

HORSELL MOOR

A SELF-GUIDED HERITAGE WALK



WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS ON THE HISTORY OF
THE HORSELL & WHEATSHEAF CONSERVATION AREAS

Based on the Heritage Walk on Sunday 19th February, 2012

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A HERITAGE WALK AROUND HORSELL MOOR, INCLUDING THE WHEATSHEAF & HORSELL CONSERVATION AREAS.

This walk starts at the Queen Elizabeth Gardens in Horsell High Street and includes part of the area covered by the Self Guided Heritage Walks booklet on Horsell Village (No 2) published in 2003.

For more information on items in the High Street and Church Hill not included in these notes, please refer to that booklet.

The bus stops by the entrance to the park (and opposite at The Crown) are on route 48 from Woking.

Queen Elizabeth Gardens

As the name suggests, this small park was laid out in the mid 1950's, occupying a field where cows once grazed.

Before then the local bowling club (formed in 1929) played on the lawn of the Red Lion.

Before setting off, look across the road to Bensteads Cottage (to the right of Bury Lane) - with its old 'Shell' petrol pumps.



Bensteads Cottage

According to a date inscribed on a brick, the cottage was built in 1831.

At the time of the 1841 census it was the home of William Spooner, a shoemaker (aged 40) and his wife Sarah (20) whom he had married earlier that year.

The 1871 census records William as a bootmaker and draper, with four children still living at the property - Fanny Margaret (26) whose occupation is listed as 'accountant', Sarah Elizabeth (22) a 'drapers assistant' and two boys, Eli Godfrey (15) and Arthur Frederick (8), plus a 16 year old servant.

Sarah Elizabeth evidently took over the family business and expanded it to include a

Bensteads
Cottage from
behind.

post office, but by the 1920's it had become a cycle shop and garage, run by Archie Benstead at one time a mechanic for John Cobb at Brooklands when he broke the world land-speed record.



Former Shops

Once three shops, the oldest part dates from the late 18th/early 19th century and like Benstead Cottage it is a



locally listed building.

The one on the left was (in the 1930's) a fish and chip shop (E Waggett), with Brown's boot & shoe repairers in the centre and John Brownjohn's

Above - an invoice from Benstead's Garage of the 1920's.
Right (top) the 18th and 19th century shops, with Benstead's in the background (below).

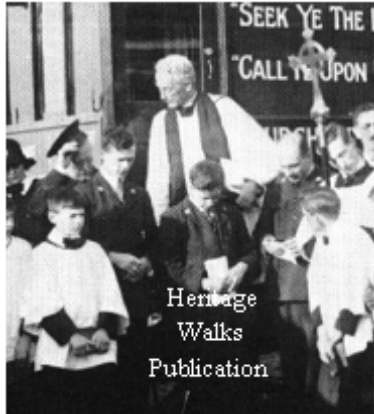


grocery shop on the right. Brownjohn's was also at one time Horsell's Post Office—hence the post box in the wall of the property.

Leave the park by the footpath that goes between the bowling green and the Parish Hall

The Parish Hall

In 1904 the Rev. Norman Pares (after whom Pares Close is named) purchased the lease of the land for the building of a parish hall and started fundraising for the estimated £1,400 required to complete the designs submitted to the building committee by Messrs Drower & Shorto.



Canon Norman Pares outside the Parish Hall.

Unfortunately due to problems with the original builders the hall cost a lot more to construct and extra funds had to be secured, but eventually it was opened on the 2nd November 1907 by the Bishop of Dorking. The final cost was £2,084.18.8d, which included fittings and furniture.

The Parish Hall (on the left) and High Street





At the top of the hill, behind the hall, turn right and cross the grass to the top right hand corner where a path leads down into Pares Close. At the bottom of Pares Close turn left and take the right hand footpath (near the entrance drive to St Andrews School) beside the extension to Horsell Churchyard.



Butt Field

In medieval times every male between the age of 15 and 60 were required by law to equip themselves with bows and to practice archery on Sundays and holidays. The ‘Butts’ where the practice took place were evidently in the field (now part of the extension to the graveyard).

Church Hill House and St Andrews School

The main school building was originally built in 1888 as the vicarage for the Rev John Back. When he died in 1892 the house was sold - estate agents details stating that it had “five bedrooms, stables

(Below)
Extract from the 1880 map attached to the Horsell Land Company’s ‘1901 Abstract of Title’. (Overleaf) the 1901 map from the same source. (see the Archive/Deeds Page of this site for the full maps).



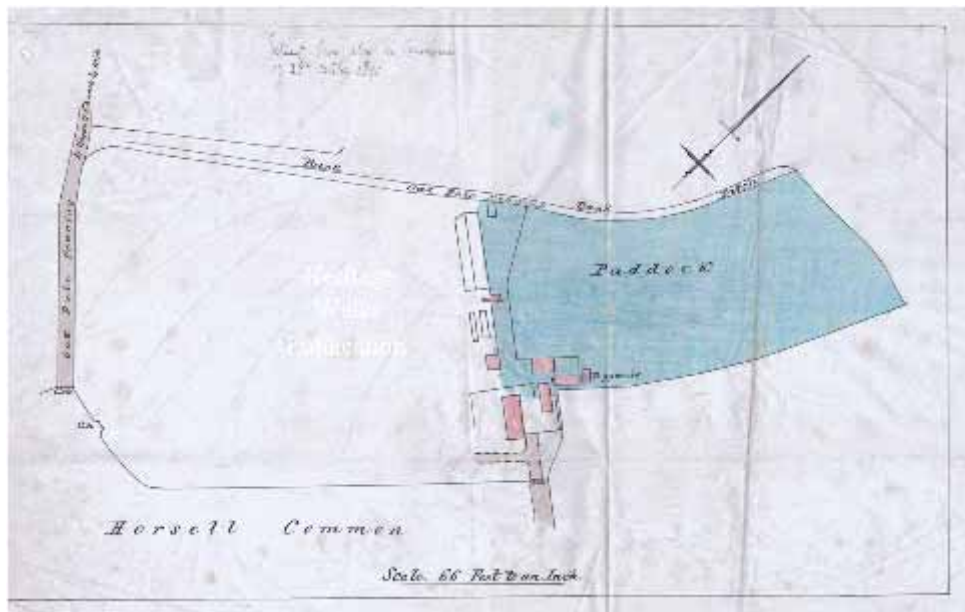


and coachman's rooms, gardens, gardener's house, bailiff's cottage, farm buildings, 2 further cottages, pasture and arable land of approx. 93 acres". It became a school in 1937

The Church Hill Estate
The '93 acres' of Church Hill House had been acquired by the Rev Back over many years, with numerous fields being purchased from a number of local farmers and

Church Hill House, from The Building News, September 1884 (and now as St Andrews School).





landowners (allegedly to help them out in poor agricultural times). When he died the estate was sold for housing development with a company called the 'Horsell Land Company' being the main developer from 1907 until they went into liquidation in 1913.

The Ridgeway, Horsell Rise, Church Road and the roads off of them, were all part of the estate.

Continue on the footpath, around the edge of the school playing fields, to Horsell Park Road, crossing the road and passing the grounds of Graylands.

Graylands

Graylands (or Graysend House as it was recorded in the 1881 census) was built in the late 1870's after Joseph Pearson Fitzgerald bought 'Broomstyles Field' at public auction in 1875 for £420.00 (plus £38.10s for the timber growing on the estate).

In 1871 he was recorded as living with his widowed mother at Broom Hall, in Chobham Road, but by 1881 he is at his new house with his wife Catherine and four daughters.

By 1891 they had moved and Graylands was now the home of William Roebuck, a civil engineer, and his wife (Eliza)

Plan of the Graylands Estate from the 1910 Abstract of Title - see the Archive/ Deeds section of this website).

and five servants (with five children belonging to two of the servants' families).

The present estate that bears the name was built in the early 1960's.



After passing Graylands the path towards Woking opens out onto Broomhall Common, with a path on the left taking you to the end of Broomhall Road.

Turn into the road to the Chobham Road, stopping briefly to view the side of The Wheatsheaf Hotel and the backs of the cottages next to it (if you like you can, of course, inspect the interior of the public house before continuing on the rest of the walk).

The Wheatsheaf

The name 'Wheatsheaf' goes back to at least the late 18th century when an agreement was signed between James Lipscombe, a farmer of Horsell and James Roake a wheelwright of Putney for two cottages known as 'The Wheatsheaf' and 4 acres of land in September 1773.

The agreement appears to refer to the cottages that later made up part of the Horsell Nursery Estate owned by the Cobbett Family (see item on The Grove), and as the Wheatsheaf public house is not recorded in the list of Licensed Victuallers, 1785-1827, nor the 1841 census returns, it is clear that the pub was not built to serve the navvies that constructed either the nearby canal in the 1780's or the railway at Woking in the 1830's. Why the public house was built, and why the name 'The Wheatsheaf' pre-

The Wheatsheaf (right) with White Cottage and Crofters Cottage to its left.



dates it by over 70 years will probably remain a mystery. The pub is recorded in the 1851 census when Reuben Percy (who later went on to build the Albion Hotel in Woking) is recorded as a 'beer retailer' in the Wheatsheaf area. Although later styled as a 'inn' it is clear that originally it did not have any accommodation as in 1892 it is listed as having stabling but 'no accommodation, clientele, the labouring classes)! It appears that the 'beer house' was built by Arthur Smithers, a local bricklayer who also constructed the cottages towards Broomall Road - Crofters Cottage and White Cottage. These were originally three cottages with Crofters Cottage

(nearest the hotel) being knocked into one in the early 20th century when the cross wing of White Cottage was also added.

Wheatsheaf Schools

There have been a number of small schools in the Wheatsheaf area, starting with a Baptist School (and Chapel) built off what is now Broomhall Road in 1829. It lasted until the 1850's when it was run by a James Furner and his wife and cousin who were all listed as 'British Teachers' in the 1851 census. In the 1870's and 80's a Miss Anne Healds (and her sisters) were running what was listed (in 1882) as a 'Ladies School' in a building close the Wheatsheaf pub, whilst in the early 20th century the St

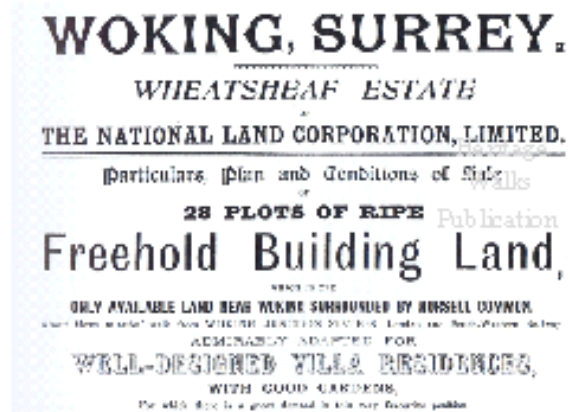


White Cottage.

Michael's Preparatory School operated from what is now the SHAW Centre on Chobham Road (almost opposite Broomhall Lane).

Finally, again in the early 20th century (until about 1923), there was another prep school for boys in 'The Corner House', at the junction of Ferndale Road and Chobham Road (opposite the end of Broomhall Road).

At the end of Broomhall Road turn right onto Chobham Road (towards Woking) , stopping briefly to look across to houses of The Grove.



The Grove & Ferndale Road
As mentioned above the name 'Wheatsheaf' originally referred to a couple of cottages (and the meadow around them) that was carved out of the common land of Horsell in the late 17th century. The deeds cite an

From the 1900 sale documents of the Wheatsheaf Estate.



The Old School on the corner of Ferndale Road and Chobham Road.



From the Book of Reference of the Staines, Egham & Woking Junction Railway, 1863-4.

indenture of 1st December 1686, whereby Denzill Onslow, lord of the manor of Pyrford, leased the property to John Hone Sr. for a term of 1000 years, for 5s pa. Eventually the land became part of the Cobbett Family's Nursery (more of which later), which was put up for sale in 1899 as 'valuable building land'. In the meantime the area to the south-east of the cottages had already been developed (in 1895) by the National Land Corporation Ltd as the 'Wheatsheaf Estate', with 25 plots of land in the newly formed The Grove and later Ferndale Road. The National Land Corporation bought the

Cobbett land as well and in 1900 marked a further '28 plots of ripe freehold building land'. Things would have been quite different, however, if the proposed Staines, Egham and Woking Junction Railway, proposed in 1863/4, had ever been constructed, as it would have cut right through the land on its way from Woking Station to Chobham and the already built Staines—Wokingham line.

At the mini-roundabout, turn right into Brewery Road to the Trinity Methodist Church, afterwards crossing the road by the pedestrian crossing and making your way

passed the WWF's 'Living Planet Centre' (currently under construction) to the towpath of the Canal.

Baptist Chapel, Alwyn House and the Methodist Church

As has been noted a Baptist Chapel and School were established on this site in 1829 and continued to be used until the 1850's.

By 1861, however, a large Victorian property called 'Alwyn House' had been erected on the site (part of which appears to survive as Broom House in Broomhall Road).

Alwyn House was built for Spencer Compton, who is described as a 'Senior Officer in the Bombay Civil Service' in 1862 and an 'East India Merchant' in his 1871 census entry.



When he died in 1882 his estate was apparently valued at £15,000 and after his wife, Alicia, died in 1901 the property appears to have passed to their two daughters Alicia (who died in 1922) and Anne (who died in 1927). The house survived until the early 1960's, however, becoming the site of the Trinity Methodist Church in 1962, the foundation stones being laid May that year, with the site being dedicated and opened just over three years later

Souvenir programme of the dedication of the Trinity Methodist Church.



The Canal and common, with Alwyn House just visible through the trees.

At the canal towpath turn right and follow the towpath to just beyond the WWF site.



Cobbett's Coal Wharf

As well as being nurserymen, the Cobbett family were also involved in the coal business, having a wharf on the Basingstoke Canal since at least the 1820's (possibly pre-dating the nursery).

From 1831-1856 large amounts of coal were sold to Robert Donald of Goldsworth Nursery, and to William Jackman 1874-1878

(presumably to heat their glasshouses), and in the late 1830's they supplied the London & South Western Railway (even after Woking Station was opened and coal could be brought here by train)!

The wharf appears to have closed in the early 1890's and in 1896-7 the canal company is thought to have demolished the shed, before the Cobbett's lands were put up for auction in 1899.



A short way along the towpath, beyond the houses, take the footpath (on the right) to Horsell Moor.

From the 1899 Land Sales Map of the Horsell Nursery

Extract from the ledger book of Cobbett's Coal Wharf.

1838 London & Southampton		Great Western Railway Company	
May 14	To Coals 6 Cwt Oct 32	12	-
June 7	To Coals 2 "	4	33
Oct 15	To Coals 1 Ton Dec 28	19	-
20	To Coals 1 "	19	-
1839			
Jan 1	To Balance	4	14
10	To Coals 2 Cwt Nov 18	4	3
19	To Coals 2 "	19	0
30	To Coals 1 1/2 "	13	10
Feb 5	To Coals 1 1/2 "	17	0
10	To Coals 1 1/2 "	17	0
March	To Coals 1 1/2 "	17	0
		0	13 0



Stedman's Brewery

The Brewery that gave the road its name was run by the Stedman family from their home at Malt House Farm. When it started is not known but a mortgage dated 1822 for a property in Bisley records a 'James Stedman of Horsell, Maltster' almost certainly the same James Stedman (or his son) who is recorded in a directory of 1855 as 'brewer and farmer' at Malthouse Farm. James Stedman's son, John, is recorded as brewer in 1867 and when he died in 1906 (aged 78) he apparently left property worth over £18,000.

His son, another John, continued to run the brewery until its closure at the start of the First World War.

From the 1938 auction brochure for houses in old Woking & Woking (see the Archive/ Deeds section of this website for the full brochure).

Horsell Moor

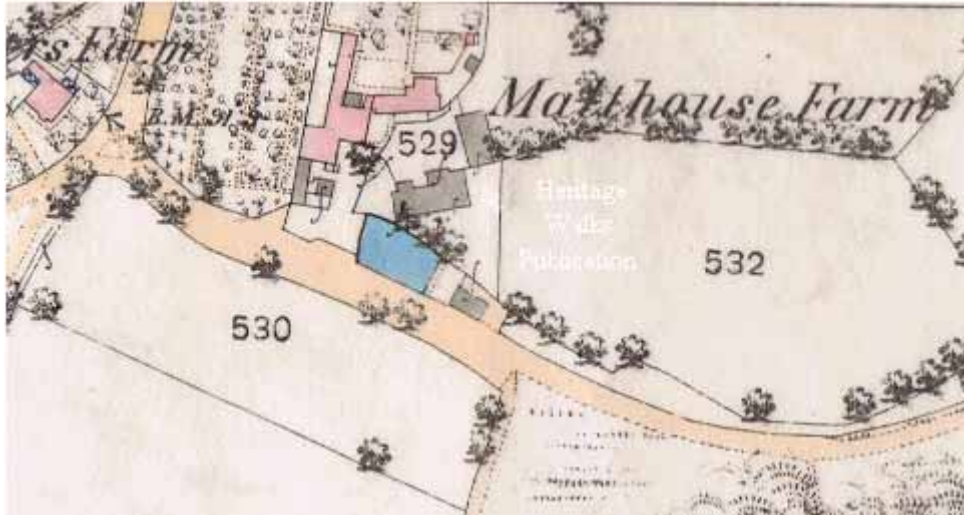
Although the common land of the Moor is in Horsell the houses of the road were in fact on the Woking side of the boundary (that used to run along the centre of the road). As you walk along the road notice Grove Villa's and the house at the end of the terrace to their right, which was once a grocers shop run by Mrs Childs.

Name Plate on Grove Villas, Horsell Moor (left) and The Brew House, Brewery Road (right).



Continue along the Moor before crossing to Brewery Road near the children's playground.





Cross Brewery Road to The Brew House and then turn left to Old Malt Way, taking a small detour down the road to look at Old Malt Farm (before returning to Brewery Road and continuing to the junction with Arthurs Bridge Road and Church Hill).

Old Malt Farm

Parts of the house date back to the 16th century, although it has been added to almost every century since then.

In 1871 John Stedman, aged 43, is head of the household and described as a 'farmer of 94 acres employing 8 men and 2 boys'.

1870
Ordnance
Survey 25"
Map.



Old Malt
Farm, Old
Malt Way.

The rest of this walk is covered in the Heritage Walks booklet on Horsell (published in 2002), but a few extra illustrations and notes are included here.

Moor Hatch

The start (or finish) of the Horsell Conservation Area is at Moor Hatch, a locally listed building that was built in the early 20th century by Drowley & Company, a local firm of builders whose work is often described as ‘Tarrant Style’, by estate agents wishing to emphasise the quality of the work.

It sold recently (January 2011) for £960,000.

Continue up Church Hill to St Mary’s Church

Silk’s (Underwood’s) Yard

Stephen Silk was a local builder who was responsible for many small scale developments in the Horsell area in the first half of the 20th century.

Since just after the 2nd World War the yard has been used by the Street family for their joinery business - Underwood & Co.



“MOORHATCH” HORSSELL
 A handsome example of 20th-century style, with occasional red brick and a roof of stone and slate tiles. The houses are built glass and all the windows, including the front windows, are made with hand-made glass.

Houses of Church Hill

There are a number of locally listed buildings on Church Hill including ‘The Cottage’ (17th c.), Kalmia (18th c.), Bowness (18th c. with a Victorian front) and The Old Vicarage (19th c). Where Lych Way is was originally part of the Church Hill Nursery (another part of

Moorhatch from the 1907 brochure of Drowley & Co (see the Archive/Deeds section of this website for the full brochure)

St Mary’s School



St Mary's Sch.

the Cobbett empire sold in 1899), but in the early 20th century a large house known as 'St Mary's' was built on the site and became a private school, run by the Misses De Bochet.

At the top of the hill carefully cross the road to investigate the graveyard (and if it is open, the interior) of St Mary's Church, before returning to Church Hill and continuing down the other side of the hill back to the High Street and the start of the walk

St Mary's Church.

The first reference to Horsell comes from the 13th century when Westminster Abbey, as lords of the Manor of Pyrford



A 16th century map of the Manor of Pyrford, showing the chapel at Horsyll.

(which included Horsell), presumably provided the first chapel on this site. Little now remains from that period as the church was heavily 'restored' in Victorian times, but there are some interesting brasses and monuments inside, and in the graveyard can be found several tombs, two of which (to members of the Roake family) are separately listed 'buildings'!



Church Hill in the early 20th century.



Horsell School.

The 'National School' opened on this site in 1851 (see date on the left hand gable), but it was not long before it had to be enlarged with the right hand gable being added in 1882 (when the school could cater for 240 children).

The Red Lion

The earliest part of the present building is possibly 18th century, but there has apparently been an inn on this site since at least the 16th century.

The 1854 tithe map and apportionment records the owner of the site as Edmund

Elkin, whose brewery was in North Street, Guildford (almost opposite the Library). The landlord was then Stephen Moore, whose death is recorded in the diary of Edward Ryde (of Poundfield House, Old Woking) - where on the 17th December 1886 he notes "death of Moore, delivery agent and fly proprietor for 50 years, who kept the Red Lion at Horsell".

The Crown

The present public house is probably Victorian, but again the site is much older, being recorded in the will of Henry Street (of Bisley) in 1802 when he left a 'freehold messuage by the sign of the Crown' to his grand-daughter, Ann Street Withall. At the time of the tithe map (1854) William Cox is recorded as landlord, with Samuel Strong (of the Old Woking Brewery) as owner.

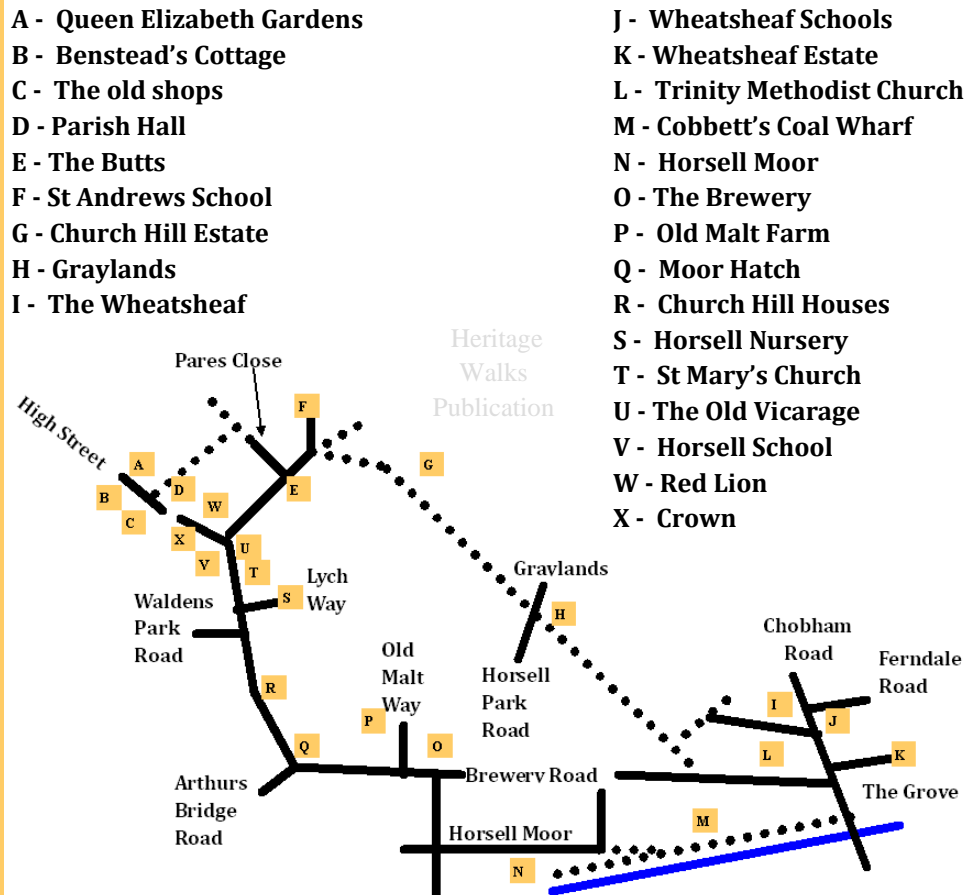
Horsell School

The Red Lion (left), with a mid-19th century view showing the original 'Crown' (right)



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GUIDE

No 8

For a copy of the current programme of guided Heritage Walks, please visit the 'Diary' section of our website www.heritagewalks.org

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