

Court in 1724 and held it through four different members of the family who were also Rectors of St James'. This was easy for them since they held the advowson of the church giving the right to present the incumbent. Being both squire and parson, they were in the old slang "squarsons". They were also "sporting parsons"; the Rev Henry Ellis St John on succeeding to the property in 1809 immediately bought a pack of fox hounds which he hunted over land to the west of the Loddon; Sherfield, Beech Hill and Stratfield Saye and also took up his duties as Rector. The St Johns remained Rectors of Finchampstead and, until 1847, lived at West Court but then Rev Edward St John moved to the new rectory he had built on the site of what is now Finchampstead House. The old house was let. The last of the squarsons, Edward St John died in 1892 at the age of 97, the Rectory of Finchampstead having been filled by the family for a period of 148 years.

East Court house seems to have been sold away from the manor by Henry Fish-Palmer in about 1728. In the early 1800s Charles Fyshe-Palmer moved to the house now known as East Court.

So all the old dispensations are gone and after over 800 years the old manor house of East Court is no more and West Court is an army officers mess. The lordship is effectively extinct. There is now, it is true, the addition of a North Court and a South Court but these are just names; they have never been "courts" of any kind.

LUNCH FOR NICHOLAS

(We hope Nicholas will be at the lunch as he is back in England)

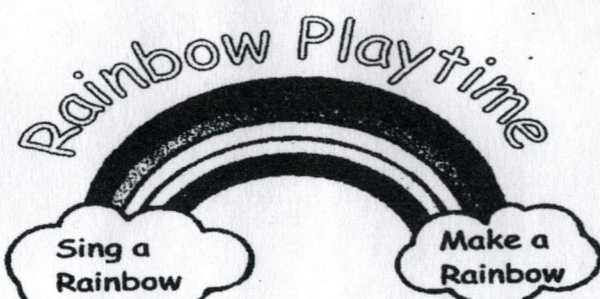
Finchampstead Sports Club

November 16th At 12.30 pm.

Bric a brac table, Ceramic Christmas Figurines

Tickets at £9 each

from Josie Lawrenson 0118 976 1939, Joyce Hull 01344 772147
and Audrey Metcalf.



Craft Classes for Pre-school children. Held locally in Finchampstead Call Keri on 01189732653 for more details or e-mail keri.bradley@tiscali.co.uk

Music and mess without the clearing up! Each week children sing songs and make creative articles to a common theme.

EAST COURT AND WEST COURT

John Dewhurst

The manor of Finchamstede was owned by King Harold; after his death at Hastings, William naturally took it for his own. Under the feudal system of that time the manor was the basic unit of government; economic legal and military. The manorial court was the source of local justice. The lord had to provide fully armed knights and soldiers as laid down in the terms of his lordship there being no standing army. The lordship was, however, very rewarding. The lord would have quite a lot of the land as his own and, apart from his own serfs, the freemen were required to work on his land for so many days in the year, particularly at busy times such as haymaking or harvest. There were also other sources of income; fines from the court, profits from mills and fisheries and tithes and fees from churches. Lords of the manor often built a church close to the manor house and in early days simply appointed one of their workers as priest regardless of suitability or education.

Finchamstede remained a direct possession of the Crown until some time between 1100 and 1118 when Henry I granted it, with four other lordships to Robert Achard, Lord of Aldermaston, a distinguished Norman knight. Some time before 1135 his son Richard granted the Manor of Finchamstede to Alard Banastre. The manor remained in the hands of the Banastres through successive male heirs until about 1290. There is little doubt that their Manor House and therefore "court" was roughly on the site of the present Manor House and, as would be expected, close to the church which was consecrated in 1150, so clearly built by the Banastres.

Sir William Banastre died in 1299 and, having no son, bequeathed half the manor each to his daughters Constance and Agatha. The sisters had married two cousins John and Peter de la Hoese; Constance, the elder to John and Agatha to Peter. Constance and John took the East Court which included the existing Manor House and Agatha and Peter built a new house for the West Court. The two Courts remained separate up to modern times each passing down the generations, usually, it seems by dynastic marriages and in the case of West Court in a continuous blood line through male and female heirs.

Over the years the powers and privileges of manors were gradually eroded. From early times the King would accept a "fine" in place of actual knights or bowmen; it was probably better to have the money to hire professional soldiers than to rely on the perhaps rather mixed bunch provided by the manors. Also, as a cash economy developed, the lay and ecclesiastical land owners began to "farm" their fisheries, mills, woods and land or in other words to act simply as a landlord taking a rent from those who actually did the work. This became so common that now we call almost any agricultural land a farm. Over the years more and more farms were sold and so became private property. The Manorial Court also gradually lost its powers as the national courts extended their scope. Lordship of manors however persisted and some residual rights remained; some are still contested in court.

Modern times have seen the final extinction of the old order. The St Johns inherited West



The Banastre or Banister family are amongst the oldest in the country and were lords of the manor of Finchampstead until 1299 when the current owner, Sir William, died leaving no son, so the manor was divided between his two daughters and became West Court and East Court, which they still are. There are records of the family living in this house in 1615 when it was held direct from the King at a rent of 1d per annum. It appears in the old records under various names, The Hatch, Banister Place and Banisters. It is more than likely that there has been a house on this site since pre-conquest days as Roman remains have been found in the foundations. The present house was built in the reign of Charles II. The date 1685 is carved under the oriel window over the porch. It is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hannan.



one. At that time East Court Manor House was on Church Hill and the present East Court mentioned in various deeds as "Cowdries", East House and New House. In 1660 it was a very much smaller house than now, having only eight "hearths", owing to the Hearth Tax and these are still to be found in the old part of the house. In the 19th century, Mr. Fish Palmer, who was the then Lord of the Manor of East Court, came to live here and both he and Mr. John Walter, who succeeded him, added considerably to the house. We hope to have a drawing of the old part of the house for a subsequent cover.

This is one of the most historic houses in Finchampstead. When Sir William Banastre, Lord of the Manor of Finchampstead, died in 1299 he left only two daughters, so the manorial rights were divided into East Court and West Court, each daughter taking

Parish
Magazine

197



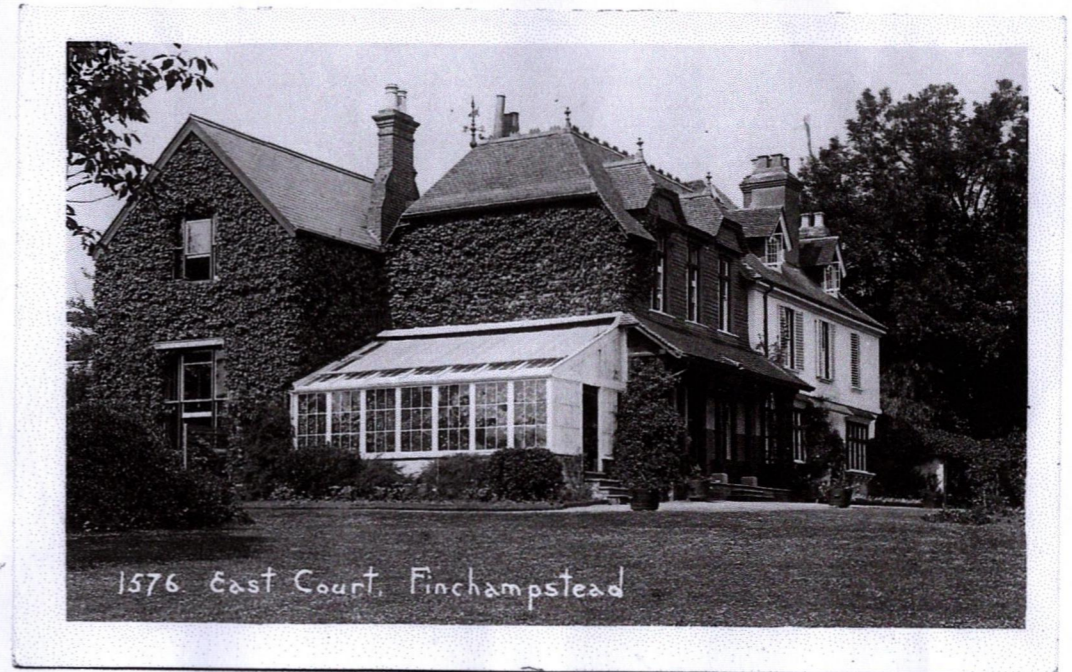
47

EAST COURT (FORMERLY 'COWDRIES')

East Court - 1907



East Court - 1911



west with some C17 brickwork. North east, entrance front; main section has large chimney stack with battered sides on left and a large flanking chimney on the right. To the left of this is a C17 brick wall forming a dog-leg at right angles and adjoining the house approximately 36 metres long and 2 metres high. 2 bays on the right hand with gabled dormers over 2 sash windows with glazing bars on the first floor, and under the left hand window a half glazed door in wood Doric pedimented porch roughly in centre. To the right of the main section is a 2-storey lower wing with a gable of one bay to the right, sash windows with glazing bars. Interior:- The hall has C18 panelling and a C18 staircase with turned barley sugar balusters and moulded handrails. The house was formerly known as Cowdries, as is mentioned in a Court Roll of 1607. V.C.H. 111 p 242

FINCHAMPSTEAD: East Court.

Extract Victorian History.

The old manor house of East Court stood West of the church, near which a new house called The Manor House has been recently built. Inside was a large hall with a good tiled pavement. Brickwork of the wall, which now surrounds the garden, is old, and the former tenant Dr Warre, late headmaster of Eton College, recently discovered a large oven. Until 1879 extensive farm buildings, belonging to old house were standing on the eastern side of the churchyard

Present East Court, formerly Cowdries, is mentioned in the Court roll of 1607. Some portion of the 17th century house remains, greatly enlarged by Mr. Charles Fyshe-Palmer at the beginning of the last century (19th) and by John Walter in 1870.

(A note says Mr Charles Fyshe-Palmer inherited it in 1817 and was MP for Reading in 1818)

Added information not sure of source:-

East Court sold in 1849 to John Walters of Bearwood, owner of The Times, whose grandson is now Lord of East Court Manor

1891 census

William Lyons	head	67years	Living on his means	Cheshire Pusford
Edith Lyons	wife	59years		London St Pancreas
Francis G	son	18	Scholar	St George's Hanover Square
Elizabeth Banister	serv	43	Cook domestic	Eversley Hants
Emma William	serv	34	Parlour maid	Mon St Thomas
Emily ?odcord?	serv	20	House maid	Hants Old Alesford
Charlotte Payne	serv	16	Kitchen maid	Berks Sandhurst
Thomas Lockyer	serv	34	Coachman	Dorest Wareham

Listed building

SU 76 SE	FINCHAMPSTEAD	JUBILEE ROAD (north west side)
12/4		East Court and adjoining wall
26.1.67		11

Large house. C17 altered early C18 and in 1870 by Mr John Walter. Part painted brick, part painted tile-hanging with courses of shaped tiles, probably on timber framing; tile roofs part gabled, half hipped and hipped. Irregular plan. 2 storeys and attics, large chimney stack to north



1980

HENRIETTA FRAZER WALTER

THE VILLAGE
1999
THE SCOUT HUT - 1999



'MILAM HOUSE', 1999



MANOR FARM
c. 1900



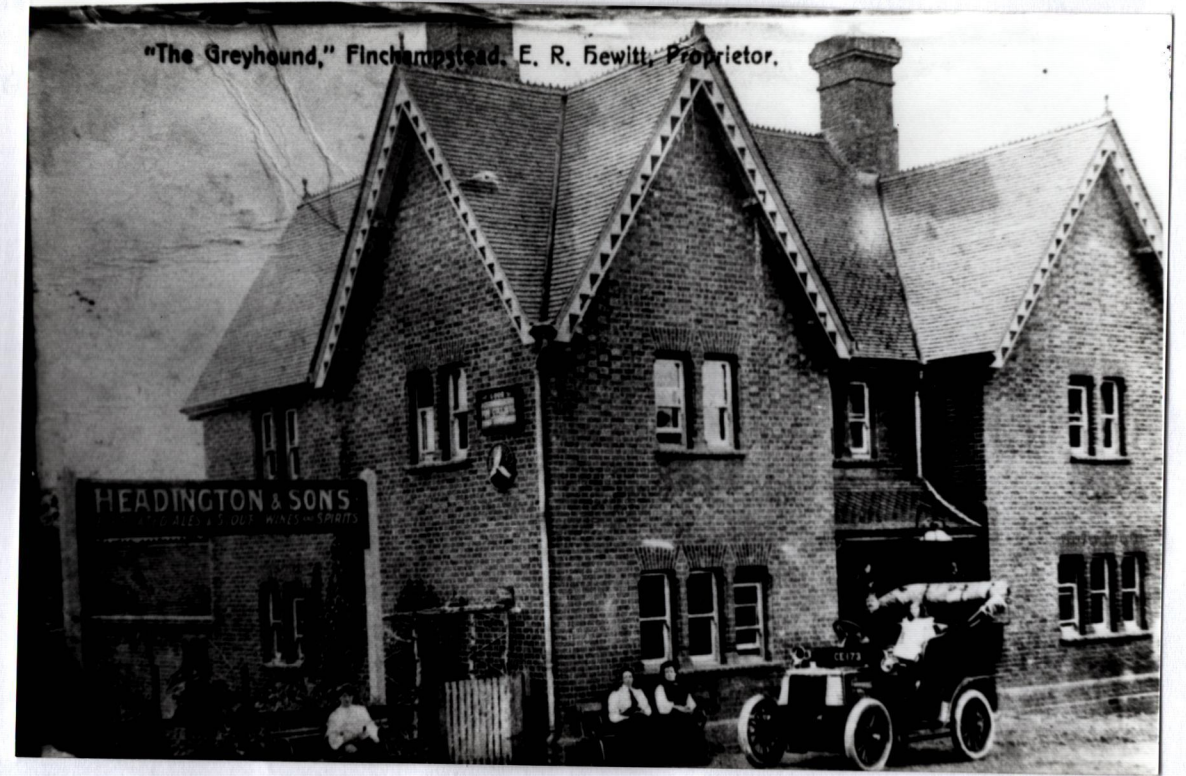
THE WRECKHOUND



PPD
'THE GREYHOUND'
1994



MARY HUNTER
COPY 23



'THE GREYHOUND'



THE GREYHOUND 1930.
FINCHAMPSTEAD.

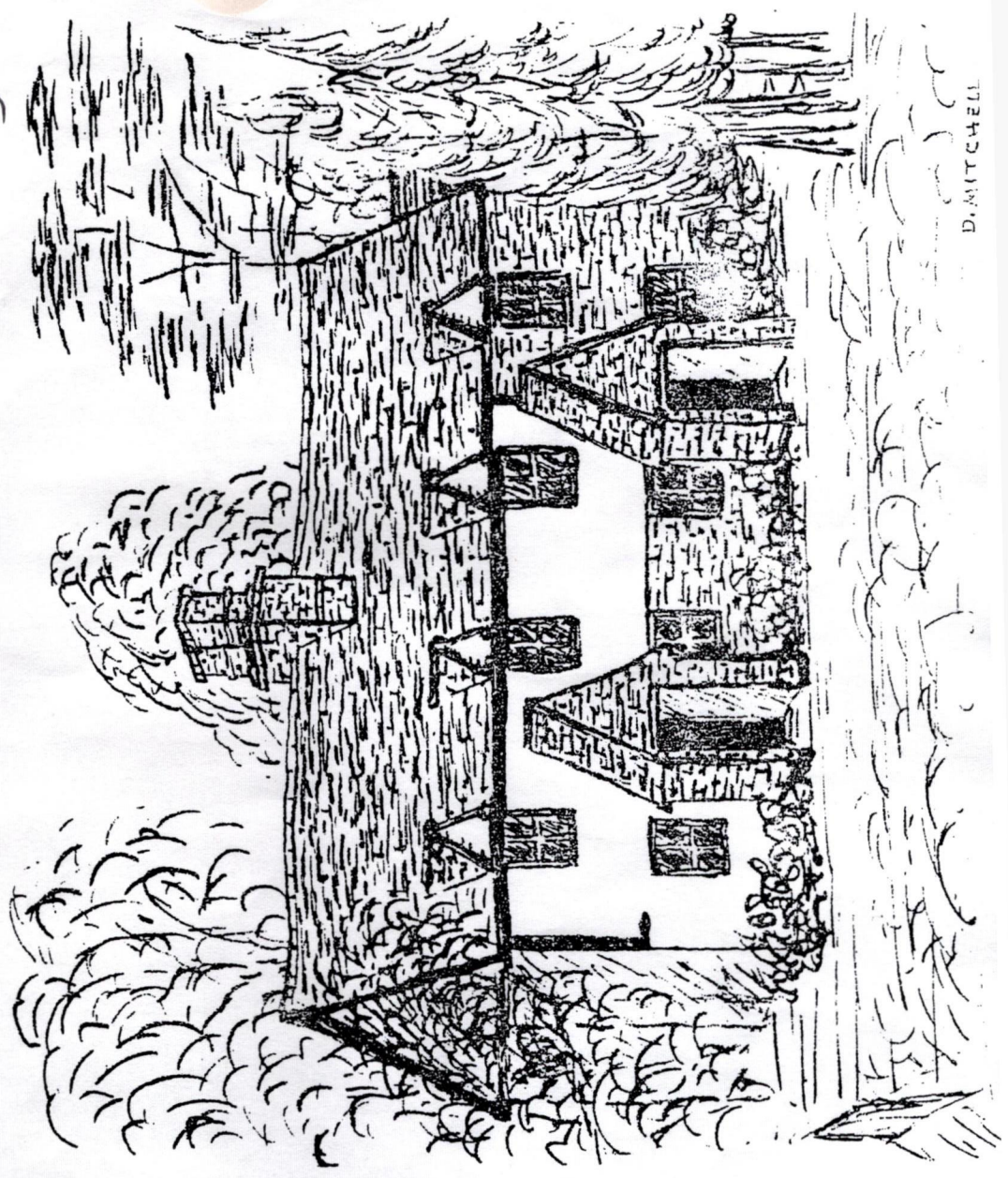
LONGWATER LANE

These two cottages in Longwater Lane were probably amongst the oldest in the village, though it is not possible to date them accurately. They are mentioned in 1651 as belonging to Sir Richard Harrison, who was Lord of the Manor of Eastcourt at that time, and formed part of a charitable gift he made to the Church.

In 1661 the East Court Manor estate was sold to Richard Palmer but there is no mention of the cottages until in 1818 they returned to the ownership of Charles Fysh Palmer. How and when they ceased to be Church property is completely obscure.

Until 1854 Longwater Lane was the main thoroughfare from Wokingham to Eversley Cross, through Finchampstead. The Lane went from the Greyhound in a big curve to a ford over the river Blackwater, where the bridge now is, but the straight road from the Greyhound and the bridge were not built until 1854, so the cottages were on quite a busy roadway in those days. It is possible to follow this old road quite a long way, though access to the river is blocked, but it is interesting that the Eversley Cross side of the old ford is also called Longwater Lane.

Unfortunately these old cottages were demolished recently being in too bad a state to repair and quite unfit for habitation. All that remains to mark their site is an old yew tree.



D. MITCHELL

Source: Voucher. Finchampstead 1976

CRICKET HILL
(MA. WESTALL)



OLD COTTAGES, LONGWATER LANE



BROAD OAK COTTAGE (also been known as Finches)



Originally built as 2 workmens cottages on the Bearwood Estate, with a third cottage(now demolished) on the plot. Bought in 1895 by Issac Vass from A J Walter. At this time it was a public house called 'The Royal Oak', although there is evidence under the porch to support it had a previous name. (There is an S,A and N)- maybe Standard? At this time The Village was called The Ridges. There was a large hollow tree in the front garden, where Mrs Chapman played as a child. It was later converted to one houses and extended in late 1968.

The house has a blue plaque to commemorate Michael Hewland, who lived there 50 years. He designed and successfully made gearboxes for F1 cars, amongst other achievements



LONGWATER HANE



Old Cottages, Finchampstead.

Bignell, Bros., Woodcote, Reading.

Longwater Lane (opp The Paddocks)

BURNMOOR MEADOW - 2000
(NEW HOUSES IN LONGWATER ROAD)



License registration



'CHATTERINGS'



'CHATTERINGS'
REAR VIEW FROM LONGWATER LANE

34 CORNER OF THE VILLAGE
AND LONGWATER LANE



DEARHOVE'S STORES - EDWARDIAN PERIOD





c. 1970

"The Verge" was built in the time of Queen Anne and was originally two cottages, belonging to Mrs. Walters of Bearwood, who owned so much of Finchampstead. It was then sold to Mrs. Goddard who added the front porch which abuts right onto the road. At one time one cottage housed the post office, and during the war the house was used as a private school for children up to the age of twelve.

Many improvements have been carried out inside and the property now belongs to Mrs. Stevens, who lives here with her son and daughter, all of whom do a great deal in and for the village.



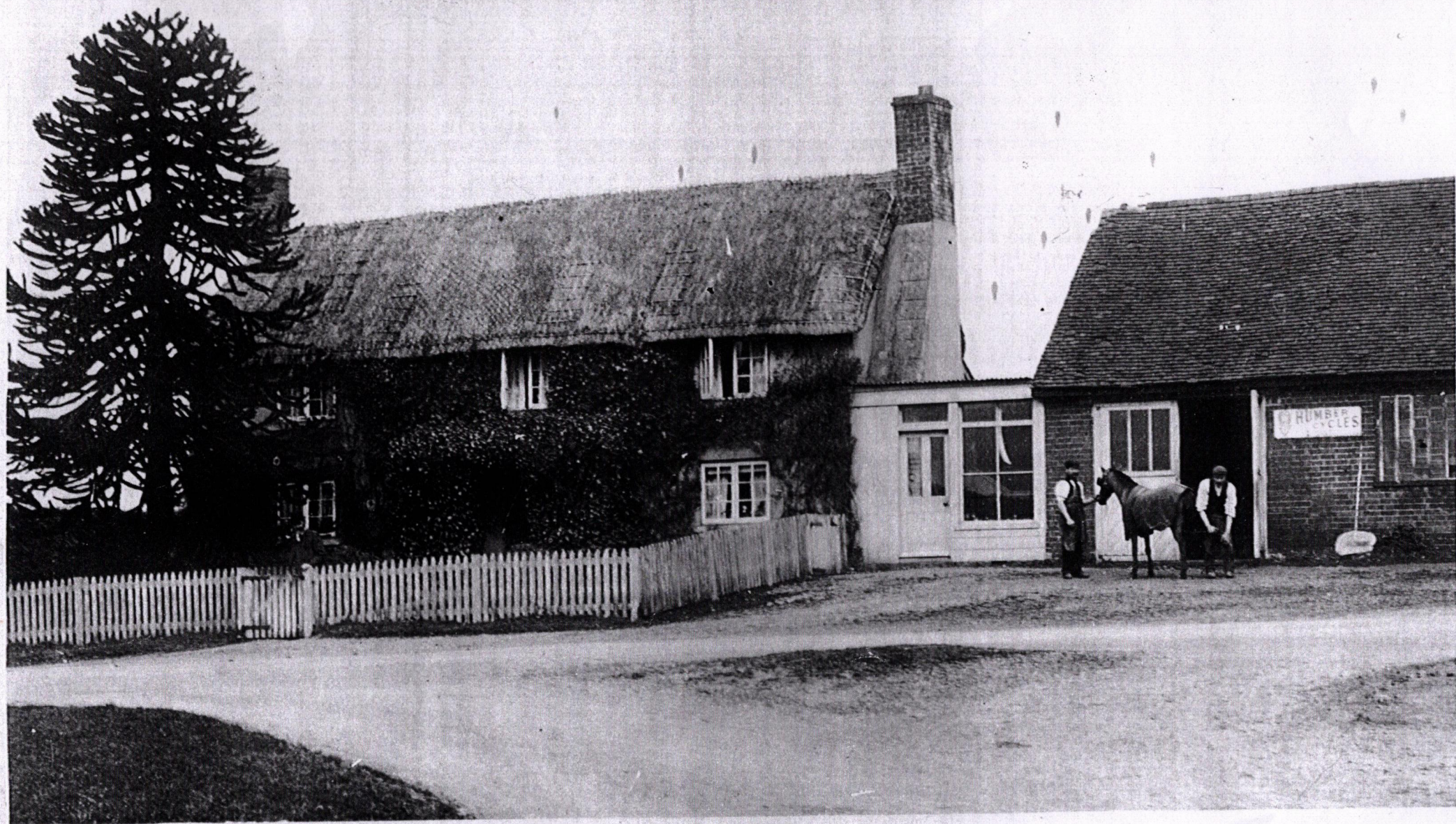
1991

DEARHOVE'S STORES
CORNER OF HONGWATER WANE



'CHATTERINGS' - 1999
(PREVIOUSLY 'DEARHOVE'S STORES')





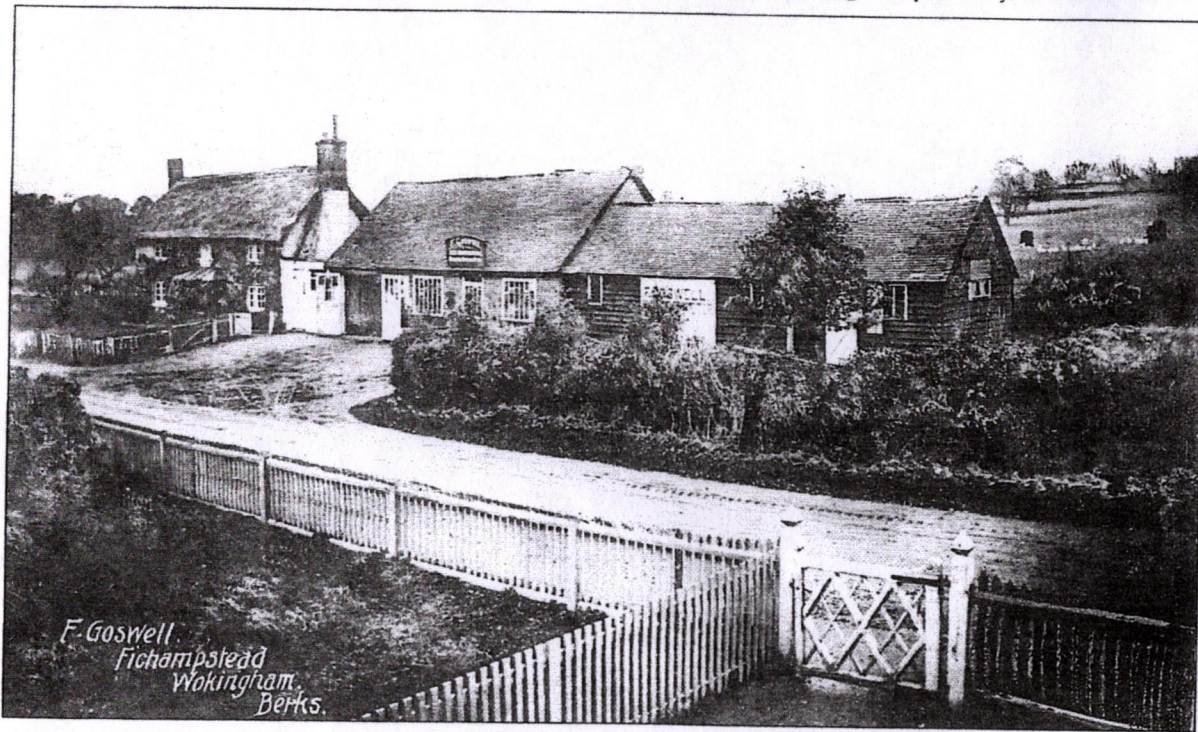
1928 Village Forge. Finchampstead.

Collier, Photographer, Reading.



8 Finchampstead village with the 'Thatched Cottage' and 'Old Forge' on the right. This photograph was taken in the 1920's.

9 The 17th century 'Thatched Cottage', timber-framed with painted brick infill. It dates from when Finchampstead was a part of the royal forest of Windsor. Over the centuries it was also, with additions, a village shop, smithy, and stables.



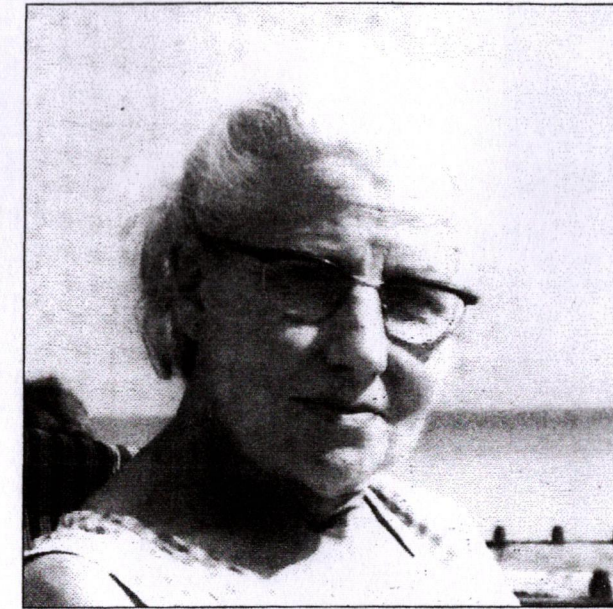
9

F. Goswell
Finchampstead
Wokingham
Berks.

'Thatched Cottage'

The Village, Finchampstead

Photographs by Graystone Bird



Mrs. Nellie Bird (nee Goswell)
(1911-1996)

Nellie Goswell Bird was a native of Finchampstead village who helped her family to run the Thatched Cottage Store until 1973. For forty years the store was the main provider of groceries and goods essential to local residents. After Nellie, and her husband, Graystone Bird (a noted local photographer) retired in 1973, the shop located between the smithy and forge in the village, was converted into a private dwelling. Mrs. Bird, however, continued her devotion to the village of

Finchampstead by working in the new village shop at Park View Motors. She resided at the 17/18th century 'Thatched Cottage' until her death in 1996.

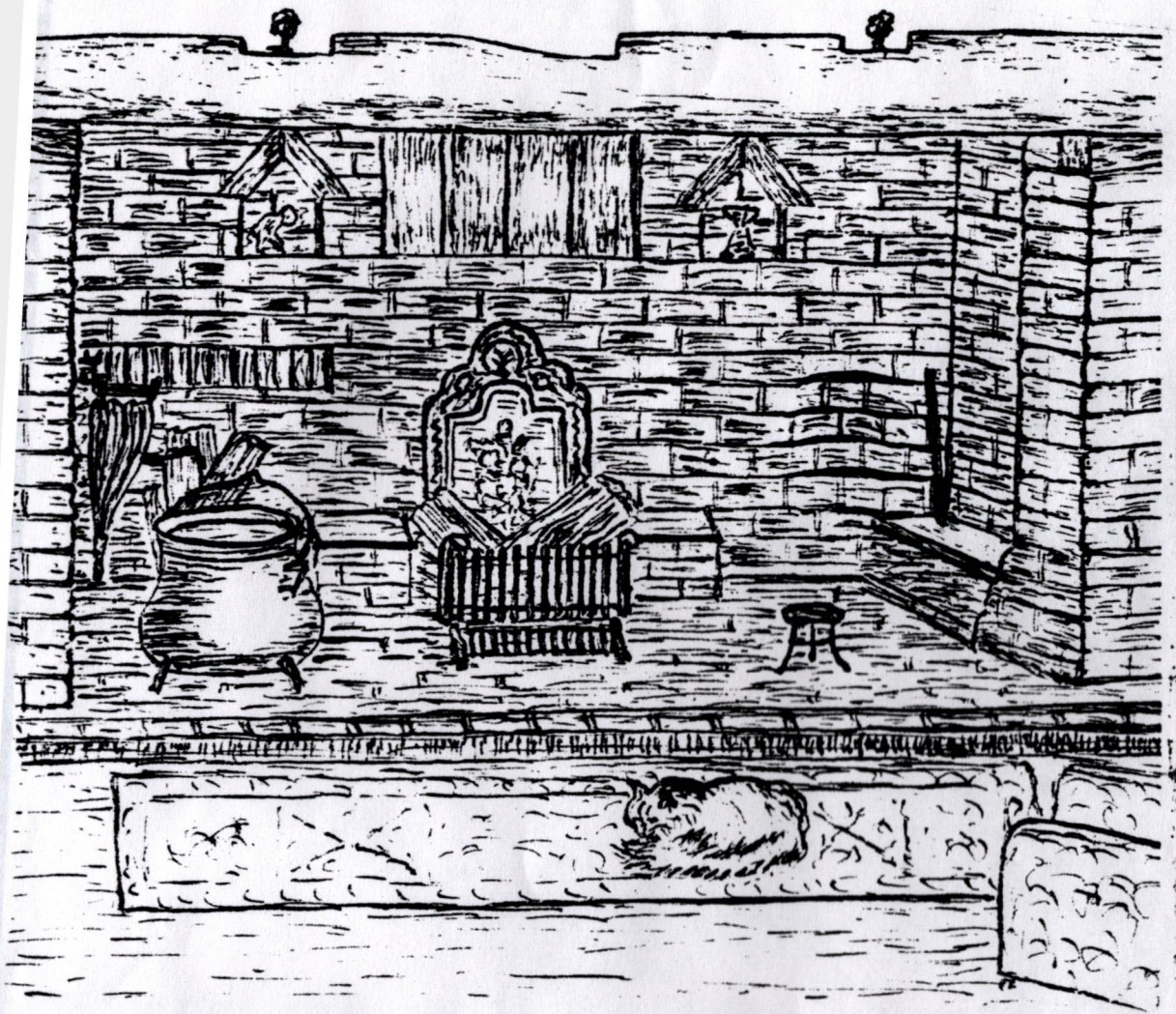
After her death, Mrs. Bird willed a legacy to the Finchampstead Society to help preserve the unique character of this Berkshire village. Her generous gift helped to fund this book* and the members of the society would like to express their gratitude to Mrs. Bird by dedicating this book to her memory.

* "Finchampstead in Old Pictures"





THE THATCHED COTTAGE



At some period this old fireplace had been filled in and fitted with a small modern grate, but in 1954 Mr. Bird decided to clear this away and restore it to its original glory.

The clearance took eight weeks of hard work and entailed moving fifty-three barrowloads of bricks and rubble. A good deal of shoring up was necessary as the crossbeam was badly burned and had to be renewed but the supporting posts were sound and the new beam fitted to these ensured the original size being accurate.

The old inglenooks had been partially bricked up and filled in with rubbish, and amongst this was found the body and legs of a doll, an "everlasting" flower still perfect, envelopes stamped in 1880, several clay pipes, and an undertaker's bill dated May 9th

1881:-

"To tolling bell
Digging and filling in grave
Attending funeral

7/-."

How prices have changed!!

Paish Magazine
197?





NELLIE BIRD'S RETIREMENT - 1973
 SHOP CLOSED 8th FEBRUARY 1973



LADY GRAYSTONE + NELLIE MARGORIE SIR CONRAD
 LIDDELL BIRD GOSWELL CORFIELD

THE THATCHED COTTAGE
 FINCHAMPSTEAD VILLAGE





The Thatched Cottage, restored by Graystone Brier 1950-61



THE HAUNTINGS AT THE THATCHED COTTAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD. Feb 1977

It all began in February 1926. We were four in the family: my late mother and father, my sister Marjorie, and myself. From February of that year until August we had a disturbing and frightening time. We are very thankful that since August 1926 no unexplained things have continued to happen, for we had quite enough of it during the spring and summer of that year.

So many things happened that to describe them fully would take up much too much space. So I will try to be brief.

Firstly, here is a paragraph from the Reading Mercury: "At Finchampstead in 1926 there were for a short time most remarkable happenings at "The Forge", a thatched-roofed cottage occupied by wheelwright and carpenter, Fred Goswell, and his wife and two daughters, aged 16 and 14 years. For 15 years life had been normal. Then, without warning, chaos ruled.

First a bath containing tins was overturned, scattering the tins. Tables were moved, chairs turned somersaults, pictures 21 dropped from walls, a large chest was upturned and emptied, a perambulator insisted on lying on its side, cycles refused to remain upright. When bricks that fell out of a wall were replaced with mortar, no sooner were backs turned than all dropped out again. Bedclothes were dragged across a room. Small objects were flung about.

Professor S. Ward of Wokingham insisted that this was brought about by a normal case of poltergeist."

Then we have a cutting from a weekly paper showing a photograph of the house. The caption reads: "A photograph of a haunted house in Finchampstead where furniture moved mysteriously, and bricks fell from walls untouched by human hand. Inset: the owner of the house and his family, who experienced the strange adventure of living with a ghost."

Incidentally, the picture inset of our family was quite ghostly itself!

There is much that I can add to these printed facts, which were all quite correct, but here are some condensed facts.

Writings appeared all over the place, on walls, on doors and on paper such as billheads that were lying about. All these were in the form of instructions, or warnings. One group of these warnings instructed us not to leave the house or go away, while another set of warnings told us to get out and go away. We were also told to take the dog away on a proposed holiday. These writings were made with pencil, or anything that was handy that would scratch or mark. Many of these writings that were on paper or cardboard have been carefully preserved and are kept safely under lock and key.

When things were at their most frightening, we all slept in one bedroom, and one morning the word "GO" was written on the ceiling above us.

A message appeared one day on the coal cellar door saying, "Do not open this door." My mother decided to obey this, but meanwhile things were vanishing all over the house, including an apple pie. This was too much, so she opened the door to find all the stuff stacked there, including the pie. A large metal tray was seen to spin across the hall, to come to rest against a wall.

22

Somebody in the road outside saw a large fire guard flying out of the window.

There were many other incidents, but the one which gives one most food for thought is the matter of the carpenter's bench. This huge carpenter's bench, ten feet long and tremendously heavy, was upended one night. The bench is so heavy that two or three strong men are needed to move it slowly, foot by foot. It is now in use in our garage.

Much of what I have described appeared in various newspapers at the time, but the "Daily Mirror" ran the story more than others. The late Harry Price came down to investigate. The Lady Iris Mountbatten brought along Nell St. John Montague, the clairvoyant. Many spiritualists and investigators also visited the house.

To end on a humorous note. The village constable called to see what it was all about. He found nothing amiss when he looked around, but when he was coming down the stairs, his exit was hastened by a brick which came flying after him!

Nellie Bird.

(There is also a mention of this haunting in the Rev. Montague Summers' book, "A Geography of Witchcraft", which the library stocks. Ed.)



1980.

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL C. 1912



2003 - HOUSES BUILT IN GARDEN OF "THE THATCHED COTTAGE"

1st House



2nd House





The Village post office can be seen in the distant centre background, and the sports club in the far right corner of this view across the fields from the path that leads up to the church. This stretch of landscape is in the White Belt of the Parish.

THE POST OFFICE
? 1930's

The Finchampstead post office is a valuable amenity, especially for old people and mothers with young children, living in the Village end of the Parish.



1980 - FINCHAMPSTEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

5/11/700

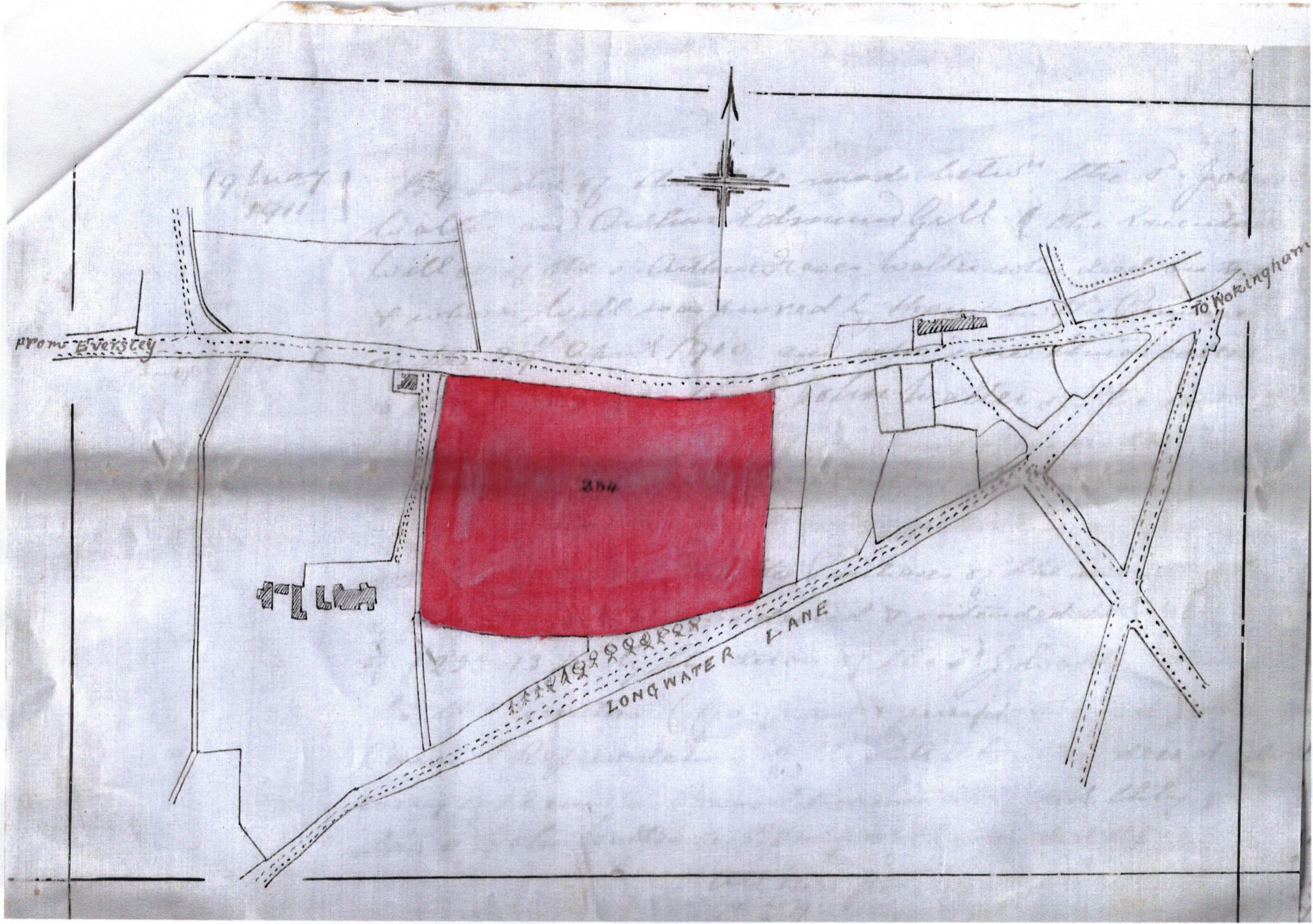


BROAD OAK COTTAGE
1999
(FORMERLY 'ROYAL OAK' PUB)





THE POST OFFICE c. 1908



14th August 1912. F.J.Milam conveyed an easterly strip of the above land to Arthur Henry Loader, labourer, for the sum of £38. Loader covenants to erect and maintain 'a good boundary fence on the west side of the said piece or parcel of land'. This would securely divide it from land still owned by F.J.Milam.

19th Oct. 1912. A.H.Loader entered into a £200 mortgage agreement with Wm. John Church of Reading. This is in respect of a piece of land with 'the messuage erected thereon' bounded on the west by property of F.J.Milam, having a road frontage of about 40 feet and a width at the rear of about 33 feet.

NB. The land is described as having a messuage or cottage on it but it is not known if this was built by Mr. Milam prior to the sale to Mr. Loader or whether the mortgage was taken out to enable Mr. Loader to have a cottage built.

12th Oct.1920. An indenture was drawn up between Moses Blake, gentleman, called 'the administrator' and Arthur Loader, called 'the borrower'. Wm. Church had died in 1919 and it was acknowledged in this document that Mr. Loader had paid all money owing and he was discharged from the mortgage.

This is the last date at which I have details of 'Lyndhurst'.

Wendy Graham, 2015.

Early history of the land and dwelling at

'Lyndhurst'

The Village, Finchampstead.

These notes are extractions from legal documents which have been inspected.

Between Jan. 1858 and Sept. 1886. There are various Indentures (legal agreements) which appear to relate to plot no. 284 on the Ordnance Map. These include the names of John Walter III and others. It is not clear whether a part or all of this land was changing hands during this time or whether those named were acting together as Trustees of Charity land on which the poor of the Parish could gather turves and other fuel.

3rd June 1864. 'Order made by the Charity Commissioners'.

There are no details about this order, however, the Trustees often sold such allotments of land and invested the proceeds to benefit the poor. There are records of John Walter III purchasing other land in this way.

25th Sept. 1894. A Will was drawn up by John Walter III, owner of The Bearwood Estate, bequeathing North Court, (occupied at that time by his son, Arthur), plus 60 acres of adjoining land, to his wife to hold for her lifetime. The eldest son, John Walter IV, had sadly died in a drowning accident when quite young so the remainder of John Walter III's lands & premises were left to his younger son, Arthur Fraser Walter.

3rd Nov. 1984. John Walter III died.

1st Jan. 1908. Arthur Fraser Walter drew up a Will leaving all his real estate to his son, John Walter V. There was an annuity of £1500 p.a. provided for Arthur's wife, Henrietta Maria.

22nd Feb. 1910. Arthur Fraser Walter died.

29th July 1910. An Indenture of this date states that Arthur Fraser Walter was at his death in possession of freehold hereditaments 'of considerable extent and value'. John Walter V was 'desirous of affecting a sale of the said freehold heredit. or some part or parts thereof' and for the annuity to be discharged upon such a sale. Henrietta agreed to this.

This, no doubt, resulted in the extensive sale of The Bearwood Estate in 1911 and 1912.

19th May 1911. Frank James Milam, master carpenter, purchased 'valuable arable land' for a sum of £223.13s.4d from John Walter V. This was **Lot 74 in The Bearwood Estate Sale**, no. 284 on the Ordnance Map. This lot consisted of approx. 6 ½ acres in Finchampstead village, on the south side of the road to Eversley and next to The Royal Oak inn. The land had been previously let to Walter Holland who was the tenant farmer of Manor Farm.

THE VILLAGE
FINCHAMPSTEAD.



"ROSEMARY COTTAGE"
1999



'HAVENDER COTTAGE'
1999



No. 1. COUNCIL HOUSE
THE VILLAGE

MR. WESTALL
AND DAUGHTERS:
MRS. KLAMROTH
MRS. APPLETT

No. 1. COUNCIL HOUSE
1999





DESCRIPTION

REAL PHOTOGRAPHIC POSTCARD OF FINCHAMPSTEAD.. THE CARD HAS BEEN USED AND DATED, NOT POSTALLY.. DATE LOOKS LIKE 29/11/1922 ?? SLIGHT SCUFFS TO CORNERS..



View of houses in Finchampstead Village from the forecourt of Park View Motors.

The 'Shell' sign is just visible in top left. Date unknown but possible 1940's/1950's.

Customers' Cars are driven by our staff at Owner's risk entirely.

We accept no liability for any injury which may be caused by fire or other causes to Motor Cars, Motor Cycles, Batteries or any other Apparatus entrusted to us for any purpose whatsoever.

19

TELEPHONE: EVERSLEY 3108

Dr. to

ON ROAD B 3348

DOUGLAS W. JENNINGS

Automobile Engineer

**THE GARAGE
FINCHAMPSTEAD • BERKS**

RE-BORES
CRANKSHAFTS
RE-GROUND
CELLULOSING
WELDING
OXY. ACETY.

CAR SALES
AND SERVICE
PRIVATE HIRE
REPAIRS
PETROL . OIL
ACCESSORIES

Customer's Cars are driven by my Staff at Owner's risk only.

NOTICE—Whilst all reasonable precautions are taken I accept no responsibility for loss or injury to, any Cars or articles resulting, from fire, accident, felony, misdelivery, delay or detention however caused.

ON ROAD B 3348

TELEPHONE: EVERSLEY 65

. . . Memo. from . . .

THE GARAGE, FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE

(Edward A. Buttle, Proprietor)

ANY MAKE OF CAR OR MOTOR CYCLE SUPPLIED.

GARAGE, HIRE. REPAIRS, PETROL, OIL and ACCESSORIES.

193

CUSTOMER'S CARS ARE DRIVEN BY MY STAFF AT OWNER'S RISK ONLY.

NOTICE.—Whilst all reasonable precautions are taken no responsibility is accepted for loss or injury to any Cars or articles resulting from fire, accident, felony, misdelivery, delay or detention however caused.

TELEPHONE: EVERSLEY 3108

ON ROAD B 3348

LESLIE STEPHIENS

Automobile Engineer

THE GARAGE, FINCHAMSTEAD, BERKS.

RE-BORES
CRANKSHAFTS
RE-GROUND
CELLULOSING
WELDING
OXY. ACETY.

CAR SALES
AND SERVICE
PRIVATE HIRE
REPAIRS
PETROL. OIL
ACCESSORIES



1233. Old Rectory, Finchampstead.

NOW REPLACED BY
"FINCHAMPSTEAD HOUSE"
↓



1994

THE VILLAGE STORES & POST OFFICE
1994



A COTTAGE BELONGING TO
OLD RECTORY FARM



RECTORY FARM
1991



WYSE HILL LODGE - 1994



THE RECTORY
BUILT ? 1998



1997
NEW VILLAGE HOUSE
No. RECTORY FARM



*OLD COACHES
HORSWATER WAY*



DEMOLISHED 1970

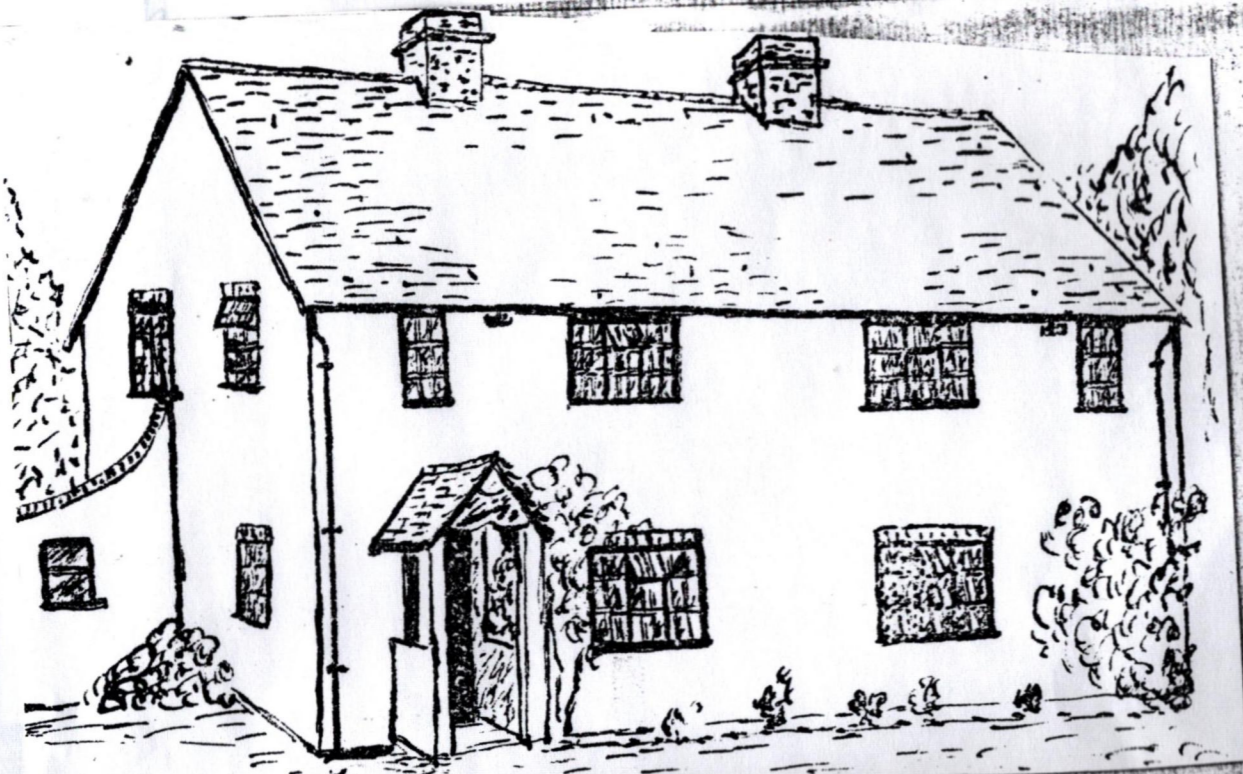
RECTORY FARM - 1991



RECTORY FARM - 1997.



'WHEATLANDS COTTAGE', FLEET HILL



This is of Wheatlands Cottage, drawn by Mrs. Mitchell. This is the home of our Publisher, Cdr. Grace and his wife. As he says, it is not at all an old house, being made out of two farm cottages which were built between the wars. The setting is very attractive to anyone who does not like being built round, as it is right in the open fields down a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long drive off Fleet Hill. We thought it might be interesting to record where our Publisher lives!

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY PALMERS

In the North Aisle of Finchampstead Church is the Tomb of Richard Palmer 1611-1670 A.D. In the Chancel rests his daughter, Mary, widow of Doctor Robert Brabant D.D., Rector of Berkhamstead in the County of Hertford, who died the 14th of June 1728.



WE have all heard of the phrase "If these walls could talk, what would they say?"

If the walls of the 16th-century Old Rectory Cottage in Finchampstead could speak, they would probably have many interesting tales to tell.

Stories, perhaps, of feudal land rows and voyages undertaken by the ships whose ancient timbers eventually formed the beams of the house.

But, more than anything, the walls would talk about the people — especially the families — who have lived within them over the years.

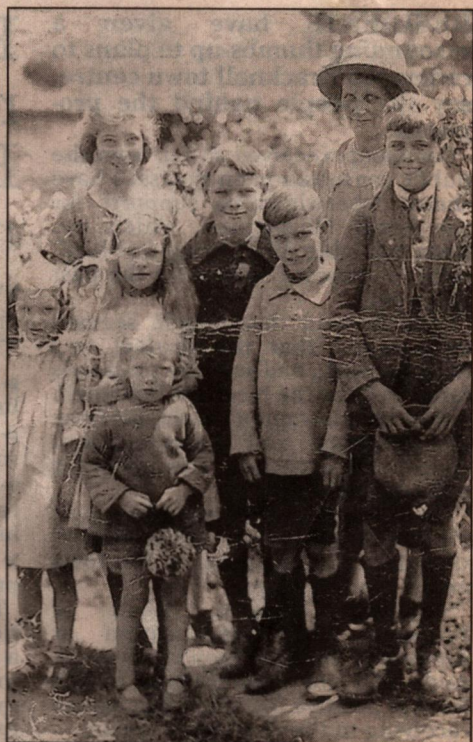
More than 70 years have passed since the 12-member McHugh clan left "the old house", as they called it, which they rented for half a crown a week for 12 years.

The cottage is now the home of Sydney Paulden and his similarly abundant brood. When he found out that one of the former tenants was living in Wokingham Road, Earley, he invited him to come and see his former home again. It was an emotional experience.

Gus McHugh, an 86-year-old war veteran, spent his formative years in the cottage. The middle child of 10, he was two years old when the family moved to the house in 1918. The old song *Ten in a Bed* could almost have been written for the family, since they shared just two bedrooms between them — one for the children and one for the parents.

The bare cottage had no gas or electricity, no running water, and a well in the back garden which has now been filled.

Why 'the old house' still feels like home



▲ New owner Sydney Paulden (right) shows Gus McHugh his old home, Old Rectory Cottage. Right: some of the McHugh family.

Mr McHugh says: "I remember when we wanted to get a cuppa, we had to light a fire, but even coal was a luxury for us."

"The house has changed a lot since we were here and things have been added. But still, as soon as I walked in, I recognised it as my home."

"Home" certainly seems an apt description of the cosy cottage, with its little alcoves, huge beams and three-and-a-half acres of garden.

Mr McHugh recounts stories of playing cricket on the village green and wood-collecting, and of he and

his brother chasing the family cat round the house — and, in turn, being chased by their mother! There is an obvious gleam in his eye as he talks.

"The house still has its old character and is perfect for a family," he says. "The memories all came flooding back when I saw it again. I'd been away a long time."

Mr Paulden, who bought the house a few months ago and moved in with six of his 10 children, also immediately felt a sense of belonging in the cottage.

'OLD RECTORY COTTAGE'
FLEET HILL

WOKINGHAM TIMES, 2002



RECTORY FARM - 1997.



RECTORY FARM - 1991

THATCHED OAK COTTAGE, Fleet Hill, Finchampstead.

Advertised by Richard Worth in 1998 for £325,000 Freehold.
No information given as to age etc.

Robert and Alison Haywood now live there. Tel: 0118 973 7071

Mr Hopkinson at the garage told them that the entrance had been moved to Fleet Hill from the Reading Road when a boy had been killed after running out into the road..Major ??

He also said that Cliff Michelmores had lived there.

Mrs Haywood would be happy to show anyone who is interested in wooden framed buildings. (in the school holidays as she teaches at Cookham Dean, school house is where Kenneth Graham lived.)

Listed Buildings. 20/12 Grade 111 (Finchampstead, Past, Present and Future)

17C altered, two storeys, timber-framed, colour-washed brick in-filling, thatched roof. South front has 3 bays, 3-light lattice leaded casement windows and central glazed door with small flanking lights.

Listed Buildings 12/22 (from District Council. 26.1.67)

SU 76 SE

Reading Road
(north east side)

No 20 The Thatched Cottage

Cottage. Early C17 altered late C19 and late C20 (1984). Timber framed with painted brick infill, part painted brick, part painted weatherboard with C19 single storey extension on left. One and one and a half storeys. Flanking chimneys, 2-bay front; 2-light C19 casements at upper level with eyebrow dormers, 3-light under on ground floor with central ledged door under tiled lean to porch roof on cut brackets.

Dallyn Salter

Visited after Pat Garrett, first chairman Finchampstead Society, had moved to Finchampstead Place.

Most Grade 2 listed buildings in Finchampstead had been down graded to Grade 3 because of extensive alterations. When he visited he was shown a plaque saying it was a listed building.

18.01.99

Mrs Edna Padmore, who lives opposite at Rivermead.

An Army major with two small children lived at Thatched Oak Cottage, he was posted to Germany.

It was let to a Dutch couple, who used to go skiing, leaving two girls with a nanny.

At some stage a Scotsman, whose wife ran off with a builder.

No child killed there, entrance altered, Fleet Hill better address!

Travel writer and publisher Mr Paulden has seen and written about many faraway places, but he admits the cottage could be as rich a source of inspiration as anything he's seen. He also admits to a deep love of tradition and everything English, and to having a romantic ideal of the village and family life as it used to be.

He says: "I see this house as part of English heritage and I hope it will be part of my family's heritage. "Everyone needs to feel at home. And every family, especially a big one, has to have a centre where people can gather. "I see this as the heart of our family, just as it was for the McHughs. They have always thought of it as that, and they still talk about it as the 'old house'."

Previous generations have certainly forged a bond with the cottage. Mr Paulden recently received an e-mail from a McHugh descendant, now living in Tennessee, who asked if he could come and visit the next time he was in England. Mr Paulden hopes it will have a special place in the hearts of future Pauldens, too.

He says: "I don't see myself as the owner of the house, just as the curator who will hand it over to the next generation. Just like the McHughs, I want it absolutely to be the spiritual home of my family."

He says: "When I saw it I said, 'I'm going to buy it, whatever the cost and whatever anyone says'. "I made an immediate connection with the house. Sometimes now I lie on the sofa when the kids are in bed and I just look at the beams and think what must have happened in this room all that time ago."

THE OLD COTTAGE



**'THATCHED OAK COTTAGE', FLEET HILL,
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE.**

ACCOMMODATION

GROUND FLOOR

THATCHED ENTRANCE PORCH: Outside light point. Brick step. Door to:
BEAMED ENTRANCE HALL: Radiator. Understairs cupboard. Cloaks hanging
recess. Stairs to first floor. Three wall light points.

SITTING ROOM: 13' x 12' Beamed ceiling. Open Inglenook style fireplace.
Radiator. Leaded light window. Two wall light points.

DINING ROOM: 13'1" x 13' Beamed wall and ceiling. Five wall light points.
Radiator. Leaded light window. Attractive floor to ceiling raised open brick fireplace
with exposed brick wall to either side. Square archway through to:

DRAWING ROOM: 23'1" x 11'4" Dual aspect room with leaded light windows.
Beamed ceiling. Door to outside. Raised open floor to ceiling brick fireplace with
display niche to one side (this fireplace opens through to the dining room and there is
also an electric ventilation unit with the fireplace). Television aerial point. Views to
the gardens. Telephone point.

Leading from the entrance hall is the **INNER HALLWAY:** Arch display recess.
Beamed ceiling. Wall light points. Radiator.

SHOWER ROOM: Coloured suite with gold style fittings comprising fully tiled
shower cubicle. Low level w.c. Vanity wash hand basin with cupboards under. Light
and shaver socket. Leaded light window. Part tiled walls. Radiator.

BEDROOM FIVE: 15'3" x 10'1" Leaded light window. Radiator. Beamed ceiling.
Double fitted wardrobe (this could easily be used as further reception
accommodation).

Archway from inner hall to:

KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM: 19' x 18' (an irregular 'L' shaped room). Units
in pine with double bowl sink unit with cupboards under. Comprehensive range of
base units and eye level cupboards. Gas cooker point. Plumbing for dishwasher.
Leaded light windows. Two Velux windows. Recessed spotlights. Extractor fan. Tiled
splashbacks. Tiled floor. Ample room for breakfast table and chairs. Useful storage
space. Radiator. Stable door to garden. Large walk in larder with leaded light window
and tiled floor.

UTILITY ROOM: Stainless steel sink unit with cupboards under. Plumbing for
washing machine. Gas central heating boiler with timing controls. Work surface.

RICHARD WORTH
ESTATE AGENTS 1998

**'THATCHED OAK COTTAGE', FLEET HILL,
FINCHAMPSTEAD, BERKSHIRE.**



A delightful thatched cottage offering good sized accommodation with four bedrooms to the first floor and a fifth bedroom on the ground floor. The gardens are of a good size extending to approximately 0.75 of an acre and offering privacy and seclusion. There is also a sweeping gravelled driveway with ample parking and turning space. As thatch cottages in the favoured location of Finchampstead are rarely available we strongly recommend an immediate appointment to view.

PRICE...£325,000...FREEHOLD

HEAD OFFICE & LAND & NEW HOMES

Dorian House 12-14 Rose Street Wokingham Berkshire RG40 1XU
Tel: 0118 9796796 Fax: 0118 9780080

RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS

10 Rose Street Wokingham Berkshire RG40 1XU
Tel: 0118 9771111 Fax: 0118 9776676

ALEXANDER WORTH INDEPENDENT MORTGAGE & FINANCIAL ADVISERS

10 Rose Street Wokingham Berkshire RG40 1XU
Tel: 0118 9776969 Fax: 0118 9776676

WOKINGHAM OFFICE

Dorian House 12-14 Rose Street Wokingham Berkshire RG40 1XU
Tel: 0118 9796796 Fax: 0118 9780080

CROWTHORNE OFFICE

Sherwood House 112 High Street Crowthorne Berkshire RG45 7AT
Tel: 01344 778888 Fax: 01344 779977

SANDHURST OFFICE

388 Yorktown Road College Town Sandhurst Berkshire GU47 0PU
Tel: 01276 609500 Fax: 01276 609606

These particulars although believed to be correct are not guaranteed and form no part of an offer or contract.

FIRST FLOOR

LANDING: Wall light point.

BEDROOM ONE: 13'9" x 12'5" Leaded light window. Beamed ceiling. Two wall light points. Radiator. Telephone point. Range of fitted wardrobes.

BEDROOM TWO: 13'10" x 11'5" Dual aspect with leaded light windows. Beamed ceiling. Radiator.

BEDROOM THREE: 12'4" x 9'4" Wall to wall range of wardrobes with mirrored doors and built in airing cupboard. Radiator.

BEDROOM FOUR: 10'2" x 7'10" Leaded light window. Radiator. Beamed ceiling. Recess ideal for wardrobe, dressing table etc.

FAMILY BATHROOM: Coloured suite with gold style fittings comprising panelled bath with mixer taps, vanity wash hand basin with cupboards under, bidet, low level w.c. Tiled shower cubicle with power shower. Light and shaver socket. Dual aspect. Tiled walls.

OUTSIDE

DETACHED TIMBER GARAGE: 19'6" x 14'6" Two sets of double doors. Light and power.

TIMBER GARDEN SHED

THE GARDENS extend to approximately 0.75 of an acre and offer privacy and seclusion and a sunny aspect comprising of a good sized paved sun terrace with bench seating and brick built barbecue. Retaining wall with raised flower beds. Step leading onto a good sized shaped lawn bordered to one side by a variety of shrubs and trees. Two mature fruit trees. Various other established specimen trees, both deciduous and evergreen. The property is approached over a sweeping gravelled driveway via a five bar gate with ample parking for numerous cars, caravan, boat etc. and can only be fully appreciated by viewing.

DIRECTIONS

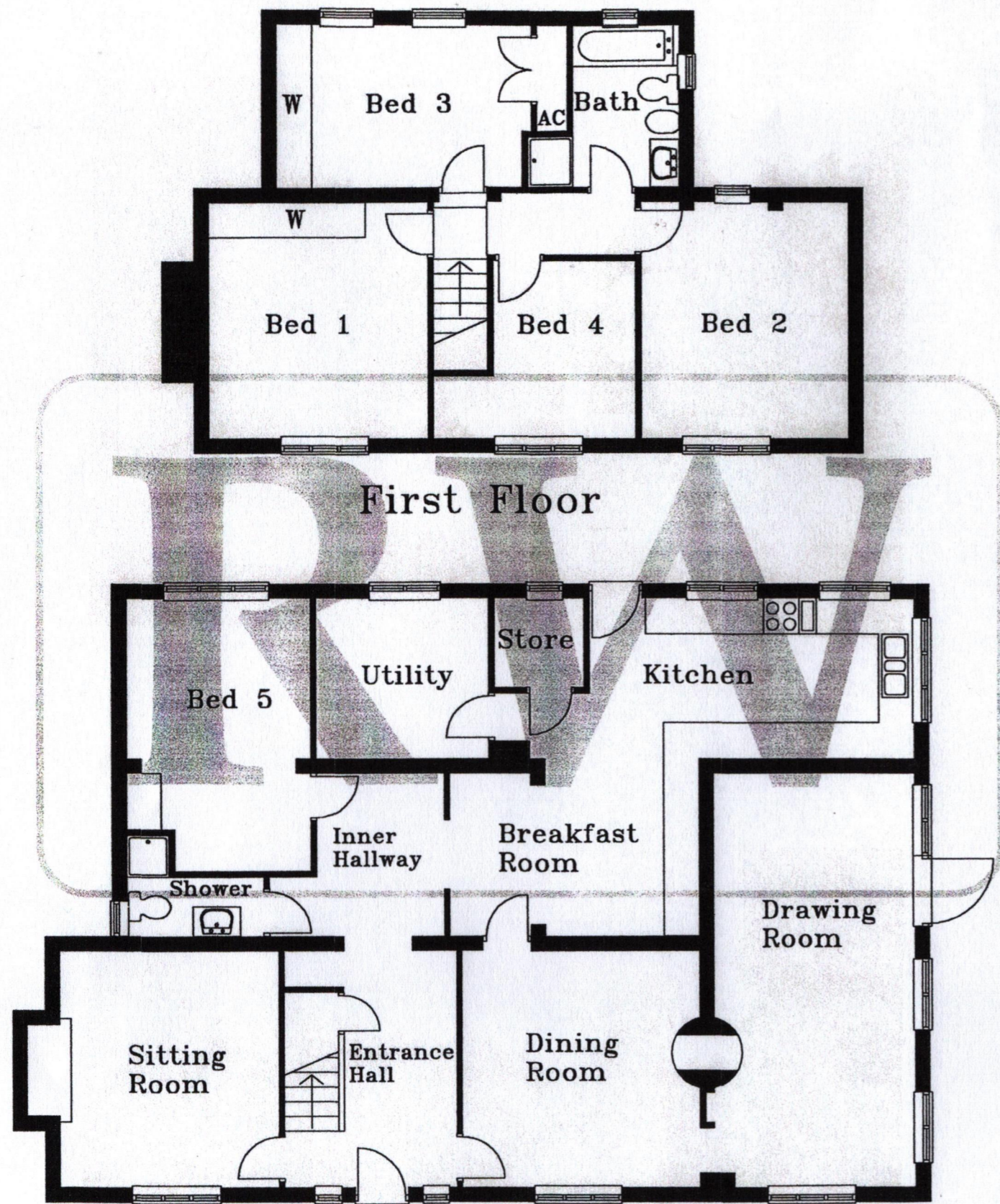
From our Wokingham office proceed out of Wokingham along the Finchampstead Road. Upon reaching Gowrings Garage bear right and continue along this road towards the village of Finchampstead. Upon reaching the War Memorial bear right into the village and continue past Finchampstead Sports Club into Fleet Hill where 'Thatched Oak Cottage' will be found at the end of Fleet Hill on the right hand side.

Please note that appliances and heating systems are not tested by Richard Worth Estate Agents and therefore no warranties can be given as to their good working order.

**FOR FREE MORTGAGE ADVICE CONTACT OUR INDEPENDENT
FINANCIAL ADVISERS ALEXANDER WORTH LTD ON 0118 9776969**

**OUR RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS DEPARTMENT IS NOW OPEN FOR LANDLORDS AND TENANTS
- PLEASE TELEPHONE 0118 9771111**





Ground Floor

THATCHED OAK COTTAGE
FLEET HILL, FINCHAMPSTEAD

PROPERTY MISDESCRIPTIONS ACT: For clarification - these plans are not to scale and illustrations of fittings window and door openings are to indicate position only.



PROPERTY MISDESCRIPTIONS ACT: For clarification - these plans are not to scale and illustrations of fittings window and door openings are to indicate position only.

Mrs. Hilton's 'Cyclist's Rest'

In 1911 Census Mrs. Fanny M. Hilton, a widow aged 45, lived at the property below with her daughter, Lily Maria, aged 13. Under profession she was described as doing laundry and needlework. There is no available evidence but it appears that she also may have provided refreshment for weary cyclists.

The house in the picture is near the Finchampstead end of Reading Road, opposite The New Inn (now The Tally-Ho) and a few doors from Bridge House Stores grocery shop run by Mr. Dearlove. The basic house is still there in 2014 but has been somewhat extended.

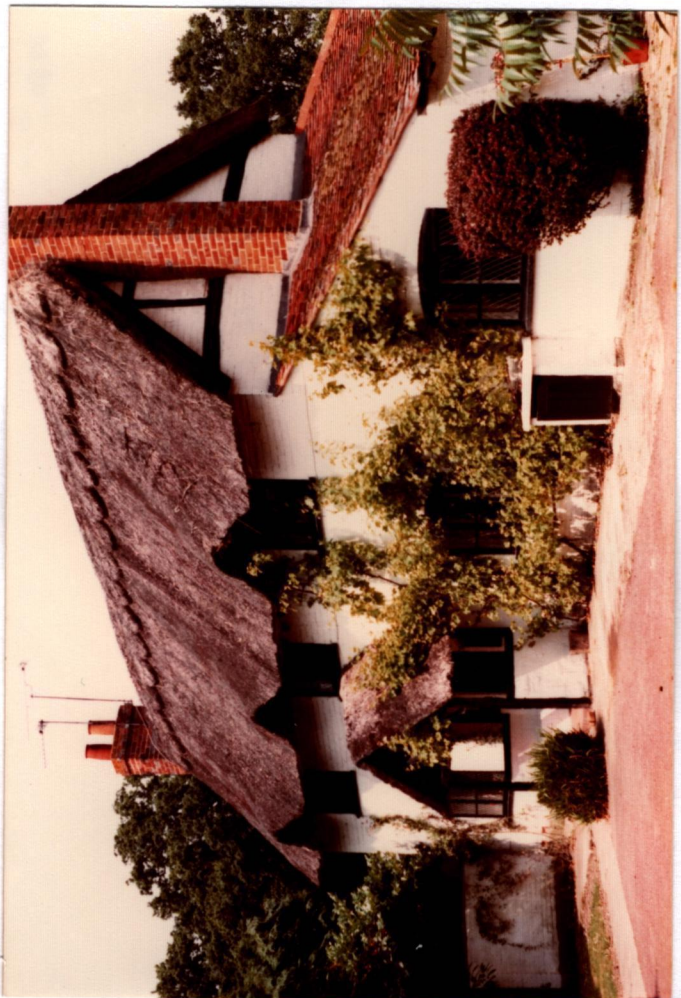
'RIVER BEND'; READING ROAD



OFFICE BUILDING AT JUNCTION OF
FLEET HILL & READING ROAD.
(FORMERLY SITE OF A SHOP)



'THATCHED OAK COTTAGE'
1980



Hopkinson Garage

'RIVER BEND', READING ROAD
0891



OFFICE BUILDING AT JUNCTION OF
FLEET HILL & READING ROAD.
(FORMERLY SITE OF A SHOP)



c. 1980.



THE NEW MILL (WOOD-THE-TANK) IN EVERSLEY
DRAIN HOUSE



2348 New Mill, Eversley.

c. 1912

COTTAGE IN WHITE HORSE WANE



THIS COTTAGE SAID TO HAVE BREAD OVEN
AT BASE OF CHIMNEY STACK AND WELL
WITH PUMP OUTSIDE NORTH WALL.



'THE NEW INN' (NOW 'THE TALLY HO')
& VANN HOUSE



Finchampstead

'DEARHOVE'S STORES
& THATCHED OAK COTTAGE



Lower Finchampstead.
B578.