran it until it closed in 1975. Mr J. Duly, of Dial Cottage, Farthingham Lane was a



Vera Worsey outside Ockley Road Stores, 1963.

watchmaker and jeweller in the 1920s.

Edes Stores at Deblins Green was a long-established grocers, drapers and coal merchants. The first Post Office was here and the postmaster at the turn of the century was Walter Ede. He gave up the Post Office in 1908 but continued the general business. In the 1950s it was an antique and book shop. Next door, in what is now Bennetts Garage, was Henry Coldman 'Fly Proprietor'. He was the son of Caleb Coldman, the last miller at Ewhurst Mill. He had carriages for hire and ran a taxi service. By the 1920s he had added a motor car to his fleet and also had cycles for hire. In the 1930s this became Pitts Garage.

Bennetts former car showroom was re-built on the site of the smithy owned by George Ledger, who employed Mr Denyer and Mr Ansell as blacksmiths. George Ledger's son John carried on the business after the First World War. He was also a plumber and as time went by he concentrated on this side of his business. The tile shop was purpose built as Forrest Stores and sold groceries, drapery, ironmongery and earthenware. It was taken over by Wavy-Line in the 1970s before it closed in 1979. The camera repair shop was once a sub-branch of Lloyds Bank.

The Green showing Edes Stores and Post Office, and Henry Coldman 'Fly Proprietor', early 1900s.



Station: CRANLEIGH, L.B. & S.C. Rly.

HENRY COLDMAN,
FLY PROPRIETOR,
Ewhurst, Nr. Guildford, Surrey.

Motor Car. Open and Closed Carriages for Hire.

Bootmaker and Gaiter Manufacturer. Repairs.

Trains met by Appointment at any Station.

Cycle and Motor Agent. All kinds of Cycle and Motor Accessories.

Cycles for Hire.

Milk Hill was a butchers for many years. Slaughtering was done on the premises and a hoist, once used for hanging carcasses, can still be seen in the roof. At the turn of the century it was owned by James Ditton and then for a time by J.E. Jay, who also had a shop in Shere. By the 1920s it was Luings and from the late 30s to the 60s it was Baileys, who also ran a dairy and milk round, and is now an antique shop.

On The Mount, Church Gate Cottage was Cheesmans General Stores at the turn of the century. Mr Cheesman employed two assistants, a cashier, a van man and several boys at weekends. Meal, flour, sugar and other dry goods were bought in bulk and packaged in the shop. Small amounts and sweets were sold in 'cones' folded from a square of paper. Cheesmans was taken over by Forrest Stores in the early 1920s, just before they moved to their new premises. Mr Cheesman, who was renowned for his pork sausages and hams, moved to No. 1 Ewhurst Green and carried on that part of his business there. Mount Cottage was Lloyds Bank on Friday afternoons before it moved with Forrest Stores to its new premises in the 1920s. Church Gate Cottage then became a chemist, Hillman Attwells, and the bay windows were installed in the 1930s. Mount Cottage became a sweet shop, run by Pamela



Pitt's Garage, 1930s.

PITT'S GARAGE

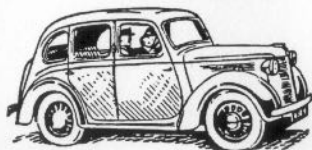
(W. C. PITT, Proprietor)

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A trial will convince,

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OCKLEY ROAD, EWHURST.

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Skillfully Cleaned and Repaired.
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Hallett, known to generations of children as "Miss Pam". There was great excitement at Ewhurst School when it was announced that sweets had come off rationing after the war. The two shops closed in the 1960s and both are now private houses.

The Old Post Office was originally the Bulls Head Inn. The Post Office moved here from Edes Stores after the new Bulls Head was built in 1908. The postmistress for many years was Mrs Hilda Pobgee. One of the village postmen was Johnny Dawes who was a postman for over 50 years. Poor eyesight meant he was unable to ride a bike and so he walked to Cranleigh and back to collect and deliver the morning and afternoon mail.

Just south of The Mount, the modern house Elettra stands on a site that has, over the years, been used by a variety of businesses. Originally, it was a drapers shop, Hollingsworths, and then Lazzells had a garage there, before it became Whittingtons Cycle Shop. After the war, it was taken over by an ex RAF man, Bob Clare, as a motorcycle shop, but it burnt down following an explosion in the 1950s. In later years it was used as a builders yard by Luff and Osgood; Mr Luff used a little hut near the road as a showroom for sinks and toilets. Osgood's previous yard had been in Ockley Road but this had burnt down before the First World War. In the 1930s Miss

The Smithy, early 1900s. Forrest Stores was later built on land behind the wagon.




O'Dowd lived in a wooden bungalow behind the Church Hall, known as The Cheese Hut as she made and sold cheese. It was still there until the 1980s when a new house, Sayers Croft Bungalow, was built.

Lockyear Motors replaced an earlier garage belonging to Joe Edwards, whose father, Newton Edwards, had started the Ewhurst Haulage Company. Hazelbank Stores is now the main village shop. For over 30 years it was Kennett and Evans who, like other village stores, sold a wide variety of goods and by the 1930s they also had a newsagency. The shop became Hydes in the 1950s and in 1971 it was taken over by the present owners Doug and Bernie Damen. Cumbers the builders had a yard behind Hazelbank and were also the village undertakers. Another local builder, Bicknells, was based in Mapledrakes Road and employed a large number of local people. The site was originally part of Mapledrakes Farm sold to Thorpe & Warren, builders of Cranleigh. John Bicknell bought it in 1935 and built a joinery workshop in 1946. Roser & Elms took over the joinery business in 1976. Some of the machinery in the workshop is pre-war and still in use. The builders yard was eventually built on and the modern access is from Williams Place.

Number One has been a hairdressing salon since before the war. In the 1930s it was

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PURE NEW MILK

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HOME-MADE SAUSAGE
POULTRY
BEST QUALITY MEAT

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EWHURST, - SURREY

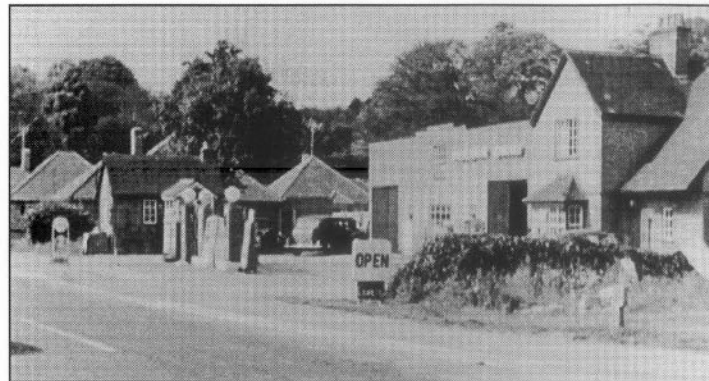
Maison Gladys and then Anne Shirley until the 70s: it is now run by Sandra Abbott. The hardware shop, Home Requirements, was opened in 1964 by George Bloomfield and run by three generations of this family until 1992. Both it and the adjoining butchers, Lades, are now standing empty and the site is likely to be redeveloped. The Post Office, now on its third site, was run from 1932 by Miss Noble. Other postmasters have included Toby Ansell, Stan Carter, John Pidgeon and Jean Cornwell; it was taken over by David Copp in 1992. Opposite, the cottage known as The Old Bakery was one of the two village bakers. From 1888 it was Carpenters and from the 1930s Watsons, who also had a shop in Peaslake. After the war it became Welfare and Howell and in the 1960s was run by Hills. Behind this is the site of Cranleigh Aerials, soon to be redeveloped as sheltered housing as the business is moving to a new site.

On the corner of Cranleigh Road was a guest house called Holmcroft, now Airlea and Greenfields. Further down, Whinfields was also a guest house, owned by Mr Pobgee. Opposite Gadbridge Lane the pair of cottages known as Sunnyside were owned by two sisters, a Miss Charman and a Mrs Charman (who had married a Mr Charman!). One was an outfitter selling shoes, hosiery and underwear. The other was a tea room which was very popular with cyclists and there were always several bicycles propped up against the fence.

Hamshires Grocers and Bakers was established in Gadbridge Lane in 1918. They baked their own bread and cakes and had a delivery round. They sold a wide range of merchandise in their shop, including household goods and even boots. They also brewed their own beer and cider. The shop was demolished in 1967 and Bellargus, Rosebriar and Woodland Cottage now stand on the site. Opposite was Buildings Farm Dairy run by Tommy Ryall, who also had a cattle transporting business to take cattle to market in the 1930s.

Even Ewhurst Green had several shops. No. 1 The Green was Cheesmans pork butchers, which later became a cobblers run by Steve Hubbard. Norwood Cottage, now Willow Cottage, was a drapers in the 1920s and 30s run by Mrs Stemp. Before the First World War, Mrs Luff kept a sweet shop at Fair View and sold sweets from big glass jars, and ginger beer in stoneware bottles from the Three Horseshoes Brewery in Cranleigh. In the 1930s the house now known as Weavers was a cottage industry

Miss Pam's sweetshop.



Newton Edwards Garage.

J. E. HAMSHIRE,
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GADBRIDGE STORES, Near THE GREEN

Noted for Bacon, Cheese and Butter.
 Best Quality at Moderate Prices

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called The Yew Tree Weavers where Miss Eleanor Arundel employed local girls to make fabrics and clothes. Next door at Square Leg Cottage, Mr and Mrs Jones served teas and had a cigarette machine on the gate post. Bill Taylor ran a cattle transporting business in the 1950s. He later kept his cattle lorry in Mr Hamshire's bus garage in Gadbridge Lane after Aldershot and District had stopped using it. There was a small grocers shop near Yard Farm, run by Mrs Thayre, which was so small that customers were served from the back door.

Ellen's Green had only one shop, at Pipers Croft, selling sweets and cigarettes. Most people in Ellen's Green relied on regular deliveries from shops in Rudgwick. Ewhurst shops also made deliveries and even Sainsburys in Guildford would deliver as far as Ewhurst!

FRED. A. KENNETT,

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Speciality: PRIME CURED BACON.

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NEWSAGENT AND STATIONER. Early and Prompt Delivery of
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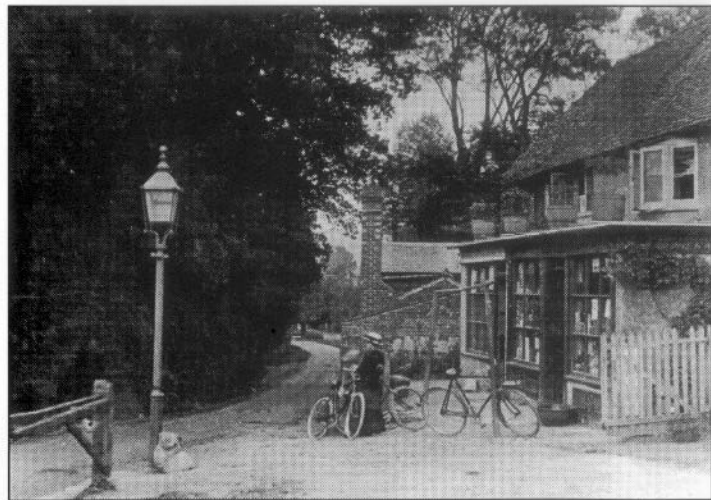
Books and Music Supplied.

Hazelbank General Stores, EWHURST, SURREY.

Hazelbank Stores (top right).

Cheesmans Stores by the Church (bottom right).

Watsons Bakery van with baker's boy, Bert Denyer (below).



VILLAGE INNS

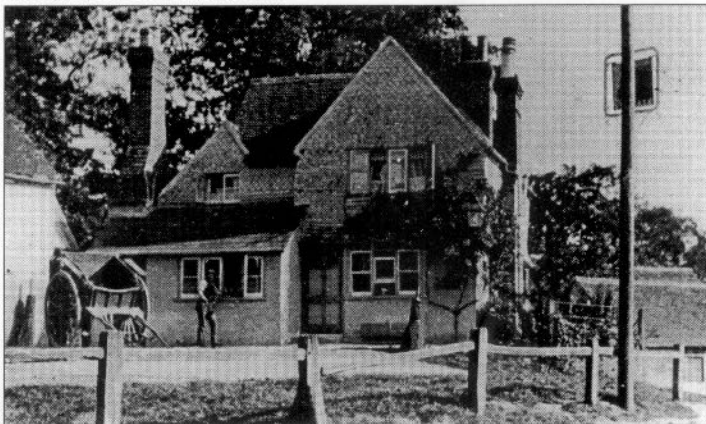
William Cobbett visited Ewhurst in 1823 and wrote "At Ewhurst, which is a very pretty village, and the Church of which is most delightfully situated, I treated my horse to some oats and myself to a rasher of bacon". Unfortunately Cobbett does not name the inn at which he stopped but it could have been one of three: the Bulls Head, the Crown, or the White Hart, all of which are now private houses. Of the three, only the Bulls Head held a full licence, the other two being beer houses.

The Bulls Head

The Bulls Head Inn was originally situated by the church and was said to have been an inn for over 300 years. In the early 1900s the landlord was William Broomer and when he died he left £500 in his will for the village to purchase a recreation ground. His brother Albion kept the stables next door, which stood where the lychgate path now runs. The lychgate itself was only built in the 1920s.

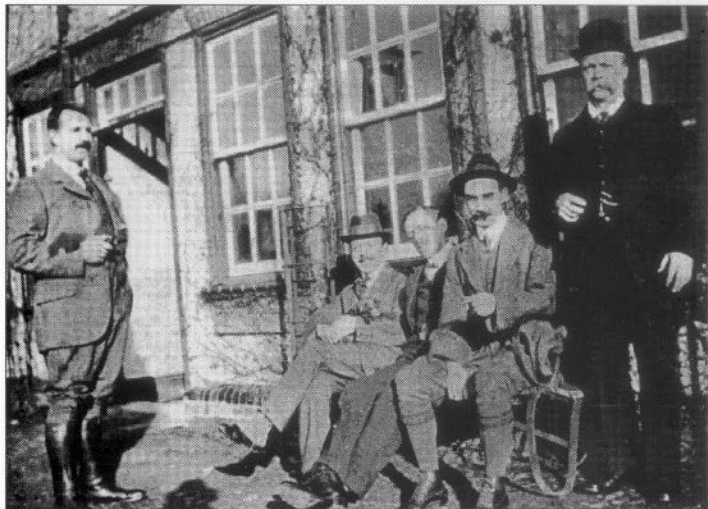
The new Bulls Head Hotel was built in 1908. There is a story that it was built speculatively as a 'Railway Hotel' in anticipation of the railway coming through Ewhurst. This may seem odd today, but around the turn of the century several different proposals were made for a line from Cranleigh to Dorking, but the plans fell through owing to the opposition of landowners in the Dorking area. After the First World War the Pals Club met there and during the Second World War it was used by the Home Guard.

The original Bulls Head Inn, early 1900s.



The Bulls Head, 1908.

Patrons of the Bulls Head.





The White Hart

The White Hart was situated behind the tile shop. The inn closed in the early part of this century; the last landlord was James Baxter, who was also the blacksmith at the forge next door. The cottages are still known as White Hart Cottages.



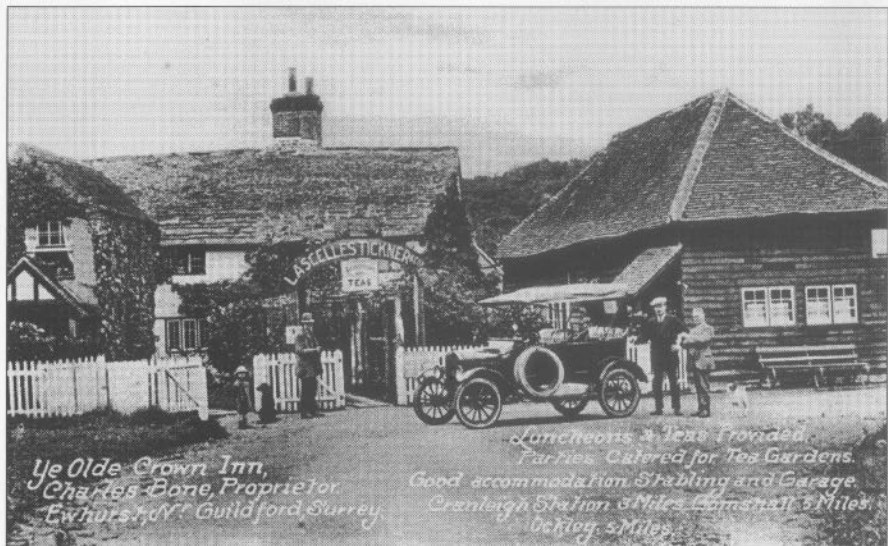
White Hart Cottages (top left).

The Windmill Inn from Pitch Hill (top right).

The Crown Inn (bottom right).

The Crown

This pub, tucked away in the corner of the green at the north end of the village, was only licensed as a beer house, but it also served teas and had a garden at the back. There was no bar; customers were served from the tap room. It had a timber barn for functions, which was used as a canteen by the WVS during the war and has since been demolished. At the turn of the century the landlord was David Tidy, who was succeeded by Charles Bone. In the 1930s there were regular musical evenings and sing songs with Alf Stemp on the piano, Jack Parsons on drums and Walter Smith, who was part-owner of the pub, on violin. In the 1950s the landlord was an eccentric character known as "Chunky" Smith, who wore sandals without socks whatever the weather! The Crown was very popular with families who would call in for a drink after a walk on Sunday evenings. It closed in 1960 and was converted into two cottages, Little Crown and Crown Cottage.

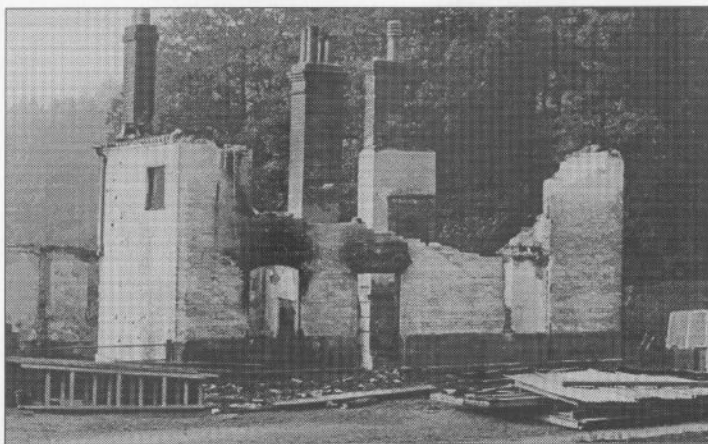




The original Windmill Inn (above).

After the fire of 1906 (bottom left).

The Windmill Inn after it was rebuilt (bottom right).



The Windmill Inn

The Windmill Inn takes its name from the mill which stands on the hill above. Originally the mill stood on an open hillside, but it is now almost totally obscured by trees. The mill dates from about 1845 and ceased working in 1885, lying derelict for many years before being restored in the early years of this century. It is a tower mill and replaced an older post mill destroyed in a gale. In the early 19th century, the mill was owned by Mary White, whose pretty daughter, Mary Leah, was said to ride about The Hurtwood on a white pony and send down to The Windmill Inn for porter with which to curl her black hair. Her initials M.L.W. 1839 are carved over the door.

The inn itself stands on the site of a much older inn which burnt down in 1906. Many legends surround the old inn, reputed to have been the haunt of smugglers, as described by Gertrude Jekyll in her book 'Old West Surrey'. High taxation in the 18th century meant that smuggling was rife throughout the South-East, with easy access to both the French ports and the lucrative London markets. Contraband, including brandy, tobacco, tea and silk, could be smuggled to order. The trade was controlled by notorious gangs who landed their cargoes at the many quiet creeks and harbours near Chichester and Shoreham and brought them inland on pack-horses to the wild, isolated countryside, where they could easily be concealed before the onward journey to London. The old mill, which was then visible for miles, was reputed to have been a rendezvous point and the old Windmill Inn was said to have a false roof in which to conceal contraband. After the fire it was said that two old flintlock pistols were discovered in the ruins.

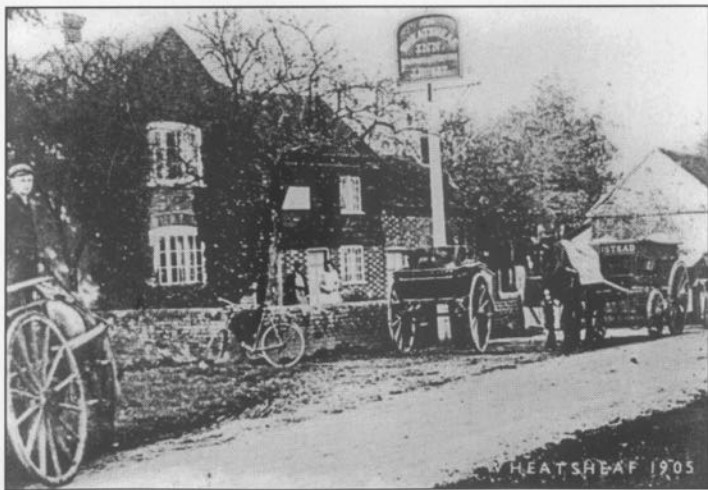




Patrons of the Wheatsheaf (above).

The Wheatsheaf, Ellen's Green, 1903 (below).

Ewhurst Mill (The Walter Rose Collection) (right).



RECREATION

Before TV and radio, people had to make their own entertainment, and concerts and dances in the Church Hall were always popular. In the 1930s there were often two dances a week. Wednesday evenings were 'Old Tyme Dancing' and Saturday was a dance with a band, for which people wore evening dress. These often raised money for charity. In 1939, for example, the United Sports Club (formed from the football, tennis, cricket and bowls clubs) held 16 dances and 3 whist drives, raising £25 for the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Cranleigh Cottage Hospital, St. John's Ambulance and the Ewhurst Nursing Association.

Ewhurst Women's Institute was founded in 1919 and took as its motto "Do all the good that you can, in every way that you can, to all the people that you can". The first president was Mrs Creswell. Monthly meetings were held in the Church Hall with talks and demonstrations on homecrafts and citizenship, as well as monthly competitions for cookery and crafts. In October 1920 the talk was "Rabbit skins and their uses" and this was followed in November with a competition for the "Best Article made from a home-cured skin". The WI supported many good causes with a monthly 'Golden Gift' such as sending primroses to Poplar Hospital in London and eggs and produce to local hospitals. An Evening Institute was formed in 1975. Ellen's Green WI was formed in 1953 and met in the new Memorial Hall, but disbanded in 1982.

Amateur dramatics have been performed since the 1920s, when Ewhurst Players put on several Shakespearean plays. The Players were revived in 1938 and their first

A concert party in the Church Hall in the 1930s.



A 1950s pantomime.

production, "Tell me the Truth", raised £11.0s.1d. for the Sunday School. From 1952 they put on pantomimes including Cinderella and Dick Whittington. The next group ran from 1962-69 and the present company, formed in 1974, recently celebrated their 20th anniversary with a revue. They were awarded the National Operatic and Drama Association accolade for excellence for the set of "Witness for the Prosecution" in 1992. In 1957 the Players formed a film group, with a showing of "Genevieve", and this later became a separate Film Society.

The Village Club was built in 1901 as a Reading Room and Institute. It was enlarged after the First World War and from 1925 was leased to the YMCA. During the Second World War it was used as a canteen and as a temporary school for evacuees. After the war it was a British Legion club until 1959 when it became a Working Men's Club affiliated to the CIU (Club and Institute Union). Initially the club rented the building and then in 1984 they were able to buy it outright. The proceeds from the sale were invested in a fund known as the Ewhurst Charity which makes grants for educational purposes. The rifle range was added to the back of the Village Club in 1913 and in 1983 replaced by a modern range.

Ewhurst Boy Scouts were started in 1909 by the Rector, Reverend Clark-Kennedy, who went on to become District Scoutmaster. The Ewhurst Girl Guides were founded in 1915 and their first Captain was Miss W. Daws. The Guides were subsequently run



The WI banner embroidered 1922.

in the Parish Church. Before the Second World War meetings were usually held in the Church Hall. The Boys' Club continued after the war at the recreation ground and there has also been a youth club for boys and girls, when leaders have been available. Ellen's Green also had its own Boys' Club.

The recreation ground known as Broomer's Field was originally purchased by the Parish Council in 1933 with money left in the will of William Broomer for that purpose, and was extensively re-modelled after the war. The Tennis Club had a small wooden pavilion and the first tennis courts were grass. The hard courts were laid out in their present position after the war. The Football Club was formed in 1911 and before Broomer's Field was available they played at several locations around the village, including Downhurst Meadows. The Club played in the Ockley and District League and were winners of the Cup in 1922-3.

The Badminton Club was formed in 1963 and played regularly in the Church Hall. When it appeared that the village might lose the hall and the club would have no-

for many years by Miss Fowler. In the 1930s the Guides and Scouts worked hard to raise money to build their own hut on the new recreation ground, Broomer's Field. In 1951 the hut was sold to the Parish Council who subsequently improved and extended it with a donation from Sir Eric Miller, who lived at Old House.

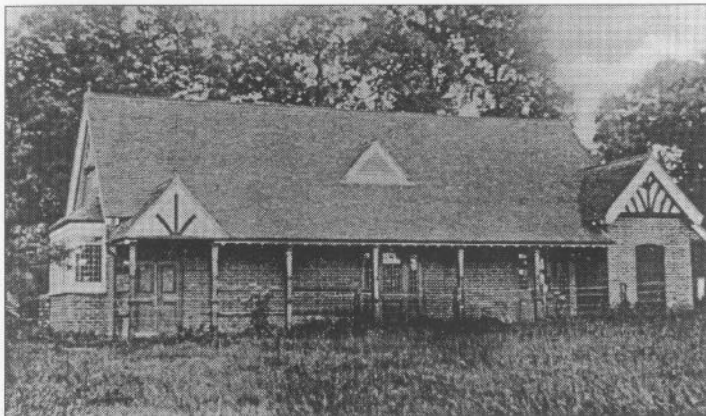
There have been several Boy's Clubs and Girl's Clubs at various times; their viability depending on willing adult leaders. Helen Topham, daughter of the artist Frank Topham, was active in setting up these clubs. She was a teacher at St. Catherine's School at Bramley and when she died, her pupils paid for a memorial window



WI members on the seat they donated to the village, 1923.

A WI outing in the 1920s.





*The Institute in Ockley Road, before the second storey was added (above).
Ewhurst Football Team, winners, Guildford and District Charity Cup, 1947-48 (right).*

where to play, the Club Secretary, Alan Smith, proposed the building of a gymnasium attached to the existing Scout Hut on the recreation ground. He enlisted the support of other interested groups and in 1969 the **Ewhurst Youth and Sports Council** was formed, consisting of the Boys' Club, Badminton Club, Football Club and the Cub Scouts. The Parish Council granted them a 30 year lease and they set about fund-raising and obtaining grants from local councils and other bodies including the Sports Council. One fund-raising effort involved selling Sunday newspapers in Damens, the wages being paid directly into the fund. The EYSC decided to do as much work as possible on the building themselves. The plans were drawn up by Fred Budgen and volunteers worked every weekend and many evenings throughout two summers and one winter. Members dug footings, built the plinths, laid the concrete floor, put on the roof and carried out all the electrical, heating and drainage work. They also put up the external cladding and did the painting. The building was opened on 22nd September 1973 by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey.

The **Bowls Club** was formed in 1936 and the pavilion was built in 1937 when the first matches were played. The green was laid on a bed of broken Swallow's tiles and partly financed by selling off the top soil.

After the war it was enlarged to 6 rinks with part of the War Memorial Fund and in 1950 the pavilion was extended to provide a bar, toilets and tool shed. The club celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1986 with a Workers v Pensioners Match. The Pensioners won by 107 to 101 and the match is now an annual event.

Cricket has been played on Ewhurst Green for at least 150 years. Before the war the pavilion was a small wooden hut and it was enlarged to provide a tea-room after the war with a donation from the War Memorial Fund. The present pavilion was built in 1967/8 and has been extended several times to provide a bar, club room and showers. Over the years the ground has been lovingly tended and the pitch has a reputation for being firm and fast. The minute books show that a motor mower was purchased in 1926 for £51.10s.9d., a considerable sum in those days. The annual dinners were always popular and many famous cricket personalities have been guest of honour including P.G.H. Fender and Alec and Eric Bedser. In recent years the club has hosted several celebrity benefit and charity matches. The author and cartoonist Bernard Hollowood, who was the editor of Punch, was a keen member in the 1950s and recalls memories of Ewhurst Cricket Club in his autobiography "Cricket on the Brain". One incident he describes is the occasion on which the visiting team arrived late, packed like sardines into a hearse as their bus had let them down!





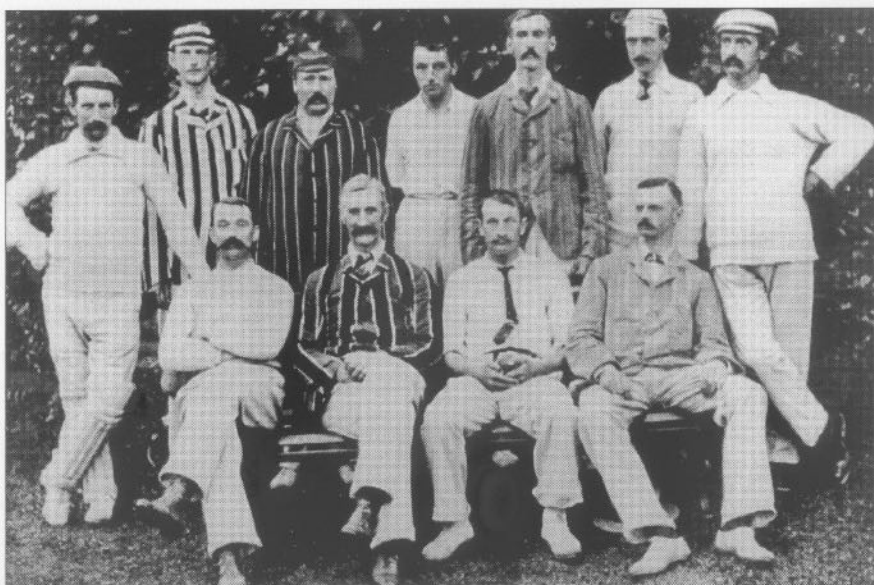
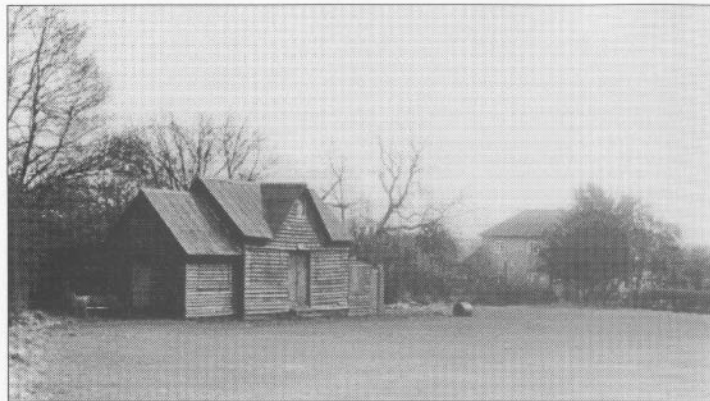
BOWLS Club Golden Jubilee, 1986.

The Boy Scouts, practising campcraft near the BOWLS Club, 1938.



The Stoolball Club, winners of Group B, 1979.





Cricket on the Green, early 1900s (above left).

The Cricket Club Pavilion, 1950s (above).

Ewhurst Cricket Team 1898, consisting of six Barlow brothers, four Weller brothers and Henry Street, a brother-in-law of the Wellers! (left).

Stoolball is recorded as early as the 15th century, and has strong Sussex connections, having been revived there in 1917 as a form of exercise for convalescing troops. It is not known if stoolball was played in Ewhurst in the past since the present club only dates from 1972. The game is said to have been played originally with milking stools, from which the name originates. The modern game is played with round bats and the wickets are square boards on posts. The bowlers bowl in overs, underarm and the scoring is similar to cricket. Historically the game was played by both sexes, but now it is just played by women.

The Horticultural Society was founded in 1890. The main event of the year is the Flower Show, which is described in more detail in the next chapter. Two stalwarts of the Society were Ted Stevens, Secretary from 1945-1975 and President until 1978 and Louis Keen who was Treasurer from 1945-1969. A best-kept garden competition was started in 1963 and in addition to the Summer Show, Spring Shows took place from 1975 and Autumn Shows from 1980. In 1986 the Society suffered a major financial set-back, but man-

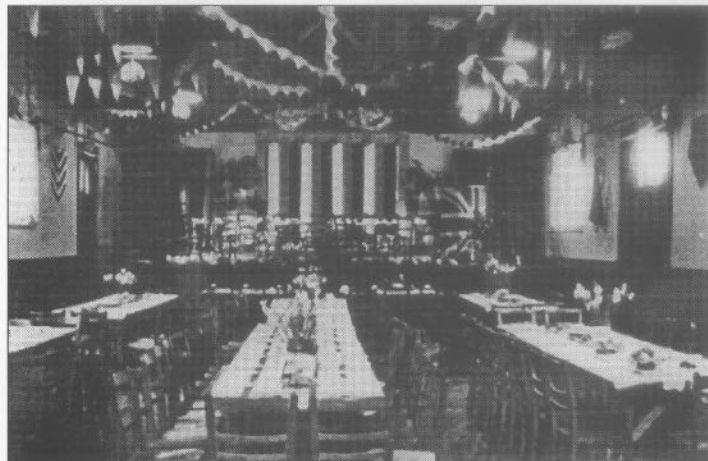


aged to pull through. The 100th Summer Show took place at Sayers Croft on 28th July 1990, with TV gardening personality, Anne Swithinbank, as guest of honour.

The **Ellen's Green Gardening Association** also holds regular Spring, Summer and Autumn Shows. Their moment of fame came in 1950 when they were runners up out of a total of 8,000 entries in a national quiz competition organised by the Daily Express. As each round progressed, they first became the champions of Surrey, then they won the South-East Finals at the Kent County Show at Maidstone, and the semi-final at Caxton Hall. The final was held in London where the Surrey team, consisting of Mr Holt, Mr Napper, Mr Port and Mrs Griffin, lost to a team from Nottingham by only two marks.

The **Ewhurst Society** was formed in 1992 with the aim of "Maintaining and improving the environment in which we live, monitoring proposed development and providing a forum for people to discuss their views". The society has talks, walks and outings and supports conservation projects. They were responsible for the Village Noticeboard, which was officially 'opened' on 19th December 1992 by Mrs Daisy Stemp.

The Church Hall decorated for the Coronation of George V, 1911 (left and below).



HIGH DAYS AND HOLIDAYS

The Flower Show

At the turn of the century, the highlight of the village year was the Flower Show on the last Wednesday in July. It was usually held at Malquoits, the home of Walter Webb, who was generous in his support of village activities. Occasionally it was held at High Edser, also part of the Malquoits estate. The children, each carrying their own tea-mug, marched behind the band to the showground and children from Ellen's Green arrived in wagons provided by local farmers. There were sports and competitions for children and adults, including old favourites such as egg and spoon and wheelbarrow races. One competition involved trying to catch a greasy pig! After their sports the children were treated to a sit-down tea, and there was often a dance in the evening for the adults. The Flower Show was held in a large marquee with classes for vegetables, fruit and flowers from cottage gardens and allotments. There was also a fine display of exotic pot plants from the country estates, who employed large numbers of gardeners. There were also classes for children, including items such as "a collection of Queen Wasps, mounted on card"!

Mr Webb left Malquoits soon after the First World War and the new owner, Sir Charles Ellis, did not wish to be involved, so the show moved to Cumbers Field, the site of the modern Post Office. The Pals Club, for ex-servicemen, helped to run the sports. The Malquoits estate was sold again in the early 1920s to Mr Morton who took a great



Procession on the Malquoits Estate, George V's Coronation, 1911.

The village band outside the Church Hall, 1920s.



Maypole dancing at the 1911 Coronation celebrations.



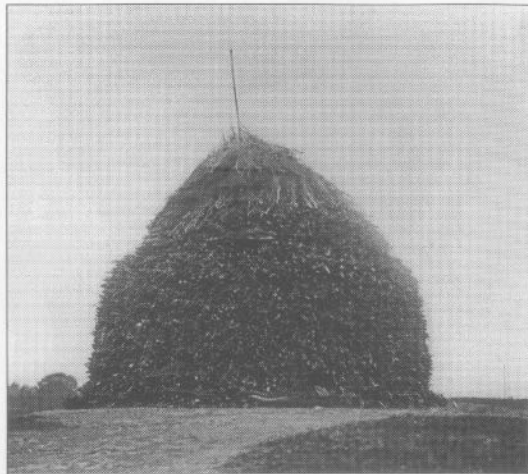


Children on the Mount waving flags to celebrate the Coronation of George V in 1911.

interest in village activities and gave permission for the show to be held on Downhurst Meadows. In the early 1930s a fair accompanied the show and there was great excitement among the children as it arrived in the village, pulled by steam engines. The fairground people were called Smith and Whittle and an old man with a wooden leg used to stoke the boiler of the steam driven roundabout. A gospel tent mission also used to visit this site in the 1930s.

Village Carnivals

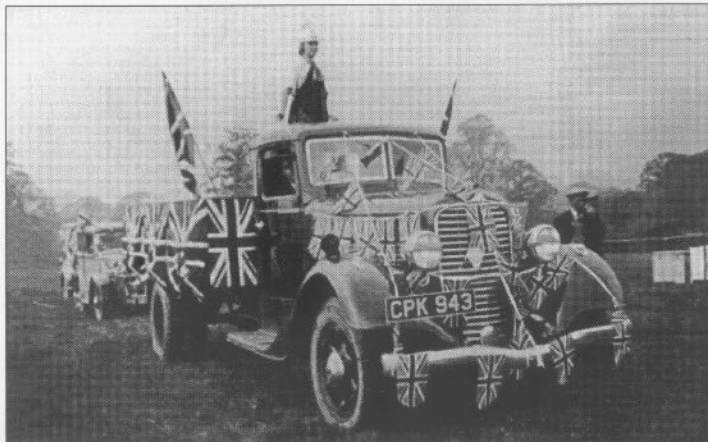
Since the war the Flower Show has usually been held at the recreation ground and from 1979 has often been held in conjunction with the village carnival. In years when there has not been a carnival the Horticultural Show has been held at Sayers Croft, or the Village Hall. Adult sports were dropped in the 1960s, but the tug-of-war is still keenly contested. The carnival usually starts with a fancy-dress parade with children, adults and riders taking part. In recent years carnivals have been themed, with stall-



Villagers from Ellen's Green on their way to the 1911 Coronation celebrations in Mr Renmant's farm wagon (top left).

The 1911 Coronation Bonfire on Pitch Hill (above).

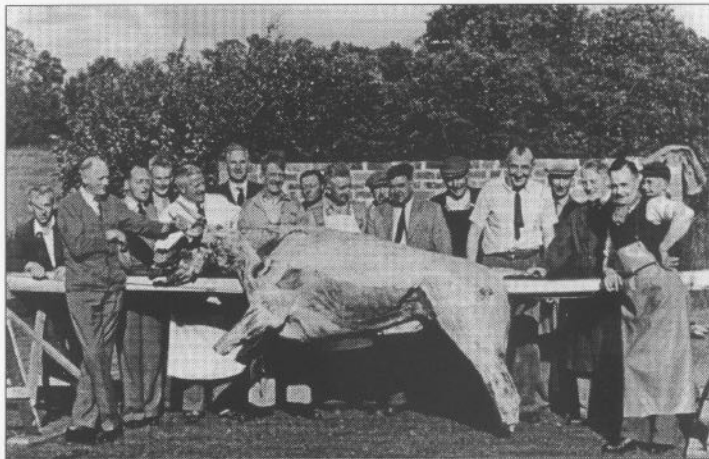
George Tidy's coal lorry as a Carnival float, 1935 (bottom left).



holders dressing the part, such as the 1991 Medieval Carnival, which commemorated Ewhurst's 700 years as a parish and the 1994 Victorian Carnival which celebrated the Parish Council's Centenary.

Coronations and Jubilees

As extra-special events, Coronations and Jubilees were looked forward to with great excitement. Patriotism was very strong and shops and buildings, such as the school and Church Hall, were decorated with flags and bunting. The day would be a national holiday and festivities usually followed a similar pattern to the flower shows. In 1977 events celebrating the Queen's Silver Jubilee were spread out over 4 days. As a momento, the children were often presented with souvenir mugs. For Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, in 1897, Jubilee beakers were presented by Sir Henry Doulton to 230 children from Ewhurst and Ellen's Green Schools. The highlight of the village's celebrations was a bonfire on Pitch Hill. These huge bonfires were carefully constructed from bundles of brushwood, known as 'faggots', and could be seen for miles around, as could the fires on all the other hills in the district. The bonfire for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee was 40 ft high and contained 6,000 faggots.



Ox roast at Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation celebrations, 1953 (top left).

The Youth Club relay team, who carried a message of congratulations to Her Majesty on the occasion of her Silver Jubilee in 1977. Each member of the team was presented with a certificate by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Jack Harbottle (bottom left).



Ewhurst Coronation Celebrations

JUNE 2nd, 1953.

ROASTING OF OX

on

RECREATION GROUND

TIME OF VIEWING ROASTING

8 a.m. to 12 noon.

11.45 A.M. OFFICIAL CEREMONY

OF

CARVING OX BY JOHN BULL

From 12 Noon—SERVING OF ROAST OX

to All Parishioners (by Ticket only).

Tickets obtainable from Committee Tent on Ground from 10 a.m.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Workhouse

The 1601 Poor Law Act placed the responsibility for the welfare of the poor on the parish. Like most parishes, Ewhurst had a Poor House financed by a Poor Rate. In 1799 a new 'House of Industry' was built on land opposite the Village Hall. Account books for this still survive and are kept at the Surrey Record Office at Kingston. In 1834 new laws were passed which distinguished between the 'undeserving' and the 'deserving' poor. Parishes grouped together into Unions, and Ewhurst became part of the Hambledon Union which maintained a workhouse at Bramley. The harsh conditions were criticised by Eli Hamshire in his political pamphlets. In the 20th century, reforms, including introduction of old age pensions in 1908 and National Insurance in 1911, gradually improved matters, culminating in the formation of the National Health Service in 1948. The Poor Law Unions were not dissolved until 1930.

Ewhurst WI raised funds for the Royal Surrey Hospital by organising a Parade of Nations, 1922.



Health

In the years before the Second World War, infectious diseases were common. The school log book records numerous cases of measles, influenza, whooping cough, diphtheria and scarlet fever. For an outbreak of the latter the school would have to close and be fumigated before it could re-open. Sometimes these illnesses proved fatal. In 1912 the teachers and most of the children attended the funeral of a little girl who had died of diphtheria, and in 1918, seven members of the same family, from Coxland, died from influenza. In the 1940s a diphtheria immunisation campaign was carried out.

Village Doctors

Before the First World War Ewhurst did not have its own doctor and the district was covered by doctors from Cranleigh including Dr. A. Napper and his father before him. Ewhurst's first doctor, Dr. William Forshaw, held surgeries at Hillman Attwell's chemist shop by the Church and at his home at Slythehurst. Following an accident he did not drive and his wife drove him around the village to visit patients. He was a keen pig breeder and won many prizes for his champion pigs. The Cranleigh doctors, Dr. Willis and Dr. Walker, also had Ewhurst patients on their lists and held weekly surgeries in a room opposite Forrest Stores.

On Dr. Forshaw's retirement in 1946, the practice was taken over by Dr. Ernest Isambard Brunel Hawes. Known to his friends as "Bill", he was a direct descendant of the engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. He qualified as a doctor at St. George's Hospital, London, and then worked for the League of Nations in China. From 1937 he directed medical assistance to the refugees fleeing from the advancing Japanese Army. At the outbreak of war he joined the RAF and rose to the rank of Squadron Leader. On taking over the practice, Dr. Hawes and his family moved to Greenside at Ewhurst Green where he converted the stables and tack-room into a surgery. The practice

covered a large area including Forest Green and, as few people had telephones, a system of posting notes in a special box was developed. Dr. Hawes had a passion for fast cars (he became known to the locals as the "flying doctor") and at collecting time you were well advised to stand clear! He was on-call at all times and was always there to deal with accidents, however minor, such as people being hit by cricket balls, or falling off their bicycles coming down Pitch Hill (a frequent occurrence). He was aided by his wife Margaret, a qualified nurse who also ran a baby clinic in the Church Hall and acted as Matron to Sayers Croft. His daughter, Joanne Geoghegan, is now Matron of the Old Rectory Nursing Home which opened in 1989.

District Nurses

Before the days of the NHS many people could not afford to pay for treatment and a charity, the Ewhurst District Nursing Association, was formed to provide nursing care for villagers. For many years between the wars the District Nurse was Alice Collins. After the war, the NHS came into being and responsibility for provision of District Nurses was passed to the County Council. The aims of the charity changed and today it provides small gifts to the sick and recently bereaved at Christmas.

Smith's Charity

Henry Smith was a prosperous London silversmith who died in 1627 and left money in his will to all the parishes in Surrey for the relief of the poor. Relief was not to be given to "drinkers, whoremongers, common swearers, pilferers or scandalous people". However, there is little truth in the story that, dressed as a tramp, he travelled the lanes of Surrey with his dog, and left sums in his will according to how he was treated. The charity is still distributed in the parish to this day.



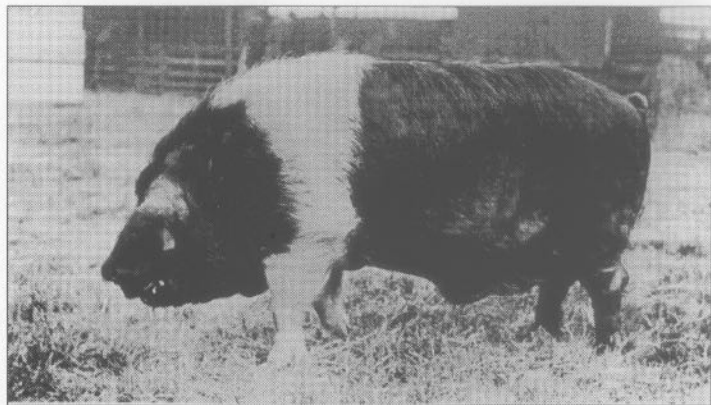
Doctor William Forshaw.



Doctor Bill Hawes.

A Carnival float marking the introduction of Maternity Benefit (bottom left).

Doctor Forshaw's 'Carlos of Stythehurst', champion boar at the Royal Show, 1930 and 1931 (below).



TRANSPORT

Roads

Roads in the Ewhurst area have always been a problem. William Cobbett, travelling from Ewhurst to Ockley in 1832 wrote "From Ewhurst, the first three miles was the deepest clay that I ever saw....I was warned of the difficulty of getting along but I was not to be frightened by the sound of clay. Wagons, too, had to be dragged along these lanes by some means or other and where a wagon could go, my horse could go. It took me however a good hour and a half to get along these three miles". Cobbett was travelling in August - in winter the roads were often totally impassable and wagons which became stuck in the autumn sometimes had to be abandoned for the whole winter! Oxen were used to haul wagons until the beginning of the 20th century.

An early attempt to remedy the problem by the provision of a turnpike road was a miserable failure. Acts of Parliament granted turnpike trusts permission to construct and maintain main roads and in return they were allowed to charge tolls. In 1818 an

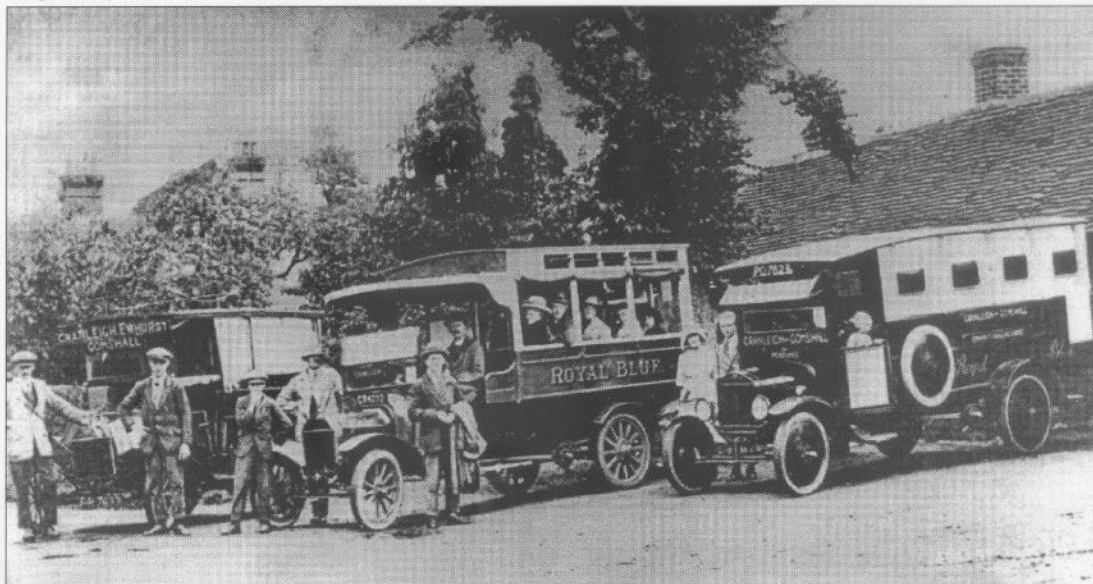
Act was passed to set up a turnpike road from Bramley to Rudgwick, passing through Cranleigh and Ellen's Green where one of the tollgates was sited. However the trustees were unable to raise sufficient capital by public subscription and had to borrow the difference; in addition the heavy clay made upkeep very expensive. Although the road should have been of benefit to the community it was unpopular with local people who could ill afford the tolls. The trust got heavily into debt and its final death knell was the opening of the Guildford to Horsham Railway in 1865. Landowners were also allowed to charge tolls where roads crossed private land. Until 1921 there were tollgates in Somersbury Lane near Bungtore Cottage and in Horsham Lane, where the roads crossed Lord Abinger's estate. When Eli Hamshire was working as a carrier he avoided tolls by unhitching his cart and pulling it through himself!

In the early part of the 20th century the roads were unmade and much narrower than they are today. There were no pavements in the village. Horse drawn wagons and carts were the normal means of transport and most people either walked or used bicycles. Goods could be collected or delivered by the carrier who made regular trips to Cranleigh, Horsham and Guildford. As the area became more affluent, car ownership grew quickly and motor traffic became a problem as early as 1907 because cars were noisy, frightened livestock, caused dust, and sparks from the engine were a fire hazard.

Buses

In the past there was no need to travel far as most people's needs were met locally. Only the well off had private transport and, whilst the railways had improved communications nationally, it was buses that opened up local travel to ordinary people. One of the earliest bus services to Cranleigh and Guildford was Surrey Hills Motor Services started in 1921 by George Reading, who originally had a small garage behind the smithy and later moved to a site next to the Evangelical Church. In

George Reading's buses outside the smithy, 1921.





The Bus Garage, 1930 (Alan Cross).

1926 he sold this garage and 5 buses to Aldershot and District Traction Co. Ltd. and moved to Cheltenham where he founded the well-known Black and White Motorways Company. Aldershot and District built a new brick garage on the site in 1928 and in 1933 sold this together with 6 buses to the London Passenger Transport Board. In 1927 Arthur Lazzell, the proprietor of Ewhurst Garage, formed Ewhurst and District Bus Services with a service to Horsham. He also ran various excursions as well as a daily express service to London. In 1946 Basil Williams of Loxwood took over the route, but not the garage or vehicles which continued as Ewhurst Coaches. In 1971 Jim Lazzell sold the business to Gastonia who subsequently sold out to Tillingbourne in 1974.

Tillingbourne wanted to enlarge the garage to take their fleet of buses, which were longer than those of the 1920s for which it had been originally designed. A lengthy planning wrangle followed. Waverley District Council were very much against commercial development in the village Conservation Area but were reluctant to lose the rural bus service. The matter was finally resolved in 1976 when Tillingbourne moved to a new site at Littlemead, Cranleigh. The garage was demolished in 1981 and some parts were taken to the Chalk Pits Museum at Amberley for use in a replica 1920s bus garage, although very little was actually used. A pair of houses, Folly Cottage and Streeters, now stand on the site. In the meantime, Aldershot and District continued to run a service to Cranleigh and Guildford from the Bulls Head. This meant that the bus was left outside overnight and led to complaints that it was damp. Mr J.A. Hamshire, a local poultryman, rented the bus company a garage in Gadbridge Lane which was in use until 1964 and is still there at Glenside.



A London Transport Bus outside the Bus Garage, with Lazzells Garage in the background, 1930 (Alan Cross).

Annie Edwards with her bicycle outside Montague Cottages in Farthingham Lane.



AGRICULTURE

Farming

Pre-historic man kept to the lighter soils of the greensand and for thousands of years the primaeval forests of the Weald remained uninhabited. The Romans farmed the area around their villa at Rapsley. The Saxons cleared their fields out of the original forest leaving narrow strips of woodland known as shaws or rews. Many farm names date from this period, such as Breache, meaning 'strip of uncultivated land'; Slythehurst, meaning 'wood at a slippery place'; and High Edser meaning 'Ecga's shaw'. Timber was cut to meet the demands of the iron and glass industries and by the 17th century much of the original forest had been cleared. The increasing population made farming marginal land worthwhile, but in the 18th century agriculture slumped due to imports from new lands in Australia and the Americas. Crops became uneconomic on poor soil and many areas were re-planted as coppice.

The heavy clay was difficult to cultivate. It was wet and cold in winter and took a long time to warm up in spring, whilst in dry periods it became hard and cracked. Lime was used to break up the soil. It was made by burning chalk in kilns and remains of some of these still survive, such as one in the side of a bank in Coneyhurst Lane. Their sites are often indicated by field names - Kiln Field and Furze Field (furze, or gorse, was grown as fuel) although in this area 'kiln' could also refer to glass-house sites.

Ploughing at Somersbury, early 1900s.



Archie Hull at Somersbury, 1906.

During the First World War extra land was brought into production and the reclamation of the derelict Baynards Estate was praised in the Journal of the Board of Agriculture in 1917. Farming was labour intensive with horses doing most of the heavy work. Corn was cut with scythes and the sheaves were stooked to dry the straw and harden the grain. Tying sheaves was women's work and after the field was cleared they would be allowed to glean (collect any leftovers). Old varieties of wheat included Red Standard and Golden Drop. Hay was sold for cattle feed and top quality hay was highly sought after by dealers who sold it on to racing stables. Hay was cut and pitched up loose onto waggons; cart horses had to be very patient as they stopped and started across the fields. Back at the farm the hay was carried up to the top of the rick or barn by a horse-driven elevator. In the autumn the hay was pressed into bales weighing 56lbs. Mangle-wurzels and swede were grown as winter fodder and were sliced by hand and mixed with oats before being fed to the cattle. Poultry was free range and was the responsibility of the farmer's wife, who could keep the egg money. The women also made butter and cheese, with the skimmed milk being fed to the pigs. Cider was brewed at harvest time for the workers.

Pollingfold was a typical mixed farm of about 110 acres. Here James Sadler grew corn and wheat, kept poultry and had two house cows. His son, Ronald, had a tractor

and a threshing machine, and did contract work for other farms. This was one of several farms in the area which took sheep from Romney Marsh for the winter. George Weller of Rumbeams Farm was the agent. The sheep were sent by rail to Gomshall and village boys would be paid 4d to drive the flocks back over the hill to Ewhurst Green and Ellen's Green.

Dairy farming was important and before the Milk Marketing Board was set up in 1933 farmers made their own arrangements for selling milk. Sansomes Farm in Furzen Lane, farmed by the Remnant family, had a milking herd of Dexters and in the 1920s their milk was collected by Express Dairies. Moses Muggeridge, of Hill House Farm, had Dairy Shorthorns all of which were known individually by name. Their milk was sent to Wimbledon by train. This meant getting up at 4.30am to do the milking by hand. The milk was put in 17 gallon churns, which took 2 men to lift, and delivered to Cranleigh Station, in their solid tyred 1923 Trojan van, by 7.00am. After 1933 Reg Bagley was contracted by the Milk Marketing Board to collect milk from all the farms in the district and deliver it to Guildford.

A shooting party at Starveall Farm, 1905.



Most farms had ponds at which cattle, horses and sheep could drink; and into which wagons could be run to tighten up the wheels when they became dry. Roadside ponds, many of which have now been filled in, served waggons and gypsies, as well as providing water for steam rollers and threshing machines. Many ponds still exist, including Mapledrakes, Larkfield, Ewhurst Green, Plough Lane and at the burial ground. Today these are considered attractive features and a habitat for wildlife.

After the Second World War, farmers took advantage of government grants to become more mechanised and remove hedgerows. Today many farmhouses, such as Mapledrakes, and Alloways in Cranleigh Road, are no longer working farms. Others cater for leisure related activities, such as the North Breache Estate which holds pheasant shoots and has livery stables at Yard Farm and Firethorn Farm. The Maple Stud at Slythhurst was famous for its Norwegian Fjord Ponies. Fewer crops are grown now; many fields are grass grown for hay or silage, and pasture for sheep and horses.

Horticulture was also important. Harold Turner specialised in chrysanthemums at Sunnbrook Nursery in Cranleigh Road and Barn Hill Gardens on Pitch Hill grew

Haymaking at Tenaces, 1956.



rhododendrons, camellias and roses.

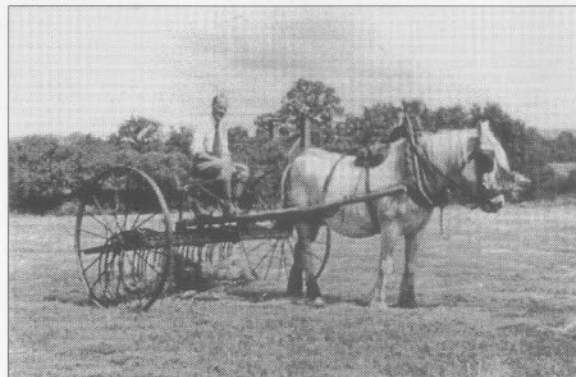
Ewhurst has two farms which open under the National Gardens Scheme. Coverwood Lakes is famous for its rhododendrons and azaleas. The gardens were laid out on 1910 for Mr. Stephens of "Stephens Ink" and since 1955 have been owned by Mr C.G. Metson. The four lakes are man-made, but fed from natural springs. The gardens include many fine specimen trees, including Wellingtonia, Douglas Fir and Swamp Cypress. Since the 1987 hurricane a programme of clearing and replanting has been carried out, including a new arboretum by the lower lake. The farm has a pedigree herd of Hereford Poll cattle and farm tours are organised at certain times of the year. Westlands Farm has a small lake, which is home to Mallards, Moorhens and Canada Geese, and a 14 acre wood, part of which is ancient woodland. It has been neglected, but the present owners have embarked on a management programme, including coppicing on a seven year rotation, which will benefit wildlife.

Threshing at Tenacres, 1941.



Plough Farm and pond, early 1900s.

Haymaking at Tenacres, 1941.



Woodcraft

Coppicing is a sustainable system of cutting wood. Young trees are cut back, almost to ground level and from the base, or 'stool', strong new growth emerges. This produces multiple branches that are long and straight and can be cut regularly, on a 7 - 14 year cycle.

Different types of wood had different uses, hazel for hoops and wattle hurdles, birch for besom brooms, chestnut for fencing paling, etc. Oak was grown as standards, evenly spaced throughout the coppice. Oak bark was used in the tanning industry. Brushwood was tied into bundles called 'faggots' for fuel.

Hoopshavers worked in the woods in north-facing shelters, making hoops for barrels. Barrels were used for the storage and transport of a wide range of goods. The

wood was shaved into narrow, pliable strips and the numbers of finished bundles were cut with roman numerals on tally sticks. Hurdle making is a traditional craft that is still carried on in the Ewhurst area by Bill Thompson.

Charcoal burning has been practised for over 2,000 years and was very important during the medieval and Tudor periods, when the Weald was the centre of the iron industry. The wood was cut into pieces of a certain size known as 'cords' and carefully stacked, then covered with earth to exclude air and give a slow, even burn. The kiln was fired and burnt for three days, during which it needed to be watched constantly. Because of this, charcoal burners lived on-site in wigwam-like huts. Charcoal burning was still practised in this area until the 1920s.

A charcoal burners hut, Nags Wood, 1927.



Hoopshavers – the Moore family of Widewoods, early 1900s.



NATURAL HISTORY

Owing to its varied geology Ewhurst has several distinctively different types of habitat. The Weald Clay supports deciduous woodland and farmland, whilst the sandstone hills of The Hurtwood comprise heathland and light mixed woodland. This variety provides for a diversity of plant and animal life.

The Weald

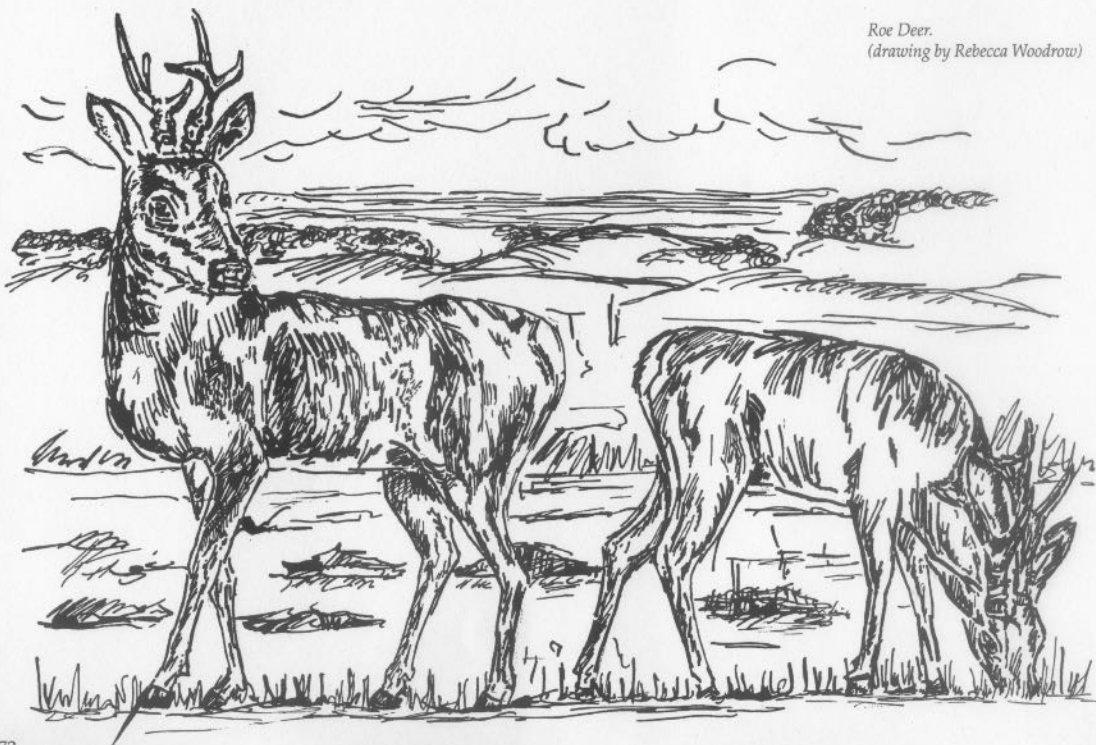
Land which has been continuously wooded since 1600 is known as ancient woodland. This does not mean that it is entirely natural as most woods have been managed but as the timber is cut from a renewable source the ground remains undisturbed.

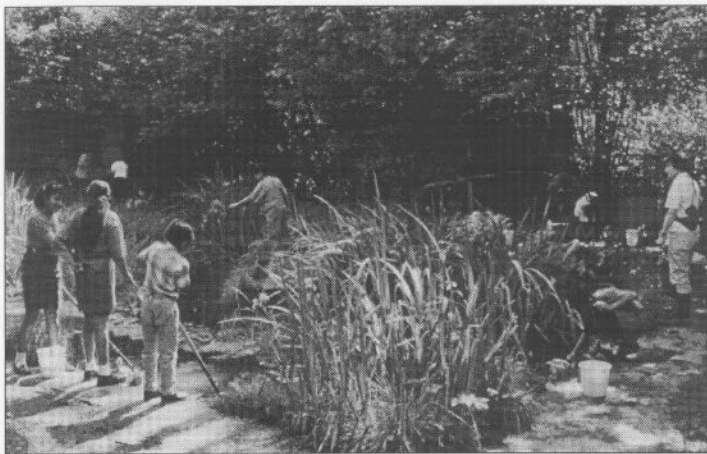
Traditional woodland management is an example of how the interference of man has actually benefited nature. Coppicing allows increased light and encourages woodland flowers such as bluebells, primroses and wood anemones. These attract insects which in turn attract other creatures and the bushy growth provides ideal nesting sites. Today much coppice is overgrown and neglected; the flowers are shaded out and tree growth becomes too straight for nesting. However there is a growing interest in traditional woodland management and many landowners are re-establishing coppicing. The Surrey Trust for Nature Conservation maintains a reserve at Wallis Wood which, although just outside the parish boundary, is typical of woodland in the southern part

of the parish. A complete cycle of cutting has been established and a rich ground flora has developed including Butterfly Orchids and Violet Helleborine. Wild daffodils, which are rare in Surrey, also grow here. Hazel coppice is an ideal habitat for dormice which feed on nuts, berries and honeysuckle flowers.

Sayers Croft Field Centre have recorded 28 kinds of trees in nearby woods, including the rare Wild Service Tree. In addition they have identified over 200 types of plants, of which more than 40 are only found in ancient woodland, where the ground has remained undisturbed. More than 1,000 species of insects have been recorded, including over 200 species of moths. The parish has a high number of butterfly species with 26 having been recorded (the usual number is less than eight per parish). Among the most striking woodland butterflies are the Silver-washed Fritillaries, which are dependent on violets as a food source. White Admiral butterflies, which feed on honeysuckle, and Purple Emperors can also be seen. Purple Hairstreaks can be spotted in the tree-tops as metallic purple flecks. Moths

Roe Deer.
(drawing by Rebecca Woodrow)



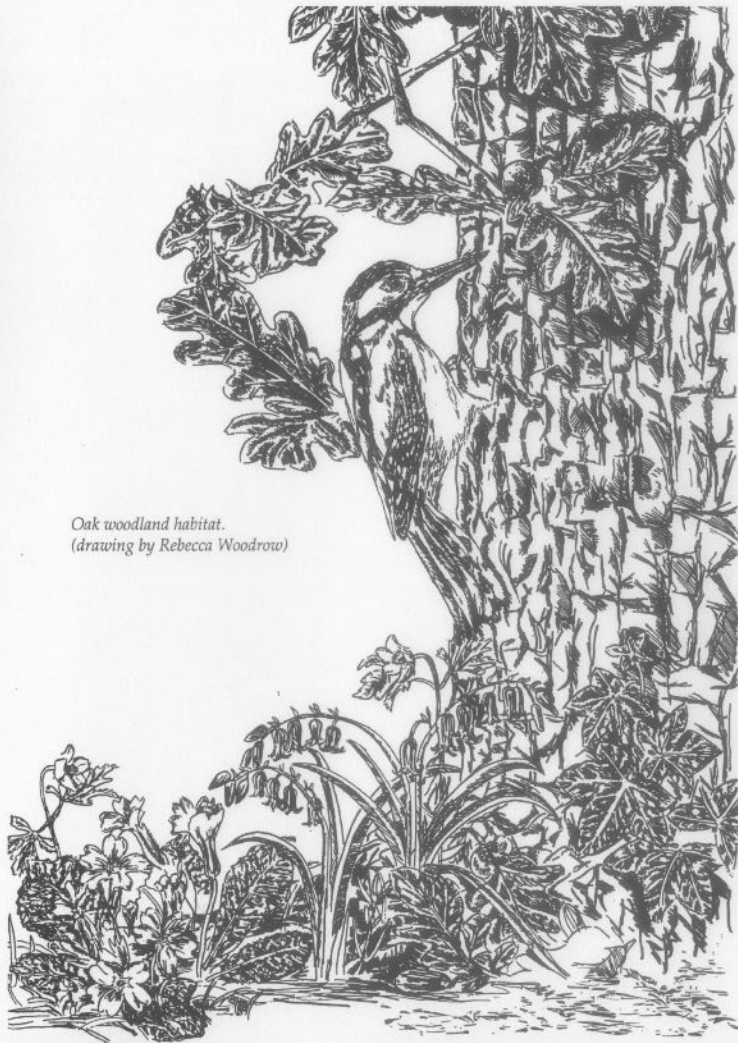


Schoolchildren at Sayers Croft learning about pond life.

are often seen in large numbers, including the tiny, lime green Oak Tortrix Moths and swarms of Long-Feelered Adelid Moths. In July, glow-worms occasionally appear at dusk by field margins.

Old trees, which are an attractive feature in the landscape, provide nesting holes for small birds such as tits and Nuthatches, while Treecreepers nest behind loose bark. Tawny and Little Owls use hollow trees and hunt along hedgerows and woodland margins. Greater Spotted Woodpeckers can often be heard drumming on trees and the Lesser Spotted and Green Woodpeckers also nest locally. Sayers Croft have recorded 39 species of bird, with more than 20 regularly breeding. They have also noted 19 species of mammals, including several on the endangered species list such as Pygmy Shrews and Dormice. Bats such as Pipistrelle nest in holes in trees and behind bark and hunt along hedgerows. Brown Long-Eared Bats, Daubenton's Bats and Natterers Bats, all of which are on the endangered species list, have been recorded.

To many people Roe Deer are one of the most enchanting woodland animals, but they can also be pests, as they nibble the shoots of young trees and are also particularly fond of roses. They are the smallest native deer with the buck measuring about 30 inches at the shoulder. The does are smaller and the fawns, born in May or June, are concealed in the bracken. Many centuries ago the deer population became depleted by hunting and new stock were introduced from Scotland. Muntjac deer are spreading rapidly through Surrey, having escaped from captivity earlier in the century. As yet they have not been spotted in Ewhurst, but it is probably only a matter of time before they arrive.



*Oak woodland habitat.
(drawing by Rebecca Woodrow)*

Pitch Hill

Pitch Hill and The Hurtwood on the Greensand Ridge have light, dry sandy soils with a thin surface layer of peat. The peat absorbs rainfall so that little penetrates the soil below and in warm weather it quickly dries out. The soil is low in nutrients and plant growth is sparse so that little soil-enriching humus is produced. This type of habitat is known as lowland dry heath and is quite different from the northern moors. It is an artificial habitat created by man, who began the clearance of the original light woodland in pre-historic times. Old photographs show the top of Pitch Hill to be quite bare. Throughout history the commons have been used for animal grazing and growth has been kept in check by cutting the gorse and brushwood for fuel. Now these activities have ceased the heathland is reverting to light woodland and scrub. Birch is quick to establish itself and bracken, which is very invasive, threatens the heather areas. Most woodland is natural regeneration but some has been planted for forestry. Scots Pine was introduced to the area in 1778 and more recently Western Hemlock and Larch have been planted. Non-native shrubs such as rhododendrons, azaleas and Gaultheria flourish in the acid conditions.

Snow on Pitch Hill, 1947.



Sayers Croft schoolchildren examining a field of linseed, with Pitch Hill in the background.

The great storm of October 1987 caused extensive damage, with the exposed south facing slopes of Pitch Hill, and the 'hollows' running north from the hill - Mill Hollow, Horseblock Hollow and Coverwood - taking the brunt of the force. Deciduous trees such as oak and beech suffered particularly badly as they were still in full leaf. Some trees were blown right over exposing their root plates and others, particularly pines on the top of the hill, snapped off half way up the trunk. Most of the clearing up has now been completed, although some trees, valueless for their timber, have been left to rot down for the benefit of wildlife. Foxgloves, whose seeds can remain dormant for many years, were quick to establish themselves in the gaps left by fallen trees. Re-planting has been carried out, but the young trees have since had to contend with several hot dry summers. The top of Pitch Hill has been planted with beech.

Fire is another hazard and on heathland can continue to smoulder underground. There was a disastrous fire in 1924 which destroyed a large area, and two serious fires occurred in the summer of 1974. The following winter a series of firebreaks were created which also allow access for fire-fighting vehicles. The effectiveness of these was proved in the hot summer of 1976 when The Hurtwood escaped the widespread fires that occurred elsewhere in the South East. There have been few fires since, although there was a small fire on Pitch Hill in the spring of 1990.

The vegetation of the heathland is predominately heather, bilberry and gorse. There are three types of heather; Cross-leaved Heath, and Bell Heather flower throughout the summer, while Ling flowers in the late summer. Bilberries, known locally as 'Hurts', ripen in July. The heather provides a habitat for butterflies such as the Silver-Studded



The Great Storm of 1987 – the remains of Martin Lockwood's brand new Rover.

Blue and the Green Hairstreak. Solitary bees and wasps make their burrows in sandy banks as do bright green Tiger Beetles. Grasshoppers are more often heard than seen among the heather.

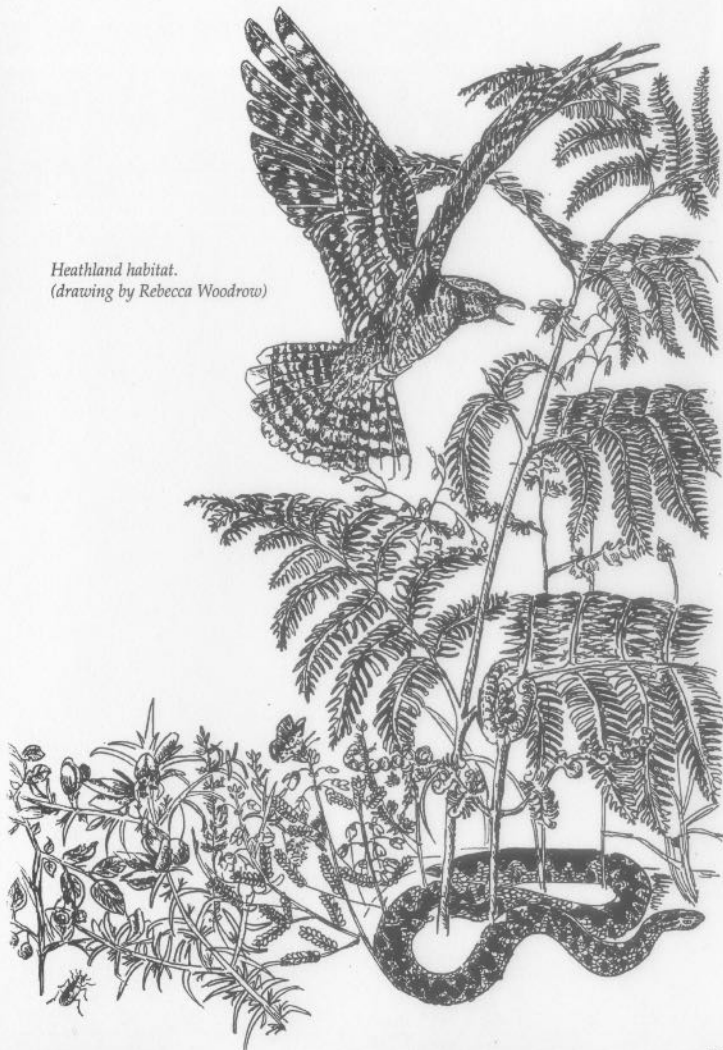
The dry sandy conditions are ideal for reptiles. Common Lizards, which eat spiders and insects, can sometimes be seen close to the edges of paths, but are quick to dart for cover. The Sand Lizard is a very rare species which is being re-introduced to The Hurtwood by the British Herpetological Society. Slow worms, often mistaken for snakes, are actually legless lizards. Adders, which can be identified by their zigzag markings, feed on small mammals and lizards, and though venomous, only attack if threatened and quickly hide when disturbed. Grass Snakes are also seen although they prefer damper conditions.

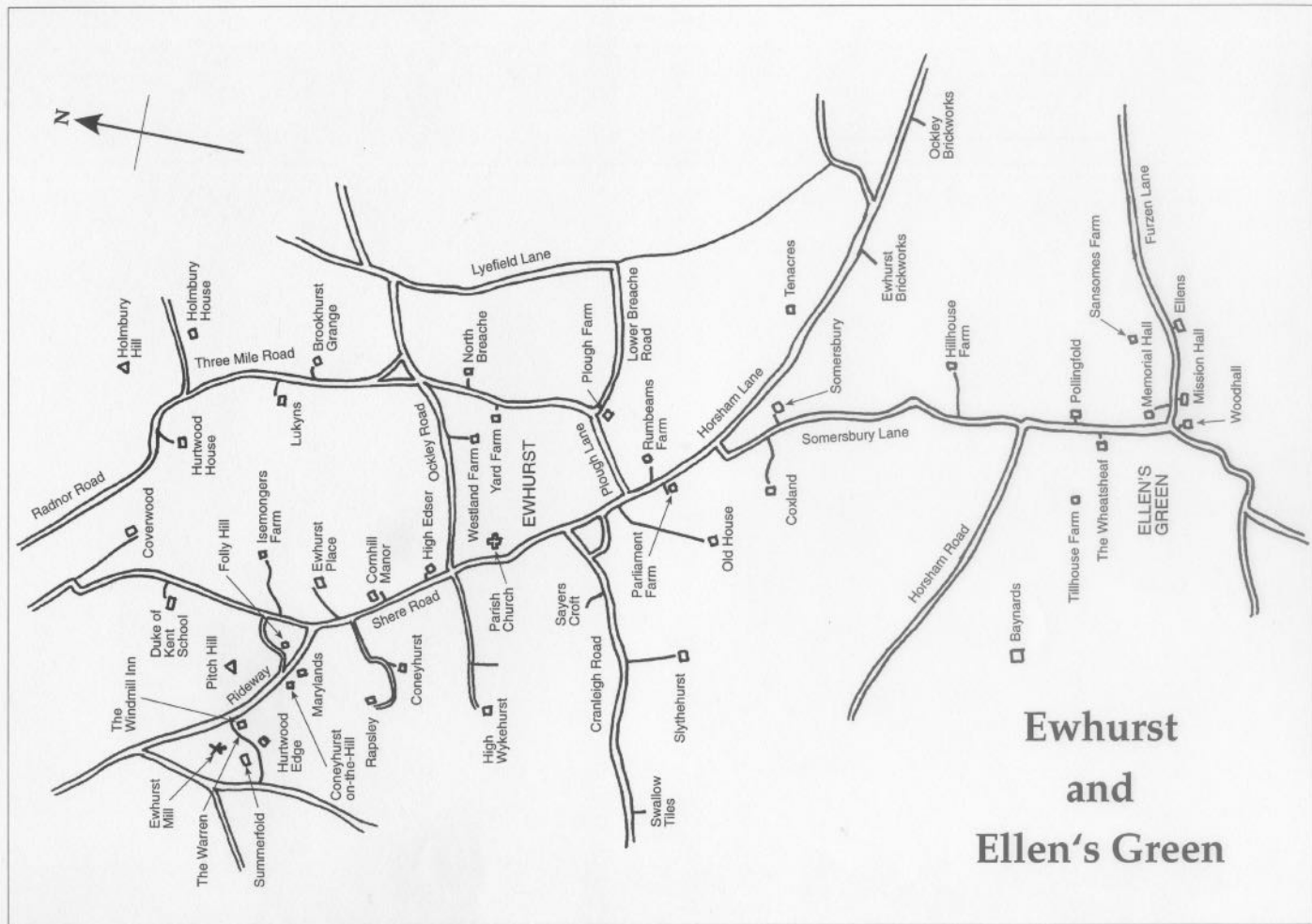
One of the most interesting heathland birds is the Nightjar. These summer visitors are known for their night-time 'churring' call. They feed on insects and nest on the ground in open heathland. Other summer visitors are pipits and Stonechats. Willow Warblers nest on open heathland, while their cousin the Chiffchaff prefers the dense shrubby areas of the clay.

In the 1970s, a very unusual animal was reported in the press as roaming The Hurtwood. It was said to have been a puma, possibly an escaped pet, but whilst many people claimed to have seen it, it was never photographed or caught.

LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS.....TAKE NOTHING BUT MEMORIES

*Heathland habitat.
(drawing by Rebecca Woodrow)*





Ewhurst and Ellen's Green

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Front cover: The village looking south showing the Mount with the Bulls Head Inn (now the Old Post Office) and the house called Church Gate Cottage. Watercolour by John Hassell, 1822. (London Borough of Lambeth, Archive Department – Minet Library).

Back Cover: Ewhurst Afternoon WI embroidered panel, designed by Margaret Evershed and worked by Monica Roach to commemorate the WI movement's 75th Anniversary.